



The First Presbyterian Church of Mt. Holly, NJ

Gray Matters

By Rev. Barry Gray

July 2020

Since we began working with the Church Transition Cohort, I have had four books assigned for me to read and report on each quarter. Last quarter as I looked at my assignments, one of the titles looked really boring to me so I decided to read that first and get it over with. Hunkered down with my pen and highlighters I dug in to discover “Effectiveness By The Numbers (Counting What Counts in the Church)” would be one of the most interesting and influential books I’ve ever read.

As part of our Session Leadership Training, we began studying this book together. At this point we’re only half way through it, but I wanted to share a few highlights with you to stimulate your thinking and your prayers as we continue to move forward into God’s exciting call for this awesome congregation of believers.

The basic premise behind the book is that we count the things that truly matter to us and we don’t count those things that either don’t matter or that we’re failing at. The author wants to encourage us to renew our hearts and minds, so we’ll recognize what truly matters to Christ, embrace his concerns, and begin to train ourselves to count those things that really matter.

He then takes us through a very passionate telling of those things that matter, why we should count them, and how; leading us to be a church that welcomes guests effectively, reaches out to our surrounding communities, and retains those we invite in to grow with us as faithful disciples of Jesus Christ. He does all this by helping us to gain a true passion for those who don’t yet know Christ, are missing the riches of his grace in this life and have no assurance of heaven when this life is over.

If you want some edifying and enlightening reading this summer, I recommend that you order a copy of this important book and learn with us how to be ever more effective in our partnership in God’s mission to the world as we seek to grow our congregation in ever-increasing faithfulness to the Great Commandment and the Great Commission.

July Birthdays

July Anniversaries

01 Connor Stewart
 02 Ben Van Walsen
 04 Erin Dopke
 04 Peter Sanchez
 09 Ray Gullo
 10 Brian Taylor
 10 Ian Traver
 14 Greg Kelley
 14 Mardella Woolston
 16 Steven Burke
 16 Sonrisa Crespín
 16 Natalie Kelley
 17 Eileen Buerster
 17 Teresa D'Entremont

18 Max Van Walsen
 19 Jane Cowperthwait
 21 Julie Corda
 22 Kevin Dopke
 23 Erin Knorr
 24 Barbara Biedenbach
 26 Jeff Grover
 26 Karen Heide
 27 James Craig
 28 Kelly Burke
 28 Sean Burke
 30 Quinlan McClenahan

01	Moses and Sharon Correa
04	Ray and Sheryl Markley
05	Jim and Mary Craig
07	Jim and Kathy Badgley
07	Jack and Ruth Megill
12	Joe and Elizabeth Amisson
21	Errol and Nicole Cady
28	Richard and Celeste Hamilton

Servants of the Lord: The Congregation



Servants of the Servants:

Barry Gray
Pastor

Rick Hamilton
Assistant Minister

Haley Bunting
Director of Next Generation Ministries

Jackie Bozarth
Organist and Director of Choirs

Brian Taylor
Praise Band and Worship Leader

Harry Cunningham
Building Supervisor & Sexton

Jan Delgado
Director of Community Lunch

Barbara Biedenbach
Administrative Assistant

Gretchen Bisbort
Financial Secretary

First Presbyterian Church

125 Garden Street
 Mount Holly NJ 08060
 609-267-0330



Church Office Email:

fpc.mtholly@gmail.com

Church Website:

www.firstpresmtholly.org

FROM THE EDITOR

Articles should be **submitted by the 15th of the preceding month** to the church office so that staff can review and get the material included in the following month's edition. I can be reached at:

Robert Van Der Kamp
 609-668-3557
bobvdk@yahoo.com

The Vision of First Presbyterian Church is: A Heart for the Rancocas Valley.

Mission: First Presbyterian Church exists to honor God by making more disciples.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

STATED SESSION MEETING

May 11, 2020

125 Garden Street, Mount Holly, NJ

Moderator: Rev. B. Gray
 Clerk of Session K. Badgley
 Elders Present: J. Amisson, S. Buchanan, D. Burke, C. Grover, W. McFarland, Luinie Taylor
 Elders Excused: None
 Elders Absent: None
 Staff Present: B. Gray
 Staff Excused: None

The meeting opened at 7:07 PM through Zoom video conferencing with devotions on “Biblical Faith Scripture” from Insight by John Piper and prayer.

