



church matters

Monthly Newsletter

Official Newsletter of the First Presbyterian Church of Ferguson- Faith in Ferguson

FROM THE PASTOR

Friends,

May is just right around the corner and so is the arrival of Dr. Kerry Allison and his wife, Oona. When we started this journey a few years ago, it was a dream. Meeting after meeting, hard work and numerous prayers, all combined to bring us on the doorstep of a new future. I cannot tell you how proud I am of this church. This didn't happen by accident but through the efforts and generosity of a church that has been willing to dream together to see a future where Ferguson Presbyterian would continue to serve Ferguson and beyond. Thank you to the Pastor Nominating Committee, church members, and saints from the past who have shown us the way. A new beginning awaits us. A beginning that has been 150 years in the making is waiting to be born. God is Good—all the time! Let the good times begin!

Peace,

Mike

FROM THE PASTOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE

To piggyback on the last sentence in Mike's column—Let the good times begin! With the arrival of the Allison's in June, the PNC has been talking about how to celebrate the beginning of a new era at First Presbyterian during a pandemic. We discussed having a coffee hour on the parking lot before worship to welcome Pastor Kerry on his first Sunday with us. Additionally, since Mike and Pastor Kerry will need to be installed as co-pastors by our presbytery, we thought it would be fun to celebrate by having a potluck picnic following worship on that particular Sunday.

We are still working out exact dates and details, so we ask you to stay tuned by reading the newsletter, checking our website (www.faithin Ferguson.org) periodically, reading any emails from the church, and giving extra attention to the Sunday morning announcements. This is an exciting, new time for all of us, and we don't want anyone to miss out! If you have questions, please feel free to talk with anyone on the PNC (Russ Watts, Chair; Paula Bujewski, Debby Koenig, Duane Mazzacavallo, Jamie McDonald, Lee Rauhut).

With joy in our hearts,

The PNC of First Presbyterian Church of Ferguson

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CONGRATULATIONS DONNA!

Dear First Presbyterian Church of Ferguson Family,

In the fall of 2017 I met with the Session of my church and requested their support and sponsorship in my participation to the Lay Pastor Training Program at Presbytery. I and eight other people met in Potosí, MO for classes about every six weeks for two years. We also served two six-month internships at various Presbyterian Churches in the region. When I graduated classes I professed that I believed my call to be serving on Pulpit Supply at Presbytery, and I did not plan on seeking a pastoral position.

Well, God had other plans. The day that I resigned my previous employment, I received a call for Pulpit Supply from Trinity Chapel Presbyterian Church in Cuba MO. Weekly Pulpit Supply turned into Advent Supply and then Month-by-Month supply. Last month, Trinity Chapel extended a call to me as Commissioned Pastor and I accepted. I couldn't have succeeded in these efforts if it wasn't for the prayerful support from my church friends and family, and the ever-present mentorship from several pastors.

I wish I could personally hug and invite all of you to attend my Commissioning Service, but the following words will have to suffice. Your faithful prayers for my new ministry are truly appreciated.

Love, Donna Schiro

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Come celebrate Donna's Commissioning Service In-Person or Online!

You are cordially invited to attend a Worship Service
Commissioning Ruling Elder,
Donna L. Schiro
to Pastoral Service at

Trinity Chapel Presbyterian Church
Hwy 19 and Hwy C, Cuba, MO 64543

Sunday, May 23 at 2:00 PM

Attend in-person, via Facebook Live or Zoom
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84707676958>
Call ins may dial (312)626-6799 and enter the
Meeting ID 847 0767 6958

Luncheon Reception Immediately Following





CHURCH AND COMMUNITY EVENTS

**JOIN US FOR
OUTDOOR WORSHIP
SUNDAY, MAY 9 @ 10:10A.M.**



REGISTER HERE

To register, please click on the following link.

<https://runsignup.com/Race/Events/MO/SaintLouis/FergusonTwilightRun>

The in-person 2021 Ferguson Twilight Run event is on Saturday, May 15 with the virtual activities taking place over the course of Friday, May 14 through Sunday, May 16 weekend. In-person distances include one mile, 5K (3.1 miles), and 10K (6.2 miles). Registered participants will receive a 2021 limited edition FTR T-shirt with race finisher receiving a commemorative medal.

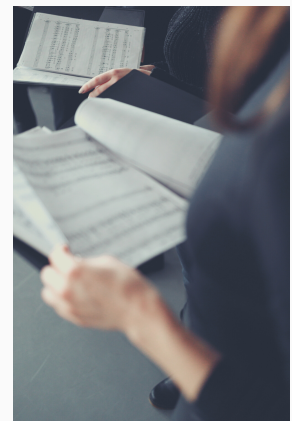
The 2021 Ferguson Twilight Run in-person races will follow State, County and City safety guidelines related to COVID-19.

Proceeds from the Ferguson Twilight Run event benefits local non-profits. The 2021 beneficiaries are A Red Circle, Emerson Family YMCA, Girls on the Run St. Louis, Ferguson-Florissant School District, and St. Vincent Home for Children.

CALLING ALL SINGERS!

As we are on our way back to “normalcy”, choir rehearsals will be at 9:30a.m. every Sunday morning beginning May 2nd. If you enjoy singing, please join us! Questions? Email me at rebeccagcombs@gmail.com.

