

August 2, 2020  
Ninth Sunday after Pentecost  
Bix Sunday!

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR MEDITATION

Genesis 32:22-31

Psalm 17:1-7, 15

Romans 9:1-5

Matthew 14:13-21

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

“Jesus said to them, “They need not go away; you give them something to eat.”

Matthew 14:16

**The Church Gathers To...**

**Preparation for Worship**

*Worshippers are invited to meditate silently during the following prelude.*

**Prelude**

My Lord What a Morning

Ivory&Gold

**Welcome and Announcements**

Rev Katie Styr

**Introit**

Joy in My Heart

Ivory&Gold

**Praise Almighty God**

**Call to Worship**

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth!

**In living rooms, breakfast nooks, and sunny patios, we worship together and sing God’s praises. Let us worship God!**

**Hymn**

He’s Got the Whole World in His Hands

Ivory&Gold

**Kids’ Sermon**

Rev. Katie Styr

**Confess to a Forgiving Creator**

**Prayer of Confession**

**Holy and merciful God, we confess our failure to be what you created us to be. You created us to receive your blessing and give your blessings to others, but we act as if we would run out of your love if we were to offer it to each other. In your mercy, forgive us. Restore us to your favor, in Jesus’ name. Amen.**

**Assurance of Pardon**

The peace of Christ surpasses our understanding. Let us receive it, celebrate it and live into it with joy! Our sins are forgiven; thanks be to God.

**Anthem**

Just a Closer Walk with Thee

Ivory&Gold

## **Listen for God's Word**

**Scripture Readings**

Psalm 98

Matthew 14:13-21

This is the Word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God.**

**Message**

Abundance

FPC Church Family

## **Respond to God's Word**

**Hymn**

I Shall Not Be Moved

Ivory&Gold

**Prayers of the People**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise...**

**The Lord's Prayer** - *(Traditional) Page 16 in the hymnal.*

**Offering Our Gifts and Lives to God**

*In the gift of money, we offer something of our work and selves to God.*

To donate, please visit the church website, [fpcdavenport.org](http://fpcdavenport.org), and click on "Donate Now," use the link: <https://bit.ly/2V8nEgm>, or mail your check in to the church office

Count Your Blessings

Ivory&Gold

**Presentation of Our Gifts and Lives to God**

**Prayer of Dedication**

**Collaborative Creator God, you call us to join in your work of loving the world, and you give us all we need to follow your lead. As we return to you a portion of your gifts, we ask you to guide us into abundant life with you. Amen.**

## **Go To Serve With God's Blessing**

**Hymn**

Do Lord

Ivory&Gold

**Benediction**

## JOYS AND CONCERNS

**Prayers are Welcome for:** Mary Katherine and family of Ben (*friends of Don Wood*); Carlen Brinser; Nancy Buening (*mother of Rebecca Buening-Ferris*); Colleen Dueñas (*death of mother*); Nancy Hagen (*mother of Colleen Dueñas*); family of Nancy Hoffman; Don Hultgren (*hospice*); Jolene Keeney; Betty Nelson (*mother of Tim Nelson*); Don Pedersen and family (*death of wife and mother, Marsha*); Phil Schwister; Wilton Retirement Community; Audrae Zoeckler (*90<sup>th</sup> birthday*); families and victims of abuse, addiction, violence, loss, suicide, COVID-19, and all recent natural disasters.

### Pastoral Statement

*Dear Partners in Ministry at First Presbyterian Church:*

*For your convenience and review, here is a statement from Dr. Rebecca Blair, Stated Clerk of the PEI, following up from the Congregational Meeting July 26:*

#### **What is a Bridging Pastor?**

The bridging pastor process allows carefully selected pastors and churches to be matched through the partnership of the Ministers and Congregations Commission and a special search committee working on behalf of the church. The Bridging Pastor is an experienced pastor with a particular skill set, contracted in a Temporary Pastoral Relationship, who serves in complex or conflicted transitional ministry settings. This pastor's role is to serve as a bridge following the early phase of the interim process in which conflicts and church cultural features are identified and engaged by an interim pastor and the church session, and working through the later phase of the interim process that focuses on systemic renewal and relational reconciliation. The aim of this service is to complete the preparation process for the congregation to call an installed pastor.

