

Word from One of Our Elders:

A Word from the Pastor

I have three paintings in my office, two are hanging on the wall and one is not displayed resting in a clay pot by my desk. All three are special to me and soon I will be packing them up and hopefully relocating them onto a different wall. The two hanging I hope to display and third will be the first painting I hope to paint when I am retired. Retired! There, I have typed the word. This is the fourth attempt at writing my final Newsletter for First Presbyterian Church in McPherson and hoping it will be the last.

I was sitting in my office the other day and simply looking around taking in everything, obviously having to look past the clutter which has always been a part of any office I have ever inhabited. The clutter reminds me of all the office managers I have had that have loved me and served me, given me a “half hour without pay, every week just to straighten up your office!” They have prayed for me, protected me, and helped me to do what I was called to do, treating me more importantly than they had themselves. How do you say thank you for that?

I notice the crosses on the top of one of my overloaded book cases. A lot of memories are stored up in those crosses, given as gifts or collected along the path that I have walked as your pastor. Several times over the years I have packed (OK my “secretaries” have packed) a full box of memorabilia, removing things laid out that represented different memories of times that were special but have now past. Special events, special projects, object lessons, gifts that I didn’t want to open but chose to leave unopened (knowing what they were) simply to preserve them so that I might hold on to them forever. Forever! It just brought tears to my eyes. You may begin

to understand why this is my 4th attempt to write!

Books! The most common question I received over the years was simply this: "Have you read all of these books?" My answer was always the same; "Some of them I have read completely. Some of them I have read more than once. Most all of them I have read at least parts of them. I suppose there are a few that I have here just hoping to read one day, perhaps when I have time to do nothing but read" ... retirement. There it is again.

Back to the paintings... Thomas Blackshear painted the picture entitled

"Forgiven." <https://www.blackartdepot.com/products/forgiven-canvas-wall-hanging-by-thomas-blackshear> I have always seen three people in this painting. First, I see Jesus. I see His wounded hands, grasping, clutching, refusing to let go of the one he is holding... the one He loves. Secondly that person he is holding, it's me! Jeans and a t-shirt, is often how I dress. I see myself, unconscious. Oblivious of all that I have done to my Savior but I know it is I that am holding the nail and the hammer. The third person I see is the person, man or woman that has sat in the chair in my office, beneath the painting, as I have counseled with them. I see them broken and battered and needing a Savior just like I see myself. I remind myself not to judge but to see the love that I am to show that they too might see Him! That they might see Jesus!

The second painting was painted by a friend of mine's grandfather. My Presbyterian pastor friend, the Rev. Chris Davis, Chris's grandfather painted the scene of the "The Valley of Shadows" taken from the scene which I got to visit on my second trip to Israel, (which by the way was given to us as a gift) and how do you say thank you for such a gift? It depicts a real place that King David was probably describing in the 23rd Psalm. It reminds me never to fear the circumstances in my life because, as the Psalm reminds us, "For Thou art with me!" I hope to paint that picture one day as well, perhaps in my retirement. Ok are you seeing a pattern here?

Finally, some of you, if you had heard my sermons when I returned from the third trip to Israel may have seen me display the painting

that rests in a tube still un displayed, sitting on the floor by my desk, in a clay pot (that was thrown and given to me by my daughter) that I was able to purchase while in Magdala, near Capernaum. The real painting, big as life, is displayed at the bottom of a stair way in a wonderful chapel in the village of Magdala. It's difficult at first to understand exactly what is being highlighted. You have to study the picture for a while before you see what is there. Once you see it, it's like the " pearl of great price," you can't not see it every time and understand what the artist was saying and seeing and the value that is being described! The painting is entitled "Encounter" and was painted by Daniel Cariola. Simply incredible and stands as a reminder that faith and obedience are critical components with all that we proclaim and all that we hope to be! <https://magdala-gift-shop.myshopify.com/products/encounter-magdala-encounter-chapel-mural-canvas-replica>.

More should be said and I will continue to attempt to say what needs to be said before I am gone. Please accept my thanks for all that you are and all that you have given me!

With hearts aflame and still beating,
H. Dick

Office Hours: Mon.-Fri. – 10a.m. to 3p.m.

