

Shepherding the Flock, from the July session meeting:

Pastor Will opened the meeting with a reading from Hebrews 13:1-2. He highlighted the importance of hospitality to strangers, supported by this verse, and noted growth in Waunakee as an opportunity to extend this hospitality. We have first time visitors at church every week. Waunakee adds 100 to 125 single-family homes each year. If you see someone you don't know at worship, make every effort to make them feel welcome.

Report of the Clerk

Requested discussion of the method of use for the \$50K endowment contribution to the Pillars and Pathways campaign. Understood that the whole amount would be available immediately to apply to repairs, but the match is instead being prorated to match pledges as they come in. The finance and building and grounds elders will discuss this after the meeting and bring their conclusion or recommendations back to the September session meeting.

Pastor Will has requested a strategy session with the elders, which will be hosted at the Baker farm. Would like to arrive at a one-year plan, considering what would we like to accomplish, what our focus is for the next year, and how would we like to be known in the community, keeping our values in mind. The clerk requested the elders supply dates that they are available.

Deacons Report – Pastor Ben

The deacons are continuing their ministry of tending to members, particularly those who are homebound, and distributing prayer shawls. Gordy Faust's funeral was held last Thursday with leadership by Paul Larson from the deacon team.

Pastor's Moment – Pastor Will

- Worked on PhD dissertation prospectus during summer PTO
- Held several meetings to discuss personnel topics, including how to fill open positions.
- Working with Kristina to onboard Leah Hauck-Mills, our new communication specialist. Chris Drake has graciously been helping with training.
- Premarital counseling and other pastoral care.
- Met with Todd Schmidt, the village administrator, with the intent to continue establishing community connections. Also met Don Tierney at the opening of the Parade of Homes, discussed providing open access to our backyard from the development behind the church (e.g., sidewalk).
- Will be wrapping up meetings with session members by the end of September.
- Back to preaching the first Sunday in August. Will plan to take a summer preaching break in future summers. The upcoming sermon theme will be the questions God asks in scripture.
- Session approved the ordination and installation of new session members and deacons in the July 20 worship service.
- Discuss the flood damage and support in Kerr County in Texas, and how FPC could provide funds to help with cleanup and other aid. Session decided to donate \$5,000 directly to the First Presbyterian Church of Kerrville and \$2,000 to Presbyterian Disaster Aid, using mission dollars. Will also promote

Presbyterian Disaster Aid in the Connector and bulletin to make members aware, in the event they would like to contribute directly to this fund.

Consent Agenda, Discussion items

- Session authorized the CBA and finance elder to establish a line of credit, at their discretion, not to exceed \$50,000, until August 2026.
- The nominating committee has nominees identified for all open roles, with the exception of the mission elder. The congregation will vote on these nominees in the August 24 congregational meeting.
- Session agreed to have two worship services starting on September 14, 2025. There will be a 9 a.m. service in the chapel (as room permits) and a 10:15 a.m. service in the sanctuary. Kick-off Sunday will be September 7, 2025, with a 9 a.m. Sunday School open house.

Finance Report

In the last team meeting, discussed financial tracking, reconciliation and approvals. Recapped major financial activity and identified challenges with migrating to the new church system. Planning the next endowment meeting, seeking a new member. Monty Cordell will be the back-up for payroll processing.

Session voted to authorize \$12,000 of personnel funds to bring a contractor on to aid in the initial ACS system implementation. ACS is the replacement for Church Windows.

General fund balance is \$39,616.31. Income versus expense for the general fund only, is -\$38,625.33. Percent of pledges given versus pledged for the month of June was 84%, and 94% year to date.

Worship and Music

Amy Lewis offered to set up a ministry sign-up for an upcoming Sunday, in an effort to find volunteers for ministry areas that need them.

Noted that session needs to take ownership of the house manager position – currently, there is no single elder responsible for oversight of this serious volunteer position. Decided that elders for worship and music, buildings and grounds, and fellowship will get together to define the role and its duties, and who will provide leadership. This will include emergency response and required training for the role. Rick Mueller was on the committee that looked at the Emergency Action Plan previously and will provide content from that committee to this group.

Childrens Ministry

Working on recruiting teachers for Sunday School. Jennifer (who organized VBS) will be working part-time to get Sunday School organized.

Building and Grounds

Several of the outdoor capital improvement projects have been completed. Landscaping around the playground is done and drainage improvements on the east side of the lower parking lot are done.

On July 6, a water leak was discovered that caused damage to the kitchen in the fellowship area, and other areas on the lower level. There are issues with the roof, gutters, and/or drainage around the building on the west side of the sanctuary that are contributing to the water entry into the building. Working to remediate these issues.

Working with the B&G team to re-prioritize some of the improvement projects. Deciding whether to fully seal coat the entire parking lot or instead do crack seals in different areas. Will put the upgrade to interior lighting on hold, but will address parking lot lighting that is causing safety concerns. There are several maintenance items on the outside of the building, ranging from immediate needs to long-term needs. The goal is to put together an exterior needs triage list for the building after meeting with contractors, to develop a short and long-term exterior maintenance plan, with projects and estimated cost for budgeting purposes.

Fellowship and New Member Outreach

Using systems and networks to find new members, invite them in and make them feel welcome. Reviewing signage on our electronic sign board to provide effective messaging. Moving forward, we are looking to build conscious processes to bring more people in. We will also be updating the Faces of Our Family wall, and will go back to our previous process of introducing new members in worship services. Will do a catch-up for newer members that were not been introduced when they joined.

Personnel

Pastor Will's first year evaluation is complete.

Meeting with Student Ministry, and Children and Family Ministry, leadership to discuss needs for open positions and hiring for same. Postings have been updated on Handshake, LinkedIn, and Facebook, and we continue to work with other platforms and outlets. Messages continue to go out to colleges and universities where ministry positions are an emphasis of study. Candidates will be reviewed for open ministry positions by July 25 and next steps will be determined at that point. We want this to be an open, fair and competitive process. We understand that we may need to bring in interim candidates for these open roles, given that new seasons are starting in September. Elders were encouraged to help recruit, using their own networks and social media contacts.

Also planning for a congregational meeting on August 24 to move Pastor Will and dependents to the Congregational Pastor's Plan effective January 1, 2026.

Session approved a sound desk job assistant description.

Stewardship

The Pillars and Pathways campaign has wrapped up and we're working to update number and amounts of pledges. (Clerk's note: As of 8/13/25, we've received 49 pledges, totaling \$133,966.57. The campaign goal was \$216,216, so we are \$82,249.23 short of the goal.) Sending thank you notes to those who contributed.

Starting to work on the fall stewardship campaign.

Student Ministry

Continuing search for the student ministry director. If we don't have a director by mid-August, we'll explore the possibility of a paid interim director position.

Had a positive meeting with Guatemala leaders on July 14 to debrief the mission trip. Documented what went well and what to consider for future missions.

Adult Nurture and Spiritual Growth

Plans are in place to host a second FPC men's group activity on August 13. Looking ahead to planning for the annual fall church kickoff and selecting curriculum for the two adult Sunday school classes, along with men's and women's small group studies.

Fellowship

Detailed planning for fall kick-off.