

Fincastle Presbyterian Church

A Message from David - "A Reflection on Prayer"

What is prayer? Our Presbyterian and Reformed Tradition has long taught that there are several basic types of prayer: Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, and Supplication. (these are remembered by the famous acronym A.C.T.S.)

One great teacher has written that, for the most part, when we pray, we are praying a prayer of supplication (or petition). We are asking (or petitioning) God for something; and that's O.K.! (as my old professor, Dr. Bill Oglesby would say with emphasis on the "K"! - and that's Oh-kayyyyy!)

It is more than O.K. for the weary pilgrim to ask his/her Father in Heaven for whatever "need" that may be pressing at that moment. In the Lord's prayer (or the "Our Father" as our Catholic friends have named it) Jesus petitions His Heavenly Father seven times. His first three petitions are addressed to God and are about God: 1) "Hallowed be They Name"; 2) "Thy Kingdom Come"; and 3) "They will be done". His next four petitions are about mankind and humanity's creaturely needs: 1) "Give us this day our daily bread"; 2) "forgive us ... as we forgive others"; 3) "lead us not into temptation"; and 4) "deliver us from evil". Jesus Himself has demonstrated

before us that it is more than "O.K." to ask God for what we need, in fact, it is the very center of our hope for deliverance through the vicissitudes of life.

Another great teacher, Karl Barth, has taught us that prayer is simply a conversation between ourselves and God, and that God is the Good Father/Mother who is infinitely interested in the child's concern.

Please read the "Prayer for Afghanistan" that is shown within this essay. Notice that it petitions God, it asks God for several basic needs experienced by all whose lives are in turmoil because of the events in Afghanistan. Let us find comfort in knowing that our Father in Heaven hears all prayers; and that our Father hears this prayer in particular. This prayer states very simply several of our greatest needs in the wake of Afghanistan; and it is based upon this great good news: that it is more than O.K. to petition our God with our needs. It is our hope! It is our Life!

A prayer for Afghanistan

For those who are fleeing:
sanctuary

For those who are staying:
safety

For those who are fighting:
peace

For those whose hearts are breaking:
comfort

For those who see no future:
hope

(Presbyterian Church (USA) Washington Office)

AMEN

September Report from the Worship Committee:

Worship Leaders: David and Lori

Lots of music and congregation participation and, of course, a meaningful worship message.



On Sunday, August 22 at 11:00 FPC had an outdoor worship service and the "Simmons/ Dickerson Last, Last Resort" cabin on Craigs Creek in Craig County. There were 16 in

attendance who enjoyed a meditation based on Genesis 1, John 1 and Colossians 1. Opened worship by singing a Litany Prayer of Invocation and camp songs, discussion of meditation for all and the closing hymn of "Pass It On". Of course a delicious meal of freshly cooked hamburgers and hot dogs plus the fixing afterward. Also a few of us got in the cooling waters of Craigs Creek.

Scripture Readings for the Month of September:

September 5: Psalm 125 Mark 7: 24-37

September 12: Proverbs 1:20—33 Mark 8: 27—38

September 19: Proverbs 31: 10 –31 Mark 9: 30—37

September 26: Ester 7: 1-6, 9-10, & 9: 20 – 22 Mark 9: 38—50



“Hymn of the month” for the Month of September

Blessed Assurance

Words: Fanny Crosby Music: Phoebe Knapp

Fanny Crosby was a prolific hymn writer, composing over 8,000 Gospel songs and hymns. In addition, she wrote over 1,000 nonreligious songs and volumes of poetry.

She was born on March 24, 1820 and lived to the age of 95. She realized in her early childhood that she had a special gift of poetry.

When she was six weeks old, a poorly trained doctor placed a mustard plaster poultice to her eyes causing her to be totally blind. When she was 15 years old, she enrolled in the New York Institute for the Blind. She was an exceptional student, and upon graduation, was asked to teach at the institute.

Fanny married a man she met at the institute ,who was also blind and a musician, Alexander Van Alstyne. They had a child that died in infancy.

In 1873, Fanny was visiting with a friend at the home of Mrs. Joseph Knapp, the wife of the founder of Metropolitan Life Insurance Company. Mrs. Knapp played a tune of the piano and she asked Fanny, *“What does this tune say?”* Fanny knelt in prayer and after a few minutes, she announced, *“It says, “Blessed assurance, Jesus in Mine!”*

Fanny began to dictate the words to Mrs. Knapp, who wrote them down to fit the melody as we know it today.

Some of the many hymns with the lyrics written by Fanny Crosby:

All the Way My Savior Leads Me

I Am Thine, O Lord

Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross

Pass Me Not, O Gentle Savior

Rescue the Perishing

Savior, More Than Life to Me

Tell me the Stories of Jesus



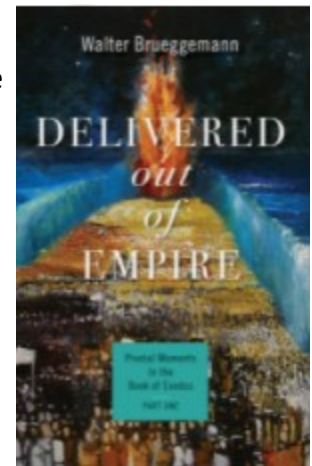
Choir Practice begins Thursday, 9/9 at 3 pm in the sanctuary. For additional information, please call Rose Ann, 540-989-7414

September Report from the Christian Education Committee:

"In-person" Adult Sunday School Is Back!

We will have our first meeting of "in-person" adult Sunday School on Sunday, September 12 at 9:30 am in the "old" session meeting room, top of the steps to the Sunday School wing and to the left.

