



Dear Friends,

As we often do in church...we talk a lot about God's unconditional love. This is the love we see revealed best through Christ. And at times, perhaps, this idea of loving unconditionally seems out of reach...it seems too far beyond our comprehension...it might even be so far beyond the reality by which we live, that sometimes it might not even seem worth all the energy it takes to make it a part of our everyday life. In my readings, I came across something that I'd like to share with you that made me think about this very topic.

One writes the following:

"God is of course capable of anything. If the Scriptures say that God loves without limits, then we need to take that blessing on faith. The challenge of unconditional love therefore lies not with God but with our imperfect ability to conceive and then believe such a possibility. The notion that we are both loved and lovable is perhaps the most challenging one that God places before us. This idea dares us not only to accept ourselves as a beloved child of God, but also to view every person that we encounter along our life's path as another brother or sister in Christ.

God's family is indeed that large...there's room for everyone at the table. When we look around us, it can boggle the imagination; the difficult coworker who leaves the lunch room a mess. The surly convenience store clerk? The neighbor with the loud music and the self-centered teenagers. They're all children of God. We don't have to like them, but we are called to treat each one with the respect that God first offers to us.

We worship the God from whom all blessings flow; we benefit from the bottomless source of mercy and grace. Now we get to offer some of that love and grace to the people we encounter every day.

We don't get to turn to God and say...I've done my part; I've cared for all the people that I can care about today. I have reached the limit. What God asks of us is to receive this love so that we can share it as Jesus does. When we say that we are members of the Body of Christ, we are saying that we wish to follow Jesus, to serve Jesus and to live as Jesus did. What Jesus did was to offer love. We are asked to love as freely as Jesus did."

It would be far too ignorant of me to think that with all of our imperfections that we could live a life of unconditional love. It is my belief that God/Christ is able and is the only one able to love us unconditionally. And this stems from the belief that God is perfect and is without limitations. But we are! This, however, does not excuse us from the truth that Scripture brings. Scripture tells us that love is a command. Love is not an option. The way Christ lived his life and the message that Christ proclaimed is a message that clearly calls us to love the unlovable or the unlikable. Scripture also makes it clear that I might even be the one so described "unlovable." Christ died for me...and loves even me? WOW! THAT'S AMAZING! It might not be easy...but I gotta share that love. How about you?

Blessings in Christ,
Pastor Jim

Mark Your Calendar

Needles & Pins 10:00 am.....	June 1
Church School/Adult Bible Study 9:00 am	
Worship/Communion/Facebook Live 10:30am.	
Church picnic 12:00 pm Meadowbreeze park.....	June 2
Facebook Devotions 8:30 am/Deacon's 7:00pm.....	June 4
Facebook Devotions 8:30 am.....	June 5
Facebook Devotions 8:30 am	June 6
Facebook Devotions 8:30 am	June 7
Worship/ Facebook Live 10:30 am.....	June 9
Facebook Devotions 8:30 am/PW meeting 1:00 pm.....	June 11
Facebook Devotions 8:30 am.....	June 12
Facebook Devotions 8:30 am.....	June 13
Facebook Devotions 8:30 am.....	June 14
Worship Facebook Live 10:30 am/Father's Day.....	June 16
Facebook Devotions 8:30 am.....	June 18
Facebook Devotions 8:30 am.....	June 19
Facebook Devotions 8:30 am/Session 7pm.....	June 20
Facebook Live 8:30 am.....	June 21
Worship Facebook Live 10:30 am.....	June 23
Facebook Live 8:30 am.....	June 25
Facebook Live 8:30 am.....	June 26
Facebook Live 8:30 am.....	June 27
Facebook Live 8:30 am.....	June 28
Worship Facebook Live 10:30 am.....	June 30

First Presbyterian Church

Phone 908-689-2547 Fax 908-689-7911

Web site: www.washingtonfpc.org

Pastor, James Scovell; Directors of Music, Peter and Julie Stevenson;
 Administrative Assistants Kerri Caldaro
 Church School Coordinator, Jean Bowers.

