

MARCH 2022

First Presbyterian Church



From Our Clerk Of Session

It is with a sad heart; that I write for this newsletter. We are all struck with grief and horror at the killing spree that occurred at an elementary school in Texas. A few days before that there was also a hate crime perpetrated against the Irvine Taiwanese PCUSA church in California. The Rolla High School community suffered a tragic car accident that killed a classmate of Dace and Abi. I suspect all of us have prayed for the victims, their families, and our nation. As a lay leader, I struggle with what to write. I struggle with a flood of questions that start with WHY?!

Our country is divided politically and in many other ways. However, as a church community, 1st Presbyterian Church – Rolla, we have always been able to love and respect each other.

Hope that together we can denounce the white supremacist violence that fueled the attack at a store in Buffalo. That we can stand in solidarity with those traumatized by the violence that occurred during a luncheon at the Irvine Taiwanese PCUSA church. Let us continue to commit ourselves as a church to ministering to those who are hurting and call for positive changes in our community and the world.

Susan Murray

Administrative Committee

2022 PER CAPITA APPORTIONMENT

First Presbyterian Church of Rolla, Missouri

\$38.50 per member

The 2022 Per Capita for ecclesiastical expenses is based upon the membership of your church as reported to General Assembly on December 31, 2020.

Welcome

Danny & Liz Stottlemyre

We are so delighted to have our letters of transfer received by the session of this church and we look forward to being active members.

Let us introduce ourselves. We moved to Rolla in May, 2020, from Andrews, TX--a small town in far west Texas. Danny retired from teaching and coaching an award-winning high school Speech and Debate team. Liz retired from the County Library, where she served as the Children's Librarian, followed by becoming the Director, for 31 years. We were members of the Andrews Presbyterian Church and both served as Elders.

Upon retirement, we knew we wanted to return to MO. Danny is from Houston, MO and we met in college at the School of the Ozarks. Rolla was the perfect location; beauty all around and close to family. We were familiar with this church because we've attended many Christmas Eve services through the years.

We knew this church was meant to be new church home!

WORSHIP & MUSIC COMMITTEE

JONATHAN KIMBALL

In 2021, we reopened the church for in-person worship on Easter. I remember that I preached on Pentecost because Lou Ellen was traveling. Shortly after she returned, we learned that she was leaving to lead a congregation in Florida.

Summer/fall 2021 was a transition time. The first problem we had to solve was filling the pulpit every Sunday. We also decided it was important to have a worship leader, a role we had left vacant during the pandemic shutdown, to provide continuity when we had a visiting preacher. The second major challenge was communion. Fortunately, I had completed the Christian Leadership Program at the University of Dubuque Theological Seminary, one step in the process of becoming a commissioned ruling elder. So after a little bit of a delay, I was given approval to serve communion for our congregation.

Still, making sure worship happens every Sunday takes a huge amount of effort. I love to preach, but can realistically only handle preaching about half the time. I was pleasantly surprised when Susan Murray stepped up to preach regularly and really appreciate the different perspective she brings. I'm also grateful that Rev. Bob Morrison has once again come out of retirement to help us. But preaching is only the most visible part of the challenge.

In addition to leading our music program, Jeff Sandquist assembles the bulletin each Sunday, choosing liturgy and hymns. Jean Day was a huge help from the beginning of the transition until she rotated off the worship committee this spring. Jean scheduled pulpit supply during the most uncertain times, before we settled into a more regular rotation of preachers. It's easy to forget now how challenging things were last summer, but Jean made sure we had someone to preach and serve communion despite the uncertainties. Mary Kwantes has stepped into that role now, and Linda Rose is coordinating worship leaders.

At the back of the sanctuary, Pam Cottingham has continued to serve as primary usher after her term as worship chairperson ended. Javier Valentin-Sivico and Steve Zap are the main people working the presentation and sound board, a task that has evolved over the year.

Last August, we started the process of setting up a new live stream system, finally finished in January with our new sound board. After several iterations, we settled on a system that was effective and (relatively) easy to operate. All was well. Then on or about May 20, there was an electrical storm in Rolla that caused widespread damage at the top of our hill. That Saturday night, I went into the sanctuary as usual to verify that everything was ready for worship and discovered that the sound board was fried. Fortunately, we still have the old board and Jeff helped get our sound system back in action. That Sunday morning, I discovered that more had been damaged.

