NEWSLETTER JULY 2018

FIRST MERIDIAN HEIGHTS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



FROM PASTOR BOB



Discerning God's Will Together

From June 16 to June 23 the General assembly of the PCUSA met in St. Louis. The General Assembly is the largest governing body of our denomination. The Session of the local church is the local governing body. The Presbytery is a geographical region of

churches and the next bigger governing body. We are a part of Whitewater Valley Presbytery. The Synod is a group of presbyteries. We are a part of the Synod of Lincoln Trails that includes churches in Indiana and Illinois. The General Assembly is a gathering of Ruling Elders and Teaching elders (Pastors) from all the presbyteries.

The General Assembly is composed of commissioners — equal numbers of ministers and ruling elders — elected by their presbyteries. Sometimes people say about General Assembly or Presbytery "they did this" and "they said that." Who are "they"? They are Elders and Ministers just like you and me. And so "they" are in fact "us."

These ministers and ruling elders are called "commissioners," not "delegates" because their commitment is to "reflect the mind of Christ ... and the transforming love of God, enabling us to discern God's will together." (This is also true for Elders on Session.) Commissioners do not represent their presbytery in the sense of voting the way they think their presbytery would. They participate in the process of careful discernment of what God through Jesus Christ is saying to the church today. That's

why prayer and worship are so central to the life of the General Assembly.

A report of the actions of the General Assembly will be available in July. Business comes to the General Assembly in basically one of three ways:

- **1. Reports** Agencies, special committees and commissions of the General Assembly report on the work they have done since the previous General Assembly, to which they are all accountable.
- **2. Overtures** Overtures are resolutions on various topics that have been submitted to the General Assembly by presbyteries or synods seeking action by the whole church. Every overture must receive concurrence by another presbytery or synod to be considered by the Assembly.
- **3. Commissioners' resolutions** These are submitted by any two commissioners to the General Assembly on matters that are of great interest to those commissioners and which they believe have not been addressed in reports or by overtures.

Most of the 500-plus business items that come to each General Assembly bubble up from within the church; they are not part of a top-down agenda by church bureaucrats. And relatively few items at each General Assembly generate any controversy at all.

Sometimes people say, "The General Assembly doesn't speak for me." This is true in a way they probably do not intend.

(continued on page 3)

NEWSLETTER JULY 2018



5:30 - 7 PM







47th & Central Ave.

FMHPC.org/Messy-Church

Join us for Messy Church

Second Wednesday every month



Northwood Food Pantry

Needs for July/August are chunk white chicken in water (5 oz cans) and diapers (newborn through size 6)

Click <u>here</u> for a list of all food pantry need.

Do you have a free Saturday morning? First Meridian Heights serves the Northwood Food Pantry on the second, fourth, and fifth (if there is one) Saturday of each month. If you're able to volunteer, contact the church office at (317) 283-1305. THANK YOU!

Community Garden

Throughout the summer we'll need help tending to the garden that will provide food for the Northwood Christian Church food pantry. If vou can assist with garden maintenance this season, please contact Katie Marlowe.

Our next Messy Church is event is Wednesday, July 11, at 5:30 p.m. We hope you'll come and invite friends for activities, food, fun, and Christ's love! This month we're having a belated Independence Day celebration with a Messy Freedom theme!

Adults and kids will have the chance to...

- Hear a brief story about Christ's freedom
- Participate in Messy Freedom crafts:
 - Paint American Flag Crosses
 - Create Rainbow Dancing Rings
 - Color Patriotic Bible Verse Coloring Sheets
- Explore freedom through Christian dance fitness (dress in comfortable clothes for dancing)
- Light sparklers we'll close the evening with this activity and sparkler shields will be provided to protect little ones' hands. This portion of the event will be outside, so please dress accordingly.

Messy Church dinner is free and will include the freedom of choice between hot dogs, veggie dogs and brats on the grill!

If you have questions, please contact Ginger Lippert (or at 317-439-6868). We look forward to getting messy with you at FMHPC!

Are you able to collect offering, serve as a greeter, or assist with communion? If yes, we have dates for you! Please click on one of the links below to sign up. At this time, most of June (in all areas) still needs to be filled.

Thank you for serving!

Offering:

signupgenius.com/go/30e084da5ae2da64-collecting1

Greeter:

signupgenius.com/go/20f0d48a4a628a4fe3-fmhgreeters

Communion:

signupgenius.com/go/30e084da5ae2da64-communion1

Pastor Bob Out of the Office

Pastor Bob will be out of the office from July 2 to July 14. In his absence, Pastor Steve Ebling (317-727-4144) will be available for pastoral support from July 2 to July 7, and Pastor Dave Jackson (317-560-0221) will be available from July 8 to July 14. Pastor Bob will be available again starting July 15.

