



The Epistle

September 2017

Volume 2017-09



SEPTEMBER
2017

Upcoming Events

- 9/6—Choir Rehearsal
- 9/9—Senior Soup Luncheon
- 9/11—Knitting Group
- 9/11—BUNKO
- 9/14—Session
- 9/20—Ladies Nite Out
- 9/27—TLC

A Reminder

We used the following poem as part of the Prayer of Reconciliation on August 27. It's one of my favorites and it struck a chord with many of you, too. So here it is again:

“I Worried”

I worried a lot. Will the garden grow, will the rivers
flow in the right direction, will the earth turn
as it was taught, and if not how shall
I correct it?

Was I right, was I wrong, will I be forgiven,
can I do better?

Will I ever be able to sing, even the sparrows
can do it and I am, well,
hopeless.

Is my eyesight fading or am I just imagining it,
am I going to get rheumatism,
lockjaw, dementia?

Finally I saw that worrying had come to nothing.
And gave it up. And took my old body
and went out into the morning,
and sang.”

-Mary Oliver, from *Swans: Poems and Prose Poems*

I can only speak for myself, but what “gets” me about this poem is how seeing someone else’s list of worries reminds me of how far-fetched some of the worries I carry around actually are. And more importantly, those worries hold me hostage, and keep me from doing the things that really matter—like singing, if that’s what my soul wants.

Although God is never mentioned, God’s fingerprints are all over it. I can’t help but think of the passage from Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount:

Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life?
(Matthew 6:24-27)

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The office hours are
Tuesday through Friday
mornings 9:30am until
12:30. pm

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Treasurer: Barb Bjork
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Director of Music:
Karen Keele Kober

Pianist/Organist:
Julia Andrews West



(continued from page 1)

So often in the Bible we are encouraged to let go of worry. Why? Because of the lesson of the Sabbath (long lost to us, unfortunately): it is not all up to us. God is God, and we are not. We place our hope and trust in our belief that all things are in God's tender, trustworthy care.

That doesn't mean that we sit on our hands and leave everything up to God. No! God calls us to live in God's ways, to be Christ's hands and feet and eyes and mouths in the world, to follow where the Spirit leads.

These are anxious times. But take a deep breath, friends. And go ahead and sing if you want to.

Pastor Lori

Faith Formation

Christian Education

Sunday School begins September 10!
11:00 – Noon in the Christian Ed Area

Younger Kids (PreK – Kindergarten)

Taught by Kristi Karwal Clark, this class uses a curriculum aimed at helping children learn the basic stories of the bible and fundamental concepts of faith. Class meets every Sunday in the child care room.

Older Kids (Grade 1 and up) – Taught by Amy Weber, this class helps kids continue to explore bible stories and how to live out our faith. Meets in the Red Room (corner room) several Sundays per month:

- September 10, 17, 24
- October 15, 22, 29
- November 5, 12, 19, 26
- December 3, 10, 17

Mark your calendars for these upcoming dates.

Wacky Wednesdays!

October 4 – Visit to Abbe Hills Farm!

We will help Laura Krouse with some work, then get a tour and enjoy some tasty vegetables. Time TBA

November 1 – Time and Activity TBA

August Session Highlights

The Session met on Thursday, August 10, 2017 at 6:30 pm in the Community Room.

Present: Elaine Bishop, Don Burch, Jonathan Walsh, Paul Jerabek, Carol Daly, Carol Dillard, Clerk Rozanne Petrick, Moderator Lori Wunder.

Excused: Sue Deibner, Roger Johanson. Greg West, Allan Recalde, Shelley Woodley, Amy Weber

The financial report showed: income for July 2017 was \$8,874.99; expenses for July, 2017 were \$13,244.16.

Organ: Four people from the congregation responded with questions and feedback to the report from Levsen Organ about recommendations for its care (twice yearly tuning, thorough cleaning of Pipes and casement for \$16,500, digitizing the console (\$71,070). The music fund has \$55,770. Immediate concern is for choir members who don't have much room. We discussed the possibility of removing all or part of the front pew. Session agreed to give the choir permission to come up with new solutions. The congregation will be involved in future discussions and Lori urged Session members to have conversations with individuals to get more feedback about the organ.

The Session is in favor of children and youth doing a service project on early out days at school. Carol Daly and Carol Dillard have volunteered for this activity.

