

Paw Creek Presbyterian Church

Weekly Letter - May 21, 2020

Contact Information

Kim Whittington - office@pawcreekpc.org • 704-392-0329 (forwarded to home)

Elliott Hipp - deh46@columbia.edu • 704-502-2143 (calls and text messages)

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,

May God’s blessings be and remain with all of us during this rainy spring week!

I want to start this week with a report from the Session, which held a called meeting via Zoom on Monday night to hear reports from the Worship and Property Committees on the research they have been doing to understand the medical and logistical issues that will be involved with a decision to allow us to return to worshipping together in the sanctuary. Those issues are complex, and it is clear that when the time comes, we will need to make many adjustments to keep everyone safe. Just a short list of those would include: deep-cleaning the sanctuary each week between services; maintaining a distance of six feet between household groups for seating; masks for everyone and no handshaking or hugs; no shared touching of equipment (books, collection plates, communion plates); no singing (singing requires so much lung power that the virus can spread well over six feet.) Even if we could implement all those precautions, medical experts still tell us that church services are particularly dangerous activities (we are indoors; we spend more than ten minutes together; many of our members are in high-risk categories; and it’s almost irresistible to reach out and touch or hug folks whom we love so much!)

With all this information in mind, and with deep concern for the well-being of the congregation we have been called to lead and protect, the Session agreed unanimously that it is too soon to resume in-person worship at this time. Therefore we will continue with live-stream worship for now, and the Session plans to revisit the decision in early July to weigh guidance from governmental and medical leaders about where things stand at that time. We all miss each other! But we also want to have everyone back safe and sound when this is over. We appreciate everyone’s understanding.

As worship continues via live-stream, we know that some families have chosen to not attempt to learn how to master the technology needed to watch the services. For those folks, the Session reminds everyone that our sister congregation, First Presbyterian Church in Charlotte, has been broadcasting its worship services for over 50 years. Why not take the opportunity to worship with them at 11:00 on Sundays on TV channel WAXN-Action 64 (check cable listings for the channel number on your network.)

We also know that the loss of Sunday morning activities is hard on our very active adult classes. If any of the classes would like to try to schedule a meeting via Zoom, please let me know. I can use the church’s Zoom account to set up the class - either a one-time get together, or for regular class meetings. And of course we continue to hold prayer meetings on Sunday at 10:00 and Bible Study Wednesday at 5:30 (notwithstanding the worldwide Zoom outage that knocked us out last Sunday morning!)

Even as we remain sheltered and safe (by God’s grace), please don’t forget that there is still much good going on in our congregation and throughout God’s church. Jan Edmiston, our General Presbyter in the Presbytery of Charlotte, takes every opportunity to remind us that even when our buildings are shuttered, **the church is not closed!** Here at Paw Creek, we have much evidence of this truth.

Last weekend, the Bloodmobile had a good turnout for donations of blood and plasma. Thanks to all who participated!

We are also reaching out in the most basic way to help provide food for those who need it in our community. Contributions to support the Bulb for weekly food distribution in North Charlotte continue to come in, so we will wait another week or two to tally the gifts and send them on to the North End Coalition. I had a chance to help with the weekly distribution last Thursday. What an inspiration to see the staff and volunteers at work and to meet some of the food recipients! Many who received food are able and eager to make a small donation for their weekly supply of fresh fruits and vegetables, and that will help the program reach even more people. Here's a picture of a volunteer passing bags of food to a family - workers all have masks and gloves, and guests stay in their cars to enhance distancing.



As I mentioned last week, the Outreach Committee is also partnering to assist food pantries here on the westside. They began with Thrift United Methodist Church, and have now added Mission City Church on Valleydale Road. With Session approval, combined support for both projects will total \$3,500 from the Mission Fund. Here's a shot of the food staging area at Mission City.



