

FAIRPLAIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SEPTEMBER 2018 NEWSLETTER

Dear Fairplain Family and Friends,

That was a fast summer! I'm not sure where the time went. Well, I do know your Pastor Nominating Committee has spent most Tuesday evenings reviewing pastor information forms (PIFs), interviewing candidates, checking references, listening to sermons, and praying for guidance – a lot. We have felt the Spirit's leading us through this process, and your prayers have been essential.

The PNC has read about 120 multi-page PIFs, listened to many recorded sermons and conducted several interviews. From all this we have selected David M. Schell, who we are pleased to present as pastor nominee. When David preached and led a worship service at another church, we liked what we saw. So did the host congregation. Several of them told us to “hire that young man.”

We have found David to be genuine and easy to talk with. He's confident in his faith, but welcomes questions and discussion. He enjoys collaborative leadership, where members are encouraged to find ideas and grow in their faith and gifts. We like his youth and energy and desire to make connections within the community and to help others discover the life of mission and care we have here at Fairplain. We hope the congregation feels the same way.

You should receive a letter and brochure with more information within the next week or so. If not, please call the church office for a copy.

Changing pastors is a big step for a congregation, an anxious but exciting time. Emotions can run high. But we have to remember that while pastoral leadership is important, we are all ministers of Christ. The church is all of us, not just the pastor. Now especially, we have to work together, listen to and love one another to create a welcoming environment for whatever this new journey brings.

”And I ask God that with both feet planted firmly on love, you'll be able to take in with all followers of Jesus the extravagant dimensions of Christ's love. Reach out and experience the breadth! Test its length! Plumb the depths! Rise to the heights! Live full lives, full in the fullness of God.” (Ephesians 3:18-19. The Message)

Yours in Christ,

Leslie Gilreath



**Please join us to meet David M. Schell.
September 22, 3–5, Open House/Reception,
Courtyard Room, Fairplain Presbyterian Church.
September 23, 9:30 am, David M. Schell preaching.
Congregational meeting immediately following.**

WEDNESDAY FAMILY DINNER

Don't want to eat alone?
Come find good food, good company and new friends at the FREE Wednesday Family Dinner, on September 26, at 6 pm, in the Courtyard Room. Everyone is welcome – young, old, singles, families. Just bring yourself. We provide food and fellowship. We are thrilled with the

response to our dinners so far, and are happy to have many guests as well as members. Join us to make visitors welcome. We plan to continue these dinners the last Wednesday of each month, so mark your calendars.

If you can bring a dessert, help cook or clean up, call Linda Cogswell at 925-0041. We can also use financial donations to support this program. Just put in the offering plate Sunday or bring/mail it to the church office. Please mark your donation for Community Dinners. See you Sept. 26!

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

7: Cheryl Schadler
11: Jenna McAllister
12: Dorothy Trachte
20: Debbie Fagras
23: Keith Royal
26: Rosemary Holloway
28: Eloise Gundersen
28: Carolyn Kodis

COMMUNITY DINNER REPORT – JULY

A total of 25 people attended the July 25 Community Dinner. The menu included kielbasa, hot dogs, potato salad, coleslaw, chips and brownies. Thanks to Fred Welch for doing the grilling, Eloise Gundersen and Linda Zitta for baking brownies, Judy Eckroth & Karen for serving beverages and dessert, and Dennis Cogswell, Jack Stuber, and Leslie Gilreath helping to serve.

JULY FOOD PANTRY



There were 63 bags distributed in the month of July for the food pantry. A total of 50 were handed out on Thursdays during July and 13 were delivered on food distribution Sunday. Workers packing bags were Jo Ann Hartzell and Sandi Corbitt. Chris Corbitt helped stock shelves.

AUGUST SOUP KITCHEN

On Thursday, August 9, a happy crew of 9 volunteers prepared and served lunch at the Benton Harbor Soup Kitchen. A total of 125 adults and 15 children enjoyed turkey noodle casserole, tossed green salad with fresh tomatoes, applesauce, brownies, and juice or milk.

