

Paw Creek Presbyterian Church

Weekly Letter - April 23, 2020

Contact Information

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pawcreekpc.org

Paw Creek Presbyterian Church on Facebook and YouTube

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Dear Paw Creek,

As I mentioned on Sunday, we have now worshipped via live stream six times. Although we keep hearing the phrase “new normal”, I’m not sure any of this feels “normal”, and I suspect that all of us are having a hard time imagining what kind of “normal” we hope to find, or when we hope to find it.

Although it is difficult to do, I suspect we would find blessing by focusing on some of the most familiar words that Jesus taught. How often he asked his followers and listeners to look around them and realize that “the kingdom of God is at hand”. It’s right here, it’s right now, so close that we can reach out and touch it. We don’t need to step into it, for it already surrounds us. Jesus was inviting those who heard, as he invites us, to let the kingdom be our “normal”. When that happens then we have enormous wells of courage and resilience to withstand the changes that the world throws at us.

Of course, there are indeed enormous changes being thrown at us in these days. For some those changes are acute - those who have experienced the virus first hand as patient, caregiver or medical worker, and those who suffer financial losses that threaten the most basic needs of shelter and food. For others there is isolation, loss of routines, boredom. To everyone, Jesus offers the kingdom as a constant place of refuge, a “normal” that never changes, a shelter in the storm. From the refuge of the kingdom, we can find the wherewithal that we did not know we had to persevere, to help one another, to grieve, and to move forward towards a future that we can not yet see with any clarity, other than the clarity that more change is still to come.

Jesus preached about the kingdom every day, because we need constant reminder to focus on the kingdom rather than the troubles of the world. Therefore, I offer you his sermon on this day: “the kingdom of God is at hand”. Please offer the same sermon to everyone you talk to this week. Let us remind one another daily that our most important “normal” has never changed.

Moving into the news of the week, I guess there’s not very much to share. Worship and Bible Study continue week in and week out, and those are our best ways to stay together as a community. I also know that many of you are keeping phone contact with one another and sending reports of what you find. That is a blessed and much needed ministry, and I am grateful that it is happening.

If by chance you did not see the worship service last Sunday, I do want to make sure that everyone knows we had the great pleasure of recognizing Susan Kenley as the recipient of the 2020 Legacy Award from the Presbytery of Charlotte. As with past award recipients, the Congregational Care has placed a brick in the Memorial Garden to honor Susan. Our thanks go out to Susan and her family for all of the care and love that they shower on Paw Creek every single day.

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

1. Continued prayers for Susan Kenley and her family.
2. Let us continue to raise Betty and Raymond Field in our prayers. Betty has now accepted hospice support as she cares for Raymond at home.
3. These are the prayer requests we had in worship on Sunday:
 - We join Kim Whittington and her family and giving thanks for the life of her uncle Wayne Edwards. His immediate family, including his sister - Kim's mother - will hold a graveside service on Friday.
 - Frank Dale continues to be cared for at home, with Jane and David taking turns staying with him.
 - Martha Gordon, a member of the community, died last week. Please pray for her family.
 - Hoyt Johnson is being treated for cellulitis at home - he misses being able to spend time with Jean in nursing care.
 - Please pray for a safe journey for Lexi Torrence who is finishing her senior coursework and making a move to Savannah.
 - We had reports from both Rennie Auten and Marlon Foust that they are healthy and well - please remember them and all of our friends and family who are sheltering in institutional settings.
4. At Bible Study on Wednesday night we had these reports:
 - Prayerful thanks that Ken Smith is being so well cared for at Courtland Terrace in Gastonia. His rehab phase will end April 29th and he will be able to continue in nursing care without changing rooms.
 - Prayers for Ann Moore, a member of the community, who is at Carmel Hills for memory care.
 - As we were meeting, Victoria Krebs reported that Frank was at the hospital with his brother for surgery to repair a broken ankle - let us pray for them and all who need to seek hospital care during this dangerous time.

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 2: 36-41

Peter concluded: "Let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified."

Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, "Brothers, what should we do?" Peter said to them, "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him." And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation." So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added.

Hymn

Though I May Speak

arr. John Turner

Though I may speak with bravest fire, and have the gift to all inspire,
and have not love, my words are vain, as sounding brass, and hopeless gain.

Though I may give all I possess, and striving so my love profess,
but not be given by love within, the profit soon turns strangely thin.

Come, Spirit, come, our hearts control; our spirits long to be made whole.
Let inward love guide every deed; by this we worship, and are freed.

Homily

What should we do?

Offertory

He Touched Me

arr. Jay Rouse

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

Standing on the Promises

arr. Lloyd Larson



Happy Birthday to Those Celebrating in May!

May 1

Sarah Kendrick

May 4

Vernie Smith

May 5

Joe Troutman
Tyler Vaughn

May 6

Mica Wallace

May 7

Teresa Painter

May 8

Stephen Mullis

May 10

Veronica Cannon
Jacie Loud

May 11

Rennie Auten
Kathryn McCulloh

May 12

Thelma Tomlinson
Tina Tyler

May 13

Clark Edwards
Jana Joy
Jesse Longshore

May 14

Isabelle McClure
Jessica Reel

May 16

Ashley Gross
Carol McNeill

May 18

Joy Tyler

May 23

Tara Normand

May 24

Nicole Joy
Jan McClure
Linda Riggins

May 29

Lillian Nixon

May 30

Cherese Cashion
Barbara Ullem

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

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