

"The Grapevine"

June ~ 2020



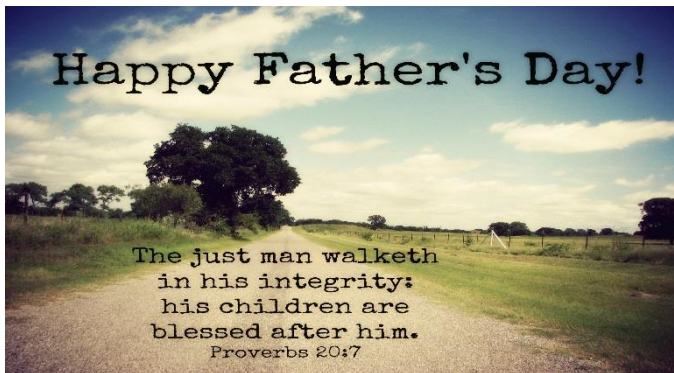
Congratulations to all Class of 2020 graduates,
including FPC's high school graduates:

Connor Winkler

Samuel Payne

Ecchi Nwadike

CONGRATULATIONS to **Bill & Ann Swenson** on welcoming Great Granddaughter, **"POPPY JUNE"!**



Wishing all the amazing men in our congregation a blessed Father's Day this year!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY:

- 9- Kathleen Pribyl
- 11- Robert Burnell
- 12- Mike Little
- 17- Belle Twitchell
- 26- Phillip Dubie
- 29- Terry Harries
George Buffleben

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY:

- 3- Bill & Ann Swenson
- 15- Roger & Tricia Winkler
- 15- Jim & Pat Kruse
- 16- Don & Char Bisbee

“PD’s Pickings”

Pentecost, which we celebrated yesterday, is a special day in the life of the church. Reading the story, though, can leave us feeling like it was a bit “out there” (as if the resurrection of Jesus isn’t!). A certain stripe of Christian expression known as “Pentecostal” only reinforces that perception. But Pentecost is about the whole Church of Jesus Christ, and the gift of the Spirit is for the whole Church of Jesus Christ.

In my service to and with the church, I have tried to make a concerted effort to lift up this important holiday. This is because Pentecost means more than remembering some strange things about tongues of fire and speaking other languages. Pentecost is, quite literally, the birthday of the Church! It is easy to overlook that even after Jesus’ resurrection and ascension the disciples were still missing something. They were overjoyed at seeing their risen Lord, yet they had not yet gone out in mission to proclaim the message of salvation to the world. Jesus himself still had things to share with them after he arose, and he gave them instructions to wait for the Holy Spirit’s coming once he departed.

Pentecost is the day the Church was born because it is the day the Spirit came upon us in an entirely new way. No longer did the Holy Spirit come and go on rare individuals for short times and specific tasks. Now she came and took up residence in us and among us, to teach us to better follow Jesus and empower our mission to the world. The Holy Spirit has been present in the Church ever since, leading and guiding and empowering us even through the darkest of times. She teaches us God’s Word and speaks through us. She guides our steps and gives us spiritual gifts that go beyond mere natural talents or abilities. And she empowers our mission together to proclaim God’s message of hope. Without the Holy Spirit there would be no Church, or its mission, today.

This raises some implications for us to consider. If the birth of the Church is by the Spirit, the Church is not of human origin, although it is made up of human beings. It is called to be the visible expression of God to the world today, just as Jesus was. We have the mission Jesus had. We are called to be Jesus to a waiting world.

We are living through such strange and difficult times right now. Yet the gift of the Spirit and the birth of the Church on Pentecost was for just such times as these. This is our moment to be the voice, hands, and feet of Jesus. We can bring difficult truth, and with it justice, peace, and healing, as we stand with those in need and challenge those in power. We can show the world who God really is: the One who sides with the suffering and voiceless. We can also be the voice and example of neighbor-love as we continue to deal with a serious pandemic. In all this we must work to acquire the understanding we need to do such things well, but through the Spirit, together, we can proclaim Christ’s message of repentance, healing, and hope in the languages that need to be heard in today.

By “message” scripture does not mean mere platitudes. The Rushing Wind, the Living Word of God, is the power of God Almighty in Christ, here and now, to transform lives and cultures wherever he is proclaimed. He has transformed many a person and nation before, and will do so again. Let us therefore embrace the Spirit, not hinder her, so that God’s Justice, Mercy, and Grace may reign in us, and in our world.

Shalom,

Pastor Doug

TREASURER'S REPORT - APRIL 2020

General Fund:	<u>MONTHLY</u>	<u>TO DATE</u>	<u>BALANCE</u>
Balance Forward		\$ 36,028.17	
Monthly Income	\$ 16,547.57	\$ 46,925.03	
Monthly Expenditures	\$ 11,990.61	<u>\$ 61,616.88</u>	
Balance:			\$ 21,336.32
Special Fund Balance:			\$ 25,864.24
In-and-Out Fund Balance:			\$ 6,757.60
Memorial Fund:			
Undesignated:		\$ 5,350.00	
Designated:		<u>\$ 12,319.80</u>	
Balance:			\$ 17,669.80
New Site Fund:			
Balance:			\$ 150.16
Synod Savings Account			
Youth Reserve		\$ 1,076.66	
Manse Fund		\$ 61.90	
Julia Sturtevant Fund		<u>\$ 26,831.84</u>	
Balance:			\$ 27,970.40

Our Online Schedule:

Sunday Morning Worship: 11:00am Pacific (2pm Eastern), Facebook Live and YouTube Live; Zoom gatherings afterward

Mid-Week Devotions: Wednesday Psalm series and Friday 1 Peter series, each at 11:00am (2pm Eastern), Facebook Live and YouTube Live

Mid-Week Zoom Party 🎉: Drop-in/Drop-out on Wednesday Evenings between 6:30 and 8pm Pacific Time, on Zoom

How to Join In:

Facebook Live: www.facebook.com/TracyFirstPres/live

YouTube Live: bit.ly/TFPC-PDA-YouTube-Live

Zoom Gatherings:

>>direct link: <https://zoom.us/j/7372716366?pwd=RUIJBRnNMR2tUWVWdhOGMzOFZWS9WZz09>

>>manual dial in: (669) 900 9128, enter mtg ID 7372716366, enter pw 2092325310

>>one-tap-smartphone dial in: +16699009128,,7372716366#,,#,2092325310#

How to Give:

Text 2 Give: (855) 912-3423 (text the word "give" if first time set up)

Weblink to Give: <https://tithe.ly/give?c=1459258>