In accord with the PEIA policy on Temporary Pastoral Relationships, the Bridging Pastor relationship shall be established by contract between the session of the church to be served and the pastor, as full-time pastoral service, reviewed on a yearly basis by the session in partnership with the MCC with the contract to be approved by the MCC before the contract becomes effective.

#### **What is the Process to Call a Bridging Pastor?**

The process for selecting a Bridging Pastor begins with the selection of a Bridging Pastor Search Committee for the specific task of selecting a Bridging Pastor only. The Presbytery's Ministers and Congregations Commission provides guidance to the Bridging Pastor Search Committee concerning the essential skill set of the Bridging Pastor articulated in the documentation to be shared with potential candidates. The MCC and the Bridging Pastor Search Committee partner to carefully consider 2-3 candidates whom the MCC has identified. Only these candidates may be considered.

In choosing to use the Bridging Pastor option, the session is agreeing to select one of the candidates offered by the Presbytery's MCC. Once established, this relationship will be reviewed by the MCC for renewal annually to ensure that the agreed-upon activities are taking place, the ministry is benefitting the church, and the terms of contract are agreed upon.

Temporary Pastoral Relationships are defined by G-2.0504b and c in the Book of Order. These relationships shall be established by contract between the session of the church to be served and the pastor for one-year increments and shall be approved by MCC on behalf of the Presbytery before such contracts become effective. Any extension of such contract may be entered into by the session and the pastor and shall be approved by MCC before becoming effective. Such approval shall not be granted by MCC until after an acceptable review of the ministry is conducted.

*In Partnership,  
Pastor Mark*

## **View the Special Congregational Meeting, "The Way Forward"**

The recording of the July 26 congregational meeting, as well as more information about the pastor we are hoping to call, can be found on our church website: click <https://www.fpcdavenport.org/sermon-videos/> and check out the "Moving Forward" section. Recordings of future meetings will be posted here as well.

## **A Note from the Pandemic Task Force**

Last month, the church sent to every household in our congregation the Reopening Plan drafted by the Pandemic Task Force and approved by the Session. In line with our duties as outlined by the Session, the task force has continued to meet weekly and reevaluate our policy in light of the ever-changing situation of the COVID pandemic in our community. Around the same time as that plan was sent, cases in the Quad Cities area began surging; this surge prompted the task force to reconsider our stated conditions for entering Stage 2 ("Consistently <1 death per day for 3 consecutive weeks").

We realized that the formula for determining various stages works well when numbers do what they are supposed to: gradually decrease. But basing a reopening on the death count alone fails to take into account a resurgence. Under the current formula, it is possible to open the church for worship in the middle of a surge because we technically would not see the resulting deaths from that surge for a few weeks after; considering that the surge began with a younger population, it is likely that the deaths would not occur for several weeks after we reopen, which would prompt us to close again. The task force believes that it would appear reckless to reopen when numbers are rising and ICU beds are scarce. To account for this surge in numbers, the task force proposed to Session last week that the policy be amended such that the conditions for entering Stage 2 would read, "Consistently <5 cases and <1 death per day for 3 consecutive weeks." This measure was approved by the Session. The idea is that we reopen in Stage 2 when deaths cease (which is a good marker for gauging the situation with ICU bed availability) and numbers drop significantly; if this is maintained for three weeks, we can move comfortably into Stage 3.

All the members of the Pandemic Task Force are eager to worship again in our beautiful sanctuary. Please know that our priority since forming in April has been to keep our congregation safe. This has been and continues to be our guiding value, and we thank you for your ongoing support of the many great ministries of FPC during this time.

## **Highlights from the July Session Meeting**

- With Session approval, FPC is now a member of QC Interfaith and has representatives attending meetings.
- The Re-opening Policy was amended to account for the current situation in Scott County where Covid-related deaths are low but case numbers are increasing significantly. Case numbers will now be part of the criteria for entering Stage 2.
- Giving to the general fund is down considerably since the pandemic started. Please, everyone is encouraged to keep up your giving.
- The Session received a report from Dr. Rebecca Blair, Stated Clerk of the Presbytery of East Iowa on the Administrative Review Committee of the Synod of Lakes and Prairies and on the status of the Bridging Pastor. Details were presented at the congregational meeting on July 26, 2020.
- A specially-called congregational meeting was approved for August 23, 2020. The purpose will be to elect a Bridging Pastor search committee and approve changes in the call of Pastor Katie Styr.
- Approved the PAS Program for 2020-2021 which is scheduled to begin in March 2021. Details to follow.
- Received a report from the Tech Task Force that new video equipment is needed to replace some failed parts. Work is being done to allow for live streaming.
- The Worship Task Force ended their service after 2 years. A final report was given to Session.

