

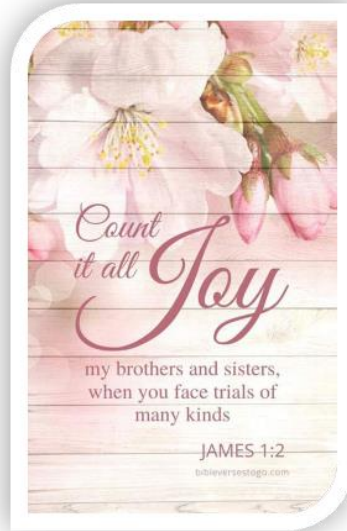


First Presbyterian Church

101 South Decatur Street • Strasburg PA 17579

(717) 687-6030

www.straspres.org / straspres@straspres.org



Sunday, August 29, 2021

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

PASTOR: Rev. Robert K. Bronkema

ORGANIST/CHOIRMASTER: Christopher Henkel

DIRECTOR OF CONTEMPORARY MUSIC: Jon Knauss

DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES: Beth Feiler

DIRECTOR OF YOUTH: Danny Miller

WORSHIP LEADER/READER: 8:30 am Mary Lou Butler

WORSHIP: 8:30 am and 11:00 am

@ <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCzoMo4VUuahmTOCFUtwZzgg/videos>

Welcome

Sunday, August 29, 2021

8:30 AM & 11 AM Worship

Open your heart and give yourself up to Christ who is here to meet you today.
"Be still and know that I am God." ~ Psalm 46:10

PRELUDE:

"It Is Well"

Faircloth

GREETING & ANNOUNCEMENTS / RINGING OF THE BELL

PRAYER/THE LORD'S PRAYER


*SHARING SIGNS OF PEACE	<i>[Please share Christ’s peace with one another.]</i>	
*HYMN	<i>“Spirit of the Living God”</i> Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me; Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me. Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me. Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.	
CHILDREN’S MESSAGE		Ali Elias
BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS		See Page 7
*HYMNS	<i>“O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing”</i> <i>“1000 Reasons”</i>	No. 466
FIRST SCRIPTURE:		James 1:2
SECOND SCRIPTURE:		Ecclesiastes 3:1
SERMON	<i>“A Season of Loss and Reclaiming Joy”</i>	Rev. Robert Bronkema
*HYMNS	<i>“How Great is Our God”</i> <i>“How Great Thou Art (Medley)”</i>	
A LITURGY OF LOSS & JOY		See Pages 7-9
*HYMNS	<i>“Great is Thy Faithfulness”</i> <i>“It is Well”</i>	Bethel
*BENEDICTION		

Please Keep the Following in Your Prayers:

- All people in Afghanistan, victims of recent floods, wildfires and other natural disasters

August Military Service Personnel
Please keep the following military service person in your prayers:
- Tyler Shoemaker

In Need of the Prayer Chain?
Call Sandy Bernstorf 717-687-7276 or Janice Bowers 717-687-5676




NEXT WEEK
September 5, 2021

First Scripture: Matthew 12:38-40
Second Scripture: Judges 6:36-40

Sermon: *“The Story of Gideon & the Fleece”*
Rev. Robert K. Bronkema, Preaching



Coffee Hour

Join us today in Fellowship Hall
for coffee and fellowship at 9:30 AM

*There will also be ice cream in celebration of
the Blessings of Backpacks!*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BIBLE PRESENTATION - Are you a parent of a second grader? Do you know a child in second grade? If so, contact Beth Feiler so the church can include them in our annual 2nd grade Bible presentation held on October 24th.

SEEKING SOCIAL MINISTRY HUB CONTRACTOR - If you are interested in putting together an area needs assessment, jump into the life of the social ministry here at FPC, and have a heart for those on the margins of society, send us your resume and a letter expressing your interest.

If interested, contact Pastor Bob at bbronkema@straspres.org or 717-799-0777.

LIBRARY NEWS - Pastor Bob has been preaching about some of our famous Bible heroes. In our library, there are some children's books about these heroes. Several are on the bottom shelves across from the mailboxes. Enjoy!

IN NEED OF ASSISTANCE. . .

BE PART OF THE LAMPETER FAIR • FPC is looking for a few good volunteers to man our booth at the Lampeter Fair. If you are interested in taking a time slot, contact Sandy Bernstorf at 717-687-7276 or email her at asbernstorf@gmail.com.

TRUNK OR TREAT is not too far away. We need a person who would like to coordinate this fun and exciting community outreach program. If you would like to be that person please see Beth Feiler.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD - In August, we are collecting school supplies: Pencils, pens, erasers, crayons, markers, stickers, glue sticks, rulers, small kid scissors, colored pencils, sharpeners and notebooks

FOOD BANK NEEDS: Coffee (11 oz. cans), pancake mix, syrup, small jars of apple sauce, canned fruit, pasta sauce, 4-pack bathroom tissue and paper towels. Thank you for your many donations!

