

Good News

July 2019

June 19 2019



First Presbyterian Church of Jacksonville!

made by: Denisse Macias

We Welcome Our New Minister!



Rev. Elizabeth Gabbard and our session have covenanted together for her to become our transitional (interim) minister. July 14th will be her first Sunday to attend and she will be preaching that day. Please pray for her and for our congregation as we begin this new journey together.

A native of Arkansas, Elizabeth grew up at First Presbyterian Church in Fort Smith, where her call to ministry was nurtured and supported. She graduated from Lyon College and Columbia Theological Seminary in Georgia before being ordained to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament by the Presbytery of Arkansas. Elizabeth has worked in the banking field, as a non-profit administrator, youth director, solo pastor, University chaplain, and professor. She lives in Bryant and enjoys reading, watching scary movies, baking, and roller coasters.

Elizabeth and her fiancé, Blake Brinegar, will be married in a small family ceremony on July 4th. Elizabeth, who will become The Reverend Elizabeth Brinegar that day, will serve as our part-time interim pastor in Jacksonville while Blake continues to pastor at Yellville First Presbyterian Church.

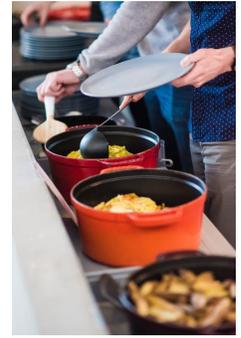


A Note From Reverend Gabbard

Greetings First Presbyterian Family! I am honored and excited to join you in ministry next month. When I joined you for worship last month I was overwhelmed by your warmth and generosity. I look forward to getting to know all of you as we serve God together.

Pot Luck on July 14th

To welcome our new minister and help us get to know her, we will have a pot luck lunch after the worship service on July 14th. The church will provide ham, rolls and drinks. Bring a delicious side dish or dessert and join us for a warm FPC family welcome party!



FPC Ukulele Band

Our ukulele band, led by Steve, sang and played “Give Me Oil In my Lamp” on Father’s Day. The Reverend Brittany Fiscus-van Rossum, loving daughter of Glenn, had traveled from her home in Atlanta to bring the Father’s Day sermon and joined in with the band. What a heart-warming and worshipful time for all! The ukulele band practices every Sunday at 10:30 a.m. Contact us if you are interested in joining!



141st Meeting of the Arkansas Presbytery



In the photo on the left Amy, daughter of Barbara and Barry, participates in a skit at the 141st stated meeting of the Arkansas Presbytery at Second Presbyterian in Little Rock on June 8th. Jeannie represented FPC as our commissioner and Mary Jane accompanied her.

Pentecost Celebration

We celebrated the birthday of the church and the gift of the Holy Spirit on June 9th. With the sanctuary decorated using symbols of the Holy Spirit (tongues of fire, doves and wind) we celebrated the Holy Spirit in our midst. As part of the sending portion of our service we had a procession to fellowship hall where the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives, our church and in our world was proclaimed. Blowing “spirit bubbles” in thankfulness reminded us of the beauty and unrestricted movement of God’s spirit. A Pentecost cake and snacks were enjoyed after the service. We had a joyous celebration in our joyous community.

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Presbytery Leadership Academy for Congregational Enrichment

The PLACE 2019 : August 10th

This conference is a wonderful chance for all congregation members, lay leaders, and session members to learn and grow. *Following Jesus: The Discipleship Path* will be the theme, and classes of all levels and types will be given. Held from 9:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. on August 10th at Trinity Presbyterian Church, this event is sponsored by the Mission of the Church Ministry Area of the Presbytery of Arkansas. Everyone is welcome! If you are interested in attending, call the church or see Mary Jane.

Reverend Branch Heads to U.S. Border for Peacekeeping Mission

Rev. Bill Branch, who has preached for us several times in the last few months, will be on a mission in Agua Prieta in Mexico from July 2nd-19th. Agua Prieta is on the U.S. border and is an entry point for migrants. The migrants stand in line, sometimes for days, waiting for their name to be called for their hearing. A shelter has been built near the line so that those in line can have a place to shower and go to the bathroom. Presbyterian Peace Fellowship is sending two people at a time to Agua Prieta to try to keep those running the shelter for the migrants safe from the local drug cartels. Because Bill has had experience in Columbia with peacekeeping, he was asked to be a part of this mission. Please pray for safety for Bill, all those involved from the Presbyterian Peace Fellowship, the people running the shelter and the migrants who are waiting.

