

From under the Redbud Tree.....



The Redbud

*The Newsletter of First Presbyterian Church of
Mountain Home, Arkansas*

August, 2020

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An Encouraging Word

The Bible repeatedly "encourages" Christians to "encourage one another." How can you tell when someone needs encouragement? The answer is easy, said Chick-fil-A founder Truett Cathy: if they're breathing! He quipped, "I got a lot of encouragement, but I never got an overdose."

Offering encouragement is an easy way to have a big impact. In fact, two esteemed Christian writers call encouragers angelic and godly. George McDonald said, "If instead of a gem or even a flower, we could cast the gift of a lovely thought into the heart of a friend, that would be giving as the angels give."

And G.K. Chesterton said, "If I can put a touch of a rosy sunset into the life of any man or woman, I shall feel that I have worked with God."

Who in your life might need an encouraging word today?



We are a community of believers! We need each other now more than ever. It has been, according to my calculations, over four months since we last worshipped together “in the flesh” as they say. We have found certain people that we feel safe being around, others we are not sure. There are so many unknowns about a virus that has us in a tail spin. Who do we trust? Who do we listen to as we face each day wondering when and how this pandemic will come to an end.

Many of you have family members that are directly affected by the virus in one way or another. We feel disconnected in many and various ways.

We heard a reading from Paul’s letter to the Romans recently. He writes to the people of Rome: “.....**THE SPIRIT HELPS US IN OUR WEAKNESS.**” Paul is helping the people of Rome deal with what it means to be a follower of Jesus Christ. The people were struggling, suffering the uncertainties of life in the faith. What next? How will it end?

Paul goes on to say: “ **who will separate us from the love of God?** ” And then he goes on to list numerous factors that have the potential of separating us from the love of Christ. Famine, nakedness, hardship, persecution, peril... No Paul writes. None of these can separate us from the love of God. Paul assures us that nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus.

These are words Paul writes to the people of Rome. Paul leaves these words for us as well as we face the uncertainties of what the new normal will be like. Paul encourages us to keep the faith. Paul assures us that the love of Christ is what will get us through these tough and challenging times. Paul calls on us to let the Spirit help us in our weakness. In our doubts, in our worries, in our times of uncertainty we are to welcome and call on the Holy Spirit to help and lead us.

Stay in the faith. Stay connected in the best ways you can. Open your heart to the working of the Holy Spirit. Trust! WE ARE A COMMUNITY OF BELIEVERS! God loves you! Christ loves you!

Pastor Mike

SPECIAL DAYS IN AUGUST



August 1	Sharon Adler
August 3	Ian Ruegsegger
August 5	Marilyn Wheat
August 9	Mark Guth
August 10	Ralph Gillespie
August 16	Sam Hofer
August 18	Wana Thacker
August 20	Suzanne Smyth
August 23	Fred Ruegsegger
August 26	Don Crapnell



August 3	TJ & Janeth Lawson
August 12	Nan & William Jordan
August 28	Jim & Nancy Priest

HYMNALS FOR HOME!



It was suggested by Ralph Gillespie at the July Session meeting that members might like to have a church hymnal during the pandemic while the church is closed to “in-house”

worship. Arrangements are being made by Nancy Priest to have hymnals available to check out in the nursery, near the church office. If you would like a hymnal simply stop by the nursery and check one out. Instructions will be available in the nursery. A reminder: the church office hours are 9am to 3pm Monday through Thursday. If you have any questions please call Nancy Priest at 492-5226 or 321-2794. — Pastor Clark

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER THIS MONTH

August 4th:	National Chocolate Chip Cookie Day. Bake a batch of chocolate chip cookies and share them with someone who needs a little love in their life!
August 13:	For all of you who are in your “right mind” celebrate hardy. August 13th is International Left Handers Day!
August 18:	SESSION MEETING 1 PM
August 26:	Redbud articles are due.

