



Here and Now

June 2022

Volume 69, Issue 6

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PASTOR LEANNE'S MESSAGE: "WHEN WORDS FAIL"

A lot of my time is spent using words, so it should come as no surprise that I think words are very powerful. Words are powerful when I say, "I now pronounce you husband and wife" or "I baptize you in the name of the Father Son, and Holy Spirit." They are powerful, when I hear our Child Care Workers correcting children with words that teach rather than scorn. They are powerful, when politicians use the vocabulary of violence to address their ideological opponents. They are powerful when a parent sits down with a child to explain how the world works and what makes life safe. They are powerful when lovers address their differences in terms that seek cooperation instead of domination.

But sometimes words fail - - and lately I have experienced that. When we or people we love are in pain, it is not unusual for one to wonder what to say. When 19 children and two loving teachers are shot down in cold blood, and the media goes crazy with political word-wars that do nothing... I find myself grieving heavily, sputtering in anger, and hurt, and frustrated, and keenly aware that all the words in the world will fix nothing.

Because I think words are powerful, I feel utterly helpless when words fail, when I do not know what to say, or when I know that no matter what I say, I cannot fix the pain or drive away evil.

I hate helplessness. I hate powerlessness. I need my words.

My impulse, (and maybe yours too) at times like this is always to pray, but prayer, too, involves words. Fortunately, the God of scripture who knows the human heart intimately, understands our wordlessness. When the need to express sorrow, anger, frustration, and longing is so intense we cannot speak our own passion. The Apostle Paul tells us, "Now in the same way the Spirit also helps our weakness; for we do not know what to pray for as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words;" (Ro. 8:26a). This means that in prayer, our tears, sighs, moans and groans are heard by God as the vocabulary of the soul.

God is present when words fail.



PASTOR'S MESSAGE CONTINUED:

What's more, according to Paul; the Spirit that knows us so intimately that it can help us express ourselves to God without words, is also the Spirit that knows God intimately. "And He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He intercedes for the saints according to the will of God." (Ro. 8:26b) For Paul, this wordless communication is the purest form of connection -- through the Spirit our wordless depths are connected to the wordless depths of God.

This is amazing. Yet, even more amazing is how the Apostle describes the outcome of this connection. He says in the same chapter, "If God is for us, who is against us?"³² He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things?³³ Who will bring charges against God's elect? God is the one who justifies;³⁴ who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is He who died, but rather, was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us.³⁵ Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will tribulation, or trouble, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword?³⁷ But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us.³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers,³⁹ nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

So, there we have it – when words fail, when we feel utterly powerless, our powerful connection to a loving God is secured by the Spirit who does not need our best words to communicate our feelings to God. When words fail, we are not powerless. When words fail, God hears us clearly. This is the word of the Lord – thanks be to God.

Leanne

FROM OUR PARISH NURSE - WANONA

Happy June 2022 everyone! My this has been an interesting few months. We are still receiving much needed rain but let's hope June brings us sunshine and blue skies. And NO wind! Happy Father's Day to all you Dad's out there.



I have been receiving vendor applications for our September 29th Health Fair. If anyone is interested in helping with this event, I have a volunteer sheet on the Parish Nurse bulletin board. Thank you in advance for your help.

The Strengthening Classes and Sunday Blood Pressure Clinic will resume in October after our Health Fair.

WANONA'S "MEDICINE"

There were two old geezers living in the backwoods of the Ozarks: Rufus and Clarence. They lived on opposite sides of the river and they hated each other. Every morning, just after sunup, Rufus and Clarence would go down to their respective sides of the river and yell at each other. "Rufus!" Clarence would shout. "You better thank your lucky stars that I can't swim, er I'd swim this river and whup you!" "Clarence!" Rufus would holler back. "You better thank your lucky stars that I can't swim, er I'd swim this river and whup you!" Every morning. Every day. For 20 years. One day the Army Corps of Engineers came along and built a bridge. But the insults went on every morning. Every day. Another five years. Finally, Mr. Rufus' wife had enough.

