



# THE PRESBYTERIAN NEWS



*FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH*  
408 N. Jefferson Avenue  
Pulaski, VA 24301

Editor & Layout: Doreen Latimer

Office: (540) 980-2132

E-mail: [firstprespulaskiva@gmail.com](mailto:firstprespulaskiva@gmail.com)

Web Site: [firstpresbyterianpulaski.org](http://firstpresbyterianpulaski.org)

Pastor: Rev. Melissa McNair-King

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Friends,

Thank you all so much for the many ways you have supported my family and me as we get ready to grow! I can't wait to introduce our twin girls to you in a few short weeks, and I can't think of a better church family for us to be raising our children in.

I want to make sure that everyone is aware of my plans for maternity leave. Church will go on as usual, and you have a strong Session in place should any concerns arise. If all goes according to plan, I will begin maternity leave on May 21, and return July 30.

During this time, we will be on "summer schedule" (beginning May 27), which means that Sunday School does not meet, and we worship together at 10:00, with a fellowship time on the front porch following worship. There are four preachers who will be taking turns to fill in as worship leaders on Sundays. Some are new to us – so please greet them warmly!

If any pastoral emergencies arise, such as deaths or life-threatening illnesses, there are two neighboring pastors who have agreed to be "on call" for our church: Rev. Terrie Sternberg of Trinity Lutheran Church (980-3624), and Rev. Allison Unroe of Fairlawn Presbyterian Church (639-2653). You may call their offices directly, or if needed you can contact Doreen, our office manager, who will have their cell phone numbers and summer schedules.

You all will remain in my prayers throughout the summer, and I covet your prayers also as we adjust to becoming a family of five! I look forward to worshipping with you in the pews when possible!

With gratitude,

Melissa McNair-King

## *NEWS FROM PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN*

From Day Circle by Phyllis Vice:

Day Circle will meet on Monday, May 14th, 11 a.m. in the Manse. We will be studying lesson seven of *Cloud of Witnesses: In Community with the Hope of the Future*. Scripture for this lesson is Hebrews 11:1-3, 3:1-19; Psalm 95; Hebrews 4:1-11 and 6:9-12. Bring a sack lunch and stay for fellowship after the meeting.

Friday, May 4th, is Church Women United annual World Friendship Day, *Reaching for Wholeness*. We will be meeting at First Christian Church of Pulaski in their Fellowship Hall at 11 a.m. A pot-luck lunch will follow the service.

First Presbyterian will participate in the Birthday Offering on Mother's Day, May 13th. Envelopes will be available at this time for your gift.

The Birthday Offering of Presbyterian Women celebrates Presbyterian women's history of mission giving. It was launched in 1922 to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Woman's Auxiliary in the Presbyterian Church in the United States (PCUS). Since that time, the Birthday Offering has become an annual tradition and has funded nearly 100 major mission projects that continue to make a difference in the lives of women and children around the world. The projects chosen for 2018 are:

### **Cottage Village, a Tiny-house Community for Low-income Residents in Cottage Grove, Oregon**

*Cottage Village* will provide quality, affordable housing and a safe, structured social community for individuals and families with low or very low incomes. This Birthday Offering grant will be used to help build thirteen tiny houses and a central shared-use area that will serve as a compassionate and protective community for vulnerable rural citizens.

### **Village of Grace Center for Physical and Spiritual Health, Tegucigalpa, Honduras**

This Birthday Offering grant will make it possible for the Presbytery of Honduras to purchase the *Village of Grace Center for Physical and Spiritual Health* near Tegucigalpa. Originally established by Presbyterian mission co-workers, the retreat center will be managed by Presbyterian women in Honduras. It will offer international hospitality for retreats, workshops and mission teams for the P(USA), Solar Under the Sun and Living Waters for the World.

