

Paw Creek Presbyterian Church

Weekly Letter - May 14, 2020

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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,

Good wishes to everyone this week! The days push forward, and it feels as if time is moving both slowly and very quickly at the same time. Let us all please continue to stay in touch with one another and reach out beyond the isolation that is so important for everyone’s health and safety. In particular, as our session members and I are trying to keep contact with all our church friends, please don’t hesitate to reach out with special needs we can address - or just to have a nice chat and stay connected.

Although we are all looking forward to the time when we can return to normal schedules, it is very important to do so on a schedule and in ways that will keep everyone in the congregation safe. The Session is monitoring information that we are getting from the Presbytery of Charlotte, including research that shows indoor gatherings of larger groups that last more than 10 minutes are still dangerous. This obviously suggests that a worship service may be more concerning than a quick shopping trip. The Worship Committee met this week, and we will be gathering the Session in the next few days to chart a path forward - we will keep everyone posted as we know more. The Presbytery will also hold its quarterly stated meeting next Tuesday - for the first time ever via Zoom. Clerk of Session Debbie Taylor will be joining me as commissioner to this meeting.

Our collection of financial support for the Bulb - to provide weekly food assistance through the summer in the neighborhoods of Charlotte’s North End - will be winding up as this week comes to a close. The proceeds will be tallied and sent off to be put to work. I know the response has been generous, and we will make a report once the final numbers are known.

In the meantime, the Outreach Committee has made a separate donation from the restricted Mission Fund to support the food pantry program at Thrift United Methodist Church. Our Back Pack Buddies have donated all of the food in their pantry (which would have begun to expire before next school year) to Thrift as well. The folks at Thrift are serving more and more families each week, and are doing a fantastic ministry right in our own neighborhood. The Outreach Committee will stay in touch with them and other food programs in the greater Paw Creek area and will continue to offer assistance throughout the summer.

Please don’t forget that this Saturday, the 16th, is the next Bloodmobile visit to Paw Creek. The Property Committee has arranged to have the CFC sanitized so that it will be a safe area as a waiting room and access to restrooms. As a precaution, the Bloodmobile folks are asking that donors pre-register for an appointment time. The link for doing this is available on our church home page.

I know that we are all grateful for these signs of real ministry and Christian compassion that are going on even while we are apart. We dearly miss our times together, but we are also learning anew the truth that “church” refers to the strength of our fellowship and the acts of love that we do. What a wonderful church God has called us to be!

As always, let us remember those we have learned about who need our special prayers for support this week:

1. On Sunday Gloria Caldwell reported that her mother, Mrs. Sue Whitlow, age 91, had fallen and broken her wrist. An orthopedist’s appointment this week determined that the break will not require surgery, and Mrs. Whitlow is now resting comfortably with a cast. Let us pray for her quick recovery.
2. Virginia McGranhan is still struggling to regain strength after her illness earlier this year. Our prayers are with her and her family.
3. Vernie Smith reported to Bible Study on Wednesday that she continues to be able to speak with Ken via Face Time each day. He remains comfortable at Courtland Terrace and is well cared for. Please pray for Vernie and Ken, and all other families who are kept apart by the safety restrictions of nursing care in these days.
4. Gene Hall asks our prayers for Steve Bowers, a golfing buddy of his, who will have surgery next week to remove a kidney.

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

Acts 9: 1-18

Meanwhile Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" He asked, "Who are you, Lord?" The reply came, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do." The men who were traveling with him stood speechless because they heard the voice but saw no one. Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. For three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

Now there was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias." He answered, "Here I am, Lord." The Lord said to him, "Get up and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul. At this moment he is praying, and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight." But Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints in Jerusalem; and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who invoke your name." But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name before Gentiles and kings and before the people of Israel; I myself will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name." So Ananias went and entered the house. He laid his hands on Saul and said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on your way here, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and his sight was restored. Then he got up and was baptized.

Hymn

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

There's a wideness in God's mercy; like the wideness of the sea.
There's a kindness in God's justice, which is more than liberty.
There is no place where earth's sorrows are more felt than up in heaven.
There is no place where earth's failing have such kindly judgment given.
For the love of God is broader than the measures of the mind.
And the heart of the Eternal is most wonderfully kind.
If our love were but more faithful, we would gladly trust God's Word,
and our lives reflect thanksgiving for the goodness of the Lord.

Homily

God will make a choice

Offertory

The King of Love My Shepherd Is

arr. Shelton Ridge Love

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.

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

How Can I Keep From Singing?

arr. Lani Smith



**BE BOLD. BE BRAVE.
SAVE LIVES.**

DONATE BLOOD


#Donate4Life
Saturday, May 16, 2020
8:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Paw Creek Presbyterian Church
*All donors will receive a FREE
 OneBlood T-Shirt and a wellness
 checkup including blood pressure,
 temperature, iron count, pulse
 and cholesterol screening!*

*Walk-ins are Welcome! To make an appointment, please visit
www.oneblood.org/donate-now and use sponsor code #44855*

ID REQUIRED

ID required. Donors must be at least 18 years old. Those who are 16-17 years old need parental permission.
 Don't donate for more than once. Give only the safe amount per donation. No cash value.
 Your contribution. It goes to help someone in need. Thank you.
 Please stand up when you are eligible to donate again.

oneblood.org
 1-888-9-DONATE



With all the concerns about Covid 19 there have been a large number of blood drive cancellations. While the number of donors has dropped dramatically, the need for blood has not. If you feel like you can please come and donate.

One blood will bring their bus, and the gym will be open for use of restrooms. They will limit the number of people on the bus to one or two people signing in, and two people giving blood.

If you have blood type O+, O-, B-, A- please consider giving red blood cells. Your blood is run thru a centrifuge to separate the red blood cells, and the plasma is returned to you. The process takes longer, but can help more people. If you have would consider giving this type of donation and have questions you can contact me.

Walkups are welcome, but we are requesting everyone sign up online for appointments to reduce the wait time. The link is below:

https://donor.oneblood.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/917500

If you have problems with the system or any questions please contact me, Tim Sudderth, by text 704-877-8498 or e-mail suddetim@gmail.com .

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.

Upcoming Sermon Titles

Sunday, May 17

Acts 9: 1-18

“God Will Make a Choice”

Sunday, May 31

Pentecost Sunday

Acts 2: 1-17

Rev. Gloria Bolden, Woodland Presbyterian

Sunday, May 24

Acts 17: 22-31

“God Will Find a Way”

Sunday, June 7

Matthew 5:1-12

“Up on the Mountain”