

The Banner

First Presbyterian Church Oak Ridge, Tennessee

June & July 2023

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Ice cream and Ice biking adventure to be served up Sunday, July 30

A slide show of their cross-country tandem biking experiences this year will be presented by Gene and Rosalyn McKeown-Ice during our summer ice cream social after the worship service on July 30. This special Fifth Sunday treat has been arranged by the Congregational Care and Welcome Committee.

Good things come in threes

Trinity Sunday, which occurs on June 4 this year, is the only Sunday of the entire church year when Christians celebrate a doctrine—an idea—instead of an event. Ultimately, we exhaust the limits of our language and our images for God when it comes to the Trinity. St. Augustine wrote, "If you deny the Trinity, you will lose your soul. But if you attempt to explain it,

you may lose your mind." During the worship service on that day, we will weave together Scripture, readings, and hymns to help us plumb the depths of the mystery of the Triune God: One-in-Three and Three-in One.

Often, images, repetitions, or phrases appear in threes in poetry or verses of hymns. Between now and June 4, look around you. Where do you see or hear threes?



"Picture This" sermon series set for July

The upcoming summer months here at FPCOR promise to hold special treats, including a Fifth Sunday ice cream social with a program by Gene and Rosalyn McKeown-Ice about their coast-to-coast tandem bicycle adventure earlier this spring, significant progress on the project to relocate the church offices from the Activities building to the Sanctuary building, and guest preachers while Sharon is away for a portion of June. Also on tap this summer is the July sermon series, "Picture This."

"Photography is a growing avocation for me," said Sharon."I marvel at how a camera lens can reveal to us some of the wonders of God's creation that we might miss otherwise."

In the five-part series, Sharon plans to build on the thoughts of retired *National Geographic* photographer Dewitt Jones, who reminds photographers and viewers alike of the importance of changing one's perspective from time to time, of training the eye to look at the ordinary to see the extraordinary, and of remembering that there is usually more than one right answer in any given situation.

"One of the special features of this series is the invitation for folks to send me their pictures to include in the July worship," Sharon said. (See Sharon's article on p. 2 for more details.) Also included will be John Bell's "Song of Creation" on July 23.



Jason and Eric hanging the Pentecost banners.

The Banner



Sharon Youngs, pastor

From your pastor

If you have been around First Presbyterian Church for the last several years, you know that we like to change thinks up a bit around here in the summertime. For me, that generally means a July sermon series. As you read on page 1, the focus (pun intended) for this summer's series is on photography. For me, I find that my camera is a great entrée into the infinite wonders of nature and the holy hands that fashioned it all.

I invite you to share some of your photos with me for this sermon series (they need to be your pictures, not someone else's). And here's the thing: I'd love to have one or two of your favorite shots—but I also want one or two of your shots that you wish had turned out better. I'll be doing the same with my pictures.

One of the things I'm learning with a camera is to not be afraid to make mistakes. In the sermon series, you'll hear me talk about Dewitt Jones, who was a photographer for *National Geographic* magazine before he retired. A typical assignment for Jones would call for at least 45,000 photos, from which he would choose a dozen or so for the published piece. (This was back in the pre-digital photography days when cameras used rolls of film.) As Jones says, "I'm not thinking about making mistakes. I'm thinking about the next shot."

I hope to receive lots of pictures from you, which may present a happy problem, in that, it may be quite the challenge to share all of your photos within the time frame of a sermon. I will certainly do my best to use them all, but please don't take it personally if your picture(s) does not make it into the final batch.

The best way to send me a photo is as an attachment in an email (<u>fpcpastor@live.com</u>), and the sooner, the better. Thank you in advance for your help!

With a grateful heart, Sharon



An example of a not-so-good shot and a better one. Sharon is looking for your great photos and your not-so-great photos.





The Saturday morning Young Adult Breakfast Club in May

FPCOR's Welcome Table

Thursday, June 8 and July 13, 5:00 to 6:00 p.m.

The Welcome Table, our monthly community meal ministry, will be a sit-down meal in the fellowship hall on Thursday, June 8, and Thursday, July 13, 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. All are invited to come and eat. Groceries will also be available.

