

# The JULY Leaven 2022

Dear Friends,

I have now been with you for five months and the time has flown. I thank all of you for your thoughtfulness that you have given to the Transition Team as it has had congregational conversations. The next step for the Transition Team is to create a survey that will go out to all members and friends in the next month....so stay tuned.

Included in this newsletter is an invitation to participate in The Gospels Reading Project. I will confess that I proposed this to the Session. Because I am not full time, I have not been able to do much in the area of Christian Education or Spiritual development with all of you. I don't really have a sense of how comfortable you are reading the bible and talking about what you are reading. The Bible is a complex book. If you ever saw the movie **Shrek**, the character of Shrek (who is an ogre) tried to explain to Donkey that he is complicated. "Ogres are like onions" explained Shrek, "ogres have layers." I would argue the same thing about the bible. The bible has layers – it has the layers that include its original cultural context and language, its historical development, its history of editing (yes, the bible has been heavily edited), and its history of interpretation. The gospels are a great example. They tell one basic story – the life, ministry, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ and what it all means. But they tell that story from four different angles, using different oral and written sources, and they came into being at different times in history (the youngest gospel, Mark, was likely put together 35-40 years after Jesus' death and resurrection.) Complicated!! But the bible is the witness to our faith and for us to seek to be faithful, we need to engage, talk about, think about, pray about what we are reading. I often refer to the bible as the "master story" in which we can see our own story – our story of hope and despair, of sin and faithfulness, of joy and sorrow. But as we all know, there are different approaches to how the bible is interpreted. Words like "inerrant" or "inspired" or "literal" can be confusing. In the Confession of 1967, which is in our Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), Book of Confessions, the bible is described in this way: "*The one sufficient revelation of God is Jesus Christ, the Word of God incarnate, to whom the Holy Spirit bears unique and authoritative witness through Holy Scriptures, which are received and obeyed as the word of God written.*" The "Word of God" (capital W) is Jesus. The "word of God written" is the bible. They are not the same.

And we have to be honest: There are things that are written in the bible that are "time bound" – they are bound by the time they were written, and we don't practice those aspects of the bible anymore. But there are also things in the bible that are "timeless" - that we believe are always part of how we live out our lives as people of faith. But we Christians have often had conflicts over what is time bound and what is timeless. And we still do have those conflicts.

I am inviting you all on an adventure that is both personal and community oriented. The personal spiritual discipline that I am inviting you to participate in is the daily reading of a chapter a day of the four gospels starting July 31<sup>st</sup>. The schedule and instructions are included in the Leaven and will be emailed out to everyone right before we begin. For three months, take time each day to read on your own and ask two questions: What is this chapter saying

to me about my life, and what is it saying to our church? The community invitation is to worship on Sunday (in person or via zoom or YouTube) where we will explore together. And you are also invited to participate in a small group that will offer an opportunity to share about what you are reading and to listen to how others are experiencing these stories from the gospels. There will be a Sunday morning group, a Thursday late morning or early afternoon group, and a possible evening zoom group. Organization dates and time for these small groups are also listed in this edition of the Leaven.

I hope you will not only travel on this journey, but that this journey will deepen your faith, your call, and your connection with this community of faith. Peace – Krista

## **ORGANIZATIONAL GATHERINGS FOR THE GOSPEL READING PROJECT SMALL GROUPS**

Please come to one of the organizational gatherings that might fit your schedule. At the organizational gathering, Krista will give a bit more of the process we will use in our small groups, and we will decide on a permanent time for the small group.

Wednesday, July 27 at 7pm – via zoom (a zoom link will be emailed the week before)

Thursday, July 28 at 10am – In Classroom 8

Sunday, July 31 at 9:30am in Fellowship Hall

Monday, August 1 at 7am with the Men's Group

## **INTERIM PASTOR ON VACATION**

Krista will be out of the office from Tuesday, July 12 through Tuesday, July 26. She will be back in the office on Wednesday, July 27. Our guest preacher on Sunday, July 17 will be Rev. Ellen Marquart, and our guest preacher on Sunday, July 24 will be Rev. Tim Soule.

## **The Pentecost Offering**

As a result of your generosity, this year we were able to contribute a total of \$860 to enhance the work of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) among young people both here in America and in other countries.

The current arrangement allows us to retain 40 percent of what is received through the offering for our own use, and in this case that amounted to \$344. It had been previously determined by the Faithful Discipleship Committee that the local share would be donated to the Richard Allen Cultural Center here in Leavenworth to help support the after-school tutoring program there, so that is where some of the money has gone. The rest, \$516, went to Heartland Presbytery, which will distribute the funds in accordance with the established 25-25-10 formula to advance the work of the larger church in addressing the needs of young adults, teenagers and children.

