

Perspective

A Newsletter of the First Presbyterian Church
of Phoenixville, Pennsylvania

Volume XLVI No. 5 June 2021

Phone: 610-933-8816

Fax: 610-933-8060

www.fpc-phoenixville.org

email: secretaryfpc145@gmail.com



First Presbyterian Church
Phoenixville, Pennsylvania
1846 – 2021

The *Perspective* is published 10 times a year by the First Presbyterian Church of Phoenixville. Please direct information or comments to the Church Office at 610-933-8816 or to secretaryfpc145@gmail.com.

Publisher: Sue Smith Contributors: Church Family; Proofreader: Jeanne Blackburn

Table of Contents

Message from Pastor Doug.....	2
Deacons Dialogue.....	4
Mission Action Committee.....	5
Sunday School Celebration.....	7
Worship and Music Notes.....	7
Church Parking Lot,.....	7
Thank you Sunday School Teachers.....	8
Clerk of Session Report.....	8
Parish Life.....	9
Juneteenth Jubilee.....	13
June calendar.....	14

From the Pastor

From Romans 14

Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. 4 Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

10 Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God.

(It's of course worth reading every word of Romans chapter 14, but I only included selections above)

I was wondering what to write about, but then the CDC released new guidelines on mask-wearing, and PA quickly followed suit. I've generally prioritized the CDC guidelines over those adopted by PA, because I felt like the CDC was less likely to be influenced by political pressure and more likely to be looking solely at the science with public health as a priority. (Of course, maybe that was incorrect - there is so much we still don't know about the past fourteen months, but we did the best we could).

But now what we're hearing is that those of us who are vaccinated can be indoors without social distancing, except in very crowded places, and outside without masks all the time even in crowds. As for vaccination rates, a week ago the state was at 42% and from what I'm reading we're likely to be at 50% by the end of May. That's fantastic! The goal is still 70%, but at least we are approaching that goal. (Keep talking to vaccine-hesitant friends and family).

So we are in a situation where the guidelines for vaccinated people and unvaccinated people differ, and as I'm writing this Perspective article, Chester county has 33% fully vaccinated and 61% who have had one of two shots (so, presumably, fully vaccinated in about a month). But for the early part of the summer, at least, we will have a mix of neighbors who are vaccinated and unvaccinated, and the vaccinated won't be quite approaching 'herd immunity' (which I've read is a minimum of between 70% and 80% vaccinated). I've also read that we are already in a situation where there are more vaccines than people willing to receive them. Our vaccination rate is beginning to bump up against vaccine hesitancy and outright refusal.

We also have potentially frightening variants and mutations of COVID-19 in Brazil, Great Britain, India and elsewhere. The mutation wreaking havoc in India right now has at least 10 specific mutations, all potentially making it more resistant to vaccines and more difficult for our immune systems to deal with. And as vaccines have yet to reach impoverished countries in large numbers, we have every reason to expect more variants and mutations going forward.

So, it's still complicated. On the one hand, I definitely expect that we will be able to be together much more than we have in the last 14 months. On the other hand, COVID is still very much with us, and I will continue paying more attention to what the CDC says than I ever have in my life. The CDC also continues to make a strong distinction between vaccinated and unvaccinated adults, and what I expect is that many people who are vaccine-hesitant are going to behave as if vaccinated anyway. If they were interested in following CDC recommendations, they'd be vaccinated.

Under the leadership of Session throughout the pandemic, FPC has leaned toward caution and safety. The Session has spent a lot of time deliberating and debating each step and each decision we make, and we have done the same as church staff and in committee meetings. Some have found that they enjoy attending church in their pajamas, and will probably continue to do so going forward even as we open up. Others I know are starved for social connections and going stir-crazy where you are. Many of us have probably experienced a mix, but there's no question that this has been a difficult time.

We will continue to prioritize the safety of our members and visitors and neighbors, but going forward that will mean more openness and more togetherness than we have experienced in these last 14 months.

2. continued...

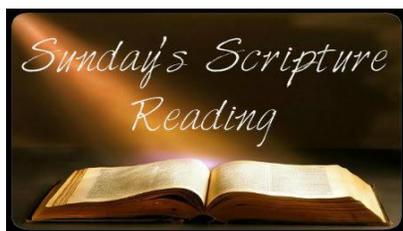
That will be a bit of a challenge, but also a massive relief. We will have to do what we need to in order to make people feel welcome and safe, especially as right now children under 12 (almost all of our kids at FPC) still cannot be vaccinated at all. Some people still have compromised immune systems, vaccine or no vaccine. And unless we check vaccine cards at the door, we won't know who coming to worship is vaccinated and who is not. Visitors will walk in who we've never met.

