

The Personnel Committee has selected Brooke Roskop as our new Church Office Secretary beginning May 1, overlapping with Debbie for training and orientation prior to Debbie's retirement on May 26. Brooke comes to us from her position as Missions Director at First United Methodist Church of Blue Springs, where she works closely with the church Office Manager. See the May Presbytines newsletter or our website Staff Page to learn more about Brooke. Or better yet, stop by after May 1 to introduce yourself and welcome her to our ministry team!

Debbie Sullivan has announced plans to retire as our Office Secretary on May 26 after 11 years of faithful service. Please contact Pastor Dave if you know of any qualified, outside candidates who might be interested. The job description is available at www.fpcindep.org. Resumes and Cover Letters may be sent to www.fpcindep.pastor@gmail.com. There will be a Fellowship & Refreshments reception following worship on May 21 to celebrate Debbie's retirement and thank her for being such an important part of our ministry team.

YOUR CHURCH STAFF

Pastor	Dave Carlson
Director of Christian Education/Children, Youth & Adults	Melissa Roe-Wilson
Music Director/Praise Director	Nicole Murray
Organist	Glenna Hagelin
Sexton/Custodian	Merry Oliphant
Secretary	Debbie Sullivan



fpcindep@gmail.com

APRIL 23, 2023

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

OUR PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

To worship is to quicken the conscience by the holiness of God, to feed the mind with the truth of God, to purge the imagination with the beauty of God, to open the heart to the love of God, to devote the will to the purpose of God. All this is gathered up in that emotion which most cleanses us from selfishness because it is the most selfless of all emotions – adoration. *William Temple*

TO OUR VISITORS

We rejoice that you have chosen to worship with us this morning. It would be our pleasure to further welcome you. Feel free to join us in any of our services or other church activities. If you are looking for a church home, we invite you to consider becoming a member of First Presbyterian Church. The pastor offers prospective-member orientations periodically throughout the year, particularly as people express an interest. If you are interested in learning more about First Church, membership here and what it means to be Presbyterian, please contact the church office at 816-252-6662. Additionally, Pastor Carlson would be happy to visit with you following the service or any time at your convenience and is eager to help you with any questions or needs you may have. May the fellowship we share strengthen the ties that bind us together in our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Back-support pillows, large print bulletins, Bibles and hymnals, and Children's Activity Packets are available from the ushers. Please turn off your cell phone.

THE CALENDAR – TODAY, APRIL 23

Brown Bags Handouts

Sunday school	9:15 a.m.
Worship (Noisy Offering)	10:30 a.m.
Coffee fellowship	11:30 a.m.
All-Youth/Parents meeting	(Sanctuary) 11:45 a.m.

Today’s scripture readings: Joel 2:28-32 (p. 833) and Acts 2:14, 36-42 (p.p. 116, 117)

THIS WEEK

Wings Ladies Bible study	(WH) Monday, 10:00 a.m.
Christian Education Committee meeting	(Cmte. Room) Tuesday, 10:00 a.m.
Handbells Rehearsal	Wednesday, 6:15 p.m.
Chancel Choir Rehearsal	Wednesday, 7:00 p.m.
TOPS weight-loss program	(WH) Thursday, 7:00-11:00 a.m.
ChristCare Small Group, movies & lunch or games	(WH) Thursday, TBD

SUNDAY, APRIL 30

Brown Bags Collections

Sunday school	9:15 a.m.
Special Congregational meeting	(Sanctuary) 10:15 a.m.
Worship (Come To The Table Spring gift donations)	10:30 a.m.
Coffee fellowship	11:30 a.m.
Deacons meeting	(Cmte. Room) 11:45 a.m.

THE CHURCH BULLETIN BOARD

Gayle Hawley – Centerpoint Hospital

Please keep Linda Bassette-Smith and her family in your thoughts and prayers on the passing of her step-daughter, Debbie Bassette on April 18.

The Mission Committee will be handing out the Brown Bags today, April 23 and collecting them next Sunday, April 30 in an effort to put a spotlight on the homeless and the needy in our community. **We will be collecting cleaning and laundry supplies etc, and as always high-protein foods such as tuna, boxed meals and peanut butter.** Our Brown Bags will be sponsored on the fifth Sundays throughout the year. Thanks in advance for your participation in Missions.

All-Youth Meeting today, April 23 at 11:45 a.m. in the Sanctuary. All youth, pre -K - 12th grade and their families are encouraged to attend. Summer activities will be the main agenda. Your participation is needed to provide the best outcome for our children.

COME TO THE TABLE. On April 30 during Passing of the Peace in the morning worship service, you are invited to **bring Spring Gift food donations to the communion table** (or drop them off ahead of time if that's easier). Many churches and organizations give food during the Thanksgiving and Christmas season, but the need is ongoing every day. Join us in making a difference for our community. The Missions Committee will distribute donations through the Community Services League.

Session is scheduling a **special Congregational Meeting** at 10:15 a.m. April 30 in the Sanctuary prior to worship for the purpose of voting on Shawna Steeves as a new Deacon.

