

Paw Creek Presbyterian Church

Weekly Letter - June 4, 2020

Contact Information

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Paw Creek Presbyterian Church on Facebook and YouTube

Dear Paw Creek,

At a time when we should be settling into summer routines, leaving some of the busy-ness of life behind, planning trips to the beach or the mountains, instead we are unsure and unsettled. The one thing that seems constant in the weeks since we were last physically together in one place is the reality of upheaval. What was true when I wrote last week (the overwhelming concern for health and economic security amid the uncertainty of a slowly reopening world) is now unexpectedly overshadowed. At our house now, every evening's quiet is punctuated by the sounds of helicopters hovering over downtown Charlotte, so that worries about illness and hunger are pushed out by more immediate terror for the safety of those who raise their voices for justice on our streets, and those who patrol the streets to keep them safe. Lord help us all.

Now that the celebration of Pentecost is past and the Easter season is done, in our study and in our worship we will turn throughout the summer weeks to the teachings of Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew, chapters 5-7). We will follow as Jesus covers many topics (how to pray, how to live with enemies, how to live with worry, to name a few). But with each new topic Jesus further explains and expands his opening words, which we will read this Sunday: "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven". Known as the Beatitudes, these words point to the truth that shines throughout the sermon - God's kingdom is wholly in God's control. It is a place where our human expectations are worthless and a place where the things we fear most as humans (mourning, hunger, persecution) turn out to be merely pathways to God's greatest blessings.

Can we find the strength of faith to believe that the weeks and months ahead will be a time of Beatitude? A time when the things we fear most, like disease, economic uncertainty and violence, can be the pathway to the bright future of blessedness that God has in store? Perhaps we can, though not very easily. At best, perhaps we can simply find the courage to face each new day and its own upheavals, and cling to our God who remains our rock and our stay. Look for God in all things - for surely he is there.

Because of our joint worship with the Woodland Church last Sunday, we limited the listing of prayer concerns that were raised last week, so I want to be sure and give us a complete listing in today's letter.

We begin with sad news that came just yesterday of the death of our dear friend Susan Kenley. Susan was our Pastor's Aide for many years, remembering birthdays and special events with cards and prayers. Just a few weeks ago we were grateful to be able to present her with the 2020 Legacy Award from the Presbytery of Charlotte for all of her service to the church. May our prayers be with Amy, Jon and Jason and their strong and devoted family in the days ahead.

Prayers also continue for these friends and their families:

- Roy and Donna Joyner, as they travel this week to Houston to seek additional treatment options for Roy's recent cancer diagnosis.
- Carol McNeill who was hospitalized in Florida with cardiac concerns - she is home with new medication and in good spirits.
- Virginia McGranahan, still struggling at home after gall bladder surgery.
- Nathan Tomlinson, who had heart surgery this week.
- Margie Caudill, who was briefly hospitalized last week. She is back in nursing care as she continues to decline due to complications of her dementia.
- Frank Dale, continuing at home with the care of his children and care-givers.
- Allen Wingate, at home with family care, continues to decline.
- The Winchester family - young Rhett is now home from the hospital and doing well, but his mother Laura will need to undergo gall bladder surgery.
- Chris Timberman asks our prayers for his grandmother Lilly Timberman, who is being treated for cancer and lung problems, and also for his cousin Jan Timberman, who is waiting test results for Covid-19.
- Donna Timberman was in a wreck this week and thankfully was not hurt.
- John Riggins reports that his brother Tom is waiting for results of a biopsy yesterday, but is encouraged that his doctor thinks the report will be good.
- Community member Jimmy Puckett is recovering from surgery last week.
- Dickie Chapman's friend Dan continues in his aggressive cancer treatments, and is now using a feeding tube.
- Celia Gray asks us to pray for the family of a friend who died of Covid-19 last week.

We also join in celebrating many graduations over the past week, including Tucker Torrence from high school; Ann and Tommy Cashion's granddaughter from high school; and Anne and Tommy Miller's granddaughter from college.

Finally, even as we continue to keep in touch during the days ahead, there will not be a weekly letter next week, June 11. Kim Whittington will be on vacation and not able to send a letter out. Orders of Worship for the next two Sundays are attached with today's letter and will be on the website. Please stay in touch, join us for prayers on Sunday and Bible Study on Wednesday, and of course worship each week at 11. And above all, please be safe in whatever the next weeks bring.

Blessings,
Elliott

Service for the Lord's Day
Paw Creek Presbyterian Church • June 7, 2020
Tenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

How Great Thou Art

arr. John Purifoy

Call to Worship

Psalm 30

Sing to the LORD, you faithful servants;
give thanks for the remembrance of God's holiness.
I will exalt you, O LORD,
because you have lifted me up.
My heart sings to you without ceasing; O LORD my God,
I will give you thanks forever.

