

Church Happenings

Communion	May 6
FFN- Finale 5:30 p.m.	May 2
Trustee Meeting—4:00 p.m.	May 8
Friendship & Talent— Noon	May 9
Care of Parish—1:30 p.m.	May 9
Session Meeting— 5:30 p.m.	May 22
Graduates Reception—11:30 a.m.	May 20
Spiritual Formation – 7:00 p.m.	May 2

PASTOR LAWRENCE

Easy Answers

If you've visited my Study you'll know I have a lot of knick-knacks – a couple of labyrinths, a mancala board, numerous icons, a Han Solo/Greedo bookends set, a lava lamp that's older than I am, and so on.

One item on my desk is a small jar with the words “Easy Answers – Help Yourself” on it in big, friendly letters. This jar is always empty.

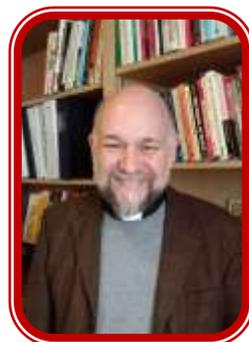
It's normal to come to leaders and experts assuming they have answers for our questions. And sometimes we do. But they are never easy and very rarely are they straightforward.

Questions I often get are along the line of “What are we going to do about our low church attendance? How do we get more people coming to worship? How do we get more people involved?”

Sometimes they expect me to have a simple fix-it like “start a choir” or “have more programs for youth” or “sing peppier hymns” and, while none of these are necessarily bad things, none of those address the core issue.

Ask yourself some basic questions:

- 1) How did you first get involved at Greensburg First Presbyterian?
- 2) What has kept you here?
- 3) What is it about our congregation that is unique in your experience?
- 4) What excites you about our church?
- 5) If Greensburg First Presbyterian disappeared tomorrow, where would the absence be felt most keenly in your life?



MAY SERVERS

LAY LITURGIST:
Darleen Fox

GREETER:
Marilyn Woods

USHERS:
Mike Gommel & Dennis Shepherd

REFRESHMENTS:
Kathy Denny

COUNTERS:
Darleen Fox & Polly Matlock





WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Friendship & Talent

Ladies mark your calendars for the Friendship and Talent salad pitch-in on Wednesday, May 9. If you are coming, we invite you to bring a salad to share. Lunch is at noon. Come early to enjoy some fellowship with each other.

We will celebrate the **Presbyterian Women's Birthday Offering** by having birthday cake for dessert, made by Jean Long, and contribute to the 2018 Birthday Offering in envelopes provided. Jean Long will announce the Birthday Offering mission projects to which our contributions will sent. Please join us for lunch and fellowship.



Wiener Wednesdays

The summer promises to be fun starting with wienie roasts every Wednesday in June. We will meet at peoples houses for a simple pitch-in and prayer from 5:30 until 7 p.m.

Our volunteer Hosts for Wiener Wednesdays are:

June 6– Joe and Carey Anne Curran
1012 W. 11th Street

June 13– Jeff and Cathy Lincourt
91 SW Yuma Trail, Lake Santee

June 20– Terri Pleak and Mary Stradley
803 E. Beechwood Lane

June 27– Wendy Whitehead
524 E. Main Street



PENTECOST OFFERING

This offering helps our youth begin life with a strong start—a solid foundation of faith formed in the years from childhood through young adulthood.

- ◆ 40% of this offering stays with this congregation to support local programs benefiting our youth.
- ◆ 25% supports young adult volunteers serving in communities around the world.
- ◆ 25% supports ministries with youth to help guide our youth by uniting them in Christ and lifting them up as leaders and messengers of God's word.
- ◆ 10% is devoted to children at risk to improve education and provide safe havens.



IN THE CHURCH LIBRARY

Mike Gommel

THE LEGEND OF THE THREE TREES (DVD)

An animated folktale of three trees, each with its own hopes, dreams, and aspirations. But their **dreams didn't come true**. The trees despair until they each interact with Jesus Christ—in His birth, ministry, and ultimate sacrifice. In these experiences they learn that God has a special purpose for each of them.