LEADERSHIP TRAINING: Effectiveness by the Numbers by Wm. Hoyt, Chapters 2 and 3.

APPROVED: Docket as sent by email.

RECEIVED and APPROVED as part of the Consent Docket:

Minutes of the Stated Session Meeting of April 20, 2020.

Report of the Clerk. No action items.

Report of the Pastor. No action items.

Report of the Financial Secretary:

Balance as of March 31, 2020	\$ 2,141.73
Total Income	39,843.19
Transfers from Restricted Fund	-----
Total Expenses	(41,541.56)
Transfer to Restricted Fund	-----
Balance as of April 30, 2020	<u>\$443.36</u>

STATISTICS: April 2020

Lord’s Supper: Due to restrictions issued by state authorities to minimize spread of the coronavirus, the Lord’s Supper was neither celebrated by the congregation in corporate worship nor served to homebound covenant partners and their families.

Baptisms: 0

Weddings: 0

Funerals: 1 – A graveside service was held for Thelma “Terri” Downing who passed away April 24. Doris Bulaga passed away on April 30, but her service will be held a later date.

ACTION ITEMS considered outside the Consent Docket: None

OLD BUSINESS

REVIEWED: The financial situation was reviewed 1) in light of reduced giving caused by the virus, and 2) to assess the need for the Payroll Protection Plan loan authorized by the federal CARES Act.

APPROVED: If giving remains steady for another month, the Finance and Stewardship Team is authorized to pay back the Payroll Protection Plan loan early.

NEW BUSINESS

DISCUSSED: Session considered how to plan the resumption of regular church activities when they are permitted. Session will use resources from other churches and ECO to formulate a plan to make sure the health of the congregation is protected and state guidelines are followed.

The Session meeting was suspended at 8:23 PM to convene a meeting of the Board of Trustees. President W. McFarland presided. The following were nominated and elected to serve as officers of the Board of Trustees until installation of new Elder/Trustees in May 2021:

President: W. McFarland
Vice-president: Luinie Taylor
Secretary: K. Badgley
Treasurer: S. Burke
Asst. Treasurer: If the way be clear, C. Winner (Mrs. Winner was contacted the following day and agreed to serve)

The meeting of the Board of Trustees was adjourned at 8:27 PM, and the Session meeting resumed.

The meeting adjourned with prayer at 8:33 PM.

Attest:

Kathryn M. Badgley
Clerk of Session

American Red Cross Blood Drive

Where: First Presbyterian Church

When: Saturday, Sept 5, 2020

Time: 8 am - 1 pm

Appointments are preferred.

For an appointment please contact: Mary Craig at **609.267.8621**

GIVE BLOOD



SAVE LIFE

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
Sunday, May 10, 2020
Virtual Zoom Video Conference

The governor of New Jersey had placed restrictions on gatherings of more than ten people due to the novel coronavirus. In order to complete the congregation's business from the annual meeting and ordain and install all new officers, Session voted to call a special congregational meeting through the Zoom video conference program. The meeting was advertised to the congregation through the Weekly News and an announcement by the pastor (preaching on Facebook and the church's website).

Rev. Gray opened the meeting with prayer at 10:30 AM. Youth covenant partners were encouraged to participate in the meeting since no corporate business was included in the call.

The Clerk reported that the quorum of twenty covenant partners had been met: fifty-three households (representing two covenant partners in many cases) had logged in, in addition to three participating via Zoom chat.

READ and APPROVED: The call of the meeting:

In accordance with the Constitution of the Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterians (ECO), the laws of the State of New Jersey and the bylaws of this church, a special meeting of the Congregation of the First Presbyterian Church, Mount Holly, New Jersey will be held on Sunday, May 10, 2020 online through ZOOM Video Conference at 10:30 AM. The purpose of the meeting is to:

Approve the Call;

Authorize the Session to approve the minutes of the meeting;

Receive the report of the Congregation/Corporation Nominating Team;

Elect one (1) Deacon to the Class of 2023.

Ordination/installation of all newly elected officers will follow, also online.

By order of the Moderator,
Rev. Barry M. Gray, Pastor

Attest:
Kathryn M. Badgley, Clerk of Session

APPROVED: The Session is authorized to approve the minutes of the meeting.

RECEIVED: Report of the Congregation/Corporation Nominating Team from Elder Joe Amission:

NOMINATED: Deacon to the Class of 2023: Douglas Ketels.

ELECTED: There being no other nominations, Mr. Ketels was elected by unanimous vote.

