

**First
Presbyterian
Church**

Church Services

**Sunday
Morning
10:30 a.m.**

**Services are
recorded
to be shared
on our website
and facebook
page**

**www.fpcgburg.org
&
@FirstPresbyterian
Gburg**

Sunday Conversations Class

**Sunday
Morning
9:15 a.m.**

**Happy
St. Patrick's
Day**



The Call

March Newsletter



www.fpcgburg.org

Our Why...

To encourage expansive beliefs so ALL experience vibrant welcome.

Thank you for sharing your hearts with us as we explored our WHY during Epiphany. It was truly touching and eye-opening to discover so many similarities in your thoughts. As divided as so many appear in our world today, we were amazed how united you all stood in crafting who you want to be.

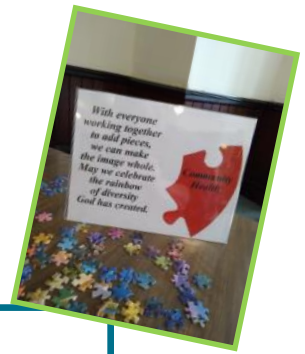
As you may have heard in our worship service on Valentine's, our largest (perhaps unspoken) fears as a congregation include dying, being stuck, and not being fun or energized. Yet...Garrett and I wonder if these fears have actually allowed this congregation to be open and receptive to new ideas in ways neither Garrett nor I have often experienced.

This is really good news and very hopeful. Imagine the possibilities when we are free from fear-based living.

If you would like to see all of the reflections people shared about who we want to be, you can find them in the Reception Hall. Many, many of you want to be hospitable and expansively welcoming, both as we navigate our building AND as we nurture spirits and souls. We don't want people to get lost as they seek out the Ladies' Restroom; neither do we want people to get lost spiritually—coming to worship only because they feel they should or because it's a habit and not because it actually energizes them.

(By the way...for all those new ladies out there...no worries...it's really quite simple to find the restroom: From the sanctuary, it's down two flights of stairs, through the hallway, across the Reception Hall, up a flight of stairs, and to the right. OR...down two flights of stairs, into a magical hidden room that you enter through the door on the left and then back in the corner. Tee hee. Perhaps a discussion about simplification is coming.)

Continued on page 3



Labyrinth and Prayer Stations in the Reception Hall

We have set up our walking **Labyrinth** and created **prayer stations** in our Reception Hall. Thanks again to Christie Yarmuth for gifting us with our Labyrinth!

It is a lovely, quiet space for prayer and creativity. You can find out more on Facebook. If you are nervous about being around groups of people but would like some spiritual centeredness and are able, you are welcome to come and enjoy the space **Monday through Friday 9am-1pm and on Sundays at 9:30am.**

We hope you leave some creativity behind when you go to brighten the space and to get our congregation's youth excited about finding new treasures each week.

This sacred space also includes an **idea board** for your thoughts about ministries, activities, educational opportunities, we can consider as a congregation. If you have ideas, please share them. None are too silly! They will ALL help us spark new ways for serving God in this place.



New Schedule for our Pastors

Our pastors will be in the study **Monday-Wednesday and Friday** (8ish to 4ish).

Their new Sabbath Day is **Thursday.**

Both of them will be in on **Mondays.**

Memo from Pastor Marena:

As we're sure you've discovered, Garrett and I have differing gifts. Garrett is tech savvy, I am not. Shocker--we know. After 8 years without cell phones in the mountains, I am making the transition slowly. I apologize! I love people and want to be in touch. Trust me, I'm always thinking of you and ways we can connect— just not through text. LOL!

E-mail (or calling) is the safest form of communication for me. OR...you can text Garrett and he will get the word to both of us. Thank you for accepting one of my growing edges!

Pastors' article- Continued from Page 1

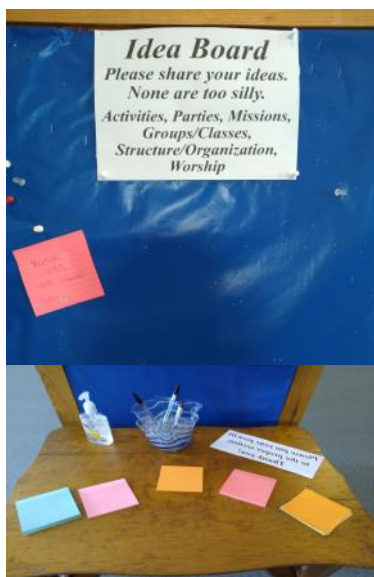
As Garrett and I discussed and prayerfully considered all the hundreds of reflections we received throughout this process, plus your previous meaningful vision statements, we offer up an idea for a new purpose statement.

What is our WHY for being here?

To encourage expansive beliefs so ALL experience vibrant welcome.

This is an energizing statement to get behind...music to my ears, particularly with all that is happening in our country and world. *Expansive* speaks to the word so many of us used, "inclusive," yet does so in a way that is less politically charged. It speaks to our desire to be non-judgmental and open to diverse ways of being and thinking. The word *vibrant* speaks to our deep desire to be active, sharing Spirit, joy and vitality. How does this purpose statement feel to you?

