

Paw Creek Presbyterian Church

Weekly Letter - April 30, 2020

Contact Information

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pawcreekpc.org

Paw Creek Presbyterian Church on Facebook and YouTube

*“What does the Lord require of us, but to do justice, and love kindness,
and walk humbly with our God?”*

Dear Paw Creek,

We’ve got some new things to talk about this week! And that alone makes it feel like we are entering a new phase. We continue to pray for one another, support one another in essential errands, and connect across the distancing. We especially reach with encouragement and compassion to support those for whom the safety guidelines make it impossible for families to be together in hospitals and care facilities at times when we want so much to feel the comfort of touch and presence. But we are also starting to think about new ways of living the Gospel in these unusual times.

On Monday night the Session had a called meeting by Zoom. We heard brief reports from our committees and approved some new projects. Here’s a recap of the meeting:

1. **The Bulb** (thebulbgallery.org) is an organization that works to bring fresh, healthy food to underserved neighborhoods. Since the pandemic began, they have shifted to providing weekly food boxes to families who are food insecure. They have several distribution sites around town, including two that are run by Darryl Gaston (commissioned pastor of Smallwood Presbyterian Church) and his wife Melissa in the North End/Statesville Avenue corridor of Charlotte. Session voted to support their work at those two sites by helping to extend and augment the services they provide.

To do this, Session has accepted a gift of \$2,400 from a church family - they are grateful that they did not need their government stimulus check and want to use it to help those whose needs are greater. During the next two weeks we will accept gifts from others who are able and wish to contribute, either from stimulus funds or otherwise. All funds received will then be given to the North End food project. The Mission Fund will be used to ensure a minimum donation of \$3,600, which is needed for the basic goal of extending the project to the end of the summer, but we hope to be able to have a larger total gift, with the generosity of the congregation, to reach more people with even better food options. Gifts may be mailed to the church (PO Box 64, Paw Creek, NC, 28130) and marked for “Food Support”.

Even as we organize to share with our neighbors, we are also very aware that the current crisis has affected our church households in many different ways, and that some are in a time of real financial struggle. Please do not forget that Paw Creek also has a Social Service Fund which is available to help church and community members in times of pressing need. If you need help, simply contact Karen and Grady Cathey in confidence. This fund is here for you now, and your church family wants you to access it.

2. **Blood Drive** - during this time of medical crisis, the need continues for blood donations. The Congregational Care Committee has again arranged for the Bloodmobile to visit Paw Creek, on Saturday, May 16. The Bloodmobile will be set up to ensure proper social distancing, and appointments will be scheduled in advance to limit the time that donors are on site. Please visit: https://donor.oneblood.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/917500
3. **Graduation Sunday** - Although many things are postponed and cancelled, our graduates will still be graduating this spring, and we want to honor and recognize them. Of course, we don't know yet if this will happen live, or live stream, but the Christian Education committee is beginning to make plans. To be sure we include all graduates (high school, college or graduate school, including graduations from December 2019), please send information about church members to the committee by contacting Jan Chapman - include date, school, degree and any information about future plans.
4. **Worship Update** - You may have noticed there was a glitch in the YouTube transmission during the first few minutes of worship on Sunday. The good news is that we have *finally* received a new piece of switching equipment (so many churches are going on-line these products were backordered) that will allow for a much smoother transmission. Hopefully that will work well for all of us. As always, we are so appreciative of the efforts of Clint Shaw, who understands the technology and makes it work!
5. **Property Committee Update** - The Property Committee has taken advantage of the downtime in our facilities to work on several needed projects, including the upgrading of restrooms in some of our buildings. We are glad to be able to get these projects done, and also to be able to support local businesses during this time. The committee is also exploring having all buildings sanitized prior to reopening, when that time comes.
6. **Finance Committee Update** - The Session is grateful to report that financial support for the church continued at a level that matched on-going expenses during March and April. Please don't forget that we now have the convenience of receiving contributions electronically through the on-line giving portal at our website. Also, look for a special email this week that will further explain how the on-line giving system works. Thanks to all of our faithful congregation as we live out the commitment to serve God in every time and circumstance.

