

The Call



June Newsletter

www.fpcgburg.org

**First
Presbyterian
Church**

**Church
Happenings**

**The church
will not be
open for
worship
services
through the
month of
June**

**Church
on the
Web!**

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

Website:
www.fpcgburg.org

Facebook:
@First
Presbyterian
Gburg

**Monday and
Wednesday
Online Chats
at 9 a.m.**

**Online
Conversations
Thursdays
at 4 p.m.**

**Sunday
Conversations
Sundays
at 11:15 a.m.**



Wally Words

Friends,

As we continue through uncertain times, we know there is great comfort in being part of such a loving church. With you, I grieve that we cannot yet safely gather in one place for worship, but I completely concur with the Session's decision to refrain from doing so out of regard for the safety of all. My goal is that we do all we can to stay in touch and help one another in spite of social distancing.

Each Monday and Wednesday morning at 9:00 AM, I offer an an online meeting on Zoom for the purpose of sharing and support. Instructions are listed below for joining those meetings, as well as the educational class on Thursday at 4:00 PM. These online gatherings work well. We can see one another and talk and share. This is for you.

Wishing You All God's peace during these times,

Your Servant in Christ

Pastor Wally

revwwilson@gmail.com

765-278-3749

Go to [Zoom.com](https://zoom.us) - choose "Join a Meeting" and enter the Meeting ID and password as requested.

Monday 9:00 AM Chat

ID: 766 3089 9202

Wednesday 9:00 AM Chat

ID: 763 3472 8107

Thursday 4:00 PM Class

ID: 738 0319 6430

Contact Pastor Wally for passwords to each meeting.



Presbyterian Women and Friendship & Talent

**We will not have a luncheon in June.
We want our ladies to stay safe.**

In the Church Library- Mike Gommel

I've been looking at the catalogue of the Sunday School Library from 1878 that is in our church archives. It is interesting to read the titles of the books.

Some books are obviously religious in nature: ANSWERS TO PRAYER and WORKDAY CHRISTIANITY. One book, TIMES OF KNOX, is surely about John Knox, the Scottish founder of the Presbyterian Church.

Many of the books are entitled with people's names: ANNIE MASON, DEAN PROCTOR, and BERTHA ALLSTON. They are all probably works of fiction, because I don't recognize any of the names.

At one time, many of our members were heavily involved in the Temperance movement, which may be why some books were on the shelves: THE OLD DISTILLERY, TEMPERANCE DOCTOR, and JOHN AND THE DEMIJOHN.

Some titles don't interest me at all. Would you want to read a book titled UNDER THE MICROSCOPE? Part of me is curious about CHINKS OF CLANNYFORD, and part of me is not.

Perhaps your children would like to read BESSIE IN THE CITY, BESSIE AT SEASIDE, or BESSIE AMONG THE MOUNTAINS. Do you think this kid ever stayed home?

Some books, like LAME FELIX and STURDY JACK, sound like the rage-to-riches books written by Horatio Alger, Jr. My Grandpa had some of those on his bookshelf.

Tell me, what on earth could JUG OR NOT be about? Or COFFE POT SAM?

THE OLD STONE CHIMNEY and MYSTERY OF THE LODGE sound like Nancy Drew or The Hardy Boys, but those weren't written until the late 1920's and early 1930's

I admit that I am curious about Lucy Woodvill's temptation. Ah, Lucy, did you succumb? Or did you stand strong and resist? Satan was busy in this library because Lucy wasn't the only one to be tempted. Other books were NEDDIE'S TEMPTATION and PHIL ALDERTON'S TEMPTATION.

Of the 314 books listed in the catalogue, only one title is on the shelves of our current library: PILGRIM'S PROGRESS.

What happened to this library? How, and why, did it disappear? There are no answers in the archives. There is only the catalogue to prove the library existed for a time and then was no more.

Our Church Is Already Open

with thanks to First Presbyterian Church of Raleigh, NC

Our church is already open.

We are open to the Spirit's leading.

We are open to new opportunities for mission.

We are open to the stirring challenge of the call to discipleship.

We are open to anyone who wants to join us on the journey of faith.

We are open to learning new ways to tell our old story.

We are open to ecumenical and interfaith dialogue.

We are open to criticism when we fall short.

We are already open.

We just happen to be worshiping in our homes, for now, as a way of promoting safety and mitigating risk, as an expression of the love we have for our neighbors, and as an acknowledgment that any reckless behavior on our part could have a devastating effect on others. And we are grateful for the technology that makes this possible, aware that we are richly blessed.

But we are already open.

Prayer Focus for June

Memorial Day Prayer

Lord, on this Memorial Day our grief for those killed in war was compounded by our grief for the loss of so many to this pandemic. We could not hold funerals for loved ones due to social distancing, but visited graves of veterans either physically or mentally. Little did we think that we would still be wearing masks, limiting gatherings, and foregoing in-person worship for the sake of safety.

