

FPC NEWS

A NEWSLETTER FOR FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



KAZAKHSTAN MISSION

BY PASTOR ANDREW GILMAN

At a small hotel in the city of Almaty, the gospel was preached, and ministers were trained to take the gospel back to their churches. For a week we met in a small conference room with 6 tables set up facing the front of the room. Two students sat at each table. But before we get to the details of my experience teaching these wonderful students, I should tell the whole story of how this trip came to be and the call God put upon me to be a part of this important work.

The story actually began right here at our church in February earlier this year. As you recall, we were hosting Presbytery for the first time since 2017. We hosted elders and pastors from the Presbytery of the Midwest here in Greenville. I happen to be the Church Health Coordinator for the EPC GA office here in this region. My role in this position is to support the churches in our area with resources and training toward developing and maintaining evangelistic culture within their congregations. In my role, I regularly deliver updates to the assembly on the work I am doing with congregations across Indiana, Michigan and Ohio. (Continued on page 6)

KEY DATES

AUGUST 11

Communion Worship

AUGUST 20

Spiritual Life Center at the GDCF

AUGUST 25

Congregational Meeting

SEPTEMBER 1

Communion Worship

SEPTEMBER 8

Fall Kickoff

DEEPEN YOUR FAITH

THE WESTMINSTER LARGER CATECHISM

Q. 73. WHAT IS ADOPTION?

A. Adoption is an act of God's free grace¹ in and for his only son, Jesus Christ,² by which all those who are justified become his children,³ have his name put on them,⁴ have the Spirit of his Son given to them,⁵ are provided for under his fatherly care,⁶ are welcomed to all the liberties and privileges of the sons of God, and are made heirs of all the promises and fellow-heirs with Christ in glory.⁷

1. 1 Jn 3.1.
2. Eph 1.5, Gal 4.4-5.
3. Jn 1.12.
4. 2 Cor 6.18, Rv 3.12.
5. Gal 4.6.
6. Ps 103.13, Prv 14.26, Mt 6.32.
7. Heb 6.12, Rom 8.17.



READING PLAN

WEEK 1 | AUGUST 1-2

☐ N/A

☐ N/A

WEEK 2 | AUGUST 5-9

☐ N/A

☐ N/A

☐ N/A

☐ N/A

☐ N/A

WEEK 3 | AUGUST 12-16

☐ Psalm 136

☐ Psalm 137

☐ Psalm 138

☐ Psalm 139

☐ Psalm 140

WEEK 4 | AUGUST 19-23

☐ Psalm 141

☐ Psalm 142

☐ Psalm 143

☐ Psalm 144

☐ Psalm 145

WEEK 5 | AUGUST 26-30

☐ Psalm 146

☐ Psalm 147

☐ Psalm 148

☐ Psalm 149

☐ Psalm 150

YOUR MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

I CORINTHIANS 12:12-14, 27

There is one body, but it has many parts. But all its many parts make up one body. It is the same with Christ. We were all baptized by one Holy Spirit. And so we are formed into one body. It didn't matter whether we were Jews or Gentiles, slaves or free people. We were all given the same Spirit to drink. So the body is not made up of just one part. It has many parts.

You are the body of Christ. Each one of you is a part of it.

BIRTHDAYS

08/01 Ray Laughlin

08/02 Lisa Headley

08/06 Lauren Henry

08/14 Nikki Gilmore

Mark Howell

Augie Roestamadji

08/18 Brandon Ervin

08/20 Phyllis Trittschuh

Ted Finnarn

08/26 Kelly Hounshell

08/27 Jacob Hounshell

Josh Moore



ANNIVERSARIES

08/02 Jack & Gloria Horner

08/03 Woody & Lori Conway

08/05 Dan & Elaine Hawley

08/08 Chris & Molly Mumaw

08/10 Jared & Paige Ervin

08/11 Gary & LaJeanne Riegler

08/14 Josh & Mary Lee Moore

08/16 Dennis & Shirla Neff

08/19 Chris & Margaret Hayes

IS YOUR BIBLE FALLING APART?

HFGROUP | ECSCONSERVATION

Our Bibles, just like everything we use every day, can become worn and tattered. Patti Jetter recently got her entire Bible redone with all new binding and it looks brand new, but still has all her handwritten notes from years of study inside. Patti used HFGGroup to conserve her Bible. If you have questions about what the process was like, Patti would be glad to help you answer those questions. Below is the contact information for their conservation manager. You can also find out more online at ecscconservation.com!

