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The Banner

First Presbyterian Church Oak Ridge, Tennessee

October 2023

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Helping the cloud forest folks of Guatemala

Last but not least

Calendar

Listening sessions begin October 22

As we venture forth into a post-pandemic era (though COVID will always be around), which has altered the landscape for churches in several ways, the Session and Sharon would love to hear about your thoughts, joys, concerns, and hopes for First Presbyterian Church. To do that, they have scheduled four listening sessions. Each session will be structured exactly the same so you only need to attend one (though you are welcome to attend all).

The dates are:

- Sunday, Oct. 22, after worship
- Monday, Oct. 23, 6:30 p.m., via Zoom (link to come)
- Wednesday, Oct. 25,
 6:30 p.m., fellowship hall
- Monday, Oct. 30, 9:30
 a.m., room 6

The same questions will be asked at each gathering, and the time will be limited to an hour. The Session and Sharon will take copious notes as they listen carefully to what is shared.

Once all four listening sessions have been held, the notes will be studied to see what themes emerge, which will become fodder for shaping our focus and mission for 2024.

Hope to see you there!



DATES TO NOTE

Oct. 1: World Communion
Oct. 22: Hymn sing
Oct. 29: Celebration of the Arts



October events at FPCOR

As fall spreads its glorious colors across the hills of East Tennessee, the month of October offers beauty in multiple ways here at First Presbyterian Church.

On Oct. I, we will join upwards of 2 billion Christians around the globe who will celebrate World Communion Sunday. Several traditions will be represented that morning through music, liturgy, and the Communion elements.

The Communion Table itself will be arrayed with an African-themed cloth, chalices from the Caribbean, and a number of different breads. See p. 2 for more details.

Oct. 22 is our next Sunday morning hymn sing. This occasional change-up to our regular worship routine will weave together Scripture, readings, and hymns under the umbrella theme of homecoming and returning.

The choir will sing some of their favorite hymns, and baritone Steve Boyce will be with us, as well.

Rounding out the month is our first-ever Celebration of the Arts, which will take place after worship on Oct. 29. You can read more about it on p. 2 and p. 4.

Beauty in worship, in song, and in art. It's going to be a great month!

FPCOR's Welcome Table Thursday, Oct. 12, 5:00 to 6:00 p.m.

The Welcome Table, our monthly community meal ministry, will be served in the fellowship hall on Thursday, Oct. 12, beginning at 5:00 p.m. To-go dinners will be available between 5:45 and 6:00 p.m., when the meal concludes. All are invited to come, eat, and enjoy the fellowship. Groceries will also be available through FPCOR's food pantry. 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 (865) 771-7178.

The Banner

Sharon Youngs, pastor





We said goodbye to tech assistant Devin Earhart on Sept. 24. Mimi Tilley made this gift for him.

From your pastor

October is a month marked with comings and goings. For instance, it's a big travel time for many, from retirees taking extended trips, to students taking advantage of fall break. It's when autumn settles on in and the leaves bid adieu. And it's when most colleges and universities welcome back alumni for homecoming activities.

Over the years, a majority of the comings and goings in my own life have occurred in October, from the final departure of grandparents and loved ones through death, to the purchase of a new home or the beginning of a new job. Case in point, this month marks the beginning of my twelfth year as your pastor. I didn't know that eleven years could speed by at such a lightning pace—well, except for the 3.5 years of a pandemic that could not have moved more slowly. I continue to be so grateful for the privilege and gift of serving God alongside you in this place. Thank you.

October this year is a special one with FPCOR's first-ever Celebration of the Arts. We are a congregation of phenomenal gifts and talents, which we want to highlight and celebrate! Are you or a family member (living or deceased) a painter, woodworker, photographer, writer, poet, quilter, potter, baker, weaver, and more? Share your creations after worship on Sunday, Oct. 29. It isn't a competition or an arts-and-craft sale (displays only). It is simply a way to lift up, enjoy, and give thanks for the many individual ways we enhance the beauty and wonder around us.

