

CHURCH STAFF:

Daniel Van Beek, *Pastor*
Bailey Pickens; *Community Connections Director*
Candice Mendoza, *Office Manager*
Jason Matteson, *Music Director*
Donna Houston, *Organist*
Shirley Crutcher, *Nursery*

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The monthly newsletter of Franklin Presbyterian Church

July 2023

the Lamplighter

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Join us for our 4th of July Cookout and Pool Party after church on Sunday, July 2. It will be held at the Wyatt's at 496 Hickory Flat Rapids Road. Hamburgers, hot dogs, and drinks will be provided. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share and don't forget your swimsuit!

Hope to see you all there!

Let Freedom Ring!

At the beginning of early July, we see the Red, the White, the Blue decorations everywhere. We witness the familiar site of the tent stores popping up around town with the best fireworks you can ever (legally) find!

The core of the celebration of Independence Day is the joy of freedom. Our nation was forged under the idea that people should be free to govern themselves, to not be subject to authorities beyond their own experiences and situations.

The colonists did not feel they were well treated by the British empire. They wished for freedom from a system built to keep wealth where it currently resided, in the landowning estates of the lords of the British system of Parliament.

The ideas for American freedom were built to expand and offer a more transparent government of representation for the colonists to determine their own futures.

We know now, however, that while the American Revolution did lead to a world-changing democracy that inspires many others around the world, not all were free on July 4, 1776.

The colonists had already removed Indigenous Peoples from their lands. They had imported kidnapped Africans and instituted chattel slavery. In the same breath where the Declaration of Independence says that "all men are created equal," many of the signers owned human beings and resided on lands formerly the home of native peoples.

Juneteenth recently became a federal holiday that commemorates the revelation of their freedom to the last group of enslaved Black folks in Texas, more than two years after the Emancipation Proclamation.

One of the originators of the federal holiday, Opal Lee, envisioned a weeks-long celebration of Freedom from Juneteenth to July Fourth that covered ALL Americans.

An important part of the "New Democracy" of the United States was the Freedom of Religion. Most colonists had come from state-sponsored religious backgrounds, or at least the political struggle of changing faces of politics and religion. When one (almost always Christian) faith tradition was in charge, it was hard to be anything else.

The Freedom of Religion in America was meant to include ALL religions, not just Christianity.

Yet so often today, we hear the retelling of history that America was founded as an explicitly Christian nation. And even were that so, how much more damning is it that the United States began as a nation that still held chattel slavery and the removal of Indigenous Peoples to be morally and spiritually "right"?

Today, we have the opportunity to express what true Freedom really is. For we are given Freedom in Christ, a freedom well beyond all that we can imagine. It is not limited by political freedom to worship as we want.

Freedom in Christ means that we are Free to live as Christ lived. For we follow a Lord who knows us, who has experienced life as we do, who knew what it meant to live in a land of Empire and colony. To be an ethnic minority, to be poor.

Freedom in Christ means Freedom for All. The wholeness of our being as humans created by God and meant for a purpose beyond our own edification and pleasure. The Freedom to make a better world here and now for all people, reflecting the teaching and healing of Jesus Christ.

The wholeness of creation and community under God is what Rev. Dr., Martin Luther King, Jr. spoke of in his Beloved Community, the kingdom of God happening in our own world, here and now.

Let Freedom Ring for all people this Independence Day! We no longer live under the tyranny of sin or hatred or death. We are FREE from it all by the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ!

To God be the Glory and Let Freedom Ring!

Pastor Daniel



At this time of the year, we eagerly anticipate the warmth and beauty that summer brings. It's also a time of celebration, long term planning and looking forward to Advent and Christmas. With so many opportunities for music making in the works, the big news is that Hymn Sing Sunday is just around the corner, scheduled for July 30! Make sure to vote for your favorite hymns that can be found in the purple Glory to God hymnal.

