

**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
Wednesday
10 a.m.**

**Happy
Halloween**



The Call

October Newsletter



www.fpcgburg.org

Wally Words

Signs of Grace

I would like to dedicate my space in this newsletter to a piece written by Mollie Conway and re-posted in the Facebook Group "Happy to Be Presbyterian." Inspired, I believe, by the recent death of Ruth Bader Ginsburg, it gives us an understanding of a Jewish Theology on a life well lived. I personally found it instructive and even inspiring. I hope you do, too. - Wally

There are a few posts going around reminding folks that since RBG is Jewish, the proper thing to say about her passing is "May her memory be for blessing," which is true, but I wanted to add a bit of perspective on what that means.

Jewish tradition does not focus on the afterlife. There are a few thoughts on what happens when we go, some of which look a bit like reincarnation, and some of which looks like time to reevaluate our actions and relationships on earth, but for the most part, the whole "Do good things, get good reward from God; do bad things, get bad punishment from God" is just not part of our worldview. (Spoiler alert: this is why I love The Good Place so much- the final season feels very in line with Jewish thoughts on the afterlife.)

When Jews speak of righteousness, it is never with the idea of an eternal reward. We work to be good humans to others and ourselves because justice and peace are their own rewards. We don't know what happens next, but we know what happens here, and that is enough. The pursuit of justice is one of the highest callings of Judaism, and it should not be misinterpreted as vengeance or punishment. The ideas of justice and sustainability are inextricably linked in Judaism. A system that is unjust cannot sustain, and a system that is unsustainable cannot be just.

It is said that a person who passes on Rosh Hashona is a Tzedek/ Tzaddek, a good and righteous person. When we speak of tzedakah, the word is often translated as "charity" but it is more accurate to say righteousness. Tzedakah can take many forms (including monetary donation) but it's important to note that tzedakah is not a benevolent contribution given to be kind or nice to those who need it, it is to be viewed as a balancing of the scales, an active working towards justice. To use a simple example, one should donate to the local food bank not to gain favor with God, or to be nice to those with less than ourselves, but



Stewardship

Luke 10:25-29 (Love God and love thy neighbor, the greatest commandment)

Jesus answers the question, “And who is my neighbor” with the story of the Good Samaritan. It is particularly fitting for reflecting on stewardship. This is the basis for Christian life, to love God and love our neighbors. And we show our love to our neighbors by giving generously of our time, energy and resources, just as the Samaritan did.

Everything we have is given to us by God. A Christian steward serves God out of love and gratitude for these gifts. We share our time, talents, and resources knowing that it’s not how much we have, but what we do with what we have that is important. Giving is a spiritual discipline and an aspect of our relationship with God. We do not give to the church, but rather we give to God through the church.

In October, you will be getting your third-quarter giving statements if you have given to the church this year. Along with that, you will be receiving a Stewardship Commitment form for 2021. Please fill this form out and return to the church as soon as possible. We plan our annual church budget based on your pledges. Please know how blessed we are to have such a wonderful church family. We miss you all dearly.

In the Church Library— With Mike Gommel



Well. Here I am with nothing to say. A lot of you know that I’ve been pretty sick since the first week of August. While I’m still dealing with a few minor issues, I am a whole lot better, believe me.

The only trouble is that I’ve been too sick to do any thinking, never mind research, on my monthly article for *The Call*.

I could tell you blow by blow details about the past month, but it wouldn’t take you long to turn the page. Not something you really want to know.

I could tell you one triumphant story from the month on how I heroically made it to the kitchen and insured my survival with one perfect fried egg sandwich. From there we might go into whether condiments are necessary on fried egg sandwiches. No, they aren’t. Cheese, no. Dill pickles, no. Guacamole, you people are insane. NO condiments!

One very good thing came out of my illness. My brother has learned what a wonderful, loving church family I have achieved. I have spoken to Steve just about every day, and each day I have told him of cards, phone calls, and texts. I told him of a member who reached out from Arizona to offer help. He told me of one of our members, unable to reach me herself, started out with no information at all and managed to track down Steve and leave a message of concern.

“Wow,” said Steve. “You have a great church family.”

Yes, Steve, I do.



Wally Words continued from Page 1

because it is unjust for anyone to be without food, especially while others have plenty. Correcting injustice, balancing the scales, evaluating the distribution of power and creating equity is tzedakah, the work of righteousness.

Similar to Maslow's (imperfect) hierarchy of needs, Maimonides wrote in the Middle Ages of eight levels of Tzedakah, the highest of which results in self sufficiency, or rather, an act that creates a sustainable form of justice. "Teaching a man to fish" is an extremely reductionist view of this idea, but it's a start- the real meat of it is the idea that charity is good, but eliminating the need for charity is better. (i.e. Tax the billionaires so we can have universal healthcare instead of praising the rich for building hospitals with their names on them.)

