

March 2022



First Impressions

Newsletter of First Presbyterian Church
Staunton, Virginia
March 2022



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 10:30 PW Meeting (L) 7pm Ash Wednesday Service (Chapel)	3 11-1 Food Pantry/Bill	4	5 12:30-3 DAR FH
6 10am Worship Sanctuary In person & FB Live Fellowship 1st Sunday of Lent	7 11-1 Food Pantry/ Louise	8	9 10am Bible Study (L) 6:30pm Bible Study (Zoom)	10 11-1 Food Pantry/ Susie	11	12
13 10am Worship Sanctuary In person & FB Live Fellowship 2nd Sunday of Lent	14 11-1 Food Pantry/ Louise	15	16 10am Bible Study (L) 6:30pm Bible Study (Zoom)	17 11-1 Food Pantry/Bill Newsletter Deadline/April 6-9:30 WSO Rehearsal	18	19 7:30pm WSO Chamber Concert (S)
20 10am Worship Sanctuary In person & FB Live Fellowship Session Mtg. 3rd Sunday of Lent	21 11-1 Food Pantry/ Brad	22	23 10am Bible Study (L) 6:30pm Bible Study (Zoom)	24 11-1 Food Pantry/ Susie	25	26
27 10am Worship Sanctuary In person & FB Live Fellowship 4th Sunday of Lent	28 11-1 Food Pantry/ Brad	29	30 10am Bible Study (L) 6:30pm Bible Study (Zoom)	31 11-1 Food Pantry/ Alice		

Letter from the Pastor

What Is Shakespeare Doing in Potter??

Well, for one, building costumes and props. For two, by their presence, letting us live into our mission of being a center for the community. For three, renting the space, which assists our budget. For four, looking for opportunities with us where we can partner in sharing gifts.

Theater always had a place within the church. Paul James-Griffiths writes in "Christian Heritage Edinburgh (<https://www.christianheritageedinburgh.org.uk/>):"

"As the church spread and became the dominant force in the Middle Ages, church leaders began to see that drama... could become a powerful vehicle for the Christian faith... It could be used to tell of Christ and... help to encourage Christian living in Europe."

Here's something I bet you didn't know: "In 1931 the BBC *was dedicated to God* and a text was chosen from the New Testament as a guideline for the principles behind television and any drama shown. The text, in Latin, used to be found above the entrance hall at Broadcasting House in London. The English translation says:

(cont. on p. 2)

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Rev. Karen H. Allamon, Pastor

Letter from the Pastor

(cont. fr. p. 1)

"This Temple of the Arts and Muses is dedicated to Almighty God by the first Governors of Broadcasting... It is their prayer that good seed sown may bring forth a good harvest, that all things hostile to peace or purity may be banished from this house, and that the people, inclining their ear to whatsoever things are beautiful and honest and of good report, may tread the path of wisdom and uprightness."

The biblical reference from which this is taken is from Paul's letter to the Philippians:

"Whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things." (Philippians 4:8)

John Knox, in his book *The Reformation in Scotland*, wrote:

"A Black Friar [Dominican order], called Friar Kyllour, set forth the history of Christ's Passion in form of a Play, which he both preached and practised openly in Stirling, the King himself being present upon a Good Friday in the morning. In this, all things were so lively expressed that the very simple people understood and confessed... This plain speaking so enflamed the hearts of all that bare the Beast's Mark, that they ceased not, till " all the players together were cruelly murdered in one fire, the last day of February, in the year of God 1538...upon the Castle Hill of Edinburgh." (p.19, Banner of Truth Trust, © 2000) (cont. fr. p. 1)

"The last day of February in 1638 was chosen by the Covenanters to sign their National Covenant in order to coincide with the martyrdom of the seven involved in the

(cont on p. 3)

March Birthdays



7	Cord Lowman
8	Sharon Driscoll Daniel Garrison
9	Dick Cox
14	Paige Kullman
16	Steve Hollar
23	Lucinda Cooke
24	Will Dod III Caroline Lowman
28	Molly Cox
29	Maggie Lowman
31	Debra Norville



Sacks of Love Pancake Supper



March 5, 2022, 4:30-7:00 pm

Third Presbyterian Church

1313 Barterbrook Rd.

Staunton, VA

Takeout meal \$10

Pancakes, bacon, breakfast casserole

Sundays at 5

Concerts and Special Services presented by Trinity Episcopal Church

Carl W. Broman Organ Concert

March 6, 2022

A legacy concert commemorating Trinity's former Director of Music & Organist Carl W. Broman



**From the News Leader February 8, 2022
Augusta Health—COVID Positivity Rate Near 40% in
Staunton, Augusta County, Waynesboro**

Children 5- to 11-years-old

To ensure patient safety and in awareness of the different dosage for the 5-11 year old age group, there are separate clinics for ages 5-11 only at the on-campus location. A parent or legal guardian must be present to consent to vaccination of minors.