These are all things Session is going to take up when we meet at the end of May, and you may very well be hearing news of our decisions and changes being made when you receive this June Perspective. But sometimes it helps me, at least, to take a moment and reflect on where we are in the midst of all this and where we are headed in the foreseeable future.

Let me come back to the passage from the beginning of Romans 14 - a passage that talks about mutual forbearance. We know that people in our community will include the vaccinated and unvaccinated; those with healthy immune systems and those who are immunocompromised; adults and adolescents who can get the vaccine and children that for now at least cannot. This is a time that will demand mutual forbearance, and patience, and graciousness. We are still responsible for keeping ourselves and our neighbors safe, but what that looks like will continue changing as the situation around us changes. We will continue, trusting in God, knowing we answer only to God, and doing all we can to keep ourselves and one another safe as we also celebrate times when we can come together again, in person.

It has been too long!

Pastor Doug



Upcoming Scripture Readings

June 6: 1 Samuel 8:4-20; Mark 3:20-35

June 13: TBA, Supply Pastor

June 20: 1 Samuel 17:4-11,19-23,32-49

2 Corinthians 6:1-13

June 27: 2 Samuel 1:17-27; Mark 5:21-43

Scrip Gift Card Orders

We will be placing orders for gift cards every other **Wednesday**.
(**June 9 & June 23**).

If you would like to place an order, please call Lynne Williams at: 610-415-1581 (home) or 610-955-4749 (cell).

You may mail your check to Lynne or drop it off at her home,
(14 Schofield Road, Phoenixville, PA 19460).

We will complete the order forms for you.

Orders and checks must be received by the day before the orders are placed (**June 8 & June 22**).

Please make checks payable to "First Presbyterian Church DR".

Thank you... Thank you for continuing to support this program!



Joys and Concerns Live

Join Pastor Doug virtually on Sundays at 11:45 a.m. to share some happiness, heartache, or anything in between and lift up each other in spirit. Join Zoom meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87345268002>
Meeting ID: 873 4526 8002 One tap mobile +13017158592



Your Board of Deacons is excited to feature a very special member of our congregation this month, Dawkins, FCPC's resident therapy dog! Many of you may remember seeing Dawkins proudly displaying his Eagles green at FCPC's annual Blessing of the Animals and other outdoor services.

DAWKINS is a Labradoodle (part black Labrador and part poodle) who has earned his Therapy Dogs International certification. In order to receive his certificate, he had to go through two different trainings: as a prerequisite. Dawkins first had to pass a Canine Good Citizen class. This involved teaching him 10 skills focused on the basics of good manners and obedience. He was then ready for the five weeks of skills training in order to take the Therapy Dogs International (TDI) test. Dawkins was one of three dogs who passed, out of a class of eight dogs! Unfortunately, Covid-19 stopped therapy dogs from visiting in March of 2020. TDI is slowly opening back up. Dawkins would love to snuggle with anyone who just may need some extra affection, comfort and support on a 'cloudy day.' He is sure to bring a smile to your face and warmth to your heart.



Please contact Jennifer Johnson (267-253-0247) or Ann Miller (610-554-6391) for more information on a visit with Dawkins.

A reminder that your Deacon is here for you to provide any assistance possible. If anything in life has you overwhelmed and we can help with meals, or just a conversation, please reach out to us. We are here to help you through these life events!

God bless you all and be a blessing unto someone each and every day.

Submitted on behalf of the Deacons by,
Ellen Williams



Mission, Action, Concern Committee (MAC)

Isaiah 6:8

Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?”
And I said, “Here am I; send me!”

Volunteer Opportunity- Are you feeling called?

Reverend Scott Dorsey, Church Engagement Director from Bridge of Hope will be visiting with us on **Sunday, May 30th** for worship, and to speak to us during Minute for Mission. During this time, Reverend Dorsey will explain the concept of ‘[neighboring](#)’ and how we at FPC can help.

- Bringing your empathy, compassion and personal network to move the family into a stable environment and become self-sufficient. This can be done safely from your own home!
- Why not check out [the website](#) in the meantime?

Flea Market- Saturday June 12th (Sandy) 9AM-1PM rear parking lot of FPC.

