

The Tie

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

# THAT BINDS

NEWTON, KS ~ JUNE 2020

## PASTOR'S CORNER

Rev. Scott McGinnis

### “What’s Church For?”

Wow! It's been over two months without meeting at church on Sunday mornings or for any other weekday meetings. At this point, you may wonder, “What's church for?” Maybe you're getting used to your Sunday morning routine at home (or outside somewhere) and you're wondering if you NEED to go back to your routine in our church building. The answer is “*Maybe not,*” but there are some things we don't want to miss. Let me explain.

While for many years of church history we've built buildings in order to hold church meetings, we're now entering an era where we've probably mostly saturated that market and have enough buildings to go around. Truly some churches are now empty and with some being converted into condos and carpet stores, we can be left wondering, “*What's a church for?*”

A building can actually give a false sense of security that by attending a meeting in a building once a week we are participating in God's church. In fact, if we felt we HAD to be in a certain building, I'd risk saying, we're missing the point of church all together. But rather than a building, church is a way of living in relationship with Jesus and other followers of His who are seeking to learn His ways. Many of us have probably visited our empty church building in the past weeks and thought, it's almost sad to be in it without the smiles and welcomes from all the people we love and love us.

A church is to be a group of friends choosing to walk together with Jesus for this portion of our journey through life. Many of us have transplanted ourselves here and found a real Christian family in our church gathered. *What a blessing it is to find that here!* When we gather, we often call it “fellowship” and at its best, it is. Fellowship consists of genuine concern for each other's well-being and encouragement to listen for God's voice of love: *from the Bible and from His still small voice to our hearts.* Then we also share Jesus' love and concern for people whether they're at our church or outside our church.

CHURCH *is not*  
A BUILDING YOU GO TO,  
IT IS *a family* YOU BELONG TO

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A unique thing about church is we are open for people to come and go as God leads. When they gather with us, we show care and concern for them, and when they go out that care and concern doesn't stop. Consider a student who goes to college. Do they stop being part of our care and concern when they no longer attend our church? Not at all. We might see them less often or hear of their concerns less often, but we still care. The same when someone stops attending our church, because our care and concern isn't contained to a building, we care as much about them as when they were sitting next to us on a Sunday morning.

### **There is no other way to BE the church, than to always BE the church.**

So whether you're here in Newton or you move to Alabama, whether we're gathered or dispersed these past weeks, as the church we still reach out in care and love. Real church in this way happens when God connects us with a handful of His children with whom we can share the ups and downs of this adventure called life. We have church when we open our lives to caring friendships on this journey. *That's something we don't want to miss.*

Finally, we are also a church when we are always reforming our vision and our purpose to focus on Jesus and His love. We are a church, when we REALLY want to help each other on their journey more than anything else. Yes, however flawed we are as we do that, this is what church is all about. Each person is free to BE their part of the church, free to respond to our Father's love and concern for all His children. *God forbid it happen*, but when an institution's wants get louder than our Father's voice of love for us His children, then it's right to ask, "What's church for?" Truly, freedom to grow into who Jesus is forming us to be is at odds with any other demand, church or other.

So, "What's church for?" I'll let you answer that question for yourself. I know my answer: While I love the benefits of our building, I cherish your care and concern for each other, your care and concern for my family, and it's something I don't want to miss out on. You are a gift to we McGinnis travelers following along Jesus' Way. I'm glad He brought us through Newton. Thank you! I can't wait to see you all again soon!

**To God be the Glory!**  
~ **Pastor Scott**



**Hebrews 10:24-25** ~ *And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another — and all the more as you see the Day approaching.*

# What's Happening @ FPC



Celebrate our country!  
Proudly wear your



to church on  
June 28th  
for Patriotic Sunday!  
(more details to follow!)

Thank you



**New Hope Shelter, Inc.**  
Following Christ, Building the Community

... to the volunteers from the FPC congregation that prepared meals in May for the New Hope Homeless Shelter! Getting a home cooked meal means more than you could ever know. To volunteer to help in late July, please contact Rita Allmon at 316-288-3028.



## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Please note: PW Coordinating Team, nor PW Circle will meet in June.

