

Dear FPC family and friends,

Yes, it was glorious. Lately I have been checking off a number of “firsts” in my life, and having a daughter get married and bringing a son into the family is definitely a significant “first” in my life. If you wanted to see a small collection of pictures from the wedding you can find it here: [wedding pictures](#). How can I not think of Jesus’ first miracle that we find in John 2 where Jesus changes water to wine at a wedding so that the celebration could continue? Jesus cared about people, Jesus cared about details, Jesus cared that the vows that we make to each other and to God continue for the rest of our lives. Thank you for your prayers, they came to fruition in a way that was far more than I ever dreamed or expected. Thank you. Oh, by the way, I kept it together...for the most part.

We are on the cusp of sending off our 31 participants to Italy for the mission trip to Naples Italy. This Sunday they will all be commissioned and then after the second service, at around 12:15pm, we will be having a BBQ send off with a full meal and an opportunity to hear some stories about past trips, find out about more about this year’s participants, and be involved in the celebration of those taking off to do God’s work in God’s kingdom in Southern Italy. Come and be a part of it, we so look forward to seeing you there.

Happening this evening, and you don’t want to miss this, Walter Kondratowski will be ordained as a Minister of the Word and Sacrament in the PC(USA) at the New Worshipping Community called Our Table that is currently meeting at St. Michael’s Lutheran Church at 6pm. Come and enjoy a meal, take part in a worship celebration of ordination, join in meeting new people who are from your neighborhood and take part in this momentous occasion. We are so grateful that as a church part of this story is our story as well. It is not often that we are able to see God’s hand at work in such a clear and significant way.

The life of a church is not defined by the shape in which its building finds itself. I have seen Presbyterian Churches that have stunning sanctuaries, and yet on a Sunday morning barely 50 people will be there and often without a common purpose or a clear goal that they are disciples of Jesus Christ. The building does not reflect the health of the congregation. The life of the church is not defined by the stances that the church takes on political issues or issues of society or culture. I have seen Presbyterian Churches that have clear attitudes and position on issues and societal concerns that are often voiced without the consideration of what are Jesus’ words and what is Jesus’ desire for His disciples? Scripture has to be our foundation. The life of Christ has to be our foundation. Jesus says if you obey my commandments you are my disciples.

The commandments that we are called to obey are twofold: Love God and love your neighbor. I take so much comfort in looking at the people that compose FPC Strasburg and see the desire to be a disciple, to love God and to love neighbor, even while trying to understand what God is calling us to do today. It feels as if every time that I am gone for a period of time, no matter how long or brief, I see other churches that cannot compare to

the fellowship that I find here at FPC. You are doing well saints of FPC, keep up the good work.

Your servant in Christ,

Pastor Bob

HAPPENING IN THE LIFE OF FPC...

Service of Witness to the Resurrection: Lois Mellinger – On Sunday, July 19 at 1pm there will be a service of witness to the resurrection for Lois Mellinger. We will say good bye to her and thank God for her presence and her faithfulness to God and the church. After the service there will be a luncheon. Come and join us to honor Lois and to give thanks to God for her.

Join us in saying goodbye to the missionaries leaving for Italy: This Sunday we will be saying goodbye to 31 adults and senior high youth who will be gone from June 28-July 8 taking the Word of God to Naples as they will be teaching VBS and then spending two days in Rome seeing where civilization started. Join us for church and then for a BBQ after the 11am service where we can get to know them better and wish them well for their trip.

Food Bank news!: We will be having a Community Drop-Off Food Drive here at First Pres on Saturday, July 25th. Be on the lookout for more detailed information coming soon! We thank you for our continued support!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL: JULY 12 – 17 There are sign-up sheets under the TV in the Welcome Area for anyone wishing to volunteer to help with VBS. Our theme this year is, “Tell It on the Mountain.” Parents can register their children here: [VBS registration](#).

VBS DECORATING DAYS: We will be decorating for VBS July 7th – 10th. Join us from 9am – 12pm to transform the church into scenic mountain areas.

The **WELCOME DESK** is looking for someone for Monday mornings as well as a Tuesday morning substitute until further notice. Please contact Pam Johnson with any questions at 717-989-0998 or see me around our church. Thank you for considering!