### **Presentation from Pastor Mark** – Sunday, August 9, 10:20 AM

During virtual coffee hour on Sunday, August 9, Pastor Mark will be sharing a presentation on our church's mission goals. Last winter, small groups of members met to discuss their favorite parts of our church, their hopes for our future, and concerns about the past. Pastor Mark has combined the results from these meetings and will share them with us after worship on August 9. Join us after worship (around 10:20 AM) at this link:

<https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJUkf-ivrzMqHdSy9GSdaXqVT0NeUC6eLM-9>.

You can also call 312-626-6799 and enter the Meeting ID (919 8171 8070) and password (ACE). Hope you can join us!

### **Special Congregational Meeting - Sunday, August 23, 10:30 AM**

On motion, The Session has scheduled a special congregational meeting, Sunday, August 23, 2020, at 10:30 AM, immediately following the worship service. Docket items are:

- Approval of Bridging Pastor Nominating Committee
- Approval of Pastor Katie's change in terms of call

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81957838067?pwd=ZHhRQytiaDJJQlZlejJRSFA2S1BJZz09>

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81957838067?pwd=ZHhRQytiaDJJQlZlejJRSFA2S1BJZz09>

**Meeting ID: 819 5783 8067**

**Passcode: 740831**

Dial by your location

1 312 626 6799 US

### **Virtual Coffee Hour** - Sundays, immediately following Worship Watch Party

Miss chatting after church? Join us after the worship watch party (usually around 10:20 AM on Sundays) for a virtual coffee hour before ACE.

Click this Zoom link to enter:

<https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJUkf-ivrzMqHdSy9GSdaXqVT0NeUC6eLM-9>,

or dial 312-626-6799 and enter 919 8171 8070 for the meeting ID and ACE for the password.

### **Adult Christian Education in August** – Sundays, August 2, 16, 23, 30 10:45 AM

Racial justice – it is a daily part of the evening news and in every newspaper. Do you feel overwhelmed? How should you respond? This may be a place you can start to learn more. You are invited to participate in the **21-Day Racial Justice Challenge** from August 2-August 30. This challenge will be the basis for discussion when we gather by video conference at 10:45AM on Sundays August 2, 16, 23 and 30 (skipping August 9). This version of the 21-day challenge comes from the PC-USA Matthew 25 church movement, of which FPC is a participant. It is an incomplete study, but it is a start. Are you up to the challenge?

Yes, you will have homework! You will receive resources to study each day. Some may take 30-60 minutes, others as little as five minutes.

In 2016, the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) approved a church wide anti-racism policy called “Facing Racism: A Vision of the Intercultural Community.” The policy states:

Racism is a lie about our fellow human beings, for it says that some are less than others. It is also a lie about God, for it falsely claims that God favors parts of creation over the entirety of creation. Because of our biblical understanding of who God is and what God intends for humanity, the PC(USA) must stand against, speak against and work against racism. Anti-racist effort is not optional for Christians. It is an essential aspect of Christian discipleship, without which we fail to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ.”

*Continued on following page*

This policy will be the basis for our opening discussion on August 2, 2020. You can find a link to the policy on our e-news. You are encouraged to read the policy prior to our first gathering, if you are able. You are not required to pre-register to attend our Sunday morning discussions, but it would be helpful if you indicated your intention to participate **by clicking this link to RSVP:**

<https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJUkf-ivrzMqHdSy9GSdaXqVT0NeUC6eLM-9>.

You can click on the same link to enter the Zoom meeting, or call and enter the Meeting ID (919 8171 8070) and password (ACE).

Class materials will be available in the E-news.

### **Online Harpsichord Recital - Tuesday, August 4, 12:00 PM**

Matt Bishop will offer a free online harpsichord recital on Facebook on Tuesday, July 21 at noon. This will be a 30-minute recital featuring works by Sebastián Albero and J.S. Bach on the church's Lindholm harpsichord. The video will be available on the church's Facebook page. Enjoy some Baroque music with your lunch!