If you would like to help, tasks include setting up, cooking, serving meals, and cleaning up. Please let Sharon know if you're interested: fpcpastor@live.com or 771-7178.

FPC Spotlight: Dan Terpstra

Dan Terpstra, who has been an active FPCOR member for almost 40 years, was adopted at two weeks old by a family in Highland, Ind., just south of Gary. He attended Christian schools from kindergarten through graduation from Calvin College in Grand Rapids, Mich., from which he received a B.S. degree in chemistry. He earned a Ph.D. in chemistry from Florida State University in Tallahassee, where he met his future wife, Peggy Bertrand.

After they completed their graduate school degrees and got married, they moved to Houston, Tex., where Katie was born. Dan worked for a small computer consulting company catering to the oil industry while Peggy, who also had a Ph.D. in chemistry, worked for Shell Development.

A few years later, they moved to Oak Ridge, where Dan became employed by ORTEC, for which Peggy was a software consultant. Dan suggested she write a flowchart drawing program on an Apple Macintosh computer. Peggy's company that produced MacFlow software was born in the Terpstra home, and over the next dozen years, so were two children, Sarah and Ben. Dan got a job with Perceptics on Pellissippi Parkway developing image processing software.

"Peggy hired me, and we began our 12-step commute from upstairs to downstairs for about eight years until Peggy decided she wanted to teach high-school physics. I worked for System Improvements, a risk analysis company in Knoxville, and then joined Jack Dongarra's group at the University of Tennessee, writing software for 12 years to improve the performance of supercomputers."

By the time Dan retired, he was deeply involved as an instructor for Living Waters for the World, a mission of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) in partnership with developing countries' communities to provide access to clean water. He led FPCOR's first mission trip to Belize in 2005 and many more since then to address water, health, and education issues.

Concerned about the ethics of the church investing in the fossil fuel industry that was knowingly hastening harmful climate change, Dan moderated FossilFreePCUSA, a national group that overtured the PC(USA) General Assembly multiple times to divest from fossil fuel companies. Finally, in 2022, the denomination divested from five of the worst offenders.

Dan is finishing his third stint as a Session member and co-chair of the Property & Maintenance Committee. He has served on the Social Concerns and Finance committees and co-chaired a major renovation of the Sanctuary building in the early 1990s.

He has led several Sunday School classes on topics such as simplicity and now on environmental and social justice issues through the "Let's Talk about It" class that has featured presenters speaking over Zoom from different states and countries, providing excellent content for articles in *The Banner*.





Dan Terpstra and Peggy Bertrand Terpstra, who will be featured in an FPCOR spotlight article in the August 2023 issue of The Banner. Both have contributed to maintaining FPCOR as a PC(USA) Earth Care Congregation for more than 10 years.

Celebrate the Arts exhibit planned for Oct. 29 at FPCOR

The Church Life and Witness team is encouraging members of our congregation to embrace their artistic side and celebrate the arts by participating in a congregation-wide art exhibit. It will be held after the worship service on Sunday, Oct. 29. The exhibits can include paintings, drawings, photographs, sculptures, quilts, crafts, and other works of art.

"We have a lot of talent among the congregation and would like to celebrate it through displays of our artistic expressions," said Pastor Sharon. "This will be an exhibit, not a sale. Be thinking of what you would like to exhibit. Stay tuned later this summer for more details."

The Church Life and Witness team, which meets monthly after the worship service, consists of the Christian Education, Congregational Care and Welcome, Social Concerns, and Worship committees.

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Children and youth







Work continued on the Welcome Garden mural throughout May.

FPCOR's medical debt fundraising goal for PET is \$5,000

As part of its commitment as a Matthew 25 presbytery, the Presbytery of East Tennessee (PET) has set a presbyterywide goal of raising \$25,000 in 2023 to relieve \$2.5 million in debilitating medical debt in the region. The Session of FPCOR has approved a fundraising objective of \$5,000 to help PET meet its goal. For every \$1given as a tax-deductible donation, \$100 of medical debt will be forgiven for people in need.