Our first study will be of the Book of Exodus in the Old Testament of the Bible. Please read the first 2 chapters ahead of time. I will be using a study guide written by Dr. Walter Brueggemann entitled "Delivered out of Empire", part one. The author is a world renowned scholar who is also a world renowned teacher who can write so that us "non-scholars" can read and appreciate what he has to say.



Important Announcements from the Session

The session has called a congregational meeting for Sunday, September 12 for the purpose of electing 3 members of the congregation at large to the Nominating Committee who will prepare a slate of candidates' names for the office of elder to be presented and acted upon at the October 17 Congregational Meeting.

The session has called a congregational meeting for Sunday, October 17, for the purpose of hearing and acting upon the report of the Nominating Committee for the purpose of electing 1 elder to the Class of 2022, and 3 elders to the Class of 2024.

**Please consider serving on the Nominating Committee or as an Elder if asked.
Your service is always appreciated.**

September Report from the Congregational Care Committee:

Happy Birthday

John Kilby 9/10

George Sydnor 9/11

Verna Shuey 9/18

Sarah Bulmer 9/30



Prayer Lists

FPC Members: Peggy Davis, Nathalie Givens, Kaki Peaslee, Phyllis Tenser, Dianne Poynor, Meg Omer, Rick Vari, Family of Bob Gengo, the family of Glenna Henson

Friends and Family: Laura Holt McCann, Mary Lee Reese, Mary Black, Marilyn Koch, Alexis Porter, Molly Rose, Gretchen Greiner, Lisa Curlee, Marc Evans, Betty Miracle, Michael & Sandy Petrucci, Sharon Lane, Dana & Billie Wilson, Abigail Nikle, Geneva Ratliff, Lilly Porter, Marlene Davidow, Anna Burton, Hiawatha Nicely, Angela Coon, Troy Ivey

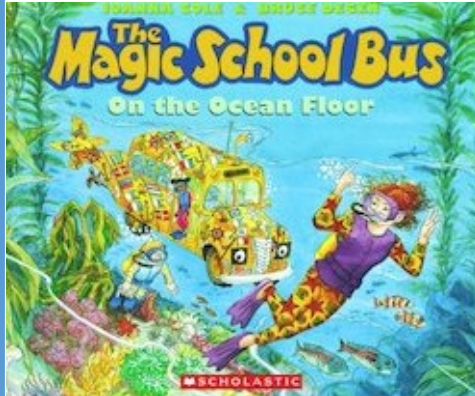
Concerns of the State and Nation: The victims of hurricane Ida; the people in areas who have suffered devastating floods; the people fleeing and those staying in Afghanistan; remembering the lives of people affected on 9/11/001; school personnel, medical personnel and all people who have contracted Covid-19.



(Send in your celebrations to Patsy psdicke@yahoo.com or text to (540)460-4597 each month)

1. The celebration of the life of Bob Gengo will be held at FPC in front of the church on Monday, September 6 at 3pm. Rev. Neil Dunavant will be the guest officiant.
2. Thanks to Debbie and Fred Coots for up keep of the parking lot. It really looks good. Thanks Debbie and Fred.
3. Let's celebrate the "crew" for live streaming—Sandy, the "chief", Patsy, Alan and the elders on duty.
4. Lori Turner helped fill in on the piano for this summer. We now have Rose Ann Burgess, our new musical director and organ player added to our team. We have been so lucky with the talented musicians who have shared their talents with Fincastle Presbyterian Church over the years.
5. Choir practice will start again. Any and all are invited to participate. The weekly practice is on Thursdays at 3 pm—4 pm beginning Sept. 9 in the choir loft. Hope to see you there.
6. Good news of prayers being answered!
7. Our new lot behind the church is bought and paid for.

Disclaimer: I am not a Children’s Literature Specialist. I must confess that I am not one who reads a lot for pleasure. But I have always read to our children and now their children. Most of the books that are at our house are those that we have saved from our kids childhood— some gotten at yard sales, some given by their dear Aunty Monty, and then some we purchased. A lot of the books we have, our grandchildren do not have at their house. This summer we had the great pleasure of having



all three of our grandchildren here at the house at the same time and so at story time, each child got to pick out a book to read. Our oldest grandson, Anders (who turns 4 on 9/8) picked out *The Magic School Bus On the Ocean Floor* (By Joanna Cole, Illustrated by Bruce Degen). I was amazed at the level of interest of each child. Anders (almost 4 years old) was interested in more of the reading than Clair (who had just turned 3). And then there was 1 year old Reese who just wanted to get to the next page to look at the pictures or “eat” the corner of the pages.

There is a “ton” of information on each page. Ms. Frizzle’s interesting clothing—snowmen on her shoes, thermometers for earring, etc. There are student projects that tell “Where Does Sand Come From?” or “Earth is a Watery Planet” or “How the Sun Feeds Ocean Animals” to mention a few. Of course the magic school bus “dives” to the bottom of the sea seeing ocean life at all levels, even where the sun doesn’t shine. The bus acts as a surf board when they get back to the surface. After returning to their classroom, the students report of what they learned from this experience. It is a book that is interesting for children of all levels. It is good educational practice to research the ocean and then experience the ocean and then list the new things you learned about it. I would recommend this series to children of all ages.

Enjoy! Patsy Dickerson

Olive Dip from the kitchen of Debbie Coots

- 1 cup chopped green olives
- 1 cup sliced black olives
- 1 cup mayonnaise
- 1 cut shredded cheddar cheese
- 1 cup shredded pepper jack cheese

Mix together. Bake 350 about 15 minutes until edges are lightly browned. Serve with crackers.

(Debbie says this is one of their favorite appetizers. Enjoy)



FINCASTLE FESTIVAL

52nd Annual
Arts & Crafts Festival

September 18, 2021
Saturday 9:00 - 4:00

(Rain or shine)

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