



The Carillon

2026

First Presbyterian Church
220 East Franklin
Clinton, Missouri 64735

PASTOR'S CORNER

This month we celebrate a cherished holiday. Two hundred and fifty years ago our nation declared its independence from the most powerful empire in the world. On July 4, 1776, the Second Continental Congress formally adopted the Declaration of Independence in Philadelphia, severing the American colonies' political ties with Great Britain. While Congress had actually voted in favor of independence two days earlier on July 2, July 4 became the celebrated date of America's birth.

Here's why. Following the July 2 vote, Congress spent July 3 and most of the 4th debating and editing a draft primarily written by Thomas Jefferson. He relied heavily on the language and Enlightenment ideas of John Locke. As the musical 1776 puts it, because the Congress "ran their quill pens through it," a much-edited Declaration was approved in the afternoon of July 4. It was signed that day by Congress President John Hancock and Secretary Charles Thomson. The official engrossed parchment was signed weeks later, on August 2, 1776. The *Pennsylvania Evening Post* became the first newspaper to publish the text on July 6.

Be safe with your fireworks and keep the food cold for those holiday barbecues.

This is the 12th month I have been under contract with you as your minister. I have seen generous hearts in active ministry. I have witnessed mission outreach and Bible study lead and participated by those who seek guidance of the Word. Jesus Camp will thrive again this July and our Sunday school programs are established and ongoing. Our vocal and chime choirs add regularly to our worship. Session continues to deal with church needs with a Spirit fill dedication. Most importantly, this congregation nurtures its members with Christian love, kindness, and deep understanding. Well done good and faithful servants.

I take this opportunity to acknowledge the Christian support and warm encouragement this congregation has given me as your Pastor. It has been the easiest transition into a new position I have ever had. Working with all of you is a continued honor and joy.

Blessings and the Peace of Christ be with you all.

Pastor Mary

Meet & Eat



There will be no First Sunday Meet & Eat in July.

Ushers/Greeters for July

Renie Dehn Buckner Neate
Darlene Dice

Fellowship for July

Martie Zumbrunnen, chair
Mary Lou Marti Ann McCoy

Ushers/Greeters August

Garry & Sandy Snider
Martin & Connie Grisier

Fellowship for August

Sherry Hartner, chair Pat Brock
Jan McKenney

Deacons Meeting Minutes

June 9, 2026

The Board of Deacons of First Presbyterian Church met Tuesday, June 9, 2026. Pam Gray called the meeting to order at 6 PM. Deacons present: Connie Grisier, Renie Dean, Pam Gray, Pat Brock, Melinda Dean and David Doll. Deacon's unable to attend were Ann McCoy and Rick Lingenfelter.

Minutes from the May meeting were reviewed and approved.

The **Treasurer's report** was given by Connie. Our current balance is \$1395.39. \$78.00 was spent on stamps.

Correspondence: There was no correspondence.

Committee Reports:

Sunshine Committee - Renie continues to send cards to members and friends of the church.
Visits- Pat visited with Dolores Rowe
Bereavement Dinners - None
Ushers and Greeters - Going well
Fellowship Hour - Going well
Kitchen- Fully stocked
Community Awareness and Fundraising - We are hosting The Baby Bottle Boomerang to provide financial support to the Door of Hope.

Unfinished Business:

Communion - David and Pam will prepare communion for the July 19th service.

New Business:

Jesus Camp - Connie made a motion that the Deacons make a contribution of \$400.00 to the counselors of Jesus Camp for their meals for the week. The motion was seconded by David and motion was passed unanimously.

Pam Gray made a motion to change the meeting date of the Deacons to the third Sunday after church starting in July, Connie Grisier seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Care List was reviewed. Our next meeting will be July 19th. The meeting was adjourned with the deacon's prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Pam Gray, Renie Dehn

Session Meeting Minutes

June 21, 2026

Elders Present: Donna Doll, Diane Hannah, Sharon Gilkey, Mike McCoy, Gay Smith, Linda Wilson and Debbie Wilson. Neil Crayden, Jr. was absent. Rev. Mary Anna Townsend, Moderator, was present. Rev. Townsend asked for joys and concerns and offered prayer to open the meeting at 11:30 am. A quorum was declared. A motion was made to approve the Docket. Minutes from May 17 Session meeting were approved.

Communication: Diane and Rev. Townsend met with Dale Holt who had the password for the computer. He spent time with us going over how the program for Face Book Live works. We will meet again to learn more about it.

Clerk’s Report: No Report.

Treasurer’s Report: Donna presented April and May treasurer’s reports and reviewed both. Mike made a motion to accept both reports. Debbie seconded and motion passed.

