

The View

Madison Presbyterian Church

March 2022



From the Desk of Session:

Dear Friends, your session has been keeping busy, largely behind the scenes. Please see the minutes from our February meeting also in this publication.

One recent service we have been discussing is providing hospitality to our new presbyters as they travel around the presbytery. Below is the request sent from POJ. I have reached out to the contact in charge and will keep you posted on what we learn and decide.

Hiring is underway for POJ's three presbyters. The lead presbyter, pastoral care presbyter, and congregational life presbyter will guide and support all POJ ministries toward Christ-centered spiritual growth and connect and coordinate our ministries with one another.

This is a call to **your** church or validated ministry to offer hospitality to our new presbyters in the form of occasional or regular office space, the occasional use of your sanctuary or a meeting space for a gathering, or a meal or an overnight when they travel in your area. Your group may have more ideas based on your church or ministry setting.

What are the benefits to your ministry?

Connections to your POJ leaders, meeting a vital need, sharing your space and/or gifts as a church or validated ministry, answering a call! "Prepared and supported lay people and volunteers can better build communities of shared ministry, as practitioners instead of consumers." There is funding available to cover office costs.

What are the benefits to POJ and its new presbyters?

Presbyters are supported both in-person and virtually, enabling them to serve, connect, collaborate, and communicate. Dispersed locations across the POJ help our traveling presbyters to work, meet with us, and be nourished and rest.

We appreciate your prayers and support as we do the work of this Church. We invite you to ask questions and to get involved. Please feel free to reach out to one of us to offer your gifts in support of our mission

"Bringing God's Love and Hope to Life".

Sincerely,

Sue Strahan

Session Highlights

The Stated Meeting of the Session of Madison Presbyterian Church was held at 7:00 on 2/8/22 in the Fellowship Hall. Those present were Moderator; Gay Einstein and Elders; Sue Strahan, Clarrisa Berry, Dana Edelman, John Quinley and Jean Pearson. Allan McLearn was excused. A quorum was present.

Treasurer's Report

	Jan Actual	CY2022 actual	CY 2022 budget
Income	\$10,374	\$10,374	\$10,583
Expenses	\$ 5,542	\$ 5,542	\$13,418
Difference	\$ 4,832	\$ 4,832	\$ (2,835)

COVID Situation Assessment Report – The covid team recommends returning to in person worship on the second Sunday of February. This was approved by Session.

Area & Team Reports

Administration – John and Bill discussed the snow plan for the parking lot and sidewalks. The plan is for Sue to contact Gay, Nick and Lynn in the event snow occurs on a weekend. John also shared a report from the Personnel team that an accompanist is still being sought.

Congregational Life - an event is being planned for summer. The card group is sending valentine's treats to a local nursing home.

Mission - The team wants to participate in Madison Day again on May 7.

Communications – AV power backup units have been purchased.

Lynn will fill out the forms for the Presbyterian Foundation Technology Grant.

Worship - The Worship team proposed serving Communion at the front of the Church. Bread will be on toothpicks and grape juice will be in the cups.

Continued Business—Dana Allan and Sam will plan our annual financial review. Sue will send in our budgeted Presbytery allotment for the year. Sue will contact the POJ regarding their request for hospitality accommodations.

New Business:

Stated Presbytery meeting (online, Feb. 19) Clarissa and Jean will attend.

Session assignments were made. The Nominating Committee needs a Session liaison. We will ask Allan if he would be willing to be assigned.

John Quinley and Allan McLearn will be liaisons for the Administration Team

Clarissa Berry and Bill Pattie will be liaisons for the Congregational Life Team

Jean Pearson will be liaison for the Witness Team

Dana Edelman will be liaison for the Communications Team

Sue Strahan will continue as the Clerk of Session.

Next Stated Session Meeting, Tuesday, March 8th

Update from Your PNC

submitted by Clarissa Berry, Co-Chair

Since we were elected by the Congregation in early May 2021, we have diligently worked towards finding a new pastor for our church. Our first order of business was to meet with Fred Holbrook, Interim General Presbyterian and State Clerk of Presbytery of the James, to orient us to Presbyterian procedures of calling a new pastor. One of the best resources he provided is a book published by the church titled "On Calling a Pastor". A copy can be found here: https://www.pcusa.org/site_media/media/uploads/clc/pdfs/the_revised_on_calling_a_pastor_manual_march_2015.pdf.

