



PRESBY PRESS

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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SEPTEMBER



OUR MISSION

TO BE THE
LOVING
COMMUNITY OF
JESUS CHRIST
THAT WILL

WIN

NEW FOLLOWERS
OF CHRIST TO
SAVING FAITH

GROW

ALL FOLLOWERS
TO DEEPER FAITH

GO

INTO THE
WORLD AND
DEMONSTRATE
FAITH

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK - PERSEVERANCE

Perseverance. That's a word – a *theme* – I keep hearing these days. It's always at the heart of our life of faith in Christ. Perseverance is what we saw in Christ on the way to the Cross.

- *"I fix my eyes on Christ, the author and perfecter of faith who, for the joy set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and sat down at the right hand of God."* (Heb 12:2)

The Apostle Paul regularly preached about perseverance in suffering to the saints of the first century church – and the 21st century church! He spoke of it in terms of the athletes who competed in the great Greco-Roman games of his time. They knew what it takes to get across the finish line – the discipline of perseverance.

- *"I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me... Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus."* (Phil 3:12-14)

Perseverance. It's the theme of our daily lives of faith. Always. And very much so during these days of waiting for the storm of COVID-19 to pass. How can we persevere? By listening to the promises of God's word. He tells us how we will persevere and get through any trial. By breathing. By praying and asking him to give us his power to persevere. And he will. How do we know? Because Jesus has not failed us. He persevered even to the point of death on a cross for us. He did that so we would have his power in us to get us through the hard things of life on our way to realize the prize of our salvation in him. Even death did not defeat Christ, and so it will not defeat us.

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Remember to Pray for One Another!

Your First Presbyterian Church Family believes in the power of prayer. (See Romans 1:9b-10a). You are invited to pray intentionally with, and for, one another on Sunday mornings, at 8:45 am, and Wednesday mornings, at 9 am, at FPC

Cont. from pg. 1

Perseverance. The really good news is that Jesus is not far off. No. Jesus hasn't merely left us an example of perseverance to "inspire" our efforts. It's true that our choice to persevere is necessary when we are overwhelmed and fatigued by the heartaches we face. But even in that we falter. We are tempted to give up. I am. Some do. But here's the good news. Jesus never gives up. Jesus doesn't look on with disappointment when we're weak. No, that's why he came. Precisely because we are weak and cannot run the race on our own power. The good news is that Jesus is with us in the race. He whispers his words of life and hope to us. His Spirit lifts us up off the dusty ground so we can find new legs to run. And just to get us through the tough stretches and finally over the finish line, there is this promise in Hebrews 7:24-25:

- *"Because Jesus our great High Priest abides (perseveres) forever...he is able to save forever those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them."*

Perseverance. I love the promise and the hope of that last sentence. Jesus always perseveres in intercession (prayer) for me! And you! That's how I know I can and will persevere. You, too. Jesus is right here with us in the storm. He is getting us through. He will get us over the finish line. His perseverance is our perseverance.

Persevering in the love of Christ with you,

Pastor John Walker

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PRAYER IS POWERFUL. LET'S PRAY TOGETHER!

We invite you to be a part of refreshing the PRAYER LIFE of our congregation! We know that the foundation of prayer is so important for anything we do. There are two opportunities each week to be a part of this important and special work of the church; **Sunday mornings from 8:45-9am AND/OR Wednesday mornings from 9-10 am**, in the library. Please come join us to see what great work God is waiting to do, as we thank, seek & ask Him.

Heavenly Father, Thank you, that we can come before you, our loving, powerful Father and ask for you help and guidance. Thank you for how you have blessed FPC these past 150 years. Will you please continue to pour out your blessings upon us? We ask for you protection and provision, for our church and leaders, as we enter this time of wanting to grow closer to you, and be your disciples. Please help our hearts to be open to what you want to teach us. Help us to see your love for us, and others all around us. Show us where we can be your hands and feet. Give us courage to speak out in love and kindness, in your Name, where we see need. Please heal those who are sick; comfort those whose hearts are hurting; provide for those in need; bless and protect our families; heal our nation and world. Jesus, thank you for your amazing gift of complete forgiveness, because of your obedience and sacrifice on the cross, on our behalf. Please help us to live with new awareness of the freedom we have been given, as your deeply loved sons and daughters. Help us to grasp and understand the rich PRIZE you have for us, and those all around us. Holy Spirit, please reveal yourself to us, guide, lead, and protect us.

In Jesus's Mighty Name,

Amen

Want more help with HOW to pray and for WHAT? See the daily Calendar for PRAYER on page 4.