Church Business



MISSION COMMITTEE'S FOOD AND FANS DRIVE

The Mission Committee's July collection of cereal has been quite successful! In July, 44 packages of cereal have already been delivered to the Food Basket. There is still time to donate cereal if you are able! Thank you Pastor Clark for making the donation deliveries of the various summer donations including 300 pounds of food, 34 fans to the Center of Hope and currently cereal!

SESSION MEETING

The Session held its stated meeting via the Zoom platform on July 21, 2020. The Session minutes are available in the church mail room, or you may contact the church office if you would like a copy of the minutes emailed to you.



DEACON'S MEETING

The Deacon's met on July 21, 2020. All Deacon's have kept good contact with their flock during the Covid-19 Pandemic. Their current balance is \$2,590.55. There will be no August Deacon's Meeting.

TREASURER'S REPORT

AS OF JUNE 30, 2020:

Deposits- \$7,368.00
Expenses- \$6,404.96
Balance- \$38,849.47
(Un-cleared Checks- \$5,575.82)



The Church Family

I just wanted to Thank You for all your well wishes and prayers. Special thanks to Marty for her moral support. Couldn't see her before my surgery (new regulations at the hospital) but I knew she was there. The doctor said things look good and to be patient. Of course, I have lots of that!!

Thank you again for all your prayers,
Carolyn Hannon



A Thank You From Gary & Sharon:

It is so nice getting cards from you; it really lifts my spirits, knowing friends made a long time ago still care and remember. I don't know how long I will be in here, hope to get out soon. Hello to all at F.P.C. and warm wishes from us!

Gary's address:

Gary Adler

Marion County Nursing Home Room 817

620 N. Panther

Yellville, Arkansas 72687



The church received a donation and a wonderful letter from a parishioner's sister, who is in an assisted living facility, and her niece and her nieces' husband. An excerpt from the card: "... sadly she does not have a church in the facility to attend and she misses church a great deal. When you began offering your virtual services the parishioner provided us your website address and we have been faithful worshippers with the rest of your congregation. We enjoy your sermons very much and plan on joining you as long as you offer them online. I also enjoy your website "Devotionals" and 'This and That.' My only regret is that in our rural community we have been unable to find such a church as yours. May God bless and keep all in your church family and smile upon you always!" God is at work in our lives, even virtually!



Lectioary Readings for August



Sunday, August 2nd

9th Sunday of Pentecost

Isaiah 55:1-5

Psalms 145:8-9, 14-21

Romans 9:1-5

Matthew 14:13-21

*"Your word is a lamp
to my feet and a light
to my path."*

-Psalm 119:105

Sunday, August 9th

10th Sunday of Pentecost

1 Kings 19:9-18

Psalms 85:8-13

Romans 10:5-15

Matthew 14:22-33

Sunday, August 16th

11th Sunday of Pentecost

Isaiah 56: 1, 6-8

Psalms 67

Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32

Matthew 15:21-28

Sunday, August 23rd

12th Sunday of Pentecost

Isaiah 51:1-6

Psalms 138

Romans 12:1-8

Matthew 16: 13-20

*"We are the Bibles the
world is reading; we are
the creeds the world is
needing; we are the ser-
mons the world is heed-
ing." -Billy Graham*

Sunday, August 30th

13th Sunday of Pentecost

Jeremiah 15:15-21

Psalms 26:1-8

Romans 12:9-21

Matthew 16:21-28



Technology!

Check Out Our Church Website

We have been utilizing all of the technology available to us at the church. Visitors to our church website who have been watching and viewing our sermons that are posted have expressed an appreciation for being able to worship in their home during this pandemic time. God works in mysterious and strange ways! I hope you take the time to look at our website: www.fcpmh@centurytel.net. See what's going on at our church! I know it is a strange and different way of staying in touch. There is a devotional section on our website, a photo gallery and a place to post "This and That." If you have something that you'd like to post on the "This and That" tab on our website, please send it in to the church office at fpcmh@centurytel.net and we will consider posting it.