"Rufus!" she squalled one day, "I can't take no more! Every day for 25 years you've been threatenin' to whup Clarence. Well, thars's the bridge! Have at it!"

Rufus thought for a moment. Chewed his bottom lip for another moment.

"Woman!" he declared, snapping his suspenders into place.

"I'm gonna whup Clarence!"

He walked out the door, down to the river, along the riverbank, came to the bridge, stepped up onto the bridge, walked about halfway over the bridge, then turned tail and ran screaming back to the house, slammed the door, bolted the windows, grabbed the shotgun and dove under the bed.

"Rufus!" cried the missus. "I thought you were gonna whup Clarence!" "I was, woman, I was!" he whispered. "What in tarnation is the matter?" "Well," whispered the terror-stricken Rufus, "I walked halfway over the bridge and saw a sign that said, 'Clearance, 13 feet, 6 inches.' He ain't never looked that big from the other side of the river!"



I told my daughter, "Go to bed, the cows are sleeping in the field". She said, "What's that got to do with anything?" I said, "That means it's pasture bedtime!"

MORE GIGGLES:

A week before Memorial Day, the teacher asked the kids to bring pictures of veteran family members to school for show and tell:

First up was Mary. "My daddy served in Afghanistan. He was a paratrooper."

"A paratrooper?" Asked the teacher, who was awed.

Mary said, "Yes, please look closer -- you can see his jump badge."

Second was Joe. "My granny served in Vietnam. She was a doctor."

"A doctor?" Asked the teacher, who was moved.

Joe said, "Yeah, see? That's a stethoscope hanging around her neck."

Third was little Johnny, "This is my great grandpa. He was an electrician." "An electrician?"

Asked the teacher, who was perplexed.

Johnny said, "Yeah, look here. You can see the two lightning bolts on his helmet".

“A Word with Wanona”

This month it is my pleasure to introduce to you Muriel Peterson.



Muriel 12 or 13 years old

Muriel was born and raised with her brother in Steele, North Dakota. Muriel attended grade school and high school in Steele, North Dakota. She graduated in 1963 from Jamestown College where she received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Christian Education. She continued her education in 1984 at Mary College to complete her Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration. The years in between Muriel worked in Iowa and Nebraska. After graduating from Mary, she worked for the Department of Human Services until retirement.

One thing you may not know about Muriel is that she had the Grand Champion Baby Beef Steer at the Kidder County Fall Fair in 1957.



A highlight for Muriel occurred 61 years ago. Muriel was a Summer Service Worker from June to August, 1961 as a volunteer under the Board of National Missions, United Presbyterian Church USA in SE Alaska. Several protestant churches were part of a formal agreement where they were assigned parts of Alaska to focus on Missionary work. The Presbyterian Church already had a strong presence in Southeast Alaska and a portion of the interior as well, and continued that work under the agreement. Muriel joined that mission.

When Muriel asked her mother if she could sign the consent form for this mission and the money for the trip to/from Juneau, she told her to ask her father because her mother knew he would say No.” Muriel was the extra help needed during fall harvest. So going to Alaska meant she wouldn’t be home to help. Much to her mother’s surprise, he signed the form and Muriel was off to Juneau with 11 others from the lower 48 states. Muriel was assigned to Team II, in the most remote fishing villages of Alaska, along with Len from Texas and Sandy from Missouri. The major transportation was a boat or float plane (landing/taking off in the water). The Church supported two mission boats to travel from island to island. The Anna Jackman was a dubbed a “working yacht” which housed 26 kids and the other Princeton Hall. Both would run the length of SE Alaska as part of the church’s mission in that area. Muriel’s team taught Vacation Church School at the Presbyterian Churches in Juneau, Kake and Metlakatla.