What does it look like if all our social activities, ministries, educational offerings, and worship, center around this purpose? How would this invite fresh, creative ways to look at our building and utilize all it has to offer?



In this season of Lent, we invite you to let this idea for a purpose statement sit in your soul. See what rises up within you. Does it spur ideas you want to share on our idea board?

Just because this congregation is presently older and fewer in number than it once was does not mean Jesus is not dancing in our midst, preparing us to be a much needed voice and home in this community. We are eager to hear your thoughts.

“Fear not, do not despair. For YHWH your God is in your midst,
keeping you safe,
rejoicing over you, showing you love that gives new life,
exulting over you with songs of joy.”

Zephaniah 3:17, Egalitarian Translation

Reverends Marena and Garrett Vittorio-Schindler

Gratitude for our Ash Wednesday Drive-Thru

Thank you to Pat Smith for her wonderful articles in the paper; to Dennis Shepherd for his expansive, love-centered writings; to those who gave financial assistance; and to all who helped as we reclaimed Ash Wednesday as a joyful day of receiving blessing, strength, courage, and perseverance for entering Lent and continuing our journey toward healing after a year of pandemic.





Howard and Doreen Wilkison Come Join Their Journey...

Howard was born in 1940 at the Rushville Memorial Hospital to parents Harold and Mary Alice Wilkison. He grew up in the area and attended the Clarksburg Jr. and Sr. High School. Howard

was raised on a farm and loved gardening, livestock, and being out in nature. In his youth, he was active in 4H and basketball. As a matter of fact, basketball was a theme his entire life.

Doreen was born in South Bend Indiana in 1940 to George and Ethel Hastings. Her family moved to Sister Lakes Michigan when she was in the 7th grade. Doreen was in the choir, a cheerleader, class Vice-President for three years, Treasurer for one year, and was also in the Art Club. She always felt that her parents gave her the best childhood a girl could have. That was something she and Howard had in common: they were both raised by parents who surrounded them with love. When she was in high school, she had no idea what she wanted to do after graduation. Her father told her he thought she would be a good teacher, and she took his advice since he always gave her a lot of good sound guidance.

After high school, both Howard and Doreen attended Ball State Teachers College. Howard tried out for the Cardinals basketball team, but didn't make the cut, so he played intramural basketball for his fraternity. The coach for the Cardinals happened to see his game one night, and asked him to join the Cardinals, offering him a free-ride through college. His father was so proud, and so tickled he didn't have to pay for college, he bought Howard a red convertible.

While in college, Howard was a member of the Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity, and Doreen's fraternity was the Chi Omega. The two fraternities got together to hold a social. This is where Howard and Doreen met for the first time. It turned out that while Howard was playing for the Cardinals, Doreen was on the Cardette Marching Team. They dated for a while, but then went their separate ways.

After college, Howard taught Jr. High in Rushville, IN and Doreen taught elementary school, grade 3 at Union School in Indianapolis.

About a year after graduating college, they met at a chance meeting while attending a homecoming at Ball State. This sparked a rekindling of their relationship. They dated for about a year and were married on August 8, 1964 in Sister Lake Michigan at the Community Church.

Their strongest common bond was their faith. Howard's family was active in the Springhill Presbyterian Church in Clarksburg, and Doreen's father was a Vicar, organist, and a Sunday School teacher while she was growing up. Another bond was the fact that they had very doting parents. After their marriage, they settled in Greensburg where Howard taught Jr. High and Doreen taught 3rd grade. They joined the Greensburg First Presbyterian Church where they were involved with the youth group, were members of Session, worked on various committees, and became bible school teachers. Doreen, a member of the Care of Parish Committee, continues her visits to the elderly and our shut-ins. Howard often accompanied the pastor on home visits, and he was always there when needed quietly expressing his love for others with his giving heart.

When their children started coming along, Doreen took a sabbatical from teaching. They had three children: Stacy, Spencer, and Stan. When she did return to work, she became the director of the YMCA preschool. She was involved with the move to the new location and instrumental in designing the rooms and playground for the children. She was there until she finally retired. Howard spent a lot of his time either playing basketball or attending sports games like his favorites (Colts and Pacers). He was President of the Decatur County Park Board, competed in 4H hog shows, and loved his years of coaching youth sports.

Howard and Doreen had seven grandchildren. Their greatest joy is attending sports and competitions, and supporting their children and grandchildren. They are very proud of them.

Howard and Doreen were together for 56 years. He often told her, "Marrying you was the best decision of my life!" 

Written by Diana Blanford

We love ringing the Bells!



Agape appreciated the food donations from our Souper Bowl of Caring drive!



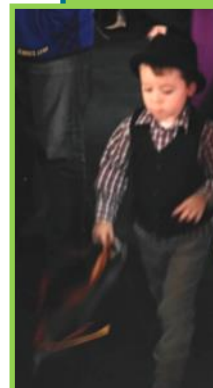
Everyone can use a helping hand.