This process began for our church when Rev. John Storey announced his retirement in January 2019. The church assembled a search committee for an interim pastor at the end of May 2019. On November 1, 2019, Pastor Lisa Salita accepted a call as an interim pastor for our church. Her intent was to remain until we found a full-time pastor. In March 2020, our Session moved forward with the formation of a Transition Team to begin the process of finding a full-time pastor. Unfortunately for us all, the pandemic interrupted everyone's plans. Undeterred, our Transition Team worked tirelessly interviewing members, drafting and sending out a survey to the congregation, and preparing the final report. The Presbytery's Committee on Ministry accepted the Transition Team's Report on April 8, 2021. On May 2, 2021, the congregation elected the Pastor Nominating Committee. On October 10, 2021, Pastor Lisa celebrated her last service in Madison as she left earlier than expected to join her family in Delaware.

Once formed, the first official step in the process was to draft a Minister Information Form ("MIF"), which is the Presbyterian job posting. Thankfully, we were able to use the MIF from the interim pastor search together with the incredibly detailed report from the Transition Team to revise and update our MIF to reflect the goals and intentions of the congregation. Our MIF was approved by the Session and uploaded to the Church Leadership Connection website to begin the matching process.

Part of the MIF is to choose ten leadership competencies from a list of 33 options. We chose: Preaching and Worship Leadership, Teacher, Media Communicator, Technologically Savvy, Entrepreneurial, Willingness to Engage Conflict, Strategy and Vision, Collaboration, Motivator, and Initiative. We chose these because we believe our congregation is seeking a new pastor who will help us build on the community we've developed since the pandemic (both in person and via technology) and encourage our outreach and mission work while guiding us through the ups and downs of life through inspiring sermons applying scripture to daily life.



Once our MIF was approved and uploaded into the CLC, we received our first matches! Our first batch of ten PIFs was sent on August 9th and a second set quickly thereafter on August 15th and 17th. We quickly were able to schedule zoom interviews with several candidates. Out of that process, we thought we might have found our next pastor at the beginning of November. Unfortunately, when we had the "brass tacks" conversation, it did not work out. The good news, it was not because of our church, our proposed salary, or any other similar reason—it was a location and family reason. Both sides were very disappointed that it did not work out as this person would have been a wonderful fit for our congregation.

(continued)

However, there was no time to wallow. We requested a new set of matches, and again received several promising candidates! We held a few interviews—both in person and over zoom with these candidates. While each had skills and qualities that would suit our congregation, we decided to prayerfully continue our search in search of someone. The Christmas season put a small pause during Advent (as you can imagine, it is a very busy time for pastors!).

We entered the new year with a request for a re-match and several new PIFs to consider. Unfortunately, those PIFs are not yet fruitful. Our next order of business is to meet with the Presbytery to ensure we have not overlooked something in our search, re-review our notes and prior PIFs to reconsider with fresh eyes and ask for additional matches.

We all pray for a full-time minister soon. The Presbyterian call process takes time. It is not unusual for a PNC to search for a year or two, but we pray that our discernment will not take two years! Personally, the call process has made me examine how sometimes the process is the journey—the process required and encouraged our congregation to examine what is most important to us. This step took time, but it is invaluable when the PNC reviews and interviews candidates—after all this is a minister for us all! While this time seems long, I truly believe that it is necessary to ensure we can make the best decision as a PNC, Session, and congregation for what will be only our third full-time minister in our almost 172 years of history!

One of the most frequently asked questions is “why does everything seem so secretive?” It is not a conscious decision, but it is rooted in our Book of Order, Presbytery guidelines, and general good hiring practices. The PNC, by design, is to operate outside of the “normal” church structure. It is still a bit unreal to me that many churches hold a vote on calling a pastor without ever meeting the proposed pastor! (Our hope is to not have that happen here, and we plan to at least have a coffee reception for the congregation to meet the PNC’s nominated pastor.) Another reason for the perceived secrecy is that many pastors are looking for a new church while continuing to pastor their current church. Obviously, if too much information got out it could adversely affect their pastoral relationship with their current church. Unlike in the corporate world, this process is very methodical and procedural.

