



The Good News Letter

September 2020

The Newsletter of
First Presbyterian Church
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Sturgis, SD 57785
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Pastor's Corner

We often think of the cross as the sign of God's forgiveness. Jesus Christ died to repay God for the debt we owe because of our sins. While this is a very popular view, in many ways it is based on a view of God who requires repayment, who asks for "an eye for an eye." This is an ancient view of the cross called **Atonement**, and in some ways, it appeals to us all. We want to know that we are forgiven for our sins.

Another ancient view of the cross is that it is **Revelatory**. Jesus' dying upon the cross **reveals** to us the love of God. We hear a lot about love in our culture. We hear mostly about a love that is self-centered, love that is about us and how we feel and what we want. The love revealed by Jesus in his death on the cross is different—it is a sacrificial, suffering love. This is the love that God gives. It is a love that is a one-way street—God's love comes upon us regardless of whether or not we return that love.

This revealed love of God is also compelling—it compels us to be transformed, to embody that sacrificial, suffering love—a love that seeks to benefit the other before the self. We resist this kind of love. We resist the dwelling of God's love within us because it changes us, it turns us into totally different persons. We resist because it may involve suffering, being hurt, the bearing of persecution. We resist this path of God's love because it means letting go of who we want to be, and relinquishing our desires to hate, to think in black and white terms, to lash out, to put down, to name-call, to preserve rather than to share.

"Abide in me as I abide in you," Jesus says in John 15:4. "To be loved by God is to be drawn toward God. To be drawn toward God is to be transformed into the likeness of God," says Professor Tom Long. Augustine preached: "Dwell and you will be a dwelling. Abide and you will be an abode." As we abide in Jesus, in God, we will practice love as a one-way street, not expecting love in return. We are willing to be new persons, and yes, even to suffer for the sake of others. In the process, we become saints.

As the church we must ask ourselves, Do we practice this sacrificial, suffering love toward one another, and toward our community? Are we in it to take care of ourselves, to see what's in it for us? Or are we in it to serve, to love unconditionally, to accept one another with our differences, to love sacrificially?

On another note, this month we say goodbye to a faithful servant of our church. Linda Beulke is retiring and she has served our church as a caring and skillful secretary for over six years. I have had secretaries that did an ok job, that did a poor job, and secretaries like Linda who did an excellent job. We have been blessed to have her in our office. She has worked tirelessly and has done careful and competent work. She has gone the extra mile and done jobs that many secretaries would not be willing to do. I appreciate her work, and her caring ways. We ask for God's blessing upon her as she and Arnie move forward into a new part of their lives. We will recognize Linda for her service to our church in a worship service in September.

God Bless You and Stay Safe!

Pastor Paul

Church Office Hours

Rev. Paul Henschen will normally be in the office Monday through Thursday, 9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Normal office hours for the church secretary are Tuesday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to Noon. Starting September 8, the office hours will be 8 – Noon and 1 – 3. Please feel free to give the secretary a call with any questions or concerns at 605-347-2395.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the secretary's office hours may change from week to week. If you need something, please give the office a call at 605-347-2395.

Changing of the guard

I have been your church secretary since January 2, 2014, and I have thoroughly enjoyed my time here at First Presbyterian Church. The time has flown by so quickly, and that is due to all of you. I have never had a job that I have felt so appreciated. It was a bit overwhelming when I first started.

It is now time for me to pass the torch to someone new. My last day will be on September 18th. The Personnel Committee is working hard to find my replacement.

Arnie and I will be staying in the community, but hopefully will be able to do some traveling (if COVID ever goes away). Our new address is 2308 S Davenport St. Apt 7, Sturgis SD 57785. Most of you have my phone number and I would love to hear from you, just not about church stuff.

Again, it has been a great ride over the past 6 ¾ years that I was allowed to be your church secretary.

United Way Month of Caring

In prior years, the United Way has held a Day of Caring. On account of COVID 19, this year the United Way is scheduling a "Month of Caring." Any time during the month of September, organizations are encouraged to schedule projects to aid the community.

The Mission Committee has selected two projects for this year, and it is looking for volunteers to participate in them. The first is to assist a member of the church with cleaning windows on a two-story home. A date and time for this project has not been scheduled. If you would like to participate in the project, please contact the church office; you will be contacted to determine what day and time would best fit your schedule. (Normally, projects like this one would be done on a Saturday.)

