



From the Pastor

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Jesus Christ,

"I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?"

Isaiah 43:19c

In his May 15 Presbytery of Giddings-Lovejoy blog my spouse and the Presbytery Leader Craig Howard wrote the following:

"In the book, *A More Beautiful Question*, Warren Berger writes that questions enable us to think and act in times of uncertainty. Berger believes the type of questions we ask and even the way we ask questions can lead us forward to solutions or inhibit us from seeking a creative way out.

"Berger lifts up a method of questioning called HMW – How Might We? "How might we" is different from "How can we?" or "How should we?" Can or should implies judgment."

"Regarding How Might We, Berger writes:

How – The solutions are out there. How inspires creative confidence.

Might – We can try ideas out there that might work and might not. Either way it's ok.

We – We're going to do it together and build on each other's ideas."

This month, our Session has scheduled our "Summit on the Future" following worship Sunday, August 26. This is our church family's opportunity to prayerfully discern "How Might We" in conjunction with other questions guiding us toward the kind of pastor you will seek to join with you in your ministries. There is more information about plans for our "Summit on the Future" elsewhere in this month's newsletter. Please remember Luke 10:02 and the invitation to continue praying for God's guidance at 10:02 a.m. or p.m. or both during this transitional ministry time.

As we did after the "Summit on the Past", summaries of the surveys and conversations for the "Summit on the Present" were compiled and sent to you, with paper copies now available for pickup in the narthex.

See you in worship, at the Welcoming Table dinners, and around the church, continuing to get to know you as we serve together during this time of ministry transition!

Shalom in Christ Jesus,

Pastor Marilyn



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Presbyterian Women



PRESBYTERIAN
WOMEN

We met for our July PW meeting at Betty Mechem's home. As always we enjoyed delicious food and conversation. Our thoughts and prayers have been with Jackie and will continue to be. We discussed passages from Hebrews exploring Christ's great love for us in accepting the human experience. It is unfathomable that he would leave a place of adoration knowing what it would cost him to make us his brothers and sisters. He became like us so that we could become a child of God and a part of his eternal family.

The next meeting will be August 24th, hosted by Susan Buchanan and lesson led by Cheryl Shollenberger. All ladies are welcome. PW is a place for friendship and spiritual enrichment.

By Georgia Paulus

Worshiping and serving God, loving and accepting all

Session Committee's

2018/2019

Session

Committee's

Personnel - Bev Stobie will chair

Property and Finance - Dale Paulus will chair

Mission and Stewardship - Rich Hoekel will chair

Worship, Music and Arts - Dorothy Clarkson and Georgia Paulus will co-chair

Technology - Mike Murray will chair

Congregational Life - Susan Buchanan will chair; Christian Education is now a subcommittee of Congregational Life

Each committee chair will recruit folks from the congregation to serve with them.

Sunday Morning Worship for August

August 5 – 11th Sunday after Pentecost – Communion – “Reframing Scarcity into Abundance” from John 6:1-21

August 12 – 12th Sunday after Pentecost – “Coming to the Bread of Life” from John 6:24-35

August 19 – 13th Sunday after Pentecost – “Receiving the Gift of Faith” from John 6:35, 41-51; Pacific's “Summit on the Future”

August 26 – 14th Sunday after Pentecost/“Summit on the Future” – “Seeking God's New Thing” from John 21:1-19; Hymn Sing Service at Pacific



Fellowship List for August

- Aug 5 Barbara Vancil, Bonnie Woodruff
 Aug 12 Dutch and Carole Hutchinson
 Aug 19 Dale and Georgia Paulus
 Aug 26 Phil and Dorothy Clarkson

Usher List for August

- Aug 5 Susan Buchanan, Karen Calvin
 Aug 12 Leighann and Rich Hoekel
 Aug 19 Bonnie Woodruff, Barbara Vancil
 Aug 26 Myron and Carol Gruber

If you are not able to fulfill your assigned Sunday, please ask another member to take your place and let the secretary know of the change. Thank you

Prayer List:

Jackie Jany with the death of her Husband Russell Jany



With Deepest Sympathy

Our deepest sympathy to Jackie Jany and her family in the death of her beloved husband, Russell Jany on July 24. A funeral mass and burial were July 28 in Paderborn, Illinois



Pantry is every Thursday
 from 1:30 to 3:00.
 Volunteers are welcomed

“Seeking God’s New Thing” First Presbyterian Church’s “Summit on the Future”

“I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?”

Isaiah 43:19c

The first step in our transitional ministry in preparation to seek a new called and installed pastor is to take a close look at our sense of mission and ministry. Who are we, how did we get here, and who and where do we want to go in the future are questions we continue considering in a three-part mission study process Pastor Marilyn has proposed. The three parts are called a Summit on the Past, a Summit on the Present, and a Summit on the Future. The theme for the three summits is “Seeking God’s New Thing” from Isaiah 43:19. Our hoped-for goal is as to have 100 percent congregational participation in each summit.

Our Summit on the Future will be Sunday, August 26 following morning worship.

Although details are still being finalized, in broad general terms you can expect and come prepared for the following:

- A. We will review results from the Summit on the Present congregational vitality surveys, and our conversations.
- B. We will review results from our neighborhood exegesis exercise, particularly thinking about “How Might We?”
- C. What is working well, what is life-giving, in this church? What do you want to carry forward into the future?
- D. What do you want more of in the future? What are your hopes and dreams for this church family?
- E. What do you need in your next pastor to help you achieve that?
- F. We will begin formulating a Mission and Ministry Statement, which will be refined by the task group for presentation to the Session and the Congregation for approval.

Since it will be mid-morning we will have refreshments available.

Looking ahead, we will hope to finalize each congregation’s mission study reports along with a joint mission study report for submission to the presbytery and seek permission to elect members to a joint Pastor Nominating Committee in September. Hopefully writing a joint Ministry Information Form for beginning our pastor search can begin in late September.

NOTE: Pacific’s Summit on the Future will be Sunday, August 19, and they will have a hymn sing worship service August 26, so Pastor Marilyn can remain with us. Please hold their congregation in special prayer on the days of their summits. They are being asked to do the same for you on the days of our summits.

**Our “Summit on the Future”
will follow morning worship
Sunday, August 26, 2018**

August 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 Second Blessings Pantry Day 1:30pm– 3:00pm	3	4
5 Usher- Susan Buchanan, Karen Calvin Fellowship- Barbara Vancil, Bonnie Woodruff	6	7 The Welcoming Table - Zion UCC Serving 6:00 PM	8	9 Second Blessings Pantry Day 1:30pm– 3:00pm	10	11
12 Usher- Leighann & Rich Hoekel Fellowship- Dutch & Carole Hutchinson	13	14 The Welcoming Table - First Presbyterian Serving 6:00PM	15 Session Meeting at 7pm	16 Second Blessings Pantry Day 1:30pm– 3:00pm	17	18
19 Usher-Bonnie Woodruff, Barbara Vancil Fellowship- Dale & Georgia Paulus	20	21 The Welcoming Table - Second Blessings Serving 6:00PM	22	23 Second Blessings Pantry Day 1:30pm– 3:00pm	24 PW meeting hosted by Susan Buchanan	25
26 Usher- Myron & Carol Gruber Fellowship- Phil & Dorothy Clarkson Summit on the Future after Worship Service	27	28 The Welcoming Table - First Presbyterian Serving 6:00PM Yoking committee meet at Pacific 1:00PM	29	30 Second Blessings Pantry Day 1:30pm– 3:00pm	31	