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"Serving God, Honoring Creation, Embracing Differences"

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Issue Ten

A little something fun: Are there Dogs in Heaven?

This lighthearted question actually has deep implications for our understanding of heaven and our comprehension of who God is.

I don't think I'm going out on a limb to say that our pets are God-given gifts. They are living gifts that bring moments of tenderness, companionship, wonder, and laughter to our lives. Our animals depend on benevolence from us. We give food, shelter, and attention so our pets will thrive.

What do we imagine the afterlife to be? Only Jesus has been truly resurrected from the dead, and he was on a particular mission. We don't have evidence about heaven to work with, so we are left with speculation. There are things our scriptures reveal about God that can be our foundation. We know God grants us grace upon grace. We know that God's mercy and love are beyond measure. We know that there is no greater joy in heaven than when a sinner repents and finds their way home. The Parable of the Lost Sheep is a lovely illustration of this. The mention of sheep themselves and the tender care given to the lamb who is hoisted onto the loving Shepherd's shoulders and carried home indicates that God has an affinity for furry four-legged creatures.

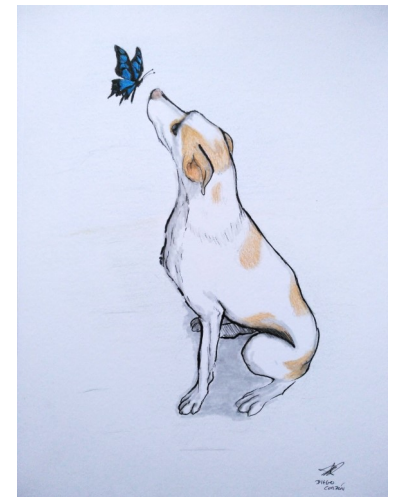
So, I ask, does heaven seem like a place exclusively carved out of the finest wood, colored by the grandest stained-glass, and perpetually hushed so that Gregorian chant is the only sound that fills the air over the susurrations of whispered conversation? Perhaps, in the quieter places. But not everywhere! In the visions of heaven John of Patmos describes in Revelation everything is gold and sparkling and dazzling white. The River of Life is surely more than a demurely babbling brook!

I've often imagined heaven as a wide open place, with rolling fields of wildflowers and plenty of room to walk and picnic and take in the glory of nature. This includes plenty of room for my favorite dogs to frolic and play and visit me in the life to come.

I think heaven will be amazing beyond our ability to imagine. What will it be like to see with our eyes fully opened to God without the veil of the world to distract us? All things loving, comforting, pure, and so much more.

Rev Michele

Note: I'm currently reading Cynthia Rigby's "Holding Faith". In the very first chapter, she explains why theologians would want to seriously debate how many angels really do fit on the head of a pin.



We Gather Together to Ask the Lord's Blessing

Your Worship Team gathered, socially distanced and masked, to prepare a proposed budget for 2021. At the meeting, we discussed our present services and our online services, planning to continue in-person and online for the immediate future, along with online Holy Communion service on Thursdays, following the first Sunday of the month. As we look to continue our online presence, we are also looking into ways to improve the quality of the online service for our viewers, including better recording equipment. In addition, as our music has grown to be such an important and necessary part of our ministry, we have expanded on music copyrights. May God continue to bless FPC-Henderson.



"Be Strong and Courageous! Do not be afraid or discouraged, for I am with you wherever you go." Joshua 1:9.

God created us in His image: to live, to love, to find our individual meaning, to honor Him. To know that we will be challenged, shaken, and exhausted by the weight of the world. But we will never be alone.

The mystery of your presence, Lord, no mortal tongue can tell: whom all the world cannot contain comes in our hearts to dwell. You give yourself to us, O Lord; then selfless let us be, to serve each other in your name in truth and charity.*

***(You Satisfy the Hungry Heart) Hymn # 523 Glory to God Hymnal**

Music in the Middle's landing page:

<https://facebook.com/JoshuaThePianoMan>

Come share in God's love
through the musical talents of
Joshua.

Streaming live on
Wednesday evenings
at 6:00 PM

HIM Ministries

We continue to ask for your blessings and assistance for the HIM ministry — it is needed and greatly appreciated.