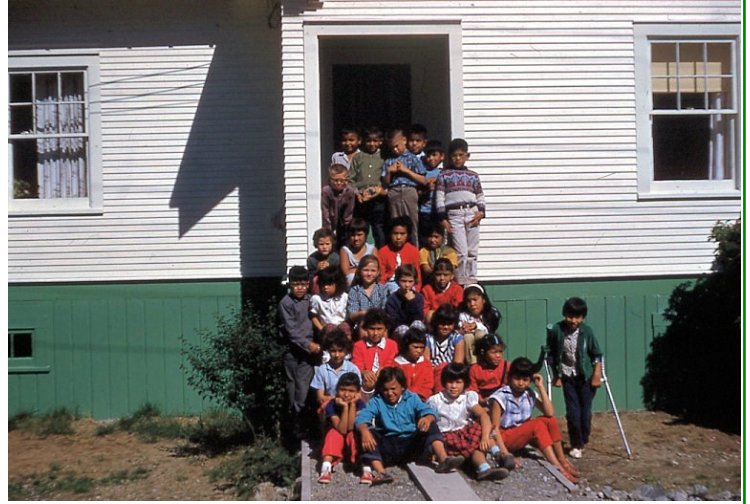
The Anna Jackman “the working yacht” - was a fourth-generation Presbyterian mission vessel designed and destined for service in coastal Alaska. Just like her predecessors, the Anna Jackman was a vital link between small coastal Native Alaskan villages and the rest of the world.

Kake was the most remote village. During the day the men were on fishing boats and the women were working in the cannery. Owners of Kake’s Salmon Cannery owned the only store and to Muriel’s surprise they sold sunflower seeds from Bismarck’s Oscar H. Will & Company. Here the stove and refrigerator in the manse (Presbyterian minister’s residence) were electrical, but power was only available a few hours a day in the evening.



“A Word With Wanona” Continued:

Another village Muriel was assigned was Metlakatla which was located on a small island that had a few miles of road and fewer cars. A parishioner had one of those cars. He showed the group around the island including bunkers remaining from WWII. Remembering Alaska was purchased from Russia, these bunkers were built in preparation for a Russian invasion. In Metlakatla the manse had a very high foundation for privacy because native residents would try to peek in the windows.



During Russia’s ownership of Alaska, the churches were supported by their government. In the center of Sitka was the Russian Orthodox Church. It was a beautiful church laden with elaborate gold inlay and artifacts, but in very poor condition. The priest was selling the Russian Orthodox crosses and other trinkets to help finance their church. Members were not accustomed to financially supporting their church.

Sitka is also the home of Presbyterian Church’s Sheldon Jackson Junior College. The curator of the museum on campus was a missionary, Gladys Whitmore, who originated from Tuttle, North Dakota. When Gladys visited her family in Tuttle, she would do presentations at the Presbyterian Church in Steele. Muriel was very familiar with her mission work in Alaska. She also had a high school classmate whose husband was teaching in Sitka at the time she was assigned there.

Muriel’s Summer Service mission group ended the 1961 season with a 10-day work camp at Rainbow Glacier Camp which was near Haines, Alaska. Their mission involved manually digging the large hole for the outhouse that would seat/accommodate four.



Kake, Alaska



Muriel was baptized and joined the Presbyterian Church in Steele, North Dakota at the age of 16. She moved to Bismarck and joined the First Presbyterian Church in Bismarck in 1984. Her contributions include making the dozens and dozens of scones for the High Teas and funded the additional cost of the Curb Cut at the Thayer entrance, the automatic door for the restrooms, and financial support of the Parish Nurse. Thank you Muriel for sharing your life journey.



Resource Management Committee - Pentecost Offering 2022 and Youth Mental Health

When the day of Pentecost came, the believers were together in one place. Suddenly, a sound like that of a violent wind filled the house. Then, what looked like flames of tongues of fire appeared and settled on their heads. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began speaking in other languages as the Spirit gave them the ability. God-fearing Jews from every nation had gathered and because of the Holy Spirit they heard the message in their own language to repent, put their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and be baptized in His name.

Covid 19 has had a devastating impact on many children. It has taken a social, emotional, and academic toll. Mental illness among youth is at an all-time high. The repercussions can follow the children the rest of their lives. For this reason, there is a much larger need for specialists in mental health training and support to be available for our youth. I have toured a local, wonderful non-profit Mental Health Clinic that serves Bismarck and the surrounding area. It is Dakota Children's Advocacy Center located at 1800 East Broadway Ave., Bismarck.