Items include suitcases, purses, household items, glassware, bikes and possibly summer clothing.

Rain date: June 19th, 9AM-1PM.

Watch for the Sign-Up Genius- We appreciate volunteers!

Summer Children Ministry Opportunities

MAC and the FPC Families will be coordinating the summer backpack project again so stay tuned for opportunities to participate in this important outreach opportunity. Additionally, we would like to host a book drive for our little free library themed ‘Who Is My Neighbor’ to expand our children’s book collection. Contact Chris Wittrock (cwittrock22@gmail.com)



Clothing Ministry

We have helped 65 people (25 of whom are children) since January. We also received donations of comfortable shoes from the Vionic store in Collegeville and underwear from Van Heusen. We are looking forward to the time when we can accept more donations from the congregation. Contact Sandy Heidel with questions at csheidel@verizon.net.

St. Mary’s Franciscan Shelter

These warm, delicious meals are a true blessing to the families after long days during difficult times. Our next opportunity to provide meals is Oct 4th-8th.

Good Works Lunch- Help Prep and/or deliver lunch

Saturday Oct 9, 2021 10:30 am- 1:30 pm

Appalachian Service Project (ASP) - Sarah Shulman Group Leader

As you heard this week, Sarah Shulman is spearheading a summer mission trip through [Appalachian Service Project \(ASP\)](#). The mission is focused on making homes warmer, safer, and drier for Appalachian families by providing critical repairs.

5. *continued.....*

The mission also underscores the critical importance of service by youth and adults of all ages, backgrounds, and skill levels. **Stay tuned for important announcements regarding ways we as a church can participate in the preparations and support of this important mission trip.**

We offer a very special thank you to Amy Mincavage who stepped down from the MAC Committee after years of faithful and joyful service. We appreciate you, Amy!

Ministry Updates

People to People

Clothing Ministry Updates (Sandy Heidel)

We offer a special thank you to Paul Parrish for making a shelving unit for our storage area. We sure did need the extra organization – thanks, Paul! We have filled 50 requests (helped 65 people) since January. We continue to defer collections for the time being until we have storage space. Please call Sandy Heidel with questions.

Food Ministry Updates (Bob Russell)

The numbers of persons receiving lunch at St. Peter’s Episcopal are increasing to 24 weekly. Thankfully, our finances remain in good shape and our volunteer numbers are healthy and reliable. In addition to feeding our usual lunch bunch on Thursdays, we also provided lunch to volunteers at Good Works, LLC in Phoenixville. We delivered 50 bagged lunches to four work sites in the Phoenixville area.

MAC is discussing the possibility of developing a shared-services partnership with another church(es) or non-profit to provide P2P with a more sustainable volunteer/grant model going forward. As a first step, Pastor Doug will discuss at the next Phoenixville Area Clergy Association (PACA) meeting where leaders from area churches are present.

You may also notice we are making new connections and introducing you to opportunities for new ways to engage and help others. Many of these opportunities will be revealed over the next few months and include, Bridge of Hope, summer mission projects with our FPC families, [Hosts for Hospitals](#), and a new military-focused ministry. Have you been inspired during this pandemic? Is there a community project you think FPC might like being part of? Reach out and let’s talk- good stuff happens when we come together in love.

May God Bless you and keep you safe until we meet again.

Chris Wittrock (cwittrock22@gmail.com)

Chair, MAC Committee

Prayer Chain & Prayer Requests

Amy Myers, our Prayer Chain Coordinator, will be happy to forward your prayer requests to the members of the prayer chain. You can email Amy at fpcprayerchain1@gmail.com and members will be lifting you up in prayer. You may also call Sue Smith at [\(610\) 933-8816](tel:6109338816) and she will forward your requests on to Amy.



Sunday School Celebration!!

On May 23rd we celebrated our Sunday School children and families.

That morning was our last “**Sunday School Zoom**” get together. In spite of all the challenges that the past 14 months have presented...our Sunday School children **faithfully** joined us monthly for our Sunday School Zooms.

We chatted...laughed...sang together...shared stories...took deep breaths...and prayed together...all while being apart.

Possibly the most important thing that we **all** learned this year is that we were able to stay connected. While we missed being together at church and in Sunday School...church is **everywhere**...and we are **always together** in our hearts and minds.

Much time was also spent on how important “**little acts of kindness**” are. Over the past months our children created and mailed almost **200 cards** to members of our church family...spreading a little happiness.