Also coming up is the Worship & Music Conference at Montreat, where our FPC representatives, Jason Matteson, Donna Houston and Carol Switzer will be learning about new ways of incorporating music in worship, drumming, singing (up to several hours a day), playing bells and making new connections between FPC and key figures in the industry. Lastly, Christmas is right around the corner and your music makers and planners are already working on the concert and new musical opportunities at FPC and within the community.

Stay tuned for new developments!

Clothes Closet Update

It is hard to believe, but we have gone through the 800+ pairs of underwear we collected in December. So we are doing a "Christmas in July Undie Sunday" on July 23rd. Both men and women's underwear are needed, all sizes.

We recently have stocked our shelves with lots of new, donated summer clothes from several local sources. The joy on the client's faces when they pick out NEW clothes for their children is heartwarming!

Our community volunteers also continue to grow. We currently have 4 volunteers who work on a weekly basis as well as generous monthly donations from Zion Lutheran Church. Nine FPC volunteers work hard every week. Meredith even brought Everett, Lizzy, and Sydney to work for a few hours getting new clothes put out on racks. What hard workers they were!

Receiving a \$15,000 grant from the Presbytery has allowed us to purchase shelving for the lower basement (The Catacombs) to better organize our storage clothing. We typically give out 500+ items of clothing, toiletries, and limited food items each week.

Current needs include:

- ◆ Men's jeans in sizes 30-38
- ◆ Men's socks and belts
- ◆ Men and women's new underwear

If you have clothes to donate, we ask you to do the following:

- ◆ Wash and fold neatly. Bringing on hangers is also helpful.
- ◆ Separate by winter/summer
- ◆ Separate by men/women/children
- ◆ If you place the separated items in small to medium boxes, that helps a lot. Garbage bags tend to wrinkle the clothes and make it hard to process.

These steps may seem tedious for you, but we get so many donations that processing clothes is our biggest task. Following the above steps really allows us to get the clothes on shelves quicker. Thanks for the wonderful support FPC gives to make the Matthew 25 Community Clothes Closet a big success!

Stewardship Corner

June Average Attendance: 49

June 4	52
June 11	52
June 18	43
June 25	49

June Weekly Offering Average:
\$1,585.50

June 4	\$1,381.00
June 11	\$3,765.00
June 18	\$390.00
June 25	\$806.00

Average weekly income
needed for budget: \$2,692.31

Ruling Elders Serving on Session

Barry Hain
John Halcomb
Bob Thompson
Bob Heidbrink
Jane Rahm
Nancy Thomas
Chris Kessler
Martha Hodge
Justin Henninger

DEACONS:
Meredith Halcomb
Marcella Davis
Linda Knight

Clerks of all committees: Please submit any minutes to the church office for inclusion in the Session packet.
THANK YOU!

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Discussed various opportunities for Ruling Elders to serve Presbytery, Synod, Denomination
- ◆ Invited all to the upcoming Presbytery meeting in Bowling Green (August 12)
- ◆ Heard updates on the Columbarium Committee
- ◆ Received information on upcoming Fellowship Events & Annual Yard Sale (August 5)

**FPC LADIES LUNCHEON ON
MONDAY, JULY 24 FROM 11:45 AM—1:30 IN THE
CORNERSTONE. PLEASE BRING A FAVORITE OR SECRET
FAMILY DISH WITH THE RECIPE TO SHARE OR BRING ANY
DISH YOU WOULD LIKE! CAN'T WAIT TO SEE MANY THERE!**

July 2023 Daily Lectionary

These Scripture readings are from the two-year daily lectionary of the Presbyterian Book of Common Worship (Westminster John Knox Press, 2018). The readings from the three-year Revised Common Lectionary for Sundays and Festivals are not included in this document.

