

From:

Frame Memorial Presbyterian Church

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STEVENS POINT, WISCONSIN 54481



Presbyterian Post

Frame Memorial Presbyterian Church

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To:



CHURCH STAFF

Pastor: The Rev. Dr. Susan Gilbert Zencka

Music Director: William Weinmann

Youth Leaders: Sondra Reynolds, Susan Barrett

Church Secretary: Kristin Carlson



Summer 2020

Dear Friends,

This is the day that our God has made! Let us rejoice and be glad in it!



I am convinced that joy is a CHOICE that does not depend on circumstances. Yes, we are living in an unsettling and scary time. Yes, the COVID-19 numbers are rising in our country and in our county (196 cases as of Tuesday, July 7). Yes, our national government seems to be missing in action and has abdicated taking most of the important steps that could have limited the number of deaths. It didn't have to be this way. And I will be holding onto that thought as I make decisions about how to vote next fall. What are each of us going to do to keep ourselves, our loved ones, and others in the community safe? We all know what to do.

The Apostle Paul wrote his very short letter to the church in Philippi (Philippians) when he was in prison. And yet, despite his circumstances, this letter is often called the joy letter. It was the first book of the Bible that I read in full, and has been a huge impact on my own faith. While the circumstances of COVID-19 have limited our freedom these days, we do not have to be imprisoned by fear; we can choose joy. I recommend that you read this book, and then read it again next week. There is so much wisdom in this very short book.

So today, I choose joy. Two of the members of our faith community wed recently (on Saturday, June 27) and I was grateful for the privilege of officiating as they pledged their covenant together to share their love and their lives. Their day turned out to be one of joy and holy promises, even in the absence of most of the people that they had hoped would share the day with them. And if you want to share greetings with them, you could send a card:

DALE QUICK AND ADAM MILDENBERGER
320 14TH AVENUE NORTH
WISCONSIN RAPIDS, WISCONSIN 54494

Another source of joy for me today is the Presbyterian Church U.S.A. which recently held its General Assembly (online) and it is showing the vitality and commitment of people in our church, people who are working together to live in the world as participants in God's mission in the world.

May this day bless you all, and at its end, may love carry you home.

Peace, and so much love,

~ Please Hold in Your Prayers ~

All who are diagnosed with COVID-19 and their families...

All who are trying to manage safety and exposure with rising COVID numbers in our area...

Healthcare workers throughout the world, especially in those areas in our country and other countries where COVID is at crisis levels...

Childcare workers and those needing childcare...

Our Members who are active participants in the planning for the coming academic year...

The administrators of our local school system and at UWSP as they work hard and carefully to make wise and safe decisions for the coming year, and that their decisions would be grounded in public health science...

Teachers and professors, as they try to plan in uncertain times...

All who are struggling with worry, anxiety, anger, grief, and depression, especially those parents who have worries about the coming school year...

The lonely, especially in this socially-isolated time...

All of us, that we be find the ability to simultaneously hold anger, grief, and hope; and that we might seek God's wisdom every day, and act from that wise source...

Our Session and Presbytery as we all continue to make decisions for our church and churches in our area...

Our church and one another. *Amen.*



PC(USA) Statement on Racism

The following resolution was passed at last week's General Assembly, with 407 affirmative votes, and 72 negative votes. (We are reprinting here in an abridged form.)

RESPONDING TO THE SIN OF RACISM AND A CALL TO ACTION

*Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;
you shall raise up the foundations of many generations;
you shall be called the repairer of the breach,
the restorer of streets to live in.
Isaiah 58:12 (NRSV)*

This 224th General Assembly of the PC(USA) declares that Black lives matter; that our country's most important institutions have been built to sustain white privilege, to protect white lives and white property at the expense of our siblings of color; and that the church, through ignorance, denial, and in some cases deliberate action, has participated in this injustice. We have been slow to face the reality of systemic racism. We have been slow to acknowledge the pain of our fellow Presbyterians, of our fellow Christians, of our fellow citizens, and of those who have come to America for a better life, whose value has been judged by the color of their skin. We pledge to join hands and hearts with our BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color) siblings to actively confront and dismantle systemic racism in our church and in society at large, and to work for a more just, merciful, and peaceful country that allows all of God's children to flourish.

