

THE FIRST PRESS

From Tom's Study

“Until we’re all moving rhythmically and easily with each other, efficient and graceful in response to God’s Son, fully mature adults, fully developed within and without, fully alive like Christ. Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming. Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ” – Ephesians 4:12-15 ([The Message](#))

Our Vision – “God’s dream for the world, nothing less.”

Our Mission – “Growing disciples of Jesus through Knowing God, Loving each other, and Serving the world.”

At the moment our worship journey is focusing on the first phrase of our mission statement: “Growing disciples of Jesus”. I think this idea of growing disciples can be very challenging for us. We aren’t sure what it means to grow disciples. Heck, we aren’t sure what it means to be disciples.

To be a disciple is simply to be learning from someone who is more adept, or wise, or mature than we are, in some particular area. As people connected to a church we are choosing to be disciples of Jesus. We are choosing to give Jesus the role of mature guide for life and living. This is a big deal. Of course, whether we are aware or not we are disciples of numerous people, philosophies and belief systems, not to mention political systems and economic systems and cultural systems. As people of the church, however, we are committing ourselves to growing in our awareness and our intentionality to discipleship of Jesus.

So how do we this, how do we grow in awareness? Well, actually it is not any different than any other learning, maturing endeavor that we undertake. If we want to get better at tennis, we get some instruction and we practice. If we want to get better at navigating social media we find an eight year old to help us (or someone younger than us). I think you get the point. If we want to mature in our discipleship of Jesus we need to find people to guide us and we need to practice.

In worship we are looking at seven defining practices designed to help us grow and mature in our discipleship of Jesus. Those seven practices are: witness, prayer, care, word, with-me, give and send. Throughout history people of faith have developed practices to help them grow-up and mature in their faith. Some systems have 3, others 12, some 20, or 5 or 7. The number doesn’t matter, the wording used doesn’t matter, what matters is that we are building spiritual practices in our lives that help us grow and mature in our faith.

In his letter to the church in Ephesus, Paul discussed this desire to grow up and mature in the faith. His words are helpful for us to reflect on. For all of us, it is so simple, so tempting, to coast along on our spiritual journey. As we spend a few weeks discussing defining practices that we can incorporate into our lives, I hope each of us will find some new avenues that help us grow in our discipleship to the Jesus’ Way, and help us mature in our love of God and our love of neighbor.

Christ’s Peace be with you - Tom

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Sermon Information August 2019

August 4 – 8th Sunday after Pentecost – Pastor Abbott’s Installation Service

Pastor Abbott’s Installation Service: Everyone is invited to come and participate in Pastor Abbott’s official installation service on Sunday, August 4th, 10:00 a.m., with Fellowship Time to follow. Our worship service will be a service of the Presbytery of Pueblo, and it will be quite different from our typical Sunday morning worship service. It will be fantastic to be all together in worship as we celebrate our new beginning. Come and join us. There will be nursery and Sunday school that day.

August 11 – 9th Sunday after Pentecost – Communion (*Trays*)

Scripture Reading: Mark 1:40-42, I Samuel 23:15-18, Galatians 6:1-6

Sermon Title: “Growing in Discipleship - Care”

Synopsis: We often ask people if we can help them. Usually, they respond, “No, we are doing okay.” Care is moving beyond our cultural platitudes and truly being there for other people. As we develop “Jesus’ eyes” we grow in our awareness of other’s needs. To care for others is to become involved in the well-being of others.

August 18 – 10th Sunday after Pentecost

Scripture Reading: I Thessalonians 2:13, Psalm 46, Matthew 19:23-30

Sermon Title: “Growing in Discipleship - Word”

Synopsis: Do we trust in Scripture as an essential guide for life? Do we invite others to join us studying God’s Word? Do we share with others how God’s Word has impacted our lives? Often we only give lip service to the essential nature of Scripture. Is it not time to make God’s Word central to our lives?

August 25 – 11th Sunday after Pentecost – Worship in the Poncha Park with our Methodist and Disciples of Christ friends starting at 10:00 AM and followed by a potluck meal.



[Nothing] will be able to
separate us from the love of God
in Christ Jesus our Lord.

ROMANS 8:39





Youth News



On July 12 five middle (and soon to be high school) students returned from a heart-changing and fun week in Wyoming on the Wind River reservation.