If you have questions about eligibility, please call Augusta Health's Vaccination Call Center at 540.332.5122.

Please bring your COVID Vaccination Record Card to the booster appointment.

Vaccinations in Primary Care Offices

Vaccinations for COVID-19 continue in all Augusta Medical Group primary care offices. Patients who prefer to receive a vaccination from their personal physician should contact their doctor's office to be scheduled into the next available vaccination appointment block.

Community-based clinics

To date, more than 10,000 vaccines have been administered at clinics within vulnerable communities by the Augusta Health Task Force. Community organizations that would like to partner with Augusta Health for a Vaccination Clinic can contact VaccinationTaskForce@augustahealth.com for more information on the requirements.

Large on-campus Vaccination Clinics

Please make an appointment for on-campus clinics.

Go to vaccinate.augustahealth.com to view the links and schedule an appointment. Information about new clinics, the links and the criteria for each link, are posted as available. of minors.

For first dose and second dose available to those age 12 and older, booster dose available to those age 16 and older. A parent or guardian must be present to consent to vaccination of a child under the age of 18. Please verify criteria before registration.

Remember to bring your vaccine records card. Appointments for all clinics can be made at vaccinate.augustahealth.com.

To read the original News Leader article, please visit:
<https://www.newsleader.com/story/news/local/2022/02/08/augusta-health-covid-cases-shenandoah-valley/6709052001/>

Letter from the Pastor

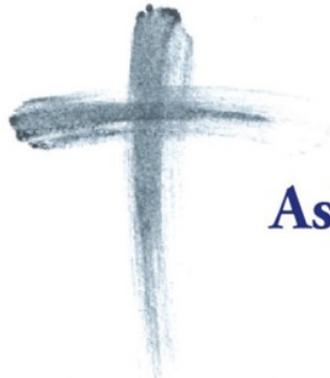
Passion Play a hundred years before. This Covenanting movement...which acknowledged Christ as the Head of the church..." and which began with a play, led to the Presbyterians, our democracy, and the human rights movement.

And "our" gathering of theatre people, do you know the name of the building in which they hold their shows? The BlackFriars playhouse. The name of the order of the first Covenanters who dared to practice freedom of religion, and who ultimately brought the faith to the Shenandoah Valley.

Let us treat our neighbors with great honor and love, for those who nest in our building are the great grandchildren of a long tradition of truth and beauty.

Blessings,

Pastor Karen



Ash Wednesday — Lent Begins

Ash Wednesday - Wednesday March 2

The solemn service of repentance will take place in the Chapel in the Fraser Building at 7:00 pm.

The First Sunday of Lent – Sunday March 6

Communion

“After the Crisis – Hope”

Fellowship Following Worship

The Second Sunday of Lent – Sunday March 13

“The Lord is a Rock In a Weary Land”

Fellowship Following Worship

The Third Sunday of Lent – Sunday March 20

“Blessed In the Essentials”

Fellowship Following Worship

Session Following Fellowship

The Fourth Sunday of Lent – Sunday March 27

“Rolling Away Disgrace”

Fellowship Following Worship

From the News Leader February 8, 2022 Augusta Health—COVID Positivity Rate Near 40% in Staunton, Augusta County, Waynesboro

A very high level of COVID-19 activity in the community and at Augusta Health continues, according to an update from the hospital system.

Augusta Health's testing positivity rate for the week of Jan. 30 through Feb. 5 was 39.3%. Current inpatient COVID-19 census is 33, with seven deaths over the past week.

In the last day, 47 new positive cases of COVID were diagnosed at Augusta Health testing sites. The past week has been up and down, the hospital reported, with positive cases ranging from a low of 43 on Feb. 1 to a high of 98 on Feb. 2.

On Tuesday, Feb. 8, 36 Augusta Health employees are absent with illness.

Augusta Health continues to pivot its clinical COVID focus to aggressive outpatient management. In addition to the significant vaccination efforts, Augusta Health is treating infected patients who meet criteria with Monoclonal Antibody infusions (MABS) when supplies are available. MABS infusion follows a positive COVID test and a physician referral.

“Please vaccinate, wear masks indoors even if vaccinated, wash hands frequently and stay socially distant from others when possible. Vaccination is the most effective way to reduce spread of COVID and to protect yourself from severe COVID that requires hospitalization.”

Vaccination eligibility

Augusta Health is vaccinating everyone age 5 and older who lives, works or goes to school in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Moderna and Johnson & Johnson vaccines are authorized for individuals age 18 and over.

Pfizer vaccine is authorized for individuals age 5 and older; a parent or legal guardian must be present to consent to vaccination of those under the age of 18.

Additionally, booster criteria have been updated today to accommodate a fourth dose for those who are moderately to severely immunocompromised. Eligibility varies by vaccine, so please be aware of the criteria changes and updates for the vaccine selected.