RADICAL INTEGRITY:

THE STORY OF DIETRICH BONHOEFFER

By Michael Van Dyke

The true story of Bonhoeffer's imprisonment and death by the Nazis during World War II. Pastor, professor, and one of the twentieth-century's most brilliant minds, Bonhoeffer was soon to be a martyr. In his solitary confinement, he was never truly alone—because the Lord was with him.

BONHOEFFER: AGENT OF GRACE (DVD)

For those who prefer to visualize, this DVD is the same story of Dietrich Bonhoeffer as described above in RADICAL INTEGRITY.

Easy Answers—Continued from page 1

Be as honest as you can. Now, with that perspective (recognizing that your personal experience is not **everyone's experience**) **try to generalize your personal experience**. What makes our congregation stand out to you? What are we offering that no other congregation in the area is offering? What would attract people to our congregation?

"Faithful God, you formed your church from the despised of the earth..." is part of our Prayers of the People (Form B). Not the popular people. Not the successful people. Not the top athletes. Nope. God formed the church from the people nobody else seemed to want... the outsiders, the freaks, the unloved.

In I Peter the author writes that we are "a peculiar people" and reminds us that "once you were no people, but now you are God's people." We are like the crazy quilts of old that take scraps of cloth and, with love and patience and imagination, the quilter makes something beautiful out of it.

As "The Church on the Square" we have a kind of pride of place. Can we also be "The Church on the Corner" where the proud and the humble intersect? Where the prosperous and the down and out intersect? Where the insiders and the outsiders intersect?

There are no easy answers. I'm fresh out. But that doesn't mean there aren't answers. They just aren't easy.

Peace,

Pastor Lawrence



Attention Graduates

If you or someone in your immediate family is graduating from High School, College, Technical School, etc., we would like to honor them at our Graduates Reception on Sunday, May 20th. (This includes anyone graduating mid-term as well.) If you or a family member would like to participate in being honored by the church, call the office at 812-663-2197

Mission and Outreach presents First Presbyterian Church's Ice Cream Fundraiser

Friday, May 25

From Noon until 5 p.m.

Proceeds benefit local charities



PRAYER FOCUS FOR MAY:

A Memorial Day Thanksgiving

Notice that in scripture and in military service, the willingness to give up one's life is not dependent on the worthiness of the people who benefit from the honorable act. In a perfect world, all who receive freedom and grace would be worthy of such a sacrifice and full of gratitude.

We are blessed to be living in a free society. May we honor our American soldiers for the liberty we have in this country. May we also give thanks to Almighty God for the freedom we have to spend eternity with Him because of His gift of forgiveness through the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus.

Thank God for making it possible for you to know Him .

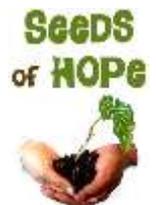


Polly Matlock—Care of Parish Team

SESSION AND COMMITTEE NEWS

- ◆ Rev. Lawrence Lee—For his summer series, Pastor Lawrence will be focusing each week on a different hymn from our tradition, exploring the historical, biographical, theological, and scriptural roots of each hymn.
- ◆ Care of Parish—To date we just have one graduate and we are not sure he will be able to make it to the reception. If you or a family member will be graduating, please call the office 812-663-2197.
- ◆ Spiritual Formation—The committee is looking to rebrand Family Faith Night and they are looking for ideas for a name.
- ◆ Spiritual Formation—A summer Bible Study for adults will begin the first Sunday in June with classes starting at 9:15 a.m. They will be studying from a Beth Moore series that was borrowed from the Greensburg Baptist Church. Bible Study classes are being considered for the younger children as well.
- ◆ Worship & Music—Worship & Music and Care of Parish will be working together in planning upcoming dinners.
- ◆ Trustees—Several repairs and updates are in motion:
 - ◆ The electric panel in the kitchen off of the Reception Hall is being replaced.
 - ◆ Drain system has been checked and two high-end dehumidifiers have been ordered to help solve our moisture problems. This expense came from the Trustee budget.
 - ◆ The old furnace on the roof is being removed and the flat roof repaired in conjunction with the removal.
- ◆ Mission & Outreach—Our first Ice Cream Fundraiser of the year will be held on Friday, May 25 from Noon until 5 p.m. The proceeds from this fundraiser will benefit local charities.
- ◆ Planting Seeds of Hope:

The first special offering for the Fifth Sunday Heifer International “Farm Bundle” project will be Sunday, April 29th. The goal for the “Farm Bundle” project is \$1300. With the first special offering we are planting seeds of hope for a better life.





