

The Call



August Newsletter

www.fpcgburg.org

**First
Presbyterian
Church**

**Church
Happenings**

**The church
will not be
open for
in-person
worship
services
through
August**

**Church on
the Web!**

Service

**Sunday
mornings
starting
at 9 a.m.**

**Website:
www.fpcgburg
.org**

**Facebook:
@First
Presbyterian
Gburg**

Online Chats

**Monday
9 a.m.**

**Wednesday
10 a.m.**

**Sunday
Conversations**

**Sundays
9:15 a.m.**

Wally Words—Making a Joyful Noise

(Inspired by an article in *Christian Century* by L. Roger Owens, who teaches Christian spirituality and ministry at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary.)

Someone described singing as bodily worship, because singing involves the whole body. Singing is a form of prayer. I don't dance or raise my hands in praise during worship. I do some tai chi, and occasionally walk a labyrinth, and there's the violin. And I raise my voice in song. So it's hard for me to imagine worship without singing. But studies are suggesting that singing expels more virus-laden aerosol into the air than breathing and speaking. Churches that want to be safe when they regather after quarantine are doing the unthinkable: banning corporate song. Maybe it's more faithful to abstain than to sing.

Unfortunately, some have no interest in even considering the possibility. They have chosen to practice a spirituality of self-assertion: demanding the right to gather to worship and sing regardless of medical and scientific advice. Asserting their "rights" is more important than loving their neighbor.

In April, a CDC issued a guideline warning that the act of singing may contribute to the spread of COVID-19 through emission of aerosols. This guideline was scrapped in order to appease an evangelical base. The debate over guidelines reveals our society's spirituality of entitlement. This approach forgets that Christ forsook his right to self-assertion, that he relinquished entitlements. Our call to follow Jesus means relinquishing our entitlements, putting our "rights" on hold. So it is that to abstain from singing may be a more faithful spiritual practice given the circumstances. It's definitely a sacrifice: our hymns often express our deepest commitments. Dietrich Bonhoeffer, German pastor who was executed by Hitler, taught that his seminarians should only sing in unison. The reason is that under the conditions of a fractured and apostate German Christianity, unison singing embodied the theological necessity of unity among the members of the Confessing Church (resistance to Hitler) and among the seminarians risking their lives to study with Bonhoeffer. It was an appropriate restriction for that context.

Our current context is the Age of Covid. Not singing becomes our silent lament over not only the destruction and fear caused by the virus, but also over the ways willful ignorance, incompetence, and malfeasance have compounded the tragedy. Our corporate silence is a cry to God.

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Presbyterian Women and Friendship & Talent

We will not meet to clean the kitchens in August as the kitchens have not been used much this past year.

We hope to be able to resume our luncheons in September. Stay tuned...

In the Church Library- Mike Gommel



Not long ago, I read something that surprised, even shocked, me: camp meetings were started by Presbyterians! I have a hard time connecting our quiet, traditional congregation with camp meetings, but written history confirms it.

The first documented camp meeting was organized in July of 1800 at Gasper River, Kentucky, by Presbyterian minister James McGready. It was hugely successful and was attended by not only Presbyterians but other denominations as well.

One attendee was Presbyterian minister Barton W. Stone. Impressed by the renewal of the spirit at this meeting, Stone went back to his home church at Cane Ridge, Kentucky, and organized a camp meeting there in August of 1801. The camp meeting at Cane Ridge is the single most famous camp meeting of all time.

Present at this meeting were as many as eighteen Presbyterian ministers, at least four Methodist ministers, and one African-American who may have been a Baptist. All those ministers were needed as estimates of attendees there ranged from 10,000 to 30,000 people. Considering the sparse population in this wilderness area and the distances people needed to travel, either by horseback or even by walking, even the lower estimate is an astounding number of people.

I read about the Cane Ridge camp meeting in an issue of *Christian History Magazine* and, no disrespect intended, the description of the chaotic free-for-all was disturbing to me. It disturbed others as well. Following Cane Ridge, and other camp meetings, the more Calvinistic Presbyterians were offended by the rowdiness. And so it was that by 1805 the national headquarters of the Presbyterian Church had removed itself from participation, although, some individual Presbyterian Churches continued to hold camp meetings.

Camp meetings by various denominations continued to survive into modern times. I remember my Grandma, who was born in 1906, talking about the camp meetings that took place near her childhood home in Shelby County. Eventually however, most denominations had moved out of the campgrounds and into their church buildings to hold what were called Protracted Meetings. If that doesn't ring a bell with you, Protracted Meetings are another name for Revivals.

I began this article by saying that I was shocked, but maybe I need to rethink that. Not too long ago, Carolyn McIntosh sat down at the piano and Bob Rooker picked up his trumpet, and together they gave a rousing performance of *Go Down, Moses* that set our toes to tapping and earned loud, prolonged applause.

Can it be that beneath our calm, quiet exterior there beats a heart yearning to make a more exuberant joyful noise unto the Lord?