OCTOBER
DATES TO
REMEMBER

BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES

- 1st – Joel & Chyann Morey
- 3rd – Jeff Wilson
- 4th – Gleneice Ediger
- 5th – Arlene Patrick
- 5th – Rachel Warren
- 9th – Paul Ediger
- 9th – Connie Hoover
- 9th – Jim Warren
- 12th – Jenni Schrag
- 12th – Steve Bruns
- 13th – Spencer Stucky
- 16th – Pam Bruns
- 17th – Kent & Tonya Morey
- 18th – Carolyn Childres
- 21st – Brenda Gant
- 21st – Jim Griggs
- 22th – Liselotte Serviss
- 23rd – Jesse & Arlene Patrick
- 27th – Kevin & Chris McKean
- 28th – Jackie Bohnenblust
- 29th – Jacob Potter
- 30th – Silas Bruns



DEACON on DUTY:

October
Linda Heidebrecht

DEPOSITOR:

Allan Sents

USHERS:

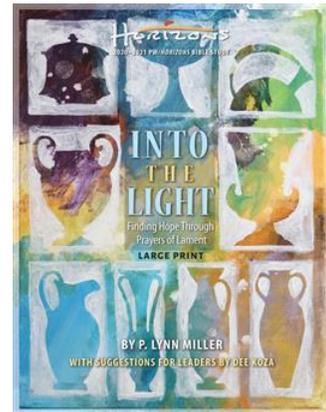
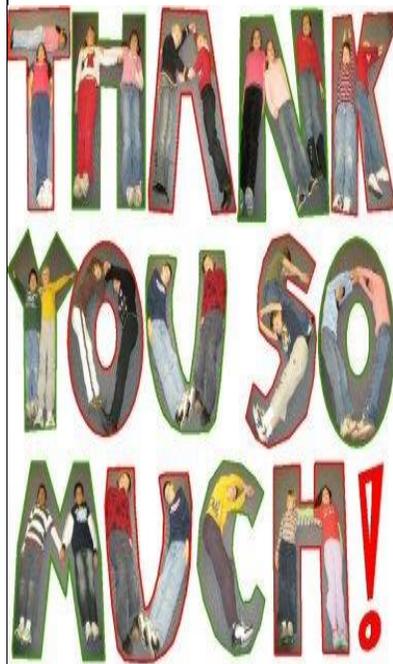
4th & 11th
Todd & Amy Martens
18th & 25th
Morris & Marsha Mills

CEDARS –6th :

Allan Sents

MEALS ON WHEELS – 11th

Mark Heidebrecht
Todd Martens
Kent Morey
Kevin McKean



Circle Bible Study

Into the Light

Finding Hope Through Prayers of Lament

By: P. Lynn Miller

Wednesday October 14th
at 6:30 or Thursday
October 15th at 10:00 am

We will finish Lesson 9
from our 2020 study
“Loved Carved in Stone”
AND the Introduction
(not Lesson 1) of “Into the
Light”

***MAY THE LORD WATCH BETWEEN
ME & THEE WHILE WE ARE ABSENT,
ONE FROM ANOTHER!***



SEPTEMBER SESSION HIGHLIGHTS:

- Bathrooms on far side of the building are almost complete.
- October 4th will be a Special Congregational Meeting specifically called for voting on the Dissolution of the Pastoral Relationship between Pastor Dick Reynolds and FPC
- Zane Raber is moving his practice to Newton.

NEXT MEETING: October 15th at 6:30 p.m.



REMINDERS

October 4th – Special Congregational meeting after church service.

October 25th- Pastor Reynolds last day

November 15th - Heather and Habtom Kebede will be attending and speaking at church.

Most events on the calendar for this month were scheduled prior to the Covid outbreak. Some of the groups are not meeting just yet but may still be on the schedule. We did not want to take events off the calendar in case they wanted to meet again soon. Thank you.

October 2020

October 2020

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

November 2020

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Sep 27	28	29	30	Oct 1 5:00pm Tops (Jane Moore) (Library) 7:00pm HFH	2 8:00am McPherson Police Dept.	3
4 Cedars: Communion 10:00am Worship 11:00am Special Congregational Meeting	5 7:00pm Boy Scouts	6 7:00pm Cub Scouts	7 7:30pm Choir & Singing Men Rehearsal	8 12:00pm Ministerial Alliance 5:00pm Tops (Jane Moore) (Library)	9	10 9:00am Gideons
11 Meals on Wheels 10:00am Worship	12 7:00pm Quilt Guild 7:00pm Boy Scouts	13 7:00pm Cub Scouts	14 5:00pm Deacons 7:30pm Choir & Singing Men Rehearsal	15 10:00am Circle 5:00pm Tops (Jane Moore) (Library) 6:30pm Session	16	17 8:00am Cheri H. workshop
18 10:00am Worship	19 7:00pm Boy Scouts	20 7:00pm Cub Scouts	21 6:30pm Circle 7:30pm Choir & Singing Men Rehearsal	22 5:00pm Tops (Jane Moore) (Library)	23 10:00am KumJoyNus	24
25 Newsletter Deadline 10:00am Worship 11:00am Pastor Reynolds last day, Celebration after Worship Service	26 7:00pm Boy Scouts	27 7:00pm Cub Scouts	28 7:30pm Choir & Singing Men Rehearsal	29 5:00pm Tops (Jane Moore) (Library)	30	31