(cont. on p. 10)

COVID Alert

As of February 18, 2022: According to the Covid ActNow website (https://covidactnow.org/us/virginia-va/county/staunton_city/?s=27951685), the current risk level for contracting Covid in Staunton, VA is **very high**. Vulnerability is very high, which means Staunton is more likely to experience severe physical and economic suffering from Covid, and to face longer, harder recovery.

Everyone please be careful, wear a mask, get vaccinated if you can, and stay safe!

Virginia COVID-19 Cases Rise by 3,090 Thursday, February 17

As of Thursday, February 17, Virginia has had 1,619,839 total cases of COVID-19, including confirmed lab tests and clinical diagnoses, according to the Virginia Department of Health.

The Virginia Department of Health reports an 11.6% 7-day positivity rate for total testing encounters, and a 12.3% 7-day positivity rate for PCR tests.

69 additional tests were reported on Thursday, February 17, leaving the death toll at 17,947.

For a comprehensive summary of COVID-19 cases and testing in Virginia, you can visit the Virginia Department of Health's website and view their COVID-19 dashboard at: vdh.virginia.gov/coronavirus/see-the-numbers/covid-19-in-virginia

For additional questions, please contact the VDH Call Center at **877-ASK-VDH3 (877-275-8343)**.

Lenten Bible Study Beginning Wednesday, March 9



Morning Bible Study
Wednesdays 10AM Library

Evening Bible Study
Wednesdays at 6:30pm
via ZOOM (*link will be sent to enrollees*)

Member Bill McIntyre, Hale and Hearty!



This month's Health Matters from Augusta Health stars "our own" Bill McIntyre on the front cover with an article "Out of the Rough: How One Man Came Back from Heart Failure to Enjoy Life on the Links Again".

Bill was on the golf course in June 2020 with a friend of his who is a doctor. He mentioned some symptoms and the doctor



immediately sent him to a cardiologist. Bill now has a defibrillator and a new diet! But he's still on the golf course where he shot a hole in one in July of 2021. Ann golfs with him too, and we're so glad to see both of them in such fine form!



**A Letter from Dan and Elizabeth Turk,
Serving in Madagascar**

Dear friends,

Elizabeth and I are excited about the prospect of returning to Madagascar in November.

Fortunately, Madagascar has not experienced a major wave of COVID infections from the Delta variant. Daily new infections remain quite low, despite Madagascar being in the bottom 10 of countries in terms of percentage of people who have been vaccinated against COVID. Life in Madagascar has returned to some semblance of pre-COVID normality with two major exceptions. The economy remains quite depressed meaning that poverty and hunger are daily realities for people all across the country, especially in the south. In an effort to keep out the Delta variant, Madagascar has been closed to people coming in from outside for many months but has now reopened its borders.

Thank you very much to all who prayed for the FJKM General Assembly (Synoda Lehibe) of PC(USA)'s partner denomination in Madagascar, the Church of Jesus Christ in Madagascar (FJKM), which was held in August. FJKM President Irako Andriamahazosoa Ammi was re-elected for another four-year mandate. In mid-October, FJKM leaders met and elected a new General Secretary, Pastor Jaona Rakotonindrainy who was previously head of the work of the church.

(cont. on p. 7)

A Letter from Dan and Elizabeth Turk, Serving in Madagascar

Two decisions from the Synoda Lehibe will directly impact the paths of our work. The Synoda Lehibe voted to expand the mandate of the FJKM HIV/AIDS committee (KPMS) to include other epidemic diseases such as COVID. Plans for carrying out this new mandate will be developed at the KPMS yearly meeting in December. The Synoda Lehibe voted to extend the work of the Fruits, Vegetables, and Environmental Education Program (FVEE) to all of FJKM's synods in Madagascar. This is a vote of confidence in the FVEE's work to promote growing fruits and vegetables as a means to help reduce poverty and malnutrition. Also, the FJKM decided that all its churches should become "Green Churches," which will include beautifying the churches by growing trees, shrubs and flowers. The FVEE has already been asked to provide fruit trees and native trees for these efforts.

The Synoda Lehibe was an occasion for the KPMS to do testing for HIV and education about HIV and AIDs. About 450 people got tested and four were found to be HIV positive. The testing was done in collaboration with local health personnel. Counselors were on hand to provide pre- and post-test counseling to all who got tested.

We would appreciate your prayers for our safe return to Madagascar. We are grateful that we and our daughter Frances were able to attend our son Robert's graduation from graduate school (MS in Counseling and Art Therapy from Adler University). Please pray for the new leaders of the FJKM as they lead the FJKM in the next four years to be salt and light for the nation. We are very grateful for all who support us as mission co-workers through prayer and financial support.

Peace in Christ,

Dan and Elizabeth