Everyone is invited to participate—from a child's first fingerpainting masterpiece to a teenager's self-portrait to an adult's king-size quilt. I'll be bringing some notecards with original photographs on them. I may throw in one of the several items I have of my mother's handiwork. You might even see the little felt bookmark I made in vacation Bible school decades ago.

For planning purposes, we need to know what you are bringing to display. It's as easy as filling out a form and leaving it in the narthex or calling Madison in the church office (483-1318). Contact Patty Barlow, Jo Kendrick, Darlene Sanders, or Elaine Wilson for more details. The deadline to register is Oct. 15.

No worries if you don't have anything to display. Come and delight in the day! I have a hunch it will be one of those events that lingers in our hearts for some time to come.

With a grateful heart, Sharon

World Communion Sunday unifies Christians

First Presbyterian Church will join Christians around the world on Oct. I in marking World Communion Sunday. The Lord's Supper will be celebrated in a variety of languages and traditions that, together, display our unity and oneness in Christ.

Here at FPCOR, various regions of the world will be represented through an assortment of breads for Communion, as well as different fabrics and chalices on the Communion Table.

Finally, this Sunday we will receive the PC(USA)'s Peace and Global Witness offering. One of four annual special offerings of the denomination, this one enables the church to promote the Peace of Christ by addressing systems of conflict and injustice across the world.

Twenty-five percent of the offering remains local, allowing FPCOR to designate the recipient, which this year is for FPCOR's ministry at the Morgan County Residential Recovery Court. Presbyteries and synods retain an additional 25% for ministries of peace and reconciliation. The remaining 50% is used by the Presbyterian Mission Agency to advocate for peace and justice in cultures of violence, including our own, through collaborative projects of education and Christian witness.

PC(USA)'s Peace and Global Witness offering provided the funding that last Sunday brought Rev. Angie Olivia Wuysang, one of eight PC(USA) international peacemakers, to our church to deliver a Science and Theology Lecture to Presbyterians, Methodists, and other members of the public. (See article on pages 5 and 6.)

FPCOR Spotlight: Peggy Bertrand Terpstra

Peggy Bertrand Terpstra, wife of Dan Terpstra and mother of three children, has been a software developer, entrepreneur, high-school physics teacher, and university instructor of math and science teachers. Now in retirement since 2017, she is devoted to music and mission, providing food and furnishings to those in need. The Terpstras have been FPCOR members for almost 40 years.

Born in Arabi, La., Peggy was the daughter of a draftsman for the Domino Sugar refinery and a teacher aide. She earned a B.S. degree in chemistry from Southeastern Louisiana University. While in college she spent a summer as an intern at Oak Ridge National Laboratory. "This opportunity changed my life because I fell in love with Oak Ridge," she said. She earned a Ph.D. in inorganic chemistry from Florida State University, where she met and married Dan.

After working in Houston for the Shell Development Company, Peggy, Dan, and their first child moved to Oak Ridge. She did some software consulting for Dan's employer, EG&G ORTEC, and then with his encouragement, became a successful desktop software developer.

Peggy designed and coded MacFlow, a novel program for drawing flow charts on the Apple Macintosh. She found a publisher for the product, and as demand grew, her software company hired Dan and three other employees who were supported by MacFlow royalties. As sales declined, she sold the rights to MacFlow to the publisher.

For I4 years she was an Oak Ridge High School teacher who specialized in Advanced Placement (AP) physics. Then the University of Tennessee employed her for five years to teach future math and science teachers. She still does consulting work in AP Physics for the Educational Testing Service, helping to write multiple-choice physics questions for AP exams.

Peggy and Dan have three children and two grandsons. Katie, who is married to Jake, is an actuary. Sarah, who is married to Bradley and like Katie lives in Nashville, is an environmental consultant for the Division of Water Resources in the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation. Ben is an aspiring actor in Chicago who works as a middle school special education teacher aide.

At FPCOR, she has served on Session, taught Sunday School, managed the church's community gardens, sung in the choir, and cooked for the Welcome Table community meal. She is our church's director for the Ecumenical Storehouse, where she also serves as board president. Her passions include music (clarinet, saxophone, and voice), outdoor activities (camping, hiking, and kayaking), and visual art (oil and acrylic painting).

