



First Pres News *monthly*

JULY 2026 | VOLUME VII

A note from pastor...

Last month I mentioned that I have continued to have Cuba on my mind over the last few months. This month, I want to share that I have received an invitation to join a delegation of clergy from many backgrounds going to Cuba in the beginning of August. This delegation is an important opportunity for pastors to show their support for the people of Cuba. The delegation will meet with faith communities, visit clinics, speak with community leaders and more. You will see in the Mission section of this newsletter that I am collecting aid to take down to local clinics. Any help with supplies is greatly appreciated. I am also reaching out to Pastor Adriana in Matanzas to coordinate an opportunity to pass along some aid to our sister church as well.

The Interreligious Foundation for Community Organization (IFCO) has been around for almost 60 years and the IFCO Pastors for Peace have sent numerous delegations to Cuba and sponsor students to study medicine there as well. IFCO is also in the middle of a campaign to send 60,000 pounds of aid to Cuba in advance of the delegation. You can support that effort here <https://ifconews.org>. I will share more about this mission in the coming weeks. Your prayers are much appreciated.

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July Notes for Music & Arts Initiative

During the upcoming summer weeks, look forward to the Sunday Summer Music Series. Here's the lineup!

July 5 Angela Arnold

July 19 Ruby Seeton and
Mark Paffrath

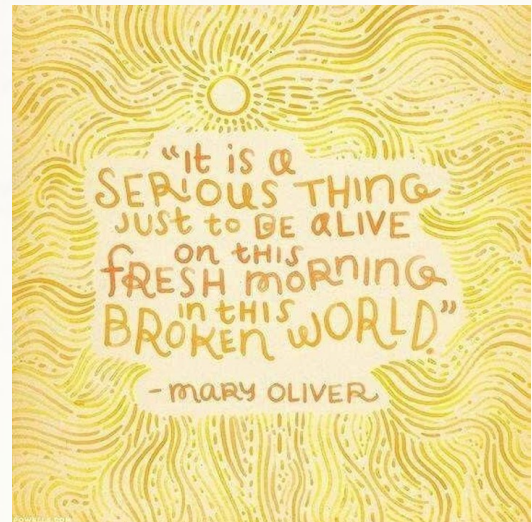
July 26 Evelyn Alumbrosos

Aug. 9 Jen Seversen and
Ken & Fumi Nakayama

Aug. 23 Lisa Pusch (via Doug Clum)

Enjoy this beautiful array of music!!

~Pat



The Avowal

As swimmers dare
to lie face to the sky
and water bears them,
as hawks rest upon air
and air sustains them,
so would I learn to attain
freefall, and float
into Creator Spirit's deep embrace,
knowing no effort earns
that all-surrounding grace.

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Celtic Version of the Lord's Prayer

Holy One beyond all names
Eternal Wellspring
May love rise again in us today
With food for every table
Shelter for every family
And reverence for every life.
Forgive us our failings in love
And free us from all falseness
That the light of our souls may shine
And the strength of our spirits endure
For Earth and all its people
This day, tonight, and forever.
Amen

© John Philip Newell

Greeters

- 5 John & Linnea Brooke
- 12 Larry Dickerson & Sharon Campbell
- 19 Ken Sschacht & Steve Simpson
- 26 Dave Easley & Alan Galle

Ushers

- 5 Bev Eifert & Ginny Holle
- 12 Bud Eastman & Katie Humphrey
- 19 Nancy Reeser & Linda Schubert
- 26 Jerry & Nancy Ritter

Liturgists

- 5 Ken Schacht
- 12 Katie Humphrey
- 19 Royce Earnest
- 26 Larry Dickerson

Fellowship

- 5 Jerry & Nancy Ritter
- 12 Dave & Ginny Holly
- 19 Jeff Leavell & Georgia Herrera
- 26 Deb Yale & Bev Eifert

Happy Anniversary

- John & Meg Daniels
July 25, 1987
- Steve & LuAnn Hansen
July 26, 1980
- Darren & Deb Utley
July 28, 1994
- Dave & Ginny Holle
July 31, 1965

Happy Birthday

- 5 David Utley
- 6 Ben Neal
Todd Seversen
- 7 Lucas Alumbrosos
- 10 Kai Nakayama
- 13 Steve Comeau
- 17 Pat Badger
- 31 Georgia Herrera
Jerry Ritter



Our popular 10-week summer concert series will continue on Thursdays through August 6. There's no charge for the noontime concerts which feature excellent instrumental musicians and vocalists performing in a variety of musical styles such as classical, jazz, folk, and contemporary. A freewill offering is encouraged and will be divided at the end of the series between Health Care Network and the Women's Resource Center. For more information, check out the Music & More pages on the church website at firstpresracine.org/music-more

Donations

It's not too late to make a donation to Music & More! Donations are welcome at any time. As our program grows, our expenses increase, and your financial support is needed to pay for musicians, advertising, and other concert expenses.

JULY SCHEDULE

July 2

Lucinda Garrigan & Greg Berg (vocal & piano)
Monte Bedford & Fumi Nakayama (oboe & piano)
Randy & Charlotte Bush (piano & vocal)

July 9

Leila Mayew (vocal)
Suzanne Geoffrey, Darlene Rivest, Derek Machan – oboe, violin, piano
Corynn Latta (vocal)

July 16

Lynda Schlitz Ensemble (vocal, piano, bass, drums)
Zachary Scot Johnson (piano)
Corporate Downsizing Quartet with Ron Weller (vocal, guitars, accordion)

July 23

Flute Choir
Sharon Adel (organ)
Amy Maack & Band (vocal, piano, bass, guitar, drums)

July 30

Alexander VanDeLoo (vocal)
Fumi Nakayama (piano)
Doug Clum Ensemble (instrumental)

July Notes for Mission Initiative

Thank You, Thank You, Thank you! Because of your amazing generosity, we raised \$8,505.00 (our biggest total in many years) for the OGHS/Hand of Hope campaign. The very worthy and soon to be very appreciative recipient organizations listed below will (by the time of this newsletter) each been sent a check for \$2,126.25.

- ◆ Royal Family KIDS Camp <https://racine-rfk.org/>
- ◆ Women's Resource Center <https://www.wrcracinewi.com/>
- ◆ Cuba Partners Network <https://www.cubapartnersnetwork.org/>
- ◆ One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) <https://pcusa.org/special-offerings/one-great-hour-sharing>

We are all truly blessed to be a part of this loving congregation who never fails to answer God's call to help those in need.

With love and gratitude,
Mission Initiatives Committee

Darren is collecting medical supplies for his August trip to Cuba. Here is the list of aid items mentioned in his article:

- ◆ Mosquito repellent with DEET
- ◆ Children and adult vitamins
- ◆ Ibuprofen
- ◆ Aspirin 81
- ◆ Cold and flu medications
- ◆ Antihistamines (Zyrtec, Allegra, Claritin)
- ◆ Disposable gloves
- ◆ Syringes and needles (1cc, 5cc and 20cc)
- ◆ Baby formula