Volunteers included Eloise and Harold Gundersen, Judy Eckroth, Deb Morris, George Pica, Leslie Gilreath, John Kauffman, Sandi Corbitt and Julie Nash.

Very sure everyone who enjoyed lunch left happy and grateful. Julie Nash

CLERK'S CORNER – NEW PIANIST/ACCOMPANIST

Finally! I am able to share the good news that we have a pianist/accompanist hired and ready to step in. Ronnie Zanella will be joining the Fairplain Presbyterian music staff on September 2. Ronnie is currently a student at Andrews University working on a Masters of Music, Orchestral and Choral Conducting. Ronnie is a native of Brazil and comes to us with an impressive resume of work experience and performance experience. Welcome to Fairplain Ronnie. We are thrilled to have you join us.



The Sanctuary windows are almost complete. The crew has been working around the sun, rain, and heat with the special caulk. They start early in the morning before the sun hits that area and the temperature gets too warm. Evidently the caulk is finicky and wants everything just right. Fairplain Presbyterian has an active membership of 94 persons, with 76 on our inactive list. We had an average of 41 attending worship services in July. In July 41 were served Communion in worship, with two homebound receiving Communion. Betsy Jacobs # 1425 entered the Church Triumphant on August 6, 2018.

Important dates

September 2, Leslie Preaching

September 9, Leslie Preaching

September 16, Leslie Preaching, Praise Band Plays

**September 22, Meet and Greet our Pastor Candidate, David Schell in Courtyard Room
3-5 p.m.**

September 23, Pastor Candidate will preach. Congregational meeting to be held immediately following church to vote on candidate.

September 30, Leslie Preaching

Blessing to each of you as we enter this exciting chapter in the life of our church.

Marlene Smith,
Clerk of Session

MUSIC NEWS

“Praise the Lord. Sing to the Lord a new song, His praise in the assembly of the saints. Let Israel rejoice in their Maker; let the people of Zion be glad in their King. Let them praise His name with dancing and make music to Him with tambourine and harp.”

During the month of August the following persons shared their music talent with us:

August 05 – Men’s Chorus; Mary Jane and LaVerne Davenport Vocal Duet
 August 12 – Family Slavujevic Chimes & Bells; Slavujevic Vocal Trio
 August 19 – Steve Mauro & Vladimir Slavujevic -piano duet (2 songs)
 August 26 – Chancel Choir (2 songs); The Praise Band “Wherever Two ...; Ladies’
 Chorus, Men’s Chorus

Sunday, August 26, was a very special day in our church regarding music. 4 out of 5 of our active church music groups participated. (See above). It was a farewell church service for Pastor LaVerne and Mary Jane. We sang and played their favorite songs. It was somehow a festive occasion blended with sadness... We are losing both, Mary Jane our pianist / organist / vocal soloist and Pastor LaVerne our “pillar” in the bass section. We will certainly miss them in our Sunday music performances. They have been faithful and reliable quality musicians.

Our Choir, Men’s Chorus, Ladies’ Chorus and the Praise Band will be challenged by their permanent absence. We wish Pastor LaVerne and Mary Jane God’s protection and guidance wherever they will be throughout the year. Hope they will use their music talent to bless congregations nationwide.

Please see Marlene Smith’s article on page 3 announcing our new pianist/accompanist, Ronnie Zanella, beginning Sunday, September 2.

May God richly bless and protect all of us and our loved ones during this month. May we experience joy in serving God and others wherever we will be.

Vladimir Slavujevic,
 Music Director



CONDOLENCES

Condolences to Ron Jacobs and family upon the recent death of Betsy Jacobs.

SECRETARY SUPPLY

While Linda Cogswell is on vacation from Friday, September 14 through Friday, September 21, the following ladies will fill in at the church office. The office will be closed on Thursday afternoon, September 13, Wednesday, September 19, and Friday afternoon, September 21.

