

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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The word "August" is displayed in a stylized, colorful font. Each letter is white and set within a solid-colored square. The letters are arranged in a slightly overlapping, staggered fashion. The colors of the squares are: 'A' (red), 'u' (orange), 'g' (yellow), 'u' (green), 's' (dark green), and 't' (light blue).

August



The Power of Prayer

“Jesus replied, “They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat.” “We have here only five loaves of bread and two fish,” they answered. “Bring them here to me,” he said. And he directed the people to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves. Then he gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the people. They all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over.” – Matthew 14:16-20

The world around us needs our prayers. We must be praying for our leaders, for our friends and neighbors, for our churches, for the future, and of course for an end to this pandemic. I wanted to encourage each of us to pray by talking a little bit about the power of prayer.

The way I understand the power of prayer is that **prayer multiplies our efforts and resources** in fulfilling God’s will. Meaning that, in prayer, God multiplies the effort and resources we put in to the point it accomplishes the task He has given us. The scripture quoted above is the story of Jesus feeding the 5,000. The disciples see a need that would be impossible for them to meet. They see that the people are in need of food and so they try to help by asking Jesus to send the people away so they could get some. Jesus, instead, tells the disciples to give them something to eat. All they find is 5 loaves of bread and two fish. Obviously, that would never feed 5,000 people. This is where it gets interesting. Jesus takes what

little they had, prays and then distributes it. **Prayer multiplies our efforts and resources** in fulfilling God’s will.

I see this all the time in my sermons. I put a certain amount of effort, time, and practice into them. Yet, I am always amazed at what other people tell me about my sermons. Folks all the time tell me that my words meant a lot to them, or they came at the exact right time, or they helped them understand something they didn’t before or they gave them the courage to do something they didn’t think they could. I have even had my words help people accept Jesus. This is because the power of my effort, time, practice and creativity are all multiplied by God in prayer in order to fulfill God’s will.

I don’t think that this is the only way to understand prayer, but I find it helpful. Just a few more examples of how I see this idea playing out.

Money – how many times have we had just enough money to do a mission or had money come from unexpected places? **Health** – prayer multiplies the healing power and knowledge of the doctors and nurses around us. How many times has health come from happening upon the right doctor, or being in just the right place? **Internal Qualities** like courage, strength, will power – how many times have you gone through a rough time and wondered how you ever made it through? **Prayer multiplies our efforts and resources** in fulfilling God’s will. If God gives us a job to do, prayer makes it possible. Prayer isn’t magic. It takes effort, it takes faith, but if we set out to do God’s will, prayer will multiply our efforts and resources so that God’s will be done.

~Drive in Church~



🎵 On a lighter note:

A mother was giving instructions to her three children as she sent them into Sunday School, “And why is it we have to be quiet in church?” and her son quickly responds, “Because people are sleeping!”



“It’s hard to stumble when you’re down on your knees!”

"Ice Cream Is Sometimes Good For The Soul"

Last week I took my children to a restaurant. My six-year-old son asked if he could say grace. As we bowed our heads he said, "God is good, God is great. Thank you for the food, and I would thank you even more if Mom gets us Ice Cream for dessert. And liberty and justice for all! Amen!"

Along with the laughter from the other customers nearby, I heard a woman remark, "That's what's wrong with this country. Kids today don't even know how to pray. Asking God for Ice Cream! Why, I never!"

Hearing this, my son burst into tears and asked me, "Did I do it wrong? Is God mad at me?"

As I held him and assured him that he had done a terrific job and God was certainly not mad at him, an elderly gentleman approached the table. He winked at my son and said, "I happen to know that God thought that was a great prayer."

"Really?" my son asked.

"Cross my heart." Then in theatrical whisper he added (indicating the woman whose remark had started this whole thing), "too bad she never asks God for Ice Cream. A little Ice Cream is good for the soul sometimes."

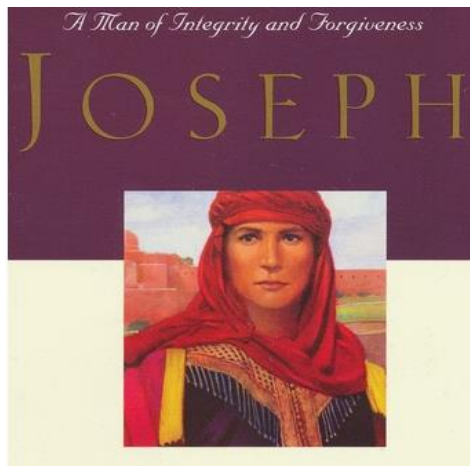
Naturally, I bought my kid ice cream at the end of the meal. My son stared at his for a moment and then did something I will remember the rest of my life. He picked up his Sundae and without a word walked over and placed it in front of the woman. With a big smile he told her, "Here, this is for you. Ice Cream is good for the soul sometimes and my soul is good already!"