On behalf of the other members of the committee, Carl Johnson, Ginnie Strand, Dennis Goodwin and Shirley Rockwell, I want to thank you for whatever you were able to give to the offering this year. Believe me, your contribution can and will make a difference in the lives of young people both locally and globally!

Rick Nichols, moderator, Faithful Discipleship Committee

## Can You Lend a Hand?

Although our church isn't holding a Vacation Bible School again this year, both our near neighbors at the First United Methodist Church and our dear neighbors at First Christian Church in downtown Leavenworth will be doing VBS this summer and would welcome any assistance we can give them in terms of human resources.

VBS at each of these churches will be taking place the same week, the week of Monday, July 11 through Friday, July 15.

The Methodists will go first, bringing Bible lessons and more to boys and girls from 9 a.m. to noon each day. The theme for the week will be "Monumental: Celebrating God's Greatness."

Over at First Christian, 130 N. 6th, programming will start at 6 p.m. each day and continue until 8. The theme for the week will be "Knights of North Castle."

If you are able to spend some of your time at either church during VBS Week, please think about giving them a call and offering to lend a hand. The number for the Methodist church is 913-682-5374, and the number for the Christian church is 913-682-3222.

## PRAYERS

**Immediate:** Holly Allen and Family, Lorna Mathison, Katie Scircle, Geri Malle (L. Barry), Diann Wooley (Cindy Scircle), Families in Uvalde, Ukraine-Russia, Mike Ray (Esther), Mary Lou (Ann K.), Bernice Johnson, Mary Ellen Clarke (Strands), Steve Finch, Ed Bristow (Chris Aus), Grandfather Marshall (Chris and Jessica Flynn), Kristen Miller (David Miller's wife), Jim, Mike and their wives, Linda and Kathy, Mike and Kelly (Linda Johnson and family), Erika Johnson, Maggie, Hope Austen, and Daisy Ryan (Chris Aus), Anna Hurt, Donna's family (Gerald's sister), Margie Holland

**Ongoing:** Joe Hudson, Barbara-Sue Rose, Maria Gordon (Carolyn Tillotson), Le Thomas, Al Pursell, V. Williams (Barbara-Sue Rose), Judy Jahn, Michael Brock (C. Scircle), Mike Graham (Pam Crume), Dana Guanciale (John and Ginnie Strand), Jeanie (Barbara-Sue Rose), Rick Nichols, Greta Sharp, Gerald Carder, Cindy Scircle, John Garner (Carolyn T.), Richard and Linda Cooper (Darrell and Margie Holland's daughter and son-in-law), Brianna Hoffman and Family (Cindy Scircle)

## JULY FELLOWSHIP TREATS

**July 3** –Session    **July 10** –Choir and Bell Choir  
**July 17**-Circle 3    **July 24**-Circle 4    **July 31**-Circle 5

## JULY ANNIVERSARIES

**4-** Harold and Carla Hathaway  
**9-** Chuck and Annette Allen  
**12-** John and Ginnie Strand

## JULY BIRTHDAYS

**5-** Tom Stovall    **10-**Jim Schroeder    **12-**Gary Auchard    **13-** Gail Garrett    **14-**Deborah Anderson  
**15-**Daniel Williams    **16-**Ellen Morton    **17-**Jaylen Kiger    **20-**Katherine de la Cruz    **22-**Ann Keeling  
**27-**Anna Hurt    **28-** Barbara Katzenberger    **28-**Jennifer LeBar



## FROM THE BOWMAN FAMILY

Hello! It is great to hear from you, Miriam and I often talk about how we wonder about the happenings at First Presbyterian. I am glad that our church family is doing well, we truly miss being part of all the happenings. I am proud to be part of First Presbyterian, and we are definitely enjoying our time in Italy! We have not been to Bergamo, but we have had the opportunity to travel in Europe and Italy. I am attaching a few photos, including a picture outside Buckingham Palace which was a highlight for Izzy. Miriam is doing well and says hello, she is working in the school on the base where we live north of Naples. Isabella is finishing 3rd grade this week, and Iva is finishing Kindergarten. They are very excited for the summer, and we have some travel plans for July and August.

Jerry Bowman



## THEY "ROCKED" THE HOUSE!



Bringing with them lots of youthful energy and enthusiasm, the New Generation Singers from St. Joseph, Mo., delivered what amounted to a sermon in song during the morning worship service Sunday, June 26.