Your Pentecost Offering will be used to support the Dakota Children's Advocacy Center. 40% of the offering will go to the above center and stay local. 25% supports Youth Adult volunteers serving communities around the world. Another 25% supports Ministries with Youth uniting them in Christ and to be messengers of God's word. The last 10% is devoted to children at-risk.

Give generously to this worthy cause. If we all do a little, it adds up to a lot.

John Richter

Resource Management Committee

CCC NEWS-

Many thanks to those who helped to celebrate and show appreciation to the staff of FPC CCC, on May 6th, National Child Care Recognition Day. The staff reports they had a GREAT day with ordering in Pizza for lunch and receiving a few treats that were dropped off, by various people. On Sunday, May 15th at the Sunday morning Church service, some of the CCC staff



who were in attendance at the worship service, were introduced and recognized. We apologize for inadvertently not recognizing the volunteers who also come in to assist and help to keep CCC running smoothly: The volunteers are Juanita Hocking, Paul Ronningen and Kate Bialke. "Many Thanks" goes out to them for the time they give to the CCC in many different ways!!

Thank you to those who stopped in the Parlor for refreshments after the May 15th worship service and visited with staff. Again, the CCC and board "thanks" the congregation for their monetary support and with giving so generously to the monthly requests. Thank you for the May donations of books for infants to 5 years of age.

For June, the request is for diapers - sizes 4 and 5. We wish all of you a happy and safe summer, as we all look forward to more sunshine and warmer days!

ANNOUNCEMENTS



A thousand thanks to the members of the **Chancel Choir** for their willingness to share their amazing gifts this past year and a half. We will sing once a month during the summer and return in full force come September. Thank you: Charlie Barber, Rusty Bender, Lynne Bigwood, Jodi Bjornson, Sandra Cofell, Lynn Dodge, Kathy Gappert, Allen Hoberg, Juanita Hocking, Tami Morey, Danette Pengilly, Jim Rambo, Otto Reile, Arvy Smith, Signe Snortland, Gail Snustad, Kathy Wachter and dear Patti Koranda. Your inspiration, musicianship, time, dedication and talent is a blessing from God.

MINISTRY ON THE MARGINS -

First Presbyterian Church has agreed to serve as a drop-off point for Ministry on the Margins yearly shoe drive. A representative from MoM will drop off a box for collections here at the church, it will be collected weekly. The drive will be held June 15th through July 15th. MoM is seeking new or kindly-used casual shoes: sneakers, flats, etc., for men and women. No formal shoes or heels, please. They also need new socks.



Please join us for the annual Outdoor Worship Service Sunday, June 12th 10:30 a.m. at Glencoe Church.

Please bring food to share such as a vegetable, salad, side dish or dessert. The Hospitality committee will provide chicken, buns and beverages. A freewill-offering will be collected to offset the charges for the main dish. Please attend and bring your family and friends!

Christian Ed -

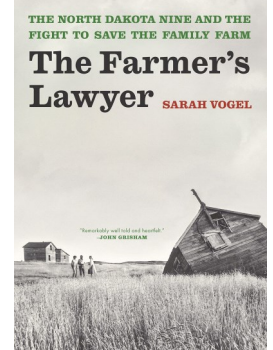
Middle and High school students mark your calendar for June 18th.

Mark has planned a fun activity for you. We will be playing Matball at the Horizon Middle School from 3 to 5.

Bring a friend or two and enjoy the games. Hope to see all of you there!

BOOK CLUB-

THE JUNE BOOK CLUB SELECTION IS "THE FARMER'S LAWYER"
(THE NORTH DAKOTA NINE AND THE FIGHT TO SAVE THE FAMILY FARM)
BY SARAH VOGEL. ALICE NIX BROUGHT IN 6 BOOKS TO BE SIGNED OUT,
THEY ARE ONCE AGAIN IN THE CHURCH OFFICE. BOOK CLUB WILL MEET
THURSDAY, JUNE 23RD AT 1:30PM IN THE PARLOR.