Thanks to all our committees for keeping things going so well. Please continue to take advantage of our opportunities to connect each week, including Sunday worship at 11; Sunday prayer gathering at 10 on Zoom; and Wednesday Bible Study at 5:30 on Zoom.

And, during this week, please remember these prayers that were collected in recent days:

1. Continued prayers for Susan Kenley and her family.
2. Ernest Moore was hospitalized last week and is now at home. He is still seriously ill, and he and his family appreciate our on-going prayers and concerns.
3. Ken Smith was hospitalized on Tuesday. Vernie is working with his doctors to choose on-going care options. Please pray for them and their sons in this difficult time.
4. Susan McDonald is feeling much better and was released from the hospital on Tuesday after a heart catheterization that was negative for coronary disease. She and Karen are grateful that she is home - please pray with them as her doctors determine any needed additional treatment.
5. In worship on Sunday and again at Bible Study on Wednesday we had these prayer requests:
 - Dickie Chapman asks our prayers for his friends and former co-worker Dan Jacobs, who received a serious cancer diagnosis last week and is beginning immediate chemotherapy and radiation treatments.
 - Please remember Virginia McGranahan; she is in bed a lot with weakness and an infection in her ankle but has shown some improvement this week.
 - Continue to pray with Betty and Raymond Field as Raymond receives hospice care at home; and also remember Betty's family on the death of her brother's wife in England this week.
 - Please remember the Margie Caudill and her family, and all families who are unable to visit loved ones in nursing care.
 - And let us join Sarah and Colton Hansley in prayers of anticipation for the birth of their son, who is due this week.

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

Service for the Lord's Day
Paw Creek Presbyterian Church • May 3, 2020
The Fourth Sunday of Easter

Welcome

*The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Love of God, and
the Communion of the Holy Spirit be with us all.*

Prelude

Blest Be the Tie that Binds Us Together

arr. Mark Hayes

Call to Worship

Alleluia! Christ is risen!
Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!
We no longer look for Jesus among the dead,
for he is alive and has become the Lord of life.
Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Hymn

Great is Thy Faithfulness

Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father; there is no shadow of turning with thee.
Thou changest not, thy compassions they fail not. As thou hast been thou forever wilt be.

Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness! Morning by morning, new mercies I see.
All I have needed thy hand hath provided. Great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!

Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest, sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
join with all nature in manifold witness to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.

Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness! Morning by morning, new mercies I see.
All I have needed thy hand hath provided. Great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth, thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow; blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness! Morning by morning, new mercies I see.
All I have needed thy hand hath provided. Great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!

Prayer of the Day

God of all power, you called from death our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep. Send us as shepherds to rescue the lost, to heal the injured, and to feed one another with knowledge and understanding. Through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Scripture Reading

Acts 2: 42-47

Those who had been baptized devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

Hymn

Day by Day

Stephen Schwartz

Day by day, Day by day. O dear Lord, three things I pray:
To see thee more clearly, love thee more dearly, follow thee more nearly.
Day by day.

Homily

Do what matters

Offertory

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.

Behold the Lamb (Communion Hymn)

arr. Faye Lopez

Behold the Lamb who bears our sins away, slain for us, and we remember:
The promise made that all who come in faith
Find forgiveness at the cross.

So we share in this Bread of Life, And we drink of this sacrifice,
As a sign of our bonds of peace
Around the table of the King.

Prayers of God's People

Beginning with announcements and prayer concerns; and concluding with

The Lord's Prayer

Charge and Benediction

Let us now be active in the world in peace and 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

Leaning on the Everlasting Arms/Victory in Jesus

arr. Bill Wolaver

**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

Online Giving is Now Available

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.



Once you click on this link, you will be directed to set up an account. You may make this gift as a one time transaction, or you can set up recurring payments. You may use your bank account information to create this payment, or you may use your debit or credit card. (If you use your debit or credit card, you will also be given the option to add the transaction fee to your payment if you choose to do so)



For those who like to use mobile apps, you can download the app: Give+ and search for Paw Creek Presbyterian Church. Once you have created an account, it will save Paw Creek as your default Church.

Wednesday Night Bible Study - 5:30 pm via Zoom

Easter Texts

May 6	Acts 7: 55-60
May 13	Acts 17: 22-31