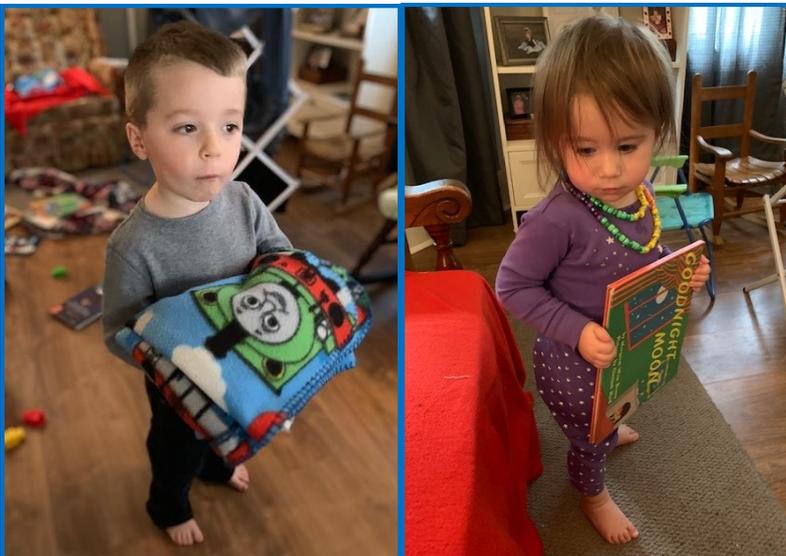
On the last Monday of May, we gave thanks for those who made the ultimate sacrifice in service to our country. We also give thanks for all who choose to limit their personal freedom for the sake of the common good, for those who exercise duty and courage despite great cost to themselves and their loved ones. May we who enjoy the benefits of their sacrifice honor their memory by doing our part to work for a country where God's abundant life for all is self-evident and sacrosanct. Amen.

- adapted from a prayer by Jill Duffield, editor of *Presbyterian Outlook*

Session News

Session met in a virtual meeting on Wednesday, May 20. It was decided, because of the risk to the health of a majority of our congregation, the church will not open for physical worship throughout the month of June. We will continue our online services, and you are encouraged to stay in touch with us and each other. For questions, you may call Diana at the church number during regular office hours.

- All camping and sessions at Camp Pyoca have been cancelled for this summer.
- AA, Alanon, and Girl Scout meetings will be permitted at the church starting June 1st. Strict guidelines must be followed for safety and sanitation. These guidelines have been posted and distributed.
- Session will be contacting all members to stay in touch.
- The church office will be closed on Fridays in June, July, and August. Office hours will be: Monday – Thursday from 8:30 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. Beginning June 1st.



John and Charlotte Simmonds

Bet you have missed seeing these two cuties.



Luna Charlotte (Lottie) Haugh-Cassady

Proud great grandparents are Ron and Marilyn Woods.

It is so enjoyable to receive pictures from the congregation and to be able to share the joy. All of you, send us pictures to share if you have any.

PENTECOST

A FOUNDATION OF FAITH established during childhood through young adulthood helps ensure lifelong faith and service. When you give to the Pentecost Offering, you are helping to provide opportunities for young people to grow and share in their faith in Christ. 40% stays with our congregation to develop and support programs for young people locally; 25% supports young adult volunteers; 25% supports ministries with youth; and 10% is devoted to children at risk.



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



News from the Library

Do you know that this is not the first time the church was closed to protect its members from an epidemic? According to our archives, the church was closed in October of 1918 because of the Spanish Influenza.

So how did the pastor shepherd his flock? After all, there was not the technology we have today. The pastor used the only technology available at the time: the newspaper.

In our archives are copies of two newspaper clippings. The October 5th issue of *The Daily News* had an article written by our Pastor Walter Reynolds. It included an Order of Worship for use by heads of families who, having gathered their households at the regular hour of Sunday worship, could lead the family in devotion.

It began with a Call to Worship, followed by the singing of one verse of *Jesus Calls Us O'er the Tumult*. Pastor Reynolds then chose a verse of Scripture and included a short outline for spiritual talk by the head of the family. After this, Pastor Reynolds suggested the family recite "God be merciful to me, a sinner" as a prayer. The service was concluded by the singing of one verse of *The Battle Hymn of the Republic* and a short Benediction.

I do not know how long the closure lasted. The earliest clipping following the closure was dated February of 1919. In this article, it is plain that the church had reopened for services.

Mike Gommel, Church Librarian



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.

First Presbyterian Church

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Per Capita 2020

\$41.39 per person

Church Service is
on the Web!
www.fpcgburg.org

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

FACEBOOK—

@FirstPresbyterianGburg