God's Green Earth: Global Climate Change

The Earth's climate has changed throughout history. Just in the last 650,000 years there have been seven cycles of glacial advance and retreat, with the abrupt end of the last ice age about 7,000 years ago. This marked the beginning of the modern climate era – and of human civilization. Most of these climate changes are attributed to very small **variations in Earth's orbit that change the amount of solar energy our planet receives.**

The current warming trend is of particular importance because most of it is the result of human activity since the mid-20th century and proceeding at a rate that is alarming. Earth-orbiting satellites and other technological advances have enabled scientists to see the big picture. They collect many different types of information about our planet and its climate on a global scale. This body of data, collected over many years, reveals the signals of a changing climate.

Increased levels of greenhouse gases are causing the Earth to warm in response. Ice cores drawn from Greenland, Antarctica, and **tropical mountain glaciers show that the Earth's climate responds to changes in greenhouse gas levels.** Ancient evidence can also be found in tree rings, ocean sediments, coral reefs, and layers of sedimentary rocks. They all reveal that current warming is occurring roughly ten times faster than the average rate of ice-age-recovery warming.

The planet's average surface temperature has risen about two degrees Fahrenheit since the late 19th century. This is due to increased carbon dioxide. Most of the warming occurred in the past 35 years, with 16 of the 17 warmest years on record occurring since 2001. Not only was 2016 the warmest year on record, but eight of the 12 months that make up that year were the warmest on record for those respective months.

The oceans have absorbed much of this increased heat and the Greenland and Antarctic ice sheets have decreased in mass. Glaciers are retreating almost everywhere around the world. Satellite observations reveal:

- The amount of spring snow cover in the Northern Hemisphere has decreased over the past five decades and that the snow is melting earlier.
- Global sea level rose about 8 inches in the last century. The rate in the last two decades, however, is nearly double that of the last century.
- Both the extent and thickness of Arctic sea ice has declined rapidly over the last several decades.
- The number of record high temperature events in the United States has been increasing, while the number of record low temperature events has been decreasing, since 1950.
- The U.S. has also witnessed increasing numbers of intense rainfall events as we have seen locally in recent weeks.

Since the beginning of the Industrial Revolution, the acidity of surface ocean waters has increased by about 30 percent. This increase is caused by more carbon dioxide being emitted into the atmosphere and hence more being absorbed into the oceans. The amount of carbon dioxide absorbed by the upper layer of the oceans is increasing by about 2 billion tons per year.

Next month, we will look further into ocean acidification and the impact on ocean life.

For this information and more, go to:

<https://climate.nasa.gov/evidence/>





**First
Presbyterian
Church**

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E-mail: fpcgburg@etczone.com

Visit us at:

WWW.
fpcgburg.org

Prayers

Each week, our church is praying for a member or family in our congregation.

We are also selecting a church in the Whitewater Valley Presbytery every week to pray for as well.

For the month of May we have selected:
Carolyn McIntosh
Donald McKinney
Marilyn Millis
Don & Melanie Mobley
and
Second Presbyterian Church
Tabernacle Presbyterian Church
Westminster Presbyterian Church
Witherspoon Presbyterian Church
All in Indianapolis

2018 Session

2018
BETTY ZILICK
MARILYN WOODS
MARY STRADLEY

2019
JEFF LINCOURT
ROY SIMPSON
KATY PRAIRIE

2020
CAREY ANNE CURRAN
DAVE SCHLEMMER
POLLY MATLOCK

CLERK OF SESSION
DARLEEN FOX

PASTOR
REV. LAWRENCE LEE

THINKING ABOUT VOLUNTEERING YOUR TIME TO HELP A LOCAL ORGANIZATION?

