

April 28 & May 5, 2024

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

After a particularly long day recently, I arrived home tired and a little discouraged (it happens to pastors too), and I went onto my back patio to sit in the late afternoon sunshine for awhile. And as I did, I heard the happy sound of birdsong nearby and I looked up to see a bright red cardinal sitting on top of my patio fence. He cocked his head at me and I smiled, and he hopped along for a few steps before he flew away.

That brief interaction was all it took to lift my spirits enough that I actually noted it in my gratitude journal later, before bed.

And that got me thinking later about how many of God's beautiful blessings are all around us, and how often we are too busy or too wrapped up in the busy-ness of our lives to notice. Sometimes they're big blessings that we can't help but notice, and sometimes they're small, fleeting moments, but they are all around us, all the time.

That's what prompted me to start The Joy Project. I mentioned this from the pulpit recently, but in case you missed it, I'm starting a project for our congregation and any friends of our congregation who would like to participate. I'm calling it The Joy Project.

Everyone who takes part will get a hardback, spiral bound book with The Joy Project logo on it. I will regularly send out a scripture verse or quotation or some other inspirational thought to get you going, and your job will be to look around and find something that brings you joy, then put it in your Joy Book. Whether you write it in, cut it out and paste it in, or press it between the pages, think of your Joy Book as a journal / scrapbook. It's a place for you to compile and collect everything you find in God's beautiful world that brings you joy. It's a place to count your blessings.

We can do this together, but from our own homes. It doesn't require gathering or meeting in a small group, it doesn't require anything but our own hearts for gratitude. Just let me know you'd like to participate by sending me a note or calling the church office so we can get you a book.

We've been through a difficult few years. The news is not good, the world seems to be getting crazier by the day, it seems like every time we turn around, something bad has happened. Let's pull together and look for the good. Let's come together as children of a wonderful, creative, loving God and celebrate all the good that is still in the world, and give thanks.

Blessings and love,
Pastor Christy

"Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights." James 1:17



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CONNECT WITH US

We want to encourage you to make church a priority and join us in person on Sundays at 8:15, W@9 or 10:30 a.m. If you are unable to attend, we have our:

RADIO MINISTRY Sundays at 10:30 a.m. on KHUT 102.9, and
W@9 ONLINE at fpchutch.org.

Your prayers and financial support are vital to our work and ministry. God is still at work! Offering boxes are positioned in the sanctuary, or you can mail in your offering or sign up to give online at fpchutch.org.

We are the Church!

OFFICE POSITION



First Presbyterian Church is looking for part-time help in the church office. We need someone to work Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m. until noon., doing light office work. The salary is between \$15-\$18 per hour, depending on experience. For more information or to apply, please contact Rev. Christy Kass at RevChristy@fpchutch.org or at 620-665-5549, ext 2.

NURSERY POSITION



Urgently Hiring!!

Do you have a passion for working with kids? FPC is looking for a Nursery worker.

Hours are 9:00—11:30a.m. on Sundays. This is a paid position!

If you are interested, please contact Keith:

keitheneill@yahoo.com 620-899-8412 620-665-5549 ext. 4

CHURCH OFFICE NOTES

Chimes Note

Deadline for next issue of *Chimes* will be **10:00 a.m. Monday, May 6**, for the issue covering May 12—25.

Chancel Flower Calendar

May 19, June 2, 9, 23 & 30, and July 14, 21, & 28 are open dates on the 2024 chancel flower calendar. If you would like to provide flowers for worship one of these days, please contact Brittany in the church office: brittany@fpchutch.org or 620-665-5549, ext. 1, by the preceding Monday.



Recently, I was reading about Abraham and how he was a man of wealth and status. He had a great lifestyle in the land of Ur. He owned a lot of livestock, a huge amount of land and he had servants to look after his every need. I suppose you could say that he lived the ancient Middle Eastern version of the American Dream. But Abraham was also a man of great faith, and God promised to bless him and his family and make them into a great nation, Genesis 12:2. I love it that Abraham's heart was not held captive by his home or his possessions. So, when God called him to a new journey and a new life, one full of uncertainties, Abraham did not hesitate to go. He packed up his family and his belongings and plunged into the great unknown, relying only on God's goodness. Skip forward now to Hebrews 11:1-2 and we read that faith is "being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see." This is what we see in countless Old Testament followers of God. Abraham was blessed for his faithfulness in following God when he had no idea where it would ultimately lead. God's blessings are reserved for those who exercise faith in Him.