### **The Dwelling Place, Minneapolis and St. Paul, Minnesota**

*The Dwelling Place* was established in 1998 to provide for the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of women and their children following their escape from a violent partner. Transitional housing, education, food, clothing, trauma-informed support services, programming and mentoring for women are all part of the mission of *The Dwelling Place*. This Birthday Offering

grant will help *The Dwelling Place* purchase a vacant lot where they will construct a multi-use building with spaces suitable for large and small group programming, one-on-one case management, safe living space and staff offices. With the additional building, *The Dwelling Place* will be able to serve even more women and children who are seeking safety.

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From Night Circle by Dianne Wallace:

Night Circle will meet on Monday, May 14th, 6:30 p.m. in the Manse. Phyllis Vice will lead us in *Today's Heroine: Eve, Part Two in Volume II, Women Who Dare To Believe*. Please remember to bring loose change for Presbytery Women's Missions. Bags For Benches will continue as the May service project. Bring your own dinner in a bag and desired beverage.

Presbyterian Women -  
Praying, Studying, Loving, Serving



## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND HAPPENINGS

**CONGRATULATIONS TO ARCHIE BOOTHE!** Archie was recently honored as Pulaski County's 2018 recipient of the *New River Valley Leading Lights* award. *New River Valley Leading Lights* acknowledges and honors volunteers across the NRV who are making community-changing impacts. Archie was awarded for his many years of selfless service to Boy Scout Troop 249, Daily Bread, and First Presbyterian Church. He is a true model for Christian servanthood. Please congratulate Archie on this well deserved recognition!

**SPRING PICNIC:** You are invited to our annual Spring Picnic on Wednesday, May 2! We meet at the large shelter in Randolph Park at 6 p.m. (right next to the playground). The church will provide meat and soft drinks; please bring a side dish or dessert to share.

**COMMUNION** will be served on Sunday, May 6th.

**YOUTH SUNDAY:** Save the date for **Sunday, May 13**, when the youth of our church will be leading us in worship. The service will focus on Jesus' command to love one another as God loves us. Come and enjoy the leadership, creativity, and faith that these young friends have to share with us.

**GRADUATE RECOGNITION:** We will recognize our graduating high school seniors during worship on **Sunday, May 13**. These students have been active in our church youth group, they have shared music on Sundays, and volunteered with children's programs. They are an outstanding group of young people, and we are proud to claim them as our own! Please join us as we celebrate with the following Seniors who are each graduating from Pulaski County High School:

Allie Phillips  
Mason Slomka  
James Utt

**JACK CRAWFORD/ANDERSON MEMORIAL** Annual Benefit Concert for the Pulaski Daily Bread will be held on Sunday, May 20th, at 2 p.m.

**PLEASE SUBMIT ITEMS** to the church office for the June newsletter no later than Monday, May 21st.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES** will be suspended during the summer months. Starting May 27th, there will be no Sunday School and worship will be at 10 a.m.

**CHURCH OFFICE** will be closed on Monday, May 28th, in observance of Memorial Day.



**CHECK IT OUT!**



On May 4th, several women in Pulaski will be gathering at First Christian Church to observe Church Women United's Worldwide Friendship Day. What does it mean to be a friend? How can we be a friend? Who are our friends? The following books are in the church library and will be displayed in the parlor during the month of May. Check them out!

**150 CAR** How to Win Friends and Influence People by Dale Carnegie

**248 WEA** Transforming Friendship: A Book about Jesus and Ourselves by Leslie Dixon Weatherhead

**302 HAN** Simple Friendships by Sharon Hanby-Robie - Love and friendship. What more could we want? This book will start you on your way to experiencing all you can from the circle of friends with whom the simple things in life mean so much.

**808.8 FRI** Friendship: A Compilation by John C. Quincy

**CH FIC CHO** The Name Jar by Choi, Yangsook - After Unhei moves from Korea to the United States, her new classmates help her decide what her name should be.

**CH FIC MAH** Making Friends by Margaret Mahy - Small Mrs. DeVere's large dog Titania and large Mr. Derry's small dog Oberon serve as instruments that bring their masters together in an unexpected but quite successful friendship.

