

“But the Lord is in his holy temple; let all the earth keep silence before him.” (Habakkuk 2:20)

One of the things that we have learned during the past six months is that we don't need to be in a church building in order to worship our God. When the COVID-19 restrictions were first put in place, our only option was to record our worship services so that you could watch them online. So everyone ended up worshipping in their own homes. As the weather warmed up and the restrictions eased a little bit, we decided to start worshipping outside on Sundays at 9:30 a.m. Some of you sat in your cars in the parking lot and some of you sat on chairs and benches on the front lawn. We also continued to post our services online, so that those who were not able to come to the outdoor service could still worship with us.

In July, we added the option of worshipping in the sanctuary on Saturdays at 9:30 a.m., during the taping for the online service. The Saturday worship attendance has been relatively small, so it has served as a kind of “test run” for the day when we would move the Sunday services back inside. Now that day is fast approaching.

On Sunday, October 18th, we will have our first Sunday worship service in the sanctuary since March 15th. We will observe certain protocols in order to keep us all safe. We ask you to wear a mask when you come in to worship. If you forget yours, there will be disposable masks available near the entrances and at the back of the church. Every other pew will be roped off, so that there will be space in front of you and behind you. Members of the same household can sit together in a pew. But if you sit in a pew with people who are not from your household, please stay at least six feet away from them.

Once you are seated and the service has begun, you may lower your mask if you feel comfortable doing so. But if you are feeling the urge to cough or sneeze, please leave your mask in place for the entire service. And when you get up to leave, please pull your mask back over your face. And here is the really tough part—please do not sing during the worship service! This one just kills me, because I really love to sing. But singing expels water droplets from our mouths. We want to have music in the service, but we can't do that unless people will agree not to sing.

Here's another important thing to remember. If you feel sick, even if you think it's just a cold, please stay home and watch the service online. It's always better to err a little bit on the side of safety. For that reason, you will also see some other changes to our normal procedures. We will not be passing the offering plates. The plates will be on tables at the back of the church, so that you can easily deposit your offerings when you enter or when you leave. And when we distribute communion, you will stay in your seats, and we will have people bring the communion elements to you. Those people will wear masks and gloves and will drop the elements into your hands without touching you.

These changes really don't take a lot of extra effort. We've been worshipping this way during our indoor Saturday services and now we just need to do the same on Sunday. We may have to tweak things a little bit as we go along, but we hope that the worship experience will be pretty much like it was before. We should be able to worship freely and stay safe at the same time. And we will continue to offer the Saturday morning worship in the sanctuary. We will be taping that service so that it is available online by Saturday evening. So if you want to worship with fewer people in the sanctuary, Saturday might be your best option.

I look forward to October 18th, when we will be back inside for Sunday worship. We know that the church is more than a building, but I really do love our building. It is warm and beautiful and awe-inspiring. It helps me to feel the presence of God in our midst. It reminds me that he is greater than any of the things that worry us in this world. He is the God who created this world. And just thinking of that makes me bow my head before him and give thanks for all of the blessings in my life. The world can sometimes be a frightening place, *“but the Lord is in his holy temple; let all the earth keep silence before him.”* Amen and Amen.

Pastor Shields

Office hours: 9-12 & 1-4 Mon.-Thurs.

Website: www.flcprinceton.org

Check us out on Facebook.

Phone: 815-875-1685

Email: office.flcprinceton@gmail.com

*If you have any special announcements for Pastor to make during his taping, please get them to the office **by Thursday**. Mailing does not guarantee we will get them before the Saturday taping. Call and leave a message, email, or drop off a note.*

Council Summary: Meeting September 8, 2020

August minutes were approved. Financial reports approved subject to audit.

Pastor’s report – 10 worship services, many calls and conversations, funeral of Doris Giltner and took 4 vacation days in August. Pastor will begin his Bible Studies on Wed., September 9 at 11:00am and Thurs., September 10 at 6:00pm.

Administrator’s report – Drinking fountain in Fellowship Hall out of order. Will cost more to fix than replace. The Kewanee boiler has been repaired.

No Property report.

Service & Mission – Our Table requesting \$250 to purchase gift cards since they cannot serve meals right now. A motion was made to approve this donation to Our Table. The River Bend Mobile Food Pantry will be here on Thursday, Nov. 19. Fewer volunteers will be needed.

No Youth report.

No Worship report.

Memorial – committee met & voted by email to use Memorial funds to replace the tree that was lost this summer. Permission was received from the Giltner family to use those funds. Council approved. Worship will move indoors on Sunday, October 18th. The Saturday taping service will continue so the service can be posted to the website by Sunday morning. Attendance is encouraged at the Saturday taping to keep the numbers attending services lower.

New Business – No auction this fall.