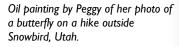
"I love our church—its staff, its members, and its mission," she said. "I consider the good people at FPCOR to be my extended family. My church encourages and enables me to follow Jesus's call to serve others. It's Christianity in action."





Peggy and Dan Terpstra







Acrylic painting by Peggy of her photo of holly berries at the UT Arboretum.

Children and youth









FPCOR youth attended the Presbytery of East Tennessee's middle school retreat at John Knox Center last month.

Register Oct. I-Oct. 15 for "Celebration of the Arts" Oct. 29 at FPCOR

What is your artistic talent? Photography? Pottery? Painting pictures using various media? Some people are talented at decorative baking, needlework, woodworking, or writing poems or books. First Presbyterian Church leaders wish to celebrate your creativity.

On Sunday, Oct. 29, FPCOR is hosting a "Celebration of the Arts" show at which church members, guests, and staff may display their creations, from 11:30 a.m. (after the worship service) until 12:30 p.m. Exhibited items will be for display only and will not be for sale.

Adults and children are encouraged to submit their works of art to share with the congregation. To participate, you need to complete a registration form that will be available on Sunday, Oct. 1, and on two successive Sundays. Completed forms must be returned on Sunday, Oct. 15.

"We will have the registration forms in the narthex on the nametag table," said Patty Barlow, chair of Session's Congregational and Welcome Committee. "We ask that you return your form by Sunday, Oct. 15, by placing it in the 'Completed Forms' box on the nametag table."

Folks exhibiting their art works should bring them to the Sanctuary building's fellowship hall between 9:00 and 10:00 a.m. on Sunday, Oct. 29. A committee member will assist you in finding spaces on a table to display your works of art, which should be taken home after 12:30 p.m.

If you have questions, please contact Patty Barlow (lovemysolara@hotmail.com), Jo Kendrick (jokendrick10@gmail.com, Darlene Sanders (dsand46@aol.com), or Elaine Wilson (jokendrick10@gmail.com).



A raffle will be held on Sunday, Oct. 29, for a lovely hand-quilted quilt made by Janet Heil, who is a member of our FPCOR Piece For Peace Sisters.

Food, global warming, interreligious dialogue topics of peacemaker

Food issues in Indonesia and global warming made worse by deforestation in her country were two of the topics of Rev. Angie Olivia Wuysang, one of eight Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) international peacemakers in 2023, who gave the fifth talk in the Science and Theology Lecture Series cosponsored by our church and First United Methodist. She spoke on Sunday, Sept. 24, about her experiences as a minority Christian in Indonesia, a democratic country of 6,000 inhabited islands that has the world's largest Muslim population.

Indonesia's growing population, she said, is encountering food shortages. "Sources of food are decreasing because of global warming, and global warming is also caused by deforestation in Indonesia."

she said. As an ordained minister of GMIM (Gereja Masehi Injili di Minahasa), the Christian Evangelical Church in Minahasa, a province on the island of Sulawesi, she spoke about food choices and their relationship to belief systems.

On her island, people are cutting down trees in their illegal hunt for the "yaki" monkey (Celebes Crested Macaque), which is facing extinction largely due to the illegal bushmeat trade and habitat loss. Predominantly fruit eaters, the species plays an important role in ecosystem health as seed dispersers. Angie, who studies food ethics, said the "all-eaters" believe yaki, snakes, white-tail forest rats, and bats in the Sulawesi forest "are created for the sake of human beings, meaning that it is all

right to eat anything you find in the forest."

In her Christian theology and heritage, "you plant and grow what you eat and eat what you plant. We bring peace and justice not only to the people but also to the animal kingdom because animals in the forest are not created for us, not for our purposes, but are created for their own purposes."

For Holy Communion, she said, Protestant and Catholic churches in her country are no longer using wine imported from Italy and bread from the Netherlands (which ruled Indonesia from 1816 to 1941). Nowadays, they use a beverage made from a forest product and the native cassava (sweet potato) for Communion elements.