The second projects concerns Rimrock and Pioneer camps. Pioneer camp is being auctioned on October 5, 2020. Jason Wiedrich has advised that on September 11th and 12th, items will be moved to and from the Rimrock and Pioneer camps. If you would like to assist with this project, please contact the church office at 605-347-2395 and leave a message for Sam Namminga. Thank you in advance for volunteering for one or both of these projects.



Worship Schedule and Live Streaming of Worship Services ~ during the COVID-19 pandemic.

At the time of the newsletter publication, the church building will remain closed for all church and non-church activities. The Session will be meeting periodically to review church activities during the pandemic.

Services will remain being held **on Facebook Live at 10:30 am on Sunday mornings**, <https://www.facebook.com/FirstPresbyterianSturgis> until we are able to gather together again. You can also view the service on our website www.fpcsturgissd.com a short time after 11:30 a.m.

If you would like to receive a written copy of the service, please let the church office know at 605-347-2395 and you will be added to the mailing list.

Holy Communion will be observed on September 6, you are invited to observe communion in your home by the eating of bread and the drinking of juice or other liquid you have available—so please have these on hand. Rev. Paul will do the “words of institution” on Facebook Live.

Session will meet in September

The Session will be meeting periodically to review church activities during the pandemic. The Stated Session Meeting will be on Monday, September 21 at 7 pm via Zoom Conference meeting.

Please contact any of the session members with concerns, or give the office a call and Linda will relay the message to those in charge of that committee.

These Days

The new These Days for July/August/September have arrived. You are welcomed to stop by the office and pick up a copy.

Month End Financial Report

As of the end of July, our Month End Financial Report is as follows:

| | | | | | |
|-----------------|--------------|-------------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|
| Actual Income | \$112,377.46 | Actual Expenses | \$99,961.60 | Actual Income | \$112,377.46* |
| Budgeted Income | \$115,472.00 | Budgeted Expenses | \$117,143.00 | Actual Expenses | \$99,961.60 |
| Plus/Minus | (\$3,094.54) | Plus/Minus | (\$17,181.40) | Plus/Minus | \$12,415.86 |

Please remember to mail in or come by the office with your gift or pledge. The church bills, salaries and mission giving payments depend on you! ***A huge thank you to all that have continued to give to our church.***

*Please note that if we do not meet our budget, some of our giving, such as through the Mission Committee, or programs may be affected for the following year. Please keep this in mind.

Update on continued support of the Kiwanis Food Pantry, Sturgis SD



School will be starting soon. Learning is easier when the tummy is not empty. Thank you for donating non-perishable food items and monetary gifts to the Kiwanis Food Pantry. You are making a difference in the lives of many.

First Presbyterian Donations:

| | |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| Total 2018 | 3164 pounds |
| Total 2019 | 2371 pounds |
| January –March 2020 | 368 pounds |
| April –June 2020 | 141 pounds |
| July- August 2020 | 76 pounds |

Please also continue to save Lynn’s Dakota Mart receipts; the money received through this program is utilized for purchase of regularly stocked products at the Food Pantry. For each \$10,000 in receipts the Food Bank receives \$100.

September's suggested items:

| | |
|--------------|-------------------------|
| September 6 | Breakfast |
| September 13 | Meat |
| September 20 | Rice-A-Roni/Pasta Sides |
| September 27 | Casserole Fixings |

Please feel free to contact me at 605-490-3078 or betty.nettleton@gmail.com if you have any questions or suggestions. Thank you for your continued support! ~ Betty Nettleton



Dear First Presbyterian Church.

Enjoyed your little free library....even with all the motorcycles! 😊

~ B Hagerty, Kennewick, WA

Dear First Presbyterian Church.

The Sturgis Kiwanis Food Pantry gratefully acknowledges your recent donation of \$630.00. This especially important to us as we deal with an increase in requests for food because of the coronavirus pandemic.

~ Sincerely, Barry W. Furze, Secretary/Treasurer

Presbyterian Women.

On behalf of the women and children served by CISS, thank you for your generous donation. The timing of your donation is divine, especially with the pandemic increasing the number of families in need. This donation you provided will help many victims of domestic violence.