The following were installed as Elders to the Class of 2023: Scott Buchanan and William McFarland; and Deacons to the Class of 2023: Elizabeth Amission and Richard Traver.

The following were ordained and installed as Deacons to the Class of 2023: Douglas Ketels and Kathleen Lid-die.

The meeting was adjourned with prayer at 10:45 AM.

Attest:

Rev. Barry M. Gray
Moderator

Kathryn M. Badgley
Clerk of Session

Mission News

John and Dasia Abramovich – Poland

Our church has supported John and Dasia Abramovich in Poland for many years. John is from South Jersey and Dasia is a Polish national. They serve under the auspices of BCM International (Bible Centered Ministries) in partnership with The Polish Christian Association (MED). Their ministry focus has been on Bible study groups, summer camps, and preaching and teaching in local area churches.

As with most of the rest of the world, Poland has been shut down these past several months due to the Covid-19 virus. This has changed the way they minister. They are connecting more with people by the telephone and the internet. They attend Church Services online and John is preaching using cyber space. Bible study groups meet online. Attendance is reported to be very high.

Summer camps have been cancelled. Dasia is directing the MED workers and volunteers as they prepare material to make it available over the internet for the children who normally attend their meetings and camps.

John and Dasia look forward to returning to their face-to-face ministry. Personal prayer concerns include continued care for John's eye, and expediency in the process of renewing their passports. They expressed great concern for the youth of their ministry as they face the problems of growing into adulthood.

Contact: email: jdabra@gmail.com

Donate: www.bcmintl.org (Support Acct# 624- Abramovich)

Michael & Isabel Huffman – Istanbul, Turkey

Michael and Isabel are working in education, teaching in two schools since November. Recently, because of the coronavirus, public and private schools, church and mosque services, social gatherings and some international travel have been canceled. Because of this, Michael and Isabel are teaching their students online and homeschooling their own children, Mikaela, Paulina and Silas. Both girls are learning to speak Turkish well!

Students they are teaching are Iranian, Afghan, American, Azeri, Armenian, Korean, Canadian, etc. Most speak several languages fluently.

With so much conflict, Turkey receives any refugees coming in from the East. The Turkish government is doing many good things for these people. The war is unpopular and all Turkish men are obligated to serve in the military. Turks, however, are very nationalistic and extremely pro-military. There is prejudice against Arabs which provides opportunities for Christian churches to be different, welcoming all nationalities, teaching the Word of God to all. Many are coming to Christ through these churches ministries.

Michael has learned much as he ministers to his students. Despite many challenges, they remain thankful for what the Turkish government has done for them. Two Syrian friends forced out of Syria for protesting non-violently, spent five years in prison suffering unspeakable torture and starvation. Of the 19 men who were arrested, only he and one other man survived. This man said while he was imprisoned it was made clear to him there is a God. He said he could feel God's presence there. An Iranian student, a refugee, told Michael that he witnessed public executions and torture as a child. This brought the family to Turkey as refugees. He and his family found Christ in Istanbul.

With the on-going quarantine, Michael and Isabel have found new ways to reach out to students and friends.

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They continue to teach Ethics, Comparative Religions Middle School Bible and World Literature on-line. Students are challenged by some materials they study, struggling with the pressures of adopting a secular worldview where faith is a private matter, and a Christian world view of life permeated with the hope and authority of the Gospel. After a video chat Ethics class. One student stayed online to talk about the difficult issue of abortion. Some of their students have accepted Christ as their Savior, but are having difficulty telling their families of their new faith. Michael witnessed a man confess faith in Christ at a prayer meeting. He had attended church for many years, but had hesitated to confess Christ fearing to distress his aging father.

Prayer Requests for Michael and Isabel:

God's guidance for their family
God's leading as to moving to another apartment
Improvement in the Turkish language
Students with no family support
Widely neglected ministry in the Turkish church
Good health and safety for the Huffman family

Contact: email: brisas@protonmail.com

Whatsapp: 90 505 067 04 22

Donation: give.teachbeyond.org

Acct: Michael and Isabel Huffman # 40475

School Backpack Annual Drive

The Board of Deacons is asking for your help with our Annual Backpack Drive! Our Annual Backpack Drive starts July 5 and will run through Sunday, August 9, 2020 Look for the shopping list printed on the next page in this newsletter and in the Weekly Update starting June 28. You may bring your purchases to worship any Sunday we are collecting or drop them off at the Church Office. 'Back to school' supply sales usually begin in early July. Check out your circulars to see what bargains you can find to help our local students. Please only buy the sizes listed in the shopping list. If you are unable to shop but still wish to donate to this much needed outreach, please make checks payable to First Presbyterian Church with 'School Backpack Drive' in the memo line. Additionally, if you are interested in helping with this outreach, please contact the church office.