The second highest form is where both the giver and the receiver are unknown to each other. This allows both for the dignity of the recipient, and for the giver to be free from personal motivation and reward. In other words, we should help create a more just world for the benefit of people we don't know, without the expectation of praise, gratitude, or reward, in this life or the next.

When we say that Ruth Bader Ginsburg was a tzaddeket (the feminine form of tzaddik) we don't just mean she was a nice person. What we're saying is that she was a thoughtful person who worked tirelessly to create a more just world. One that would perpetuate equality and access, one that wasn't reliant on charity, one that was better for people she did not know, without the expectation of praise or fame. THAT is what it means to be a Tzaddeket, and I can't think of anyone who better embodies the pursuit of justice.

When we say "may her memory be for blessing" the blessing we speak of is not "may we remember her fondly" or "may her memory be a blessing to us" the blessing implied is this: May you be like Ruth. Jewish thought teaches us that when a person dies, it is up to those who bear her memory to keep her goodness alive. We do this by remembering her, we do this by speaking her name, we do this by carrying on her legacy. We do this by continuing to pursue justice, righteousness, sustainability.

So when you hear us say "May her memory be for blessing" don't hear "It's nice to remember her"- hear "It's up to us to carry on her legacy." When you hear us say, "She was a Tzaddeket" don't hear "She was a nice person"-- hear "She was a worker of justice."

May her memory be for blessing.

May her memory be for revolution.

May we become a credit to her name.

Writer's Afterthoughts Due to the Fast Spread of the Article:

I'm so glad that my words have brought peace, comfort, enlightenment, and understanding to so many. I'm so honored that you are taking the time to read and share my words.

I'm flattered if you sent me a friend request, but I don't friend people I don't personally know on FB.

You can totally find me on Instagram though! My handle is @moxiequinn and I promise I will post more writing there, but also bear in mind that I don't have a personal "brand" so it could be garden stuff, makeup looks, something I'm cooking, people I love, writing I'm doing, or a weird bug I found.

Please do not copy and paste my words as your own. This post is public, and sharable, and free- you do not need to steal it.

With Appreciation for Mollie Conway's above article,

Grace and Peace

Interim Pastor Wally Wilson

revwwilson@gmail.com

765-278-3749



WILLIAM L. (BILL) BAUMGARTNER'S JOURNEY THROUGH LIFE

Bill was born at the Decatur County Memorial Hospital on November 6, 1932 to William B. and Helen (Bobrink) Baumgartner. He was raised in Greensburg and his family were members of the Greensburg First Presbyterian Church. Bill graduated from the Greensburg Community High School in 1950.

Bill joined the Army following high school and was stationed at Ft. Knox. While there he became a tank driver. At the end of his two year stint, he drove his tank around the base to get his release paperwork finished so he could go home. The guys in his unit decided to pull a farewell prank on him by stealing his tank, and he freaked out. It took a while for him to be able to laugh at the joke his buddies pulled.

Following his time in the Army, Bill went to Hanover College where he met his future wife, Doris Wagner. While in college he worked for a utility company, and graduated from Hanover in 1957. After college he worked as a bookkeeper for the Philips Petroleum Co. in Indianapolis, and then as an auditor/bookkeeper for a Profit Management Co. in Cincinnati.

Bill and Doris were married in 1959, and raised three children. Their son Mike was born in 1960, Chris in 1962, and daughter Nancy in 1965. They moved back to Greensburg in 1972, and Bill and Doris returned to the First Presbyterian Church. Bill worked at the Greensburg Water Office while Doris did substitute teaching at the local schools and other various odd jobs. He purchased the Leader Shoe Store on the square in 1974 and ran the business for 15 years until he retired around 1989.

Bill was very active in the community. He was a member of the American Legion, Eagles, Elks, Masonic Lodge, and several of the Murat Clubs where he held many leadership positions. He also had an interest in local sports. He loved attending high school ball games. Whether it was football, basketball, or baseball, Bill loved them all.

As many of you might have guessed, Bill was in love with trains his whole life, and he had a train set growing up. After moving back to Greensburg, he joined the P and E Railroad Club and that is where the collection of trains grew that we have been privy to these past several years here at the church. They have been doing Train Shows around Indiana/ Ohio/ Kentucky/ Illinois and Tennessee for the past twenty years with Bill's participation. Bill, and his friends eventually got together to form Decatur County Highrail Lines because of their lifetime fondness of trains.

When his beloved wife Doris passed away in 1989, Bill stopped coming to church services on Sunday morning. In recent years, both Pastor Lawrence and Pastor Wally reached out to Bill and got to know him. Although he was wheelchair bound, Bill attended church services more often in the last several months of his life with the help of his caretaker. Bill passed at Morning Breeze on April 6, 2020. He was a wonderful man with a great sense of humor, and we miss him.

