



August 1, 2020

Do not fear, for I am with you,
do not be afraid, for I am your God;

I will strengthen you, I will help you,
I will uphold you with my victorious
right hand.

For I, the LORD your God,
hold your right hand;
it is I who say to you,

“Do not fear, I will help you.”

Isaiah 41:10 & 13



First Presbyterian
Church of Littleton

First Word



Your Impact in Zimbabwe

A few weeks ago, our church members and our Mission Committee donated funds to one of our partner churches in Zimbabwe. If you have not been following any news regarding the country of Zimbabwe, it was falling apart before COVID-19 and now it is in absolute free-fall. Pastor Cody had the privilege of spending a day with a Zimbabwean pastor a couple of years ago, and they have maintained that friendship online. We learned through that pastor that his congregation was unable to purchase food. The Mission Committee had just invested in food security here in Littleton, so we were moved to also invest in food security in Zimbabwe.

Combining donations from the congregation and funds from the Mission budget, our church was able to send \$1,000 to our partners in Zimbabwe! Thank you to everyone who gave an extra gift to help others during a time when all of us are also struggling. I shared the thank you letter from the Zimbabwean pastor during one of our online worship services, but let me also share the impact of the gift.

The money allowed the church to purchase food baskets from South Africa, providing many weeks of food to the families of the church and surrounding community. The gift was large enough that the church was also able to start a garden to produce food ongoing. It is already starting to sprout!



This endeavor also highlights the value of our partnerships. Our presbytery (the regional group of Presbyterian churches) has had a partnership with the Presbytery of Zimbabwe for over ten years, which allowed Pastor Cody to meet his counterpart from Zimbabwe. Our church's long participation in the Zimbabwe Kidz effort to drill wells gave us the knowledge of how to send money safely. And our church's partnership with Code4Kids enabled us to avoid the hefty fees normally involved in sending money across the world. Every dollar you donated went to Zimbabwe!

Jesus told his disciples in Acts 1:8, "You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." Your generosity in the name of Christ created an ongoing witness in Zimbabwe!

In Christ's Service Together,



Pastor Cody



2020 Virtual Quilt Show!

Even though we had to cancel our traditional Quilt Show this year, you can still share your beautiful quilts in our Virtual Quilt Show that Pastor Cody has kindly offered to facilitate!

Just send him two digital pictures of your quilt—one that shows the entire quilt and the other a portion of it in detail. Accompany your pictures with a short (25 words or less) statement about your quilt....just whatever you wish to share (perhaps the quilt pattern name, your name, quilter's name, interesting story or background). Enter as many as three quilts...just remember to include two pictures of each one and information on each quilt.

Deadline for entries: August 7, 2020 Send to: cody@fpcl.org
The show will be ready to view on August 14, 2020 at fpcl.org/quilt
Questions? Call or email Jennie Staritzky at 303-798-9058
abc123staritzky@q.com

A Minute for Stewardship – Gifts in Action

FPCL family and friends,

As reported back in June, your generous giving of time, talents and treasure has enabled our church to not only remain financially strong but also continue to support our congregation and greater community in service of Christ. Here are just a few of the ways your gifts have been put into action in recent months:

Deacons:

- Through two staff members and seven FPCL members and friends, have delivered pre-packaged communion elements along with a message, scripture and prayers to over 53 households consisting of 75 members In May, June and July.
- With a team of one staff person and 11 members, reach out weekly primarily via phone to over 53 members and active non-members to address social, emotional and spiritual isolation due to Coronavirus pandemic restrictions.
- Continue to provide King Soopers gift cards for members and neighbors in need, including the Whiz Kids families that we support.
- Provide transportation for members including trips to the grocery stop, pharmacy, doctor's appointments, haircuts, and occasionally take "stir-crazy" members for rides around the community.
- In cooperation with long-time community partner Romano's Italian Restaurant, have donated over \$4,000 in financial support in May and June to two families in dire straits due to job losses from the pandemic. We hope to provide additional support to these families in July.

Children's Ministry:

- Sent out fun-filled Easter Boxes to 21 children to celebrate the Joy of Easter in their homes.
- Ran a virtual Vacation Bible School, *Rocky Railway*, on June 8-11. With amazing volunteers and generous donations we recorded all of the station videos teaching powerful lessons of Jesus' love and provided free VBS At-Home Supply Kits for 27 children to fully participate in our online VBS.

