

May 19, 2020

From Pastor Karen to the faithful of First Presbyterian Church, scattered around the Palestine area and beyond:

Grace and peace to you, in the name of the Holy One who keeps us in the grace given to us through Jesus Christ.

That is a really bad paraphrase of Paul's greetings in his letters to the church, but you'll have to forgive me for the lack of creativity this week. Between rapid weather changes, and the blooming things, my head is a bit muddled from the allergies – and the medicine that combats them.

This week, there is not much new news. We continue to have **Morning Prayer on Facebook Live each weekday at 10 am. Our Friday Morning Bible Study, via Zoom (10:30 am)** will wrap up our study of Galatians this week. We'll take a week off and resume on June 5.

June is shaping up to be a busy month for me: the Presbytery of Southeastern Illinois is meeting via Zoom on June 4, and the PC(USA) General Assembly is meeting on line for three days, June 25-27. Both of these meeting will be the "first ever" online meeting of this kind for us.

It is also possible that **June may find us returning to in person worship**, at least on a limited basis. The session has determined that the earliest we could return to the building would be May 31 – and there is a meeting on May 27 to evaluate the situation and make a decision on that date. At this point, we are making preparations for returning to the building – cleaning, determining the best ways in and out of the building, and working on orders of service. At this point, many things are not clear, but one thing we do know is that we will continue to offer worship on-line. Not only does this help folks who don't yet feel comfortable coming back to worship in person, but it also allows us to continue to reach out to the people who have been joining us for worship who do not live nearby. As an outreach measure, online worship has given us a whole new set of tools for engaging people.

In your letter this week, you should find an envelope for **the Pentecost Offering**, which we would normally collect on Pentecost, May 31. This year, of course, everything is different, so we are collecting Pentecost offerings until June 30. As a reminder, **40% of this offering stays with our congregation** for work with children/youth.

As you go about your week, please remember to pray for all of us. I've included a short prayer list of requests that have come through in the last week or so, and would encourage you to not only send in your prayer requests, but **to keep your prayers on strips of paper we can add to our "prayer chain"** we will proudly display when we are back together again.

Until we can see one another in person, and exchange signs of peace and love, know that you are beloved, and you are greatly missed.

With much love,

Pastor Karen

Weekday Morning Prayer, Mon-Fri, 10 am on Facebook Live:

<https://www.facebook.com/1stPresbyChurch/>

Friday Morning Bible Study, 10:30 am via Zoom:

Join Zoom Meeting – click on this link or copy/paste the entire URL into the address bar of your browser:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85673679680?pwd=OEFsT1NmUTB5aDNJa1ZBZWVfU1NdzO9>

Meeting ID: 856 7367 9680

Password: 116047

You can also join the meeting by phone only, if you prefer

Dial number and enter the Meeting ID and password: **+1 312 626 6799 US**

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**Online giving is HERE!**

**www.firstprespalistine.com and on the giving app**



Online giving lets you make supporting First Presbyterian Church simple. You can set up a one-time gift, or a weekly/monthly offering.

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Pentecost Offering: 40% of this offering stays with our church to use for children/youth programs. We will “officially” collect this offering the week of **May 31**, but will accept offering funds through the end of June. You will receive an envelope for the Pentecost Offering in next week’s letter, or you can mail a check to the church and mark it for the Pentecost Offering. (unfortunately, online giving isn’t available for this special offering)

You can find a **great deal of information on our web page:** www.firstprespalistine.com. In addition to links to previous weeks’ worship services, you can find worship bulletins, the latest information on schedules, etc. You can also find links to daily devotion material, information on how to get the Daily Prayer App that Pastor Karen uses for Morning Prayer, among other things. If you would like to see specific things on the web page let us know – we want it to be useful.

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**Prayer List Week of May 19:**

- ♦ Mary Ellen York – currently at home
- ♦ Guileen Manual – currently at Marshall Rehabilitation & Nursing facility
- ♦ Native American people and churches as they face a high number of COVID-19 infections and deaths
- ♦ Farmers
- ♦ Our session and trustees
- ♦ Our government leaders at every level as they face decisions to be made that will likely not be popular with everyone
- ♦ All of us