Thank you to each and every one of our Sunday School families. You have faithfully supported our teachers and helped us to continue to share God’s message and love.

We wish you a safe summer and we look forward to being together again in September... in Sunday School and in church.



Notes from Worship and Music

It has been very nice at 9 AM on recent Sundays to see friends worshipping together in person. Session will be making a decision about the future of this worship service at their meeting a few days from the writing of this. So keep alert for what will happen in the month of June with this service.

Our broadcast service will continue on into the future. The only difference may be, again depending on Session’s decision, opening up the sanctuary for in person worship at the 10:30 AM service.

So keep alert for any announcements about the future of our worship services. You can count on our YouTube broadcast to continue well into the future.

See you in church.



Parking Lot Attendants Needed

‘Tis the season of nicer weather with more restaurants and shops opening up on Bridge Street and placing our parking lot in high demand.

In May, the Stewardship Committee began collecting parking donations on Friday and Saturday evenings. Not only does this benefit our church, but it makes it so much more convenient for those who want to park.

We are looking for volunteers to collect parking donations on Friday and Saturday nights from 5:00pm – 8:00pm. It is a great opportunity to spend some quality time with a fellow church member as well as getting to interact with folks in our community.

If you would like to help, sign up on the Sign-Up Genius that Sue Smith emails each Monday. If you have questions, please contact Pam Bodam at 610-496-1933. Thank You.

Thank you Sunday School Teachers ---



On May 9th we recognized and celebrated our faithful Sunday School teachers. In the midst of the challenges that COVID-19 presented, our teachers worked to keep the children of our church connected and engaged. Monthly Sunday School zoom get togethers were planned. Individual bags filled with lesson and activity materials (and of course, a few treats) were put together and delivered to each child monthly. Our teachers continued to share God's love and to teach His messages. Most importantly, our faithful teachers continued to love and celebrate each child.

So, thank you Sunday School teachers for your time, your flexibility and your love.

We would also like to recognize Jane Shier and Amy Osterhoudt, our nursery staff, who have been anxiously awaiting the return of the children to the nursery Sunday mornings.

Thank you everyone!!

Pam Bodam	Gail Landazuri
Sue Casey	Cara Lewis
George Cockerill	Jeff McLaughlin
Kristin Craven	Jeanie Osterhoudt
Karen Drummond	Mona Sabia
Rob Drummond	Gail Schnaedter
Pam Hagler	Becky Sinapius
Pastor Doug Hagler	Lynne Williams

From the Clerk of Session

- Average Sunday morning attendance: As YouTube viewing of the service is available anytime there isn't a way to accurately count attendance. In April the average for viewing the 10:30am premiere was 41 (households) and 27 households *chatting*. Please think of *chatting* as the YouTube version of signing the Red Friendship Book and join in the chat, if you are able. ☺
- Motions presented at the March 23rd Session Meeting:
 - To enter into a month-to-month contract with the porta-potty company, having it placed in a well lighted space in our parking lot. Also with informing the neighbor on the adjacent property. Motion passed with 7 in favor, 3 against and 1 abstaining.
 - To approve lease agreement with Main Street Lofts, LLC for use of parking spaces on our lot. Motion passed unanimously.
- The Life of the church
 - Current active membership is 176
 - Birth - Norah Elaine Dove, daughter of Alex and Ginny Dove, North Carolina. Proud grandparents are Ben and Donna Dove.
 - Death - Joanne Jarrell joined the Church Triumphant on May 14, 2021. Memorial Service TBD.
 - Wedding - none



Information from the May 25th Stated Session Meeting will be reviewed/approved at the next Stated Session Meeting scheduled for June 22nd and will be in the following Perspective.

Jewell Baker, Clerk of Session

Parish Life



All Church ZOOM Meetings - Wednesday nights, 7:30.

Please note that we are moving to a monthly all church Zoom meeting schedule for the spring and summer months.

Content will be announced closer to the meeting date.

June 16th – Baby Photos

June 30th - Trivia

July 14th – Drumming with Jen & CPR video

July 28th – Vacation photos & memories

August 11th - TBA

August 25th – TBA

A Special Thank you...



A year ago, the ladies of Parish Life got together for our first zoom meeting and realized not everyone on our committee had internet access. So we started thinking about how we could reach everyone in the congregation, at least those living within driving distance - sorry Judy & Hermann!