The General Assembly passed this resolution which enumerated several actions to be taken, including the following:

1. Call all Presbyterians to hear and heed the Gospel imperative to love God, neighbor, and self by living out a deeper commitment to active participation with Jesus Christ in the work of building God's kingdom through
 - a. Personal and corporate repentance, spiritual renewal, and devotion to the Great Ends of the Church. Repenting, both personally and corporately, for the role we as individuals and as a predominantly White-dominated church played in history and continue to perpetuate today, even if unknowingly, in systemic racism and White Supremacy, especially in terms of our own local silence, silencing those who attempt to speak or act, and our failure to act regarding police brutality, voter suppression, educational and healthcare inequality, and other acts of systemic racism on federal, state, and local levels.
 - b. Listening and responding to the voices of peoples long silences through programs such as *Hands and Feet: Presbyterians Engaging in Communities*, the *Poor People's Campaign*, and *Freedom Rising*
 - c. Energetic, intelligent, imaginative, and loving involvement in the Matthew 25 Initiative and its intertwined foci building congregational vitality, dismantling structural racism, and eradicating systemic poverty.

[Items 2 through 4]

5. Recommend that PC(USA) congregations, mid-councils, and all General Assembly Entities develop and adopt an antiracism policy in their bylaws . . . This work can be done now by all levels [Items 6 and 7]
8. Commend to the entirety of the PC(USA), its members, congregations, presbyteries, synods, and the GA entities the poem included in the rationale and retyped here for reading, reflection, meditation.

A knee on a neck laying bare for all to see the evil of callous soulless entitled power choking the life from God's beloved just because.	sometimes even sincere words.
We know what must change. Will we, church?	We have confessed:
We have written many true, significant,	Belhar, C'67, Barmen. . .
	Enough words? Never enough witness.
	We know we must change.
	Will we, church?
	Kairos.

We believe that the work of attending to the pain, suffering, and long-standing oppression of our BIPOC siblings in Christ is central to our work of proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ. When Black Americans are killed at twice the rate of white Americans (<https://www.washingtonpost.com/graphics/investigations/police-shootings-database/>) we have much to lament. We, in particular white people, and as a predominantly white denomination, must confess our complicity in perpetuating systems of oppression against our BIPOC siblings. The church must be the first place seeking racial justice and reconciliation, the dismantling of structural racism, and the healing of our marginalized communities. It has, unfortunately, not often been so. We must have our own denominational and congregational houses in order. We must dare to be an image of hope for those around us.

While we recognize and honor the work towards justice that has been happening and continues at every level of the PC(USA), we also name that in this time it is not enough. We must become actively antiracist in our theology, policy, and praxis. When our colleagues, sublings, and neighbors protest in the streets to say that being Black should never be an excuse to be targeted and killed, when so many stand in solidarity to say #BlackLivesMatter, and when our own communities are weighed down in grief and anger, it is the time to stand alongside our BIPOC siblings in voice and action.

Bell hooks, an American author and social activist says this, "Love is an action, never simply a feeling." If we claim to love our neighbor, especially our BIPOC neighbors, we are called to action. We have said a lot and not done enough. Acknowledging the grief of our siblings in Christ and naming that the Church has a primary calling to be repairers of the breach means nothing without moving towards action. We cannot wait until the 225th General Assembly to begin again to take action.

Happy
Birthday!

Project Fresh Start ~ COVID-19 Edition ~



It's time for our school supplies collection to help students in Portage County get a good start to their next school year. Thanks to Project Fresh Start, last year more than 900 students were able to head back to school with the school supplies they needed. The need is anticipated to be even greater this year. Please help by collecting supplies this summer.