Catherine Thomis | Conservation Manager
(260)982-2107 | cthomis@hfgroup.com

DIRECTOR OF MINISTRY OPERATIONS UPDATE

By Paige Ervin

VOLUNTEER ROLES FOR 2024-2025

There is a lot of stuff that happens behind the scenes every week to make worship run smoothly. We are looking for more people to step in and be a part of the various roles during worship. Those roles include running the sound booth and livestream, leading Children's Church, caring for the Pre-K and babies, scripture reading, hospitality team with coffee in the Nook, greeters, other odd jobs and more! If you are willing to serve regularly or even as a substitute, we would love your help! Right now, we have a lot of the same people serving in multiple ministries and it leaves us with large holes to fill when they are gone. Please prayerfully consider what areas you might be able to step into this fall to serve FPC.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The FPC Session has called a congregational meeting for Sunday, August 25th immediately following worship. Topics of discussion will include the recent changes to how we provide funeral meals and changes to our church Bylaws. Please plan to attend. All are welcome. Only members may vote.

FALL KICKOFF

FPC's Fall Kickoff is the Sunday after Labor Day each year. This year that is Sunday, September 8th at 10:00am! Fall Kickoff is the starting date for fall ministries to begin and you might notice a few small changes to the worship service at this time too. In preparation for fall kickoff, we have sign-ups at the Welcome Desk for volunteer roles that need filled and classes that are available too. Please stop by and add your name to a list that piques your interest! (See descriptions of the various roles/classes to the right.)

FALL RETREAT SAVE THE DATE

EQUIP Greenville is this year's fall retreat. This is a MUST-ATTEND event as we have award-winning author, Zack Eswine with us this year to speak. Registration is now open on the app. The entire day will take place right here at FPC. Join us for an evening worship service the Friday before to kick the weekend off! The retreat itself will take place on Saturday, September 28th from 10am-3pm.

FALL MINISTRIES

CONFIRMATION CLASS

Sunday mornings 9:00-9:30am. This class is open to all 7th-12th graders and their parents, in The Hall.

COVER THE CHURCH (IN PRAYER)

Sunday mornings 9:30-9:45am. This is a time of silent prayer in the sanctuary that is open to everyone.

BOOK OF EXODUS STUDY

Craig Leland will lead this adult class on Sundays, after church. First meeting is Sept. 15th in the Nook!

CRAFT NIGHT

This is a time to build deeper friendships amongst the body at FPC. This group will meet once a month and it is a bring your own craft! Specific dates TBD.

MEN'S STUDIES (TWO OPTIONS)

Every Tues. night 6:30-8:30pm with Pastor Andrew or the 1st Saturday every month 8:30-10am with Augie.

WOMEN'S STUDIES (TWO OPTIONS)

Every Tuesday night 6:30-8:30pm with Paige or the 2nd Saturday every month 8:30-10am with Jan.

PASTOR'S BIBLE STUDY

Every Wednesday 10:30am-noon, Pastor Andrew leads a verse-by-verse Bible Study in the Nook.

GOLF MINISTRY

Contact Ted Finnarn to receive Golf Ministry notices.

LIFE GROUPS

These groups are currently hosted by the Hennings and Roestamadjis and are at max capacity. Another group can be formed if we have enough interest!



PRAYER

Prayer Chain updates are sent via TEXT. Contact the office to be added to the group. All updates can also be found on the App.

Early August 2024 Prayer Updates:

08/07/2024: Carol Funderburg has gone home to be with our Lord and Savior. Please continue to keep the family in your prayers. We will keep you updated on service times.

08/06/2024: Amanda made it through her surgery and will hopefully go home tomorrow. Please pray that her pain would be minimal and that she would get some much-needed rest!

08/06/2024: Carol Funderburg is currently in hospice care. Please keep her and the family in your prayers.

08/06/2024: Amanda Hines is going back in for surgery at 1pm for a bladder laceration. After severe pain last night, a CT scan showed the problem this morning. Please pray!

08/05/2024: Amanda Hines had a successful surgery and is now in recovery for the next 6-8 weeks. Thank you for your prayers and please continue to pray for her recovery!

