

First Presbyterian Church of Valparaiso

3401 North Valparaiso Street

Valparaiso, IN 46383

Phone: (219) 464-4985

Engaged locally and globally for Christ!



SESSION SYNOPSIS OF MARCH 13, AND MARCH 16, 2020

Your Session, the elected leaders of our congregation, met on Friday evening and again on Monday, March 16, 2020, to pray, be informed, and make decisions with our pastor on behalf of our church community. Out of love for one another and to accommodate new COVID-19 guidance concerning social distancing, the Session met in the Sanctuary Monday and spaced out 10' from one another.

Pastor Kim led training on "Worship and the Christian Life" from the Book of Order that guided Session decisions about our congregational life during the current pandemic. She also arranged for Session to consult via a video-call with Dr. Dan Watts, a ruling elder at First Presbyterian Church, Bloomington and biology professor at I.U. with experience in medical research, antibiotics, and a director of I.U.'s biotechnology graduate program. He reviewed what was known at that time about the coronavirus, what is not yet known, answered all questions openly and informed Session about best practices. Discussion recognized new opportunities for worship as families, pastoral care through phone calls and emails, Christian Education through the website and Facebook, gathering for worship via video, and ideas to create meaningful worship music through new channels while taking all possible precautions to protect members of the congregation while remaining in contact as a community of Christian love. Session also studied "Guidance for Congregations in response to severe infectious disease outbreak" prepared by our PCUSA's experienced Presbyterian Disaster Assistance team.

Actions of Session on behalf of the congregation, some difficult and all with faithful anticipation:

Provide one service of worship at 10:00 a.m. on Sundays led by video for three weeks during this time of pandemic and social distancing. Video worship services are provided through our www.fpcvalpo.org website and the Facebook page for First Presbyterian Church Valparaiso (click on the "videos" link to find resources). This decision will be re-evaluated prior to Palm Sunday, April 5, 2020. Watch for updates and resources by email.

- Accept our Synod and Presbytery's invitation to participate in a major grant from the Smock Foundation providing two years of "Coaching for Vibrant Congregations." Session welcomed the opportunity to work with other vibrant congregations from three presbyteries to envision future ministry. The eighteen-month program starting in August will involve the pastor and a team of 3-4 members appointed by Session.
- Welcomed creative ideas to continue Christian Education and youth leadership to meet stringent requirements for community health and safety. Again, see www.fpcvalpo.org and Facebook pages for First Presbyterian Church Valparaiso for videos, writings, readings, music and other options for connecting in worship, mission and fellowship. If you need help, call the office and someone will coach you on how to find your church online.

continued on next page

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- Reluctantly and in prayer decided to close the physical church building to all groups and events and offer other ways to connect, such as video meetings, email and phone until further notice. This includes team meetings, Bible study, and all other small groups. Members are encouraged to watch the congregation's website page and Facebook page for new options.
- Approved continuing pay as budgeted and normally scheduled for part-time employees: janitorial staff, organists, choir and bells director, nursery staffing and media techs whether they work their full hours or not during this time.
- Formed a response team of 4-5 people as recommended by the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance to work with the pastor to make immediate decisions required by circumstances of crisis in "such a time as this." This task force will include expertise, and collaborate in essential, timely decisions about pastoral care, congregational communication, office hours, resources, etc. to carry out our ministry under quickly changing circumstances. Its actions remain subject to Session approval or change.
- Closed the church office and furloughed office volunteers in light of the pandemic. Our full-time church staff will continue to work while observing strict distancing practices as long as possible. People wishing to meet with any church staff in person may call for an appointment or consult by phone or video. The response team will research alternative means of connecting such as installing a speaker to complement the video monitor at the front door and options for video conferencing.

(Addendum: The church office is closed and face-to-face meetings are not possible at this time.)

