

The Call



November Newsletter

www.fpcgburg.org

First
Presbyterian
Church

Church Happenings

The church will
not be open for
in-person worship
services until at
least
November 29

Church Services:

Sunday mornings
starting 9 a.m.

On our website or
facebook page-

www.fpcgburg.org

@FirstPresbyterian
Gburg

Sunday
Conversations
Sunday 9:15 a.m.

Virtual Coffee Hour
Sunday 11:30 a.m.

Online Chats
Monday
and



Wally Words

How did October slide by so silently? This Saturday, October 31, will there be trick or treating in Greensburg? The moon will be full, so we've got that going for us! And we will set our clocks back in order to wring another hour of sleep (*hooray for that!*), but doing so adds another hour to an already dreadful year (*nooooo!*).

*For God alone my soul waits in silence;
from God comes my salvation.
God alone is my rock and my salvation, my fortress;
I shall never be shaken.*

On Tuesday, November 3, our democracy will engage in its most enshrined rite: voting. I pray that *every one* of us has voted or will do so, embracing this amazing privilege that should never be taken for granted. The stakes are high and it is important for each of us to cast our votes for the future of our society. That said, let's keep in mind our first identity as a people of faith. As important as voting is, our salvation comes not from any political party or nation but from God alone. "*God alone is my rock and my salvation, my fortress; I shall never be shaken.*"

News headlines announce the vigor of the coronavirus as cases rise rapidly again. We're tired of the restrictions, we hate the way our glasses fog when we wear masks, and we weep for the isolation that accompanies being safe.

It's one thing to read that *God alone is* All these things, **and** we need *never be shaken* when we turn again and again to God. It's one thing to read that *God alone is our salvation*; it's another to be confronted by life and have to learn the true meaning of the phrase. Faith teaches us that yes, sometimes deliverance comes from those sent by God; and to remember that deliverance, while often coming through human agency, has its ultimate source in God.

Grace and Peace,
Wally Wilson, Interim Pastor

revwwilson@gmail.com

765-278-3749



Stewardship

Genesis 1:1-5: All that we have is ultimately from God. As children of the light, we are called to live lives of gratitude and generosity, giving back to the work of God out of the abundance that God has shared with us from the very beginning.

Genesis 9:1-3, 16: God provides for our basic needs and also establishes an everlasting covenant with us. Our response must be one of gratitude and generosity for this abundant provision. We are called to respond generously to provide for the needs of others through stewardship.

In the Church Library— With Mike Gommel



As many of you know, Mike has been ill and in the hospital. I always enjoy reading his library column and, since he isn't able to work on that right now, I'm sharing some thoughts and funnies.

“Tonight’s healing service has been cancelled. The Pastor is sick with the flu.”

I ran across a book in our church library entitled “Who You Are When No One’s Looking” and that reminded me of Mike. When we needed a church librarian, a handful of us said we’d help. We struggled with just what to do; we had some “cleaning out” and “re-arranging” days; and then Mike emerged as the steadfast, faithful servant who has kept our library vibrant and up to date. Additionally he has offered information about our church and community based on the research he has completed using our archived files. “When no one was looking,” Mike’s behavior helped us know him better.

“You know you are getting old when everything either dries up or leaks.”

Another book I found in our church library is “What If God Wrote Your Bucket List?” Chapter 24 of that book is entitled “Uncover Secrets of Generations Past.” I don’t know anyone who has done more research on genealogy than Mike. He has spent hours at the library and has copied records for our church that are stored at the library on microfiche. He helped his Mom Mary remember details about her life when we featured her story in the newsletter. Mike, a man for today, has not forgotten his Christian ancestors.

Years ago Mike and Mary’s home church dissolved and became a part of our church. Mike and Mary have been faithful participants in this congregation ever since that time. This year, Mike agreed to serve as an elder on the session when we really needed a couple of folks to step up to the plate.

In this little book mentioned above, Mike fits this quote: “Be an example, not an excuse.”

As Mike recovers from his illness, we send him our love and prayers as we look forward to seeing him (and all of us) in church soon.

“I planted some bird seed. A bird came up. Now I don’t know what to feed it.”

Darleen Fox



Norm and Kathy Denny's Journey Through Life

An interview with Kathy Denny,
written by Diana Blanford

Norman Earl Denny was born in June, 1946 to parents Norman (Doc) and Helen Denny. He was raised with two younger brothers to whom he was very close. Martha Kathryn Organ was born in November, 1947. Her parents were Jesse and Audrey Organ, and she had five older half-siblings (two sisters, and three brothers). Both Norm and Kathy were born and raised in Vincennes, Indiana. While growing up, their families were members of separate Presbyterian Churches in the area. Norm was always active in sports and participated in basketball, football, track and cross country while in high-school. Kathy's parents owned a florist shop, and she was busy helping with office work, sales, and floral arrangements. She helped wherever needed.