TEMPORARY TEAM - HELP WANTED

Seeking a team to start the initial process of compiling a new church pictorial directory as the last one was prepared in 2016. Please notify the church office ASAP if you are interested in attending an organizational meeting to get the process started. Hopefully, with your help the family photograph sessions will take place in late summer or early fall.



HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE

FAITH NIGHT WITH THE LARKS -

The Bismarck Larks baseball team is hosting a *“Faith Night”* on **June 6th** at 6:35 (gates open at 5:35). Ticket prices are \$21.00 and include box seats and all you can eat from gates opening until the end of the 3rd inning. A sign up sheet is on the bulletin board for this event. **SIGN UP TODAY!**



JUNE DONATION OPPORTUNITY

During June, the Hospitality Committee is asking for donations to the Heaven’s Helpers’ Soup Café - but not donations one would expect! Rather than food items, the Soup Café is in need of donations for their shower users.

The Soup Café has recently moved into a new phase of their vision for the Café. They now have a shower available for the homeless. Those who wish to use the showers pay for that opportunity with Soup Café Bucks, credit received for volunteering at the Café.

The following items are needed by the Soup Café for their showers:

- Towels
- Wash Cloths
- Bath Mats
- Travel size soap, shampoo, and conditioner
- Scrubbing Bubbles for cleaning the showers after use



Items may be left in the donation box any time during the month of June.

For more information about the mission and services of the Heaven’s Helpers’ Soup Café, check out their website: www.soupcafe.org. They are also in need of volunteers, especially for the end-of-the-day shift from 4:00-6:00 pm.

Thanks for your support.



The congregation was very generous with food donations for the Bismarck Emergency Food Pantry during the month of April.

The Hospitality Committee extends a huge thank you for the great response to help feed the hungry in our community.

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS MAY 24, 2022

CLERK'S REPORT

The death of Vern Johnson, May 3 was reported. His funeral service was held May 14. Membership is 339. Session approved the request of Tait and Samantha Ronningen for the baptism of their daughter Isla Josephine on June 5.

MODERATOR'S REPORT

Viewing videos of church services on Facebook continues to be very strong. Pastor Leanne will be on vacation July 19-26. Administrative Assistant, Maureen Chrest, will have eye surgery in June; volunteers are needed to help in the office while she recovers. Please contact Pastor Leanne if you wish to help.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Total Income YTD Actual	\$171,180	Budget	\$156,967
Total Expense YTD Actual	\$191,527	Budget	\$203,893
NET Income	-20,347	Budget	-\$46,926

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Administrative and Personnel—Letters were sent to 20 family units that have not participated in recent years. Six wished to remain as members. Session approved the removal of the remaining fourteen (16 Individuals) from the active roll. Session approved the employee health insurance policy, Blue Care Platinum; the church contributes 75% of the cost.

Hospitality—Flyers for the Larks baseball game are available. Glencoe Church will host the worship service and potluck on June 12.

Proclamation-Christian Education—Graduates will be recognized May 29. Cupcakes will be served following worship. Mark Jensen will lead several activities for youth during the summer.

Proclamation-Worship and Music—Lay readers for Sunday worship are being recruited—sign-up on the bulletin board.

Property and Equipment—The elevator has been fixed. Prairie Engineering has provided an updated probable cost estimate for Phases II-III of the HVAC project.

Resource Management—So far, \$5,580 has been received in per capita payments and \$3,801 was donated to One Great Hour of Sharing. Local charity aided by part of the Pentecost Offering will be Dakota Children's Advocacy.

Board of Deacons—Dennis Rosenkranz and Bev Patch-Larson will serve on the Nominating Committee. New impaired hearing devices are being purchased.