First Family News:

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

- 10/3 – Barb Fiste 10/17 – Lexi Bouslog
- 10/3 – Thomas Feurer 10/18 – Gail Norden
- 10/4 – Keith Cain 10/18 – Charlie Swanson
- 10/6 – Josh Burke 10/18 – Pete Bonucci
- 10/10 – Ashley Busche 10/19 – Ruth Eklof
- 10/12 – Nicole Burke 10/21 – Ava Kyle
- 10/13 – Gloria Lietzau 10/25 – Susan Lauritzen
- 10/15 – Mary Dorsch 10/27 – Donna Monier
- 10/17 – Eva Coats

Hospitalized recently:

Gary Schaill
Remington Schafer

Continued prayers for:

John Purvis, Merle Polson, Janette Dunn, Gary Schaill, & Mary Hull.

PASTOR'S BIBLE STUDY



11:00am Wednesdays
6:00pm Thursdays
Come, join one of these studies!

October Anniversaries

10/10 – Denny & Phyllis Miller
10/14 – Tom & Laurie Anderson
We missed one in September
9/23 - Rick & Betty Cook 20th Anniversary

Best Wishes



Lindsay Pierson & Tim Cowser
Married Saturday, 9/19/20
Parents: Bob & Susan Pierson



Best Wishes Again

Nathan & Camille Shields
renewed their vows in the presence of
their family on 9/18/20.

Baptism

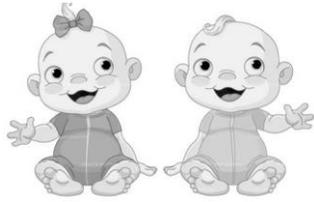


Benjamin Cam Shields
was baptized here on
9/13/20
by his grandpa, Pastor Bill
Parents: Isaac & Sarah Shields

Happiness is not a destination. It is a
method of life. -Burton Hillis

Experience is knowing a lot of things you shouldn't do.
--William S. Knudsen

You do not get stomach ulcers from what you eat.
You get ulcers from what is eating you.
--James Thurber



Congratulations!

Nora Pauline Timmons Sabastian
 Born – 8/27/20 – 5lbs. 9oz.
 Parents: Katie Timmons
 & Michael Sebastian
 Grandparents: Betty & Rick Cook

Twin Boys – born 8/28/20
 Gavin Matthew – 7lbs. 5 oz.
 Perrin Michael – 7lbs. 13oz.

Parents: Ken & Alicia Saunders
 Grandparents: Steve & Sharon Saunders

Lydia Ann Gaster
 Born 9/2-20 – 7lbs. 5oz.
 Parents: Jeff & Rachel Gaster
 Grandparents: Pastor & Lisa Shields

In Sympathy...

Dawn "Pat" Carlson
 Passed away 9/5/20 at Liberty Village in
 Princeton - Private services will be held.

Janet Schmidt passed away 9/17/20
 Our sympathy to Rick & Betty Cook.
 Janet was Betty's mother.



**THERE WILL BE NO OWLS EVENTS
 FOR THE REMAINDER OF THIS YEAR.**

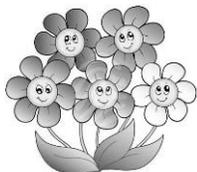


**Unfortunately, there will be no
 Christmas Carol Sing-a-long
 this year.**



**RIVER BEND
 MOBILE FOOD PANTRY**

River Bend fall distribution will be
 Thursday, November 19th as originally
 planned. Fewer volunteers are
 needed but please talk to Glenn Allen
 if you can help.



ALTAR FLOWERS

Once we return to worship in the
 building, we will resume Altar Flower requests
 each week. Current open dates are:

October 18, 25 & November 1, 8, 15 & 29
 December 6, 13, 20 & 27

**Flowers need to be in the sanctuary before
 9:30am on Saturdays.**

Please call the office if you would like to schedule
 one of the above weekends.

BUDDY BAGS

There will be no Buddy Bag packing with
 volunteers at this time.

INDOOR WORSHIP BEGINS SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2020

Ushers Are Needed!

Our indoor worship will look slightly different from usual. Refer to the guidelines included in this newsletter. No one will be reading lessons, offering prayers, singing in the choir, singing in general, but we will need 3 ushers each week. If you are willing to offer your services to usher, please read the following duties that will be expected. Call the office if you are willing to serve.

1. All ushers will wear masks.
2. There will be an usher at the north narthex door and at the elevator door. (All other doors will be locked.) Ushers will open doors and direct people to mask/sanitation tables and also to back table for offering plates. Pews are roped off for social distancing. Members who are not from the same family should be 6 ft. apart in the pews.
3. Another usher will be in the elevator to push the buttons.
4. Ushers will write down names of anyone present. Notebook will be on the welcome center in the back.
5. Ushers will assist Pastor handing out communion as members stay in their pew. Ushers will walk on the two outside aisles. Pre-filled, disposable wafer and juice cups will be used. Pastor will say the blessing and everyone will take communion together. A waste basket will be under the table at the back of the church. Members can throw the containers away as they leave.

ALTAR GUILD TEAMS

October – Karen May, Julia Cain & Lani Swinford

November – June Ohlson, Laurie Anderson & Cindy Pierson

December – Marilynne Kloster, Linda Bacon & JoAnne Kloepping

Hampshire Colony

Annual Chicken & Biscuit Dinner
Wednesday, Oct. 7 – 4:30-7:00pm

*this year will be carry out only
& only 150 will be served
Tickets must be purchased in advance
Call 815-875-2329
\$10 for adults and \$5 for children under 12.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

The BC Senior Center is looking for volunteers available to help deliver meals to senior in Princeton. The Senior Center van can be used. The job takes about 1 hour each day. Meals are catered into the Senior Center and arrive around 10am. They are placed in warmers & coolers and delivered. Social distancing is practiced on delivery. Please contact Tina at 815-879-3981.