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If you choose to contribute to this worthy goal, you can write a check to First Presbyterian Church with "RIP Medical" on the memo line or donate online at <u>www.fpcor.org</u> by selecting "Other Funds" (rather than "General Fund") and typing the comment "RIP Medical."

The recommendation that PET establish the \$25,000 fundraising goal for donating to the RIP Medical Debt charity came from the Presbytery's SERVE Committee on which FPCOR's Dan Terpstra had been a member. Dan approached the Social Concerns Committee and suggested that the committee propose to Session a fundraising goal of \$5,000 for RIP Medical Debt. Session approved both the goal and a July Special Offering.

In July, the Social Concerns Committee, which has already contributed \$500 to RIP Medical Debt, is arranging for "moments for mission" during three worship services to encourage individual and family contributions to help pay off uninsured, low-income East Tennesseans' medical debts. So far, as of June 1, our congregation has raised \$2385.00 and PET has raised \$4465.45.

As a Matthew 25 presbytery, PET is working to embrace its congregations in one or more of these three focuses: (1) Building congregational vitality to deepen Presbyterians' faith and get actively and joyfully engaged with their community and the world; (2) dismantling structural racism, and (3) eradicating systemic poverty.

RIP Medical Debt is a 501(c)(3) charity started in 2014 by two debt collectors, Craig Antico and Jerry Ashton. Based in Long Island City, N.Y., it has relieved more than \$8 billion in medical debt for more than five million American families, thanks to generous donations. Its largest donor is philanthropist MacKenzie Scott, former wife of Amazon founder Jeff *Bezos*, who made a \$50 million gift to the charity in 2020.

To be eligible for debt relief through RIP Medical Debt, people must have a household income up to 400% of the federal poverty level (about \$111,000 for a family of four) or have medical debts that exceed 5% of their annual income. RIP analyzes debt portfolios to determine who qualifies and sends affected families a letter to let them know their medical debt has been paid off.

RIP buys medical debt from debt collection agencies at a steep discount. Because it purchases millions of dollars' worth of debt at a time at a fraction of the original cost, our donations will relieve about 100 times their value in medical debt.—*Carolyn Krause*

LTAI class: Missionary work in Peru, faith experiences, "white saviors"

Attending and working at a church camp and connecting with peers in the church community as youths were the like Peru that stem from most positive faith experiences for two former participants in the Young Adult Volunteers (YAVs) program of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). That's one of the points made by former YAVs Jed Koball and Sarah Terpstra Hanson, daughter of Dan and Peggy Bertrand Terpstra, in their Zoom presentation May 21 to FPC's "Let's Talk about It" Sunday class.

Jed, who served as a YAV in the Philippines, spoke to the class from Lima, Peru, where he's a mission co-worker: Sarah, who served as a YAV in Peru, spoke from her Nashville home. Sarah, who grew up in FPCOR and graduated from Maryville College with a degree in chemical physics, attended and worked as a counselor at the Presbytery of East Tennessee's John Knox Center. She said she would love to send her son lack there when he is older.

Both talked about their challenges in finding an appropriate church home for themselves and their sons. They expressed their

discomfort with "white savior" attitudes in churches, some mission teams, and countries colonialism.

Sarah said she was ill for months in Peru in 2009-10 (altitude sickness, infection with parasites and Dengue fever) but well cared for. She felt at first "like a fraud" in Huancavelica because she was viewed as a white savior who could provide engineering services and help with regenerative farming."How do you serve if you don't know what you're doing?" she asked. When she moved to Moyobamba in the Amazon, she finally felt she could serve by using her listening, photography, and writing skills to prepare articles describing the social activism there. She said she left Peru feeling both insecure and confident.

When he attends a Lima church, led said he is viewed as a white savior and given special treatment his Peruvian wife would not receive: he doesn't want their six-year-old son to grow up in such a church.

Concerning white American Protestants, he said many are

counting on maintaining their comfortable lifestyles even during the transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy. "I'm not convinced the world can sustain a middle-class western lifestyle for everyone," he said. Making numerous electric vehicles and EV batteries has a cost. especially for impoverished, indigenous communities in Peru and elsewhere, led noted. EVs will require tons of lithium, cobalt, nickel, and copper to be mined from the Andes Mountains, damaging the environment and human health.