(continued on pg. 6)



According to Sue Byrne, students at Roane State
Community College say, "Hi!" and "Thanks!" to First
Presbyterian Church for providing food to their Oak Ridge campus pantry. Students have been shopping for groceries in droves since classes began in August. The pantry is providing groceries to nearly 500 students and their families.

SUNDAY CLASSES SCHEDULE THIS MONTH

Early Birds

Studying Daniel (meets in the parlor and via Zoom)

Rise 'n' Shine

The group, which is finishing John Bunyan's classic book *The Pilgrim*'s *Progress*, gathers in the room (with the comfy chairs!) just inside the main church entrance at 9:00 a.m. every Sunday morning. Coffee, tea, and tasty snacks are provided. Contact Sue Byrne at (865) 318-8856 with questions or to request a copy of the book. See you there!

Let's Talk About It

Oct 1:The Project Drawdown Roadmap for Climate Action

Oct 8: John Hiemstra, A Christian Perspective on Oil Sands Development in Alberta

Oct 15:TBA

Oct 22:TBA

Oct 29: Joint session with First Presbyterian, Tallahassee: The Church and Climate Action

Food, global warming, interreligious dialogue topics of peacemaker cont.



Rev. Angie Olivia Wuysang, wearing a kebaya. Her first and middle names result from a Western influence. Her parents were fans of Olivia Newton-John, the singer, and the family loved the famous song "Angie" by Keith Richards and Mick Jagger of the Rolling Stones.

"Our goal is to convince the Indonesian government that religious people can work together on the climate crisis."

(continued from pg. 5)

She was asked about the production of palm oil on plantations run by foreign companies in the province of Kalimantan. Indonesia is the largest producer of palm oil, which is used in processed food throughout the world. The plantations have destroyed forests and peatlands, which store large amounts of carbon. She said that indigenous peoples living in forests there have been killed or driven off to make space for the plantations. "The irony is that we Indonesians do not consume palm oil as our food, so we have to face these environmental degradations and deforestation in our land to feed people in other countries," Angie remarked.

In one of her slides, she noted that "Food habits serve to strengthen cultural bonds and to emphasize intercultural differences. Foods play a role in determining one's religious identity. In religion, food becomes one of the most important parts of religious rites. Religious doctrines influence one's value system, traditions, and dietary practices, which in turn can affect food selection."

She said somewhat jokingly, "Indonesians declared our freedom from the Dutch in 1941 and Japanese in 1945, but then after independence some say we have been recolonized by the Americans because we have a lot of Starbucks, Dunkin' Donuts, and KFC restaurants. They

have changed the pattern of our food consumption, especially among the young."

Angie has traveled in several European countries and is making her peacemaker talks in Illinois, Tennessee, North Carolina, and Arizona before being debriefed in Louisville, Ky., headquarters for the PC (USA). She said, "Americans are the best people in the world to me. Everybody is smiling. You are nice and kind, but please also be kind to the earth. With your best capacities and qualities as human beings, you should be the leading actors in saving the earth. It will take a lot of courage to make the needed sacrifices and feel less comfort." She noted that Indonesia is a tropical country that has some air conditioning (but only 9% of Indonesians have access to AC, compared with 90% of Americans).

She said that Protestants in Indonesia "are so grateful for our partnership with PC (USA) that continues to support Christian leaders in countries where Christians are persecuted as minorities." When asked if she was scared to walk in predominantly Muslim areas, she said that she was uncomfortable being a minority in Java, where she is working on a Ph.D. at Gadjah Mada University. "Six hardline Muslim men stopped me one time and demanded to know why I wasn't wearing the hijab," she told the audience. "I said, 'Excuse

me, I'm not Muslim.' They said, 'This is the Muslim place.' I was almost crying."

She explained that all religious organizations in Indonesia are under the control of the national government. Besides Muslims (around 90% of the population), Indonesia is home to Protestants, Catholics, Buddhists, Hindus, and Confucianists.

Because of government control, she said, "It has made it difficult for us as religious communities to have interreligious dialogue, to protest, or create a program in which we can together contribute to overcoming the climate crisis. But just this year, all the religious groups were finally allowed to sit together and dialogue. I was on the committee. We have created the so-called green gospel movement.