NEWSLETTER JULY 2018

FROM SESSION:

- [⊕] We welcomed members of the Pastor Nominating Committee to our June meeting and approved the Minister Information Form they presented, supporting movement forward in the process to call a pastor.
- ⊕ We chose Saturday, August 25, as the date for the deacons and elders retreat.
- ⊕ We will ordain the next class of deacons and elders during the August 26 worship service.

("From Pastor Bob," continued from page 1)

Because a fundamental tenet of Presbyterianism is that God alone is the Lord of conscience. Except in matters of constitutional law, decisions of the General Assembly are not binding on individual church members. But as the body that is called to be representative of the unity of the whole church, the General Assembly is charged with "discerning and presenting with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, matters of truth and vision that may inspire, challenge, and educate both church and world" (*Book of Order*, G-3.0501c).

This is how the Presbyterian Church (USA) works. People like you and me are chosen and elected to discern God's will together. This is true for the Session, Presbytery and the General Assembly. Sometimes we let our own agendas and egos get in the way of finding God's will and we need to humbly say we made a mistake and correct it. But all the time we are called to together discern God's will with prayer, reading of scripture, and humility.

Вов

SAVE THE DATE Global Fest Indy
Saturday

Sept. 15th
12 p.m. – 10 p.m.
46th & Central

FREE ADMISSION



On September 15, our worlds come together for the first annual Global Fest!

Join us as we celebrate cultures and community through international foods, music, art, and play.

SPREAD THE WORD

Like us on Facebook and share the event!
Follow us on Instagram and Twitter!
@globalfestindy

Visit www.globalfestindy.org

All proceeds to benefit CFI 70.

Have questions or an idea to represent your family's culture or ancestry?

Please contact
Anne Luther-Sander (317-413-6481) or
Laura Greene (317-675-6666)
globalfestindy@gmail.com

THINK GLOBAL FEST LOCAL

Save the Date!



FMHPC will hold its 2018 Day of Caring on Sunday, September 30. Look for additional information in upcoming church communications on the day's projects and how you can sign up.

NEWSLETTER JULY 2018

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
Coffee & Conversation on Scripture, 9am, Community Room Communion Worship Service, 10am Youth Group Mtg., 11 to 11:45am, Youth Room	Pastor Bob Out of Office until July 17 •Mission Outreach Team Mtg., 6:30pm, Parlor	3	•Independence Day, Office Closed	5	•The Algebra Project, noon to 5 pm, Community Room	7
Coffee & Conversation on Scripture, 9am, Community Room Worship Service, 10am Deacons Mtg., 11am, Parlor Youth Group Mtg., 11 to 11:45am, Youth Room	• Communications/ Marketing Team Mtg., 5:30pm, Parlor • Buildings & Grounds Mtg., 6:30pm, Library • Finance Mtg., 7pm, Parlor	10	•Messy Church, 5:30 to 7pm, Community Room	12	•The Algebra Project, noon to 5 pm, Community Room	14 •Food Pantry, 8:45am
Coffee & Conversation on Scripture, 9am, Community Room Worship Service, 10am Youth Group Mtg., 11 to 11:45am, Youth Room	16 •Pastor Bob Back in Office •Session Mtg., 7 to 9pm, Library	17	•Women of Grace, 7 to 8:30pm, Parlor	19	•The Algebra Project, noon to 5 pm, Community Room	21
•Coffee & Conversation on Scripture, 9am, Community Room •Worship Service, 10am; •Youth Group Mtg., 11 to 11:45am, Youth Room	• Content Due for August Newsletter	24	25	26	•The Algebra Project, noon to 5 pm, Community Room	28 •Food Pantry, 8:45am
•Coffee & Conversation on Scripture, 9am, Community Room •Worship Service, 10am •Youth Group Mtg., 11 to 11:45am, Youth Room	30	31				

First Meridian Heights Presbyterian Church

4701 N. Central Avenue, Indianapolis, IN 46205 fmhpc@live.com \$\psi\$ (317) 283-1305 \$\psi\$ fmhpc.org Rev. Bob McAulay (317) 513-5148 Custodian: Ron Elliott (765) 524-3516

Assistant Custodian: Natasha Nix, (317) 960-2619
Music Coordinator: Art Cantrell, theartofmusic@hotmail.com
Business Administrator: Alexis Gonzales, alexis@fmhpc.org
Administrative Assistant: Trish Hawkins, fmhpc@live.com

Our Mission Statement:

To serve, love and grow in the everwidening circle of Christ's grace.

Submission deadline for August newsletter is Monday, July 23. Please submit content to the church office at fmhpc@live.com.





facebook.com/fmhpc



twitter.com/fmhpc (@fmhpc)



instagram.com/fmhpchurch (FirstMeridianHeightsPC)