Alice Nix, Clerk of Session



Birthdays and Anniversaries

First Presbyterian Church

214 East Thayer Ave.

Bismarck, ND 58501

Phone: 701-223-6091

firstpresbyterian@fpcbismarck.com

www.fpcbismarck.com

Sunday Worship: 10:00 am

Office Hours: 8:00 am - 4:30 pm



Pastor

Rev. Dr. Leanne Simmons

Finance Assistant

Carol Thompson

Administrative Assistant

Maureen Chrest

Parish Nurse

Wanona Goetz

Youth Ministry Assistant

Marete Farver

Organists

Arvy Smith & Gail Snustad

Choir Director

Debi Rogers

Handbell Ensemble Director

Lael Hoerauf

Maintenance Manager

Tony Bartole

Audio/Visual Specialist

Josh Stokka

Membership Services

Judy Lentz

Child Care Center Director

Shawn Stettner

Child Care Center Asst. Director

Vanessa Hein

Nursery

Mary Jones

Christian Ed. Interns

Sophie Svihovec & Mark Jensen

BIRTHDAYS

JUNE

Will Davis	1st
Hannah Luciano	2nd
Jim Skaret	2nd
Ronald Gappert	5th
Drew Pengilly	5th
Marjorie Kahl	5th
David Pengilly	7th
Genie Voegelé	9th
Bryce Volk	9th
Sedalia Mahlum	15th
LeRoy Bollinger	16th
Mary Emily Thomas	16th
Bonnie Riedlinger	19th
Justina Nji	20th
Debi Rogers	23rd
Gary Gilchrist	24th
Calista Wohl	24th
William Sprynczynatyk	27th
Jill Bollinger	27th
Mary Bradford	30th
Sarah Massey	30th

ANNIVERSARIES

JUNE

Otto & Jae Reile	1st
Lyle & Susan Johnson	1st
Stan & Alice Halling	2nd
Joe & Jody Bachmeier	4th
Allen & Mary Hoberg	5th
Tedd & Ella Gutzke	13th
Jon & Jane Thomson	13th
Chris & Dawn Henriksen	17th
Ed & Becky Murphy	18th
Leo & Audre Goll	21st
Ryan & Heather Davis	24th
David & Danette Pengilly	24th
Bob & Linda Tonolli	24th
Don & Linda Bigwood	26th
Josh & Maren Stokka	27th
Ken & Debi Rogers	30th

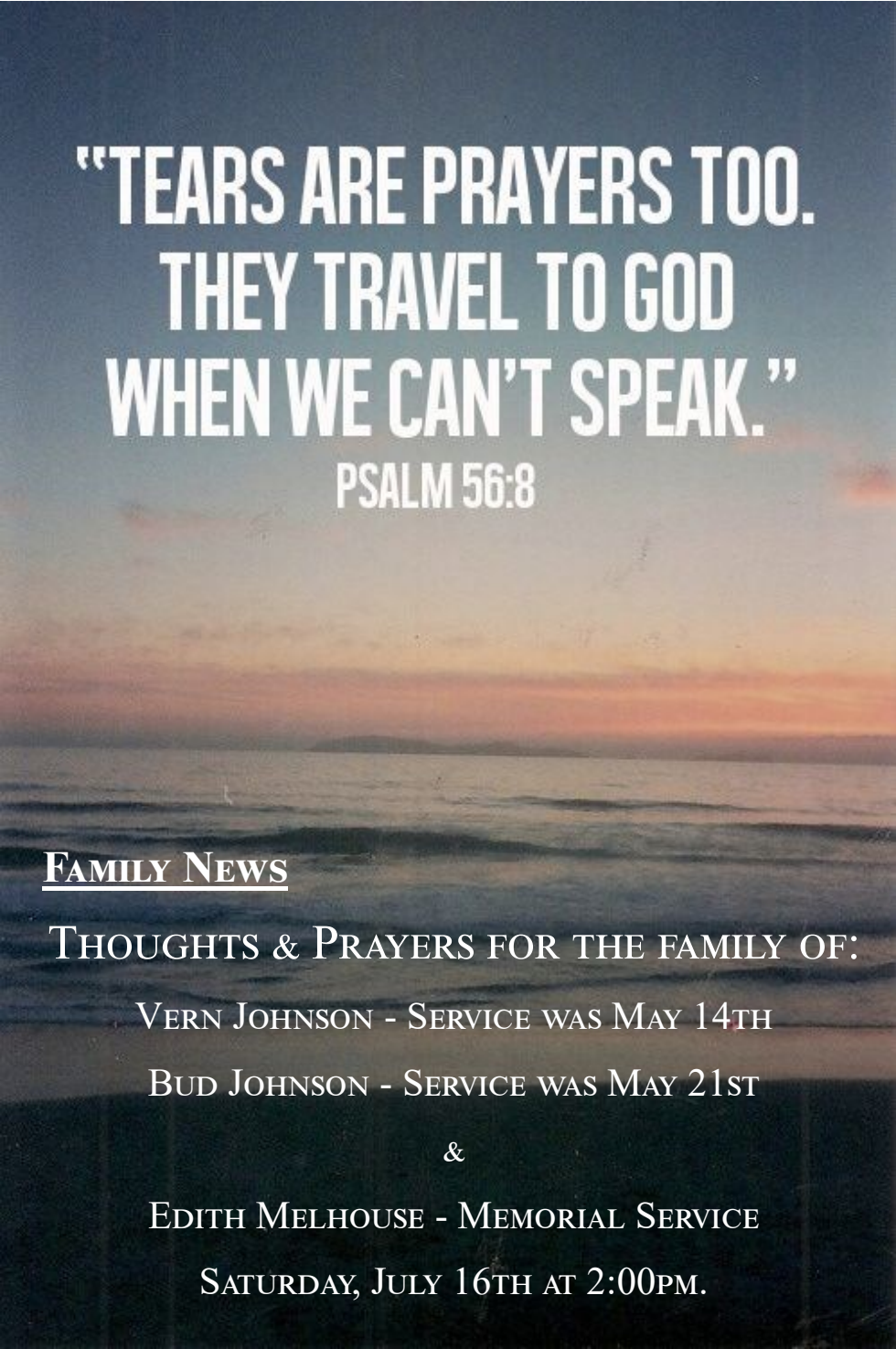
*Please let us know if we've made
a mistake, omission or if you
would prefer not to have your
special day published.*