"Our goal is to convince the government that religions also have a big potential to help save the environment. It's not only the responsibility of the government because they are very slow in overcoming this. It is also possible for us as citizens and religious people at the same time to work together on the climate crisis."

—Carolyn Krause

Helping the cloud forest folks of Guatemala

Rob Cahill has found a lot to love about the highlands of Guatemala where he and his wife Tara have lived for 22 years. Beautiful cloud forests full of edible plants, almost no violent crime or drug abuse, strong families with a strong cultural identity. The couple enjoys the fresh air, plenty of rain, and abundance of clean water. Concerned about climate change—in 2018 Guatemala suffered a drought and in 2020 severe flooding—he appreciates that Guatemala's electric grid no longer relies heavily on imported coal because power is now fed to it mostly from hydroelectric dams. He did say that just over half of Guatemalans are not connected to the grid but are relying on solar panels to charge their cellphones.

A retired Mennonite pastor from Oregon and a founding director of Community Cloud Forest Conservation (CCFC) in Guatemala, Rob spends most of his time focused on meeting the social and environmental challenges of the extremely poor, illiterate residents of numerous villages in the forested highlands.

One of the CCFC's battles is against deforestation and agricultural encroachment.

During his presentation via Zoom to FPCOR's "Let's Talk about It" class. Rob was asked about the pressures that threaten Guatemala's cloud forest, which is a carbon sink and a source of nutrient-rich plant foods that nourished Mayan natives in the past. One pressure, he said, has been the growth in population (by 30%, from 2001 to 2011). Populations of some villages have doubled this century. Another threat has been the seizure of fertile, forested land by agricultural corporations for use in growing profitable crops such as broccoli and avocados for making avocado oil. As a result, he said, subsistence farmers and other people in the villages have been forced up the mountains where the land is less fertile so all they can grow is corn.

Rob and Tara have established two programs for the children in the mountain villages. One is devoted to environmental education of 166 children in the fourth through sixth grades for 25

days. They are taught about agricultural practices that incorporate fruit-bearing and other trees in the cloud forest. He told the class about the protein-packed pacaya palm, parts of which are edible as a raw or cooked vegetable that can be added to salads.

Their second program is designed to discourage girls from dropping out of school. In Guatemala the dropout rate for girls is 75% before they complete ninth grade. But the 25-day CCFC program teaches girls about reproductive health, asks them to think about whether they want as many children as their struggling parents had, instructs them in agroecology and confidencebuilding life skills, and offers them scholarships to attend high school and even college. "Our program for girls," Rob said, "has only a four percent dropout rate!"

—Carolyn Krause



Rob displays a water turbine in the lodge where the Community Cloud Forest Conservation group lives and works.

"In Guatemala the dropout rate for girls is 75%. Our program for girls has only a 4% dropout rate."



Rob Cahill speaks to the FPCOR class in the lush cloud forest in Guatemala, which is a mountain forest bathed in almost constant moisture from clouds drifting through the trees.

Last but not least...



Weekly gatherings

Sundays: Mondays:

8:45 a.m. Let's Talk About It Noon Men's Zoom lunch 9:00 a.m.

Rise 'n' Shine; Wednesdays:

10:30 a.m. Worship Choir rehearsal 6:30 p.m.

II:30 a.m. Refreshments

Early Birds;



Monthly gatherings

- Piece for Peace Sisters, first Tuesdays, 9:30 a.m., room 102, Activities building
- Brewing Questions, first Thursdays, 7:00 p.m., via Zoom
- Conversation on Loss, fourth Sundays, 11:50 a.m., parlor, Sanctuary building
- 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, Activities building

(See weekly emails or call the church office for Zoom links and details.)

Frequent traveler Judy Greeson shares photo highlights

We would be hard-pressed to find anyone who travels more than FPCOR member Judy Greeson. She loves to hop in her van and head out to visit friends, attend Nascar

racing events, take in a covered bridge, worship in a Presbyterian congregation, eat a "yummy" meal at a local restaurant, and more.