Hymn 14

For the Beauty of the Earth

For the beauty of the earth, for the glory of the skies,
for the love which from our birth over and around us lies:
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.
For the wonder of each hour of the day and of the night,
hill and vale and tree and flower, sun and moon and stars of light:
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.
For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's delight,
for the mystic harmony linking sense to sound and sight:
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.
For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child,
friends on earth and friends above, for all gentle thought sea mild:
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, you alone can bring order to our unruly wills and affections. Give us grace to love what you command and desire what you promise. In all the changes and chances of this uncertain world, may our hearts be surely fixed where true joys are to be found. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

Scripture Reading

Matthew 5: 1-12

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

“Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Homily

Up on the mountain

Offertory

Be Thou My Vision

arr. John Purifoy

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 66

Every Time I Feel the Spirit

Every time I feel the Spirit moving in my heart I will pray,
Yes, every time I feel the Spirit moving in my heart I will pray.
Upon the mountain when my Lord spoke, out of God’s mouth came fire and smoke.
Looked all around me, it looked so fine, till I asked my Lord if all was mine.
Every time I feel the Spirit moving in my heart I will pray,
Yes, every time I feel the Spirit moving in my heart I will pray.
Jordan River, chilly and cold, it chills the body but not the soul.
There is but one train upon this track, It runs to heaven and then right back.
Every time I feel the Spirit moving in my heart I will pray,
Yes, every time I feel the Spirit moving in my heart I will pray.

Charge and Benediction

Postlude

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

arr. John Purifoy

It is our pleasure this morning to welcome Evan Thee as oboe soloist during the Prelude, Offertory and Postlude. Evan is a graduate of The Cleveland Institute of Music with a Bachelor of Music degree in Oboe. He plays with various symphonies throughout the Carolinas including the Greensboro Symphony, Charlotte Symphony, Charleston Symphony and the North Carolina Symphony.

Service for the Lord's Day
Paw Creek Presbyterian Church • June 14, 2020
Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

Amazing Grace

arr. Joseph Martin and Joy Graham

Call to Worship

Psalms 32 and 33

Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the LORD;
shout for joy, all who are true of heart.
Praise the LORD with the harp;
play upon the psaltery and lyre.
Sing for the LORD a new song;
sound a fanfare with all your skill upon the trumpet.

Hymn 630

Fairest Lord Jesus

Fairest Lord Jesus, Ruler of all nature, O thou of God to earth come down,
thee will I cherish, thee will I honor, thou, my soul's glory, joy, and crown.
Fair are the meadows, fairer still the woodland, robed in the blooming garb of spring.
Jesus is fairer; Jesus is purer, who makes the woeful heart to sing.
Fair is the sunshine, fairer still the moonlight, and all the twinkling, starry host.
Jesus shines brighter; Jesus shines purer, than all the angels heaven can
boast.

Prayer of the Day

All-powerful God, in Jesus Christ you turned death into life, and defeat into victory. Increase our faith and trust in him, that we may triumph over all evil; in the strength of the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

Scripture Reading

Matthew 5: 21-26

“You have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, ‘You shall not murder’; and ‘whoever murders shall be liable to judgment.’ But I say to you that if you are angry with a brother or sister, you will be liable to judgment; and if you insult a brother or sister, you will be liable to the council; and if you say, ‘You fool,’ you will be liable to the hell of fire. So when you are offering your gift at the altar, if you remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift. Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are on the way to court with him, or your accuser may hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you will be thrown into prison. Truly I tell you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny.

Homily

But Jesus says to us

Offertory

Larry Ramsey, soloist

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 837

Leaning on the Everlasting Arms

What a fellowship, what a joy divine, leaning on the everlasting arms;
what a blessedness, what a peace is mine, leaning on the everlasting arms.
Leaning, leaning, safe and secure from all alarms;
leaning, leaning, leaning on the everlasting arms.
O how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way, elating on the everlasting arms;
O how bright the path grows from day to day, leaning on the everlasting arms.
Leaning, leaning, safe and secure from all alarms;
leaning, leaning, leaning on the everlasting arms.
What have I to dread, what have I to fear, leaning on the everlasting arms?
I have blessed peace with my Lord so near, leaning on the everlasting arms.
Leaning, leaning, safe and secure from all alarms;
leaning, leaning, leaning on the everlasting arms.

Charge and Benediction**Postlude**

Open the Eyes of My Heart

Paul Baloche



Paw Creek Presbyterian Church

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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, June 7
Matthew 5: 1-12
"Up on the Mountain"

Sunday, June 14
Matthew 5: 13-20
"A Light to Shine"

Sunday, June 21
Matthew 5: 21-26
"But Jesus Says to Us..."

Sunday, June 28
Matthew 5: 38-48
"Love and Hate"