Cookie time in the nursery



Body Prayers with Rainbow Streamers!



Let's Celebrate Being Dust!

On Ash Wednesday, we remember God's words to the first humans upon eating the forbidden fruit, "You are dust and to dust you shall return." We often hear these words as a punishment, as though death and going to heaven is a punishment. But, though being "dust" is sad, Ash Wednesday is frequently, therefore, approached solemnly by focusing on personal wrongs. Yet, perhaps, particularly after a year like this one, we can approach the day more joyfully, recognizing the gift of being.

Being made from dust means we belong somewhere that is teeming with life and with possibilities. Dirt is vital, resourceful, and it's good at composting all kinds of crap.



Ash Wednesday



Members of Session

Darleen Fox
 Polly Matlock
 David Narwold
 Terri Pleak
 Judy Rust
 Mary Stradley
 Pastors— Revs. Garrett & Marena
 Vittorio-Schindler
 Clerk— Darleen Fox

Revs. Garrett and Marena Vittorio-Schindler

pastorsfpcgburg@gmail.com
 Pastor Garrett: 1-765-350-6264
 Pastor Marena: 1-765-350-0074

Session Committees

Trustees, Finance, & Stewardship
 Chair: Mary Stradley

Care of Parish
 Chair: Polly Matlock

Worship & Music
 Chair: Jeff Lincourt

Mission, Outreach, & Marketing
 Chair: Judy Rust

Personnel
 Terri Pleak

Christian Education
 ?



Session News

THE SESSION of the First Presbyterian Church of Greensburg, IN USA held its stated meeting on February 10, 2021 in the Memorial Room of the church.

- ◇ Pastor Garrett and Pastor Marena have requested the weeks of April 18 and April 25 for Christian Education and Vacation.
- ◇ **Trustee**— The toilet in the nursery has been replaced, and the one in the women's restroom in the Fellowship hall is scheduled to be replaced as well. There have been some problems with heating in the offices and nursery and they have been addressed.
- ◇ **Personnel**— Diana will be leaving soon. The committee will be working with the pastors to find her replacement.
- ◇ **Mission**— A request from a donor to the Memorial Fund in Howard Wilkison's memory asks that the family choose where the money will go. Judy has been talking with Doreen Wilkison about the funds that were received in memory of Howard. Nothing has been decided yet. Judy reported the Smock Fund has some monies available for churches that choose to work with two or three other churches with projects that involve older members.



Season of Lent



Palm Sunday this year falls on March 28

Would you like to see our beautiful Sanctuary adorned with Easter Lilies or colorful spring flowers for Easter? It is never too early to start thinking about your donation in your loved one's memory. Easter is just around the corner.



Easter is April 4
Are you ready?

Thanks to Jeff Lincourt, our Carillon is once again playing beautiful music just in time for our Easter season.



One Great Hour of Sharing is the single, largest way that Presbyterians come together every year to work for a better world. Each gift to One Great Hour of Sharing helps improve the lives of the suffering and the vulnerable through three live saving programs— Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People. Please give generously~

If we all do a little, it adds up to a lot!

Prayer Focus for March, 2021

Time Change

On Saturday night, March 13, 2021, we will “Spring Forward.” Our time will change from Eastern Standard Time Zone to Eastern Daylight Savings Time Zone.

We have experienced a huge number of changes in recent months. Many of these changes have affected a change in our time spent day in and day out. We have changes in the amount of time spent with family, friends, work, church, and even a change in time taken to assure distance between other people when in public.

This month, we will set our clocks forward one hour. This month, may we as individuals and as a congregation, set our “clocks forward” in our time spent in prayer. May we make a conscious effort to change the “zone” in how, when, and even where we stand, kneel, bow, close eyes, open eyes, in prayer.

We can change the time of day when we pray. We can change the time of how long we pray. We can change the time of specific prayers – one time, pray for our pastor; one time, pray for our congregation; one time, pray for our church's ministries and outreach; one time, pray for our community.

May we focus throughout the month of March on the time changes in our lives; let's trust our God to show us and teach us how to “redeem the time.” (See Ephesians 5:15-17.)





First Presbyterian Church

202 N. Franklin Street
Greensburg, IN 47240

Phone: 812-663-2197

Fax: 812-663-9381

E-mail: fpcgburg@etczone.com



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

FACEBOOK—
@FirstPresbyterianGburg

Or www.fpcgburg.org

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.



2021 Per Capita
\$41.42 per person



Please Keep These People In Your Continued Prayers:

**Sending
Healing
Prayers**



Prayer Requests

Clinton Shepherd
Judy Lozier
Diane Hart-Dawson
Larry Starr
Rev. Darrell P'Pool
Mike Gommel
Dyar Forkert
Dan Scheidler
Robin Johnson

Family of Marguerite Roller
Family of Suzann Batterton McCoy
Family of Chuck Storie
Family of Adam Holtkamp