~ Thank you ~



2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5 10:00 am Worship Day of Pentecost	6 1-4:00 pm Prayer Shawl Ministry 6:30 pm Scouts 6:35 pm “Faith Night with the Larks”	7 5:45 pm Prop & Equip 6:30 pm Lay Pastors	8 5:30 pm Christian Ed via Zoom	9 6:00 pm Hospitality	10	11
12 10:30 am Outdoor Worship & Potluck Picnic at Glencoe!	13 5:30 pm W & M 6:30 pm Scouts	14 5:30 pm CCC Board	15	16	17	18 MATBALL 3:00-5:00 Horizon Middle School
19 10:00 am Worship “Donuts with Dad” 	20 Noon -Resource Management 1-4:00 pm Prayer Shawl Ministry 5:00 pm Admin. Personnel 6:30 pm Scouts	21	22	23 1:30 pm Book Club In Parlor	24	25
26 10:00 am Worship EARTH DAY “Scouts Sunday” & Pancake Breakfast!!	27 6:30 pm Scouts	28 6:00 pm Session	29	30		



**“TEARS ARE PRAYERS TOO.
THEY TRAVEL TO GOD
WHEN WE CAN’T SPEAK.”**

PSALM 56:8

FAMILY NEWS

THOUGHTS & PRAYERS FOR THE FAMILY OF:

VERN JOHNSON - SERVICE WAS MAY 14TH

BUD JOHNSON - SERVICE WAS MAY 21ST

&

EDITH MELHOUSE - MEMORIAL SERVICE

SATURDAY, JULY 16TH AT 2:00PM.

PER CAPITA This is a reminder that if you have not yet made your per capita payment, your per capita fee of \$48/member can be paid at any time during the year. The Per Capita fee is the assessment the church pays for each member which goes to the larger Presbyterian Church of PCUSA to provide funds for the operation of the Presbytery, Synod and General Assembly offices, as well as some of the mission programs of the denomination (PCUSA).

Our church is assessed \$48 per member and pays this fee out of the budgeted funds of the General Fund. It is requested that each member consider making a \$48.00 payment to the church as a special offering to cover this amount. If paying by check make the check out to the church and note on the memo line “Per Capita”.