Backpack Drive Shopping List

It's that time of year again to help with the backpack drive! Below is a shopping list you can take with you to help you purchase what our local children need in order to be ready for school. You can purchase any or all of the items on this list. A cash donation is also appreciated if you are unable to shop or just don't have the time. Make checks payable to First Presbyterian Church w/ 'School Backpack Drive' in the memo line. **Please drop off your school supplies to the church no later than August 9, 2020.**

Backpacks – 6th -7th grade size
Colored Pencils, 12 pack
Crayola® Crayons, 24 pack
Crayola® Crayons, Large 8 Pack (No jumbo sizes)
Elmer's® Glue 4 oz bottle
Erasers: Pink Pearl & Pencil Top
Glue Sticks - reg or large(.77)
Highlighters, any color
Index cards 3x5, 100 pack (individually wrapped)
Loose Leaf Paper, wide rule or college rule, single packs of 100-150 sheets
Marble Composition book
Markers, expo Dry Erase, 8 Pack or 4 pack (black) 04 4 pack w/eraser
Sharpies Markers, 10 Pack or 5 pack (black)
Markers, washable, 8 pack
Pencils, #2
Pencil Box Sliders
Pencil Pouch, Zippered – 3 Ring – plastic and cloth
Pens, blue, black & red
Pocket Folders (paper without spine), 2 pocket, *Red, Blue, Green, Yellow, Orange, purple*
Pocket Folders, Plastic, 2 pocket, *Red, Blue, Green, Yellow, Orange, purple*
Post-It® Notes 3" x 3", and 3" x 5"
Rulers, 12 inch
Spiral Notebooks, college rule, single or three subject or five subject

The Deacons extend our sincerest thanks in advance for embracing local children within our community expressing the love of Christ. Matthew 25:31-46

Any gently used items donated will go directly to the school as back-up supplies but are not recommended for the backpacks being given to the students. Thank you for your understanding.

July 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>Note: All events listed are subject to cancellation or via Zoom meeting due to the Coronavirus outbreak.</p>						
<p>5 9:30 Worship Service 10:30 Fellowship Time</p>	<p>6 12:00 Community Luncheon 7:00 Team Leaders Meeting</p>	<p>7 10:30 Bible Study 7:00 Boy Scouts 7:00 Book Club</p>	<p>8 6:30 Children's Choir :00 Band Rehearsal 7:30 Adult Choir</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10 12:00 Community Luncheon</p>	<p>11 10:30 AA 10:30 Alanon</p>
<p>12 9:30 Worship Service 10:30 Fellowship Time</p>	<p>13 12:00 Community Luncheon 7:15 Session Meeting</p>	<p>14 10:30 Bible Study 7:00 Boy Scouts</p>	<p>15 9:00 FPC Play group 6:30 Children's Choir :00 Band Rehearsal 7:30 Adult Choir</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17 12:00 Community Luncheon</p>	<p>18 10:30 AA 10:30 Alanon</p>
<p>19 9:30 Worship Service 10:30 Fellowship Time</p>	<p>20 12:00 Community Luncheon</p>	<p>21 10:30 Bible Study 7:00 Boy Scouts</p>	<p>22 6:30 Children's Choir :00 Band Rehearsal 7:30 Adult Choir</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24 12:00 Community Luncheon</p>	<p>25 10:30 AA 10:30 Alanon</p>
<p>26 9:30 Worship Service 10:30 Fellowship Time</p>	<p>27 12:00 Community Luncheon</p>	<p>28 10:30 Bible Study 7:00 Boy Scouts</p>	<p>29 6:30 Children's Choir :00 Band Rehearsal 7:30 Adult Choir</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31 12:00 Community Luncheon</p>	



From The First

Monthly Church Newsletter

The First Presbyterian Church of Mt. Holly, NJ

July 2020 Edition

First Presbyterian Church
125 Garden Street
Mt. Holly, NJ 08060
(609) 267-0330

Dated Material—Please Do Not Hold

Worship Service
Sunday 9:30 AM