Special Music

We hope you are enjoying the special music that we are adding to our virtual services. Karen Diers, Marilyn Seel's daughter who lives in Las Vegas, was gracious enough to record several hymns that we were able to include in our worship services. A special thanks to Karen, as we always enjoy her willingness to share her gift of music.

Learning and Laughing on the Fly



Faced with the sudden move to livestream and video church services, many pastors and worship leaders have had to learn new technology during the pandemic. As they were "winging it," bloopers and bobbles added humor to the tense time.

For instance, an artificial ficus tree fell on a drummer while a worship song was being broadcast from Georgia. After getting too close to a candle, a vicar in England had to pause to extinguish flames from his sweater. And several preachers appeared on screen with cartoon-like features after inadvertently turning on social media filters.

"This wasn't planned," wrote the pastor about the falling ficus, which didn't cause injury but quickly went viral. "But God used it to bring laughter to the hearts of many. For that, we are thankful."

REDBUD CALENDAR AUGUST, 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Fri	Sat
						1
2 10am– Virtual Worship Service www.fpcmh.net	3	4 National Chocolate Chip Cookie Day! 	5	6	7	8
9 10am - Virtual Worship Service www.fpcmh.net	10	11	12	13 International Left Handers Day! 	14	15
16 10am - Virtual Worship Service www.fpcmh.net	17 National #2 Pencil Day! 	18 Session Meeting 1 pm	19	20	21	22
23 10am - Virtual Worship Service www.fpcmh.net	24 FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL 	25	26 REDBUD DEADLINE	27	28	29
30 10am– Virtual Worship Service www.fpcmh.net	31	<div> <p> If you see mistakes in the Redbud, please let the church office know. This is especially important if we have missed birthdays, listed incor- rect dates or misspelled names! Thank you! </p> </div> <div> <p> <i>Mistakes are proof that you are trying.</i> </p> </div>				



The Front Door is Closed But We're Still Open

As of today, July 28, 2020 there are 39,447 positive cases of the Coronavirus in Arkansas and 408 Arkansans have died. In January most people believed that we were too removed from “big city life” to be invaded by this mysterious virus. We soon realized that we are all truly in this pandemic together. Schools began to close, restaurants, and then unbelievably churches hung signs on their front doors stating that they were closed indefinitely to ensure public safety.

Church closed ?! I grew up in a time and in a town when churches were never locked. I was told that I could always find help in a church; any church. Church websites have become the new “front door” to churches.

First Presbyterian Church in Mountain Home has had a website since 2012. In the past it has served primarily as a social avenue to share pictures and dates of church events.

When the physical front door closed due to the Coronavirus, we needed to find a virtual one. We soon discovered many current church goers didn't know there was a website, or how to access it.

With a lot of faith and work our church website is thriving. It is now a primary outreach tool for church members and also other people from all over the United States. We are all looking for God's message and His light.

In the month of July we have seen a steady increase in the website visitor totals. The visits to the website are now averaging 25 visitors per day and up to 94 visitors during the weekend. Please help us use our virtual “front door” to share God's love with church members, and also with strangers.

It's good to know that God shares his message and His love, even through technology! Have a wonderful August and God Bless all of you!

- Kristi, FPCMH Secretary



**First Presbyterian Church
1106 Spring Street
Mountain Home, AR 72653**

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



**Church Office Hours
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. /Monday - Thursday**

**Church Mailing Address:
1106 Spring Street
Mountain Home, AR 72653
870-425-3799**

**fpcmh@centurytel.net
Website: www.fpcmh.net**

**Rev. Mike Clark,
Transitional Pastor**

**Adult Sunday School: 9:00 a.m.
Sunday Worship: 10:00 a.m.
Fellowship Coffee: 11:00 a.m.**

**Secretary: Kristi Nelson
Bookkeeper: Nancy Priest**