



# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Late April 2020 e-News

## An Update from Pastor Aaron

I love this church! We are not any mere small-town church. We are a village church with big plans and a big vision! God is on the move. Our time in quarantine has not changed that in the slightest. That is why I want to give you an update on what Session is busy doing and what the deacons are up to. I'll do my best to keep it brief!

### What's Our Session Doing?

Our Session is busy planning and strategizing, but most importantly, praying and reaching out! Over the last month, your Session has spent time reaching out to members that we have not seen in a while. Similarly, I have been taking the time to call through the directory. Both of these tasks are undertaken with the hope of knowing how we can shepherd our congregation best. Some of the other work we have been busy with include the following:

- 1) We continue to plan and prepare for our **youth director** search. We have decided that now is not good timing to launch the search, but

### What Are the Deacons Doing?

Our deacons are very busy! Reporting to the deacons and under their guidance is the Finance Team. Both the FT, deacons, and the Session want to thank you for your continued generosity!

Also, as you know, the **food pantry** is serving a slightly larger crowd. Thank you for stocking the food pantry with everything they need! I was very proud of our congregation several weeks ago for responding the way that you did for our call for certain items. The pantry was filled to the brim by your generous response.

Finally, the deacons are hard at work on getting **building projects** completed while no one is in the building and planning for further projects that will enhance our worship space. In a separate update on building plans, I will outline where the deacons are headed,

we continue to hone our plans for when things are right.

2) We are in the process of making the small back room of **Gilbert's wifi capable** and open for use by appointment if a Southeastern teacher needs to meet with a student. Our plan, once quarantine is over, is to make that space an internet cafe of sorts to serve a large population of students who do not have wifi access at home.

3) We are planning for how we will open the church back up-- **hopefully** in the near future.

4) Since the 4-H camp has been shut down over this summer, we are working with Jodi to plan a **tentative "plan B" for Pioneer Camp**.

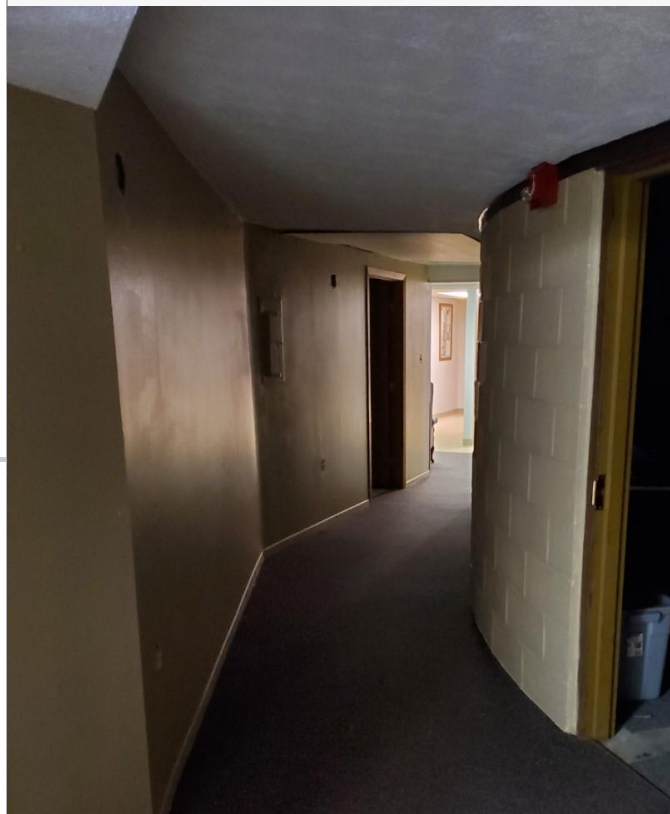
5) Many other things are happening, but the last thing that I will note is that the **Nominating Committee** is hard at work praying about our next class of elders and deacons. Pray for them!

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their plans for the building, and what we need to accomplish our goals.



Bob Entler is hard at work and is excited about getting his picture taken. :)



The deacons have also painted the basement hallway and are currently in the process of



installing new light fixtures.