Committee Chairs and ChristCare Small Groups, Sunday school and other group leaders! Please gather your information needed for the events, dates, and times to be submitted for the 2023-2024 18-month church calendar. The **Annual Joint Session/Deacon meeting & calendar planning** is on Tuesday, May 16 at 7:00 p.m. at Westminster Hall. **Please submit your events and meetings by Monday, May 1,** either by email, a phone call, or dropping it by the office. Thank you so much for your help.

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE, JESUS LOVES THE LITTLE CHILDREN & NOISY OFFERING
(see music sheet in pew) Melissa Roe-Wilson

***HYMN** *In the Bulb There Is a Flower* No. 250

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful and risen Savior, we claim to be people of the resurrection, yet we confess that far too often we do not experience resurrection power. Our prayers are trite and our faith is shallow. We compartmentalize our lives, placing you on the sidelines of our busy schedules. We take too much for granted and fail to thank you for the blessings of health, relationships and freedoms. We fail to be good stewards of your creation, and we become discouraged by problems, limitations and failures. Gracious God, forgive our shortsightedness and our lack of trust. Help us to see that you are at work in our lives and in the world. Inspire us to hold fast to you in faith, knowing that you are working all things for good, even when we can't see it. (*Silent prayer and confession.*)

*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Leader: Friends, believe the good news of the Gospel.
All: **In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.**

***GLORIA PATRI** (*Glory to God*) (see music sheet in pew) No. 581

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Joel 2:28-32 Page 833

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON Acts 2:14, 36-42 Pages 116, 117

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SERMON "What Should We Do?" Rev. Dave Carlson

**All who are able may stand*

WE RESPOND IN JOY AND GRATITUDE

ANTHEM *Eden's Song* arr. Schweizer
Chancel Choir

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We believe in God:

whose love is the source of all life and the desire of our lives,
whose love was given a human face in Jesus of Nazareth,
whose love was crucified by the evil that waits to enslave us all,
and whose love – defeating even death – is our glorious promise of freedom.
Therefore, though we are sometimes fearful and full of doubt, we trust God.
And in the name of Jesus Christ, we commit ourselves in the service of others: to seek justice and to live in peace, to care for the earth and to share the commonwealth of God's goodness, to live in the freedom of forgiveness and in the power of the Spirit of love.
And we commit ourselves, in the company of the faithful – past, present, and yet to come – to be the church, for the glory of God.

SERVICE OF GIVING

Offertory *Andante Tranquillo in F-sharp minor* Andrew Moore

*Doxology (*Praise to God*) (see music sheet in pew) No. 606

*Prayer of Dedication

***HYMN** *Standing on the Promises* No. 838

BENEDICTION

RESPONSE *The Lord has Promised Good to Me* arr. E. Excell
Chancel Choir

POSTLUDE *Alle Menschen müssen sterben* Georg Telemann

The Peace Candle on the communion table is a reminder for us to pray for world peace. We invite visitors to ask the ushers for a peace candle and an explanation of its origin, and to pass it on to the church of your choice.

**All who are able may stand*

***universal*

LITURGIST
Marvin Payne

TODAY'S GREETERS
Shawna & Meghan Steeves

NEXT WEEK'S GREETER
Stephanie Kalthoff

USHERS TODAY
Bill & Jill Esry and
Vicky Larkin

USHERS NEXT WEEK
Jack & Marilyn Wear
and Vicky Walsh

ATTENDANCE- April 16

Worship -	74
YouTube Live stream -	n/a
YouTube recording/views -	n/a
Children & Youth Sunday school classes -	8
Saints Alive class –	14
Guidance -	7

April CHARACTERPLUS TRAIT: Perseverance

DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
Dan. 4:1-18	Dan. 4:19-27	Dan. 4:28-37	Dan. 5:1-12
1 Peter 4:7-11	1 John 3:19-4:6	1 John 4:7-21	1 John 5:1-12
John 21:15-25	Luke 4:14-30	Luke 4:31-37	Luke 4:38-44
THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	
Dan. 5:13-30	Dan. 6:1-15	Dan. 6:16-28	
1 John 5:13-21	2 John 1-13	3 John 1-15	
Luke 5:1-11	Luke 5:12-26	Luke 5:27-39	

WE GATHER IN RESPONSE TO GOD'S CALL

PRELUDE *Why Should Cross and Trial Grieve Me* J.G. Walther

INTROIT *Come Sing, O Church, in Joy!* J. Darwall
Chancel Choir

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: We gather to remember the ancient stories of revelation.

Many: We read from our ancient texts.

One: We gather to interpret the meaning these stories reveal in our lives.

Many: We hear from our traditions.

One: We gather to share the revelation of the risen Christ.

Many: We experience in ritual and story.

One: Let us worship God!

***HYMN** *Come, Christians, Join to Sing* No. 267

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER (*see music sheet in pew*)

(*You may use "debts," "trespasses" or "sins" as you feel accustomed or led.*)

Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name;

Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread; And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil,

For thine is the Kingdom and the Power and the Glory forever. Amen.

**All who are able may stand*