

Dear FPC family and friends,

It has been nearly a month since I last wrote an enews. There is no excuse, so I think I better get you caught up to date on what is happening in the life of FPC. Let me tell you that I am really, really excited for this Sunday and to see you all in church after a week away of preparing for my daughter's wedding out in Seattle. It is great to be back and great to be able to worship with you on Sunday again. Walter Kondratowski will be preaching, and this is why I am excited. He is at the very, very end of his journey toward ordination and his preaching on Sunday is a part of that journey.

Walter's time with us began back in 2017 when we hired him as our youth director. He kept that position through Covid and he and his family have been actively involved in the life of the church. He preached here once for Youth Sunday but that was a long time ago, and so I can't wait to see how the Holy Spirit works through him. The process of ordination in the Presbyterian Church is fairly rigorous. Ordination requires a college degree, and the major can be anything at all. I majored in Political Science at Swarthmore, my sister-in-law majored in business in college and is a Presbyterian pastor. Once you graduate from college then you need to go to Seminary to get a three year's Master's degree. It is called a Master's of Divinity.

During your time in seminary you need to serve at a church to complete what is called Field Education. There is a psychological examination that takes place during your time in seminary in case there are any red flags that need to be addressed. There are four ordination exams that have to be passed that are given nationwide within the PC(USA): Biblical Exegesis, Worship and Sacraments, Reformed Theology, and Church Polity (government). You also have to pass a Bible content exam.

During this time you have to come under care of a Presbytery through your home church, which for Walter is us. You have yearly meetings with that Committee on Preparation for Ministry and you go through the phases of Inquirer and Candidate. Once all of this is completed then you need to receive a call from either a church or a similar entity. In Walter's case, Our Table has been deemed as an appropriate calling body, so he will be able to be ordained to Our Table as their pastor. The final step is being examined by the Examination's Commission where they meet with you personally and then deem you fit for ordination or not. We have familiar faces on that Commission, both Holly Miller and Seth Gregory are on the examinations commission. Whew, that is a lot, and that is the process that we follow. Preaching here at FPC this Sunday is part of that process.

We have come a long way from Matthew 4:19 where Jesus is walking along the seashore and points to Peter and his brother Andrew fishing and tells them: "Follow me and I will make you fishers of people." We have come a long way from Matthew 9:9 where Jesus sees Matthew collecting taxes and says to him: "Follow me." Matthew got up and followed Jesus. The Presbyterian Church believes that being called to ordination as a minister of the Word and Sacrament is a process whereby the individual understands that they are called by God, a church confirms that calling, and a Presbytery is involved in finalizing that calling and approving it. It is not enough just to feel like you are called to be ordained, you need to have a body behind you confirming that calling. We believe that is the work of the Holy Spirit in all of this.

We are blessed as a church to have another one of us being called into the ministry. Let's celebrate this Sunday with Walter as he continues along in the process.

Your servant in Christ,

Pastor Bob

## **HAPPENING IN THE LIFE OF FPC...**

**The Bathrooms are done!** Thanks to the Trustees for their tireless work in completing the project, and a special shout out to Steve Szczeniak as he kept behind the contractors to ensure that it was done in a timely manner. The next project: we will have the floors redone in the entryways by Wall to Wall. We want to thank Wall to Wall for making good on their guarantee to produce good work by replacing the floors that had been originally installed. While they are here they will also do the floors through the Sunday School hallway. This will take place at the end of May.

**Memorial Day Parade:** Join First Presbyterian Church and our IGNITED Youth in the Memorial Day Parade on May 25th. Walk along with us and represent the church throwing out candy. Gather on Mindy Ave at 8:30am for the start of the parade at 9am. A free hot dog roast, at FPC, will follow after the parade and service.

**Pentecost Sunday:** Join us in worship next Sunday, May 24th and wear red to celebrate the presence of the Holy Spirit in our midst.

**New Members Class:** Come and join us this Sunday, May 17th at 3pm. Anyone interested in learning more about First Presbyterian Church or joining our church family is welcome to attend! Childcare will be provided!

**Custodian needed:** We are searching for a part time custodian. If you or someone you know may be interested, please check our website, or contact Linda Younger or Sandy Wenger.

**Nominations for Elders, Deacons and Trustees:** The Church Officer Nominating Committee requests names from the congregation for consideration for the next class of Elders, Deacons and Trustees. When submitting names for consideration, you may include the names of congregation members as well as your own. Please submit names to be considered for nomination to Linda Lawrence and Leo Petrokonis or to the church office by June 7th.

**Join us for Bible Study every Thursday evening:** Every Thursday evening we look at the Scripture from the past Sunday and go more in depth. It is a Bible Study on Youtube that you can interact with through chat. Join us here: [Youtube](#)