Music Ministry:

- Through our staff and talented volunteers continues to offer inspiring music for our weekly online worship service.
- A generous donation was used to provide two rounds of gifts to the bell ringers that were delivered personally by Karen as surprises, as well as supplies for a "socially – distanced" paint night gathering.
- Pledges supported the budgeted purchase of new bell table pads for the ringers.

Whiz Kids:

- Distributed King Soopers gift cards from the Deacons to families via a "drive-through" activity.
- Provided all 18 students with goodie bags containing surplus items from the supply cabinet.

- Presented five 5th Graders with Bibles in another “drive-through” activity. These Bibles were donated by one of our tutors in memory of her Aunt who was a huge supporter of the program.
- Even the seemingly small donations of cans brought in \$12 from the recycling center that adds to the Whiz Kids support fund.

Mission Committee is Supporting:

- Deacons Fund
- A program offering “burner” phones with voice and data to people experiencing homelessness. We have even received thank you notes from recipients which is sometimes very rare.
- Graceful Café in Littleton
- Love With Actions
- Zimbabwe Food
- Littleton Public Schools
- And more...

Your generosity has led to an outpouring of Christ’s love that is a true fulfillment of what God said in Malachi 3:8 – “Bring all the tithes into the storehouse so there will be enough food in my Temple....if you do....I will pour out a blessing so great you won’t have enough room to take it in!”

As a congregation, though from home in these last several months, **our generosity has made a difference during the pandemic!** Thanks to this support, the church has continued to serve our congregation and community. WE are “our church,” and wherever we are, there **IS** our church, serving and supporting our community.

We are a CHURCH IN ACTION!

Your Stewardship Committee:

Dave LeMay, Co-Chair: 303-619-5190, leprinoRD@gmail.com

Trey McDowell: 720-254-0639, trey.mcdowell@gmail.com

Sue Chandler, 303-347-9191, mesue35@aol.com

Dee Getzinger, 303-797-8343, deedg2667@gmail.com

Don Meersman, 303-319-6774, dmeers77@gmail.com

Unfortunately, due to many factors, **this year's Stewardship fund raising events:**

- The WWW Parade Hot Dog Lunch
- ARC “Fill the Truck” Event

Are canceled for 2020. We look forward to restarting these events, or something similar in 2021!



THE BELL CHOIRS NEED YOUR TALENT “SEW” MUCH!

Your FPCL “ding-a-lings” have four foam bell pads that need to be covered in muslin. They are 30” x 48” x 4” each, and once covered, these pads will then go underneath the black performance covers you see when we ring. All supply costs will be reimbursed to you! We would really appreciate your help, and there is no rush! Please email Miss Karen at meers@ecentral.com if you are interested in helping! **Thank you SEW much!**



KING SOOPERS REWARDS 2nd QUARTER 2020 UPDATE

Thank you to everyone who continues to use their King Soopers reward cards !!

We are happy to report that the King Soopers rewards continues to earn monies for our church ! We received our 2nd quarter payout for 2020. **We received \$973** from 69 rewards members cards used. We have received over \$2,000 through the first half of 2020. Thank you to those using the rewards member program for FPCL.

If you haven't signed up for the FPCL King Soopers rewards program yet, please consider doing it. We are happy to help people signed up anytime. Remember, every time you use your King Soopers rewards card you are helping to raise monies for our church.

Financial update

	June 2020		Year to Date 2020	
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget
Income	\$27,721.46	\$32,463.03	\$ 251,323.14	\$234,022.06
Expenses	\$32,486.51	\$35,958.74	\$ 204,442.41	\$225,122.18
Surplus/Deficit	(\$4,765.05)	(\$3,495.71)	\$ 46,880.73	\$ 8,899.88

The deficit in June was a little more than anticipated, but the year to date surplus is still substantial. Since the building is empty, we have been doing some repairs. During the last few months we had the parking lot sealed, the sanctuary steps have been repaired and the carpet in Chandler Hall has been cleaned. The church is looking good. Hoping you and yours are staying safe and well.



CALLING ALL CHURCH MEMBERS!!

Meals on Wheels Summer Food Drive, Saturday, August 15, 9 am – 2 pm

The FPCL Youth invite you to support them in a summer service project! On Saturday, August 15, between 9 am and 2 pm, the youth will be hosting a food drive in our church parking lot collecting non-perishable food and paper goods for Nourish Meals on Wheels, our community's Meals on Wheels affiliate (<https://nourishmealsonwheels.org/>).