Supplies needed include: Durable backpacks for older grades, pencil box/pouch, erasers, pencils, sharpeners, red pens, highlighters, dry erase markers, sharpies, folders, notebooks, composition books, washable markers, colored pencils, glue bottles, glue sticks, adult scissors, rulers, index cards, compass. Let's help them start off their new school year with the necessary school supplies. Every item counts!

Thirty percent of children in Portage County are eligible to participate in Project Fresh Start. Any child 4K-12 who meets free or reduced-price meals financial guidelines through a Portage County school is eligible to receive free school supplies through Project Fresh Start. Pre-registration is required.

Complete the registration form online at www.surveymonkey.com/r/PFSUW
or visit www.VolunteersRock.org/PFS to download a printable form.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and concern for the safety of families and volunteers, there will not be a distribution event this year. School supplies will be delivered to each school for distribution at back to school night or via school staff members such as social workers, counselors, or principals.

Avoiding shopping during a pandemic? You can still help Project Fresh Start by sending a check. Donations will be used to purchase items they run low on. Make checks payable to *Project Fresh Start*.

In early August, we will announce drop-off times in the church parking lot. Thank you for continuing to help our school children during this difficult time!



Thank you for your gifts for the children of Portage County!

Content Withheld for Privacy

Deacon's Corner

ADVOCACY

Did you know our Deacon, Annette Huston, traveled to Washington D.C., pre-pandemic, to speak with various legislators, including Congressman Ron Kind and Senator Tammy Baldwin? She and 300 other MS activists spoke on the Hill about MS research funding, accessibility to prescription drugs, surprise billing, and disaster relief planning.



ALLEVIATING HUNGER

Please consider giving to *Operation Bootstrap*, working to alleviate hunger in our community. Although we are not collecting food donations at this time, we invite you to make a financial gift to Bootstrap. Donations can be mailed to: *Operation Bootstrap, 5000 Heffron Street, Stevens Point, WI 54481.*



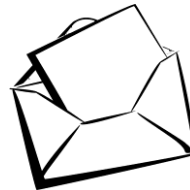
SPRING CHEER

Deacons, James and Kathy Lueptow, delivered spring arrangements of silk flowers to our homebound members in early May. Although they were not allowed to visit individually with our members, they delivered our collective greetings and well wishes.



CONNECTING

Our scribe, Judy Mabie, continues to send birthday, sympathy and greeting cards to members who are homebound, and to those who have experienced loss or illness.



PRAYERS

With the leadership and knitting skills of Jo Lewis, we have made little pocket prayer shawls for anyone who might wish to have one. A short prayer accompanies each shawl. If you would like one or would like to share one with someone, please let us know and we will mail it to you! Contact Leslie McClain at lmccclain@uwsp.edu or 715-345-9622.



Please take care,

The Deacons — Carol Colby, Annette Huston, Pat Blakely, Jenifer Lindsey, Adrienne Kaster, Nancy Page, James and Kathy Lueptow, Susan DeMuth, Judy Mabie, Jo Lewis, Leslie McClain

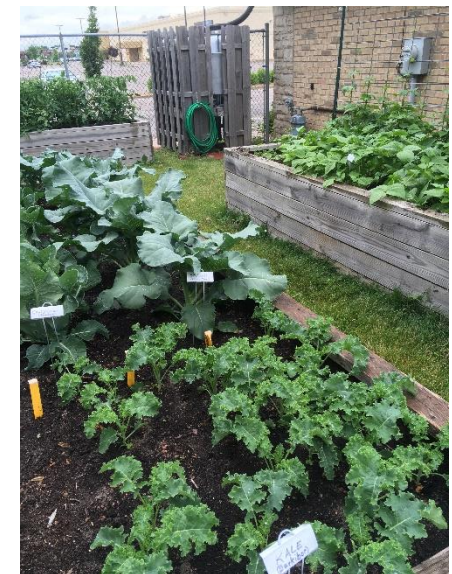


From the Green Team



The next time you drive by Frame, be sure to notice the garden. You will see tomatoes, beans, squash, broccoli, cauliflower, kohlrabi, beets, carrots, and kale in the raised beds! Lovely flowers in the planters too. The Green Team is glad to be participating in the Giving Gardens program again and growing produce to be distributed at places like the Family Crisis Center, Interfaith Food Pantry, and Operation Bootstrap. Planting, watering, weeding, and harvesting are good excuses to be outside this summer.