~Sunday School~

Joseph: A Man of Integrity & Forgiveness

August 9th the Adult Sunday School class began a new 12-week study on the Old Testament character, Joseph. Following the wearer of the 'coat of many colors', we will see a man of faith and integrity who grew up in a dysfunctional family, faced tremendous temptation, abandoned in prison, but rising to power to lead the Egyptian people through 7 years of a devastating famine and facing the brothers who abandoned him years earlier and extending forgiveness to them.

This study is written by Chuck Swindoll, who also wrote the study on Esther we did earlier this year. Books are encouraged, but not required.. Please join us via Zoom Sunday mornings.



~Birthdays and Anniversaries~



September Birthdays

Charlotte Frick	09/01
Jean Holman	09/04
Kay Kittel	09/04
Ted Brace	09/06
Shannon Montgomery	09/08
Rose Novell	09/08
Gaye Gibson	09/13
Sheri Bogardus	09/13
Vincent Drake	09/19
Jim Rodeniser	09/21
Lorraine Cox	09/22
Jo Deweese	09/24
Anna Fish	09/26
Travis Edwards	09/27



More to come about Operation Christmas Child in the September Newsletter.



Give online safely now to
The First Presbyterian Church
through the Presbyterian Foundation.

Online Giving:

You can go to our website
and give online safely and
securely now. This will

remain even after Covid-19 has come and gone.
Mailing in your offering is safe too. Thank you to those
that have remained faithful in their giving.

<http://www.1stpreshnewark.com/>

Exciting 2020 Church Financial Update:

As of the Sunday, August 18, 2020 Deposit:

Our checking account has \$3,355.59
w/ all invoices paid

The Scrip account has \$3,304.71

Women's Ministry account has \$1,267.84

Savings Account has \$500.00

The Line of Credit has 150,000.00 available credit
(with no outstanding balance on it).

We have not tapped into our invested funds principal
this year. Thank you for your faithful giving!

God is good all the time!!



Evangelism and Outreach



7/20/2020 12:21:54 PM

Today's Contribution: \$251.25

7/20/2020 12:25:06 PM

Today's Contribution: \$65.00



*First Presb. Church of Newark Members,
We thank God for all of
you & for your willingness to
care for others in our community.
We truly appreciate your
generous support in Kingdom
Work. Your giving makes an
incredible difference.*

*God Bless,
Your friends at H.C. Jail Ministries*



Dear FPCoN Evangelism & Outreach Comm.,

*Thank you for your generous
donation of \$254 to the Coalition
of Care. Your donation makes
all the difference in someone's
life who is struggling to
make ends meet. Together
we can be the hands and feet
of Christ to our neighbors
in need in Pickering Co.*

*Blessings,
Melissa Anderson
Executive Director*



Candlewick Commons

The E & O Team gave 3 boxes of 50
disposable masks to Candlewick
Commons as a part of the Outreach
Ministry. They were very thankful to
receive the additional masks from us.

Thank you to all that gave!!



Dear supporters,

It's been a year since I stepped into the director role with MdL and it's been a year of tremendous growth and learning. MdL has been a part of my life for 12 years but it was in this past year that I really learned how many people it takes to keep an organization like this running. I am thankful for an active board of directors and dedicated volunteers that continue to work long hours to support me and our team in Honduras.



Last summer Honduras was experiencing political protests, causing us to cancel all of our summer service trips. A year later, we are in the same position. COVID-19 forced us to postpone our largest fundraiser and cancel all of our summer trips. While the loss in revenue is important to note, we have found major blessings in quarantine.

It is the MdL spirit, however, to continue to adapt and find the positives. A few summers ago you read about our water pump breaking, forcing our kids to spend months in the homes of our caretakers. The months spent in a family setting did wonders for our youth and proved to us that family-based care truly is the best thing for our youth. COVID-19 has once again proved to us that our kids are healthier and happier when they are part of a family.