June Offerings/Attendance

June 2: \$1443.00/ 26

June 9: \$3835.00/ 30

June 16: \$954.00 /49

June 23: \$1065.00/ 23

June 30: \$1990.00/ 31

Prayer Requests

"Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer...Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep..."(Romans 12:12 and 15)

Please pray for our new interim pastor, The Reverend Elizabeth Gabbard (soon to be Brinegar) and her fiancé, Blake Brinegar. Let's pray for Elizabeth's ministry here in Jacksonville, and for peace and joy for this new family as they marry on July 4th.

Jonathan and Perla will be traveling to Mexico to visit family. Please pray for their safety and for a peaceful and happy trip.

Jack father-in-law of Don and MaryLee's granddaughter, Hydie, has gone to rest with his Heavenly Father. We pray comfort, peace, and God's sustaining grace for these families and all of Jack's many loved ones.

Please remember Elizabeth and her son, Stephen as they continue to face serious daily health challenges with God's grace and with courageous endurance. Consider sending them a card or a call for encouragement in these difficult circumstances!

Please remember Jennifer, daughter of John and Jeannie. Jennifer is experiencing a difficult pregnancy. She and "Baby Grace" need our prayers!

We are celebrating with Billie Ann after her daughter, Olivia, received the prestigious Business and Professional Leader of the Year award from the Rotary Club of Little Rock. We thank God for this inspiring leader and for her strong and caring mother, our longtime friend and fellow laborer here at FPC.

Please pray for Bill and Patty, Toni's parents, who are continuing to face health and care challenges related to aging. Toni's ex-daughter-in-law is also in need of prayer after her breast cancer diagnosis. Please remember Toni's grandchildren as well, as they struggle with this new reality.

(continued)

Prayer Requests, continued

We are praising God for a safe and successful eye surgery for Duke and heart defibrillator replacement procedure for David. Each procedure went well and Duke and David are recovering. Thank you all for your prayers!

We are in deep prayer for safety and a covering of God's grace for Reverend Bill Branch as he travels to the U.S. border on a peacekeeping mission for the Presbyterian Peace Fellowship. We also pray for the effectiveness of that ministry and the safety of all involved.

Please pray for a diagnosis and a treatment path for Michael, who is experiencing pain and stiffness in his neck.

Please continue to pray for Nancy (niece of Don) and Melissa (friend of MaryLee and Don), both of whom are battling cancer. Please pray God's comfort and strength for these women and their families

Buck has been seen around church with an arm cast after his successful shoulder replacement surgery. He is doing well and his son and daughter-in-law, Bill and Cassandra, have moved in temporarily to help with his rehabilitation therapy. We praise God for this answered prayer and continue to pray for Buck as he works on rehabilitating that shoulder.

Please pray for the Kairos prison ministry and for all ministries like it that strive to reach prisoners with the gospel. Pray also for guards, volunteers, program staff, and for prisoners' families.

Please pray for Katie as she continues to battle migraines.

Prayer has also been requested for Matt, Frank, Terri and Keith, Elizabeth and Baby Selena, and Clay.

Max and Pat, two neighbors from our Sunday breakfast family, have requested prayers for health concerns.



Nothing Can Separate
Us From the Love of God
Romans 8:31-39

Contact Us
1208 West Main St.
(501) 982-2876

firstpcjax@gmail.com

firstpresjax.com

*May the Christ who walks on wounded feet walk with you.
May the Christ who serves with wounded hands stretch out
your hands to serve.
May the Christ who loves with a wounded heart open your
heart to love.
And as you leave this place, may you see the face of Christ on
everyone you meet, and may everyone you meet see the face
of Christ on you.*

First Presbyterian Church
1208 West Main Street
Jacksonville, AR 72076

PLACE
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If you are receiving this newsletter by mistake or would rather get one at the church in person, please let us know. If you know of someone who would like to receive this newsletter in the mail, please call us at 501-982-2876. God Bless You!