RECAPITULATION--MAY	
Beginning Cash Balance	\$36,115.17
Total General Fund Income	\$15,679.58
Total General Fund Expenses	\$6,856.20
Special Offerings Received	0
Special Offerings Paid	0
Transfer funds from Building Fund	0
Transfer funds from Money Market	0
ENDING CASH BALANCE	\$44,938.55

Moderator’s Report: Rev. Townsend informed us of a solo-parenting training class that is being offered at First Baptist Church.

Personnel Committee: Rev. Townsend passed a letter to Donna Doll, chairman of the Personnel Committee, to read to Session. We were very sad to hear that Debbie Willings, our church secretary, will be retiring in July. The Personnel committee will begin the search to replace Debbie, which we all know will be hard to do.

Building and Grounds: Neil was not present but left a written estimate from Shamrock Roofing out of Kansas City. This is the same company he talked to us about last month. The estimate is for \$26,961.26 and removes and replaces the existing TPO membrane on the main roof section in the area where the AC unit is located. It also builds up the area around the roof hatch in the first level roof to address and resolves current leaks. Session identified funds in our General Funds to proceed to repair the roof. We will also ask for funds from the congregation to be donated. Mike will call Neil to see if he is ready to proceed. Action is tabled until we hear from Neil. We don’t want to wait another month as there are active leaks each time it rains. Rev. Townsend and Diane will write up something for the Carrillon (due tomorrow) to notify the congregation of the situation.

Linda brought up that Debbie Willings cannot open the south door to let someone in, even after they have buzzed and she has approved them. She has to walk upstairs to let them in. We think this happened when the new automatic door was installed. Mike will contact

the company to see if they can make it so Debbie can open the door from her desk as she used to be able to do.

Sarah Hall requests the use of Fellowship Hall on July 25 for a baby shower. Mike made a motion to approve. Debbie seconded and motion passed.

Worship: Gay would like to have the HOPE Project ladies present their program at one of our services again. Because this is a combination of Worship and Mission, Gay and Debbie will get together and decide on a date and work on making a plan. We will also have a fundraiser dinner for them.

Gay needs communion servers for our next Communion which is July 19. A sign-up sheet was passed around.

Mission: Debbie reported that Meet and Eat will be canceled for July 5 because of Olde Glory Days activities. Debbie is aware of the Door of Hope Banquet in September and will consider sharing a table with Session and PW.

Christian Education: Sunday School continues to do well and Jesus Camp is on track. JC is full with 36 kids and 6 on the waiting list.

Fellowship: Linda Wilson reported that our annual chicken dinner will be in September on Fellowship Sunday which is September 13.

Nominating Committee: No Report

Other: No Report

Motion to adjourn at 12:45 pm. Meeting was closed with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Diane Hannah, Clerk of Session

enjoying the brunch, the annual meeting was held. The PW nominating committee reported that all officers in current positions are willing to continue in the same position for the next year.

Connie Grisier led the discussion about donations to groups to fund with our available money, and the Presbyterian Children's Home, Jesus Camp, the HOPE project, and Project Homeless - Clinton were agreed upon. Martie Zumbrunnen led the overview of mission projects for the next year. Pastor Mary volunteered to publish our booklets for 2026-2027. Members signed up for a convenient date to teach the lessons and to serve as hostesses.

The first meeting of the new year will be in September. Watch for more information. The study is "United Through Christ, Bound to Each Other" Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians. ALL women of the church are invited to attend - don't miss out. Come join in the study, missions, and fellowship. If you plan to attend meetings, let Connie Grisier or Gay Smith know so a study book (cost is \$15) can be ordered for you.

Our Awesome God

When our lives are focused on God, awe and wonder lead us to worship, filling our inner being with a fullness we may never have thought possible. Awe prepares the way for God's transforming power within us. This transformation of our inner attitudes takes place as awe leads us into wonder, admiration, reverence, surrender and obedience before God.

Quotes

Freedom fails when people decide that it is their right to take and not to give.—S. Maxwell

Today I have the freedom to discipline myself by respecting and appreciating the laws of God and our government, or to disregard them and be disciplined by others. I choose to discipline myself. —Clarence Buehler

America stands on two great pillars — faith and morality. Without these, our foundation crumbles. —George Washington



On Friday, June 5, at 9:30 a.m., Presbyterian Women met at the home of Martie Zumbrunnen for our annual meeting/brunch. Thank you, Martie! It was a beautiful day and a lovely setting! After



No, Henny Penny, the sky is not falling, but the church roof IS leaking. The Session has identified monies to be taken from the General Funds Savings to help defray the cost of this necessary and substantial repair. We ask you, the congregation, to prayerfully consider making a donation to help with this expense. Any amount will be appreciated. Please designate your contribution to church roof repair.