- Agreed with Congregational Life Team to cancel the planned Palm Sunday brunch and the Easter egg hunt.
- Voted to honor the Pastor's Sabbath on Mondays following Sunday worship by moving regular session meetings to the third Wednesday of each month except for those in which there are five Wednesdays. In those months, Session will meet on the fourth Wednesday.
- Discussed initial task force reports about Sanctuary Visioning (considering new options to enhance congregational worship), and Staffing Discernment (assessing our current staffing to identify options that will address unmet needs and support our head of staff and the congregation in moving forward with ministries, mission and programming). These matters will be discussed with the congregation in coming months.
- Approved the Christian Education Team to plan a fundraising dinner and talent/music show to support its annual summertime mission trip for a time when we once again can gather in-person.
- Noted that:
 - ◆ Presbyterian Resale Shop board closed the shop until further notice, though volunteers remain available to meet emergency needs.
 - ◆ PADS ministry for homeless men will be housed at New Creation Men's Center and not in churches for the next two weeks, ending the winter season.
 - ◆ To maintain human connections when meeting in person is not healthy, elders and deacons each intend to make weekly calls with congregational members as a way to stay connected. Ken Crews and Sharon Kinsey volunteered to initiate a plan to arrange calls on behalf of the congregation to care and connect with one another and in support of our pastor.
- Session called a meeting for March 31, 2020, by video conference to consider next steps.

Sharon Kinsey led closing devotions with a reading from Perfectly Yourself: Discovering God's Dream for You by Matthew Kelly. The essay about worry, loss of control, fear and faith closed with the prayer: *God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, Courage to change the things I can, and wisdom to know the difference.* Sharon led Session in its closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda L. Long, Clerk *pro tem*

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS

ONLINE OPPORTUNITIES

INTERGENERATIONAL CHRISTIAN EDUCATION PROGRAM

Join your FPCV family for an intergenerational Christian Education program on Sunday mornings in April at 11:30 a.m. (CDT). This event is for all ages, and it's easy to join. Just follow these four easy steps:

- Enjoy morning worship at 10:00 a.m. via Facebook or FPC website.
- Take a short break to grab a snack!

Return to the FPCV livestream on Facebook @1stPresValpo or our website at www.fpcvalpo.org. Interact via the comments section, if following on Facebook.

We hope to see you all Sunday morning at 10:00 a.m. for online worship and 11:30 a.m. for Christian Education!

Please contact Ken Crews at kencrews@fpcvalpo.org with any questions.

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PRESBYS

All Presbys are invited to hangout Sunday evenings in April at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom. We will connect, learn, and play games! Login information is available on Facebook for members of the “Presbys” and “FPCV: Christian Ed is Everywhere!” Facebook groups. Login information will also be emailed to Presbys families. Youth can access Zoom meetups via mobile devices, phone, or computer, using audio and/or video. Please contact Ken Crews with any questions at kencrews@fpcvalpo.org.

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STORY TIME

Join us on Wednesday mornings in April 2020, at 11:00 a.m. for Story Time via Facebook Live or FPC's website at www.fpcvalpo.org.

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LENTEN DEVOTIONAL

Please join us on our Facebook Page or on our website at www.fpcvalpo.org as we continue our Lenten journey using Jill Duffield's *Lent in Plain Sight* on Wednesday, April 8, 2020, at 6:00 p.m. with Lou Ann Karabel.

WORSHIP NEWS – REVISED SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION SCHEDULE

Communion will not be served on Palm Sunday; however, **WE WILL CELEBRATE THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION ON MAUNDY THURSDAY, APRIL 9, 2020, DURING THE ONLINE WORSHIP SERVICE (VIA FACEBOOK LIVE/FPC WEBSITE) AT 6:30 P.M. AND EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 12, 2020, DURING THE ONLINE WORSHIP SERVICE (VIA FACEBOOK LIVE/FPC WEBSITE) AT 10:00 A.M.** Pastor Kim invites all to the communion table in your home by bringing a piece of bread/cracker and a cup of juice/wine **TO PARTAKE COMMUNION ON MAUNDY THURSDAY AND EASTER SUNDAY.** This way, our faith community can be joined together for the sacrament even though we are physically apart.