### Justice & Peace Calendar ~ June 2020

- 19 Juneteenth
- 20 World Refugee Day
- 21 Father's Day; Men of the Church Sunday
- 25 Wear **Orange** Day
- 28 PC (USA) World AIDS Sunday

## CHURCH OFFICERS & EMPLOYEES @ FPC

### ELDERS

Class of 2020: Carol Higgs, Sandy Larson, John Stretcher

Class of 2021: Rojean DuBois, Mel McAnulty, Nate Regier

Class of 2022: Kay Enz, John Higgs, Pam Trussell

### DEACONS

Class of 2020: Rita Allmon, Hayley Cooper, Greg McGehee, Addie Perkins, Rhonda Tillberg

Class of 2021: Angela Altum, LaDonna Schmidt, Greg Schmidt, Lenny Wild, Joan Stretcher (fulfilling 2 year term)

Class of 2022: Paula Anderson, Bill Humphrey, Katie Gihring, Jennifer Switzer, Kelli Glann

### PERMANENT ENDOWMENT FUND BOARD MEMBERS

Class of 2020: Mel McAnulty

Class of 2021: Ron Cheyney, Brent Glann

Class of 2022: Larry Trussell, Keven Hiebert

Until further notice, the church building will be closed to the public. Staff will be greatly limiting their entrance into the church. Office hours will continue - Please call the church with any needs!

*Rev. Scott McGinnis, Pastor • Marsha Swander, Treasurer • Rojean DuBois, Clerk of Session*

*Tricia Brothers, Admin. Office Mgr. • Mary McGehee, Children & Youth Leader • Tony Martinez, Custodian*

*Vada Snider, Choir & Bell Director • Helen Wild, Organist & Accompanist • Kelli Glann, Organist • Kaylee Martinez, Nursery*

900 N. Columbus Ave. • P. O. Box 249 • Newton, KS 67114-0249  
316-283-0504 • newtonfpc@gmail.com • www.firstpresnewton.org

# We Fondly Remember...

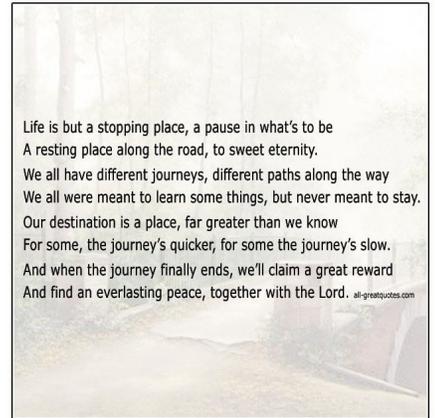
*Friends, it is with deep sorrow that we share the passing of*

## DANA FRANCIS JOHNSON

on May 17, 2020

DANA FRANCIS JOHNSON was born in Bismarck, North Dakota, in 1925, the sixth child of the late Rev. Luther Ray and Martha Effie (Warford) Johnson. He died on May 17, 2020, at The Newton Presbyterian Manor where he has been a resident since 2007. He received his public education in Kansas and graduated from Liberty Memorial High School in Lawrence in June, 1943, and was immediately drafted into the United States Army Air Corps (later Air Force), serving in the Pacific Theater. He was separated in December, 1945, entered the University of Kansas and completed a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in 1950. He did advanced studies at the Institute of Design in Chicago, and in April, 1952, married Mary Elizabeth Herriott of Lawrence. She died on April 13, 1982, in Greeley, Colorado. In 1957, he was awarded the Doctor of Education degree by the University of Kansas. He taught art-related courses in colleges and universities in Missouri, Kansas, and Colorado, and retired in 1986 from the University of Northern Colorado. In retirement, he lived for a time in the Colorado Rockies, then moved to Newton in October, 1982, where he has since lived. He was a member of the First United Presbyterian Church. He is survived by a son, Steven Johnson, of Newton, and a granddaughter, Amy Johnson, of New Jersey, and numerous nephews and nieces.

*May our God of Everlasting Life bring you comfort during this time.*



## Church Outreach @ FPC

**Please keep the following in your prayers this month:**

- Paul DuBois • Kay Perkins • Kathy Gering and the family of Aileen Ratzlaff • High School Graduates of the Class of 2020 • The blessing of new babies for the Wyman and Schmidt families • College Graduates of the Class of 2020 • The family of Dana F Johnson • Tom and Mary Anne Sandwell • Ron Larson • Keith Thomas (Kathy Randall's brother-in-law) •

If you have a prayer request or want to become a member of the prayer chain, please contact Rojean DuBois at 316-772-8128.