We are your PNC, and we hope that this has answered some questions you may have. Our team is Clarissa Berry and Heidi Sage, co-chairs and Rachel Strahan, secretary, with Frank King and Matt McLearn. Please feel free to reach out to any of us if there is something you’d like to know. We also have an email address if you prefer: madisonprespnc@madisonpresbyterian.com.

Flowers for Sunday Services

If you would like to donate flowers for a Sunday service, please sign up on the flower poster in the narthex or contact Lynn in the church office: 540-948-6972 or office@madisonpresbyterian.com.



Update from the Mission Team

submitted by Clarissa Berry

At the end of 2021, the Mission Team met to make the mission donations on behalf of the Congregation. Our church made the following donations in 2021:

- \$2500 to the Presbytery
 - \$250 for Theological Education (to Presbytery)
 - \$500 to Camp Unakite (MCPS STEM day camp for rising 3-8 graders; grant funded)
 - \$750 to Salvation Army (local chapter)
 - \$1000 to MESA
 - \$300 to Madison Parks and Recreation (for student scholarships and uniforms)
 - \$500 to Literacy Council of Madison
 - \$250 to Loaves and Fishes
 - \$200 to Cindy Corell
 - \$2000 to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (designated for western Kentucky tornado assistance)
 - \$2000 to Central Presbyterian Church, Princeton, Kentucky

As every year, we tried to focus our efforts and donations on local impact to follow our church's mission: Bringing God's Love and Hope to Life. The goal of these donations is to help children and adults get through hard times in their life and to improve educational opportunities for those in our community.

This year, Session approved additional funds above those budgeted with a hope that the Missions Team would choose to send most of them to tornado relief in western Kentucky. Many of you know that my mother is from western Kentucky, and her hometown was among the hardest hit (although not as featured on our local news). While my mother's home was relatively unscathed, the house across the creek--which housed our neighbors for the last 150 years or so--was destroyed. My aunt's house was damaged beyond repair; she and my uncle rode out the storm in a bathroom. My cousin's husband dodged debris in the dark to guide them out of the rubble.



From my aunt's neighborhood. On the left are homes barely touched; on the right is just devastation.

I went to visit at Christmas. Princeton is a relatively flat part of the country. Wide open fields and woods as far as the eye can see. When I popped over the last small crest of the road before our farm, I gasped. The scene before me was surreal. It was what I imagine when I think of an apocalyptic wasteland --and this was after the clean-up. I expected damaged, mangled houses, but I was not prepared for the reality of sections of forest gone replaced by bonfires burning debris. It so jarring to be able to see farther than I was used to seeing.

Despite all of that, hope abounded. At Christmas Eve service worshipping with families who lost everything, like never before Matthew 11:28 seemed so real: "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest." Central Presbyterian Church is my mother's home church. In many ways, it is very much like our church. It is similar in size, and they are also searching for a new pastor. But most importantly, it is full of families and people who do not hesitate to help one another. And they needed help. Seven families lost everything. One member lost two great-aunts in the storm. Rather than send all of our congregation's donation to the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Missions Team chose to send some to this church so they could direct funds where most needed in their congregation. The PDA does amazing work and stays in a community long after other groups have left to help, but this decision felt right to us.



The Courthouse decorated for Christmas with "HOPE" at the top.



At the entrance to my aunt's neighborhood, one of her neighbor's placed a similar sign. Hope abounds in western Kentucky.

So, what is planned for this year?

Up first, MADISON DAY! "Madison Day is our community gathering together to serve our neighbors and to share God's love by working on projects in the county, doing small home repairs, yard work." Sounds like our Church's Mission Statement! Mark your calendars for May 7th, and email clarissa.berry@gmail.com or call 540-718-0000 to let me know you want to join us! Last year we helped spruce up around MESA with a group from the Dept. of Social Services (they had so much fun with us, they want to join us again this year!). Check out the website: <https://www.madisondayva.com/>

Next, we would like to have good policies for end of year distribution and the Ruth Bathe Mission Fund. Do you want to join us? Let one of the Mission Team members know! Your Team Members are Clarissa Berry, Frank King, Bettie Berry, and Jane Lamar. We would love your ideas and input!

