

First
Presbyterian
Church

The Call



May Newsletter

www.fpcgburg.org

Church Services

In Person:

Sunday
Mornings
10:30 a.m.

Followed by
Fellowship

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

www.fpcgburg.org

&

@FirstPresbyterian
Gburg

Sunday Conversations Class

Postponed until
further notice



Shall We Sing?

Music has been healing throughout the ages. Many times, songs of faith pop into our heads and give us strength in times when our lives are broken. At other times, songs are the only way we can truly express how joyful and happy we are.

God's people have always known this about song. That is why when the Israelites crossed the Red Sea, Moses and Miriam sang. When Samuel was born after years of barrenness, Hannah sang. When the exiles were in Babylon, they wondered if their song was lost—it wasn't, and they sang. When Gabriel brought good news of great joy to Mary, she sang.

Now, congregations around the globe are not only able to reclaim our voices in song once again, but have a renewed gratitude for being able to sing. When singing, we join our breath with those around us...listening to one another as we unite and harmonize, expressing what God puts within each of us. It really is a healing act. No wonder many throughout history have said that singing is praying twice.

To celebrate the joy of being able to sing once again, the session has voted to purchase the Glory to God Presbyterian Hymnal. The Glory to God contains more hymns than any hymnal our denomination has ever published. In creating this hymnal, the committee spent years trying to collect as many hymns as possible to speak to as wide of a variety of Christians as possible. If you were to really study this hymnal, you would discover that there are hymns for just about every topic of life.

There are many *familiar* hymns that we grew up singing, and there are many *new* hymns that speak to contemporary issues and needs.

There are hymns from numerous cultures and countries, and there are hymns for diverse worship styles from Christian radio hits to ancient chant.

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Friendship & Talent/Presbyterian Women will meet for their annual Birthday Party and salad pitch in on Wednesday, May 12th at 12:00 Noon. Each member is asked to bring their favorite salad to share and pennies representing your age as a donation. You aren't limited to a few pennies if you want to write a check. Our birthday cake and Birthday Offering program will be provided by Jean Long. Just remember to wear your mask as we continue to observe CDC protocols.

GOOD NEWS! KITCHEN CAN BE OPEN

We learned after checking with Sean Durbin of the Health Department on April 21st that all restrictions have been lifted and the kitchen can be open. Do we need a pitch-in?

Pentecost Sunday

On Pentecost Sunday, May 23, we will be collecting the Pentecost Offering. This offering goes to youth and children's ministries. So many of you have shared how important it is for us to build a strong youth program. Pastor Garrett and I are putting our hearts into doing just that. We are so grateful to those of you who have agreed to be on a Christian Ed. Committee with us. Together, we believe we'll be able to support seniors AND invest energy into creating a youth program. Fortunately, 40% of the Pentecost offering can stay within the local church for youth programming. This would help significantly. So...we pray you will consider giving to the Pentecost offering to help children around the world and children we hope to nurture right here in our congregation. Thank you!

Pastor Marena



May 23, 2021

Diana has been such a gift to our congregation! Please join us as we celebrate her ministry with us on Pentecost Sunday, the day we dedicate our new "Glory to God" hymnals. We will have a party for Diana after worship. Please be prepared to share a story or memory of gratitude with Diana. If you would prefer to write something and have a pastor read it, we would be pleased to do so. We are also inviting you, as you are able, to contribute to a monetary gift for Diana's retirement. Please send or give all gifts to Cathy Lincourt, our point person from the personnel committee. We will collect until May 16. Thank you!

Pastor Marena

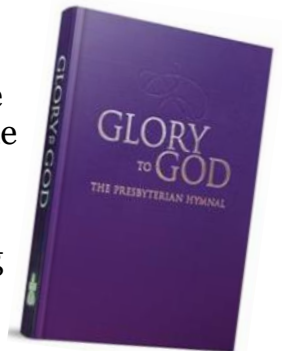
Pastors' article- Continued from Page 1

The session and worship committee pray this will be a treasure to deepen our lives through worship and praise of God.

We give thanks to Barb Milligan for enabling this gift of song to come alive. We want to recognize her at our hymnal dedication. We also want to offer the opportunity for you to dedicate a hymnal in honor or in memory of a loved one. If you choose to do so, you will find forms as you enter the sanctuary to fill out and leave in the offering plates on Sunday. You can also send the information by mail to the church. All names will be included on a bookplate inside a hymnal.