Prayer Focus for August

God's Promises

During disastrous times such as this Covid19 Pandemic, we live in a time of uncertainty and fear. Yet, these times—personal and collective—can also reveal a resiliency and strength unknown. When you are facing a new kind of trying time, keep these promises from Scripture close by for encouragement, reassurance and hope for the days ahead. Here are 10 Bible verses to bring comfort in times of disaster.

PSALM 46: 1-2

God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea.

2 CORINTHIANS 4: 8-9

We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed.

ISAIAH 43: 2

When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze.

PSALM 91: 2

I will say of the Lord, "He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust."

NAHUM 1: 7

The Lord is good, a refuge in times of trouble. He cares for those who trust in Him.

JOHN 16: 33

"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

NEHEMIAH 8: 10b

"Do not grieve, for the joy of the Lord is your strength."

PSALM 32: 7-8

You are my hiding place; you will protect me from trouble and surround me with songs of deliverance. I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my loving eye on you.

JOSHUA 1: 9

"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."

2 THESSALONIANS 3: 16

Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times and in every way. The Lord be with all of you.

Kathy Denny, Care of Parish & Christian Ed Team

Oxford COVID-19 Vaccine Shows Promise in Early Trial Results

<https://www.sharecare.com/health/coronavirus/article/oxford-coronavirus-vaccine-shows-promise?>

BY MARY ELIZABETH DALLAS

There are more than 160 experimental COVID-19 vaccines in development around the world but one of them, in particular, has become a leading contender in the global race to halt the spread of the coronavirus that causes the disease—SARS-CoV-2.

A COVID-19 vaccine called AZD1222 being developed by AstraZeneca and the University of Oxford triggered “robust immune responses” among participants in early-stage clinical trials. The highly anticipated findings, which were published on July 20 in *The Lancet*, revealed that the vaccine triggered an increase in antibodies (proteins in the blood that help fight off infection) and a T-cell response. T-Cells also help the body fight disease.

The trials showed that neutralizing antibody responses were detected in 91 percent of the participants studied who received a single dose of AZD1222 and 100 percent of the participants who received a booster dose. A T-cell response was also induced in all of the participants studied, which was maintained two months after injection. Many effective vaccines trigger both an antibody and a T-cell response.

Though these early trial results are promising and show that the vaccine induced a reaction in the body, much larger Phase III trials are still needed to determine if AZD1222 actually provides immunity to COVID-19.

Phase III trials are already underway in the U.K., the United States, Brazil, and South Africa. AstraZeneca announced, meanwhile, that it has already concluded agreements for at least 400 million doses of AZD1222 and has the capacity to manufacture one billion doses. The company says it hopes to begin first deliveries by the end of 2020.

Medically reviewed in July 2020.

Sources:

The New York Times. “Coronavirus Vaccine Tracker.”

Pedro M Folegatti, MSc; Katie J Ewer, PhD; Parvinder K Aley, PhD, et al. “Safety and immunogenicity of the ChAdOx1 nCoV-19 vaccine against SARS-CoV-2: a preliminary report of a phase 1/2, single-blind, randomised controlled trial.” *The Lancet*. July 2020. AstraZeneca. “COVID-19 vaccine AZD1222 showed robust immune responses in all participants in Phase I/II trial.”

Wally Words continued from Page 1

“How can we sing the Lord’s songs in a strange land?” the Israelites cried as their Babylonian captors taunted them to sing. That ancient lament is our own. This silent lament can remind us: in this strange land of global pandemic, the destruction is deep, wide, and ongoing. Our willingness not to sing can be an *imitatio Christi*, a letting go of prerogative or privilege. So instead of boldly claiming some right to do whatever we want, we Christians put the health of others first. So we will cover our faces with masks, sanitize the elevator, position hand sanitizing stations around our church, receive communion differently, receive offerings differently, and block off pews, all as part of looking not to our own interests

but to the interests of others. There are no Chris-tian entitlements.

Let me confess: I will still sing. But I will do it in our home or while walking outside. When the day comes that we can gather once again, let’s do all we can to bear witness to what we say: that we care about one another. By the grace of God, may our worship be a song of praise.

Grace and peace to all,

Pastor Wally

revwwilson@gmail.com
765-278-3749

Members of Session 2020

Polly Matlock
 David Schlemmer
 David Narwold
 Mary Stradley
 Judy Rust
 Mike Gommel
 Terri Pleak
 Pastor– Rev. Wally Wilson
 Clerk– Darleen Fox

Session Committees

Trustees & Finance
 Care of Parish & Christian Education
 Worship & Music
 Mission, Outreach, & Marketing
 Personnel

Session News

The Session of the First Presbyterian Church of Greensburg, IN met in a virtual meeting on Wednesday, July 15, 2020.

TRUSTEE COMMITTEE–

- The outside walls on the north and east sides of the building have been painted.
- The masks and sanitizing stations have been received at the church.
- AA and Alanon have resumed meetings following guidelines. AA was given permission to remove masks only while speaking. All Groups sanitize their area following their meetings.

MISSION, OUTREACH, & MARKETING

- The Mission Committee has made a \$500 donation to “The Branch” — a new non-profit Christian coffee shop hoping to open soon on the city square.