Lori is working on the church's website and asked for opinions about privacy and posting photos. She will put together a photo release for parents.

The Session voted to renew our membership to Center for Worker Justice at \$250 from our Mission Fund.

The building project update for new "connection" was given. A downspout didn't get reconnected so water came in during a storm, leaking water from the men's bathroom to the vestibule. Unzeitig Construction has been working on clean up. The downspout has been reconnected!

The family of Bill Wunder donated memorial money to purchase a new brass candlelighter and brass topped liquid candles for our worship services.

Julia Andrews West will be our pianist/organist, approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ of our Sundays.

Rally Sunday is September 10; the choir will begin and Sunday School will begin. Make the Connection Campaign report shows pledges at \$72,380 (goal is \$85,000 – does not include all memorials)

December 24 is a Sunday. Session agreed to hold the morning service at Hallmark Care Center and the standard Christmas Eve Service at our church. Julia and Karen will be paid by each Sunday present; as Director of Music, Karen is responsible for getting subs for choir director (Julia, if possible) for piano/organ.

Rehearsals for Communion services will take place at 9:15 am.

EVENTS



Knitting Group—September 11th, 2:00 pm, at the home of Fran Bray.



BUNKO— Monday, September 11th, Fellowship Hall, 6:00 pm



Session—Thursday, September 14th, Community Room, 6:30 pm.



Ladies Nite Out—Wednesday, September 20th, Daly Creek Winery, Anamosa, 6:00 pm.



TLC—Wednesday, September 27th, at Hallmark Care Center Mount Vernon, 1:30 pm



We Need a Volunteer to Deliver Meals on Tuesday, September 26th

(A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall)

Thank you to the following people who are helping out this month:

- Susan Alexander
- Joe Schmitz & Marsha Siggins
- Becky Ahrens
- Marissa Cranston
- Monica Webster



Ladies Nite Out

Where: Daly Creek Winery, In Anamosa

When: Wednesday, September 20th

Time: 6:00 pm Dinner

CHOIR NOTES*ALL are Welcome!*

In Italian, the word “tutti” means “all” or “everyone.” As a notation in a piece of music, *tutti* indicates that it is time for ALL voices or instruments to play together, especially after a solo section. So, as silly as it sounds, you can write *tutti* on your calendar for next week, because it is time for the choir to sing together again! Here is the plan:

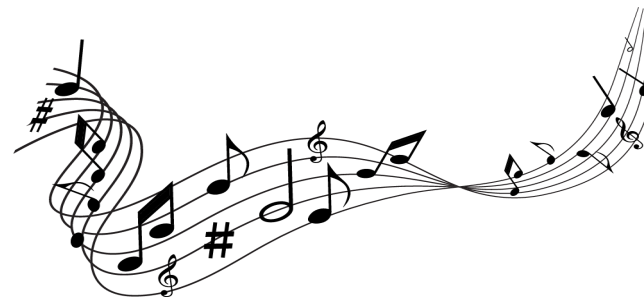
- Wednesday, Sept. 6: 6:30-8:pm—A special evening rehearsal (This should be a fun, informal rehearsal, in the sanctuary, where we welcome newcomers, and try get a jumpstart on a number of pieces we will sing this Fall, including some new anthems, and some old favorites.)
- Sunday, Sept. 10: 8:15am warm-up and rehearsal (This will be our first Sunday of the Fall to sing at 9:30 Worship.)



If you have never been in the choir before and are thinking about giving it a try, please know that ALL are welcome—there are no auditions, and we would love to have some new voices join us! Feel free to just show up on Sept. 6—you don't have to notify anyone ahead of time. And if you are concerned about committing yourself when you know you can't attend every single Sunday, don't sweat it—it's easy and OK to take a Sunday off from choir and catch up again the next week. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to get in touch.