Year One

Saturday, July 1

Morning: Pss. 56; 149
Evening: Pss. 118; 111
1 Sam. 9:15–10:1
Acts 7:30–43
Luke 22:39–51

Sunday, July 2

Morning: Pss. 67; 150
Evening: Pss. 46; 93
1 Sam. 10:1–16
Rom. 4:13–25
Matt. 21:23–32

Monday, July 3

Morning: Pss. 57; 145
Evening: Pss. 85; 47
1 Sam. 10:17–27
Acts 7:44–8:1a
Luke 22:52–62

Tuesday, July 4

Morning: Pss. 54; 146
Evening: Pss. 28; 99
1 Sam. 11:1–15
Acts 8:1b–13
Luke 22:63–71

Wednesday, July 5

Morning: Pss. 65;
147:1–11
Evening: Pss. 125; 91
1 Sam. 12:1–6 (7–15)
16–25
Acts 8:14–25
Luke 23:1–12

Thursday, July 6

Morning: Pss. 143;
147:12–20
Evening: Pss. 81; 116
1 Sam. 13:5–18
Acts 8:26–40
Luke 23:13–25

Friday, July 7

Morning: Pss. 88; 148
Evening: Pss. 6; 20
1 Sam. 13:19–14:15
Acts 9:1–9
Luke 23:26–31

Saturday, July 8

Morning: Pss. 122; 149
Evening: Pss. 100; 63
1 Sam. 14:16–30
Acts 9:10–19a
Luke 23:32–43

Sunday, July 9

Morning: Pss. 108; 150
Evening: Pss. 66; 23
1 Sam. 14:36–45
Rom. 5:1–11
Matt. 22:1–14

Monday, July 10

Morning: Pss. 62; 145
Evening: Pss. 73; 9
1 Sam. 15:1–3, 7–23
Acts 9:19b–31
Luke 23:44–56a

Tuesday, July 11

Morning: Pss. 12; 146
Evening: Pss. 36; 7
1 Sam. 15:24–35
Acts 9:32–43
Luke 23:56b–24:11 (12)

Wednesday, July 12

Morning: Pss. 96;
147:1–11
Evening: Pss. 132; 134
1 Sam. 16:1–13
Acts 10:1–16
Luke 24:13–35

Thursday, July 13

Morning: Pss. 116;
147:12–20
Evening: Pss. 26; 130
1 Sam. 16:14–17:11
Acts 10:17–33
Luke 24:36–53

Friday, July 14

Morning: Pss. 84; 148
Evening: Pss. 25; 40
1 Sam. 17:17–30
Acts 10:34–48
Mark 1:1–13

Saturday, July 15

Morning: Pss. 63; 149
Evening: Pss. 125; 90
1 Sam. 17:31–49
Acts 11:1–18
Mark 1:14–28

Sunday, July 16

Morning: Pss. 103; 150
Evening: Pss. 117; 139
1 Sam. 17:50–18:4
Rom. 10:4–17
Matt. 23:29–39

Monday, July 17

Morning: Pss. 5; 145
Evening: Pss. 82; 29
1 Sam. 18:5–16 (17–27a)
27b–30
Acts 11:19–30
Mark 1:29–45

Tuesday, July 18
Morning: Pss. 42; 146
Evening: Pss. 102; 133
1 Sam. 19:1–18 (19–24)
Acts 12:1–17
Mark 2:1–12

Wednesday, July 19
Morning: Pss. 89:1–18;
147:1–11
Evening: Pss. 1; 33
1 Sam. 20:1–23
Acts 12:18–25
Mark 2:13–22

Thursday, July 20
Morning: Pss. 97;
147:12–20
Evening: Pss. 16; 62
1 Sam. 20:24–42
Acts 13:1–12
Mark 2:23–3:6

Friday, July 21
Morning: Pss. 51; 148
Evening: Pss. 142; 65
1 Sam. 21:1–15
Acts 13:13–25
Mark 3:7–19a

Saturday, July 22
Morning: Pss. 104; 149
Evening: Pss. 138; 98
1 Sam. 22:1–23
Acts 13:26–43
Mark 3:19b–35

