

*Our Vision is to be Christ to each other
and our community— doing
justice, loving mercy and
walking humbly with our God.*



Our Ministry Council held its final monthly meeting for the 2020-2021 church year on August 9, 2021. Our next Ministry Council meeting will be September 13, 2021, at 6:00 p.m. in the conference room. A Zoom option will also be available.

At this last meeting we recognized Norma Whaley for the 14 years she has served as Secretary of the Council. Please let her know how much you appreciate the service she has given to Fernwood.

The Ministry Council still has one vacancy. We have members of the Hospitality Team, but no one to facilitate the team. Please think about serving in this capacity. If interested, contact Sabrina Myers or the church office.

Since we are not having Wednesday night suppers yet, your first opportunity to sign up for ministry teams will be on Sunday, September 12, 2021. You can serve on multiple teams, and you can choose your level of involvement on each team. Please carefully consider which team or teams might be best for you.

Please read the newsletter carefully and note the various activities and opportunities for service.

It has been my privilege to serve as chairperson for the Ministry Council. I thank you for all the support you have given me. The council will be in good hands under the leadership of Sabrina Myers, Chairperson, Ansley Boggs, Chair Elect, and Kari Mason, Secretary. Please support these officers of the Ministry Council and contact them if you have ministry council concerns.

Blessings to all of you,
Sara Gardner, Ministry Council Chairperson for 2020-2021



We will begin in-person ministry at the Soup Kitchen in August. We will resume our established dates (third Sundays on even numbers months) and gather on Sunday, August 15 for the first time since the pandemic disruption.

For those who wish to help, we have two time slots to accommodate various schedules and commitments: 9:00 -10:30 and 11:00- 1:00. Please let me know.

Thanks, **Clarence Batts**

Congratulation!

Benjamin Vitale graduated from Clemson University and majored in Mechanical Engineering.





Thank You Note...

Fernwood Family,

Returning from Oregon Health and Sciences University Hospital and the MSSA diagnosis and treatment to recover at home, you as Fernwood family have been reinforced so many ways for Jean and me. Blessed streaming worship, prayers, cards, visits, texts, the Meal

train, directed caring energy and light are among the ways you have loved and cared for us. Truly you are being Christ to us in ways we cherish and will always remember.

We truly are humbled by the depth of how God has used you and others through whom God continues to encourage and strengthen us in this vital time of life challenge. Thank you for being who you are as dear friends and Fernwood family.

Love,
Jim Pruett

Book Group News

Book Group meeting on Thurs, Sept. 9 at 10:30-noon. No book has been chosen but more information will follow in the next Footsteps. Anyone needing info can reach me at 680-8518.

Thank you, Nancy E



Attention Sunday School Teachers and Worship Team members:

The Deacons decided this week that we will have Sunday School beginning Sunday, September 12, however masks will be required. Masks will be available, if needed, at the entrance tables each Sunday. The mask requirement will be reevaluated every month by the Deacons as the Delta variant subsides or our State/County become more vaccinated.

Due to the need for less crowding and more social distancing the Footprints class will meet in the Fellowship Hall temporarily. And the Alma Hudson class will relocate to the Ruth Class temporarily (where Footprints Class has been meeting).

So we have some work to do. The Adult SS hall has been completed. Each class needs to move any items from the Ruth class, hallway, or Chapel back to your rooms **beginning Monday, August 30**. This task must be **completed by Wednesday, September 8**. Worship Team also needs to remove the Christmas decorations and other items from these areas back to your storage area on the Adult SS hall.

If you need help moving your items please let me or Angie know and we will try to round up some help.

We would like to thank the Building and Grounds Committee for arranging to have the Adult Hall cleaned of any asbestos so we can safely return to Sunday School.

Thank you for your help in getting us ready to meet in person again for Bible study.

Wendy Case
Discipleship Facilitator



Pastor's Report August, 2021

At our recent deacons' retreat, I led the group in a discussion of Family Systems Theory (FST). With all the changes and difficulties we have been through, both as a church and as a society, and all the uncertainty and likely changes that lie ahead, it will put stress on our church and on the individuals who make up our church. Family Systems Theory can help us understand why things happen the way they do and how we can deal with possible conflict in a healthy way. An introduction to Family Systems Theory will benefit all of us.

When we understand FST, we can:

- Be more self-aware and self-differentiating
- Be better equipped to identify those in our congregation with good leadership skills
- Better recognize and deal with anxiety in the system
- Lower our own anxiety, enabling us to function more effectively

The founder of FST was Edwin Friedman, who worked at the National Institutes of Health studying the immune system in the body. He discovered that the body's way of organizing itself for its own protection, functioning, and well-being mirrors the ways that families and organizations order themselves for better functioning and self-protection. These ideas were later expanded by Murray Bowen and used in counseling situations. He realized that it was not enough to simply treat individual issues in someone's life. It was necessary to look at someone's family system, the whole context of their life, in order to understand and treat a problem.

A "system" is any group of living beings in regular contact with each other. So, our families, our church, our denomination, our country, and even the whole world are examples of systems. Systems sometimes seem to take on a life of their own, acting independent of the choices or actions of the people who make up the system. That's why it's important in FST to look at the whole system and not just the individual parts. We also need to focus on the context of the system and examine our own responses to different situations.

This is a very basic introduction to the ideas of FST. Over the next few months, I will explain how these ideas impact our church and can help us navigate difficulties and chances in healthy and life-affirming ways. I look forward to exploring Family Systems Theory together!

Your Pastor,
Matt Johnson



Homebound Member of the Week

Joyce Childers

Pacifica/Skylyn Senior Living
1705 Skylyn Drive, #171
Spartanburg, SC 29307

IMPORTANT NEWS FOR THIS COMING SUNDAY

Masks will be required beginning this Sunday, August 15, even if you have been vaccinated. Due to the recent number of new Covid cases, we will be taking all precautions to protect everyone. There will be masks provided at each entrance of the Sanctuary lobby.

Fernwood Baptist Church
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OFFICE HOURS

Mon – Wed: 9am to 1pm
Please call ahead for availability.
(864) 582-7467

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Welcome New Member

We would like to welcome, Betsy Ball to our Fernwood family. Betsy joined Sunday, August 1. She is moving her membership from Pine Shore Presbyterian Church in Florida. Welcome, Betsy!

Message from the Audio/Visual Team

If you are interested in being trained to assist our Audio/Visual Team in broadcasting and recording our Sunday Morning Worship Service, please contact Alan Lyles at 864-216-2303.

Publication Notice

The next bi-weekly e-blast newsletter publication will be **Wednesday, August 25, 2021**.
Deadline for all articles is **Tuesday, August 24, 2021 at Noon**.

PLEASE NOTE: You may submit your information via email (angie@fernwoodchurch.org) or through the church office. Please do not submit any information over the phone. Information submitted after the deadline will not be published until the following issue (no exceptions). Thank you for your understanding!