While there we spent the week giving homes a fresh coat of paint, picking up trash in area neighborhoods, and loving the kids who come to the daily Kids' Club program. We learned so much about the history of Native American people, in particular about how reservations came to be, we saw the difficult realities of poverty there, and simply sought to

understand a culture different from our own as we tried to love as Jesus loves. It was a challenging week but a really good one! We are so grateful for all your support in prayer and with finances that make such trips a possibility for our youth.



School starts soon...when does youth group start?

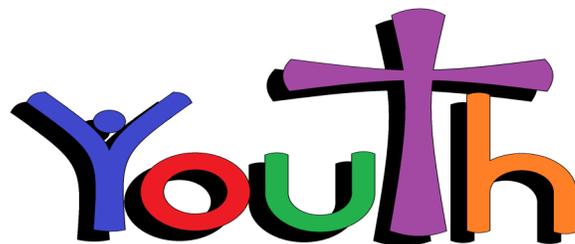
5th & 6th grade: Monday, September 9, 6:30 p.m.

7th & 8th grade: Wednesday, September 4, 7:00 p.m.

High School: Sunday, September 15, 6:30 p.m.

All of our youth groups are a time of fun, building friendships, playing games, and digging deeper in our relationships with God. If you want more information about any of these groups, or are interested in volunteering, contact Hilary Downs in the church office.

Back To School

Youth



Kids' Klub

Kids' Klub, our weekly after school program for elementary kids will begin Wednesday, September 11! Kids come to church after school for time to play, eat snack, learn a Bible story, sing songs and more. Open to all Kindergarten-4th graders. Kids must be registered in advance to participate—contact the church office to get a registration form. Kids' Klub meets 4:00-5:15 each Wednesday during the school year. All kids welcome!



Changes in Children's Ministry!

Katie Lady, our director of Children's Ministry, has stepped down from her position to take on a full-time job. We are happy for her and sad for us! We are so grateful for her three years of ministry with us here at FPC. The good news: Katie will still be coordinating our Sunday School and Nursery program so you (and your kids!) will still see her on Sundays. Be sure to thank Katie for her ministry next time you see her!

Let the little children come to me ...
it is to such as these that the
kingdom of God belongs.

Mark 10:14, NRSV



MUSIC MINISTRY



As we start into August it is time to pause and reflect..."WHERE THE HECK DID SUMMER GO??!!" So now I am starting to plan for the return of the choir. I am really looking forward to working again with the wonderful members of our choir, and I am also hoping to see some new faces. We will begin rehearsals on Wednesday, August 28th at 6:30 and will sing for the first time on September 8th. If you have not sung with us before, please consider giving it a try. We have a lot of fun! If you are returning, try and bring a friend. Remember, there is strength in numbers!!



And in the meantime, enjoy the Special Music slated for August...

Liz Riley
Choir Director and Pianist



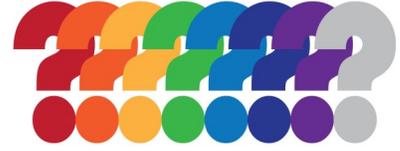
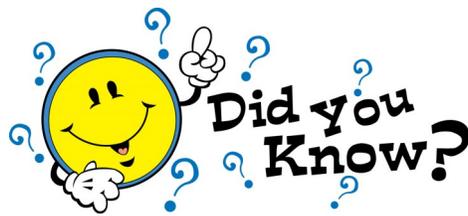
THANKS
FROM ALL OF US

Thank You, Paul!

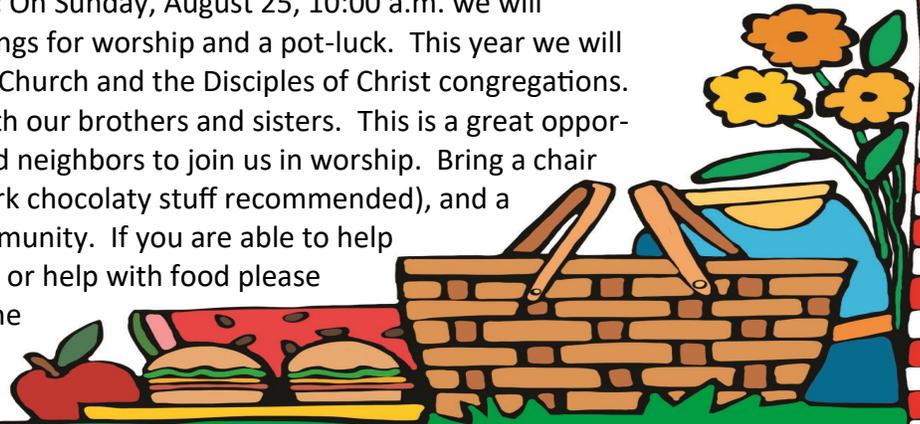
Paul Poser has been our church's financial secretary since 2008 and is now "retiring" from this volunteer position where he has so faithfully served the congregation of First Presbyterian for eleven years. We have so appreciated

his attention to detail, his kind availability and patience to answer all our questions, and his willing spirit to do this time-consuming, important task. What an incredible servant heart he has! Be sure to thank Paul next time you see him!

