



church matters

Monthly Newsletter

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

FROM THE PASTOR

Summer has roared in with a fury with temperatures over 102, accompanied by vintage St. Louis humidity. Then, just as suddenly it slipped away for a bit, but wait, it will return and makes us yearn for cooler days. Reflecting on these unusual temperature shifts draws my attention to the shifting most churches have had to do. Our first instinct in facing these shifts in church life will push us into a direction of trying to recreate a calmer, more amenable time. It is my sense that we must resist such impulses and avoid quick fix responses to a topsy-turvy world that has always been lurking right below the surfaces of the calmer days.

If the last year or so of dealing with COVID-19 has left behind any wisdom, it lies in the understanding that 1) being alive is a challenge; 2) that may mean letting go of valued ways of doing things; 3) that uncomfortable work lies ahead, and 4) that we have to be flexible in our responses to the needs before us. Easier said than done, but I am confident this church, led by Pastor Kerry, and I, are up for the challenge. Not because we have all the answers, but because we are surrounded by God's love and a community that is able to shape us and mold us into the people we are called to be. The work before us is not easy work, but it is the work of new life that makes a real difference in our community, in our church, and in our very being. So, join us and let us see where God is taking us.

On behalf of Pastor Kerry and myself, we want to invite you, your friends and everyone you know to join us in our Co-Installation, July 25 at 2pm. The party awaits you so be ready for what is the first leap of First Church into its new reality. PS: Seatbelts and Helmets are highly recommended because this will be one interesting journey.

Peace
Mike

This issue:



From the Pastor
PAGE 01



Welcome Rev. Dr. Kerry Allison
PAGE 02



Church and Community Events: Congregation Meeting
PAGE 03



Pastor Nominating Committee
PAGE 04



Faith Finders: Adventures for Kids
PAGE 05



Youth Ministry
PAGE 06



July Birthdays and Updates
PAGE 07



Church Staff & Contact
PAGE 08





Worship Information

We are currently live streaming our Sunday Worship Services and offering in-person services.

- **10:10 am CST- Facebook Live**

WE MISS YOU

Each Sunday we rejoice in seeing people in the pews. We want to see you! We are coming up on the arrival of our new co-pastor and don't want you to miss all the fun! Please come if you are comfortable in doing so. If you are fully vaccinated, you do not have to wear a mask. If you are not fully vaccinated, we ask that you continue to wear a mask. Seating is still spaced out and other measures are being taken to ensure the safety of everyone.

Welcome Rev. Dr. Kerry Allison

First Presbyterian Church of Ferguson, PCUSA
Founded in 1871, selects its first African American Pastor

We welcome the Rev. Dr. Kerry Allison as co-pastor of the Ferguson Presbyterian Church on July 25, 2021.

Dr. Allison will be sharing leadership with the Rev. Mike Trautman until he retires in February 2022 after serving the congregation for 21 years. At that time Dr. Allison will become the Pastor. Dr. Allison has been pastor of the Church of the Redeemer, PCUSA in Los Angeles for 12 years. His 30 years of ministry experience includes:

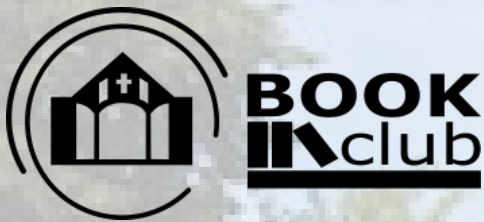
- Youth Ministry
- Social Activism
- University Professor
- Economic Development
- Urban Pastoral Ministry
- Catalyst for Community Ministry
- Children and Youth Empowerment/Outreach
- Founding Director of International Ministries in Africa, Katmandu and Nepal



Dr. Allison's community advocacy was highlighted in a national documentary movie, "We the Parents". He is married to Oona Allison, an elementary school teacher. They are blessed with two adult children, one grandson and a Boston Terrier.

He will preach at the July 25th Sunday service held at 10:10 AM at First Presbyterian Church of Ferguson, 401 Darst Road, Ferguson. More information can be found at faithinferguson.org.

CHURCH AND COMMUNITY EVENTS



The Book Club is not meeting in July but is meeting on Tuesday, August 3 at 7:00pm at the church. The book, *Sold on a Monday*, by Kristina McMorris, is a historical fiction read in which the idea came about from a real photograph the author found advertising children for sale. The ideas are all fictional within the book, even moving the time frame to that of the great depression.

ELDERS

As we move one step closer to our long-term vision of being a church for the whole community, we recognize our Elders and Trustees and all the gifts they bring to the congregation.