## JUNE DEACONS REQUESTS FOR THE SALVATION ARMY FOOD PANTRY



**Spaghetti O's • Hamburger Helper • Tuna Helper • Cereal • Pop Tarts • Oatmeal • Peanut Butter • Jelly • Soup • Crackers**

(Items not needed: canned tuna or chicken)

**When you're shopping, please pick up these items.  
Please call the church at 316-283-0504 if you would like  
someone to pick up items from your home.**

**The need is great right now.**

**Thank You for being a good neighbor!**





(Adapted Article by Matthew Lee Anderson)

The ties are, foremost, family ties; then family-like ties. We are bound together by what we have in common. John Fawcett, whose 1800 hymn “Blest Be the Tie that Binds” is oriented toward the extolling the beauty of Christian community within the Church. Fawcett understood that beauty, and the *sacrifice* required to attain it. He turned down the 18th century equivalent of rags to riches job to remain with his tiny, bad-paying parish simply because of the strength of his ties there. It’s the sort of legacy we should remember, and probably recover. These words are taken from the hymn:

***Blest be the tie that binds, our hearts in Christian love;  
The fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.***

Notice, of course, that there is only one tie that binds. Though Fawcett doesn’t name the Spirit, his meaning is clear. Beneath the verses lies Paul’s words to the Philippians: “If there is any encouragement in Christ, if there is any consolation of love, if there is any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and compassion, make my joy complete by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in [the] Spirit, intent on one purpose.” The Spirit’s role is to establish the “as above, so below” relationship. It is a relationship that is *like*, which carries with it the inevitable *unlike*, for ours is not a unity intrinsic to our being but established only by the God who is outside of us.

***Before the Father’s throne we pour our ardent prayers;  
Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our comforts and our cares.***

Paul’s words continue to ring even more clearly here. And as Paul hints at elsewhere in Phillipians, it is the invocation of the community that establishes and confirms our unity, for it is before the throne where we are made one.

***We share our mutual woes; our mutual burdens bear;  
And often for each other flows a sympathizing tear.***

Weep with those who weep. Bear one another’s burdens. Fawcett is right to turn to the experience of sorrow and pain *first* as the expression of Christian community, for such sorrow is its foundation.

***When we asunder part, it gives us inward pain  
But we shall still be joined in heart, and hope to meet again.***

Locating our union in the working of the Spirit inevitably points to its incorporeal roots. While the physical union is very much better, it is only established by the joining of heart, mind, and purpose that Paul suggests is the working of the Spirit.

***This glorious hope revives our courage by the way;  
While each in expectation lives and longs to see the day.***

We are, of course, now accustomed to thinking about the pain of separation being overcome by the resurrection. But we are less accustomed to thinking about the fact that the pain of separation precedes the hope of the resurrection. In that sense, our life within the Christian community and its pains and sorrows we experience there is a life meant to train us in hope, to teach us longing for the day when we shall be reunited with those we love.

***From sorrow, toil, and pain, and sin, we shall be free;  
And perfect love and friendship reign through all eternity.***

This is a classic statement on the goodness of the resurrection for a “classic evangelical.” Like Billy Graham, Fawcett is primarily focused *being with the one’s we love*—not having the ability to cultivate the ground properly or be “culture makers.” And in one sense, that’s not surprising: his world was shaped by close, personal connections in a way that mine has not been. And so the resurrection becomes a means of restoring that which he felt the greatest sense of sorrow about.

*“As long as the ties that bind us together are stronger than those that would tear us apart, all will be well.” ~ R. Brett*

*Now you know!*

# Children & Youth Activities @ FPC



## JUMP on in!



Hi!

Can you believe that school is over? I don't know about you, but I am ready for some sunshine! So, with that said I am hoping we can get together sometime in June. The date will be determined later – maybe we will meet on a weekday through the summer about 1:00 PM? Would that work for you and your family?

Our JUMP! group will include grades 6<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> this year. I am looking forward to some wonderful Christian fellowship together. Just think how much fun we can have with a bigger group! Got any ideas? Bowling, skating, rock painting... by the way, are you painting rocks for the "Rocks of All Ages" project? I am working on mine and it really is a lot of fun! If you need ideas look at the May 2020 newsletter. If you need supplies, call Tricia at 316-282-2331.

I am looking forward to spending time together again and finding out all the new adventures you've had the past couple of months. And don't forget, make sure you are sharing God's love with each other.

Miss your faces!! - Mary



Hi Kids!

Summer is almost here and that means fun in the sun!



First things first... VBS planned for June has been postponed. Yes, it makes me sad too.... HOWEVER... Pastor Scott and I have talked about a one day All-Church VBS that would not only include you, but older kids and adults! We have not set a date when it will take place, but we are excited about the possibility to have our "older kids" of the congregation (parents and grandparents to you) join us for a fun-filled day. Please keep a look out for more news on this.

PICTURE TIME! I love pictures, ALL kinds of pictures – Especially from friends like you! So, Kindergarteners through 5<sup>th</sup> grade, please draw one, two, or more pictures of what you have been doing to share when we are together again. If you want to send them to me now, I would love to see them. Please have your parents send them to: First Presbyterian Church, c/o Mary McGehee, PO Box 249, Newton, KS 67114. I will draw a picture to share with too!