Sunday, July 23
Morning: Pss. 19; 150
Evening: Pss. 81; 113
1 Sam. 23:7–18
Rom. 11:33–12:2
Matt. 25:14–30

Monday, July 24
Morning: Pss. 135; 145
Evening: Pss. 97; 112
1 Sam. 24:1–22
Acts 13:44–52
Mark 4:1–20

Tuesday, July 25
Morning: Pss. 123; 146
Evening: Pss. 30; 86
1 Sam. 25:1–22
Acts 14:1–18
Mark 4:21–34

Wednesday, July 26
Morning: Pss. 15;
147:1–11
Evening: Pss. 48; 4
1 Sam. 25:23–44
Acts 14:19–28
Mark 4:35–41

Thursday, July 27
Morning: Pss. 36;
147:12–20
Evening: Pss. 80; 27
1 Sam. 28:3–20
Acts 15:1–11
Mark 5:1–20

Friday, July 28
Morning: Pss. 130; 148
Evening: Pss. 32; 139
1 Sam. 31:1–13
Acts 15:12–21
Mark 5:21–43

Saturday, July 29
Morning: Pss. 56; 149
Evening: Pss. 118; 111
2 Sam. 1:1–16
Acts 15:22–35
Mark 6:1–13

Sunday, July 30
Morning: Pss. 67; 150
Evening: Pss. 46; 93
2 Sam. 1:17–27
Rom. 12:9–21
Matt. 25:31–46

Monday, July 31
Morning: Pss. 57; 145
Evening: Pss. 85; 47
2 Sam. 2:1–11
Acts 15:36–16:5
Mark 6:14–29

The logo for 'd365' features the letter 'd' in green, the number '3' in blue, the number '6' in purple, and the number '5' in red. Below the logo, the text 'devotionals 365 days a year' is written in a grey, sans-serif font.
devotionals 365 days a year

www.d365.org

LECTOR/USHER
SCHEDULE

Elder of the Month:

Bob Thompson

Elder Helper:

John Halcomb

Ushers:

7/2: *Ezra Van Beek*

Diane Shutt

7/9, 16, 30:

Linda & Prentice Knight

Lector

7/2: *Curry Davis*

7/9-7/30: *Debbie Wyatt*

Pastor Daniel will be on Study Leave

Sunday July 9—Thursday July 13

**WEEKLY EVENTS &
COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

Choir-Wed. at 6:30

Columbarium: 07/06 4:30 pm

FPC Men-07/08 10 am

Fellowship: 07/11 2 pm

Finance-07/12 5 pm

Grief Group-07/13 5 pm

Thrivent Listen-07/17 3:30 pm

SESSION: 07/17 5 pm

Facilities: 07/19 4 pm

JULY 2023

FRANKLIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 Communion <i>Pool Party</i>	3 <i>Cheyenne Brown</i>	4 Office Closed	5	6	7 <i>Kate Halcomb</i>	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16 <i>Marla Knight</i> <i>Dutille</i>	17	18	19	20	21	22
23 Undie Sunday <i>Glenn</i> <i>Kirkconnell</i>	24 Ladies Luncheon	25	26	27 <i>Curry Davis</i> <i>Frankie</i> <i>Shumaker</i>	28 <i>Jane Rahm</i>	29
30 Hymn Sing Sunday-5th Sunday Potluck	31					



**ADULT BIBLE STUDY RETURNS ON
TUESDAYS BEGINNING JULY 11**

Beginning Tuesday, July 11th at 5:30pm (note the time change!), immerse yourself in the vivid imagery and striking contrasts of the First Letter of John. Together, we will examine what this fascinating letter says about what the life of one of Jesus' followers should be and what it might look like for individuals and the whole Church to live this way. Come and see!

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

9:30

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

9:45



If you have anything you would like added to the August Lamplighter, please send it to the office no later than the last Thursday of the month.

Thank you!



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