Because of the Zoom outage we didn't get a lot of prayer updates on Sunday. At Wednesday Bible Study, these requests were raised:

1. Virginia McGranahan was admitted to the hospital Tuesday night with an infection in her leg and gall stones - she will have a procedure on Thursday for the gall stones. Let us remember Virginia in prayer, along with her family, especially daughter Ginny who is having a recurrence of shingles.
2. Prayers for Mark Burleson and his family on the death of his uncle, Mr. Don Burleson, who was the last remaining sibling of Mark's father.
3. John Riggins asks us to remember his brother, Tom Riggins, who is awaiting some test results.
4. Young Rhett Winchester, grandson of Debbie Wingate and great-grandson of Allen and Laura, is in the hospital with a high fever and is undergoing a battery of tests. Please remember Rhett and his family.
5. Ken Smith remains in care at Courtland Terrace - on Monday he was able to have a FaceTime call with his brother, which was a joy for both of them.
6. Tim Gray reports that his sister lives in Michigan in the vicinity of the severe flooding. She has not been directly affected, but Tim asks us to remember the many families who are struggling with weather-related troubles in the midst of the pandemic.

And finally, we continue to pray for those who have been on our list in recent weeks: Susan Kenley, Ernest Moore, Laura and Allen Wingate, families and residents in long-term care facilities - and two friends of church members, Dan Jacobs and Steve Bowers.

With thanks for all that we are doing together, and all that God is doing for us, may his blessings be on us all.

Elliott

Late News From Zoom - if you have installed the Zoom app on your computer, iPad or phone, you should have received a notice from Zoom about updated software. We have to install the new version 5.0 before May 31. After that, the old version will not work. I just did it and it took about one minute. Everyone who is using Zoom, please go on and do this now so we don't have any problems connecting with each other in June. If you need help on finding the update, give me a call.

Service for the Lord's Day
Paw Creek Presbyterian Church • May 24, 2020
The Seventh Sunday of Easter

Welcome

*The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Love of God, and
the Communion of the Holy Spirit is in our midst. Thanks be to God!*

Prelude

All Creatures of Our God and King

arr. Stanton Lanier

Call to Worship

Psalm 66

Be joyful in God, all you lands;
sing the glory of God's name;
sing the glory of God's praise.
Come now and see the works of God.
Bless our God, you peoples;
make the voice of praise to be heard.
How wonderful God's actions toward all people.

Hymn 611

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

Joyful, joyful, we adore thee, God of glory, Lord of love!
Hearts unfold like flowers before thee, opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness; drive the dark of doubt away.
Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day.
All thy works with joy surround thee; earth and heaven reflect thy rays;
stars and angels sing around thee, center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain, flowery meadow, flashing sea,
chanting bird and flowing fountain, call us to rejoice in thee.
Mortals, join the happy chorus which the morning stars began.
Love divine is reigning o'er us, joining all in heaven's plan.
Ever singing, march we onward, victors in the midst of strife.
Joyful music leads us sunward in the triumph song of life.

Prayer of the Day

Risen Christ, may we who in baptism die to sin, rise again to new life and find our place in your living body. May the new covenant sealed in your blood bring healing and reconciliation to this wounded world. Alleluia! You are risen. We are risen with you. Praise and glory to the living God. Amen.

Scripture Reading

Acts 17: 22-31

Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, "Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, 'To an unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. For 'In him we live and move and have our being'; as even some of your own poets have said, 'For we too are his offspring.'

Scripture Reading (Continued)

Since we are God's offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead."

Homily God will find a way

Offertory Blessings Laura Story

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*

Hymn 450 *Be Thou My Vision*

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart: naught be all else to me, save that thou art;
thou my best thought, by day or by night, waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.
Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise; thou mine inheritance, now and always;
thou and thou only, first in my heart, High King of Heaven, my treasure thou art.
High King of Heaven, my victory won, may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall, still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

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 *For the Beauty of the Earth* arr. Brian Howell

**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 24

Acts 17: 22-31
“God Will Find a Way”

Sunday, June 7

Matthew 5:1-12
“Up on the Mountain”

Sunday, May 31

Pentecost Sunday

Acts 2: 1-17

Rev. Gloria Bolden, Woodland Presbyterian