Jennifer and I have found this true in our lives. I still pinch myself that 11 years ago, God called us to leave our homeland and everything we knew to come here to Hutchinson. In doing that we have been so blessed because we are where God wants us to be. Faith was the key for us making the move and faith is at the center of all those who have heard God's call. Was my faith always strong during the move, I have to say no. I had doubts that would creep in but my relationship with God always won through in the end. I learnt that with God all things are possible. In Matthew 19, a rich young man approached Jesus seeking something that he could not buy with his great wealth: eternal life. In the end, the young man's response to God's calling differed greatly from Abraham's, for he could not bring himself to part ways with comfort and security in order to attain that which is greater. The path to eternal life literally stood before him that day, offering freedom from bondage to that which does not last, and yet the rich young man could not muster the faith to grab hold of it, and instead settled for much less than what God wanted to give him.

Today, God seeks to plant the seeds of His calling in each of us, and then He waits to see how each of us will respond. The gentle nudging of His Spirit calls us to hand over the reins of our lives and follow Him into the great unknown. He calls us as individuals and He calls us as a church to go where He calls. When we do, we will find a life of abundance that God has designed for every person who chooses to trust in His goodness and promises, just as Abraham did. The path of faith will never be clear or without some struggles. There's no road map to identify where the next rest stop lies but you can be sure that God will be on the journey with you. I know this to be true!

The DeMeyers

Serving the Lord in Scotland

Please do not share or replicate this letter. Thank you.

April 2024

Hello FPC family,

I (Jordan) often struggle to write these updates. How can I share an encouraging story from our ministry, remind you of our calling and vision, include a few life updates, and adequately thank you for your partnership in this, all in a short summary? There is far too much to say!

These words are just a few things on our heart at the moment. It is by no means exhaustive! Hopefully you will find them informative and perhaps encouraging. Thank you for your ongoing support and prayers - your partnership in ministry is far more significant to us than you may realize!

It was at the start of 2020 that we moved to Glasgow, Scotland to be a part of a ministry team making disciples cross-culturally among communities from a different religious/ethnic backgrounds. Four years later, our vision and calling remains the same – to advance the Gospel of Jesus and His Kingdom into the nations through spiritual generations of laborers, living and discipling together among the lost.



A Biblical example that continues to inspire us is the way the Apostle Paul and his disciples lived among the Thessalonians. He compares their life to that of a mother and father, saying “Because we loved you so much, we were

delighted to share with you *not only the gospel of God but our lives as well*” 1 Thess 2:8 (emphasis added). Living in this way among our ministry network and the people in our local neighborhood is something we aspire to do! In reality, this is very hard and often discouraging. However, God has been encouraging our hearts at the start of this year through two interrelated stories.

Many Christians we know in Scotland rub shoulders with people from different cultural or religious backgrounds, yet very few of them have meaningful cross-cultural relationships. As a team longing to make disciples among those of different religious and cultural backgrounds, we wanted to help address that!

After over a year of planning and prayer we settled on a vision and a loose curriculum for an 8-week training course. The key aim was to help a few Christians in their cross-cultural discipleship by being exposed to the issues of global mission, equipped to be more confident in cross-cultural relationships/contexts, and envisioned for a life on mission.

The group finished in March and it totally blew us away! It was deeply encouraging to see how the training made practical impacts in the lives of the group members and the relationships they were investing in. There were many encouraging stories to come out of the group, but one that has particularly touched my (Jordan's) heart is about Ty (*not his real name*).

A friend who was a part of the course put me in touch with Ty, an East Asian international student, because Ty had recently moved to our area. Ty isn't a Christian, but he is openly seeking God and looking for opportunities to build relationships with followers of Jesus.

Since he lives close by it has been very natural to share our lives with him. We have been meeting up for coffees, a few short walks, and he joins us at church/Bible study group from time to time. I also know that he still meets with my

friend in a Bible study group that speaks his mother tongue. It is clear to me that Ty is hungry for God!

The other day we met up at my favorite local pub for a drink and studied John 6 together. Between sips we talked about Jesus as the "bread of life." This is a very confusing thing for someone who is reading the Bible for the first time, but what a beautiful image for someone who is hungry for God!

Meeting with Ty has been an encouragement to me for 3 reasons:

* I don't know much about his home culture, so I have been able to put into practice the very things we learned in the course! It was so wonderful to be both a facilitator of the group and a learner *with* the group.

* I'm learning that discipleship isn't just a one-to-one thing (though that is very important). It is important for him to have other key people in his life who are culturally similar or who have different giftings. This leverages the value of the body of believers and points Ty to Jesus, not to me.

* It is so refreshing to study the Bible with someone who is eager to do so! I love building relationships with people who don't know Jesus, but recently I have been finding that very exhausting. My relational capacity feels very low, especially when it requires so much initiating on my part. However, I was practically skipping home the other day after meeting with Ty!



