

PRES NOTES

May 2019

First Presbyterian Church
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“Bear one another’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.” Galatians 6:2

Dear friends in Christ,

This is my last Pres Notes article to you as your transitional pastor. What a joy it has been. I have truly never met a congregation that has the capacity for caring and sharing the depth of God’s love as you. You live the Scripture from Galatians 6:2 as a congregation. While I have had the privilege of caring for you as your transitional pastor, I have also been cared for by you during times of injury, illness and family grief. You were there when I was in a car accident on my way to conduct the first of several funeral services. You were there when I had laryngitis and you filled in when I could not speak. You were there when my father died and you offered such beautiful words of comfort. Thank you for the privilege of serving you and thank you for taking an interest in my well-being as well.



I will miss you: your hunger for God, your passion for sharing and caring for those within the church walls and those beyond the church walls, and your beautiful creativity. As I shared with one member who said she would miss me, it is a good thing when we can serve together during times of transition, get some things accomplished, and part as dear friends in Christ. I have never subscribed to the school of thought that says the transitional pastor and congregation are not supposed to enjoy and cherish their time of ministry together because it is a time to shake things up. A few things may have been shaken up and, if so, it was not intentional.

My parting words to you are ones of encouragement to keep doing the good things you do and keep being the gracious community that you are.

That said, I want to remind you of some things you already know and practice. Here are a few areas for you to focus on as you begin a healthy relationship with your new Pastor and maintain your strong ministry:

1. Practice clear and direct Communication! This is always an area about which to be vigilant no matter how well we communicate.

2. Ask questions for Clarification rather than making assumptions! We can't read other people's minds so we can't know what they are thinking or why they are doing what they are doing unless we ask clarifying questions.
3. Speak the Truth in Love! Sometimes we have to say hard things and we tend to shy away from it. Only the truth will promote health and when we shy away from speaking the truth (because we don't want to hurt someone's feelings, for example), we hurt rather than help.
4. Squelch Gossip! Simply don't initiate it and don't listen to it. It is not beneficial; rather it is destructive.

5. Have Fun! God is good. Ministry in the church is a joy and not a chore.
6. As your new Pastor joins you, recognize that this new Pastor will need time to get to know you and to learn all about the ministry of First Presbyterian Church. Give your Pastor space and time to do this.
7. Do NOT USE the famous 7 last words of the Church, "We have always done it this way." As people and as congregations, we are either growing or we are stagnant and growth means we do change along the way. Be open to the possibilities for ministry that are ahead and anticipate that new ministry opportunities will bring change and embrace the change. In the words attributed to Einstein, "Insanity is doing the same thing over and over again, but expecting different results."
8. Embrace the possibilities and open yourself to change! You will be glad you did!

The peace and joy of Christ be with you!

Grace and peace,
Pastor Cheryl Ann

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING TO ELECT PASTOR

At the request of the PNC, the Session has called a Congregational Meeting for May 5th after worship to vote on the election of the Rev. Aaron D. Frank as pastor.

Please mark your calendar for May 19th.

On that Sunday we will recognize and say goodbye to Pastor Cheryl Ann and to celebrate with a special coffee hour.

We seek to show Christ's love through our actions by:

Ministering to our Community – helping those in need as Christ taught us

Ministering to our Members – providing support and fellowship

Ministering to our Souls - offering Christ-centered Worship and Education



Adopt-A-Highway Roadside Pick-Up Saturday, May 11th

We will assemble here at the Church and then leave at **8:30 am**.

Any questions, please see Doug Day or contact 739-5951

MAY WORSHIP INFORMATION

5 The Third Sunday of Easter
Communion
The Rev. Aaron D. Frank preaching

Appleridge Worship and Communion
The Rev. Dr. Cheryl Ann Elfond leading

12 The Fourth Sunday of Easter
Guest Preacher – John Kotun

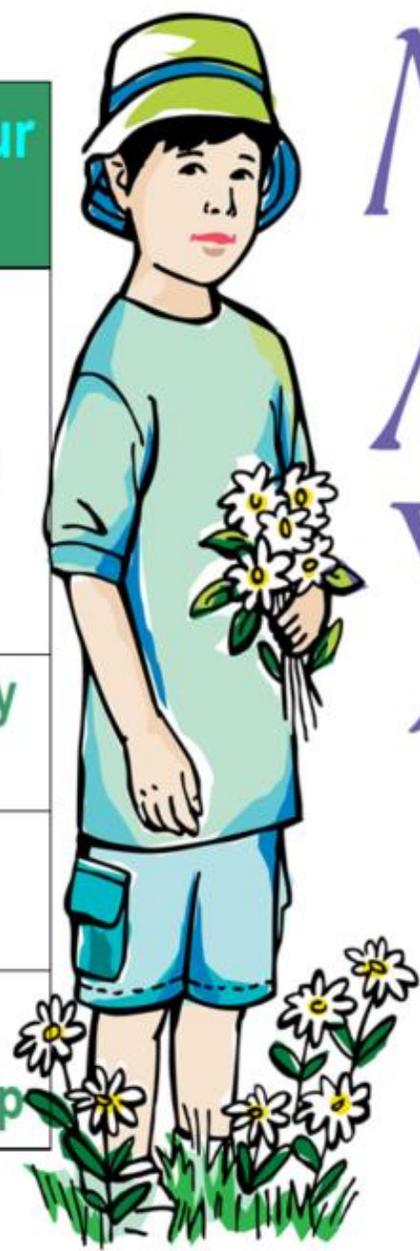
19 The Fifth Sunday of Easter
Guest Preacher – Bob Sell

26 The Sixth Sunday of Easter
Guest Preacher – Joel Robinson

TRANSITIONAL PASTOR ON VACATION MAY 6-29

Pastor Cheryl Ann is on vacation for most of May undergoing eye surgery. She will be present on May 5th assisting in worship and moderating the congregational meeting. She will be attending worship as a worship participant on May 19th to celebrate the ministry shared during the transitional time and to say goodbye.

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	LAY READER	HEAD USHER	Coffee Hour Hosts
5th	Worship Leader: the Rev. Dr. Cheryl Ann Elfond	Doug Day	Deacons
12th	Ellen Benedict	Guy Stillman	Community Meal
19th	Jan Stillman	Joe Matejka	B&G / Mission
26th	Allen Oldfield	Jim McIntosh	Christian Discipleship

May 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 6:00p Bell Choir 7:15p Choir	2 6:00a Prayer Shawl Group	3	4 <i>Congregational Breakfast</i>
5 10:30a Worship Service 11:30a Congregational Meeting to Elect Pastor 1:00p Appleridge Service	6 6:30p PNC	7 10:00a Bible Study	8 6:00p Bell Choir 7:15p Choir	9	10 4:30p Free Community Dinner	11 8:30a Roadside Clean Up
12 10:30a Worship Service	13 6:30p PNC	14 10:00a Bible Study	15 6:00p Bell Choir 7:15p Choir	16	17	18
19 10:30a Worship Service 11:30a Special Coffee Hour Recognition for Pastor Cheryl Ann	20 6:30p PNC	21 10:00a Bible Study 1:00p LBA (widow & widower's group)	22 6:00p Bell Choir 7:15p Choir	23	24	25
26 10:30a Worship Service 11:30a Deacon's Meeting	27 6:30p PNC	28 10:00a Bible Study	29 6:00p Bell Choir 7:15p Choir	30	31	