

First Press Lite

FIRST EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH FRANKFORT, INDIANA

Focus on God, Equip God's People, Proclaim Christ, Change the World

A monthly summary of activities at First Evangelical Presbyterian Church

June 2021

Prayer with the Pastor

Continues each Monday @ 7:00 a.m.



Silent Auction

Saturday & Sunday, June 12-13



Quilts on Wings

Friday, June 18 @ 1:30 p.m.
Fellowship Hall



Father's Day

Sunday, June 20



Return Baby Bottles

Sunday, June 20



NO Kids Sunday School

Sunday, June 27



Borrowing Policy

If you need to borrow tables, chairs or other equipment from the church, please be sure to check with **the Trustees** to be sure it won't be needed or hasn't been reserved by someone else.

The policy states that we will not lend out kitchen equipment.



Thank you to our youth for leading us in worship on Youth Sunday, May 16.

Liberia Mission Report

Sunday, June 6, during the Sunday School hour we will hear from Doug Montgomery, Caleb Calloway and Bill Sebald about the recent mission trip to Liberia. You won't want to miss this. Written reports and pictures from Doug and Caleb are included elsewhere in this newsletter.

FIRST PRESS LITE

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Sunday Morning Schedule

Sunday Fellowship: 8:30 a.m. (coffee and donuts)
Worship Service: 9:00 a.m.
Sunday School (all ages): 10:15 a.m.
*Staffed Nursery all morning

For week day staff office hours, please visit
www.fepcfrankfort.org, or phone the church.

Prayer Requests brasilianheart@gmail.com

**First Press Lite will be published on
the 1st of each month. Deadlines for
submitting articles or information
for the monthly calendar will be the
last Tuesday of each month.**

First Evangelical Presbyterian Church
352 West Clinton Street
Frankfort, IN 46041

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Focus on God — Equip God's People — Proclaim Christ — Change the World!

If you received this issue by U.S. mail but would like to receive First Press electronically, please email kalen@fepcfrankfort.org.

SERMON INFORMATION

June 6 - Bill Sebald preaching

June 13 - Felipe Colby preaching

June 20 - Kelly Kurth preaching

June 27 - Eric Davis preaching

CHILDREN IN WORSHIP

On Summer Break



Life in the Body of Christ

- No news is good news?
- Wishing everyone a great start to their summer.



The baby bottle fundraiser for the Pregnancy Resource Center is going on now. Bottles are available at the Sanctuary exits. Fill the bottles with cash, check, or change and return to church by Father's Day. If you have not been attending church and would like bottles, please contact the church office.

Congregational Care Ministry

As a reminder, should any congregational care needs arise, you can contact the church office, your Elder Shepherd, or any of the members of the Congregational Care Committee:

Connie Timmons, Karen Biery, Joyce Peters or Patty Nash.



Stephen Ministry at FEPC

Christ Caring for People Through People

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God.

2 Corinthians 1:3 & 4

May of 2021 marked ten years since Stephen Ministry (SM) was revived at FEPC! Stephen Ministry originally began here in the 1980's but faded as leaders Barb Clayton moved away and Pastor Gary Keast moved on. But in May 2011 Marty Rodkey and Karen Sutton attended Stephen Leader training in St Louis, and SM has been thriving at FEPC since. We even have two of the original Stephen Ministers, Suzi Pluhar and Peggy Williams, serving again despite their having to re-take the fifty hour training class! We will be highlighting the growth of our Stephen Ministry during the June 6 Worship Service and recognizing all who have been a part of it. We think it is worth celebrating that we have served over thirty Care Receivers facing everything from job or housing transitions to health issues and times of grief. About a third of those served have been from the community, highlighting how Stephen Ministry is an important part of FEPC's outreach efforts. If you are unable to attend, watch, or hear the service on June 6, please join in praying for SM at FEPC to keep growing strong. A Stephen Minister's caring nurtures the seed of God's love, but He gives the growth!



Quilts on Wings ... Needs Volunteers

This ministry was started in 2016 by Betty Moloney for the purpose of making quilts/blankets to donate to Grace on Wings in memory of Dr. Jim Milstead. The quilts/blankets are given to the patients being transported by Grace on Wings to keep the patient comfortable during their flight. When they reach their destination, they are given the quilt to take with them for the rest of their health journey.

Recently Betty was visited by Hal Blank from Grace on Wings. He thanked her, again, for this ministry and what it means to their patients. During the past year, due to Covid restrictions, the group has not been able to meet and only a few blankets have been completed and delivered. Betty is no longer able to work on the projects, but would be pleased if we can revive the ministry and continue providing the quilts/blankets to Grace on Wings.