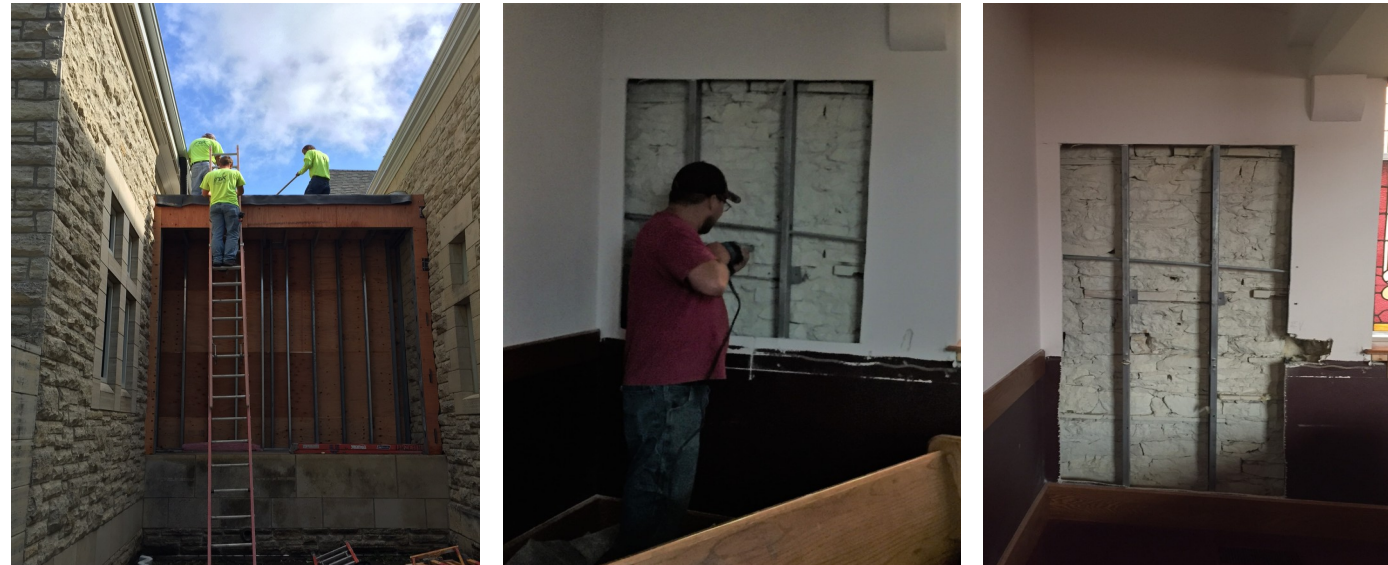
Looking forward to seeing ALL of you!

Karen Keele Kober
Director of Music
keelekober@hotmail.com

**CROP Walk**

Sunday, October 1
1:30pm Registration Opens
2:00pm Walk to Lisbon and Back Begins!

All are welcome to join in this annual community even to raise awareness and funds for Church World Service's efforts to stop hunger locally and worldwide, and to provide clean water for everyone. Talk with Beth Simon or Lori Wunder if you want to walk!



“Make the Connection” Project Update

Progress continues! The roof for the hallway is started, and the hole in the sanctuary wall was cut so that Ed Bjork could measure and order the door. Next steps are to install shingles on the north side of the hallway and install the glass front when it has been manufactured and delivered. After that, they will finish the roof. No holes will be cut in the building until the hallway is sealed.

It may seem slow, but it is steady and deliberate, as careful measurements are made before ordering the next needed parts.

Unzeitig Construction is also monitoring any possible mold where the water came in last month. They sent someone over every time it rained last month until they were satisfied any leaks were taken care of. We’re continuing to run a couple of fans as a precaution.



New Church Directory is Coming!

We are working diligently in the office to get our directory information up to date.

The Session decided to do the directory in house, so we are also working out a plan to get photos taken. Watch your email and the bulletin for more information soon!

Worship in September

September 3 – Labor Day Weekend Hymn Sing!

Romans 12:9-21, Matthew 16:21-28

Hurricane Harvey, Nazi flags on display at Alt Right marches, tensions with North Korea, plus the energy necessary for families to transition back to school—the last few weeks have been draining. So let's take a Sunday to sing some of the songs that sustain us and give us hope.

"Life is a shipwreck, but we must not forget to sing in the lifeboats!"
Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Mini-Sermon Series:

Because God Says So: Doing the Difficult Things

This series focuses on three passages from Matthew's Gospel that challenge our notions about church life, forgiveness, and grace.

September 10 – How to Fight Like a Christian

Matthew 18:15-20 *"If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone..."* (v. 15)

Churches are famous for parking lot meetings, gossip and talking "about" rather than with the ones with whom we are upset.

