

June 1, 2020

Honoring First Responders!

Please join me in honoring first responders every opportunity we get – law enforcement officers, fire fighters, and emergency medical technicians – many of whom have come under attack this past week in major cities and smaller communities across America. We were all appalled by the senseless death of George Floyd last Monday at the hands of a reckless and irresponsible police officer in Minneapolis, who is rightly under arrest (charged with third degree murder and manslaughter). Law enforcement officers are held to high standards of ethical conduct and use of force, and bad cops should be disciplined for their transgressions.

But one bad cop does not represent all police officers. Men and women choose to go into law enforcement because they genuinely care about the people they serve, and are willing to take great personal risks for our safety and well-being. With few exceptions they do their jobs well, and strive for excellence in protecting people against all kinds of dangers or threats. The rioting that we have been witnessing this week seems to be fueled by unrighteous anger and unjust blanket condemnation of civil authorities, which is a disgrace to our great nation.

Civil disobedience is an important means of accomplishing right in opposition to wrong. Lawful assembly for peaceful protest against injustice is also an essential liberty encoded in the Bill of Rights. But violence, destruction of public and private property, looting and stealing from businesses, assaults on first responders, bloodshed and injuries to bystanders are criminal activities that have nothing to do with justice or racial equality. What I wrote last week on a different matter is proving true this week: *Christians and Americans understand that personal freedom requires personal responsibility for the common good, or else it devolves into anarchy.*

Thank you to first responders in Eden and Rockingham County who stand between us and the evil that comes with anarchy. Thank you to **Anthony Welch, Tra Wyatt, and Josh Roberts** (Eden police officers and members of First Presbyterian Church) for your service. We are grateful for your devotion to duty, civic compassion, commitment to law and order, and faithfulness in serving ALL the people of our community. We honor you!

Peter N. Smith

Annual Congregational Meeting

Congratulations to our newly elected Ruling Elders in the Session Class of 2023, whose three year term starts today: Martha Corum; Charlie Hall; Suzon Martin; Paul Sasser; and Pat Smith. They will be installed during our worship service on Sunday, June 14, and will also help serve the sacrament of the Lord's Supper afterward.

Thank you to the five Ruling Elders of the Session Class of 2020, whose three year term on Session ended yesterday: Flavel Collins; Robert Gauldin; Sue Parker; Billy Shafer; and Pat Smith. We are grateful for their leadership, especially Robert Gauldin and Sue Parker who have served two consecutive terms for the last six years.

Thank you also to this year's Nominating Committee: Chris Carter (chair); Carol Grogan; Ed Jones; Betty Matthews; and Curt Southard. Yesterday the congregation elected Robert Gauldin, Cheryl Jenkins, and Everall Peele to serve on next year's Nominating Committee. Two Ruling Elders will be appointed to represent Session and lead the nominating process.

Your Session members are:

<i>Class of 2021</i>	<i>Class of 2022</i>	<i>Class of 2023</i>
Doug Brown	Chris Carter	Martha Corum
Bird McSwain	Ben Gammon	Charlie Hall

Curt Southard	Gary Moore	Suzon Martin
Terry Widell	Brandi Snyder	Paul Sasser
Jim Wilson	Leslie Wyatt	Pat Smith

Session Committee Responsibilities:

ADMINISTRATION	Ben Gammon (chair)
CONGREGATIONAL CARE	Martha Corum (chair)
EVANGELISM	Suzon Martin (chair)
FAMILIES FIRST	Bird McSwain (chair), Gary Moore, Leslie Wyatt
FELLOWSHIP	Pat Smith (chair)
FINANCE	Brandi Snyder (chair), Ben Gammon
MISSION SERVICE	Paul Sasser (chair)
PRESCHOOL	Chris Carter (chair)
PROPERTY	Terry Widell (chair), Curt Southard, Charlie Hall
WORSHIP	Doug Brown (chair), Leslie Wyatt
CLERK OF SESSION	Jim Wilson

Summer Office Hours

This week begins our summer office hours. The church office is open Monday through Thursday from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm, and closed on Fridays, until Labor Day weekend.

Graduation Sunday – June 7

We look forward to honoring our high school and college graduates during the worship service next Sunday, June 7! Mary Hylton, daughter of Bryan Hylton, is graduating from Rockingham High School, and is planning to attend the University of North Carolina in Charlotte. Her sister Leah Hylton is graduating



from Rockingham Community College, and is also planning to attend the University of North Carolina in Charlotte. Kayla Martin, daughter of Melva Johnston, is graduating from the University of North Carolina in Greensboro with a degree in social work. Allison Cruise, daughter of Gordon and Dana Blankenship, is receiving her Master Degree in Library Science from the University of North Carolina in Greensboro. Congratulations to all four of our high school and college graduates, and Godspeed in your future endeavors!

The sermon next Sunday will be the last in our series on the marks of Christian discipleship (and disciple-making churches) – “Spirit of Servanthood and Stewardship” (John 13:1-17). Please invite someone to worship with us IN PERSON or ONLINE at www.fpceden.org – click on the small church icon at the top of the homepage. Or click on this link:

<https://bit.ly/FPCEden>

The Nursery will be open for up to 10 children. And we look forward Jennifer Shafer’s Children’s Sermon during the worship service. Children’s Sunday School and Children’s Church will probably not resume until the new school year.

Online Giving at FPC – Safe, Easy, and Convenient

Our website (www.fpceden.org) has a DONATE button at the top of the home page, which takes users to a secure site for making financial contributions to the church using credit and debit cards. It is safe and very easy to use. Please remember to support our General Fund for daily operating expenses, as well as our Building Fund for monthly mortgage payments.



June Birthdays

- June 1** Shannon Underwood
 - June 2** Ross Ammons
 - June 5** Glenn Moore, Dale Gammon, Kelly LaPrade
 - June 6** Merle Gentry
 - June 9** Jeannie Brown
 - June 10** Brett Turner
 - June 13** Brittain Ammons
 - June 16** Danny Wilson
 - June 17** Denver Craddock, Brandi Snyder
 - June 19** Stuart Peele
 - June 20** Jim Matthews, Suzon Martin, Hayden Bragdon
 - June 22** Claudine Burlison
 - June 23** Janice McDaniel
 - June 24** Gordon Blankenship, Tammy Evans
 - June 30** Holli Flanagan
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Gospel of John Bible Study

The pastor will lead an in-depth study of John's Gospel on Wednesday evenings at 6:00 pm starting Wednesday, June 10. Everyone is welcome! We will practice social distancing, and masks are strongly encouraged but not required. Please invite someone to join us, and bring your Bible!

Prayers

First Responders in riot-torn communities
Angry rioters and their victims

Local, state, and national leaders
People infected with COVID-19
Families of loved-ones who have died from COVID-19
Health care workers who treat COVID-19 patients
Retail clerks, truck drivers, warehouse workers who keep necessities in our stores
Business-owners and employees who have lost their jobs because of COVID-19
Parents and children who are out of school
Teachers who have to learn to do their jobs in a new ways
High school seniors who are missing many important milestones
First Presbyterian Church and other congregations
America's health and economic impact from COVID-19

Mac and Sherry McDowell
Jim and Mariam Wilson
Paul Brown and family
Rhonda and Denny Hale
Larry and Lib Roberson
Shirley Carter
Ron and Suzon Martin
Mike and Merle Gentry
Gen Critz
Jeannie Wilde
Joy Outland
Bobbie Felizzi
Dana Roare
Karen Dolbere
Joice Pucket
Susan Howell
Christa Walker and Morgan
Bill Steiger
Stephanie and Jacob Smith
Hazel Horton