The dedication will take place on Pentecost Sunday. On that day, all of the bookplates will be read aloud and then, if you desire, you can place the hymnal you dedicated in a pew of your choice. If you want to dedicate a hymnal, we ask for a contribution of 18 dollars along with your completed form, by May 16.

Scripture says, "Sing a new song." We are so excited to keep singing new songs with you, both literally through the gift of these hymnals and metaphorically as we continue to explore new ministries and missions together.



2021 Birthday Offering OF PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN



Sing for joy, O heavens, and exult, O earth;
break forth, O mountains, into singing!
For the LORD has comforted the people,
and the end will have compassion on suffering ones.
Isaiah 49:13

It's amazing what pennies can do! When you put them all together, they can do amazing work. When the Birthday Offering of Presbyterian Women was established women were asked to donate a penny for every birthday they had celebrated. So, if you were age 50 you donated 50 cents, and so on. (However, you are not limited by your age in the amount you give.) As a result of these donations this year three projects have been selected to receive grants for the work they do in their community. The 2021 projects selected are:

Garden Gate Ranch, Inc. (\$150,000)

Education Center Renovation, Des Moines, Iowa

Garden Gate Ranch is a Christian organization that provides safe housing and restorative and transitional services for sexually-exploited women and their children.

Memorial Drive Ministries, Inc. (\$77,061)

Gymnasium Capital Improvements, Stone Mountain, Georgia

Memorial Drive Ministries, Inc., a partnership between the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta and six other churches provides a desperately needed roof to replace one that leaks onto the gymnasium floor where a variety of programs and after-school activities take place.

Nkhoma Mission Hospital (\$129,145)

Women's Health Center/OBGYN Theatre,
Nkhoma, Malawi (located in southeastern Africa)

The grant will provide funds to build an obstetrics and gynecology-specific operating room next to the existing prenatal and maternity wards. This new theater will help decrease delays and reduce maternal deaths caused by having to move patients a significant distance across the hospital's grounds.

At the end of 2013, I felt compelled to take note of certain events that happened at the church for memory's sake. As I will be leaving this spring, I decided to share this with you.

Memoirs from Recent Years

2013– My first year here at the church has been a very busy year full events and learning on my part. I really enjoyed helping with Vacation Bible School over the summer. The dedication of our new Carillon was Sunday, December 8, 2013 thanks to the many donations from the family and friends of Alice Goddard. Alice was our church organist/pianist for many years and her music was as joyous as the carillon bells.

2014- We have had such an exciting year in 2014. We had to cut down our trees due to problems with birds. Unfortunately, that meant the air-conditioning had to work double-time, but the furnace can take a little break in the winter months. We also installed two new furnaces in the church this year. We have been working on improving access to our handicap area. Thanks to Darleen Fox and the Smock Foundation Grant, we have improved the entrance area by changing the slope of the handicap ramp to a more gradual slope with a flat surface at the top. We also had a new door installed with a push-button to open it, and a new hand-rail.

2015- We had many repairs to do in this old church. The problem with the elevator ended up being an easy fix, but we have had a lot of roof repair to do. The area around the Rose Window was re-plastered and painted, and the men's restroom was revamped a little as well. We installed a new furnace to replace the old one for the Fellowship Hall in the basement. The Presbyterian Women are still looking at ideas to revamp that old kitchen in the basement, and the church needs a new roof. Due to finances, 2016 may not see these updates unless we can get a grant to cover costs.

2016- It is a great year! Our congregation has come through for us once again. Thanks to them, and a grant we received, we are able to reroof the existing flat roof. The church is very grateful for our generous supporters. We are saddened to learn that our youth director, Renee McClintic, has decided to step down this fall, but we are thrilled that a new leader has volunteered her time and talents to help guide our youth. A former member, Laura (Abrel) Simmonds, has returned to the church and is excited and eager to start this new journey working with the youth. An article entailing her background and aspirations will appear in the September newsletter.

2017- The year has started off with a bang! We welcomed our new pastor, Rev. Lawrence Lee, into our church family in February. We also had to replace two furnaces for our Sanctuary. Another furnace is due to be replaced for the Nursery and schoolroom area as well. Pastor Lawrence has breathed new life into this old church. We have started our Wednesday night get-togethers which is now called TOWN-Together on Wednesday Nights beginning with the Fall classes.