One more thing... How would you like to get together during the summer one morning a week? I know I would like to! Details on date and time will be determined later. I'm excited to start having activities with you again!

God Bless You! - Mary

# Worship Teams

## March 2020 - August 2020

### 1st Sunday

Organist -	Helen Wild
Greeters -	Libby Trussell
Ushers -	Carolyn Adams, Carol Heinel, Susan Wyman, Mary Anne Sandwell (sub: Sandy Larson)
Children's Message -	Sonday McGinnis
Lay Reader -	Brent Glann
Audio -	Steve Tangeman
Nursery -	Kaylee Martinez & Rita Allmon

### 2nd Sunday

Organist -	Kelli Glann
Greeters -	Arlen & Paula Anderson
Ushers -	Jeraldine Smith, Bonnie Fey, Becky Cooper, Bev McGee
Children's Message -	Rev. Scott McGinnis
Lay Reader -	Susan Wyman
Audio -	Greg McGehee
Nursery -	Kaylee Martinez & Angela Altum

**Thank you to those who  
have volunteered to  
serve on our Worship  
Teams each Sunday!**

### 3rd Sunday

Organist -	Kelli Glann
Greeters -	Mary Ediger
Ushers -	Ron & Carol Cheyney, Paul & Rojean DuBois
Children's Message -	Mary McGehee
Lay Reader -	Mary McGehee
Audio -	Greg Schmidt
Nursery -	Kaylee Martinez & Connie Griswold

### 4th Sunday

Organist -	Helen Wild
Greeters -	Kay Enz
Ushers -	John & Joan Stretcher, John & Pat Morton
Children's Message -	Susan Brack
Lay Reader -	Mark Gihring
Audio -	Mike Enz
Nursery -	Kaylee Martinez & Connie Griswold

### 5th Sunday &/or Substitute

Organist -	Helen Wild
Greeters -	Beth Darrow
Ushers -	John & Carol Higgs, Steve & Susie Tangeman,
Children's Message -	Mary McGehee
Lay Reader -	Sandy Larson (Tricia Brothers)
Audio -	March: Greg McGehee    May: Greg Schmidt    August: Mike Enz
Nursery -	Kaylee Martinez & Rojean DuBois

#### Substitute Greeters or Ushers:

**Phil Anderson, Mike Enz, John Stretcher, Joan Stretcher, Julie Regier, Lenny Wild**

### Communion Servers

Set-up

Worship Service

Homebound

To be determined...



CHURCH FAMILY  
& FRIENDS

# JUNE

## BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Don't see your birthday or anniversary on this list?

Call the church office and let's get your information updated!

Thanks!

June 4 - Lynette Schmidt  
 June 5 - Ladonna Schmidt  
 June 6 - Gary & Bev Hunter  
 June 7 - Kathy Randall  
 June 9 - Bob & Marsha Swander,  
 Travis Gihring  
 June 15 - Maurice & Linda Benninga,  
 Katie Gihring  
 June 16 - Sandra Larson, Donna McAnulty  
 June 18 - Emily Regier

June 19 - Dee Gilbert  
 June 20 - Bob & Liz Pomeroy,  
 Susan Tangeman  
 June 22 - Evan Dinneen  
 June 23 - Maurice Benninga  
 June 24 - Kaylee Martinez  
 June 26 - Judy Wiebe  
 June 28 - Carol Cheyney  
 June 30 - Bob & Susan Wyman,  
 Marlene Harvey

**Are you working on your ROCK OF ALL AGES project?**



**For supplies or questions, call the church at 316-283-0504.**



**\*\*\* 5/27/20: FPC's Elders will meet on Tuesday, June 2nd to discuss future worship services. \*\*\***

***A note regarding Sunday School from the Nurture Team:***  
*Parents, we have decided to not have Sunday School Preschool thru 8<sup>th</sup> grade until August/September, 2020. We will let you know what the exact date we will start when the time is closer. As far as we know the Fellowship Hall class is still meeting.*

## **CRUISER'S**

Cruisers we will not be meeting in June. Steve Tangeman and I made this decision because we do not know if our congregation will be meeting by the second Sunday of June (the regular Cruiser meeting day). We are hoping that by July, we might be cleared for more gatherings and perhaps a picnic in an open air space will be possible.



Take care ... enjoy the fresh air as you can whether in your own backyard or at a park or lake!

~ Donna

From the Nurture team:  
 Vacation Bible School scheduled for June 17<sup>th</sup> -19<sup>th</sup> has been cancelled. We are looking at having an All-Church VBS for one day later in the summer. Updates will be shared as available.