At the time of this writing, I know that the sound board is dead, the laptop has a bad HDMI port, the live stream bridge is fried, and there is at least one other problem somewhere in the video connections that needs to be found. It is unclear what, if anything, will be covered under warranty. Our insurance deductible is \$5000, which is probably higher than the value of the damage based on what we know now. Hopefully, though, it won't be too long before we're back in action. Apologies to those who have been relying on our live stream to stay connected.

One final note as I close: a word of thanks to the anonymous donor(s) who provided the Glory to God hymnals. A few years ago, we purchased a limited number for the choir as well as the projection version. I firmly believe that using the screen is the best way to sing. It promotes proper singing posture—head up instead of singing into your hymnal. However, there are a few problems with it. One, the screen is not really visible from the chancel, which is why the choir and worship leaders use hymnals. Two, we generally don't project the harmony, only the melody. Three, some people have difficulty seeing the screen due to the distance. So, we now have a limited number of Glory to God hymnals available in the narthex. If you want one, grab it on the way in, and please return it on your way out. (In case you're wondering, the old hymnals are in the coat room. I don't know what we will do with them. And if you have a particular hymn that you want included in the service, it's probably in Glory to God—talk to Jeff about getting it into the rotation. The new hymnal has about 50% more hymns than the old one, including many from the old red hymnals that were left out of the blue ones.)

Blessings to you this summer!

The Outreach/Mission Committee

The Outreach/Mission Committee would like to thank you for your generosity in supporting the Easter Basket of Hope. It was divided up and taken to GRACE, The Rolla Mission, and Russell House. I delivered to Russell House. They were very grateful. They made the comment that the items we brought meant they would not have to take money from their budget to buy these items.

The PNC

The PNC is meeting weekly. We continue to work on the Ministry Information Form. If it seems like we have been working on this form for a long time, it seems that way to us, also. We feel through prayer and thought we are making progress. We continue to have input from Greg Emery and the Session. As soon as the form is completed and approved by Session, we will share it with you.

We ask that you continue to keep the PNC in your prayers.

***BIRTHDAY WISHES
FOR JUNE GO OUT TO***

4TH JACK MURRAY,
5TH CAROL JESSOP,
6TH BOB MOLLENKAMP,
16TH RAY FOX, CHERYL KOEDERITZ,
LISA MATTHEWS,
18TH SAM KIMBALL,
20TH PAT MOLLENKAMP,
22ND JOANNE ZAP, 23RD JULIE MURRAY,
26TH BETTY PIETSCH



***ANNIVERSARY WISHES
FOR JUNE GO OUT TO***



2ND RAY & JUDY FOX
4TH PAT & D.C. LOOK,
5TH ED & MARILYN SCHMIDT,
6TH STEVE & JEAN DAY,
8TH DARRYL & MARY ALOFS,
KELLY & DWIGHT LOOK,
16TH BILL & PAM COTTINGHAM,
17TH CLAYTON & MELBA READ,
23RD BRITT & AMY WHITAKER,
24TH JULIE & SUSAN MURRAY

PRAYER REQUEST

Connie Dewitt - Continuing recovery from Brain Surgery, Heart Issues

Gayle Podgurski- (former Minister Miles White's daughter) - Continuing observation re Kidney / Appendix issues

Carla Simmons - Recuperating after Heart Issues

Ruby and Lee Malone - Residing at Silverstone,
Balance Issues (Lee) - Memory Issues (Ruby)

Tom Eychamer- (Barb Ford and Kelly Dean's brother) - continuing Health Issues - receiving Hospice Care

Kelly Dean - Continuing Respiratory Issues

Bettysu Corey- (Jamie White's Mother) - Residing at Cedar Pointe,
Continuing Health Issues

Emily Nakanishi - Continuing Health Issues. Soon will undergo Intensive Health Study

Sara Craven- (Carrie Aswegan's Niece, San Jose, CA) - Brain Aneurysm, Surgery August 31

Frank Jessop - Recovering from Auto Accident

Mike Reno - Anticipating Heart Blockage Surgery June 21st.

Please pray for those named and their families as well as their caregivers.

**THE PRAYER REQUEST LIST WILL START OVER ABOUT
EVERY
TWO MONTHS.
IF YOU HAVE SOMEONE WHO NEEDS
PUT ON OR TAKEN OFF THE LIST,
PLEASE CONTACT KATIE IN THE OFFICE**