The mission of MdL continues. Children services continues to refer youth to us every month. Rather than have these youth come live with us permanently, our response has been to visit with the entire family and connect them to the resources they need and work to preserve the family structure. It won't always be possible, but we have found that the overwhelming majority of these families are in desperate need of a support system. We are proud to be that support system.

We hope you'll read through this newsletter and learn directly from our youth and staff how important family-based care is. We appreciate any donation you are able to make at this time.

With appreciation,
Anna Jackson

The Power of Family



Wendy Nuno was our latest youth to transition to a foster care family. In March 2020, she began living full-time with Claudia, one of our long-time caretakers. Learn more about how the experience has changed them both below.

Wendy Nuno has been at MdL since she was a baby and has captured the hearts of hundreds. Over the years, she has grown into a dynamic, energetic, and compassionate young woman. She is observant, funny, and impossible to miss. Her entire life has been MdL; she remembers old staff members, volunteers, and service team members. We are all better for having spent time with her.



Nuno is also one of our most challenging youth. She has a high-trauma background, coupled with extensive medical and psychological needs. Nuno has always struggled academically and has been part of our home-school program for the past six years. She has seen many medical specialists over the years who have worked to find the proper medication for her.

When we began to transition to family-based care a few years ago, Nuno was one of our biggest concerns. Because her biological family is not a safe option for her, we worried about what Nuno's future would look like. We even visited a few adult care facilities in Honduras to determine if they could better care for her.

Nuno has always longed for a maternal figure. She has, over the years, referred to several staff members as her "mama". But over the past two years, she became

incredibly close with one caretaker in particular. Claudia has worked for MdL for almost 10 years and deeply understands our mission. As their relationship grew, Claudia came to us to let us know that she felt prepared to care for Nuno long-term as a foster family.

After many conversations and consultations with Nuno's doctor, we began the long process of Nuno's official transition. At first she would just spend weekends with Claudia and her family. Later, she would spend 3 or 4 days at a time. Finally, for the past 16 months, Nuno has been splitting her time between MdL and Claudia's house.

"It has been a beautiful relationship. She says 'my parents, my grandparents, my sister.' She is part of the family."- Claudia

The change in Nuno has been tremendous. She has been welcomed into an extensive family and it has been reflected in her mood and behavior. We cannot believe how well she is doing.



In her own words, Claudia says "She has had many positive changes. She is such a sweet girl, such a tender girl, and very spontaneous. She has always felt like part of the family.

I think this new program at Montaña is important because it helps the child feel the family environment and that helps so much. I thank you all for your support, in one way or another, for caring for the well-being of the children. Thank you for having confidence in me. Nuno is a great treasure to me. **I do not feel this is a job, but that she is part of my family.** Thank you."

Nuno says "I play with my friends, I get to eat a lot. I wash my clothes and dishes. I have a closet." (laughs)

While she is physically living at Claudia's, Nuno will always be a part of MdL. We handle all of her medical, psychological, and other needs. We understand that Nuno's condition is likely to worsen and we are prepared to care for her.

Thank you to everyone, her sponsors in particular, that have loved Wendy Nuno over the years. Please keep her and Claudia in your prayers.

We are seeking donations or sponsorships to increase Claudia's salary and assure that her family has what they need as they continue to welcome Nuno into their family. Donations can be made at:

www.montanadeluz.org/give

For Him, Rick and Laura ~Back to Pakistan~ August 2020

Greetings everyone from our little cottage just outside of Waco, Texas. We are so thankful for a nice place to stay and that we enjoy good health. But we are even more thankful that this time appears to be drawing to an end and we will be returning to Pakistan in mid-September. The Corona virus is receding and the principal of the Bible school where we teach has written our invitation letter to return and continue teaching which we need to apply for our visas.

So, if you would join us in praying for the visas to be granted quickly that will be appreciated.

Along with yourselves we watch the world go through this birth pain of a pandemic and the United States undergoing the throes of lawlessness just as Jesus predicted in Mt. 24, when His disciples asked him what would be the sign of His coming and of the end of the age, and He replied “Because lawlessness is increased, most people's love will grow cold, but those who persevere to the end, will be saved,” which leads us to read the key verse in missions today, “And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all the nations **and then the end will come.** Mt. 24:14.