Our Wednesday night all church Zooms (our version of an after church social) began, and we zoomed in almost every week for just over a year...and they still continue! They're every other week now, since so many are immunized and getting out. But there were still folks who couldn't join in the fun, so the 'Fairies of Happiness' were born. The ladies of PL started baking and shopping, and Lynne started cleaning out her 'I've got that at home' closet. We made 127 deliveries to church members and friends, making sure they knew that even though we couldn't be together, we were thinking about them. We even doubled up with the Sunday school bags to remember the kiddos and their families! Now that Covid seems to be winding down (we pray), the fairies have decided to hang up their wings. However, we are looking forward to having an in-person church social soon! Maybe Jack will come to tell a few jokes!

Seriously - it's time for a few important mentions...all the PL Ladies who baked and baked, and baked some more, and then delivered goodies to the Williams' garage. To Becky, who was emcee for most of our Zoom socials. To Jewell, for being in charge of fairy flower/decor procurement (with help from Michigan), and to Lynne, who spent hours prepping boxes and bags, printed names and addresses for deliveries, and was the brainchild behind all of us. And to our delivery team, a.k.a. The Fairies of Happiness...Ann, Barbie, Becky, Jewell, Kathryn, Lynne, Nancy (and George), and Pam. Also thanks to all of you who shared your musical talents on coffee house nights, your trivia knowledge...yes including Pastor Doug, your baby photos, your would-be antiques (sugar packets) and, most of all, Maggie for making our random ideas work! It's our hope that we made Covid lockdown a little brighter for everyone!

9. *continued.....*



10. *continued....*



11. *continued....*



We look forward to sharing these special times with you!

The Parish Life Committee meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 7PM in the Zoom Parlor...Please join us!

JUNETEENTH JUBILEE

June 13th – June 19th, 2021

A WEEK LONG VIRTUAL EVENT

hosted by
Diversity In Action • Orion Communities • Black Light Projects

ART
AUCTION

RAFFLE
DRAWING

ART
SALES

featuring

**entertainment, inspiring words,
art exhibits, storytelling
colorful re-enactments,
African dancing &
drumming & much
more**

JUSTICE
DIVERSITY
EQUALITY
FREEDOM
EMANCIPATION

LET'S STAND TOGETHER THROUGH CELEBRATION

What is Juneteenth?

Juneteenth, **FREEDOM DAY**, commemorated since 1865, celebrates the emancipation of the last remaining enslaved people in the United States.

TO DONATE

- Please go to our website <https://diaphoenixville.org>
- <https://www.facebook.com/DIAPhoenixville>
- Or make a check payable to Diversity In Action - Phoenixville, with "Juneteenth" in memo line, and mail to DIA - Phoenixville, P.O. 337, Phoenixville, PA 19460.



REGISTER ON EVENTBRITE: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/148854893995>

June 2021

First Presbyterian Church of Phoenixville

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 6:30p Staff meeting 7:00p MAC-zoom	2	3 10:00a Food ministry 1:00p WIC 7:00p "We Are" Vigil Virtually	4	5
6 8:30a Bible Study 10:30a Worship 12:00n Joys & Concerns 12:30p Deacons meeting	7 7:45p Property	8 7:00p Personnel 7:00p Parish Life	9	10 10:00a Food ministry 7:30p Compassionate Friends	11 Set up for the flea mkt	12 9am-1pm People to People Flea Market Rev. Hagler Vacation
13 8:30a Bible Study 10:30a Worship 12:00n Joys & Concerns 12:30p Worship & Music 7:00p Antiracism Book Club Rev. Hagler Vacation	14 7:00p Finance & Stewardship Rev. Hagler Vaca,	15 7:15p Church Growth Rev. Hagler Vacation	16 7:30p Parish Life Zoom Event- Baby photos Rev. Hagler Vacation	17 10:00a Food ministry 1:00p WIC 7:00p "We Are" Vigil Live Rev. Hagler Vacation	18 Rev. Hagler Vacation	19 Rev. Hagler Vacation
20 8:30a Bible Study 10:30a Worship 12:00n Joys & Concerns <i>Perspective articles due for July</i> <i>Father's Day</i>	21	22 7:30p Session	23	24 10:00a Food ministry 1:00p WIC	25	26
27 8:30a Bible Study 10:30a Worship 12:00n Joys & Concerns 7:00p Antiracism Book Club	28	29	30 7:30p Parish Life Zoom Event - Trivia			