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED for Sunday School and Children's Church. Please contact Beth Feiler for more information at bfeiler@straspres.org. Thank you!

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sunday, August 29

- 8:30 am **Worship** (Traditional) - In person or virtually online at:
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCzoMo4VUuahmTOCFUtwZzgg>
<http://www.straspres.org/home-2>
<https://www.facebook.com/robert.bronkema>
- 9:30 am **Coffee Hour**
- 10 am **Sunday School Class** for all ages – In person only
Young Adults – Choir Rm Wired Word – Rm 5 Young at Heart – Rm 3/4
- 11 am **Worship** (Contemporary) - In-person and virtually online at:
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCzoMo4VUuahmTOCFUtwZzgg>
<http://www.straspres.org/home-2>
<https://www.facebook.com/robert.bronkema>
- 12:15 pm **Mission Trip to Italy Q&A Planning Meeting** – Fellowship Hall & Rm 3/4
- 5:30 pm **Ignited Youth Group** meeting tonight No Youth group on 9/5
-

Tuesday, August 31

2 pm Food Bank

Wednesday, September 1

- 1 pm Knifty Knitters- Room 6
3 pm Stitchin' Sisters – Rm 3/4
6 pm Kid's Clubhouse
7 pm Deacon's Meeting – Room 3/4

Thursday, September 2

- 6:30 am Men's Prayer Breakfast – Fellowship Hall Bring your own coffee/breakfast items
9 am Creating Landmarks/Visual Journaling Through Scripture – Room 5
6 pm Bible Study - <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCzoMo4VUuahmTOCFUtwZzgg>

Friday, September 3

2 pm Food Bank

ORGAN CORNER

Throughout most of the nearly 190 years of First Presbyterian's ministry in Strasburg, music and singing have been supported by an organ. We know that the early instruments were reed organs, where the organist produced sound by treading on pedals to pump the bellows. Trustee minutes from 1923 indicate that the pump organ in use was electrified, thus eliminating the need to move the bellows by foot pressure.

In 1948 a committee was challenged at a congregational meeting to contract for a small Moeller pipe organ (at a cost of \$4825), which was installed and dedicated in 1950. This instrument required the pipes to be located in the ceiling area, which over time proved unsatisfactory. By 1982 the Trustees and Session authorized the purchase of a new electronic organ. Fred Buch of Buch Organ Company in Ephrata, designed and installed the new instrument at a cost of \$32,906. The dedication was in May and the dedicatory recital offered by David Craighead was on November 12, 1982 – all occurring within the 150th birthday of the church. An interesting side note is that David Craighead, a nationally recognized organist and teacher at Eastman School of Music, was born in Strasburg while his father was pastor at First Presbyterian.

We now find ourselves in the same situation of nearly 40 years ago where the current instrument is failing and should be replaced. The committee working to recommend a future replacement includes Peter Witmer, Chairman; Chris Henkel, organist; Ray Reeder, choir member; Donna Burkholder and Linda Lawrence, members; Jon Knauss, contemporary worship leader and Pastor Bronkema.



Six Flags Great Adventure

September 4, 2021

Trip for Youth in Grades 6-12

**\$15 covers cost of park entry, T-shirt,
meal voucher and transportation!**

Arrive at Church: 9:30 AM
Vans Leave: 10 AM
Return: 10 PM

Bring a friend or 5!



Contact Danny Miller 484-753-1092 or dmiller@straspres.org

CHURCH CALENDAR OF EVENTS

COFFEE HOUR • JOIN US in Fellowship Hall today & each Sunday at 9:30 am for coffee and fellowship with old and new friends. Hosts today: Todd & Amanda Allison. Hosts for next week: Ray & Carol Reeder. There are sign-up sheets in Fellowship Hall for anyone wishing to help with *Coffee Hour*. Please choose the date(s) that work best for you.

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS • Today at Worship • A special back-to-school prayer will be said at both services with an ice cream celebration held during coffee hour in the Well.

TODDLER GYM IS BACK – (As of August 27) Opportunity for toddlers to come and play together in our Fellowship Hall on Friday mornings from 9-10. Covid protocols are in place.

NURSERY TIME IS BACK • Beginning August 30, we have time slots available for any who would like a few hours in order to run an errand or take a break with Miss Amy. Contact Amy Stauffer for more information at astauffer@straspres.org.