July 2024 Prayer Updates:

07/18/2024: Don Boyer passed away peacefully yesterday morning. Please keep Beth Vehre, Paul Boyer, and the entire family in your prayers.

Please continue to pray for the following individuals:
Margaret Hayes, Jack & Gloria Horner, Phyllis Royer, Phyllis Trittschuh, Betty Small.



FPC LIFE (CONT. PG. 9)

THANK YOU FROM GRAHAM

It is a great honor to be cared after so kindly by First Presbyterian Church. You all support entering and continuing college students greatly and truly show Christ-like compassion towards the congregation and their families.

Continuing my education at Wake Forest University into my fifth semester/second year, I will be wrapping up my B.A. in Russian Language and pushing towards a B.A. in Philosophy. I am a great deal active in Army ROTC and will be undergoing my mandatory summer training 7 weeks out of the summer following my junior year. This all would not be possible without your prayers and help and I am deeply thankful for all you have done and will continue to do.

In Christ, Graham Milligan

CHURCH VOLLEYBALL

Congratulations to everyone who participated in the church volleyball league this summer and represented FPC. We finished in 2nd place but had a great time all season and look forward to being back again next year!

NEW BABY

Mark and Didi Howell announced last month that another baby is on the way! We are overjoyed to hear this news. Please keep the baby, Didi, and the whole family in your prayers throughout the pregnancy. Baby Howell is due in February of next year!

FPC KIDS SPECIAL

****Look to hear from another one of our VBS Kids next month!*

Thank you to our youth for being THE BEST crew leaders all week long at VBS again this year. PreK was led by Lilly Hayes. Finnley Crew was led by Maleah Hines and Sarah Wright. Fisher Crew was led by Carson Henry and Shane Gilman, and our Waylon Crew was led by Sienna Gilman and Amelia Zimmer. Our crew leaders led our kids to their stations each night and encouraged them all week long. At the end of the week, our VBS kids raised over \$550 for CJ (a fourth grader at Greenville battling liver cancer) and were rewarded by getting to pie their amazing crew leaders in the face. It was a hit!



UPCOMING LEADERSHIP MEETINGS

DEACONS	MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2024	7:00PM
STAFF	THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2024	7:00PM
SESSION	THURSDAY, AUGUST 8, 2024	7:00PM
	(THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2024)	

There was no session meeting in July, due to Pastor Andrew's absence.
June meeting minutes will be published in next month's newsletter, after the session's approval.

KAZAKHSTAN MISSION (CONT.)

While at the meeting, some of my close friends Andrew Morton and Adam Reasoner approached me with an opportunity to go to Kazakhstan to teach students and ministers there for World Outreach. These two friends represent the EPC GA office for World Outreach in our region. They had gotten word that I was taking a trip to South Korea with my family this summer and the wheels began to turn. Perhaps it would be possible to stop in Kazakhstan to teach on the way to or from the Far East. I told them I would begin to assess whether such a trip would be possible.

After discussing things with Jenna and with our Elders here at FPC, I came to the conclusion that God was not only permitting such a trip to happen, but He was actually removing obstacles and preparing me to go on this trip. At the time, I was not yet sure why. But it was quickly becoming clear that I needed to go. Next up was a call with two men in the field, Jeff and Igor. (For their safety in the field we will leave their full names off of this report.)

We met on a Saturday morning in April over Zoom. They described the task at hand and the general needs of the churches and leadership in their area. It was clear to me that my work with Church Health and Revitalization intersected with these critical mission points and that I was an ideal person to begin to put together the material for such a class. Even though this invitation and the way forward to go was very encouraging and clear, and even though I could see how my current work with churches here in MWP could be helpful, the prospect of writing such a class from the ground up was now before me. I suddenly wondered if I had bitten off more than I could chew (so to speak).

The work of writing such a class was going to be challenging enough, but typically the material was gathered and submitted in the early spring for such a trip. In our case, the invitation and the need was presented somewhat late and out of the blue leaving me only 8 weeks to prepare the entire course of nearly 35 to 40 hours and 8 separate lectures, along with the supporting articles and reading for the class. This would have to be done along with my work here at FPC as well as the seminars and help as the Church Health Coordination I am doing.

