

Paw Creek Presbyterian Church

Weekly Letter - March 25, 2020

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Paw Creek Presbyterian Church on Facebook and YouTube

Do not fear, for I am with you,
do not be afraid, for I am your God;
I will strengthen you, I will help you.
I will uphold you with my victorious right hand.

- Isaiah 41

Dear Paw Creek,

In these days it is hard to get our minds accustomed to how much our lives change from one week to the next. All of us in Mecklenburg County are now under the “stay at home” order as we navigate yet another set of limitations and new routines. A reasonable reaction - reasonable in human terms - is to feel a closing in of fear. Fear for health and safety. Fear for economic repercussions. Fear for ourselves and those we hold most dear.

Isaiah reminds us that an even more appropriate reaction - reasonable and appropriate in God’s terms - is to reject the fear and replace it with the assurance of the knowledge of God’s greater strength against all that assails us. Turning to God is not easy in these times. But it is so much more possible when we lean on each other. Telephones, internet, and other tools make that possible even as we lose physical time together. Let’s redouble our efforts to reach across the divide and encourage one another to remember and rely on the strength of God. Do not be afraid!

There is little breaking news to report, but I do want to let everyone know that the Presbytery has sent out an official ruling from the county that live-streaming church services are “essential” and that we can continue to provide our Sunday worship to everyone from the sanctuary. Mark’s music will grace our worship, and we are all grateful to him, to Clint, our tech guy, and to the Worship Committee for making it all happen.

We are also keeping up with each other through virtual Sunday morning prayer time (10:00 am) and Wednesday evening Bible Study (5:30). If you want to add your name to either list, to request a CD of the Sunday service, or have any other requests, please let me know. And of course send your requests for prayer or other kinds of assistance to me or the assigned elder who will be checking in on each family in the weeks ahead.

Here are some prayer concerns as of Wednesday afternoon.

1. Please pray for the family of John Litaker, especially Donna and Elaine, as they mourn his death on Wednesday afternoon at the age of 96. His family gathered was with him at home. There will be a private graveside service on Friday in our church cemetery, and a memorial service later in the year.
2. Let us pray with special urgency for our choir director, Patrick McCarthy, and his family. Patrick’s wife Courtney is ill, presumably with Covid19, although test results have not come back yet. She was admitted to the hospital on Wednesday with double pneumonia. Patrick is also showing milder symptoms, and remains home with the children, who have no signs of illness. He is not allowed to visit Courtney in the hospital. Patrick does not need phone calls or messages just now, but cards can be mailed to 9662 Estridge Lane, Concord, NC 28027.

3. Continue to remember Mary Ellen Edwards and her family with the illness of her mother, Amy Eberhardt in Fayetteville. She is now receiving comfort care and can not have visitors. Mary Ellen was able to be with her for about six hours on Tuesday, but will not be allowed to see her again. Please pray for them both in this difficult separation.
4. We continue to hold the family of Erskine Foard in prayer. His graveside service was Tuesday for immediate family. We have had requests for contact information for his daughters: Sharon Lamb, 7543 Forest Oak Drive, Denver, NC 28037 and Becki Friend, 106 Teton Place, Mt. Holly, NC 28120.
5. These are the prayer requests we had in worship on Sunday
 - Frank Dale is progressing in rehab care at Presbyterian Hospital and hopes to be released in the coming days
 - Remembering the families of two community friends who died last week: Millie Hord and Bobby Helms.
 - Health care workers who are on the front lines protecting all of us.
6. These requests were reported by our elders as they made calls to the congregation this week:
 - Chris Normand's mother is in nursing care in Maine, family members live near-by but are unable to visit
 - Ken Smith is in nursing care in Gastonia after his fall last week; Vernie is able to contact him by phone but is finding that he is very confused and does not understand why she cannot visit.
 - Lovee Steele is doing well at home and has begun PT after her recent hospitalization
 - Hoyt Johnson reports that he and Jean are doing well and appreciates the outreach
 - Toni Torrence is on the front lines in her work in the office of an ENT practice, and appreciates our prayers for her and her family
7. And these needs have been lifted up on our prayer chain during the last few days
 - Coleen Vance, close friend of Dina Salvo is at Johns Hopkins hospital to receive treatment for multiple myeloma.
 - Leonora Kaufmann, dear friend of Susan McDonald is waiting for test results on Covid19; she is a pancreatic cancer survivor and has asthma.

May this week bring new signs of God's strong care to all of us. May we be supported by the glory of new life as spring reclaims the earth. May we stay in close contact and be God's gifts to one another.

Blessings on us all,

Elliott

Happy Birthday to Those Celebrating in April!

April 2

Ernest Moore
Sam Shannon

April 3

Jack Watson

April 5

Virginia McGranahan
Sonny Ross
Kay Simmons

April 6

Price Kenley

April 7

Shelby Alexander
Emily Cathey
Shannon Drolet
Jo Small

April 10

Victoria Krebs

April 12

Abby Glover
Alex Glover

April 13

Matt Turner

April 14

Zoey Bryant
Bob Rudisill

April 15

Mark Burleson

April 16

Robin Wodarski
Joan Wilson

April 18

Morgan McGee Miller

April 19

James Summerlin

April 21

Austin Edwards

April 22

Garrett Joy

April 24

Kevin Joy

April 25

Patty Burns
Emily Normand

April 26

Sean Glover

April 27

Jerry Mullis
Lexi Torrence

April 28

Karen Cathey

April 30

Doug Edwards