The Green Team has stayed connected over the past few months with other activities too! We donated and planted seedlings at the Boston School Forest in Plover in honor of Earth Day. It's not too hard to stay six feet apart when you're spread out across 80 acres. Our trees will help restore areas of the Forest flattened by last summer's storm. Did you know that nearly all of the trees at the Boston School Forest have been planted by school children? Some of us also participated in the Black Lives Matter protest by standing or driving. And we are enjoying catching up once a month on Zoom. Maybe by our next meeting we will have harvested some veggies!



Mission Committee Update

Due to COVID-19, the Mission Committee has been unable to host our monthly Frame Feeds. (*Evergreen Community Initiatives* will not coordinate meals at *Place of Peace* until school is back in session.) Therefore, Frame will not be hosting Frame Feeds for a while. Instead, our Session voted to donate to local food pantries, who are in much need during this time. With direction from the Mission Committee, Session donated \$100 to *UWSP Cupboard*, \$300 to the *Mobile Pantry*, and \$600 to *Operation Bootstrap*.



Due to your generosity, as well as funds raised through the Danny Mitchell Concert and other generous gifts, the Mission Committee will be able to donate more \$14,000 through this year's Community Mission Grants Program. The Frame Grant Selection Night is July 14 and will be held via Zoom this year. We looking forward to sharing our Grant Recipients with you after our selections are approved by Session!



God before and God behind,
God for us and God for your own self,
Maker of heaven and earth,
creator of sea and sky,
governor of day and night.
We give you thanks for your ordered gift of life to us,
for the rhythms that reassure,
for the equilibriums that sustain,
for the reliabilities that curb our anxieties.
We treasure from you,
days to work and nights to rest.
We cherish from you,
days to control and nights to yield.
We savor from you,
days to plan and nights to dream.
Be our day and our night,
our heaven and our earth,
our sea and our sky,
and in the end our true home. Amen.

From *Awed to Heaven, Rooted in Earth: Prayers of Walter Brueggemann* (Minneapolis, MN, Fortress Press: 2003). This prayer was for an Old Testament Theology class on November 12, 1998.

THE SESSION

Rev. Dr. Susan Gilbert Zencka (Moderator);
Vicky Billings (Clerk of Session); Cris Harris (Treasurer)

Class of 2020

Brenda Breitner
Dale Quick
Marsha Sowle
Jon Reynolds
Tate Bruckhart

Class of 2021

Lance Broecker
Dan Dieterich
Cathy Scheder

Class of 2022

Vicky Billings
Kendra Liddicoat
Scott Page

BOARD OF DEACONS

Class of 2020

Carol Colby
Judy Mabie
Leslie McClain
Nancy Page

Class of 2021

Jo Lewis
Jen Lindsey
James Lueptow
Kathy Lueptow

Class of 2022

Pat Blakey
Susan DeMuth
Annette Huston
Adrienne Kaster

MISSION STATEMENT

We, the congregation of Frame Memorial Presbyterian Church of Stevens Point, Wisconsin welcome all who believe in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior to join us in worship and celebration—center of our faith community. We deny no one full participation in the life and leadership of the church on the basis of race, ethnic origin, worldly condition, age, gender, gender orientation, or any other particular of his or her humanity. We believe the errors of society which have resulted in oppression and despair are not the ways of God. And we seek not to judge our sisters and brothers in our journey of faith. Instead we seek enlightenment about the ways in which we can offer our support and our love to all children of God.

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Office Email: office@framepres.org

Pastor Email: pastor@framepres.org

Office Hours: Monday–Thursday, 9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

www.framepres.org