- Bread of Life • 812-662-4887
- New Directions • 812-662-8822
- Meals on Wheels • 812-663-6099
- AGAPE Center • 812-222-4273
- Big Brothers, Big Sisters • 812-663-7556
- Kids Closet • 812-663-2084
- Decatur County Special Olympics • 812-663-4690
- Decatur County United Fund Adult Literacy Program • 812-560-3820
- Hospice of South Central Indiana • 812-314-8000



Seeking to Live God's Word by Serving Others

Per Capita 2018— \$39.05

PLEASE KEEP THESE PEOPLE IN YOUR CONTINUED PRAYERS:

Shut-ins

Mary Gommel
8975 W. County Rd. 600S
Greensburg, IN 47240

Hazel Shonk
Morning Breeze Rm. 81
Greensburg, IN 47240

Don McKinney
206 E. 5th Street
Greensburg, IN 47240

Rose Ewald
311 W. Central St.
Greensburg, IN 47240

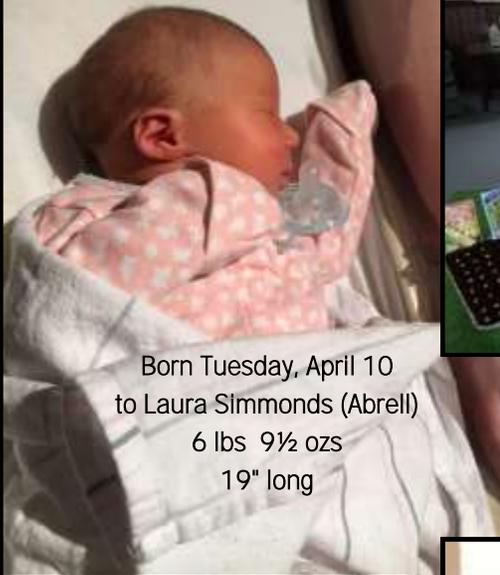
YOUR PRAYERS DO
MAKE A DIFFERENCE!



PRAYERS

Joe Westhafer
Rose Ewald
Pat Smith
Elias Pagel

Meet Charlotte Simmonds

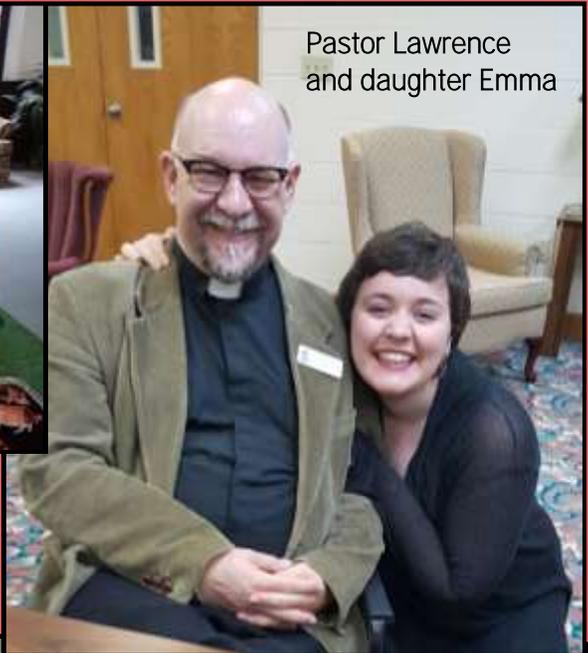


Born Tuesday, April 10
to Laura Simmonds (Abrell)
6 lbs 9½ ozs
19" long



Farm Bundle Display in Reception Hall

Pastor Lawrence and daughter Emma



Not pictured are:
Linda Simpson
Jean Stutz
Doreen Wilkison
Carolyn McIntosh
Christina Tibbett



Family Faith Night
Spring Sessions