Currently they are in great need for:

- Cans of Beans
- Cans of Tuna
- Cans of Chicken

With OUTREACHed Hands & Hearts,
Outreach Team



Hello October, our dear friend – You're bringing colors back into our lives again.....

While our in person activities have been limited for low these many months, we are slowly and carefully sharing time together again. In addition to our still abbreviated (but wonderful in-person Sunday church service), the Building & Grounds crew has met to line out some upcoming projects. In the near future, we will be working on fixing, cleaning and repainting the three sets of stairs in the front of our church. This project is not only a needed safety and function project but it will also improve the curb appeal of our lovely church. We are also working toward an improvement project in the parlor.

Both of these projects will begin in October and we will have some "work days" scheduled. Once the work days are scheduled, anyone interested in being on the B&G crew or just want to come and help with these specific projects, you are more than welcome.

As always, continue to hold each other, our church and our community in your hearts and prayers and let's remember to live in color!

Through helping hands of your Building & Grounds Committee

Claudia, Steve, John T, Michael, Scott, Kathy, Weldon and Rev. Michele.

Prayer Request

Please keep these dear ones in your prayers:

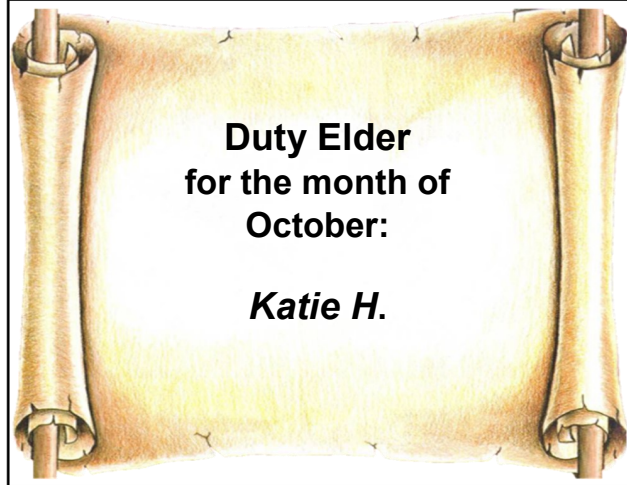
For our home bound members:
Sue W. and Kay W.

For Judy A.

For Bob & Cindy R.

For those who are ill and at risk for
the Flu and Coronavirus

For healthcare and essential workers
who are working during this
pandemic



Duty Elder
for the month of
October:

Katie H.

Liturgist for October:

Oct. 4: Steve L.

Oct. 11: John T.

Oct. 18: Carol S.

Oct. 25: Lynn T.



With OUTREACHed hands & hearts

Our Outreach Team met on Sunday, September 6th after church service to finalize our 2021 budget request and to touch base with each other on upcoming projects.

The third special offering – Peace & Global Witness ends the first Sunday in October on World Communion Sunday – October 4th.

Our Outreach Team also continues our presence in the community and in our neighborhood. Our Adopt a Block for September had to be cancelled due to weather, our Team will be doing a walk about in the first weeks of October. As always, you are invited to the fellowship with us and our neighbors. We meet at the church at 4:30. We continue to practice important social distancing and wearing masks are required.

Betty Elder, the organizer and head of the Yates Park Youth School Supplies drive sent a thank you note to our congregation thanking us for always being generous in heart and contributions to this important project. This year, Betty was able to serve over a thousand children with needed school supplies. Please never doubt the impact your participation in projects like this make.