Worship: 10:30 a.m.

Fellowship Time: 10:00 a.m.

The July issue will be published on h. The deadline is June 24th.
 Please submit articles to the church office or by email to:
office@washingtonfpc.com

Pentecost Offering month of June 2024

Investing in our greatest resource

Help youth begin life with a solid foundation of faith. By contributing to the Pentecost Offering, you will be nurturing the faith of those who are the church to come — children, youth, and young adults. **40% of the Pentecost offering will be retained by our congregation to help pay for Christian Ed curriculum.** The remaining 60% is used to support children-at-risk, youth, and young adults through ministries of the Presbyterian Mission Agency. Please consider giving a donation to the Pentecost Offering. Your contribution will be **matched** by the Kathleen Smith Fund! Checks should be made payable to "First Presbyterian Church" with "Pentecost Offering" in the Memo.

Thank You! The Stewardship and Benevolence Committee



4TH OF JULY PARADE: I will be assembling the float again this year. I am asking for monetary donations for me to purchase safe candy to make bags up for us to throw to children during the parade. I appreciate any help with this. I will be going to BJ's to buy the candy in the next few weeks.

Happy Father's Day!

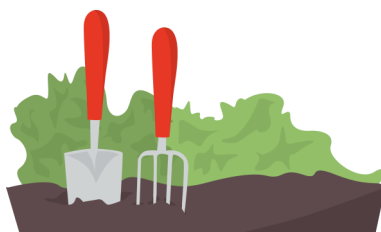


Church Picnic

Church Picnic is this Sunday June 2, 2024 at Meadowbreeze Pavillion at 12 pm. Bring a dish or dessert to share. We will provide the burgers and hot dogs and water, iced tea and lemondade.

Spring Clean-up

This year's Spring Clean-up is scheduled for 8:00 on Saturday, June 15 with a rain date of June 22 @ 8:00. Removing the tree debris on the Manse lawn, gutters, bush trimming, moss and TBD are on the schedule. Breakfast sandwiches, doughnuts and coffee to be provided. Hope to see you there.
Rik (908)500-9005.



Prayer:

God of holiness and light, cleanse our hearts and give a new spirit to all your people, that your saving grace may be professed and proclaimed to the whole world. Dear Lord, as we pray for our friends and loved ones, let us pray with confidence knowing that you not only hear our prayers, but respond in love and with a perfect will...

Those ill or recuperating at home: Rik Atkinson, Don Johnson, Lynn Webb, Shirley Wright, Kristina Vlossak, Bruce Schott, Charlene Jones, Warren Kearns, Linda Walsh, Joyce Parsons, Ronald & Joan Weber, Michael Housman, DJ Pesaniello, Sue Wiedman, Joan Anderson, Tempe Schramm, Charlie Wright, Marion Kingsbury, Kerry Webb, Grace Murphy.

Relatives of church members: Fred Phelps daughter Kristen Bell, John & Elaine Boreman's daughter Jill Duncan, Joe Caldaro, Peggy Westlake's son-in-law Travis Jablonski, Barbara Miller's daughter in-law Julie, Patricia Handlos's great nephew Bear Shaw, Barbara Miller's great nephew Colin Winkler and cousin Kayla Norvis, Robert Stacie Ullrich's dad, Dorothy Thoms son Don, Bob Pesaniello, Pauline Albrecht's cousin Pete Lekousis, Laura Housman's mother Betty Machauer, Fred Kulick's brother in-law Jon, Tami Phelps cousin Jimmy, Joan Miller's sister in-law, Nancy Vlossak's niece, Kathy Dirkes, Vicki Tensfeldt's mother & niece; Kerri Caldaro's parents Fred & Gail Mosher.

Those in care centers: Connie Allen and Joan Vasko, Bob Pesaniello.

Friends of the church: Pat Hawkin's nephew Chris, Carol Kain's friend John Vybihal, Taryn Hummel, Joe Groff friend of Doug s& Jolene Foley, Melinda Velez friend of Don Johnson, Gale Soler & Ellen Gulick friends of Joan Miller, Barbara Miller's friend Patrick O'Malley & Diana Dunlap Weidner, Pauline Albrecht's friend Christine Kowal, Carol Novak, Marion Hoskin's daughter Michelle, Vlossak family's friend Hallie.