Part of the group training was visiting local religious centers to learn about different cultures. Here we are at a Sikh Gurdwara.

In more personal news, our son, Jude, is nearly 10 months old! We can hardly believe it. He is a very fun boy who loves books, crawling, standing, eating, playing outside and chasing our cat around the house. He is such a blessing and equally difficult to keep up with!

Rachel will return to work as a nurse, part time, in August. Though the current plan is for her to return to her current job at the hospital, she will be interviewing for a position at a local clinic. Rachel loves her unit at the hospital, but the prospect of a 5 minute commute and normal working hours (as opposed to 12 hour day/night shifts) is very compelling. Working at the local clinic would also mean working with the people God has placed a burden on our hearts to care for, which would align more missionally than her current job.

All of this also means that we are looking for childcare for Jude for 2 or 3 days a week. This has been a little more complicated than we anticipated! One local childcare centre looks like it would be ideal for us and for Jude, but it's full. We are on a waiting list, so we aren't sure when a place will become available.

Pray with us for Rachel's job situation and for child care arrangements. Pray also for Ty and a few other unbelievers that we meet and are reading the Bible with - we long to see people from many nations worshipping Jesus in Glasgow. Also, send us an email if there is something we can be praying about for you!

It was lovely to be back at FPC twice last year. We will be back in Hutchinson again in mid-June to visit family. It would be great to connect with you at church while we are in town!

We send more regular updates of our ministry and life happenings via email. You can sign up here if you would like to receive those.

<https://mailchi.mp/a5aae0b247a8/racheljordandemeyer>

It is a joy to know you and minister with you. Thank you for being a part of this with us!

With much love,

Jordan, Rachel & Jude

KEEP IN PRAYER

For those in the hospital or hurting

For all FPC shut-ins



BIRTHDAYS

28	Mike Taylor	7	Jim Heck
28	Laura Ontjes Miller	8	Mike Harrison
29	Annie Pyle	8	Ron Ediger
30	Lindsey Maschler	8	Eva Marlow
4	David Kerr	8	Isabella Marlow
4	Carissa Jackson	10	Chris DeMeyer
5	John Swearer	10	Aden Gamber
5	Sheri Van Buren	11	Elizabeth Lane

STEPHEN MINISTRY



The Stephen Ministry training has been an amazing experience, learning to care by listening, supporting and praying while helping others explore their thoughts and feelings. I've learned to be non judgmental responding more assertively while offering emotional and spiritual support. The assurance of confidentiality helps maintain the sharing of thoughts and feelings of our care receivers who are experiencing a difficult time in their life. We are responsible for care, God is responsible for cure. My prayer is that this class of Stephen Ministers is able to bless our congregation and community and fulfill the mission that we are trained for.

Blessings,
Dave Mencl

EARTH MATTERS



Did you know that it takes about 1,000 years for a plastic bag to degrade in a landfill?

KID ZONE

WHEN? Sundays at W@9 and 10:30 worship **WHO?** K thru 6th grades

Our aim is to provide a fun, exciting and great learning experience for children. Enjoy our rotational style

KidZone where they will learn the story through different experiences over the month. Children start off in worship and then leave for their activities.



• Art • Bible Skills Games • Cooking • Cinema • Science Lab

ENDOWMENT FUND

Have you considered leaving a gift to the First Presbyterian Church Endowment Fund in your will or trust? This is another way you can help ensure the sustainability of our church, in addition to your annual pledge. Talk to your attorney and discuss making a gift in your estate documents to be distributed to the First Presbyterian Church Endowment Fund, Hutchinson, Kansas, to be used for the general fund (or one of the many funds held in the Endowment Fund). Your legacy will allow the church to continue its mission for the benefit of others well into the future.



PARISH PERSONALS

- Keith & Congregation,
Thank you so much for the extra food deliveries that have helped us get through the winter & spring months. You all are amazing and so appreciated! Wishing you a blessed Easter time!
- Kathy Taylor & Lincoln-McCandless students



HOSPITAL

In the Hospital?

Due to the current HIPAA privacy ruling, hospitals no longer notify churches when church members or friends are hospitalized. Please call the church office (620-665-5549) when you or a family member are hospitalized and would like Pastor Christy to make a visit.



NEW MEMBERS DINNER

Interested in becoming a member of FPC Hutchinson? Pastor Christy and Keith are hosting a new members informational dinner on Sunday, April 28 at 5 p.m. in the Refresh Café (on the lower level of the church). Anyone who would like to find out more about becoming a member of our congregation is invited to attend this informal evening to learn what our church is about. If you'd like to attend, please call the church office at 620-665-5549, ext 1.





FPC OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Thursday 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Friday 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.



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