Finally, if you have an idea how we could make an impact through missions locally, but now is not a good time to join the team--please tell us your idea anyways! We would love your ideas and input!

Church Clean Up Day

The Building & Grounds Team requests your help on Saturday March 12 for a Grounds Workday Morning. Meet in the back parking lot to begin around 9:00 am. We will be doing general cleanup, pruning and removing brush. Bring your own tools, wheel barrows, trucks and trailers.



Madison Day

Join the MPC Madison Day team on Saturday, May 7. Put Love into Action through Service. Contact Betty Berry or Clarissa Berry for more information.

Some of last year's Madison Day volunteers.



Our Madison Presbyterian team was ready to enjoy the beautiful day working together at MESA. Pictured are (l to r): Heidi Sage, Sam & Sue Strahan, Mary Linda McLearn, Berta Storey, Jane Lamar and Frank King.



Frank King

*Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God,
serve one another with whatever gift each
of you has received.*

- 1 Peter 4:10

MARCH

BIRTHDAYS

Bill Pattie	4th	Mary Hankla	17th
Heidi Rees	6th	Rachel Strahan	21st
Allan McLearen	7th	Joyce Humphrey	22nd
Sharon Weakley	9th	Wilma Myers	23rd
Sandra Powell	12th	Cindy Pattie	25th
Sue Strahan	16th	Betty Maestri	30th
Bettie Berry	17th		

ANNIVERSARIES

George & Bobbie Carroll	7th
Nick & Joyce Humphrey	26th



Social Services Needs for March

The needs this month are for families.

- * canned vegetables
- * canned fruit
- * Soup
- * Rice
- * Beans
- * Cereals
- * Mac & cheese
- * crackers

You may bring your donations to the Church Fellowship Hall and place them in the big red tub. Your donations are distributed to Madison Social Services.



Make your own cleaner!

You will need

- Spray bottle
- Small funnel
- 1/2 cup white vinegar
- 2 tablespoons baking soda
- Tea tree essential oil
- Eucalyptus essential oil

Instructions:

1. Take the top off of an empty spray bottle, place a small funnel into the opening and pour in 1/2 cup of white vinegar.
2. Add 2 tablespoons of baking soda, and wait for the foaming to subside.
3. Add in 10 drops each of tea tree and eucalyptus essential oil.
4. Fill the rest of the bottle with water. Screw the spray top onto the bottle, and shake well before use.



Madison Presbyterian Church
1236 Fishback Road
Madison, VA 22727
540.948.6972

Church Administrator: Lynn Gore
office@madisonpresbyterian.com

www.madisonpresbyterian.com

MARCH



		1	2 ASH WEDNESDAY Book Club 11am	3	4 Card Party 10am	5
6 1ST SUNDAY OF LENT Communion/ 5 cents a Meal/ Worship 10am AA 5:30pm	7	8 SESSION	9 Presbyterian Women 10am	10 Madison Women's Club	11 Card Party 10am Quilt Guild 1pm	12
13 2ND SUNDAY OF LENT Daylight Savings Time Begins Worship 10am AA 5:30pm	14	15	16 Book Club 11am	17 Garden Club 11am-4pm	18 Card Party 10am	19
20 3RD SUNDAY OF LENT Worship 10am AA 5:30pm	21	22	23	24	25 Card Party 10am Quilt Guild 1pm	26
27 3RD SUNDAY OF LENT Worship 10am AA 5:30pm	28	29	30	31		

Lectionary

6th: Deuteronomy 26: 1-11; Psalm 91: 1-2, 9-16; Romans 10: 8b-13; Luke 4: 1-13

13th: Genesis 15: 1-12, 17-18; Psalm 27; Phillipians 3:17—4:1; Luke 13: 31-35

20th: Isaiah 55: 1-9; Psalm 63: 1-8; 1 Corinthians 10: 1-13; Luke 13:1-9

27th: Joshua 5: 1-12; Psalm 32; 2 Corinthians 5: 16-21; Luke 15: 1-3, 11b-32