

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

PRESBYTERIAN CONNECTION

MARCH & APRIL 2023

SESSION NOTES



In our first meeting of the year, we welcomed the Rev. Clint Tolbert as our moderator. We discussed the events leading up to Tom's retirement. The congregation was delighted to give Tom and Julie a memorable farewell with a potluck before Christmas and a reception after the service on December 31st. Session approved the hiring of a financial secretary for approximately 4 hours a week. The financial secretary will report to the Treasurer for the near future. From the Session, Betsy, Margaret and Jana will serve on Congregational Life, Lynn, Olga and Dan will serve on Operations, and Lynn will serve on the Heritage Scholarship committee. Congregational Life reported on the Faith Partners, the Easter Egg Hunt, and the Palm Sunday pancake breakfast. Clint offered to train members to become communion servers before our next meeting on March 12th. Bruce reported on his continuing education in Grand Rapids, Michigan, and thanked Lynn for taking over our Facebook and website pages, and Letty for helping print and distribute the bulletins.

Pastoral Nominating Committee

The Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) has been meeting weekly and diligently working to identify the right candidate for our church's pastoral position. The Presbytery Leadership Committee approved our Ministry Discernment Profile, which has been available online since December. We have been actively monitoring it for potential applicants.

Our committee crafted a comprehensive job posting announcement which was approved by our General Presbyter, Rev. Dr. Matt Meinke. This was subsequently posted on various platforms, including the National Presbyterian Church website, churchjobsonline.com, ChristianCareerCenter.com, PastorJobs.net, Indeed, LinkedIn, Glassdoor, ZipRecruiter, and more. Additionally, we are currently in the process of posting the position on different seminary job boards locally and nationally, broadening our reach to potential candidates.

Joel Youkers, our Maumee Valley Presbytery Leadership Committee liaison, joined us in February and suggested exploring the option of a shared pastor. Since then, our committee has actively pursued this idea by reaching out to several churches.

Throughout this process, your prayers and support have been invaluable. We kindly ask for your continued prayers for God's will and wisdom in guiding us to the individual prepared for this responsibility. The PNC deeply appreciates your support and patience during this transitional period. Thank you, and may God's guidance be with us.

SESSION MEMBERS : DAN BADENHOP, OLGA HALL, BETSY MORGAN, JANA SCHROEDER, MARGARET WHITMAN, LYNN YARNELL.

SESSION OFFICERS: BETSY MORGAN, TREASURER; NANCY JOHNSTON, CLERK.

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YOUR PASTOR'S WELL-CAFFEINATED COMMENTS

Greetings!

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and our Lord Jesus Christ.

I've learned quite a few things about this calling the last few months.

- Preaching every Sunday is a lot different than preaching occasionally. I used to find out a month or more ahead of time when I would be preaching, so I'd have a lot of time to think about the Scripture. Now I have a week. I have needed to work out what I needed each week to get from Monday to Sunday. I was reminded of the pastor who told me he had a sign on his desk that said: "Monday—Read the Scriptures for next Sunday. Tuesday—Read the Scriptures for next Sunday. Wednesday—" and so on.
- Like you, I've heard the same preacher for the last 13 years, and I found my first sermons were fitting into the patterns that Tom had. Going to the Calvin Institute of Christian Worship really helped me think about how I was preaching, what I needed to know before I should start writing, and how I could use different structures for my sermons. I hope I continue to improve as I get more practice.
- Writing services is hard! Like Tom did, I am trying to write my services several weeks ahead of time. The hardest part to craft is the pastoral prayers, because I am praying on behalf of the church sometime in the future in a way that reflects the worship and the church weeks before I've written the sermon. If you come to church and see me pacing in the sanctuary or sitting in the front pew, you will know what I am doing.



I am honored to be asked to do two things this summer:

- I will be the Head Spiritual Director for the Bryan Boys Awakening Friday July 19th—Sunday July 21st at Camp Palmer. I have been involved with the Great Banquet for many years, and this is the first time I've been a spiritual director in quite a while—I've been a speaker, a table leader, a kitchen team members, and an Agape team member (they take care of all the behind the scene details). You can learn more at bryanawakening.org.
- I will be a counselor at Camp Rejoice at Kirkmont. If you remember, I helped with the presbytery youth retreat at Kirkmont last year, and that led to a invite to help this year. Camp Rejoice is from Sunday, July 7th to Saturday, July 13th. More information can be found at kirkmontcetner.org/summer-camps.

Though I do not know how long I will be serving as your pastor, I cannot tell you how honored I am to be serving the church where I has baptized, where I grew up, where I was ordained as a deacon and ordained as a minister, where I was prayed for through the toughest parts of my life, and where I have always felt at home. I pray I will be as much of a blessing to you as you have been to me.