But Jesus calls us to speak the truth in love
and talk with one another, face to face.

September Birthday Blessing

Welcome Back to the Choir

Sunday School begins

September 17 – The Math of Forgiveness

Matthew 18:21-35– *"Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?"* Jesus said to him,

"Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times..."

Jesus talks a LOT about forgiveness. Are we forgiving, or are we just keeping score?

September 24 – But It's Not Fair!

Matthew 20:1-16 – The Parable of the Laborers in the Vineyard

This is a parable to make you crazy! A landowner hires workers throughout the day, but when it comes time to pay them, the ones who worked one hour receive the same as those who worked twelve. Not fair!

How in the world do we make sense of this?!?

September—Worship Assistants

Sunday, September 3rd - 9:30 am – Worship & Communion

Liturgist: Rehana Rexroat
 Ushers: Larry & Rozanne Petrick
 Bell ringer: Usher Selects
 Communion: Carol Daly, Donald Burch, Carol
 Dillard & TBA

Sunday, September 10th - 9:30 am – Worship & Birthday Blessing

Liturgist: Larry Petrick
 Ushers: Becky & Kevin Whitman
 Bell ringer: Usher Selects

Sunday, September 17th - 9:30 am – Worship

Liturgist: Ann Cannon
 Ushers: Carol Daly & Sue Deibner
 Bell ringer: Usher Selects

Sunday, September 24th 9:30 am – Worship

Liturgist: Gretchen Lindenbolt
 Ushers: Carol & Denver Dillard
 Bell ringer: Usher Selects

Thank You

Wunder family for the new oil
 candle lighter and oil candles given
 in memory of Bill Wunder, Lori's
 father.

The Memorial Committee



1—Ro Foege
 1—Lloyd Mallie
 1—J. Michael Gnagy
 1—Mike O'Brien
 1—Susan Salter
 5—Jaegen Bechhold
 7—Tom Simon
 8—Scott Cannon
 8—Beau Rolland
 12—Kristi Karwal-Clark
 13—Shelly Woodley
 15—Jaidyn Burge
 15—Judy Vopava
 17—Raina David
 18—Linda Nost
 19—James Cannon
 19—Collin Clark
 19—Patricia Hogan
 23—Linda Bigley
 25—Elizabeth Erlandson

*Please contact the church office
 if we missed your birthday.*



SEPTEMBER 2017

Worship Every Sunday

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 9:30 am Worship & Communion	4 Office Closed LABOR DAY	5	6 6:30 - 8:00 PM CHOIR REHEARSAL	7	8	9
10 8:15 Choir Rehearsal 9:30 am Worship & Birthdaty Blessing SUNDAY SCHOOL BEGINS	11 Office Closed 6:00 PM BUNKO Fellowship Hall 2:00 PM Knitting Group	12	13	14 6:30 pm Session, Community Room	15	16
17 9:30 am Worship	18 Office Closed	19	20 10:00—2:00 Quilting Group Fellowship Hall 6:00 pm Ladies Night Out—Daly Creek Winery	21	22	23
24 9:30 am Worship	25 Office Closed	26	27 TLC—Hallmark Mt. Vernon, 1:30 pm	28	29 Cornell Chinese Students, Fellowship Hall 3:00 pm to 9:00 pm	30



Watch Us on
YouTube!

Did you miss a service or want to watch one again?

Carl Riechers continues to record our Sunday services and now uploads them to our very own channel (FirstPresMV) on YouTube! Find it any of these three ways:

- Click on the link on our Facebook page (First Presbyterian Church of Mount Vernon)
- Search “FirstPresMV” at youtube.com
- Go to www.youtube.com/user/FirstPresMV



Hey, Facebook Users!

Want another way to find out what’s going on at church? Be sure to ‘Like’ *First Presbyterian Church of Mount Vernon* on Facebook!

We use this page to promote events, post photos, and the occasional encouragement or interesting link.



Thank You!

Have you noticed the beautiful flowers around the church this summer? Beth Riechers and Becky Ahrens planted flowers in the planters in front of the church. Becky and several others put perennials along the north slope in front of the parking lots. Both look terrific and several passersby have given us compliments. Thanks for your efforts, Beth and Becky!



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Each Sunday, “Weekly Announcements” containing the most current information of dates,