As I began working on the outlines for the lectures it was becoming clear to me that I had to plan out the whole class with a certain goal or trajectory. I had to know the key aspects of church development and practical tools in order to properly guide the class toward those ideas effectively. It took me numerous attempts but once I had the main ideas for each lecture I began to write each class individually. By the first week of May, I had my outlines mostly done. Now I needed to get the articles and extra resources

KAZAKHSTAN MISSION (CONT.)

prepared and formatted to be sent to the team in Central Asia to be translated into Russian. With Paiges help here in the office a complete workbook was finished and ready for translation by the end of May. In total it was 136 pages, complete with discussion sections and resources. It was a notebook for a class on how the gospel informs the whole of our work inside our churches and outside our churches to reach the world with the gospel.

Now, it was the first week of June. One more Zoom call with the guys on the ground and I was just a couple of weeks away from the trip. Only now did it dawn on me that I needed to research a bit about the place I was travelling to. I had to find out if I needed any specific considerations for immunization or for political situations in the country and so on. I quickly learned about their food preferences (horse and lamb) and the kinds of plugs for charging devices that I would need. Suddenly, I was aware that this trip was coming and coming soon.

On the way to Kazakhstan, I stopped in Budapest Hungary to visit with our World Outreach Missionaries there. (Again, their names must remain off this report since it is published online.) But I was a youth pastor to them when they were just high school students many years ago in Northeast Ohio. So, this was not only an opportunity to visit with Missionaries whom our church supports, but also a chance to see old friends. They are people who are dear to me and close friends across many years. They also happen to have been in direct contact with some of the people I was soon to see in Kazakhstan (another tremendous providence from God).

After a couple days with them, I boarded my flight to Kazakhstan. An overnight flight, I arrived at 7 AM. Igor met me at the airport. He is a minister at a Reformed church in Russia. He organized the class and invited the students from various places to participate. He is also the head of a seminary which is the entity that I was supporting with my class instruction to the students. Due to the ongoing conflict in that part of the world many

professors cannot make it to teach such classes in person.

Igor dropped me at the hotel, and I briefly unpacked and prepared for lunch with his family and three of the students who had arrived early. After lunch I was invited to go on a hike with them, but I declined, to rest for the class ahead of me and to get over the jetlag that was being felt due to the overnight flight. The rains came that afternoon and upon returning to the hotel they said I had made a good choice.

The class began on Monday morning. The translator was a pastor named Dennis. He did a tremendous job for me and the whole class. The first lecture was 3 hours on the God who loves the world He made. "For God so loved the World that He gave His only Son". This idea is the whole reason why churches and the mission of God's kingdom from churches to our world exist. After each lecture, the class moved into a time of Q and A with me. Let me tell you, the students in the class asked very theologically astute questions. They asked very pointed and difficult questions. They asked questions that wanted proof for the places where they were skeptical of the material presented. I have to say, I was initially surprised by this, and I wondered how the whole week would turn out.

Ultimately, I began to perceive in their questions the places where they were struggling in their local ministry contexts to maintain healthy congregations and to build effective bridges for ministry and outreach into their communities. This was amazing since the whole class was geared toward answering these exact concerns and needs (little did I know when I was writing it weeks earlier). It turns out that this was exactly what they were hoping to get help with, and God had prepared me to bring such help to them in the form of the material I prepared.

We took a break for lunch and the second lecture began at about 2pm. This lecture was about the Great Commission and the Great Commandment, as well as the Sacraments of Communion and Baptism. We talked at length about the need for

KAZAKHSTAN MISSION (CONT.)

our churches to focus on the main thing...the Gospel of Jesus Christ. And our focus here must be fleshed out in how we do life together in the church. Class ended at 6PM or 6:30 on day one.

We remained at the hotel together and ate at a nice restaurant there. The food was very pleasant, and the conversations carried on regarding much of the material long into the evening. I retired to my room at about 9PM to prepare for the next day. Day two was much the same as day one. Now our topics were service, evangelism, and outreach. We looked at Philippians 2 and the attitude that Christ Jesus had as he came to accomplish the mission His Father sent Him to complete.

Again, the class had many questions. They were still very tough, and a tinge of skepticism seemed to accompany some of them. As the week continued, I could see these questions shift from curiosity to searching for wisdom and help. The material moved into the practical ways that evangelism and the love of Christ in the gospel must change us as Christians. They must change how we do worship, and how we seek to reach the lost.