Becky ☐





Worship Schedule

We are currently live streaming our Sunday Worship Services and offering online services.

- **10:10 am CST- Facebook Live**
- **6:00 pm CST- Evening Service (ONLINE Church)**



Trouble Hearing?

Sunday Worship Service is available on YouTube where you can select to have captions!



ONLINE
church

faithinfergusonmo.online.church

WORSHIP YOUR WAY

We are so excited to enter the new year with new possibilities. We are offering many different online options so you can worship your way.

Our services are available live at **10:10 am CST** on Sunday mornings and then streamed at **6:00 pm CST** on Sunday evenings through ONLINE Church.

Our busy schedules and the need to adjust to the current pandemic situation can make attending worship service a bit tricky. We are here to support and nurture you.

***The Church is not a building,
we are the Church!***



FAITH FINDERS: ADVENTURES FOR KIDS



Are you missing
Sunday School?
So are we!



Faith Finders is a community of our youngest members on their own adventure seeking out understanding and the meaning of God's love.

Join our Google Classrooms to find lots of resources for our Faith Finders.

Contact us for more information!



We are excited to have our Spring programs available online! Although we are unable to meet in the building, stay tuned for our online classes.

Worship Bags!

We are so excited to introduce our themed worship bags! Enjoy activities in these crafted bags for seasonal worship.

Keep your bags and send them back to church to have them filled with more goodies!

[Click here for our Faith Finders Adventures](#)



YOUTH MINISTRY

I (LaHaji Thomas) am officially licensed as a social worker and will be providing therapy for a low cost to youth and young people within the Ferguson community and throughout Missouri.

Boys 2 Mentors is gearing up for their summer internship program. If you have a son between the age of 8-16 that may be interested in this program, please reach out to LaHaji Thomas at (314) 629-7024.

Congratulations to **Nicole Tallent**, who is on her journey to becoming an EMT soon. One test away and she'll be certified!

Best,

LaHaji Thomas
Youth Coordinator

Message from LaHaji

I have been working with Boys 2 Mentors, a local program that mentors young men on the journey to becoming mentors within the St. Louis Community.





May 23, Pentecost Sunday, we will receive one of four special offerings of the PC(USA), the Pentecost Offering. A gift to the Pentecost Offering helps the church encourage, develop, and support its young people, and also address the needs of at-risk children. 40% of the Pentecost offering can be retained by individual congregations wanting to make an impact in the lives of young people within their own community. The remaining 60% is used to support children-at-risk, youth, and young adults through ministries of the Presbyterian Mission Agency. Gifts can be made to the church, designated to: Pentecost Offering. Please give as generously as you are able. Thank you.



One Great Hour of Sharing is the largest way that Presbyterians come together in mission and ministry with those whom we see are in need. As of April 25th, our congregation, out of gratitude for God's blessings, contributed \$1,332, to be used by the Presbyterian Mission Agency. The Agency will distribute this gift to the Presbyterian Hunger Program, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, and to the Presbyterian Committee on the Self Development of People. These missions directly support people experiencing hunger, homelessness, thirst, imprisonment, sickness, and deprivation, as well as welcoming the stranger. Thanks to all!

<https://specialofferings.pcusa.org/offering/oghs/>



The Great Divide: Race in Our Region

YWCA Metro St. Louis is partnering with the Jewish Community Relations Council of St. Louis and area Interfaith groups for four important conversations on how systemic racism permeates our city and our region.

These programs will provide background, share stories of how area residents are directly impacted, and explore what action you can take to create change. Each hour-long program will be followed by an opportunity for small group discussion and reflection.

Mark your calendars for these upcoming programs:

May 12th - Court Systems
[Register Here](#)



Light for the Darkness, both a new worshiping community and the mental health ministry of Giddings-Lovejoy, provides educational opportunities to reduce the stigma of mental health variances and increase mental health resources knowledge. We also facilitate spiritual, worshipful, community groups for those struggling with where God is in the midst of their darkness; in these groups, members truly feel heard, valued, and connected. If you would like Light for the Darkness to speak briefly at your church, sharing some facts about Mental Health to increase awareness, decrease stigma and share resources available, we want to help shine a light in the darkness. Perhaps you are willing to include a Newsletter snippet about mental health and resources available, or about Light for the Darkness and the work we do? Please email us.



LIGHT FOR THE DARKNESS
A Ministry of the Presbytery of Giddings-Lovejoy

If you are depressed or anxious and need somewhere to start, someone to listen, or would like to try our Monday night (7-8pm) community group via Zoom, call, text, or just show up. Light for the Darkness does not provide diagnoses or treatment, but we are genuinely familiar with the darkness, will listen, will find some helpful resources for you, if necessary, and can hopefully point you toward the glimpses of light that God provides us in the midst of the darkness.



MAY BIRTHDAYS

10 – Caitlyn Rettke
13 – Brenda Muench
18 – AJ Lipka
23 – Rick Steinman
25 – Lovene Hartman
25 – Jerry Miller

(If someone's birthday is missing or incorrect, please let the office know.)



ADDRESS UPDATE

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Monroe, NC 28110
1-347-615-5924





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Church of Ferguson**

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Financial Recorders

LaHaji Thomas

Youth Ministry Coordinator

Susan Owens

Nursery Supervisor

Rachel Foster

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