2018- The new furnace for the nursery and schoolrooms was installed at the beginning of this year. We also bought two new dehumidifiers for the basement area. Everything is going good so far. We had a new baby born in April. Baby Charlotte was born to Laura (Abrel) Simmonds. Laura was raised in our church and now her daughter, along with brother John, will be too. We are so pleased to see a new generation coming into the church. Pastor Lawrence Lee took a new position in Bayfield Wisconsin to be closer to his children. He left us in August of this year. We look forward to welcoming a new pastor to our church family in the future.

2019- We started off the new year with a new Interim Pastor, Rev. Wally Wilson. Last year we had hail damage to the roof, so this year the roof is being replaced. An old building has a lot of upkeep, but we love this old historical church. Work has also been done to improve our sidewalks and steps.

2020- Wow what a year, not only for us, but the whole world as well as the Covid virus spread throughout. The world basically shut-down in March. Many were working from home if they had a job at all, and grocery stores were emptied. The pandemic enabled the church to learn how to provide online services, and how to operate on a whole new level. The church building itself was very quiet. When we did begin to open up to meetings, we had many restrictions that had to be followed. Trustees decided this would be a good time to revamp the men's restroom and

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smaller kitchen off of the Reception Hall. We said good bye to our Interim Pastor Wally Wilson in November, and welcomed two new pastors, Revs. Garrett and Marena Vittorio-Schindler, in December. What a difficult time for new pastors to start out at a new church. But, they persevered. We began in-person services and continued our online services as well. I can't wait to see what 2021 has in store for us!

2021- A vaccine is now available for the virus, and we are still continuing with in-person church services with more and more in attendance. The new pastors are settling in well with their cheerful and upbeat dispositions. They bring new thoughts and ideas to our church and are asking for our ideas as well. It is such a joy to see little ones running around the Sanctuary on Sunday mornings. Even watching it online brings a smile to my face. Things are looking promising for the future. There is a lot of interest in developing a youth program. I am so happy to hear that.

After 8½ years, I am retiring at the end of May. I want you to know how much I have loved working here at the church and I will miss it. I have made many friends here over the years, and I hope to still see you and be a part of your lives as we do plan on attending church services here in the near future when the mask mandate has been lifted at the church. (I have such a hard time breathing in those masks and my husband refuses to wear them.) Until then, remember that I am still here through the end of May, and I will still be around. After all, I do live in Greensburg. God Bless!

Written by Diana Blanford

Prayer Focus for May, 2021

Bloom Where You Are Planted

The expression “bloom where you are planted” means a person should take advantage of the opportunities they have in their life and be grateful for the present situation. Oftentimes, if you're unhappy with where you are at in life, you may struggle with this notion. However, there are many things you can do to thrive even in circumstances that are not ideal. First, work on cultivating the right mentality. Try to appreciate the present and accept changes and setbacks. Second, look for opportunity where you can. Take risks, make connections, and work your hardest. Last, make the most of each day. Try to be a positive force from one day to the next, and eventually, you will bloom.

Ready to sow? Plant rows of kindness, empathy, caring, nurturing, joyfulness, helpfulness, and giving... Sprinkled with lots of love!

Doreen Wilkison, Care of Parish



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

News for May

We will return to using hymnals and bulletins, and resume our Fellowship hour as of May 2.

Special events are planned for three Sundays in May:

- ◇ **May 2**– We celebrate Mary Narwold’s 95th birthday during Fellowship.
- ◇ **May 16**– We will honor our Graduates with a Reception during Fellowship. (Look for information on the Graduates in an upcoming ECall.)
- ◇ **May 23**– Is Pentecost Sunday. We will be dedicating our new hymnals during church service. We will also have a Retirement Reception during Fellowship for Diana.

Session Committees

Trustees, Finance, & Stewardship

Chair: Mary Stradley
 Members: Jerry Fox, Roy Simpson,
 Terri Pleak, David Schlemmer, and
 Dennis and Susan Wilson

Care of Parish

Chair: Polly Matlock
 Members: Doreen Wilkison, Dennis
 Shepherd, and Mary Narwold

Worship & Music

Chair: Jeff Lincourt
 Members: Cathy Lincourt, Mike
 Gommel, and Greg and Judy Rust

Mission, Outreach, & Marketing

Chair: Judy Rust
 Members: Dennis Shepherd, Carrie
 Shumaker, Greg Rust, Jeff Lincourt,
 and Mike Gommel

Personnel

Chair: Terri Pleak
 Members: Greg Rust, Cathy Lincourt,
 and David Schlemmer

Christian Education

Chair: Marena Vittorio-Schindler
 Members: Carrie Shumaker, Laura
 Abrel, Linda Simpson, Doreen
 Wilkison, Darleen Fox, Cathy and Jeff
 Lincourt, Dena Vittorio, and Pastor
 Garrett

Anyone wishing to join or be taken
 off a committee please contact the
 committee chair.