HOLY WEEK ONLINE OPPORTUNITIES

**PLEASE JOIN YOUR FAITH COMMUNITY ONLINE.
ALL ARE WELCOME!**

**PALM SUNDAY WORSHIP
(FACEBOOK LIVE/FPC WEBSITE)
Sunday, April 5, 2020
10:00 a.m.**

**INTERGENERATIONAL CHRISTIAN EDUCATION PROGRAM
(FACEBOOK LIVE/FPC WEBSITE)
Sunday, April 5, 2020
11:30 a.m.**

**PRESBYS
(VIA ZOOM)
Sunday, April 5, 2020
6:00 p.m.**

If you would like to join Presbys, contact Ken Crews at kencrews@fpcvalpo.org.

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**STORY TIME
(FACEBOOK LIVE/FPC WEBSITE)
Wednesday, April 8, 2020
11:00 a.m.**

+ + +

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**MAUNDY THURSDAY WORSHIP SERVICE WITH
THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION
(FACEBOOK LIVE/FPC WEBSITE)
Thursday, April 9, 2020
6:30 p.m.**

Pastor Kim invites all to the communion table in your home by bringing a piece of bread/cracker and a cup of juice/wine **TO PARTAKE COMMUNION ON MAUNDY THURSDAY.** *This way, our faith community can be joined together for the sacrament even though we are physically apart.*

(Please note: we will also celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion on Easter Sunday.)

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**GOOD FRIDAY WORSHIP SERVICE
(FACEBOOK LIVE/FPC WEBSITE)
Friday, April 10, 2020
12:00 p.m.**

www.fpcvalpo.org

MEMORIAL TREES



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH MEMORIAL TREES

IN MEMORY OF:

Arletta V. Hassenpflug	(1912 – 1987)
Kathryn H. Seargeant	(1919 – 2000)
Katherine B. Wickersham	(1914 – 1987)
Duane V. Stoner	(1923 – 1982)

Planted on the south side of the Church, three trees stand in memory of members of the First Presbyterian community who have joined the Church Triumphant. The date of the planting is presumed to be after the year 2000, the time of most recent passing of the memorialized individuals.

The center tree, newly planted after the original succumbed to the elements, is an Eastern RedBud, specifically a variety named Forest Pansy (*cercis canadensis*).

The tree gets its name from the attractive, pansy-like flowers that appear in spring. These small trees offer lovely, shiny heart-shaped leaves that grow in purple-red. As they mature, they deepen to maroon – brightly colored flower blossoms that fill their canopies in early spring. These rose-purple, pea-like flowers are especially noticeable because they appear before the leaves emerge, not like that of other Redbuds.

Forest Pansy Redbud trees are native to eastern and central North America. They typically grow to about 20-30 feet tall and the horizontal branches spread some 25 feet wide. We can expect that this new tree will grow to about 25 feet tall.

The Forest Pansy Redbud is a low-maintenance tree that requires little care. It is not invasive and it tolerates deer, clay soil, and drought, making it a good choice for this spot. Hummingbirds are attracted to its flowers.



MEMORIAL TREES, CONTINUED

The flanking trees appear to be a variety of cherry tree, short-lived and not typically hardy in northern Indiana. Unfortunately, the center tree has succumbed, with the two remaining coming along with some care over the past year. Hopefully, they will both flourish with the replacement of their center companion.

Few trees can rival the cherry tree for the beauty of its spring blossoms. The cherry tree is the most widely planted ornamental tree in the United States. This genus contains hundreds of species and many hybrids and cultivars native to temperate zones in Asia, Europe, and America.

Most ornamental cherry species come from Japan, where they have been bred for hundreds of years. Festivals to enjoy the beauty of the fleeting blossoms by picnicking under the trees have been held in Japan for centuries. Cherry blossoms are celebrated in Japanese art, poetry, and song and appear on the 100-yen coin.

The noted cherry trees of Washington, DC, were a gift to the United States of America from Tokyo Mayor Yukio Ozaki in 1912. Each year, the Cherry Blossom Festival takes place around the Tidal Basin and runs for three weeks in spring, honoring both American and Japanese cultures and representing the close bond forged between the two countries that began with the gift of the trees.