Not only does Meals on Wheels deliver hot, nutritious meals, they also provide grocery staples to many of our most vulnerable seniors. You may not know that FPCL's affiliation with Meals on Wheels goes back many years. Between 1971-1975 FPCL donated the use of our kitchen and Ficklin Hall to Meals on Wheels. More recently Mission Committee has provided financial support.

We are requesting donations of the following items. Items in bold type are in very short supply and greatly desired:

- ⇒ Peanut Butter and Jelly.
- ⇒ Canned items including tuna, chicken, condensed soups, **hearty soups (like Campbell's Chunky Brand)**, chili, stews, and fruit.
- ⇒ Packaged dry goods including **pasta**, tuna and chicken helper, cookies, **crackers (all varieties)**, noodle/rice side dish packets, and instant oatmeal.
- ⇒ **Whole wheat and/or other nutritious cold cereals** (think more Special K and less Cocoa Puffs)
- ⇒ **Facial tissue**
- ⇒ **Paper towels**
- ⇒ Toilet paper (Wheels on Meals actually has a good supply right now so this is less critical)

We will be offering "Contactless Curbside Drop-off" for everyone's safety and protection. When you arrive at FPCL, simply pull into the parking lot and a youth volunteer wearing a face covering will be there to collect your donation from your backseat, trunk, rear cargo area, etc., all without you having to leave your vehicle!

For more information, please contact Sue Chandler (303-522-7216) or Trey McDowell (720-254-0639) if you have any questions. Thank you in advance for your support of this worthwhile community mission!



Minute for Mission

The mission committee has continued to meet monthly through zoom. We are continually thankful that we have had enough donations made by the congregation to enable us to continue our gifting. We have given to many of the same organizations that we always do (Meals On Wheels, LWA, Graceful Cafe). Then, we have added gifts to groups that are new to us that needed help during this difficult time (Littleton Public School Foundation, Zimbabwe Food-through Pastor Cody). Thank you again.

Share Your Story! If you are interested in contributing your faith story, please let us know. Sharing your story maybe just what someone needs. Encouraging each other in our walk with God is so essential to bringing us all together. Contact Elinor Packard or Cody Sandahl with questions or to request help . 303-798-1389 or fpcl@fpcl.org or cody@fpcl.org

Sharing Our Faith

I don't know about you, but with the changes in our lives that the pandemic has brought into my life, I find it so easy to forget the routine things that once came to mind without much effort. That is the case for me as I prepare this newsletter. I forgot to ask one of you to share your faith story! With the deadline here and with that in mind, I am sharing something I wrote on Palm Sunday in 2019 (with a little editing). We do not normally think much about Lent and the Easter season in August, but hopefully you will find something helpful or interesting in this.

The Simplicity of Faith

By Elinor Packard

Matthew 23:37 says, “He said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.””

When I was younger I often pondered why faith seemed so hard for many. For me it was so simple...just believe. The simplicity of that gives me comfort. Our faith is not about doing or not doing something, and not necessarily even about our behavior. Simple faith can and should drive us to live in a more Christ-like manner. As life “happens” to us though, it is almost effortless to become overwhelmed with our daily

lives, struggles, and world's current events, that we can forget the need to know God more intimately.

Knowing God requires time, just like knowing anyone takes time. Finding a friend, spouse or confidant requires contact and conversation. A more personal faith takes time in prayer, study, and fellowship.

When preparing for Palm Sunday it is so easy just to experience the joy of "welcoming" Jesus into our lives... joy is simple belief, but we must also study our own hearts to guard against the ease of falling away. I love the Prayer of Confession that Pastor Cody wrote for the 2019 Palm Sunday service.

"Holy God, we confess that we think of ourselves as the crowd cheering you on. We confess that we think of ourselves as the disciples who wouldn't have abandoned you a few days later. We confess that we think of ourselves as the ones who would believe your resurrection, not doubt and demand proof like Thomas. Forgive us for being just like all the people who quickly turned from shouting your praise to shouting for your crucifixion. Amen."