We wish to say *Thank You* to our Elders and Trustees whose term ended in June 2021:

Elders

Anne Cox
Jeannie Dobrich
Jamie McDonald
Susan Owens

Trustee

Duane Mazzacavallo

We also recognize and say *Thank You* to our newly elected officers:

Elders

Wendy Dean
Debby Koenig
Maureen Rutherford
Heather Tallent

Trustee

Duane Mazzacavallo



IMPORTANT INFO ABOUT SCHNUCKS'S E-SCRIP

The eScrip program for Schnucks customers concludes on June 30, 2021. Participants of the eScrip program who shop at Schnucks will continue to earn money for their designated charities through June 30, 2021. In May, Schnucks announced the launch of the new "Donate Your Rewards" program, which allows Rewards customers to select a nonprofit organization from a preselected list, based on the customer's home Schnucks store. Schnucks Rewards points earned will then be donated to the selected nonprofit organization as a monetary donation. Customers with questions can reach out to our Customer Care team at 314-994-4400 or through [Schnucks.com/ContactUs](https://www.schnucks.com/ContactUs)



PASTOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Last month I started the article from the PNC with, “as a new summer season begins, so will many new things in our church life.” O how true this is. The Allison’s will be closing on their new home on July 22. To help minimize the anxiety of moving across the country and having to time everything just so, it has been decided that Pastor Kerry’s first Sunday in the pulpit will be July 25, the same day he and Mike will be installed as Co-Pastors.

Mike and Kerry’s installation as Co-Pastors by our Presbytery is on Sunday, July 25 at 2PM with a reception to follow in Fellowship Hall. Please add this date and time to your calendar. The installation service is not one they do during morning worship and has to be held separately, so we ask that you plan to join us on this afternoon to celebrate these two wonderful men, their ministries and new beginnings for First Pres Ferguson.

Thank you all for your patience and support while we continue to make our way through this process.

Many blessings,

Paula Bujewski, on behalf of the PNC



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!

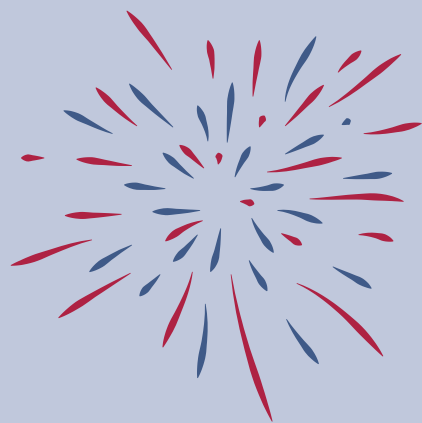
Hopefully, you have received the goody bags from our Faith Finders Fairies. We wish everyone a wonderful summer!

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.





JULY BIRTHDAYS



- 3 – Zachary Bujewski
- 5 – Stuart King
- 8 – Courtney Cobb
- 11 – Mike Schlobohm
- 12 – Alvin Cobb & James Knowles
- 15 – Barda Dickerson & John Muench
- 17 – Heather Tallent
- 24 – Jerry Kennedy & Earlene Lawrence
- 25 – Joe Vrabel
- 27 – Maureen Kauten
- 28 – Dan Telford
- 29 – Monica Barks
- 30 – Kelly Cobb, Susie Owens & John Shugert
- 31 – Carol Bibko



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

DIRECTORY UPDATES

Zoe BOLLINGER

11988 Mark Twain Ln
Bridgeton, MO 63044

Bernice MOHESKY

Autumn View Gardens
11210 Schuetz Road, Unit #318
Creve Coeur, Mo 63146

WITH HEARTFELT THANKS:

Thank you, Rev. Mike Trautman, Rebecca Combs, The Bell Choir, Karen Schriefer, Jamie McDonald and Marcia Key for your support in making our daughter and sister, Jill's, Celebration of Life meaningful and special.

Kelly, Duane and Kate Mazzacavallo



**First Presbyterian
Church of Ferguson**

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(314) 522-8542
fergpres@gmail.com
faithinferguson.org**

CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Mike Trautman

Minister

Rev. Dr. Kerry Allison

Minister

Rebecca Combs

Music Director

Marcia Key

Office Administrator

Lee Weltmer

Treasurer

**Jodie Schlobohm and Karen
Schriefer**

Financial Recorders

LaHaji Thomas

Youth Ministry Coordinator

Susan Owens

Nursery Supervisor

Rachel Foster

Web Developer