



FPC Hutchinson had a wonderful Graduation Sunday, celebrating all of their seniors:

fpchutch.org/worship-online

Graduates spoke about what they will do at college and their highlights of being at First Presbyterian Hutchinson. Seniors were presented with Life Study Bibles and each family got a Family Goody Bag with Daylight Donuts,

Naked Smoothies, Popcorn, Bag of Lindor Chocolates.

Coffeyville's First Presbyterian Church recognized their graduating seniors during the July 19th worship. The Presbyterian Women gave each high school graduate a \$500 scholarship in memory of Marian Weeks and the Session gave the same amount to each one in memory of David Nelsen, son of Rev. Bill Nelsen. Pastor Diane gave each a book of God's Promises for Graduates plus bags of "goodies".

Following the service was a simpler-than-usual reception due to the coronavirus. A table set up in the sanctuary held decorated cookies in school colors each in individual plastic bags and small bottles of water. This was eaten in the sanctuary so the congregants could remain in their seats at a social-distance. High school grads from the church are Olivia Roesky, Nick Slavin, Chris Crosetto, and Morgan Porter, graduate of Pittsburg State College.

PSK meets via Zoom on Tues., Aug 11, 2020.
Documents are forthcoming.

On The Wind

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Dear siblings in Christ!

In this issue, you will read of one of our Commissioner's experiences with a virtual General Assembly, the regrettable resignation of our moderator, and I will add in that we have awarded 9 requests for funding from our PCT Covid-19 emergency grants. I would put all of these in the category of good news/bad news. The Bad News is a virus that still dominates headlines, conversations, advertisements and people's daily lives. This causes disruption and regrets like one of our own leaders needing to step back from leadership and it creates needs in our communities of faith.

The Good News!?! Well, obvious and unchanging is the salvific and unailing power of Christ's resurrection in the cosmos, but also the microscopic realms of life. Examples are that we are a church and a people who respond to crises and needs. We receive resignations with sadness but also grace and an understanding of self-care and family/work/life priorities. We adapt to the ever-changing world around us and meet online and meet needs in ways we never dreamed possible, just a few short months ago. We continue to be faithful givers and stewards of that which has been given to us, so that we might be able to continue to send forth God's word, serve God's people and love one another.

So, through the Good News, the less good news and even the bad news, we continue to carry on and recall Jesus' words to us and the great commission: (Matthew 28:18-20, NIV) "**All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.**"

In good times and in bad,
Gail Doering

Reflections on General Assembly 224

First of all, I want to take this opportunity to thank my session members for nominating me to serve as commissioner for the General Assembly, 2020. And, to the Presbytery for giving me their vote of confidence to do just that. The entire assembly truly was an amazing experience that I will always cherish with fond memories.



Anyone who knows me knows that I am “scared to death to fly!” So, when nominated to go to Baltimore, I put the rest in the hands of God. Well, as everyone now knows, God had other plans. Due to COVID-19, the General Assembly became a “Zoom” affair. I prefer to not fly, and I am, by no means, a “techie!” So, once again, I put this into the hands of God.

I must tell you that the Zoom training was advantageous and greatly appreciated. I had some previous experience with Zoom meetings, but certainly not with 726 (or thereabouts) participants. That was about 35 screen pages of other “Zoomers!” The experience was frightening, humbling, and exciting all rolled in to one neat bundle of emotions.

One of the first things that I learned when preparing for the GA was that there was a lot I didn't know about the workings of PC(USA). I am very appreciative of everything I learned throughout the assembly regarding their workings, and the opportunity to serve our Presbytery of Southern Kansas.

In my opinion, our PC(USA) is in the best hands possible. If you are not yet familiar with the Reverend Dr. J. Herbert Nelson, II, our Stated Clerk of the GA, I encourage you to familiarize yourself with who he is and what he believes. He is, quite simply, amazing. He was nominated to serve a second term, and standing unopposed, he was unanimously elected.

Now, let me tell you what I did not get out of the GA. I did not get the human connection. I did not get the adrenaline rushes that are surely part of “the real deal.” I did not get to make those life-long friendships with people that I was truly looking forward to meeting. I did not get any of those crab cakes and other varieties of delicious seafood that I was so looking forward to eating!

At the end of the closing ceremonies, the 8:46 minutes of silence, the beautiful music and prayers, I kept holding on until the very end. The very end when the host finally ended the zoom connection. And I cried. I cried for two reasons: what I did not get due to a virtual General Assembly, and what I had to leave behind.

Agape,
Sarah Emerson, Ruling Elder
First Presbyterian Church, Great Bend

From PSK Moderator, Rev. Lara MacGregor: This pandemic season has brought many challenges, as we have all experienced. Who would have thought we would be having a Presbytery meeting electronically? Unfortunately, these challenges in my life have led to unexpected stress and health concerns that I cannot ignore. It is with a heavy heart, but with deep gratitude for the opportunity to serve God and the Presbytery, and deep gratitude for all of you, that I have decided to step down as your Moderator this year. This is not a permanent departure, but simply a break from leadership. And I will still be participating in Presbytery meetings as a Teaching Elder Commissioner. I am grateful to the current leadership of Presbytery of Southern Kansas, especially Gail Doering, and the Presbytery Coordinating Team, for their support of my decision, and for their work in filling the leadership gap for the remainder of the year. Peace, Lara