Here's my prayer challenge to you:

Pick something from the fruit of the Spirit In Galatians 5:22-23, like "love" or "joy" or "patience" or "kindness", or maybe something like "grace" or "peace" or "faith", and pray the church has more of it and shows more of it. Use holy imagination to ponder what that would be like.

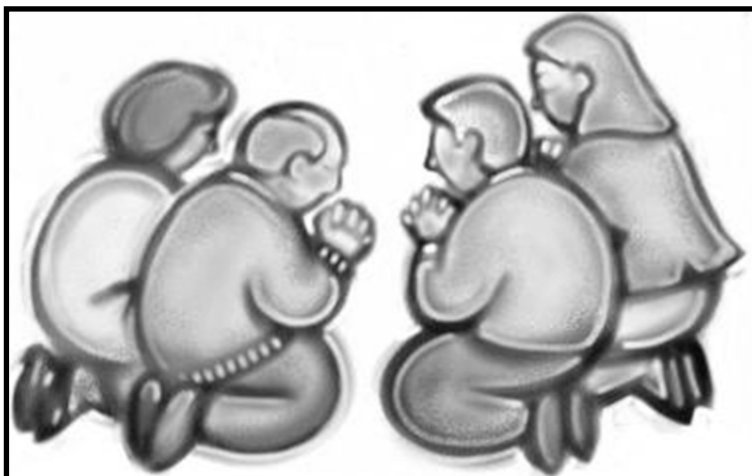
Bruce

Connect with the Church!

**fpcnapoleon@gmail.com — <https://fpcnapoleon.org>
www.youtube.com/@fpcnapoleon— www.facebook.com/fpcnapoleon**

Prayer Group

The prayer group is currently meeting on Thursdays at noon at the church. If you are in need of prayer, please contact Bruce or the church office. If you would like to pray with us, but the time and location doesn't work for you, contact Bruce Brown or Patricia Birkhold. You can also email prayer requests to the church.



Happy Birthday



March

23 Nancy Johnston

April

5 Alex Birkhold
5 Emily Birkhold
12 Sarah Luzny
18 Megan Yarnell
19 Brenda Stough
29 Connie Cobb

May

4 Bev Koenig
4 Carole White
20 Carol Leonard
27 Sue Harris

IN OUR PRAYERS

NORTHCREST NURSING HOME: Harold Badertscher

SIMMONS CROSSING: Connie Cobb

VANCREST: Dollie Smith

PRAYER LIST: Phyllis Brubaker, Dan Badenhop, Gene Detmer, Linda McOscar, Sandy Johnson, Tom Norden, Dollie Smith, Sandee Schweter, Kathy Schilens (Jana Schroeder's sister), Stuart Taft (Gene and Carol Detmer's son-in-law), Enoch & Adyē Castro Vásquez (Olga Hall's father and mother), Betty Sladek (Ed Sladek's Wife)



Financial Report

Month	Offering	Expenses
January	\$13,091	\$6,696
February	\$3,936	\$4,753

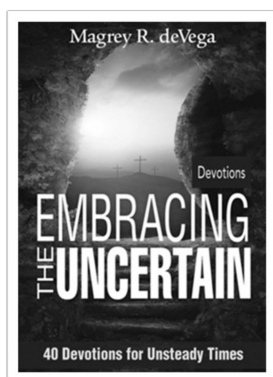
January is higher because some members pay yearly or quarterly.



Connections

The Connections group continues to meet on the first and third Wednesdays of the month. Please contact Patricia Birkhold if you do not know the location.

It would be great to start a men's Bible study as well. If you have any great ideas, talk with Bruce!

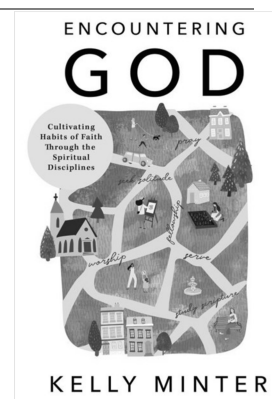


Lenten Bible Study

Our Lenten Devotional is *Embracing the Uncertain: A Lenten Study for Unsteady Times*.

This study concentrates on the gospel passages from the Transfiguration to the Resurrection, taking us through the story of the latter half of Jesus' ministry.

If you wish to reimburse the church for the book, the cost is \$10.