**THANK YOU to the congregation who gave \$489 as a free will offering to the New Generation Singers.**

***July 2022***

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>26</b> Fellowship Treats - Deacons & Circle 5 New Generation Singers from St. Joseph 9:15am Choir Practice 10:30am - 11:30am Worship	<b>27</b> 7:00am Men's Morning Discussion Group 7:00pm - 8:30pm Cody Choraliers	<b>28</b> 1:00pm ESL	<b>29</b> 9:30am Crafts & Fellowship	<b>30</b> Church Office Closed	<b>1</b> Church Office Closed	<b>2</b>
<b>3</b> Fellowship Treats-Session Worship Committee Meeting 9:15am Choir Practice 10:30am - 11:30am Worship	<b>4</b> Church Office Closed	<b>5</b> 1:00pm ESL	<b>6</b> 9:30am Crafts & Fellowship	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> Church Office Closed	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b> Fellowship Treats-Choir and Bell Choir 9:15am Choir Practice 10:30am - 11:30am Worship	<b>11</b> 7:00am Men's Morning Discussion Group 7:00pm - 8:30pm Cody Choraliers	<b>12</b> 1:00pm ESL	<b>13</b> 9:30am Crafts & Fellowship	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> Church Office Closed	<b>16</b> 10:00am League of Women Voters
<b>17</b> Fellowship Treats-Circle 3 9:15am Choir Practice 10:30am - 11:30am Worship 11:30am Christian Ed. Committee Meeting	<b>18</b> 7:00am Men's Morning Discussion Group 7:00pm - 8:30pm Cody Choraliers	<b>19</b> 1:00pm ESL 5:00pm - 6:00pm Community Meal	<b>20</b> 9:30am Crafts & Fellowship	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> Church Office Closed 6:30pm - 8:00pm Amateur Radio Testing	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> Fellowship Treats-Circle 4 Mission Committee Meeting 9:15am Choir Practice 10:30am - 11:30am Worship	<b>25</b> 7:00am Men's Morning Discussion Group 7:00pm - 8:30pm Cody Choraliers	<b>26</b> 1:00pm ESL	<b>27</b> 9:30am Crafts & Fellowship	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> Church Office Closed	<b>30</b>



# ***JUNE COMMUNITY MEAL***



***Above: Carolyn Anderson and Granddaughter***



***Above: Jim Mathison George Morton Annette Allen***

***Left: George Morton and Wes Watkins***



***Below: Linda Barry, Chris Aus, Annette Allen, Pat Domann***



# ***THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH GOSPELS READING PROJECT JULY 31 – OCTOBER 31, 2022***

Beginning July 31, 2022, you are invited to engage in a community project of discipleship through common study and reflection of scripture. Welcome to the **First Presbyterian Church Gospels Reading Project!!**

The Session invites every First member and friend to be engaged in a continuous reading of the four gospels from Sunday, July 31, 2022 through Sunday, October 31, 2022. Our hope is that as we read the gospels together as a community of Christ, the Holy Spirit will work in us to further understand and be engaged in ministry through Jesus Christ.

Each day you are invited to read a chapter of the gospels. We will start with Matthew, then Mark, Luke, and conclude with John. Included below is the reading schedule, helpful reflection questions to ponder as you read and pray, and helpful ways that you might read with your family.

There will be a possibility of three small group opportunities to reflect on the texts: A Thursday late morning (or noon) reflection group (that meets at church or in a home) to look at the Sunday through Wednesday readings; a possible zoom group mid to late week (or Saturday); and on Sunday mornings, the Adult Sunday School class will reflect on what has been read the previous week.

Finally, during worship, Krista will preach on a story or segment of what we have been collectively reading this past week.

We hope that you also will be talking with each other about what you are reading, what you are learning, how the Holy Spirit is guiding you in discovering more about Jesus, yourself, and our community of faith.

## **Some helpful hints on reading a chapter of the gospels each day:**

1. If at all possible, set a particular time each day to read: perhaps morning before your day gets going; perhaps as a mid-day break; or in the quiet of the evening before you go to bed. The reading and reflection time will likely take 20-30 minutes. You may want to try a new translation of the Bible that you have not read, like *The Message*.
2. Before you read, ask God to simply open your heart to receive whatever God will give you in this reading.
3. After you have read the chapter, reflect on these questions:
  - a. What is this chapter saying about my life?
  - b. What is this chapter saying about the ministry of Jesus Christ at First Presbyterian Church, Leavenworth

*Sometimes the answers to these questions may not seem clear – that's okay. God will speak sometimes in mystery rather than in clarity. You may want to keep a journal on your reflections*

4. You can make this a family reading project - spouses can read and reflect on the daily readings together, parents can read with their children and talk about the readings together.