GriefShare Seminar/Support Group

Begins Tuesday, October 6th
6 – 8:00pm in the Fellowship Hall
@ Evangelical Covenant Church
This is for anyone needing help & support in their grief. Please wear a mask, hand sanitize entering & exiting the building. Larger meeting room for social distancing & please bring your own water bottle.
Call: 815-875-2124 for more information

Happiness is a by-product of an effort to make someone else happy. –Gretta Palmer



LCW News

We have had another month of quarantine and we continue to cancel our scheduled programs. Sorry...I can't wait till we can all meet together again. No OWLS Pie Fellowship for October.

The only event in September was the Quilt & Prayer Shawl Dedication. Some of the Shawls & Quilts were draped on the Altar Rail instead of on the Church pews and a few were draped on the hay rack for the outside service on Sunday. The quilters made more than 60 quilts and the prayer shawl ladies made 15 Prayer Shawls (they have more shawls at home that haven't been added to our count). Thanks for making these beautiful Quilts and Prayer Shawls that will give comfort to many.

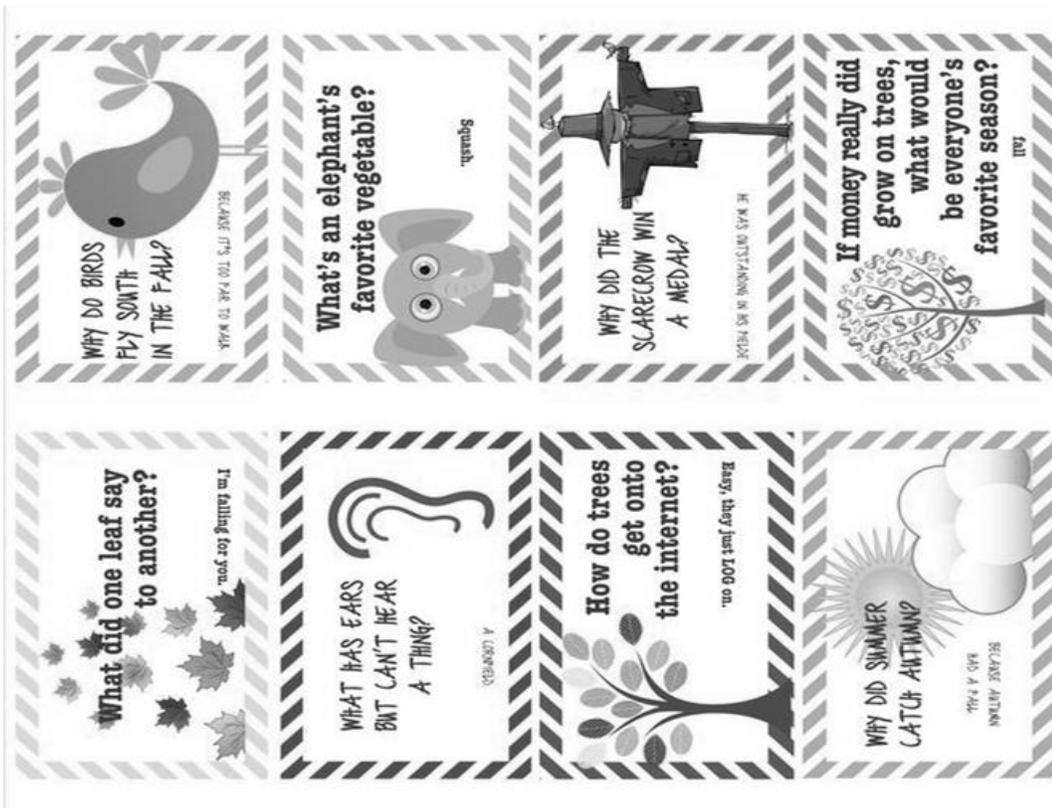
Until further notice, any scheduled events will be evaluated and decisions made if they will be held. Right now, only the Lydia Circle is meeting. The Rebeckah and Naomi Circles are not meeting until the Corona Virus eases up. The Prayer Shawl and Quilters are not meeting as a group but the ladies are quilting and making shawls at home.

We have several Birthdays in October: Barb Fiste, Mary Dorsch, Gail Norden, Ruth Ecklof, and Susan Lauritzen, wish them a very Happy Birthday!

Hope we can all gather together again real soon.

Stay Safe at Home Everyone.

♥ We Miss Seeing Our LCW Friends ♥



- Answers to the jokes starting left side down:
- *I'm falling for you.
 - *A cornfield.
 - *Easy, they just Log on.
 - *Because Autumn had a Fall.
 - *Because it's too far to walk.
 - *Squash.
 - *He was outstanding in his field.
 - *Fall.