Those who turned on Jesus, shouting "Crucify him" just days later, may have had the exciting experience of hearing him speak or of seeing him heal someone (which would/could have been frightening). But not many of them had the opportunity to get to know him personally like we do because of His resurrection. Was he the long-awaited and hoped for Messiah, or just a completely new and interesting personality? He was certainly a growing threat to those in power. It would have been so easy to get caught up with the crowd.

So today, let us strive to get to know Him so well, that it is easier to have a simple empowering faith. A faith that will carry us beyond the excitement of Palm Sunday or joy of Easter into a personal and vibrant relationship with Jesus Christ. A faith that guides us away from a volatile world created by "the crowd" and towards the peace that surpasses all understanding.

thank you

Dear Friends,

Thank you to all for your prayers, cards, calls and visits during my recent health episode. Hedy and I feel truly blessed. Doug Lemieux



Did you know that PCUSA has its own historical society? If you would like to read some of the articles presented in their newsletter go to history.pcusa.org.



BACKPACK PROJECT FUNDRAISER

This is a reminder to anyone who has been thinking about making a donation to the Backpack Project. As you may know, we are raising funds this year rather than requesting school supplies. The Corona Virus Pandemic has changed our lives in many ways this year. Mission Committee has decided, for safety reasons, to give backpacks including only a gift card. In this way, families can shop or order their child's needed supplies to start the school year.

Donations can be made on the FPCL website by clicking, "Give" at the top of the page. A drop-down will appear. Click on "School Supplies and backpacks": at the bottom of the dropdown list. On the following page is the form to fill out to make your donation.

We thank you in advance for your kind generosity as you support the effort to help children starting a new and unusual school year.

Prayer List

- Bob Backus
- David Housh & family upon the death of his mother
- Jon Heggie
- Gloria Pool
- Jim Biner
- Joyce Lei
- Eleanor Spence
- Joyce Fuller
- Rollie Fuller
- Wilmajean Coate
- Kent Griffith
- Jean Wilbur
- Joy Carreño
- Lonna Williams
- William Hults
- Jay Radcliff
- Doug Lemieux
- Joanie Coffey
- David Turner
- Tracey Eidson
- Sally Holden

In Service to Our Country

- Capt. Ricky Casburn
- Capt. Connor Venrick, Hawaii
- Brett Wilson, at sea
- Sgt. Benjamin Lund, Afghanistan
- Bobby Johannsen, at sea
- LCDR. Per Rychecky, USS Harry S. Truman
- Connor McDaniel, Army
- Donnie Donahue, PFC, Marines, Prague
- Nathaniel Syron, Aide to the Army Chaplain
- Pvt. Isaiah Boehm, Ft. Polk, LA
- Jeremy Colwell, Afghanistan
- C3C Cameryn McKinnell, USAFA

Missions

- John Altemus
- Jory Bayne, Metro Denver
- Presbytery of Zimbabwe
- Cross Cultural Community
- South Asia Mission
- Jeffco Action Center

Staff Directory

Pastor Cody Sandahl: (303) 798-1389 ext 104,

- Emergency Number: 720-258-6185, Email: cody@fpcl.org

Pastor Carol Parsons, Director of Congregational Care: (303) 798-1389 ext 106

- Cell: (303) 919-7624, Email: pastorcarol@fpcl.org

Kate Ballard, Director of Children's Ministry, (303)798-1389 ext. 111

- Email: children@fpcl.org

Mary Dailey, Director of Worship Arts, Cell: (303) 668-0727

- Email: mkdailey@me.com

Karen Meersman, Director of Handbells & Children/Youth Music

- Email: meers@ecentral.com

James Bierschwale, Interim Director of Youth, (303) 798.1389 ext. 110

- Email: youth@fpcl.org

Cynthia Kern, Wedding Coordinator Cell: (720) 985-7090, Home: (303) 988-1984

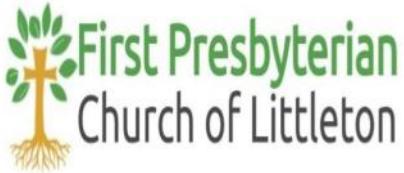
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Return Service Requested

OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Friday : The church office is closed until the session and staff decide otherwise.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

- ♦ **Sunday Worship:** online at fpcl.org
- ♦ **Children's Sunday School** check out Kate's recorded message during online worship.
- ♦ **FIRST WORD NEWSLETTER:**
The DEADLINE for the September Newsletter is Friday August 21.

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