Pastor Mary on behalf of the Session,
First Presbyterian Church

Freedom Worth Guarding

Because many Americans have never known life without freedom, it can be easy to take our liberties for granted. The Israelites, however, knew the harsh reality of slavery. Yet even after God led them out of Egypt, they struggled to embrace their newfound freedom. Faced with uncertainty, they grew fearful and complained against Moses and Aaron, longing

for the familiarity of their former bondage rather than trusting God's provision.

Their story feels surprisingly familiar. As Christians, we have been set free through a far greater deliverance. Our freedom was secured at a great cost through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. And yet, we sometimes drift back toward old habits, attitudes and patterns that once held us captive.

Scripture reminds us to stand firm in the freedom we have been given. As Paul writes in Galatians 5:1 (NKJV), "Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage."

True freedom is not simply the absence of restraint. It is the opportunity to live fully in God's grace, walking in obedience, joy and purpose. This kind of freedom is worth celebrating, protecting and living out every day.

JESUS CAMP 2026 IS ALMOST HERE!

Jesus Camp will begin Monday, July 13th and run through Friday, July 17th. To date, we have a full camp with 36 campers registered and six on the waiting list. The Heartland Counselors will arrive on Sunday afternoon, July 12th to unpack and set up for the week.

There will be a snack list on the bulletin board in the lobby for you to choose and sign up for. These items can be delivered to the church anytime before camp starts and left in the kitchen. It is not too late to make a monetary contribution if you choose. Be sure to notate in the memo line of your check that the funds are for Jesus Camp.

Stop by anytime during the week of camp to see what the counselors and campers are up to. It is very exciting to see God at work on the corner of Franklin and Third Streets! Thank you for your continued support of this great outreach to our community!

Jesus Camp Committee:
Donna Doll, Sarah Hall and Monica Sheek



Freedom

Each one of us is born most free
 And we alone can choose
 To do what God would have us do,
 To use what God would use.

Or, we are also free to seek
 The proud and selfish way —
 A life where other gods come first
 To reign and hold full sway.

But when we follow where Christ leads,
 We find that freedom's place
 Is really in God's Will for us,
 And we have chosen GRACE!

—Peggy Ferrell, Prayers and Poems

Still Worth More Than You Know



A speaker opened his seminar by holding up a \$20 bill and asking a crowd of 200 people, "Who would like this?" Nearly every hand went up. "I'll give it to one of you," he said. "But first..." He crumpled the bill tightly in his fist. "Who still wants it?" Hands remained in the air. He dropped it to the floor and ground it under his shoe. Then he picked up the wrinkled, dirty bill. "How about now?" The hands rose again.

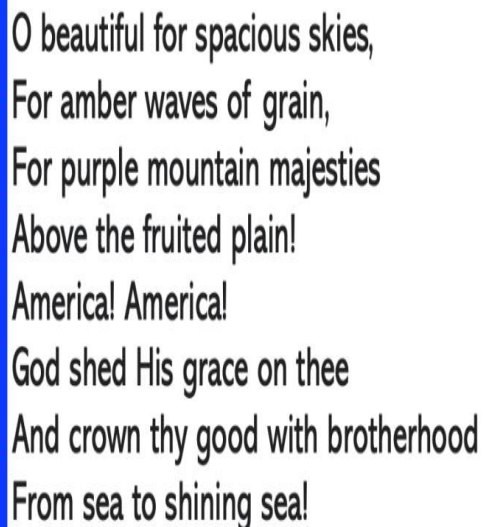
"My friends," he said, "you've just learned an important lesson. No matter what I did to the money, it never lost its value. It was still worth \$20." Life can feel the same way. We are dropped, crumpled and ground down by our choices and by circumstances beyond our control. At times, we may even feel worthless. But our value does not change. In God's eyes, you are never less than priceless. Clean or dirty, wrinkled or whole, you remain precious to Him. As Isaiah 43:4 says in the NIV, "You are precious and honored in my sight, and because I love you."

God's Bonus Days



An author writing in *Guideposts* magazine calls those nostalgic moments of memory "God's bonus days." LaVerne Sexton recalled that in her family, life's unexpected dividends — a summer rainbow, a blazing sunset, a gentle spring thaw — were invitations to set aside ordinary tasks and celebrate something special.

She remembered one breathtaking day from her childhood when the sky stretched wide and impossibly blue, as if it had no edges at all. Her father grabbed the fishing poles and called out, "Let's play hooky, hon. It's one of God's bonus days."



O beautiful for spacious skies,
For amber waves of grain,
For purple mountain majesties
Above the fruited plain!
America! America!
God shed His grace on thee
And crown thy good with brotherhood
From sea to shining sea!

America the Beautiful