## Gospels Reading Project Schedule

### **Week 1**

Sunday, July 31	Matthew 1
Monday, August 1	Matthew 2
Tuesday, August 2	Matthew 3
Wednesday, August 3	Matthew 4
Thursday, August 4	Matthew 5
Friday, August 5	Matthew 6
Saturday, August 6	Matthew 7

**(Worship on August 7<sup>th</sup> will focus on a reading from Matthew, Chapters 1-7)**

### **Week 2**

Sunday, August 7	Matthew 8
Monday, August 8	Matthew 9
Tuesday, August 9	Matthew 10
Wednesday, August 10	Matthew 11
Thursday, August 11	Matthew 12
Friday, August 12	Matthew 13
Saturday, August 13	Matthew 14

**(Worship on August 14<sup>th</sup> will focus on a reading from Matthew, Chapters 8-14)**

### **Week 3**

Sunday, August 14	Matthew 15
Monday, August 15	Matthew 16
Tuesday, August 16	Matthew 17
Wednesday, August 17	Matthew 18
Thursday, August 18	Matthew 19
Friday, August 19	Matthew 20
Saturday, August 20	Matthew 21

**(Worship on August 21<sup>st</sup> will focus on a reading from Matthew, Chapters 15-21)**

### **Week 4**

Sunday, August 21	Matthew 22
Monday, August 22	Matthew 23
Tuesday, August 23	Matthew 24
Wednesday, August 24	Matthew 25
Thursday, August 25	Matthew 26
Friday, August 26	Matthew 27
Saturday, August 27	Matthew 28

**(Worship on August 28<sup>th</sup> will focus on a reading from Matthew, Chapters 22-28)**



### **Week 5**

Sunday, August 28	Mark 1
Monday, August 29	Mark 2
Tuesday, August 30	Mark 3
Wednesday, August 31	Mark 4
Thursday, September 1	Mark 5
Friday, September 2	Mark 6
Saturday, September 3	Mark 7

**(Worship on September 4<sup>th</sup> will focus on a reading from Mark, Chapters 1-7)**

### **Week 6**

Sunday, September 4	Mark 8
Monday, September 5	Mark 9
Tuesday, September 6	Mark 10
Wednesday, September 7	Mark 11
Thursday, September 8	Mark 12
Friday, September 9	Mark 13
Saturday, September 10	Mark 14

**(Worship on September 11<sup>th</sup> will focus on a reading from Mark, Chapters 8-14)**

### **Week 7**

Sunday, September 11	Mark 15
Monday, September 12	Mark 16
Tuesday, September 13	Luke 1
Wednesday, September 14	Luke 2
Thursday, September 15	Luke 3
Friday, September 16	Luke 4
Saturday, September 17	Luke 5

**(Worship on September 18<sup>th</sup> will focus on a reading from Luke, Chapters 1-5)**

### **Week 8**

Sunday, September 18	Luke 6
Monday, September 19	Luke 7
Tuesday, September 20	Luke 8
Wednesday, September 21	Luke 9
Thursday, September 22	Luke 10
Friday, September 23	Luke 11
Saturday, September 24	Luke 12

**(Worship on September 25<sup>th</sup> will focus on a reading from Luke, Chapters 6-12)**

**Week 9**

Sunday, September 25	Luke 13
Monday, September 26	Luke 14
Tuesday, September 27	Luke 15
Wednesday, September 28	Luke 16
Thursday, September 29	Luke 17
Friday, September 30	Luke 18
Saturday, October 1	Luke 19

**(Worship on October 2 will focus on a reading from Luke, Chapters 13-19)**

**Week 10**

Sunday, October 2	Luke 20
Monday, October 3	Luke 21
Tuesday, October 4	Luke 22
Wednesday, October 5	Luke 23
Thursday, October 6	Luke 24
Friday, October 7	John 1
Saturday, October 8	John 2

**(Worship on October 9th will focus on a reading from Luke, Chapters 20-24)**

**Week 11**

Sunday, October 9	John 3
Monday, October 10	John 4
Tuesday, October 11	John 5
Wednesday, October 12	John 6
Thursday, October 13	John 7
Friday, October 14	John 8
Saturday, October 15	John 9

**(Worship on October 16<sup>th</sup> will focus on a reading from John, Chapters 3-9)**

**Week 12**

Sunday, October 16	John 10
Monday, October 17	John 11
Tuesday, October 18	John 12
Wednesday, October 19	John 13
Thursday, October 20	John 14
Friday, October 21	John 15
Saturday, October 22	John 16

**(Worship on October 23<sup>rd</sup> will focus on a reading from John, Chapters 10-16)**

**Week 13**

Sunday, October 23	John 17
Monday, October 24	John 18
Tuesday, October 25	John 19
Wednesday, October 26	John 20
Thursday, October 27	John 21

**(Worship on October 30<sup>th</sup> will focus on a reading from John, Chapters 17-21)**