

The Good News

August 2019

GOD IS ALWAYS MOVING

I love the way ancient people described the nature of God. Many of them pondered and puzzled over how to describe the God they experienced in life and scripture. They had surmised the concept we know of today as the Trinity, but they puzzled over articulating how exactly the Trinity “worked.” They settled on a really interesting word: *perichoresis*. *Perichoresis* is a Greek compound word made of two parts: *-choresis*, which means to dance or move around, and *peri-* which means around. They literally described the nature of God in the Trinity as “dancing around.” There are so many implications, and I think I love them all. One of the most important pieces of wisdom that I take from this idea of *perichoresis* is that God is on the move - and on the move in joy and harmony with the music of the world.

Churches don’t often do a great job of capturing this kind of understanding of God. Many people of faith today are comfortable with the idea of a God who is on the move and dancing around, but perhaps we would do well to embrace it a little more. When we think of God as on the move, it shapes how we think about faith and our church as well. We should do our best to be people who come together as a church “on the move.” We should always be looking for the next thing God wants to accomplish through us.

Yes, this means embracing change, movement, and transformation in our church and community. That can be a difficult thing to do, but it is necessary. It’s necessary from a faith perspective and also from a practical perspective. If we are really honest, the worst thing a church community can do is resist change and insist on a static, status quo kind of God. A church community like that will eventually fade away. It will fail to engage a people and a God who are on the move.

We have a fair amount of change and movement happening in our church community right now. We’re creating new programs (like Clued Up), welcoming new people, and trying new things (like gardening around the church). Our church property is even changing with the parlor refresh. For those of you who have been here for a long time, it might be difficult to embrace the change sometimes, and the nostalgia can be very real.

Just like the Israelites in the Wilderness, though, we are following a God that is on the move, leading us to a new place with new opportunities to build a better world. I hope that we can continue to embrace the God, the Jesus, the Holy Spirit that is on the move in us, in our church, in our community, and in the world.

I hope that everyone enjoys the last month of summer. Travel safe, do good, and feel God’s presence with you every step of the way. God is with you, the Spirit surrounds you, Christ lives through you.

Peace,
Zac

PREACHING SCHEDULE

August 4	10:00 a.m.	Jesus by the Shore: A Fishy Coin	Rev. Zac Morton
August 11	10:00 a.m.	Seeking a New Homeland	Rev. Zac Morton
August 18	11:00 a.m.	Interpreting the Times	Rev. Zac Morton
August 25	11:00 a.m.	God Illustrated: Pout Pout Fish	Rev. Zac Morton

FALL WORSHIP HOURS

Please note that we will transition to 11:00 a.m. service time on Sunday, August 18.

CONGRATS TO OUR NEW SESSION MEMBERS AND DEACONS

Session

Four members were elected at the congregation's annual meeting to serve three-year terms, starting June 1.

Class of 2022:

Lee Mullett
Noel Hoffman
Barry McMillan
Susan Shumaker

Deacons

Five members were elected at the congregation's annual meeting to serve three-year terms, starting June 1.

Class of 2022:

Melody Wilkins
Molly Hall
Trey Smith-Tatham (1 yr.)
Nikki Hoffman
Cynthia Griffin

PLEASE WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBERS, WHO JOINED THE CHURCH ON JULY 7



Lisa Druge

Lisa has been attending First Presbyterian for over a year. She is a West Virginia native and lives here in Morgantown with her husband, Tom. Lisa was drawn to our church because it is a welcoming and inclusive community.

Diana Scott Beattie

Diana is a former member of First Presbyterian and a long-time member of the Morgantown and WVU community. She recently returned to West Virginia after living in Oman for 9 years. Diana is a retired biochemist with a PhD from University of Pittsburgh.



Trey Smith-Tatham

Trey completed confirmation class this past Spring and has been involved in the church for many years. Trey is a junior at Preston High School and is an accomplished cross-country runner. Trey serves the church as a liturgist, sound system operator, and deacon.

GOD ILLUSTRATED SERMON SERIES

This Fall, we will continue our tradition of God Illustrated, where we use children's literature as inspiration for the message and service themes each Sunday. God Illustrated will run from August 25 through September 15. If you have any book recommendations, please submit them to Rev. Zac at pastorzmc@gmail.com.

HARVEST SUNDAYS

Our garden-scaping around the church is flourishing! We have tomatoes, peppers, cabbage, chard, squash, zucchini, and green beans that will benefit our local food pantries and Community Kitchen. Every two weeks, after 10:00 a.m. worship, we will take some time to harvest and tend the garden, and learn a little about the food we are growing! All ages are welcome.

Our harvest Sundays for this month are:

August 11

August 25

ATTENTION TRAVELERS: ARTWORK OPPORTUNITY

We are creating some art for the new entryway and would like to incorporate crosses from around the world based on the places where our members and friends travel. If you are traveling this summer, please bring back a cross with you and drop it off at the church office so we can begin creating this unique artwork that will represent our community.

TOBACCO-FREE CHURCH CAMPUS

At our June meeting, Session voted to designate our entire campus as tobacco/e-cigarette free. We will be putting up signage and ask that anyone who needs to smoke go off church property in order to do so.