~ With deepest gratitude, Ashley Adams, Executive Director

On the lighter side of things

What does your computer do for lunch?

Has a byte!

What did the student say to the teacher after he missed the first day of school?

No, ma'am. I didn't miss it at all.

Why do math books always look so sad?

They are full of problems.

Why did the kid eat his homework?

Because his teacher said it was a piece of cake.

What do elves learn in school?

The elf-abet.

Where do pencils go on vacation?

Pencil-vania.

What does a book do in the winter?

Puts on a jacket.

Why did the teacher wear sunglasses to school?

Because her students were so bright.

Why did the teacher jump into the pool?

He wanted to test the water.

Love INC Clothe-a-Kid Backpack Drive has been extended until August 31. Please help if you can.

If you have any questions, please give Judi Harwood a call at 714-963-5072. You can either drop your backpack off at the church or at Judi's house, 1522 Junction Ave. Please label your bags with one of the following. K – Boy: K – Girl: 1-3 Boy: 1-3 Girl: 4-5 Boy: 4-5 Girl: 6-8 Boy: 6-8 Girl:

**BAGS
BOOKS
&**

The What: Love INC Clothe-a-Kid
The Need: 20 backpacks + 40 books
The Deadline: Sunday, August 23
The Why: Over the summer, families have participated in Community Project Days as a way to pay it forward and are rewarded with a back-to-school shopping day in September. This year we'd also like to provide a backpack + 2 books for each child to start the year off right.

Pick a bag tag up from the church lobby this week or email simone@love-inc.us if you'd like to contribute. Bags and books will be collected from the church on Sunday, August 23rd.



Bible Word Search: COUNTRIES OF THE BIBLE

R Q M G A M H Q A S K S T L S
Q M A D C B Q S A P U F U V C
L H C D D N I M O R I O P L R
W T E D P A A F P R H N A S E
J O D O M R K Y D G S B I K T
S Y O I I C C K S A I K A Y E
B A N A I T S I L I H P H K L
B O I I H J G A X E S O C G B
R A A S A A I P G J R J A O X
I V B A R P M Y A N A A N A C
W N H Y O E P R L Y T H H R H
Z M D I L T P R A M E L I T A
S S H I O O X X T G H A D U J
S T Z U A D N O I W O Q C N U
E A S S Y R I A A U E T T G J