*Written by Diana Blanford with the
help of Bill's son, Mike Baumgartner.*

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, September 16, 2020.

- Clerk of Session, Darleen Fox met with Kingston Clerk, Ed Parker on Sept. 4 and they reviewed the church books to complete the annual audit.
- The church office audit was completed on Sept. 22 by Jeff Lincourt, Carrie Shumaker, and Susan Wilson.

TRUSTEE COMMITTEE

- Water damage in the stairwell going to the balcony seems to be caused by a crack in the masonry. Estimates are being taken to repair the damage.

PERSONNEL

- Committee recommended that the church office remains closed on Fridays until further notice and Session approved.

PASTOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE

- PNC has resumed meetings and are continuing with reviews of candidates.

TECHNOLOGY UPGRADES

- The new computer is in place in the church office.

PASTOR'S REPORT

- After much discussion, session decided not to open for services at this time. They are considering a target date of reopening at the beginning of Advent.



The Season of Peace

Peace is active, not passive; Peace is doing, not waiting.

The Peace and Global Witness Offering provides the means that allows us to offer ourselves to the pursuit of ending violence and bringing about reconciliation, no matter where it occurs in the world.

Your gifts will help more people experience the freedom and dignity that Christ wants for everyone. Let us offer the peace of Christ in all times and all ways.





Ron and Marilyn Woods invited the congregation to a safe cook-out in their backyard in September.

Kathy Denny would like to share some news with church members and friends:

It is with happiness and excitement that I share with my church family and friends that I will be moving to Round Rock, TX to be near my daughter Betsy, son-in-law Justin and granddaughters- Piper 10, Ava 7 1/2, and recently adopted Zamiah 8. I will be about a 10 min. drive away from them.

I've attended Round Rock Presbyterian Church there when I have visited. I've often attended a ladies' quilt group called Ladies in Stitches. In this group, the ladies make quilts and knit or crochet blankets to be given to the Linus Project. The Linus Project supplies the new blankets to comfort children who are traumatized, ill, or otherwise in need. In this group, I've already made three friends with whom I occasionally correspond and visit with when I have stayed at my daughter's house.

I just recently bought a house there, and my house here is for sale. I plan to move the week of Thanksgiving. My son, Ryan, will come here the Friday before we leave the following week. He will drive my car, and take us to Round Rock. Round Rock, TX is about 25 min. northwest of Austin, the state capitol. For you history buffs, the city gets its name from The Round Rock, a large stone in Brushy Creek, which marks the site where wagons made low-water crossings in the 19th century while on the Chisholm Trail. Nearby, Chisholm Trail Crossing Park has plaques detailing the city's cattle-driving history. The population is about 130,000.

While I look forward to being near family, I will truly miss my friends at First Presbyterian Church and in Decatur County. I welcome friends to come and visit.

Kathy Denny

PRAYER FOCUS FOR OCTOBER

LOOK TO GOD

There is much less daylight. There is much more bite in the air. Leaves are changing. Birds fly South. Sweaters and coats are being worn.

Thoughts begin to focus on Thanksgiving and Christmas. Plans for family gatherings, dinners, parties, and special worship begin to formulate. These can be hectic and stressful times. We each also have situations with which we deal most every day.

Throughout October, may we, each day, pray for our eyes to focus on God's presence. Seek God's nearness as the skies extend into darkness. Seek Jesus as the Light of our lives. The temperatures are becoming colder every day. Seek the Holy Spirit as the warmth of our hearts and souls.

Our social lives begin to have numerous activities. Let us ask God to reveal the ways of quiet and peace. Ask the Holy Spirit to formulate a greater awareness of God walking beside us.

Please join each other on behalf of our congregation. Together, may we grow stronger in heart and soul; may our faith in Christ grow deeper roots. Desire God's gift of joyous unity as we express our thankfulness and praise to our Lord in the days forthcoming.

Dennis Shepherd, Care of Parish Team



First Presbyterian Church

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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

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.

To Join a Meeting:

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

Monday 10:00 AM Chat

ID: 872 3475 1758

Password:

Wednesday 10:00 AM Chat

ID: 874 1909 7367

Password:

Many people miss the coffee hour as much as worshiping together. Therefore, Pastor Wally is hosting a **Virtual Coffee Hour Sundays at 11:30 a.m.** He will moderate the Zoom meeting and will do his best to make sure everybody gets a chance to share. Details for how to join:

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83761647596?pwd=RVlzMkdDNjV2RkhJVHQwdllBSXdZQT09>

Meeting ID: 837 6164 7596

Password:

For Passwords to the meetings, see the weekly Ecall or contact Pastor Wally at 1-765-278-3749

**Sending
Healing
Prayers**