Here are a few shots from Judy's latest adventure to the Field of Dreams site and points along the Lincoln Highway.



The Field of Dreams baseball diamond, created for the 1989 movie of the same name, is still intact for folks to walk the bases and tour the farmhouse.



The back of First Presbyterian Church's sanctuary (Clinton, Iowa) with the organ's trumpet pipes. The church's motto: "The Stone Church with a Warm Heart."



The Lincoln Hotel in Lowden, lowa, was built in 1915 to serve early automobile travelers on the Lincoln Highway (conceived in 1912). After a complete renovation, in 1996, the hotel was listed on the National Register of Historic Places.



October birthdays

- 10/2 Sumner Byrne
- 10/3 ludy Greeson
- 10/3 Gerry Morris
- Kiersten Ruisard 10/3
- 10/4 Liam Wells
- 10/6 Priscilla Campbell
- 10/7 Mary Lyster
- 10/9 Wendy Myers
- 10/11 Anne Backus
- 10/11 Eric Myers
- 10/14 Rob Kendrick
- 10/15 Larry Shappert
- 10/17 Nathan Myers
- 10/19 Wordna Agee
- 10/19 Tommy Strickler
- 10/20 Susan Sharp
- 10/22 Amelia Campbell
- 10/22 Claire Campbell
- 10/22 Gretchen Drane
- 10/25 Lee Trowbridge
- 10/29 Dallas Stults

Happy birthday!

October anniversaries

- 10/2 Lewis & Phyllis Phillips
- 10/5 Tonia Hensley & Cheryl Kinneberg
- 10/6 Kiersten Ruisard & George Hine
- 10/11 Ed & Melinda Tilley
- 10/11 Jim & Meg Tonne
- 10/30 Alex & Julia Cantrell

Congratulations!

October 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 11:45 a.m. Church Life & Witness Team	2 12:00 p.m. Men's Zoom lunch	3 9:30 a.m. Piece for Peace Sisters	4 11:30 a.m. Al Anon 6:30 p.m. Choir rehearsal	5 7:00 p.m. Brewing Questions	6	7
8 9:00 a.m. Sun. school 9:45 a.m. Choir 10:30 a.m. Worship 11:30 a.m. Fellowship	Sharon away for a CREDO conference (through Oct. 16) 12:00 p.m. Men's Zoom lunch	10	II II:30 a.m. Al Anon 6:30 p.m. Choir rehearsal	12 5:00 p.m. Welcome Table	13	14
9:00 a.m. Sun. school 9:45 a.m. Choir 10:30 a.m. Worship (Larry Dipboye preaching) 11:30 a.m. Fellowship	16 12:00 p.m. Men's Zoom lunch	17 10:00 a.m. Anna's Book Group	18 11:30 a.m. Al Anon 6:30 p.m. Choir rehearsal	19 6:30 p.m. Session Meeting	20	21
22 Hymn sing 9:00 a.m. Sun. school 9:45 a.m. Choir 10:30 a.m. Worship 11:30 a.m. Fellowship & listening session 11:50 a.m. Conversation on Loss	23 12:00 p.m. Men's Zoom lunch 6:30 p.m. Listening session	24	25 11:30 a.m. Al Anon 6:30 p.m. Choir rehearsal 6:30 p.m. Listening session	26	27	28 9:00 a.m. Young Adult Breakfast Club
9:00 a.m. Sun. school 9:45 a.m. Choir 10:30 a.m. Worship 11:30 a.m. Celebration of the Arts	9:30 a.m. Listening session 12:00 p.m. Men's Zoom lunch	31	I Nov 11:30 a.m. Al Anon 6:30 p.m. Choir rehearsal	2	3	4

Looking ahead:

Nov. 5: Daylight Saving Time ends

Nov. 9: Welcome Table

Nov. II: All-church workday

Nov. 24: Thanksgiving

Nov. 24-25: Office Closed

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The Banner

First Presbyterian Church Oak Ridge, Tennessee

October 2023

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The Banner team: Carolyn Krause, Madison Hinkle & Sharon Youngs



give today



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