With love in her eyes, and a pictorial directory in hand, she proceeded to affectionately trace her finger over the pictures of First Presbyterian's congregants, smiling at times and tearing up at others as she shared memories about loved ones. "These people are my friends," she said. "I will miss them, but I'm not going anywhere. I live in Greensburg, you know. And Roger and I have spoken about coming to worship. It was a gift to find this congregation and do this work."

Who am I speaking about? Some of us call her Diana, others call her Diane...either way, she is the same woman with the same kind smile and desire to give all she has.

As we know, Diana is retiring at the end of May. As soon as Garrett and I met her, it was obvious that she gives her whole heart to the ministry of this congregation. We were shocked that as a non-member, she knew so much about the congregants. Her work has been broad from bookkeeping to relating to people with a pastoral ear to knowing the in-and-outs of Presbyterian (USA) requisites, to designing and writing publications.

I have been touched by her ability and desire to capture the stories of people's lives. For many months, Diana found joy in interviewing congregants and writing their stories as part of our church newsletter. She finds so much energy and healing through this process that she hopes to reflect and record her own memoir upon retiring. With this unique gift that Diana brought, it made sense to have this final newsletter before her retiring, be about her.

What made Diana who she is? Well, her generosity and patience must have taken root as a young girl. She was the second of six children. For much of her childhood, her family lived in a home that used to be a large one-room school house. In her later years at home, three cousins moved in with the family as well. If having so much family around was not enough for cultivating generosity and patience, imagine this: they all shared ONE bathroom!

By the age of 14, Diana began working outside of the home. She worked at A&W for one summer, and she spent the rest of her highschool years working at the local drive-in, Leo's Ranch. She laughs as she recalls that this restaurant became one of the main turn-

around points for young people driving the strip. Often, they would slow down for the bump as they drove around the building and looked in the big windows, where the employees worked, to see the women in their "way too short" uniforms.

Diana had a large family herself, having four children, two of which are twins. The family became even larger when she married Roger, a good friend from high school. This added two more girls to the family. Diana admitted, "It wasn't easy blending families, but we came to laughingly call ourselves the Brady Bunch." When her kids were young, she loved baking them cakes and it sounds like the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtle cake pan made many entrances, including becoming a Buzz Lightyear and a Cabbage Patch Kid! Resourceful and hilarious.

Her primary employment was at Delta for nearly 24 years. As many of you know, however, Delta had a huge transition several years back which caused a big chunk of their employees to lose their work. This could have devastated Diana, yet she recalls, "In the end, it made for a great opportunity for me. Due to the extensive lay-off, I received full financial support to go to school. I graduated at the top of my class in business. I'd always dreamed about working in an office, and this was finally my time to do so."

She says, "I've used every single thing I learned while at Ivy Tech and even some things I learned from Delta. I've seen a lot of transitions with pastoral leadership, but I enjoy a good challenge. It has been so good for me."

Upon retiring, in addition to writing her memoir, Diana hopes to have more energy with her flexible schedule to do things she enjoys: getting outside, cooking, camping, and traveling. She is so eager to have more time with her husband and family.

Thank you for the love and devotion you've shared with this congregation, Diana, especially during a decade that came with a lot of pastoral changes. We are eager to keep in touch...read your memoir...perhaps see you and Roger in worship. Most of all, we are eager to support you as you have time to re-energize and soak in the summer rays doing things you love doing. May God bless you and your family in these days and months ahead.

With Gratitude and Love,
Pastors Marena and Garrett



First Presbyterian Church

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

FACEBOOK—
@FirstPresbyterianGburg

Or www.fpcgburg.org

Our Purpose

*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
To encourage expansive beliefs
so all experience vibrant welcome!*



*2021 Per Capita
\$41.42 per person*

**World Day of Prayer
Thursday, May 6**



**Please Keep These People In Your
Continued Prayers:**

**Sending
Healing
Prayers**



Prayer Requests

Greg Rust
Mike Gommel
Chris Chapman
Mike Chapman
Larry Starr
Elias Pagel
Diane Hart-Dawson
Rev. Darrell P'Pool
Dan Scheidler
Robin Johnson
Delbert Martin
Doug Chamberlain
Larry Adkins

Prayers for
Peace and Serenity
throughout the world!