Here's the GOOD NEWS -- you don't have to make an entire quilt -- just help with one or two steps in the process. We need volunteers working together to select fabrics that go together, cut 6½ inch squares of fabrics, sew them together, press seams, assemble with backing and filler, and then tie them together or machine quilt them using simple quilting techniques before the binding is added.

Maybe you can't commit to helping long term, but only want to help during the summer -- and that's ok. Just know it takes people willing to volunteer their time and talents to put together a quilt. **All are welcome, and you don't have to be a sewer or a quilter to participate in the project!**

If you are interested in helping with this ministry, please contact Peggy Williams or Miriam Curts. Or, meet with us to get started **Friday, June 18 @ 1:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.**



We are looking for scholarships and sponsors for our youth attending Great Escape. Over the upcoming months, the youth will be working hard to raise money for their trip to Wisconsin. The cost for each student to attend is \$480 and does not include the \$1,500 cost of transportation for the group. There are 12 middle schoolers signed up to attend this special event. Great Escape is not just a summer camp. It is an opportunity for these students to begin taking ownership of their faith and relationship with God as they become more independent. In the future, our prayer for them is that the experiences they have and the lessons they learn at Great Escape will be ones they will recall and God will use to shape them into devoted disciples. If you are interested in making a donation to the Great Escape scholarship fund or sponsoring a student, please contact Amanda Trent.

Silent Auction

We are excited to announce that we are sending 12 middle schoolers to Great Escape this summer. This camp is an important opportunity for our youth group members to grow in their faith and discipleship. To help offset the cost, we will host a silent auction **June 12-13** in Fellowship Hall. This auction is open to the community. Fellowship Hall will be open on Saturday, June 12 for you to browse the items and place your bids. Bidding will close Sunday morning, June 13 after worship.

Examples of items to donate: baskets of pool toys, backyard games, BBQ items, college or university items, specialty foods, gift certificates, etc. Donations of time are also encouraged, such as 2 hours of art lessons, guitar lessons, a tour, etc. We especially encourage gift cards or items from our local merchants!

To donate time or items, contact us in the church office and leave a voicemail (765) 654-5558 or contact Amanda Trent.

Back from Liberia

★ **Doug Montgomery:** Absolutely an amazing trip with an amazing group of people. Our group was Caleb Calloway, Joyce Browning, Donald and Choi Ha Cassell, Gina Sheets and yours truly. Many diverse backgrounds that came together as the perfect team. We distributed over 460 pairs of reading glasses to people that couldn't read their Bibles.

Editor's Note: Caleb says it was 318 pairs of reading glasses at the vision clinic ... Gina says it was 365 ... I'm sure it seemed like 460 to Doug. Either way, they gave out a LOT of reading glasses and blessed many people in Liberia.

I was able to do the sermon at Pastor Konah's church in Ganta on April 25th and was able to help with new equipment in the Redimere Chocolate Company. Pastor Bill, Holly, Nathan and Anna were gracious hosts and always kept us busy doing anything we could to help the mission of Hope in the Harvest and LICC (Liberian International Christian College). I praise God that we all came home with feelings of accomplishment and no interesting local biological illnesses. Thanks Travis and Gina for your spirit of mission and letting us witness how God led you to make a difference in the lives of the Liberian people.



Can you find Doug in the picture above?

Continued on next page ...

Back from Liberia ... continued ...



Doug Montgomery
at Pastor Konah's
church in Ganta on
April 25th



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Back from Liberia ... *continued* ...

★ **Caleb Calloway:** It's hard to believe we are nearing the end of May and approaching a month since our mission team served in Liberia with Hope in the Harvest. This year we had a smaller team than in years past, due to circumstances affecting the world. Our team of five each had a diverse understanding and relationship with the our Lord Jesus. Gina Sheets one of two who had the vision for Hope in the Harvest, Joyce Browning horticulture professor at the University of Maryland, Choi-ha Cassel a retired nurse, Donald Cassel our Liberian scholar, Doug Montgomery Clinton County Rotary president, and Caleb Calloway Media guru. Each one of us brought a new light of service to the mission in Liberia this year. It was truly amazing to see how the Lord worked in all of us and in our areas of expertise for his glory.

Our team arrived in Monrovia airport late in the evening Sunday, April 18. With all of our documentation in order, our team walked through the Covid testing without any problems. Our first night's stay was with Hope 2 Liberia, a mission group out of Muncie, Indiana. HOPE2 was officially recognized as a not-for-profit entity in May of 2010. Land was purchased in Marshall in early 2011, which today is the site of our Hope Center, a multi-purpose facility used to house teams, provide residency for Liberian team members, and host group events for training and teaching. In 2019 Hope 2 Liberia acquired more land to begin implementing self-sustaining agriculture. Through the Farming God's Way program taught by the Agriculture Research Center at LICC.