THANKS
from the
HEART



Annual Worship in the Park: On Sunday, August 25, 10:00 a.m. we will gather at the park in Poncha Springs for worship and a pot-luck. This year we will be joined by both the Methodist Church and the Disciples of Christ congregations. We look forward to gathering with our brothers and sisters. This is a great opportunity to invite family, friends and neighbors to join us in worship. Bring a chair to sit-in, side-dishes to share (Dark chocolate stuff recommended), and a heart ready for worship and community. If you are able to help transport equipment to the park, or help with food please contact the church office by phone 719-539-6422, or e-mail: office@salidapresbyterian.org



Showers to the People Ministry

We are in need of a few new volunteers to help with the shower program in a couple of ways.

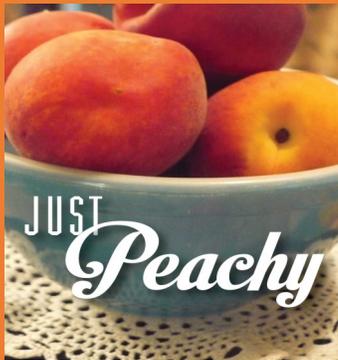
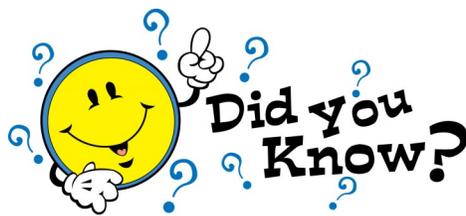
- To be at the church one Friday afternoon a month from 1:00 – 4:00 PM to welcome folks who come in to shower, to provide these people with towels, shampoo, soap, razors etc. things needed for a refreshing and often needed shower! All the supplies are in a storage area close to the shower, the volunteers get everything ready for the afternoon. The people helping that day are also responsible for making sure the shower area is clean before and after folks shower. Pretty simple and straight forward.... Two volunteers are needed each Friday.
- In talking to the new manager at the Salida Laundromat, I was excited to learn there is a possibility we could work something out so we could refer people there to do laundry. It would probably be available one morning/evening a week for a specified period of time. We are still talking about how it will be paid for, possibly on a donation basis. We would need to provide volunteers to be at the laundromat during the time the folks we refer are there. Seems it would be a great service to provide!

Two great ways to help with this important ministry!! Please give both these opportunities some thought, contact a current volunteer or Nancy Konvalinka, konvalinka-2@charter.net if you can help or you have any questions.

One last thought.....you all have been so generous with your material donations, so appreciated and needed! After two years of the program we are finding we need to replace things like shower curtains, bath mats, cleaning supplies etc, We are asking for \$ donations to cover these costs. If you can help, make a check out to First Presbyterian Church, designate the donation is for the shower ministry, Showers to the People!

Thanks so much.....





Peach Sale!

It's finally peach season! Our high school students will be raising money for next year's mission trip as they take orders of sweet, juicy, fresh, delicious peaches from our favorite orchard in Cedaredge!

Small box (approx. 10 lb.): \$24

Large box (approx. 20 lb.): \$40

Students will be taking orders through Sunday, August 11 and peaches will be here for pick up on Saturday, August 24 Tell your friends! We have the best peaches in town at the best price!

Small Groups at the Abbotts:

THANK YOU!!! What an amazing gift to hear your stories. Deb and I want to express our gratitude to everyone able to participate in one these get to know each other small group gatherings. Deb and I will be scheduling more small group gatherings toward the end of August and into early September. We will be trying to have some different times and days from those we have had up to this point. We look forward to continuing growing our relationships.— Tom



Inquirers Class: Do you have questions about the Christian faith? Do you wonder about the Presbyterian denomination? Do you have questions about First Presbyterian Church of Salida? Do you wonder what it means to become a member of First Pres? Pastor Abbott will be leading an inquirers class for people who would like to investigate these questions. The class will take place on Saturday morning, August 17, at 9:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. Child Care will be provided. If you plan to attend please RSVP with the church office 719-539-6422, or send Pastor Tom an e-mail: tom@salidapresbyterian.org