We began to uncover the places in our own lives where we do not love others as Christ has loved us. One student confessed as much before the class. Another began to pray for help from the Holy Spirit to change how he ministered to his congregation. There was much appreciation for the practical nature of the class material and how it was a workshop on how to do ministry and develop evangelistic culture in their congregations. I was able to do a portion of a lecture on "the three circles" evangelism tool and how it represents our own need for faith and repentance.

By day four I was very appreciative of the students in the class. I learned a lot about their own ministry contexts. Some of the students were ministering in churches out of their own homes to just three or four people. Another student was an apprentice or assistant to a pastor. He helped with worship and

was just starting his theological education. He said the class was very accessible and necessary for him. I appreciated his kind words.

One female student said she learned that she had gifts and could lead a small group in her church. She grew to understand that such a small group was more than just a ministry to those inside of her church but could be used to reach others with the gospel outside of the church as well. Her insights and interactions in the class were some of the most helpful and eye-opening to the whole class.

In the end, many of the theological concerns and the debates they were struggling with in their church contexts began to fade into the background in favor of the gospel and its primacy. They began to see the importance of embodying the love of Christ in every issue of the church and its needs. This personal growth in gospel understanding is key to taking on the office of a servant of Jesus.

I am thankful for my time with the students. I am so glad that God helped me as I wrote the material. I was blessed to be challenged by the students and as I went back to my room to prepare for the next day's lectures, I knew that God had given me just the things that needed to be conveyed. This was confirmed as I listened to the students' responses and their appreciation for the lectures. The translator, the organizer, the online participants and the in-person class were all very kind and had much to say they took away from the week.

A major thank you is in order to our Elders, and to you the congregation for allowing me the extra week to take the trip. Thanks to Jenna for giving me the extra couple of days and for taking the kids with her to Korea ahead of time. Thanks to World Outreach and to my friends Adam and Andrew (who you met as he filled in for me that first week I was away). Thanks to Paige for formatting the workbook to be sent to the translators. Thanks to Dan Borgelt for filling in as well. And thanks be to God for preparing divine

KAZAKHSTAN MISSION (CONT.)

appointments like this class in Almaty. I had no idea that I would be privileged to teach and serve the Lord by helping these wonderful servants and ministers and brothers and sisters in the Lord in Central Asia.

I am so happy to be home with the family. We missed you all while we were away and are so happy to be back here in Greenville to continue the work God is doing among our congregation. We are so pleased that God has called us to be part of this congregation. We look forward to all He is doing among us. Please continue to pray for our church and to invite your friends and family to be a part of this wonderful congregation.

Your Pastor, Andrew Gilman



FPC LIFE (CONT.)

MEEKA'S BAPTISM (June 30)



FIRST FRIDAY
KARAOKE
WITH THE YOUTH
(AUGUST 2)



SCUBA

diving into friendship with coral







AUGUST 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<p>28</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Worship Team Rehearsal 9:30am Cover the Church (Prayk) 10am Worship 	<p>29</p> <p>Vacation Bible School</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>	<p>Aug 1</p> <p>Boyer Funeral</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Office Closed</p> <p>6pm First Friday</p>	<p>3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:30am Mens Study
<p>4</p> <p>VBS Celebration Sunday</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Worship Team Rehearsal 9:30am Cover the Church (Prayk) 10am Worship 	<p>5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7pm Deacons Meeting 	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:30am Bible Study 	<p>8</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7pm Session Meeting 	<p>9</p> <p>Office Closed</p>	<p>10</p>
<p>11</p> <p>Communion Sunday</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Worship Team Rehearsal 9:30am Cover the Church (Prayk) 10am Worship 	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:30am Bible Study 	<p>14</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:30am Bible Study 	<p>15</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7pm Staff Meeting 	<p>16</p> <p>Funderburg Funeral</p> <p>Office Closed</p>	<p>17</p>
<p>18</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Worship Team Rehearsal 9:30am Cover the Church (Prayk) 10am Worship 	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10am Spiritual Life Center @GD 	<p>21</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:30am Bible Study 	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Office Closed</p>	<p>24</p>
<p>25</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Worship Team Rehearsal 9:30am Cover the Church (Prayk) 10am Worship 11am Congregational Meeting 	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:30am Bible Study 	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Office Closed</p>	<p>31</p>

*This calendar can always be found on the app.



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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