As an environmental consultant for the Division of Water Resources at the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, Sarah said the state must develop water quality criteria to ensure that only safe levels of toxic lithium are discharged into waterways from sites like the planned Ford factory for making electric trucks and advanced EV batteries in West Tennessee. Not all countries regulate their toxic discharges as well as the U.S., she said. -Carolyn Krause





The YAV program is a faith-based year of service for young adults (age 19 to 30) at U.S. and international sites. YAVs accompany local agencies working to address root causes of poverty and reconciliation. Sarah said that of the six YAVs in her year, three are now serving as pastors in churches. Jed said, "It is a wonderful time to be in the church because it is transitioning into something new."

Session News

At its monthly stated meeting on May 18, the Session:

- received a thank-you letter from Anne Backus for FPCOR's support of Youth Pride.
- heard a report from Ann Frome and Jason Goodman, FPCOR's commissioners to the quarterly meeting of the Presbytery of East Tennessee on May 16 at Westminster Presbyterian Church (Knoxville).
- received news that FPCOR's Community Garden will have a paid garden manager from Grow Oak Ridge (GOR), with funding for the position provided to GOR from the FPCOR Community Garden Fund. The manager will be a low-income qualified gardener who is already a member of the garden community.
- learned that a new HVAC unit has been installed in the section of the Education building used by the Anderson County Early Head Start program. The old unit has been recommissioned for use on the second floor.
- approved the Finance Committee's proposal for disbursement of special funds that have been dormant for several years.
- approved \$57,000 for continuing work on relocating the church offices from the Activities building to the Sanctuary building.



John Nolt

"Migration of peoples from one country to another is a major problem now and will get worse because of climate change."

An ethical view of the climate crisis

Beset by the climate crisis, environmental ethicists call for "an expansion of our moral thinking" toward future human generations and beyond our human species to those of plants and animals. Environmental ethics was a topic of a presentation by John Nolt, philosophy professor emeritus at the University of Tennessee and author of the 2014 textbook Environmental Ethics for the Long Term, to FPCOR's "Let's Talk about It" Sunday class. Many of the class members had heard him speak at the Science and Theology panel discussion Apr. 30 at First United Methodist Church (a presentation that FPCOR cosponsored).

Here are some of his points made in dialogue with class members, the Apr. 30 panel discussion, and an interview on video with John by Trevor Hedberg, who is using John's textbook to teach environmental ethics at the University of Arizona.

Humans "are the most destructive force" threatening the natural environment.
Human-induced climate

change is predicted to kill about 300,000 people a year worldwide.

• The sixth mass extinction event, in which 75% of Earth's species die out faster than they are replaced, will likely occur in 200 to 300 years.

• Migration of peoples from one country to another is a major problem now and will get worse because of climate change.

The number of people on Earth that can be sustained at a reasonable quality of life without depleting natural resources is estimated to be two to three billion; the current world population is more than eight billion people.
"Preventing human extinction should be a goal," he said on the video.

• A solution to climate change is gender justice: give all women freedom "to choose their own reproductive path," enabling them to have fewer or no children (if they so desire) and gain more education, career options, and economic power.

• A major ethical issue is that the developed countries that emit the most greenhouse gases (U.S., China, India) have been and will be causing poorer nations whose emissions are low to endure the worst famine, flooding from intense hurricanes and sea level rise, and other life-threatening effects of climate warming. "About 95% of the fatalities due to climate change occur in Africa and Southeast Asia," he said.

• A moral case can be made for expanding nuclear power to help slow climate change by limiting Earth's warming to no more than 1.5° Celsius above Earth's pre-industrial temperature.

• To combat climate change as individuals, use less energy.