They first actually met while in the same high-school, she a sophomore and he a junior. Norm would say hi to her while passing in the hall. They both attended the high-school sock hops and he would ask her to dance with him. They officially started dating that summer when Kathy asked Norm to a Job's Daughters summer dance.

Norm graduated from Lincoln High School in 1964 and went on to Vincennes University. Kathy followed the next year. They each attended VU for two years and then transferred to Indiana State where they completed their degrees in 1969 (Norm with math, physics, and PE degrees and Kathy with an Elementary Education degree).

The two were married on June 14, 1969. They moved to Greensburg in August where Norm began teaching Math and Physics and coached track and cross-country at South Decatur which lasted for many years. Kathy taught first grade at Sandusky Elementary School for the next five years. Early in their marriage they decided to visit friends in South Carolina during spring break. As it was a long drive, Kathy lay down in the back seat to nap. At one point, Norm pulled over at a gas station to fill-up the tank. Kathy decided it was a good time to use the restroom while they were stopped. She came out of the building just in time to see Norm driving down the road without her. It took him a few minutes

to realize she was not in the car and come back for her. Their friends found that hilarious and are still laughing about it today.

They both went back to school at ISU during the next three summers, after moving to Greensburg, to complete their Master degrees in 1972. In 1974, they had their first child, Ryan, and in 1976 daughter Betsy was born. Norm continued at South Decatur, as well as three periods per day at North Decatur, for a total of 32 years of teaching. He switched from coaching track to coaching Boys and Girls Golf. After a few years, Kathy pursued elementary teaching again with the last 17 years at St. Mary's Elementary School in the role of Remedial Reading and Math teacher. She taught in public school and St. Mary's Elementary for a total of 27 years before retirement.

Norm and Kathy joined the Greensburg First Presbyterian Church in the spring of 1973. They started out attending a few services and decided to make First Pres their church home in April. They both became very active in the church with each serving on Session at some point. Norm was chair of the Finance Committee and was also church treasurer for a number of years. Kathy was the Christian Education Administrator for the church during a time when the church had a very large attendance. She has also been very active with the Presbyterian Women's group and Friendship & Talent, more recently serving as co-moderator for the group. She is also a member of the Care of Parish and Christian Ed Committees. Both Kathy and Norm were big supporters of the Wednesday Family Faith Nights. They made a point of attending the FFN dinners, making sure to sit with the kids and talk with them, and becoming mentors in many circumstances.

In his spare time, Norm was an avid golfer and a member of the Optimist Club. Kathy, who loves to sew, has participated in the Quilt Guild here at the church for many years. Norm passed on January 23, 2015 and we miss him terribly. He was such a friendly and giving person.

When asked for her favorite scripture, Kathy quoted: 1 Corinthians 13

*"And now faith, hope, and love abide;
of these three, the greatest of these is Love."*

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, & Stewardship
 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, October 21, 2020.

CLERK

- A gift of \$50 has been sent to Kristy Quinn, who will retire as stated clerk of Presbytery on December 31, 2020, for all she has done for the church.
- A reminder to committee chairs that budgets need to be turned in soon for 2021.

TRUSTEE COMMITTEE

- Masonry work on the church has been completed to repair the leak above the sanctuary balcony.
- Anthony is completing several projects in anticipation of reopening the church. Anthony will also be fixing the men's restroom near the front door.

MISSION, OUTREACH, MARKETING

- Betty Zillick has retired from the Agape board. Betsy Moll will be the liaison for our church.

WORSHIP AND MUSIC

- Mike Gommel is now at Morning Breeze for rehab, Room 9. Jeff and Cathy Lincourt, and Judy Rust will be working with Session in matters concerning worship in Mike's absence.

We had a nice turn-out for the Hail and Farewell Reception on October 4. We were saying Hello to David and Jayne Schlemmer and Good-bye to Kathy Denny who is moving out west to be near her daughter.



PRAYER FOCUS FOR NOVEMBER

Trying Times

It's Up to You

*Life itself can't give you joy
unless you really will it.
Life just gives you time and space,
It's up to you to fill it.*

What is life to you? Is it just time to be spent? Is it a precious gift to be used to the best advantage each day?

Time is running out for every person alive today. How are we spending those precious moments, hours, and days? The richest man in the world cannot buy time. Time is a precious possession to each of us, we cannot call it back. We only reap the results of how we spend it.

Psalms 118:24

*This is the day which the Lord hath made. Today is our day, God gave it to us.
Let us rejoice and be glad in it.*

Doreen Wilkison, Care of Parish Team



First Presbyterian Church

202 N. Franklin Street
Greensburg, IN 47240

Phone: 812-663-2197

Fax: 812-663-9381

E-mail: fpcgburg@etczone.com

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.

*Proposed 2021 Per Capita
\$41.42 per person*



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

FACEBOOK—
@FirstPresbyterianGburg

**To Join a ZOOM Meeting:
If interested, call Pastor Wally at
1-765-278-3749**



**Have a
wonderful
and safe
Thanksgiving**

**Sending
Healing
Prayers**



**Please pray for all those
in need of prayer.**