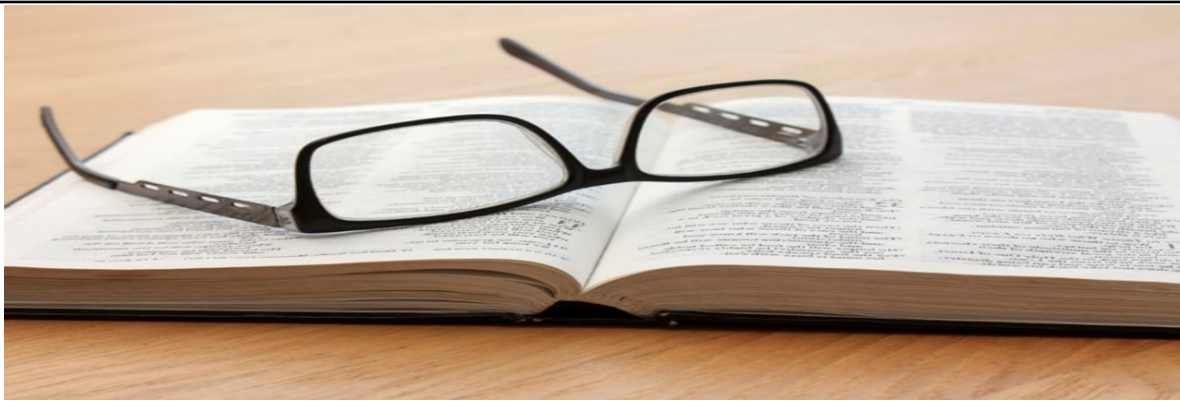
And they know we are Christians by our love – as we continue our faithful participation in helping HIM and delivering Meals on Wheels.

Reaching Out with Peace & Grace,
Outreach Team

To the church Triumphant:

Jan Mims

August 29, 2020



Plan to join us for an on-line Zoom Book Study. We will Zoom with each other beginning on Monday, October 5th at 6:30 pm and continuing on Monday evenings for 8 weeks. An invitation and link to the Zoom call will be sent each Monday to all those letting us know you are interested in participating. This is the first of what we hope may be many Zoom Book Study opportunities.

We are beginning this unique gathering with a book by Howard Thurman, an African-American minister, theologian, and civil rights leader. Rev. Thurman's book is called "Jesus and the Disinherited." Written in 1949, Jesus and the Disinherited interprets the teachings of Jesus through the experience of the oppressed and discusses nonviolent responses to oppression. The book developed out of a series of lectures that Thurman presented at Samuel Huston College in Austin, Texas, during April 1948.

Given our world today, we hope you will plan to be part of this relevant look at how Jesus may look at the oppression and violent and non-violent responses in our world today. If you are interested in participating, please contact Rev. Michele, Jimmy C or Kathy P.

REMEMBER



November 3

Did You Know? -- Earth is amazing!

Earth is a beautiful place and has sustained everything living on it for millions of years. But as beautiful, bold and brave as our Earth is, our presence has done and is doing much damage to her. The good news is we still have a chance to change it. People like you and I are more aware of the needs of our Earth and her environment and we are making changes – necessary changes – to help preserve our world. Protecting and preserving our environment is so much more than just the weather. Our environment is all the animals, plants and humans.

Some environmental facts that you need to know:

- ◆ Human consumption of Earth's natural resources **tripled** from 1970-2015 and is expected to again double from 2015 to 2050;
- ◆ According to NASA, if the current rate of destruction continues, the world's rainforests will be gone by 2100;
- ◆ If current patterns continue, we will have emptied the world's oceans for seafood by 2050.
- ◆ Water, water everywhere but not a drop to drink – only 1-2% of the total Earth's water is drinkable (the other 97% is salt water and glaciers). If we keep doing what we are doing, "There will be no water by 2040" (Prof. Benjamin Sovacool, Aarhus University, Denmark).
- ◆ 27,000 trees are cut down each day so we can have Toilet Paper!
- ◆ Aluminum can be recycled continuously. Recycling 1 aluminum can save enough energy to run our TVs for at least 3 hours. 80 trillion aluminum cans are used every year.
- ◆ Plastic bags and plastic materials in the ocean, kills as many as 1 million sea creatures annually.
- ◆ The world's oldest trees are more than 4,600 years old.

Let's all do our part to preserve our precious Earth
The Christian Education Green Team



The first Sunday in October is designated as World Communion Sunday, which celebrates our oneness in Christ with all our brothers and sisters around the world. Paul tells us that we are to “discern the body” when we partake of Holy Communion, mindful that we note our relationship to all our brothers and sisters in Christ in the celebration. One is not to go hungry while another is drunk! (I Cor. 11:21). This is scandalous behavior opposed to the Way of Christ. Thus it is appropriate that World Communion Sunday is also a time when we receive the annual [Peace and Global Witness Offering](#) as a way of continuing the ancient Christian practice of sharing what we have with brothers and sisters in need.