CARD SHOWER • Esther Shaubach will be 100 on **August 31**. We are surprising her with a card shower. Please send wishes to: 1801 Oak Tree Road, Rm 134 A, Edison, NJ 08820

KID'S CLUBHOUSE • Beginning September 1 • 6 PM – 7:30 PM • Fellowship Hall

We are looking for volunteers that could help the first Wednesday of every month with our children's program that runs like a mini vbs. Any questions or if you would like to help, see Amanda Allison or Beth Feiler

SIX FLAGS GREAT ADVENTURE • September 4 • Ignited Youth Group is hosting a trip to Six Flags Great Adventure for FPC youth in grades 6 - 12! \$15 covers park entry, meal voucher, a T-shirt, and transportation! To register or for more details, contact Danny Miller, Youth Director: dmiller@straspres.org

BIBLE STUDY • September 14 • Hey Ladies! It's time for a Beth Moore Bible Study, beginning Tuesday, Sept. 14 at 9 am and 7 pm. For more information, contact Lorraine Oliver (morning bible study) at 717-392-2535 and Stacy Bronkema (evening bible study) at 717-699-5323.

DEACONS' ANNUAL FRIENDSHIP TEA • October 4 • 1 PM • FELLOWSHIP HALL

All First Presbyterian Church members (women & men) and their invited guests are invited to this event for an afternoon of light refreshments, conversation, a program by the Mueller twins on aprons and some Bingo fun. We are asking those attending to bring an item or two for our food bank. Deadline for reservations: Sept. 19th. Please R.S.V.P. to Pat Hess at 717-786-4184 or Lillian Myers 717-687-8293

Blessing of the Backpacks: A Prayer

Leader: O God, we ask that you place a blessing on each of these backpacks – and more importantly on each person who carries them: students and teachers, nurses and bus drivers, aides and administrators, and all.

People: Lord, bless these backpacks.

Leader: We pray that today will stand as a constant reminder that you go with all of those gathered here as they enter this new school year. We ask that you would calm all fear and anxiousness that may arise in them and in their parents.

People: Lord, bless these backpacks.

Leader: We pray that the knowledge of your presence with them would give your people the ability to learn well, and grow in knowledge and wisdom during this school year.

People: Lord, bless these backpacks.

Leader: We pray that in large ways and in small you would lead your people here to show the love they have received from you, and the change you have made in their lives.

People: Lord, bless these backpacks.

Leader: We pray that as a whole congregation we would be reminded to pray for our students and all who guide and help them throughout the year, constantly asking for your blessing in them, through their learning and study and growth.

People: Lord, Bless these backpacks.

Leader: We pray all this to the God who does infinitely more than we can ask or imagine, and we pray again,

All: Lord Bless these backpacks, and all those who carry them, Amen.

A Season of Loss and Reclaiming Joy

Loss of Life

The valley in which we are walking is wide.

The chasm in which we find ourselves is deep.

Yay though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, You are there.

While we find ourselves seeing the light at the end

We acknowledge that there are those who have not made it out.

Fathers, sons, mothers, daughters, sisters, and brothers

Will not see the light that we are seeing now.

Yay though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, You are there.

We acknowledge the holes they leave.

We acknowledge our tears and our grief.

We acknowledge how hard it feels to move on without them.

Yay though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, You are there.

Yet, we acknowledge that they see the light clearer than we.

They are in the folds of heaven with their savior, rejoicing and free of earthly pains.

We know that this pain may not subside for awhile,

But we remember the times we had with them.

We delight in their life and their memory.

And as we continue forward, their memory and love in hand,

We thank Christ saying:

Yay though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, You are there.

Loss of Work

The fields in which we are working have become barren
In these times, some workers may have been sent home
Not knowing when they will return.

Lord, establish the work of their hands.

It is not because of bad or unfaithful work,
For some it is their most faithful work.

Lord, establish the works of their hands.

Yet, as they continue to work in the fields of the Lord,
We pray that they will be reestablished.

Let their faithfulness be seen and be righted their proper places to provide
Lord, establish the work of their hands.

Let us lift up the worker who is not in the field
Let us lift up the struggling to make ends meet
Let us do what we can through the Lord's power to help
Lord, establish the work of their hands.

Loss of Relationships

The relationships you give us are sacred and wonderful
However, we have broken these sacred things

Lord, mend our brokenness

In these trying times we have lashed out at each other
We have harshly judged one another
To the point where we may no longer be speaking

Lord, mend our brokenness

Let us swallow our pride and forgive
Let us swallow our pride and apologize
Let us see when we are wrong

Lord, mend our brokenness

However, sometimes the relationship cannot be mended
And we mourn this loss

We pray that it be reestablished, but it may not be
So we celebrate what it was and give it over to you
Knowing that you make all things right in your time

Lord, mend our brokenness

Loss of Unity

We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord
We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord

And we pray that our unity will one day be restored

And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love
And they'll know we are Christians by our love

We will work with each other, we will work side by side
We will work with each other, we will work side by side
And we'll guard each man's dignity and save each man's pride

And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love
And they'll know we are Christians by our love

Reclaiming Joy

In all these things, let us reclaim joy
The joy of the Lord is my strength

In loss and in hardship
The joy of the Lord is my strength

In darkness and uncertainty
The joy of the Lord is my strength

When we feel lost and broken
When we have lost so much

Let us keep moving on in the strength of Christ forever proclaiming
The joy of the Lord is my strength