What gives John hope? "We're the most destructive species on Earth, but we're also the only species with the greatest potential to expand out into the universe through space travel," he said. "Life is resilient," he added, noting that after each of the five mass extinctions, life recovered with even greater biodiversity than existed before. —*Carolyn Krause*

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SUNDAY CLASSES SCHEDULE

Let's Talk About It Taking a break for the summer

Early Birds

Studying women in the Bible in June and July (hybrid: Zoom/parlor)

Rise 'n' Shine

Studying 2 Samuel, with coffee and refreshments (in person, room 6). The class is for all who would like to get to know other members of FPCOR, while enjoying discussion and Bible study.

Ecumenical Storehouse fundraiser planned for July 29

Mark your calendars! On Saturday, July 29, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m., the Ecumenical Storehouse will host a fundraising event at the Historic Grove Theater, 123 Randolph Rd., in Oak Ridge. The free event will include a silent auction, rummage sale, and home-baked goodies.

Music will be performed in the theater by the fundraising band Wendel Werner and the Strange Relationship. FPCOR member Peggy Terpstra, president of the Ecumenical Storehouse, will play tenor sax with the band.

FPCOR is a member church of the Ecumenical Storehouse, which is located at 134 East Division Rd., practically next door to the church. The storehouse serves economically challenged individuals and families in Anderson, Roane, Morgan, Scott, and Campbell counties by distributing donated furniture and other household items to clients, free of charge.

The storehouse, which has no staff, is run entirely by volunteers from local churches. Money earned at the fundraising event will be used to support storehouse operations.



Volunteers needed for summer MCRRC ministry

First Presbyterian Church will offer an Alpha course on the basics of Christianity at the Morgan County Residential Recovery Court two evenings a week from June 21 through July 30. The MCRRC ministry team needs volunteers to help provide a quality program that in the past has changed the hearts, minds, and spiritual lives of MCRRC residents. Here is what is required for a successful ministry.

Volunteers are needed to:

• join the ministry team in traveling to MCRRC on Sunday and Wednesday evenings to participate in the discussion groups. "We will arrive at MCRRC in Wartburg at 5:45 p.m. and depart by 7:45 p.m.," said Rosalyn Ice, commissioned lay pastor and leader of the ministry team.

• make dessert for two dozen residents of MCRRC on a Wednesday or Sunday night. Sheet cakes, brownies, cookies, fruit salad, or watermelon are the residents' favorites. Choose one Wednesday or Sunday across the six weeks for which you will provide a dessert and email <u>rosalynmckeown@hotmail.com</u> with the date.

• make and serve breakfast and lunch, as well as serve coffee and snacks at FPCOR for the Day Away on Saturday, July 15. "That's when MCRRC residents visit our church to learn about the Holy Spirit," Roz said. "Given that the men eat institutional food all year, breakfast, lunch, and snacks become a highlight of the day. Even having sugar and creamer for their coffee is a luxury to the men. As Presbyterians, we know that feeding the body and the soul is important."

For the Day Away on Saturday, July 15, all members of the church family are invited to eat lunch with the men at 12:30 p.m. and attend worship in the sanctuary at 2:20 p.m.

"Our congregation's generosity in opening our buildings to the MCRRC residents and giving them our time, attention, and conversation helps them feel God's love," said Roz. "It also stirs their interest in finding a church home when they graduate."



Last but not least...



	Week	ly gathering	S			
Sundays:		Wednes	days:		May birthdays	
9:00 a.m.	Early Birds; Rise 'n' Shine;	6:30 p.m.	Choir rehearsal	J	une & July birthdays	
Maria	Let's Talk About It			6/4	Shirley Frykman	
Mondays:				6/6	Vivian Jung	
Noon	Men's Zoom lunch			6/7	Marjorie Matthews	
				6/8	Teresa Fulcher	
	C	ST C		6/11	Matthew Lindsey	
		·		6/13	Janet Alexander	
	Month	y gathering	gs	6/14	Jay Jay Billings	
. Piece for	Peace Sisters, first T		-	6/14	Lee Morris	
Activities		uesdays, 7.50 a.	m., 100m 102,	6/16	Kaylin Dimmer	
	Questions, first Thurs	days 7.00 p m	via Zoom	6/16	Ashley Hadden	
-	ation on Loss, fourth S	•		6/16	Kendyll Hensley	
Sanctuary		bundays, 1.00 p.	m., parlor,	6/16	Skylar Bay Hensley	
	•	am room 6 a	nd via Zoom	6/18	Shannon O'Donnell	
 Coffee Chat, last Mondays, 9:30 a.m., room 6 and via Zoom Young Adult Breakfast Club, last Saturdays, 9:00 a.m., room 102 kitchen, 					Sharon Youngs	
Activities building				' 6/22	Omer Breeden	
Activities	Dunding			6/23	George Darko	
				6/24	Maxine Vaden	
			· ·	6/25	,	
		June & July	anniversaries	6/26	Russell Fulcher	