A Presbyterian Gift

World Communion Sunday (originally called World Wide Communion Sunday) is a gift of the Presbyterian Church to the larger ecumenical church. The first celebration occurred at Shadyside Presbyterian Church in Pittsburgh, PA, in 1933 where Dr. Hugh Thompson Kerr served as pastor.

Celebration of World Wide Communion Sunday was adopted as a denominational practice in the Presbyterian Church (US) in 1936. Churches in other denominations were invited to celebrate with us from the beginning, but it wasn’t until 1940 when the Department of Evangelism of the Federal Council of Churches (a predecessor body of the National Council of Churches) promoted extending the celebration to a number of churches around the world that the practice became widespread. Today, World Communion Sunday is celebrated around the world, demonstrating that the church founded on Jesus Christ peacefully shares God-given goods in a world increasingly destabilized by globalization and global market economies based on greed.

At First Presbyterian Church Henderson, we are marking World Communion in a special way this year. We are sending home mini-loaves of bread and juice with those who attend on October 4, and delivering these elements to our homebound members. The table prayers we will use on Thursday for our virtual Eucharistic celebration, as well as some of the prayers we will use in worship on October 4, are adapted from a special Order of Worship compiled for this occasion by Presbyterian Mission Agency, Special Offerings.

COUNCIL ACTIONS — SEPTEMBER 24, 2020

- ◆ Worshipped and prayed together
- ◆ Approved pastor’s request for week off
- ◆ Discussed various possibilities for streaming service
- ◆ Approved beginning process of updating parlor
- ◆ Approved use of Fellowship Hall for women’s group meeting
- ◆ Approved adding Steve Lowe to the nonprofit periodic report to Secretary of State
- ◆ Advised the Church Officer Nominating Committee to search for four elders for the Class of 2022
- ◆ Approved using Zoom for streaming Book Study beginning October 5

As we continue to try to find some normalcy in our ever-changing world, the one thing we can and should do, is stay connected with our church. Our faith will help see us through. God is Sovereign. God is faithful. God will provide. Again, thank you for your continued support of pledges and offerings. Because of these, we are able to continue to be here for you. We are the Body of Christ.

Your Finance/Stewardship Committee

Notes from Fellowship:

It is so nice to finally be back together again on Sunday mornings. As we continue to safely worship, we hope to offer safe fellowship opportunities again soon. Our committee has some creative ideas in mind for the holiday season, and we look forward to sharing those with you soon!

Please let Katie Hurst know if there are any holiday traditions that you would like our committee to incorporate into a Covid-friendly holiday social, and we will do our best to make it happen!

With love,

Katie & the Fellowship Committee

Save the Dates

October 4:
World Communion Sunday

October 5:
First Monday, bring HIM
donations to office between
9 AM and 2 PM

October 15:
Session 6 PM

October 26:
Pipeline Deadline

October 31:
Set your clocks back an hour.

November 1:
Day Light Savings Time
ends at 2 AM Sunday



Fonda S. 9

Margaret H. 12

Judy A. 27



OCTOBER 2020



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2 Meals on Wheels	3
4 Facebook Virtual & Sanctuary Service 11 AM World Communion Sunday	5 Meals on Wheels Book Study 6:30PM	6	7 Music in the Middle Facebook 6 PM CE Meeting 10 AM	8 Virtual Communion Facebook 5:30 PM	9 Meals on Wheels	10
11 Facebook Virtual & Sanctuary Service 11 AM	12 Meals on Wheels Book Study 6:30PM Columbus Day	13	14 Music in the Middle Facebook 6 PM	15 Session 6 PM	16 Meals on Wheels	17
18 Facebook Virtual & Sanctuary Service 11 AM	19 Meals on Wheels Book Study 6:30PM	20	21 Music in the Middle Facebook 6 PM	22	23 Meals on Wheels World Food Day	24 United Nations Day
25 Facebook Virtual & Sanctuary Service 11 AM	26 Meals on Wheels Book Study 6:30PM Pipeline Deadline	27	28 Music in the Middle Facebook 6 PM	29	30 Meals on Wheels	31 Halloween