ASSYRIA

PERSIA

ROSH

PUT

GALATIA

CYPRUS

MELITA

CANAAN

TOGARMAH

ACHAIA

ASIA MINOR

PHILISTIA

CRETE

EGYPT

BABYLON

TARSHISH

MACEDONIA

INDIA

SAMARIA

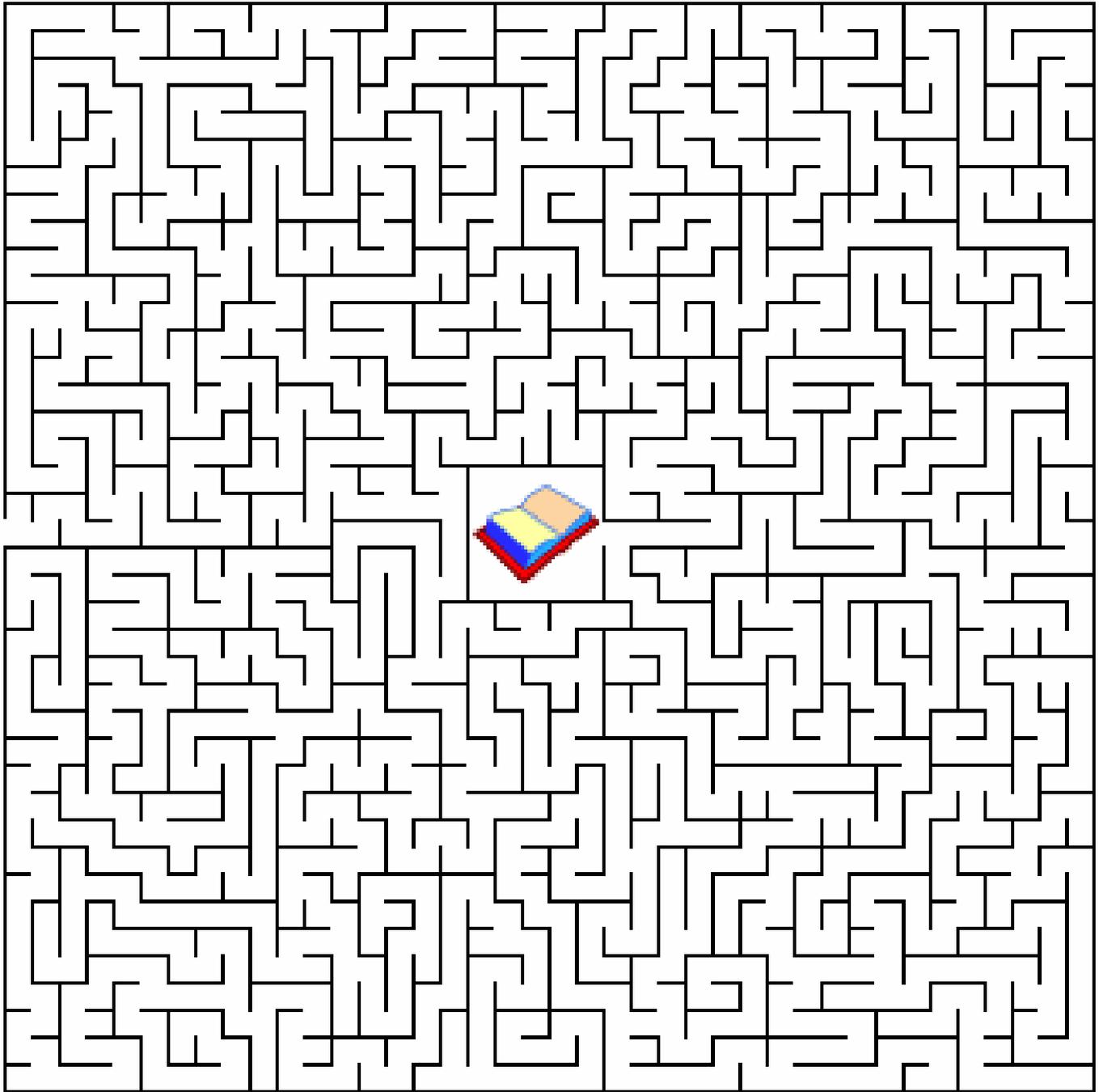
ETHIOPIA

JUDAH

Instructions:

Find and circle the words from the list. Words may be forward, backward, vertical, or diagonal within the puzzle.

Can you find the path to the Bible?



September 2020

Birthdays and Anniversaries

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| | | 1 | 2 B~Larry Carpenter | 3 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; font-size: small;">(If any have been omitted, please call the church and let us know, 347-2395. We want to be accurate)</div> | 4 B~Jerry Wilson | 5 B~Mary Jane Lutz | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 6 | 7 A~Cal & Linda Corey | 8 | 9 | 10 A~Tyler & Cassie Hicks | 11 | 12 A~Don & Lisa Baldwin | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 13 B~Karen Paige Hunt B~Landyn Mahaffy | 14 A~Ken & Carolyn Fisher | 15 | 16 B~Nancy Remington | 17 B~Sandy Moore | 18 A~Bryce & Sandi Sigman A~Don & Betty Nettleton | 19 A~Josh & Kristan (Udell) Schriock | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 20 | 21 B~Helen Adams | 22 | 23 B~Donna Bossman B~Jane Quinn B~Wayne Sheely | 24 A~Dale & Helen Adams A~Neal & Elaine Rowett B~Helen Adams | 25 B~Chuck Lutz | 26 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 27 | 28 | 29 B~Wat Simons | 30 B~Noah Moore | <table border="1" style="font-size: x-small;"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="7">Aug 2020</th> <th colspan="7">Oct 2020</th> </tr> <tr> <th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>T</th><th>F</th><th>S</th> <th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>T</th><th>F</th><th>S</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td> <td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td> <td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td> <td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td> </tr> <tr> <td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td> <td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td> </tr> <tr> <td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td> <td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td> </tr> <tr> <td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td> <td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> | | Aug 2020 | | | | | | | Oct 2020 | | | | | | | S | M | T | W | T | F | S | S | M | T | W | T | F | S | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | 30 | 31 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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