Also, pray for our servicemen and women and their families:

Albrecht's nephew Captain Kyle Mogensen, Vimp Smith's grandson Cory, Stephanie Farley's nephew John, Kathy Perry's nephew Jimmy, Linda Darwin's friend Sean Devine.



June 5

Stephen Hildebrant

June 26

Dan Cioffi

June 19

Ally Dunlap

June 27

Maximillan Tensfeldt

June 20

Garrett Ullrich

June 28

Len Darwin
Dawn Keenan

June 21

Linda Darwin

June 29

Melanie Abel
Barbara Kulick

June 25

Michael Housman



MUSIC NOTES

Have you ever noticed that when we recite things like *The Pledge Of Allegiance* or *The Lord's Prayer* it is easy for our minds to wander? What about singing *The Gloria Patri* or *The Doxology*? **Do we really even think about what the words coming out of our mouths mean?** We should be conscious about what we say and do and the implications of our actions. I know it's cliché but it's called "living in the moment."

Recently I stumbled upon two translations of *The Lord's Prayer* that had been translated from the Aramaic, the language of Jesus. I find them enlightening and hope that you will too. Perhaps these translations can bring new meaning to the prayer we recite every Sunday and make a difference in your life.

Peace,
Julie Stevenson

~~~~~  
O cosmic Birther of all radiance and vibration.

Soften the ground of our being and carve out a space within us  
where your Presence can abide.

Fill us with your creativity so that we may be  
empowered to bear the fruit of your mission.

Let each of our actions bear fruit in accordance with our desire.

Endow us with the wisdom to produce and share  
what each being needs to grow and flourish.

Untie the tangled threads of destiny that bind us,  
as we release others from the entanglement of past mistakes.

Do not let us be seduced by that which would divert us from our true purpose,  
but illuminate the opportunities of the present moment.

For you are the ground and the fruitful vision,  
the birth, power and fulfillment,  
as all is gathered and made whole once again.

Amen

~~~~~  
O Breathing Life, your Name shines everywhere!



**SPECIAL FATHER'S DAY BULLETIN**

The Choir is sponsoring a special Father's Day Bulletin dedicated to all the men in our lives: fathers, grandfathers, uncles, brothers, great-grandfathers, godfathers, husbands or special friends. Donation: \$2 per name.

Fill out the form below and return to the church office by May 5th. Please print clearly. Questions may be directed to Kerri Caldaro 908-689-2547 or office@washingtonfpc.com

HONOR OF:

Name:	Relationship (father, grandfather, etc.)	Given By:

MEMORY OF:

Name:	Relationship (father, grandfather, etc.)	Given By:

June 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Needles Pins 10:00 am
2 Church School/Adult Bible 9:00am Worship/ Communion/ Facebook Live Church Picnic 12 pm Meadow- breeze park	3	4 Facebook Live 8:30 am Deacon's Meeting 7:00 pm	5 Facebook Live 8:30 am	6 Facebook Live 8:30 am	7 Facebook Live 8:30 am	8
9 Worship 10:30 am Facebook Live	10	11 Facebook Live 8:30 am PW 1:00 pm	12 Facebook Live 8:30 am	13 Facebook Live 8:30 am	14 Facebook Live 8:30 am	15 Spring Clea-up 8:00am
16 Worship 10:30 am Facebook Live HAPPY FATHER'S DAY	17	18 Facebook Live 8:30 am	19 Facebook Live 8:30 am	20 Facebook Live 8:30 am Session 7:00pm	21 Facebook Live 8:30 am	22
23 Worship 10:30 am Facebook Live	24	25 Facebook Live 8:30 am	26 Facebook Live 8:30 am	27 Facebook Live 8:30 am	28 Facebook Live 8:30 am	29
30 Worship 10:30 am Facebook Live						