SESSION

- After much thought, and for the safety of our congregation, church will not be holding in-person services during the month of August.
- Session members will continue to keep in touch with the members of the church via phone or email. We will continue with updates on the church.

PASTOR WALLY

When considering reopening the church, remember we have a sacred task to care for others and that we have been given the task to protect human life. In our desire to return to church as we knew it let’s remember even though the church building is closed, the work of the church continues: building community, proclaiming truth, and working for justice. And we will find a way of doing that work even if it’s not as familiar as sitting in a pew.



Our Journey Through Life- Ron and Marilyn Woods

Written by Marilyn Woods

Ron was raised in Osgood, IN, graduated from Osgood High School in 1953, attended Indiana University for one year, and transferred to Hanover in 1954. As a boy, Ron was very active in Boy Scouts and became an Eagle Scout. He spent several summers as a lifeguard as well. Ron graduated from Hanover College in 1958 with a BA degree.

I grew up in the Westwood suburb of Cincinnati, OH and graduated from Western Hills High School in 1954. After high-school, I started at Hanover where I planned to study interior design. Many couples have gone to high school together, maybe met on a blind date or been introduced by a friend. But, Ron and I met in a Hanover College biology lab over a dead frog that I couldn't dissect. Ron came to my rescue. Due to circumstances beyond my control, I left Hanover to return to Cincinnati. There I worked for Allied Construction Industries while attending the University of Cincinnati evening College. Ron and I continued dating.

On March 28, 1958, we were married in the Westwood First Presbyterian Church where Ron served as a Deacon, and I was active in the women's organization. Ron taught one year at Bridgetown Junior High School before going on to get a Master of Education degree from the University of Cincinnati in 1961. He also worked in the Financial Aid office at UC.

I worked in the business office of the Julius Fleischmann family, a Cincinnati philanthropist. I was administrative assistant to Mr. Fleischmann's business manager. Among my many responsibilities were the financial records of a tourist attraction, Caribbean Gardens, in Naples Florida (I have never been to the Gardens); cataloging original works of art owned by the family; and the construction of an ocean-going yacht built in Aalsmeer, Holland. My boss was a world renowned yachtsman. A valuable lesson was learned while working for Mr. Fleischmann - money does not make you happy.

We started our family with Renee born in 1961 and Rhonda in 1964. Ron continued working for UC, and we built a house in Oak Hills and joined the new Oak Hills Presbyterian Church.

In 1965, Ron decided to change careers to study chiropractic at Palmer College of

Chiropractic in Davenport, IA. Our family moved from our new house in Cincinnati to a duplex in Eldridge, IA (a small town of 600). Talk about culture shock! We became members of the First Presbyterian Church in Davenport. Ron attended school year-round so he could graduate in three years while working for the Palmer Junior College, and he graduated in March, 1968, the day before our 10th anniversary. When we returned to Cincinnati, Ron opened an office and practiced with his father, Dr. R.C. Woods in Osgood. In 1969, Ron Jr. was born.

Ron was already practicing in Greensburg and working part-time with his father when our family moved to Greensburg in 1973. We joined the First Presbyterian Church and both became Elders. We served on many different committees over the next 45+ years, and we remain active today. Our children were also active in the church for many years. In 1980, I joined the Decatur County United Fund as Executive Secretary retiring in 1999. Ron retired from his practice in 2005. We both continue to remain busy with Ron's Scouts and my volunteering at church and in the community.

Besides our three children, we now have seven grandchildren. Renee (who lives in North Carolina) is the mother of Rachel and Reid McClintic (Indianapolis), and Rebecca Stamper (North Carolina); Rhonda (who remains in Greensburg) is the mother of Josia Haugh-Cassady (Indianapolis), and Adam Dixon (Greensburg); and Ron Jr. (who lives in Indianapolis) is the father of Nathan and Erin Woods (Indianapolis). This year, our first great-granddaughter, Luna Charlotte, was born.

Having a church family was always important to both Ron and me no matter where we lived. Ron came from a Lutheran background, but attended the Methodist Church in Osgood growing up. Because my parents were a mixed marriage and didn't attend church, it was important to me that the family worships together when we had children. I attended Westwood FPC, and I never got over feeling alone when families and friends gathered after worship to socialize, and my family was not there. It is why I try to welcome visitors to church, especially, those who are alone.

Our favorite scripture is: *1 Corinthians 13:13*

...faith, hope, love...

but the greatest of these is love.



First Presbyterian Church

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Fax: 812-663-9381

E-mail:

Our Mission Statement

We are a welcoming family of faith,
Celebrating Christ's presence
Worshiping God with joy,
Nurturing the life of each individual,
Carrying Christ's message to all the world, and
Seeking to live God's word by serving others.

Per Capita 2020

\$41.39 per person



Church services can be found on Sunday mornings on our **facebook page** and on our **website**.

FACEBOOK—
@FirstPresbyterianGburg

**Sending
Healing
Prayers**



**Pray for the
world to heal
and return to a
new normal.**