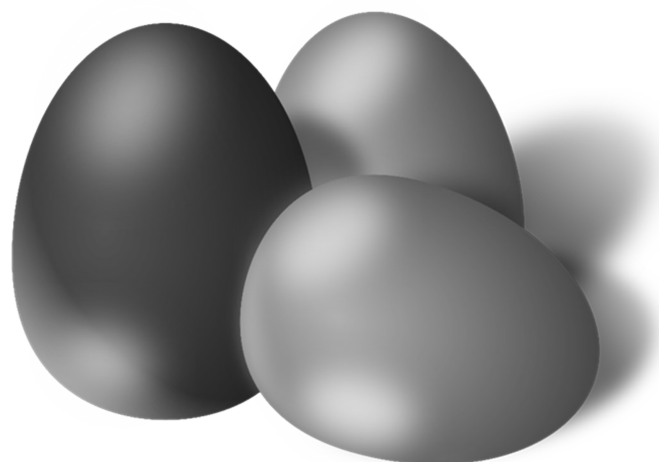
Easter Egg Hunt

St. Paul Lutheran (on Glenwood) and the Napoleon Ministerial Association are sponsoring an Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, March 23rd.

Please help assembling eggs on Saturday, March 16th at 10 a.m. at the church.

We need individually wrapped candy to fill the eggs! Please bring bags to church by Sunday, March 10th, or the 16th at the latest

Volunteers at the Easter Egg Hunt! Be at St. Paul's Church at 8 a.m. on Saturday, March 23rd.



Together We Can Make a Difference

During Lent we are collecting canned peas, low or no sugar canned fruit, and canned tuna! They especially need the no or low sugar canned fruit!

If you are watching the service and would like the bulletin emailed to you each week, send a request to fpcnapoleon@gmail.com, and we'll send it to you.

Order for the Worship of God

Welcome & Announcements

GATHERING

Welcome from 1 Corinthians 1:4-8

L The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

C And also with you.

L God has given us the grace of God through Christ Jesus and we have been enriched in him in every way.

C God will strengthen us to the end, so that we may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

L God is faithful and calls into partnership with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Let us pray.

Prayer

*Opening Hymn (Blue #229)

"From All That Dwells Below the Skies"

Worship from the Psalms

(from Psalm 19)

Upcoming Scheduled Meetings and Events

Women's Bible Study — Wednesday, March 3rd, March 20th, April 3rd, and April 17th

Prayer Group — every Thursday at noon.

Congregational Life — Tuesday, March 5th 10:00 a.m.

Candy at the Church for Easter Egg Filling — Sunday, March 10th

Session — Tuesday, March 12th at 3:30 p.m.

Connect to the Community — Thursday, March 13th, 3:30 p.m.

Easter Egg Filling at the Church — Saturday, March 16th, 10:00 am.

Easter Egg Hunt at St. Paul Lutheran Church (Glenwood) — volunteers needed at 8 a.m. on Saturday, March 23rd

Palm Sunday Worship — Sunday, March 24th, 10 a.m.

Maundy Thursday Communion Service — Thursday, March 28th, 7 p.m.

Easter Sunday Worship — Sunday, March 31st

Congregational Life — Thursday, April 4th 10:00 a.m.



Upcoming Planned Preaching Schedule

March 3rd — Exodus 20:1-17, 1 Corinthians 1:18-25

March 10th — Numbers 21:4-9, John 3:14-21

March 17th — Jeremiah 31:31-34, Ephesians 2:1-10

March 24th — Mark 11:1-25, Philippians 2:5-11

March 28th — Mark 14:1-52, 63-72

March 31st — Mark 16:1-8, Acts 10:34-43,
1 Corinthians 15:1-11

April 7 — 1 John 1:1-2:2, John 20:19-31

April 14 — 1 John 3:1-7, Luke 24:36-48

April 21 — 1 John 3:16-24, John 10:11-18

April 28 — 1 John 4:7-21, John 15:1-8

May 5th — 1 John 5:1-6, John 15:9-17

May 12th — 1 John 5:9-13, John 17:6-19



Cards of Thanks!

Dear Church Family,

Thank you for always continuing to share your love with Mom, for the visits, calls, and communion. She always appreciated it all! I will always be grateful for the foundation of life built at the beautiful stone church.

In Christ,

Kelly Joseph

Dear Church Family,

Thank you so much for the care package! It means a lot knowing you are thinking about me. I appreciate all the goodies and had fun reading the notes and letters. Life in college has been going well, as I am in my third year of classes. Along with classes, I have been experiencing spiritual growth in my relationship with Jesus! I hope you have been doing well and I'll see you again soon!

Love,

Claire Birkhold

Dear Church Family,

Thank you so much for the care package. I was absolutely surprised to hear that there was a massive box waiting for me at the Union. You are all way too kind. There is enough food to last me an entire year! I really appreciate all of you thinking of me and cannot wait to see you all again.

Sincerely,

Alex Birkhold

Dear Church Family,

Thank you so much for the incredibly thoughtful care package. Your kindness and generosity is appreciated. I am blessed to be a part of this wonderful community. See you soon!

Love,

Emily Birkhold

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**

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BRUCE BROWN, PASTOR

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10:00 a.m. Worship