You are invited to join in celebrating a
Service of Installation for Rev. Tom Abbott on

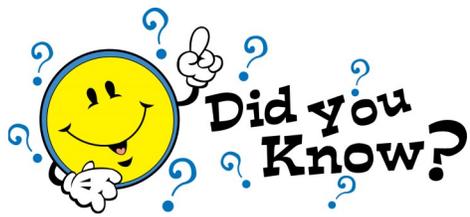
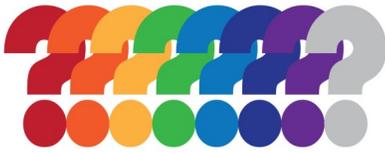
Sunday, August 4th

10:00 AM

(we will have only one worship service that Sunday)

Immigration/Refugees/Asylum Seekers: We had a great educational event at the end of July to help us better understand the theological and historical realities behind our response, as people of faith, to immigrants, refugees, and asylum seekers. If you would like to be involved in a group of folks engaged in caring and advocating for immigrants/refugees/asylum seekers please send Pastor Tom an e-mail at: tom@salidapresbyterian.org





FPC Family Camp Out and Mission Day!



Last year we had a fantastic time gleaning the fields so we're doing it again! Join us August 30-31st.

Friday the 30th we'll head to the Sand Dunes Pool to camp, swim, and enjoy each other's company. Saturday, August 31st we'll spend our morning gleaning the fields of the San Luis Valley to benefit the food bank connected to Alamosa's La Puente Home.

Everyone is invited! Young, old, or somewhere in the middle—this is for you. Parents—bring your kids of all ages. We'll be pulling carrots or beets or digging potatoes so as long as your kids don't mind getting a little dirty, they'll be fine.

For camping: some dry RV sites have been reserved at the Hooper Pool (\$20/night, NO hook ups). We also have some tent sites reserved for those who are tent-only campers. \$20 for those sites, too—last year we were able to double up a bit on tent sites so you might be able to split with someone if you like.



Can't join us for camping but want to glean? Great! We'll be meeting at the food bank in Alamosa at 8:30 that morning and work until lunch.

To RSVP for either camping or gleaning or both, please contact either Katie Lady or Hilary Downs in the church office. For camping, you must RSVP by August 18 to ensure we have enough spaces; for gleaning only, let us know by August 26.

This is a great opportunity for our church family to deepen our friendships with one another as we serve those who don't have enough to eat, AND it's FUN!





Wonder When They Meet?

Card Ministry.....10:00 AM-2nd Fri each month
 Cast.....5:30 PM-1st Thurs each month
 Ladies Hiking/Snowshoeing.....8:30 AM-Wed
 Meditative Walking.....10:00 AM-Mon each week
 Mens' Breakfasts at Patio Pancake...7 AM-Tues or Wed
 Prayer Time9:30 AM-Mon each week
 Quilting Group.....2:00 PM-3rd Thurs each month
 Sainly Sinners.....11:30 AM-4th Tues each month
 Session.....6:00 PM-4th Tues each month
 Sisters of Deborah.....1:30PM-3rd Tues each month



Prayer Requests

As you go through the month please continue keep Polly Reed, Jerry Wassel, Martin Perry, Linda Fritz, Sheri Cannon and their families in your prayers as they face health issues.



CONGRATULATIONS

to Rich & Ruth Blake
 on your recent
 wedding!



CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

MONDAY-THURSDAY-9:00 AM-5:00 PM

FRIDAY/SATURDAY-CLOSED

FINANCIAL REPORT

General Fund Financial Report as of June 30:
 (Salaries, insurance, utilities, missions, curriculum, etc., funded by the Sunday offering).

Income	\$ 141,942.37
Expenses	<u>(\$124,853.62)</u>
Difference	\$ 17,088.75

Love Fund— YTD as of July 29, 2019: \$3,415.83 in local emergency assistance (rent, gasoline, lodging, medicines, etc.) has been provided.
 Call the office at 539-6422 for information.

Energy Outreach Colorado—Utility assistance—natural gas, electric, propane or firewood
 For grant period starting 10-1-18: \$3,448.69
 Call Jeanni Landry, 719-395-5638 for information.

ELDERS

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Russ Johnson	719-221-9374	russ_011@live.com
Phil Maes	719-530-1224	philmaes@yahoo.com
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