### **Midweek Prayer – Wednesdays, 12:00 PM**

Join us on Facebook live for a brief time of prayer and scripture! Go to the church's Facebook page at noon on Wednesdays for community prayer. Post your prayer requests in chat during our time together, or watch the video devotional anytime. If you don't have a Facebook account, you can still watch these devotional videos at any time by going to <https://www.facebook.com/fpcdavenport/live>.

### **Bible Basics 201 – Wednesdays, 6:15 PM**

We're taking a summer break! There will be no class August 5. We'll start up again on August 12 at 6:15 PM with a study on the book of Romans. Paul's letter to the Romans is an in-depth example of the early church's struggles with religious tradition and civil authority. As always, anyone is welcome to join us! We'll meet from 6:15-7:15 PM on Zoom at <https://zoom.us/j/96343292274?pwd=RmttNUc2aXcrSENjeTJyRFB6eER4dz09>. If you'd like to call in, you can call 312-626-6799 and enter 963 4329 2274 for the ID and 597055 for the password.

August 12: Romans 1-4

August 26: Romans 9-12

August 19: Romans 5-8

September 2: Romans 13-16

### **Stump the Organist! – Fridays, 12:00 PM**

Join us Friday at noon on Facebook Live for Stump the Organist! FPC Principal Organist Alex Gilson will take your requests for sacred hymns and work his improvisatory magic. Tune in from the comfort of your home to test the knowledge and creative prowess of your organist.

### **Attention Gardeners, or Those Who Want to Get Outside and Play in the Dirt!**

The neighborhood garden is planted and needs weekly maintenance (weather providing). The Deacons are asking anyone to adopt a week – you can pick whenever in that week to weed or water if needed.

#### **Weekly availability:**

8/2 – 8/8

8/9 – 8/15

8/16 – 8/22

8/23 – 8/29

8/30 – 9/5

Please contact Debbie Keenan (815-621-8009; [dkeenan0912@gmail.com](mailto:dkeenan0912@gmail.com)) to get on the schedule! Thank you for your part in watching our garden grow to feed our community!

### **Send a Card! Audrae Zoeckler turns 90 on Sunday, August 9.**

Audrae Zoeckler is the longest living member of FPC. Join the FPC card party from our church members wishing her Happy Birthday. Her address is 2141 Lillie Ave., Davenport, Iowa, 52804.

### **FPC Joins Quad Cities Interfaith!**

First Presbyterian Davenport has become a member of Quad Cities Interfaith, a group of congregations focused on leadership development and advocacy in our community. QCI describes themselves as "a community of people living out our faith and values to collectively transform our society and bring about justice and human dignity locally and regionally." You can find out more about QCI here: [qcinterfaith.org](http://qcinterfaith.org), including their ongoing campaigns for legal reform, affordable housing, internet access for distance learners, and ending police brutality. If you'd like to get involved with one of their advocacy teams, please contact Rev. Katie for more information.

### **News from the Finance Office: June Financial Report**

|  | June 2020         |                 | June 2019         |                 |
|--|-------------------|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------|
|  | Actual            | Budget          | Actual            | Budget          |
| General Fund Income                    | 47,373            | 49,420          | 54,585            | 65,185          |
| Custodial Accounts Income              | 2,191             | -               | 17,067            | -               |
| Compensation Expenses                  | 48,228            | 48,041          | 42,254            | 48,214          |
| Non Compensation General Fund Expenses | 13,840            | 20,565          | 14,934            | 28,131          |
| Custodial Accounts Expenses            | 2,191             | -               | 17,067            | -               |
| <b>Surplus (Deficit)</b>               | <b>(14,695)</b>   | <b>(19,186)</b> | <b>(2,603)</b>    | <b>(11,160)</b> |
|  | 2020 Year-To-Date |                 | 2019 Year-To-Date |                 |
|  | Actual            | Budget          | Actual            | Budget          |
| General Fund Income                    | 468,349           | 492,738         | 476,259           | 461,565         |
| Custodial Accounts Income              | 93,812            | -               | 47,987            | -               |
| Compensation Expenses                  | 294,498           | 300,577         | 281,097           | 295,851         |
| Non Compensation General Fund Expenses | 86,731            | 119,050         | 120,327           | 160,845         |
| Custodial Accounts Expenses            | 93,812            | -               | 47,987            | -               |
| <b>Surplus (Deficit)</b>               | <b>87,120</b>     | <b>73,111</b>   | <b>74,835</b>     | <b>4,869</b>    |

All numbers are rounded.