- 6/5 Robert & Jo Kendrick
- 6/7 Sydney & Tiffany Murray III
- 6/11 Jason & Cathy Goodman
- 6/12 Chuck & Dale Hadden
- 6/17 Gene Ice & Rosalyn Mckeown-Ice
- 6/20 Dennis & Julia Smith
- 6/20 Lee & Jeannie Trowbridge
- 7/3 Steve Layendecker & Kathy Carney-Layendecker
- 7/12 George & Irene Darko
- 7/18 Larry & Carolyn Dipboye

Congratulations!



Matt Lindsey doing his presentation on computer security for our Fifth Sunday in April.

- 6/27 Dennis Strickler 6/29 Mary Lou Daugherty 7/3 Sally Moyer Julia Smith
- 7/6 Pete Johnson
- 7/10 Victoria Wulff
- 7/11 Matthew Stone
- 7/12 Linda Fall

7/3

- 7/14 Lou Dunlap
- Everett Colverson 7/15
- 7/16 Debbie Bostick
- 7/16 Steve Layendecker 7/18 Mary Childress
- 7/24 Alex Cantrell
- 7/24 Tonia Hensley
- 7/28 Linda Driver
- 7/31 Sharon Becker

Happy birthday!

June 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
9:00 a.m. Sun. school 9:45 a.m. Choir 10:30 a.m. Worship 11:30 a.m. Fellowship				June I 7:00 p.m. Brewing Questions	2	3
4 Hymn Sing 9:00 a.m. Sun. school 9:45 a.m. Choir 10:30 a.m. Worship 11:30 a.m. Fellowship 11:45 a.m. Church Life & Witness Team	5 12:00 p.m. Men's Zoom lunch	6 9:30 a.m. Piece for Peace Sisters	7 11:30 a.m. Al Anon 6:30 p.m. Choir rehearsal	8 5:00 p.m. Welcome Table 6:30 p.m. Session Meeting	9	10
II 9:00 a.m. Sun. school 9:45 a.m. Choir 10:30 a.m. Worship 11:30 a.m. Fellowship	I2 I2:00 p.m. Men's Zoom lunch	13	14 11:30 a.m. Al Anon 6:30 p.m. Choir rehearsal	15	16	17
18 9:00 a.m. Sun. school 9:45 a.m. Choir 10:30 a.m. Worship (Carolyn Dipboye, preacher) 11:30 a.m. Fellowship	19 9:30 a.m. Coffee Chat 12:00 p.m. Men's Zoom lunch	20 10:00 a.m. Anna's Book Group	21 11:30 a.m. Al Anon 6:30 p.m. Choir rehearsal	22	23	24
25 9:00 a.m. Sun. school 9:45 a.m. Choir 10:30 a.m. Worship (Wendy Neff, preacher) 11:30 a.m. Fellowship 11:50 a.m. Conversation on Loss	26 12:00 p.m. Men's Zoom lunch	27	28 11:30 a.m. Al Anon 6:30 p.m. Choir rehearsal	29	30	

July looking ahead: —July 2: Sharon begins her sermon series —July 4: Office closed —July 13: Welcome Table community meal —July 15: MCRRC Alpha Day Away —July 20: Session meeting —July 30: Ice cream and Ice biking adventure —July 31: Coffee Chat First Presbyterian Church P.O. Box 6106 Oak Ridge, TN 37831



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The Banner

First Presbyterian Church Oak Ridge, Tennessee June & July2023



Embodying Christ's inclusive love through heart, mind, and service