*One of our cherry trees
hosts
an active bird nest.*

HEARTFELT THANK YOUS

Dear Friends,

Fred and I thank you all for your prayers, cards, texts, calls and love during my Mom's illness and passing. FPC is a special, caring church and we are thankful for everyone!

Susan Grosick

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Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for being a sponsoring CWS Blanket congregation! Church World Service couldn't do our Blankets ministry without congregations like yours. We are so grateful for your generosity.

With gratitude,

Sam Fore
Congregational Outreach Specialist, CWS

A WORD OF THANKS FOR YOUR COMPASSION

Hi,

This is difficult.

How do you send an email about everything that's happened in the last week...weeks...months? How do you send an email when things literally change every hour?

But I owe you this email. And I hope it gives you some comfort today.

Over the years, you have been a caring and compassionate member of the Church World Service ("CWS") family. Your support of CWS has been critical in preparing us for such a time as this. I've seen it play out over and over again in disasters and health pandemics like when we were responding to the floods in Kenya or to SARS and bird flu in Indonesia or more recently to tornadoes in Nashville. So I want to share with you some powerful ways you've equipped CWS for this type of crisis.

Through your support, you're providing:

THE GIFT OF LISTENING: together, we're working with experts and local communities alike to make sure we can respond to rising basic needs as this crisis hits at jobs, schools and our most at-risk communities.

THE GIFT OF RESPONDING: the last few months, we've made daily adjustments to our work around the world to keep communities strong and healthy and we will continue to do this as we learn more about the pandemic in the United States. Please stay tuned as we share more ways that your support is helping. But for now, please focus on your own health and safety and take care of those you hold dear.

THE GIFT OF FAITH: these are dark times, but you've always inspired hope through your compassion. Today, let us hope for better. Let us be faithful and kind to one another. And, if you are moved to, let us pray and/or meditate. If you're looking for the words to say, one of the CWS family of supporters, the Reverend Deacon Tom Hampson, wrote this Prayer in a time of Pandemic:

Loving God, throughout the scriptures you call us to "Fear not!" but these are troubling times for the hardest souls. Give us courage to face the challenges of this new threat to your human family. Give us prudence to do the necessary things to protect ourselves and others. Give us the clarity of vision to learn from this disease the lesson we are too prone to forget, that we are all connected, regardless of race or nationality or political persuasion. We pray for those who are struggling with this disease, that their health may be restored. We pray for medical personnel and first responders caring for those in need, that they remain healthy and unflagging in their life-saving work. And we pray for all those economically impacted, that they may find the resources to maintain themselves and their families. We ask all this, trusting in your abiding love, a love that even death cannot defeat. Amen.

As COVID-19 upends our day-to-day routines and literally separates us, may we be reminded that you and I can still lift each other up and comfort each other, whatever the distance. That's what people like us do!

Be well,

Maurice A. Bloem
Church World Service "CWS"



You make a difference.

**Thank you
for your continued
support.**



American Red Cross



BLOOD DRIVE RESULTS

First Presbyterian Church

Registered Donors = 25

Total Pints Collected = 25

**Your support will go a long way toward replenishing
blood supplies and ultimately saving lives!**

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

April 3
Victoria Olling

April 6
Kim Klancer
Lorene Monk

April 9
Debbie Walls

April 12
Connie Knauff

April 14
Ginger Boys
Pat Buckwell
Rhonda Coffin
Janice Loudermilk
Stephen Williams

April 15
April Fifield

April 16
Julie Fletcher-Golding
Hayden Hughes
Jim Peller

April 18
Jeanne Turner

April 19
Mike Croarkin

April 20
Mary Henrichs

April 21
Mark Ribordy

April 22
Kathy Evans
Pete Goodpaster
Ken Koch
Tom Swihart

April 23
Cameron Hebert

April 25
Alex Williams

April 30
Terry Diedrich
Mike Nuppnau
Denise Stanko

If we inadvertently
missed your birthday,
please contact the
church office.
Thank you.