It is the word ‘read’ that captures Laura's and my attention now. All of us who know Jesus know that anyone living without Jesus is living in spiritual poverty, and certainly the most impoverished people in the world are the unsaved who do not know how to read and write. Think of the pictures you have seen of people around the world who are illiterate. In missions we’ve glossed over illiteracy by calling these people the more positive sounding term ‘oral learners.’ Well, we no longer want to leave an oral learner as an oral learner. That person needs to learn to read. We have heard from our co-workers in Pakistan who are using our book of Bible stories, that they are seeing great fruit, but that fruit is occurring among people who can read. These evangelists and church planters are also telling us the people who can’t read do not feel confident to share the stories with others and depend on someone else to come and re-tell them the stories.

The truth is storytelling is an excellent methodology for making disciples **IF** the person can go home and read and re-read the stories over and over again just like we do. Acts 17:11 says, “The people in Berea **examined** the Scriptures **every day** to see if what Paul said was true.” Literacy is an essential component for making disciples. Jesus said, “If you continue in my word you are truly my disciples.” Jn 8:31. But it is pretty hard to continue in His word and examine the Scriptures if you don’t know how to read.

In talking with Tedd Lodes of Literacy & Evangelism International, I asked him how long it normally took for an adult to learn to read using their methodology. He said about four months. Two hours a day for four months of focused and determined attention and a previously illiterate adult can learn to read and write their language. In only four months that person’s life can be completely changed. **HELLO.** It was the legendary Frank Laubach back in the 1950s who developed the methodology of literacy training, a modification of which LEI and others now use to teach adults how to read, and sixty million people have learned to read as a result. But that still leaves over 800 million people in the world today who remain illiterate (over 100 million of them in Pakistan) and the overwhelming majority of these people do not know Jesus Christ. If Laura and I had spent a fraction of the time these last 14 years insuring oral learners were learning to read, they would be so much further down the road of being disciples and enjoying the abundant life Jesus wants us to have, Jn. 10:10.

At present we have four literacy classes in Pakistan going on and we are looking forward to meeting the students who are learning to read as well as visit with our teachers. Though we didn’t know it, in missions we have been trying to jump from kindergarten to the second grade. All over the world we have been trying to disciple people with written material they couldn’t read. So now we are adding four months of literacy training, the all important 1st grade, to our discipleship programs. Discipleship and lifetime relationships can begin in literacy classes, as teachers find themselves involved with their students in one of life’s most crucial and important transformations, and their students learn the vital and life giving skill of reading. And four months later, who do these adult students have to thank for this amazing blessing that has opened and changed their life, but that Christian teacher who also talked to them about Jesus, their new found Lord and savior... and His book

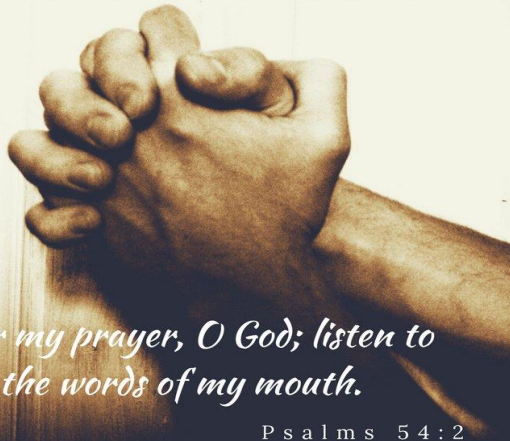
“He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. And he stood up to read.” Luke 4:16

Church Cleaning Projects



If you are looking for a safe way to help out around the church, there are dozens of cleaning projects that need attention. There is a list of all the cleaning projects on the desk in Fellowship Hall. You can work on any project you would like, whenever it is convenient for you. Just remember to check off the task once you have completed it. The church has all the cleaning supplies you would need. Some supplies are in Fellowship Hall, other supplies can be found in the boiler room or in the cabinet above the sink in the kitchen. If you do not have a church key, the church office is open 9-Noon every weekday. Though I would call first to make sure. Contact Priscilla Hare if you have any questions.

Pray for Our Church Leaders!



Hear my prayer, O God; listen to the words of my mouth.

Psalms 54:2

Y-Healthy Kids Backpack Program

We are excited to say that there will be a backpack program again this year. The church annex is already full of food. There are some differences. We will not be having any packing parties. Instead, the schools will be packing their own meals. 1st Presbyterian will be delivering bulk items to the schools on a monthly basis. Contact Rev Steve if you are interested in helping deliver food items to the schools.



Mark Your Calendars!

Church Picnic

September 20th at 11am the church will **PROBABLY** be having its' worship service and picnic at Rotary Park.

We are still working through some issues and details to make sure we can do this in a safe manner.

Look for more details in the next few weeks.