**CH FIC WIL** Four Feet, Two Sandals by Karen Lynn Williams - Two young Afghan girls living in a refugee camp in Pakistan share a precious pair of sandals brought by relief workers.

**FIC CHO** Circle of Quilters: An Elm Creek Quilts Novel by Jennifer Chiaverini

If there is a book you would like to read from our church library but are unable to get it, give Phyllis Vice a call (980-3106) and she will be happy to get the book to you. To check out a book write your name and the date you are taking the book on the card that is in the pocket in the back of the book. Place the card on the black and white spotted box (the card catalog) on the shelf nearest to the windows.

### ***THANK YOU***

It was with sadness that our Session received the news that our Preschool Director, Stacey Utt, is moving into a different role, working for Pediatric Therapy Services. This will be Stacey's last school year serving as teacher and director, continuing through the end of May.

Stacey has served in this role for the past nine years, and has been an exceptional leader for the program. She is the whole package: a faithful administrator, a loving teacher, and an enthusiastic spokesperson for the program. You can tell that for Stacey, this is more than a "job" – it has been God's calling for this season of her life.

While we are sad to see her leave this role, we give thanks for the new opportunities that lie ahead for the Utt family, understanding that God calls us to new adventures throughout our lives. When you see the Utt family on Sundays, please thank Stacey for her dedication and faithfulness over these last nine years! She has been a true asset to our church, and we can be thankful that we will continue to enjoy her gifts as a member of First Presbyterian.

April 2018

## THE CURRENT NEWS ON THE ARNDT'S MISSION IN KENYA:

### The Baby Bump

How do you say goodbye to a home? How do you leave your dearest friends of the last three and a half years? And a culture you have struggled to know and then to deeply love? Yes, there is excitement to see old friends and family, and joys to follow, but how do you leave what you have grown to know as home? Sure, we will build a new home, and re-establish what we left behind, but that does not make the leaving any less hard. As you can imagine, we are overjoyed to be back in the USA with family and friends as we transition back home in this next call. We look forward to reconnecting with so many of you! But also as you can probably imagine, we are also sad and learning to hold both joy and loss in the same hand as we experience what it means to be of two different worlds. We have been overwhelmed by generosity, hospitality, and support from our friends and community here as we have made the transition back yet it is still hard at times to think about the loss we have experienced with our community back in Oloitokitok. They gave us support and acceptance as we began our journey there and they welcomed us as family and as ours grew, then we were gone. Please pray for our loved ones there, too.

Our time in Kenya ended well. We said our goodbyes and we were able to turn over all projects and trainings to the friends and workers we had trained and they continue to run well. We receive updates every few weeks from our pastors and economic project managers and have been excited for the work that God continues to do through them! We will be postponing most of our updates about the end of our time in Kenya until summertime after the baby comes and we get a little more settled into our routine of what it will mean to be parents. We are excited about updating those who are interested in what God has done and is doing in our lives now!

Audrey and I would both like to ask for your prayers and support as we try to wrap our heads around what it means to be back and what particularly God is calling us to in this next season. And certainly as we transition to becoming parents soon! Audrey is now 37 weeks pregnant, so now we prepare and wait for our little one to arrive! By God's grace, our coming back to the USA was not out of anything going wrong, or any worry about the baby, or "being through with that hard part of life", but rather God calling us to our community here in the USA and us trying to be faithful in that calling. Please keep us in your prayers as we try to walk faithfully after what God is inviting us to now.

Surrounded by His grace,  
Audrey & Chase



**DATE:**

**LAY READERS:**

**CHILDREN IN WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS:**

**5/6/18**

Jordan Phillips

Mary Catherine Williams

**5/13/18**

Youth Sunday

**5/20/18**

Bonnie Spivey

Jessie Woods

**5/27/18**

Dave Spivey

Bernice Brown