Friday, September 14 (9:00 am-11:30 am): Phyllis Myers

Monday, September 17 (9 am-noon): Leslie Gilreath

Tuesday, September 18 (9 am-noon): Linda Zitta

Thursday, September 20 (9 am-noon): Sandi Corbitt

Friday, September 21 (9 am-11:30 am): Judy Kuhlman



RECORDING OF SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE

If you would like a CD of a **specific Sunday** service, please contact the church office **with the date**. *NEW* for 2018 - An .mp3 file can also be made available on-line if you would prefer to listen to it on your computer. Email Chris Corbitt, cpc1_1999@yahoo.com and he will send you an invitation to listen to it via DropBox. You will NOT need to have DropBox installed on your computer.



STRETCH & STRENGTHENING

The next scheduled free Stretch and Strengthening Classes will be held on Saturday, Sept. 8 and 22, at 11 am in the Courtyard.

WOMEN'S CIRCLE

CHANGE IS GOOD: They say change is good. Presbyterian Women's Circle is about to test that theory. We have voted to change our meeting day to the first Tuesday of the month. This will eliminate a conflict for several of our members. So, our next meeting will be Tuesday, September 4, at 9:30 a.m. in the Courtyard Room. Hope to see many of you there.

LIBRARY

Mission Statement:

The purpose of the Fairplain Presbyterian Church Library shall be:

- to provide books and material that will help promote a better understanding of our Christian heritage;
- to encourage members to grow in Christian faith and spiritual living; and
- to provide wholesome literature and audio/video materials for entertaining and learning.

Click on this link to go to our library catalog:

www.librarything.com/catalog/fairplain

There are several ways to browse the books in our church library:

1. Use the “search this library” window to search for a particular book or author.
2. Scroll through the listing of books which are in alphabetical order by title.
3. Search by categories – to do this, click on the “Tags” heading. The categories are:

Art & Literature

Biblical Studies

Biographies

Christian Living

Christian Theology

Church History

Church Leadership

Commentaries

Devotionals

Local History

Media

Missions

Prayer

Presbyterian Church

Reference

Stephen Ministries

World Religions

Worship

The following books have been added to our library recently – take a moment and check one out:

- Understanding the Koran, a Quick Christian Guide to the Muslim Holy Book
- Islam & Christianity, compares teachings and beliefs
- The Kurds, Creating of the Modern Middle East
- Waking up White
- Always With Us? What Jesus Really Said About the Poor



DEACONS OUTREACH

YELLOW PEW ENVELOPES

As you will notice in the pews, the yellow envelopes have been reprinted for your donations toward Deacons General/Funeral Fund and Food Pantry/Soup Kitchen.

Deacons General Fund:

Goes towards the purchase of communion cups, oil for candles, Advent wax candles, flowers for shut-ins (Christmas and Easter), printed support materials for members: These Days devotional, Care Notes (various topics), greeting cards and postage for members; CD players for shut-ins.

Deacons Funeral Fund:

Goes towards any funeral luncheon expenses that are not reimbursed by the family.

Donations to the Deacons General Fund and/or Funeral Fund should be made payable to Fairplain Presbyterian Church.

Food Pantry:

To purchase products we are low on, or take advantage of good sales on products, we normally furnish in food bags from our local retail grocer.

Soup Kitchen:

To purchase the needed side dishes for our once-a-month meals we prepare at the soup kitchen in Benton Harbor.

Donations to the Food Pantry and/or Soup Kitchen should be made payable to the Community Food Pantry at Fairplain Presbyterian Church.



CHURCH STAFF

Linda Cogswell, Church Secretary – church email: fairplainpc@gmail.com
Office Hours: Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday: 8:30 am-noon, 1:00-3:00 pm
Wednesday: Closed (Pastor LaVerne available by appointment)
Friday: 9:00 am-11:30 am (closed in the afternoon)

Vladimir Slavujevic, Director of Music – email: vladoslavujevic@yahoo.com

Ronnie Zanella – Pianist / Accompanist – email: portofmj@yahoo.com

Jenna McAllister, Treasurer – email: jennabetz@comcast.net

Chris Corbitt, Financial Secretary – email: cpc1_1999@yahoo.com

Bud Cornelius, Custodian