Visit our  
website

## The Overall Plan

I am excited about the plans that the deacons have to finish many outstanding projects, and nearly-done-projects. Here is the plan we have to make these things happen.

Over many meetings, the deacons have put together a plan to address some of the needs of our physical plant. The Lord has blessed us with a beautiful property and building, and at a centrally located place in the village where we can see our vision realized. Below is our list of projects that we hope to tackle immanently. The list of projects that are planned are as follows, some with projected costs:

1. Narthex: \$2000.00 flooring
2. Manse soffit
3. Sanctuary lighting: phase 1: \$30,000.00. Phase 2: \$4500.00
4. Parking lot seal and new approach
5. Sanctuary staging
6. Sanctuary overflow room ceiling and lighting: materials: \$2500.00 plus cost of lighting
7. Hildebrand room
8. Heating HVAC for Narthex and Hildebrand room: \$7500.00?
9. Fellowship Hall refresh
10. Kitchen closet access door
11. Mailroom ceiling
12. Seal brick and block on church
13. Church carpeting
14. Rework sanctuary ductwork

## The Immediate Plan

We plan, at this point, to knock down the projects that are low-hanging fruit, and this will be financed by the funds that are already available in the Building Fund and the Memorial Fund. Those funds amount to about \$15k. The deacons have decided that if we primarily use in-house labor, the following projects will get accomplished by the end of this calendar year, in no particular order...

1. **Parking lot seal and new approach** from 41/N Chillicothe St. -- move where cars enter further away from the manse

2. **Sanctuary staging** (in planning stage) -- in order to see our speakers and musicians better
3. **Hildebrand room** (unfinished room in the basement) -- make this a finished office and meeting room.
4. **Heating HVAC** for Narthex and Hildebrand room: \$7500.00?
5. **Fellowship Hall** refresh. Painting has been finished.
6. **Kitchen closet access door.** We have a lot of currently wasted storage space in there that can be used.
7. **Rework sanctuary ductwork.** This is to solve the problem of spotty heating and cooling.

## The Future Plan

We have other projects that are planned, some with multiple quotes secured. However, to date, these projects are without financing under the existing funds. We will tackle those projects as the funding comes in. Those projects are as follows. Again, some have their projected costs listed next to them.

1. **Manse soffit.** Upon closer examination, the roof of the manse is not in dire straights as previously believed, but actually just needs minor mending and soffit replacement, some of which are rotting and allowing birds into our attic.
2. **Sanctuary lighting:** phase 1: \$30,000.00. Phase 2: \$4500.00. This project is an expensive one but long overdue. This project will give the Sanctuary even, dimmable lighting with a central control panel in the sound booth. Wrapped up in this project, many of you will be delighted to hear, are lights that will illuminate our beautiful stained glass!
3. **Sanctuary Overflow** room ceiling and lighting: materials: \$2500.00 plus cost of lighting. The original use of the Overflow was a kitchen and fellowship hall. Now that it is not being used in that way, the soffit in the southwest corner is unnecessary, as is the drop ceiling and florescent lighting. This project makes the Overflow part of the Sanctuary in every way.
4. **Mailroom drop ceiling** removal and patching.
5. **Seal brick and block** on church. This is simply regular maintenance that needs to happen so that the tuck pointing lasts as long as possible and stays waterproofed.
6. **Sanctuary carpeting.** The carpeting has seen better days and needs replaced.

I have been speaking regularly to Session members and deacons, and my exhortation (though they don't need much exhortation!) is that we need to keep moving! I am excited to report that we are doing that. In fact, I have been reading many of the "experts" recommendations for how a church should work in the

coming months as we begin to return to a semblance of normal, and we are already doing many of those things. Additionally, with the skilled work of Mindy Wildman, our technological advances in the past month have been great! Thank you, Mindy!

I hope that this update is helpful for you as you pray for your church and its leadership. We are working diligently to communicate to you, the congregation, and be as transparent and up-to-date as possible. If you feel you have missed anything vital, please reach out to me and I can either update you or pass you on to someone that can.

God bless you and keep you at this time.

In Jesus,

Pastor Aaron

**First Presbyterian Church**

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