APRIL CALENDAR

Friday, April 03, 2020

Saturday, April 04, 2020

Sunday, April 05, 2020 - Palm Sunday

10:00 AM Online Worship Facebook Live | FPC Website

11:30 AM Online Christian Education Hour Facebook Live | FPC Website

6:00 PM Online Presbys Via Zoom

Monday, April 06, 2020

5:30 PM Christian Education Team Via Zoom

6:30 PM Mission Team Via Zoom

Tuesday, April 07, 2020

1:30 PM Bulletin Notes Meeting Via Zoom

6:15 PM Worship Team Via Zoom

6:30 PM Building Disciples Team Via Zoom

Wednesday, April 08, 2020

11:00 AM Story Time Facebook Live | FPC Website

6:00 PM Lenten Devotional - *Lent in Plain Sight* Facebook Live | FPC Website

Thursday, April 09, 2020 - Maundy Thursday

6:30 PM Online Maundy Thursday Service Facebook Live | FPC Website

Friday, April 10, 2020 - Good Friday

12:00 PM Online Good Friday Service Facebook Live | FPC Website

Saturday, April 11, 2020

Sunday, April 12, 2020 - Easter Sunday

10:00 AM Online Worship Facebook Live | FPC Website

11:30 AM Online Christian Education Hour Facebook Live | FPC Website

6:00 PM Online Presbys Via Zoom

Monday, April 13, 2020 - Church Office Closed

Tuesday, April 14, 2020

10:30 AM Pre-docket Meeting Via Zoom

11:00 AM Docket Meeting Via Zoom

1:30 PM Bulletin Notes Meeting Via Zoom

Wednesday, April 15, 2020

11:00 AM Story Time Facebook Live | FPC Website

7:00 PM Finance Team Via Zoom

Thursday, April 16, 2020

7:00 AM Team Minutes/Reports Due to Office Church Office Via Email

Friday, April 17, 2020

Saturday, April 18, 2020

APRIL CALENDAR, CONTINUED

Sunday, April 19, 2020

10:00 AM

Online Worship

Facebook Live | FPC Website

11:30 AM

Online Christian Education Hour

Facebook Live | FPC Website

6:00 PM

Online Presbys

Via Zoom

Monday, April 20, 2020

Tuesday, April 21, 2020

1:30 PM

Bulletin Notes Meeting

Via Zoom

Wednesday, April 22, 2020

11:00 AM

Story Time

Facebook Live | FPC Website

7:00 PM

Session

Via Zoom

Thursday, April 23, 2020

Friday, April 24, 2020

Saturday, April 25, 2020

Sunday, April 26, 2020

10:00 AM

Online Worship

Facebook Live | FPC Website

11:30 AM

Online Christian Education Hour

Facebook Live | FPC Website

6:00 PM

Online Presbys

Via Zoom

Monday, April 27, 2020

Tuesday, April 28, 2020

1:30 PM

Bulletin Notes Meeting

Via Zoom

Wednesday, April 29, 2020

11:00 AM

Story Time

Facebook Live | FPC Website

Thursday, April 30, 2020

PRESBYTERIAN RESALE SHOP MINISTRY

Moderator:	Carolyn Dye
Vice-moderator:	Pam Skaltsas
Treasurer:	Jan Bays
Historian:	Mary Jayne Shurr
Secretary:	Cindy Robinson
Scheduler:	Mary Linda Scott

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

Applications for several scholarships and one service award to be given by First Presbyterian Church are available online. **PLEASE SUBMIT COMPLETED FORMS VIA EMAIL OR US POSTAL SERVICE TO THE CHURCH OFFICE BY JUNE 11, 2020.**

The annual Anne Lauterbach Scholarships are available to high school graduates of any age who are pursuing education toward a post-high school degree.

The annual Lillian Wilson Graeber Memorial Scholarship will be awarded to a graduating high school senior who is active in First Presbyterian Church and in the community and who has been accepted by a two or four-year institution of higher learning.

The First Presbyterian Church Service Award will go to a graduating high school senior who is implementing post-secondary education plans.

Anyone with questions may contact Margaret Alexander, Scholarship Committee Chairman, at 462-8723.