Monday morning our team arrived at Liberia International Christian College (LICC) and the Agriculture Research Center (ARC) where we were greeted like any other Liberian — with open arms and open hearts. Beginning Tuesday April 20th our first vision clinic took place on LICC campus for students and staff members who experienced vision issues. Our second vision clinic took place in Ganta at Harvest Intercontinental Church where our team helped many residents living in Nimba County. During this clinic we were able to correct vision for the youth, young adults, and many elderly individuals. Students also came from the Christian Foundation School for the Deaf. These students were also taking part in the Farming God's Way Program at the ARC. Our third vision clinic took place back at Hope 2 Liberia. This was our longest day but one where the Lord moved in mighty ways. Our team set up at 9:00 a.m. and lasted late into the afternoon. Students, adults, and elderly individuals received your prayers and donated readers. You, the body of Christ, helped give many individuals improved vision. For some this was the clearest they have been able to see in many years. After counting and labeling all remaining readers, we headed to supper. Moments before sitting down one of the staff members said a car load of people pulled up in need of glasses. Fatigued and tired from the long day, I (Caleb) looked to Doug and said, "let's go we're not done yet".

Continued on next page ...

Back from Liberia ... *continued* ...

We grabbed the case of readers and set up outside on the porch. Doug pulled out our paper guide and a flash light to aid the gentlemen with as much light as we could shine upon him. As the man leaned forward inches of the guide. He was not able to read anything. Doug tried a few of our high power readers without any success. We looked at each other and said this is all we have — a +4 magnifier. He put them on the gentleman; he leaned forward again and said, “I can see”. Doug moved the guide to a smaller print. “I can see” he said. Doug moved the guide to yet a smaller print. “Yes, I can see that” he said. I began to tear because this man was able to read almost a 20/20 chart much like one individual from our clinic in 2019. This was the working of the Lord’s hands for the type of optics we had at the time. This gentleman was able to see better than what the glasses allowed. During our three days of vision screening, we handed out over half of our supply of readers. Leaving the remainder for clinics to take place again and to fix broken glasses.

On the days that offset our vision clinics our team worked on videos of native plants and resources to Liberia for use in the Master Gardeners courses and the University of Maryland. We worked fixing broken equipment for the ARC, planting and experimenting with new seeds in the greenhouse and patio. Learning about the upcoming feeding business that is taking shape at the school. Donald Cassel taught one of his youngest Leadership classes with much success. Michael and Bill taught the first Farming God’s Way to a deaf college, Christian Foundation School for the Deaf located in Gompa City in Nimba, County. Micah 2:13 *“One who breaks open the way will go up before them they will break through the gate and go out. Their king will pass through before them, the LORD at their head.”* The Lord’s message breaks all barriers. Staff at the ARC seemed a little optimistic on how well FGW would be retained when the students showed up with three of their translators. We saw very quickly through their personal conversations and group discussions that there wasn’t a barrier in communication between the hearing and hearing impaired. Over the next three days Michael Danh the farm manager, Bill the ministry leader, and other Staff members from the ARC taught the students a new way of cultivating their land in hopes that they will become self-sustaining and marketable for their families and communities. Farming God’s Way is a way to teach developing countries soil conservation, and proper farming practices. It’s a method based on biblical principles with a focus on farming that teaches the farmer to cultivate and care for the land in a way that will yield the best results . On the third day of the FGW workshop the students made their own 5x5 meter plot from the information gathered in the previous day’s lessons with great success.

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Back from Liberia ... *continued* ...

As many already know, Joshua, the chocolate entrepreneur and now a graduate from LICC, is making a name for himself, the College, and Liberia with Redimere Chocolate, Liberia's first and only Chocolate business. Two years ago, Joshua was in the beginning stages turning a school project into a sustaining business in Liberia for Liberians. In 2019 the business was just getting started, the flavors were being mingled out and quality was yet to fully satisfy the palate. Fast forward to 2021. What an amazing transformation Redimere Chocolate is experiencing. The chocolate business is now in full swing selling chocolate bars in the city of Monrovia, in small shops and now in the Liberia airport. It was a blessed time catching up with my friend Joshua. Seeing him run a business few would be capable of handling. Joshua and Redimere Chocolate purchased land where they look to build a 1500 square-foot chocolate facility in the coming year. At this time they are producing six types of chocolate bars: "Ground Nut" which is peanut to us in America, Ginger, Coconut, Honey, Hot Pepper, and regular 70% dark chocolate. With sales between 500 and 1,000 chocolate bars selling each month, the chocolate business will next venture into working with a milk chocolate bar. Stay tuned to see what new changes are taking place with the Redimere Chocolate business in Ganta, Liberia.

