

Paw Creek Presbyterian Church

Weekly Letter - April 16, 2020

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pawcreekpc.org

Paw Creek Presbyterian Church on Facebook and YouTube

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Dear Paw Creek,

Good Easter greetings to you one and all! I hope and trust that the truth of Easter is shining brightly in all our lives this week; and that we all found ways to safely share the day with family and friends; and that we all made it through the storms of Easter evening with not many scratches.

Please join me in thanking our Worship Committee and everyone who made the worship services of last week possible. I am especially grateful that we were able to bring the beauty of the season into the sanctuary with the Easter flowers for all to see. Those same lovely flowers have now been planted in the Gary Bryant memorial garden and other areas around the sanctuary. If you find yourself out on an "essential" errand, why not drive by the church to see - the glory of God's creation is truly on display.

Now that the holiday is behind us, we are at the beginning of what may be a long slog, all the more so since we can't know exactly how long it will last. Let us continue to draw sustenance from our ability to connect, to pray and to worship. This coming Sunday, April 19, we will celebrate the Lord's Supper for the first time as a disbursed community. This is extra-ordinary (= "beyond the expected") because the heart of the sacrament that Jesus gave us is the togetherness we share when we celebrate. Unlike some other branches of Christians, as Presbyterians we find the power of Christ's presence not in the piece of bread, but in the fact of being together. Nevertheless, in our hearts we want to follow the Lord's commands: "do THIS in remembrance of me", and so the normal limitations cannot apply. Since we cannot find our togetherness in physical proximity, we will find it in knowing that we each take the same actions in our places of shelter.

Celebration of Communion on April 19 - As I noted last week, we have prepackaged communion sets available with wafer and juice. Kim and Dennis Whittington have generously offered to deliver these to anyone who requests them, within a five mile radius of the church in Mecklenburg County. **IF YOU WOULD LIKE DELIVERY, PLEASE CONTACT KIM AS SOON AS YOU RECEIVE THIS LETTER** (phone and email information above). On Sunday morning, or at whatever time you will be watching our service, be sure to have your communion elements available - either those delivered by Kim and Dennis, or other simple supplies: a bit of bread or crackers and some kind of juice or beverage will do nicely. Then, as we give thanks to God in the Great Prayer of Thanksgiving and remember the words that Jesus spoke in the upper room, in each of our households we will take what we have, eating and drinking together as Jesus commanded. It will not be the same, but it will not be entirely different either, for the Holy Spirit will make it real.

On behalf of the Finance Committee, I am pleased to tell you that we have finalized arrangements with the Presbyterian Foundation to receive **on-line financial gifts**. For those whose financial situation during these troubled times allows us to continue our pledge support, such acts of faithfulness and generosity enable the church to remain strong and fully prepared to resume our activities as soon as it is prudent to do so. Checks sent through the mail will of course always continue to be appreciated. However, many of us may find that on-line giving is helpful convenience for now. Simply go to our church website at www.pawcreekpc.org and click the link for On-line Giving on the homepage. The process is simple, and gifts can be charged to either a checking account or debit/credit card. Please note that in using this service, email receipts and bank account records will reflect that gifts have been made to the Presbyterian Foundation; they will be remitted from the Foundation to the Church, and are fully tax deductible as pledge gifts to Paw Creek Presbyterian Church.

Finally, as always, please don't forget our weekly meetings on Zoom - prayer meeting Sundays at 10:00 am and Bible Study Wednesdays at 5:30. The Bible Study passages for the next several weeks are listed at the end of this letter. Please let me know if you want to join either of these meetings so that I can give you the correct log-in information.

In this Easter season, please remember these prayers that were collected in recent days:

Continued prayers for Susan Kenley and her family.

Please remember Mary Ellen Edwards and her family in the loss of her mother, Mrs. Amy Eberhardt, over the weekend.

There will be a private burial service in the Fayetteville area, and a public worship service at a later date.