PLEASE PRAY EACH DAY WITH US, FOR OUR COMMUNITY AND CHURCH

1. Pray for Restoration and Revival <i>Psalm 80:19</i>	2. Pastor John and his family <i>Galatians 6:9</i>	3. FPC Staff <i>1 Corinthians 16:4</i>	4. Our Hurting World <i>John 3:16</i>	5. Public Schools & Opportunity School <i>Proverbs 22:6</i>	6. Shut-ins <i>James 1:27</i>
7. Community Meals <i>Matthew 25:37-40</i>	8. Worship <i>Psalm 86: 9-10</i>	9. Hearts of Hurting People <i>Psalm 34:18</i>	10. Session <i>Isaiah 41:10</i>	11. PADS Shelter & Homeless <i>Matthew 25:35-40</i>	12. Protection of the Congregation <i>Ephesians 6:10-18</i>
13. Invite & Welcome the Holy Spirit <i>Titus 3:4-7</i>	14. Choir & Music Team <i>Psalm 92:1</i>	15. LOL4JC & Sr. High Ministry <i>Proverbs 22:6</i>	16. Our Children <i>Matthew 19:14</i>	17. Pray for Missionaries Strength & Protection <i>Acts 1:8</i>	18. Riverside Women's Center <i>Luke 21:18-19</i>
19. Health of the Congregation <i>James 5:14</i>	20. Small Groups & Missional Communities <i>Hebrews 10:25</i>	21. Nation, State & Government <i>1 Timothy 2:1-4</i>	22. Z.O.N.E. <i>Matthew 19:14</i>	23. Our Seniors <i>Psalm 90:14</i>	24. Churches of Ottawa <i>Hebrews 10:24-25</i>
25. Ottawa Mayor & City Counsel <i>1 timothy 2:1-4</i>	26. Leaders of Ministries <i>Hebrews 13:17-18</i>	27. Ottawa Community <i>Jeremiah 29:7</i>	28. Pray for those who are far from God <i>Luke 10:2</i>	29. Servant's Heart <i>Matthew 25:37-40</i>	30. Marseilles Community <i>Jeremiah 29:7</i>

Philippians: Adult Zoom Bible Study Starting Sunday, September 13

Any Christian who is feeling down or discouraged about anything should study Paul's powerful letter to the Philippians. This is true because of Paul's circumstances when he wrote it. He had been kept in prison for two years in Caesarea, without trial, and he was being held for an unknown amount of time in Caesar's jail in Rome. He had survived a perilous storm on the Mediterranean Sea. He had been deserted by most of his friends. Others, even Christian leaders, had spoken against him, hoping to get him into even more trouble with the government. He was facing possible execution for his faith. Terrible! Yet no book in the Bible is so filled with **joy** as Philippians.

What was Paul's secret? How could he remain **joyful** in such circumstances? We find out by studying this letter.

Come join in and be part of this exciting study as we learn what God's word proclaims beginning Sept. 13th.

Topics in Philippians

Background of Philippians

Survey of Philippians

Thanksgiving and Prayer

The Advance of the Gospel

Christ Our Pattern

Christ Our Goal

Final

Exhortations



LADIES' NITE OUT

Will resume when we are able
to meet safely

KUM JOIN US

Will resume when we are able
to meet safely



FOOD, FELLOWSHIP & FAMILY



SEPTEMBER

Cindy Arjes	4
Jon Woodyer	14
Mark Brockman	15
Dan Duggan	16
Craig Harvey	22
Deb Damron	23
Katie Duggan	26
David Farrell	28

OCTOBER

Larry Schmitt	2
Hannah Walker	2
Brenda Wegner	3
Shirley Davey	4
Arla Severson	5
Caleb Burkey	6
Mary Lou Smith	12
Rob Angus	14
Joe Schmidt	20
Dan Mestelle	22
Samantha Ehret	24

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
9:30 a.m.—In peson and remote worship (on YouTube at FPC Ottawa)			9:00 a.m.— Wednesday Prayer Team (meeting in the FPC library)			
		1.	2.	3.	4.	5.
6.	7. LABOR DAY	8. 7 pm– Committee Meetings	9.	10.	11.	12.
13. 11 am– Adult Bible Study on ZOOM	14.	15.	16.	17.	18.	19.
20. 11 am– Adult Bible Study on ZOOM NOON– Community Grab N Go Meal	21.	22. 7 pm– Session	23.	24.	25.	26.
27. 11 am– Adult Bible Study on ZOOM	28.	29.	30.			



2020

First Presbyterian Church
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Return Service Requested

Faith, Courage and Love

Faith, courage and love come from God up above. His love follows you in everything you do. When your well seems dry. God hears you when you cry. The creator of the universe is aware. God is always fair and does care. It is comforting to know whatever comes our way. God will stay. Faith , courage and love along with laughter, hope and peace are for those who believe.

By Ruth Stephan

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*** Refresh Your Prayer Life on Sunday & Wednesday Mornings**