The Lord met everyone from our team in ways that grew, strengthened, and tested limitations in faith and teamwork. Thank you to the body of Christ for your prayers, donations of all kinds, gifts, and time. We all accomplished this mission in Liberia at Hope In The Harvest. Jesus explains before his ascension that the Holy Spirit would be given to the church so that we have supernatural power to fulfill this mission:

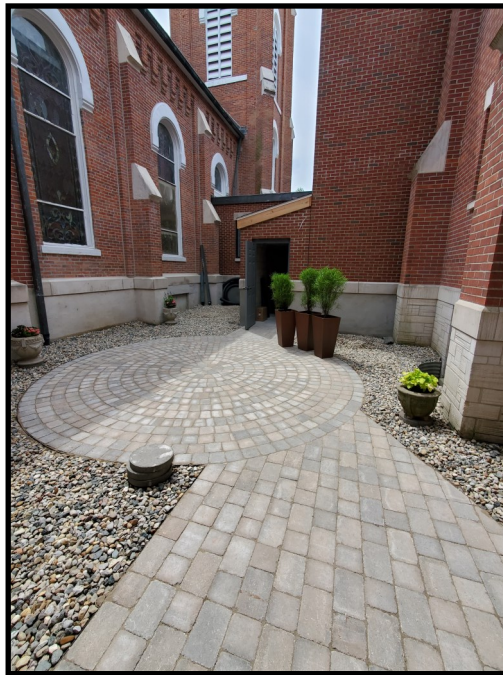
"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth" Acts 1:8



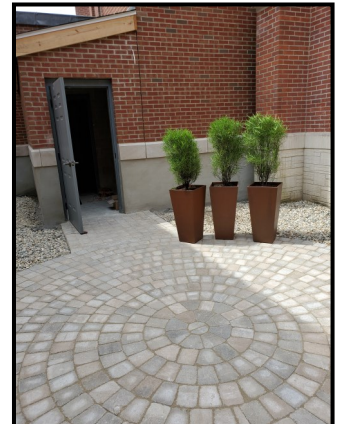
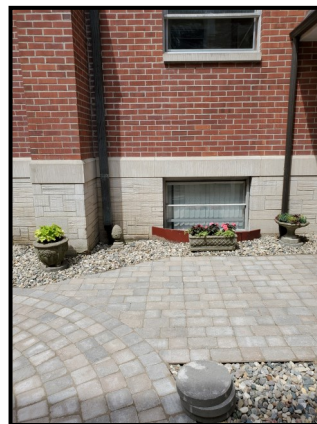
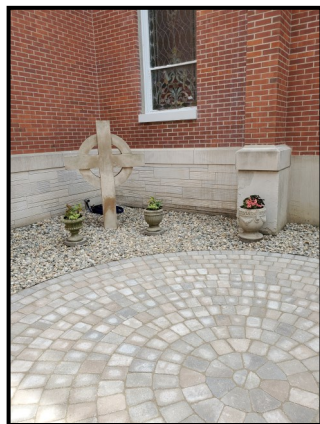
Liberian Chocolate

FEPC Construction Progress Continues ...

Looking out from the entrance to the courtyard, the picture on the left is how it looked at the end of November 2020 when construction had just begun. On the right is how it looks at the end of May 2021 as it nears completion. What a change in our courtyard!



The stained-glass window is in the walkway just outside the sanctuary. Maybe next month I can take a picture from inside the walkway. I found flower pots and greenery in the courtyard ... probably not their final placement, but it shows we are getting close to the end of the project.



Elevator Installation

Until further notice, the south end of Fellowship Hall is closed. If you need to access Fellowship Hall, please use the kitchen door.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

June

- 1—Sophie Moore
Chris Walker
- 3—Larry Rothenberger
- 8—Courtney Meyer
Kenny Meyer
- 11—Kathy Glover
Tanner Robbins
Cameron Swinford
- 12—Matthew McClain
- 14—Pam Freeland
- 15—Lawrence Wilkinson
Rose Wickersham
- 17—Rodney Thies
- 19—Jarrod Boe
- 20—Brock Dudley
Kalen Jackson
Cody Robbins
- 21—Enrique Martinez
- 23—Diana Kelley
Gina Sheets
- 27—Janice Chezem
Patrick Swinford
- 29—John Cunningham

June Anniversaries

- 1—John & Sharon Cunningham
Dan & Heidi Troyer
- 3—Butch & Linda Doan
- 7—Les & Linda Bergum
- 12—Sam & Chris Walker
- 17—John & Connie Milholland
- 20—Josh & Erin Swinford
- 22—Mo and Mary Ann Morrison
- 27—Jeff & Amanda Moore