Mike Johnson is at home recovering from out-patient surgery for kidney stones.

Lovelee Steele was released from the hospital after surgery last week - she is now recovering at the home of her daughter Jeannie in Charlotte.

We rejoice to hear that Courtney and Patrick McCarthy are now fully recovered after being ill with Covid-19.

Please remember Betty Fields as she cares for her husband Raymond at home

These are the prayer requests we had in worship on Sunday:

Our prayers are with Wendy Kemp and her family on the death last week of her father, Mr. John Slater.

Gail Bryant's sister Vade is making progress at home in Kentucky after her hospitalization - please pray for her to gain strength and be able to eat more.

Frank Dale is home from the hospital in the care of his family.

Prayers for the family of Bill Durham, who died last week, especially his wife Sue and their children; the Durhams were long-time neighbors of Patty and Eric Burns.

Susan Roscoe asks us to remember her friend Pearl Lemieux, a paramedic who contracted Covid-19 and was in ICU care last week.

Chris Timberman reported an update on his friend Nicole Stewart, who was ill with Covid-19 but was beginning to improve.

Frances Lyerly asks us to remember her granddaughter and all others who have been furloughed and laid off during this economic crisis.

For eyes to see the bounty of God's goodness this week and always, let us pray with thanksgiving to the Lord.

Blessings on us all,

Elliott

Scripture Reading (continued)

John 20: 19-31

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

Hymn*Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether*

Draw us in the Spirit's tether, for when humbly in your name
two or three are met together you are in the midst of them.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Here we touch your garment's hem.

As disciples used to gather in the name of Christ to sup,
then with thanks to God the giver break the bread and bless the cup,
Alleluia! Alleluia! so now bind our friendship up.

All our meals and all our living make as sacraments of you,
that by caring, helping, giving, we may be disciples true.
Alleluia! Alleluia! We will serve with faith anew.

Homily

Jesus is with us anyway

Offertory*Let Us Break Bread Together*

arr. Jim Lucas

In the beauty of music, let us turn our hearts to thanksgiving for all God's bounty as we think of gifts of action, kindness and caring that we can offer to God in the coming week.

Announcements and Prayer Concerns**The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper**

Including the *Lord's Prayer*, the Words of the Institution, and the sharing of the elements

Charge and Benediction

Let us now go out into the world in peace to be of good courage;
holding fast to what is good; rendering to no one evil for evil;
strengthening the fainthearted; supporting the weak,
helping the afflicted, honoring all people;
loving and serving the Lord, and rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Postlude*He's Got the Whole World in His Hands*

arr. Jim Lucas

A Note from the Finance Committee

Paw Creek has now implemented Online Giving for the convenience of church members and our friends who worship with us. Please go to our website at www.pawcreekpc.org and follow the link on the home page. This service is hosted by the Presbyterian Foundation - email receipts and bank account records will reflect that gifts have been made to the Presbyterian Foundation; they will be remitted from the Foundation to the Church, and are fully tax deductible as pledge gifts to Paw Creek Presbyterian Church.

Wednesday Night Bible Study - 5:30 pm via Zoom

Easter Texts

April 22	Acts 2: 36-41
April 29	Acts 2: 42-47
May 6	Acts 7: 55-60
May 13	Acts 17: 22-31

**Paw Creek
Presbyterian Church**

P.O.BOX 64
Paw Creek, NC 28130-0064

Seek..... Matthew 6:33
Serve 1 Samuel 12:24
Praise..... Psalm 111:1
Love Christ!.....1 John 4:12

Lord, we thank you for...

Have a Prayer Request? To put someone on our prayer chain, obtain permission from the person or family involved, then call:

Judy Smith (704) 392-2892

-or-

Ann Cashion (704) 301-0126

Know someone Who Needs a Visit? Please contact the Church Office or Rev. Elliott Hipp (704) 392-0329