CANCELLATIONS

PALM SUNDAY BRUNCH AND APRIL SAINTS CANCELLED

Due to current concerns, the April Saints luncheon is cancelled,
and
we will not have the FPC Palm Sunday brunch this year.

RESALE SHOP NEWS

Please disregard your volunteer assignments until further notice. The Presbyterian Resale Shop is closed indefinitely. We appreciate you and want you to remain well. Thank you for your service.

SPAM EMAIL REGARDING EBAY GIFT CARDS

As many of you know a SPAM email went out last week requesting gift cards and claiming to be Pastor Kim. Unfortunately, someone from the congregation purchased \$500 worth of eBay gift cards, but fortunately did not send the GC numbers to the scammers. If you are planning on purchasing a gift card for an upcoming shower or wedding, birthday or graduation, why not purchase an eBay card from the member of our congregation? Please contact the church office if you are interested at churchoffice@fpcvalpo.org or 219-464-4985.

PEACE BE WITH YOU.

DEACONS DOINGS

We look forward to celebrating the resurrection of our Risen Lord and Savior this Easter with all of you. This has been an unusual Lenten season with the focus on the Corona virus. Along with Pastor Kim, we as Deacons made the decision to temporarily suspend face to face visits with our Deacon friends, but will still reach out to them with calls, emails, and cards. ***You may contact Catherine Busch at cmbusch03@gmail.com or (219) 929-7664 if you know of someone who would like to be assigned a Deacon Friend to stay in touch with their church family, even if it is on a temporary basis while they may be recovering from an illness or surgery.***

One of the duties of the Deacons is coordinating the Prayer & Praise ministry. You may see the notice in the weekly bulletin, but wanted to share how this ministry works. If you desire prayer support for yourself or loved ones, don't hesitate to contact the Prayer Warriors through the Prayer and Praise Ministry chain. Know that your requests can be held in strict confidence for your privacy; to ask for prayers, please contact Deacon Beth Germann at: bcgermann@gmail.com / (219) 477-9964; or you can also add your request to our prayers during Sunday morning worship Service online by contacting the church office at churchoffice@fpcvalpo.org and let us know if we have permission to use your name online during the service.

Be a blessing,

Catherine Busch



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

CHURCH STAFF

E-MAIL ADDRESS

Pastor Kim Adams	kadams@fpcvalpo.org
Janice Axmann, Organist	axmann122@comcast.net
Pastor Nancy Becker, Parish Associate.....	mnbecker3@gmail.com
Rhonda Clark, Adult Choir Director	rclark3110@gmail.com
Ken Crews, Director of CE & Youth Ministry.....	kencrews@fpcvalpo.org
Brad Dirks, Organist.....	bdirks@comcast.net
Beverlee Frazee, Business Manager.....	bfrazee@fpcvalpo.org
Judy Hollar, Clerk of Session.....	churchoffice@fpcvalpo.org
Dawn Scarborough, Church Administrator	dscarborough@fpcvalpo.org

Elders of Session

Ministry Team

Matthew Byerly.....	iEngage Team*
Kim Croarkin	iEngage Team*
Brad Dirks	Worship Team
Rick Exley.....	Building and Grounds Team*
Jim Hubbard, Pro Tem	Personnel Team
Sharon Kinsey	Christian Education Team
Vic Klancer	Building and Grounds Team*
Ken McAloon.....	Mission Team
Elizabeth Monroe	Finance Team
Lisa Pavlopoulos	Stewardship Team
Andrea Phillips.....	Congregational Life Team
Jacki Phillips	Building Disciples Team
Chip Wilkes.....	Personnel Team

*denotes Co-moderator

Moderator of Session

Pastor Kim Adams

Clerk of Session

Judy Hollar

Mission Statement: Building Disciples; Growing in Faith; Serving in Christ's Name

Financial Report			
February 2020			
Month Income	\$ 52,122	YTD Income	\$93,526
Month Expenses	<u>(37,746)</u>	YTD Expenses	<u>(70,464)</u>
Over/Short	\$ 14,376		\$23,062



First Presbyterian Church Valparaiso (public) and
FPCVALPO (closed)