WV BLACK HERITAGE FESTIVAL

The WV Black Heritage Festival will be held in Fairmont September 6-8. If you are interested in attending with other church members, please contact Rev. Zac. We will provide more details on times and coordination later in the month - keep an eye on the church bulletins and our Facebook page for those details.

CLUED UP: A NEW SUNDAY MORNING LEARNING OPPORTUNITY FOR FAMILIES

The Nurture & Learning Committee has been evaluating our Sunday morning programs for the last six months, and they are excited to announce that we will be offering a brand new opportunity this Fall called "Clued Up." Clued Up will begin at 10:35 a.m. each Sunday, before 11:00 worship, and will take the place of our traditional Sunday School programming.

Clued up will be held in the sanctuary and is designed to help children, youth, and families learn more about elements of our faith and worship practices together. There will be opportunities for children and youth not only to learn, but to actively participate in the service each Sunday with what they learned during Clued Up. Come each week and help your family get Clued Up on the service!

Clued Up launches on Sunday, August 25, at 10:35 a.m., in the sanctuary! All ages are welcome!

PARLOR REFRESH UPDATE

The parlor refresh is officially underway! Lee Mullett, Debbie Palmer, and the Property Committee are working together to make these much needed improvements to our entryway and parlor. These improvements will help us make a much better first impression upon our first-time visitors.

Parlor Refresh Schedule:

- Completed: New lighting
- Completed: New flooring
- Completed: New paint (parlor and entryway)
- August: Entryway improvements and artwork
- August: New flooring color
- Late August: TV/projection screen installed in parlor
- Late August: New furniture

You can donate to the parlor refresh in the same way you normally make a gift to the church; just be sure to make note of the “parlor refresh” on your giving statement, memo line, or in the comments/notations when giving online. There are also gift envelopes marked “parlor refresh” available in the parlor.

SIGN UP FOR KROGER COMMUNITY REWARDS PROGRAM

You are invited to join FPC’s Kroger Community Rewards Program. Are you a Kroger shopper? Are you a new member or never signed up for the Kroger Community Rewards Program? Please join us to help support our church’s mission projects. It doesn’t cost you a penny, but you must either have or obtain a Kroger Rewards card. Your rewards points won’t be affected, but the needy and hungry we support will.

Here is how you sign up:

Go to <https://www.kroger.com/account/enrollCommunityRewardsNow/>

- Under “I’m a Customer” click on “View Details.”
- Here, current customers can enter their existing login information, or new customers can click on “Create an Account.”
- Enter your information in the boxes, and select “Add my current Plus Card” (if you already have one) or “Create a new Plus Card” (if you don’t have one yet).
- Click “Create Account.”
- After you’ve confirmed your information, enter FPC’s NPO number: RN 189 from the drop list.
- Verify that you are enrolled correctly.

For help, contact Gertraud Irwin (girwin@comcast.net) or Susan Shumaker (sshumakerwv@gmail.com).

A reminder to all present participants: You must renew your membership once a year. For all of us who joined 4 years ago or earlier, re-enrollment is August or September.

JOIN US FOR FAMILY FUN NIGHT

The next Family Fun Night will be a pool party on August 14, 6:00—8:00 p.m., at Jan and Debbie Palmer’s house (263 Seneca Hills Estates). All are welcome!

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

02 Chris Haddox	15 David Mebane	27 Susan Shumaker
02 Caulton Irwin	15 Jean Dailey	27 Jeremy Zeiders
02 Candace McCahill	15 Joey Hixenbaugh	28 Jacob Smith-Tatham
02 Katherine Zuercher-Kirby	15 Tyler Zundell	28 Summer Yonley
03 Haylee Moody	16 Amy Zeiders	30 Neil Bolyard
06 Lemley Mullett	17 Lisa Lyon	30 Sharon Hughes
08 Linda Fleegeer	18 Ann Hutchison	30 Sharon Santos
13 Danny Williams	23 Dake LaSala	30 Margaret Taylor
14 Margaret Bolt	26 Jean Snider Riley	31 Patrick Kirby

SESSION

John Bolt, David Burtner, Donna Gerber, Noel Hoffman, Gertraud Irwin, Beth Madison, Barry McMillan, Lee Mullett, Cathy Samuel, Susan Shumaker, Justin Weber, Lucas Tatham (Clerk of Session)

DEACONS

Jan Benders, Karen Cassidy, Brenda Ely, Sarah English, John Garlow, Cynthia Griffin, Nikki Hoffman, Chris McClelland, Diana Scott Beattie, Trey Smith-Tatham, Donna Weems, Judy Werner, Melody Wilkins, Diane Williams

STAFF

Rev. Zac Morton, *Pastor*
Johnetta Velickoff, *Bookkeeper & Administrative Assistant*
Sharon Portaro, *PCDC Director*
Ken Godwin, *Music Director*
Kimberly Chaffee, *Secretary*
Youngju Lee, *Accompanist/Organist*
Reggie Underwood, *Custodian, Sunday Sexton*
Janine Arnold & Teanna Branch, *Nursery Attendants*

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Office Hours:

Mon-Fri 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.