

GRAPEVINE

April 21, 2020

"The Pastor's Page"

On Apr. 19, I preached a sermon based on the book of Esther. It tells the story of a young Jewish woman who becomes queen of the Persian empire through the providence of God, although she hides her Jewish background. Through several bizarre events, an edict is issued that all the Jews in the empire- men, women, and children- will be killed on a certain day. Esther knows that to ask the king to show mercy would endanger her own life, but her step-father, Mordecai, encourages her to go to the king, saying, "*Who knows?*"

Perhaps you have come to royal dignity for just such a time as this."

(Esther 4:14b) Esther agrees to intercede for her people, and is successful at saving them all!

Perhaps GPC has come to its position in our community for a time such as this! Perhaps we can help lead community efforts of compassion to those who are out-of-work, sick, or isolated.

Perhaps you have been given your home to be a neighbor to those around you, your job to show God's love in this crisis, your position in the community to lead with wisdom and compassion.

Perhaps we are here for just such a time as this.

Pastor Dave

Inside

- Local Mission Needs
- Coronavirus Info
- Session Update
- High School Workcamp
- Youth Club
- Hiking Club
- Spiritual Gift Class
- Prayer Request Info

SESSION UPDATE:

At its regular meeting (via Zoom) on Sunday, April 19, the Session:

- Directed our treasurer to submit an application for the federal Small Business Loan (Paycheck Protection Program) which would assure we can continue to pay our staff during this time. All money from the loan used to pay staff would be forgiven.
- We will continue worshipping virtually until it is safe to meet together based on the parameters set by the CDC and the state of Pennsylvania.
- Approved celebration of the Lord's Supper remotely on the first Sunday of the month until we can meet face-to-face again.
- Reviewed the Treasurer's Report for March, which showed good giving! Thanks GPC!

Our GPC website contains information from your Faith Community Nurse. Please go to Ministries; Christian Care; FCN. Currently COVID 19 resources information is available. Now is the time to get your medical records in order. We have **GPC Personal Health Records** available for you to complete and keep *all* your health information organized AHEAD of time. Especially during these times keep in mind your family may not be able to accompany you during your ED visit or admission to the hospital. The PHR (Personal Health Record) link is available on the GPC website under FCN.



Our Walk to Jerusalem was a huge success! I want to personally thank Mary Miner (our rapper) and Phyllis Dowd for their assistance in preparation and assisting me with promoting our congregational walk. A total of 12177.10 miles were accumulated by 156 participants. We were unable to have our celebration or share with you some fun facts along our journey. When the doors open at GPC, our fun facts will be on display for you to enjoy.

Below is a survey that I ask you to complete if you participated in the Walk to Jerusalem. You can mail them to me at my home address: 1522 Dennings Road New Windsor, MD 21776, or email them to me at: gpcfcn@gettysburgpresbyterian.org

Walk to Jerusalem Survey

- Did you move/exercise regularly before GPC started the Walk to Jerusalem program?
- Did you find that you *increased* your movement/exercise time each week during the Walk to Jerusalem program?
- How do you feel this program benefited you?
- Since the completion of the Walk to Jerusalem program are you continuing to move/exercise?
- Did you find the devotionals helpful?
- Comments that you would like to share.

During these difficult times the ground has become uneven under our feet, and our steps aren't as sure. Rocks cause us to stumble. Even though we are holding on as tightly as we can, remember we surely would hit the ground if God weren't holding onto us! This is the promise we have in Christ: nothing can separate us from the love of God. His grip is strong, and nothing that this life throws our way can ever make him let go of us!

*Neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation,
will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

~ Romans 8:39

Peace to you my friends!
Pam Phillips RN FCN
410-596-0777

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

During this time the Christian Education Team is working on VBS for June 15-18. Our plans are to have the program, however, it may be different, it may be shorter, etc. We will hope to have a definite idea by mid-May.

Please continue to watch the Grapevine for more information.



Local Missions Update



Certainly, times have changed as the COVID-19 pandemic has taken front and center in most of our lives. Predictable systems that used to be in place regarding local missions have changed as well. GPC's Local Missions Team met via Zoom last Thursday evening in an effort to get a better understanding of what we can do as a Christian community, and more specifically, at Gettysburg Presbyterian Church.

The consensus of the group was that, because of CDC guidelines, actual volunteering in local mission activities is limited. However, the needs still exist and financial donations are recommended at this time. Here is a run-down of what the team reported after making calls to local mission organizations.

- The Office for Aging reported that current meal delivery teams are meeting needs previously met. They will keep us posted of changes or if specific requests are made.
- Ruth's Harvest is in need of financial support. Their distribution of food bags has doubled since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. Additionally, because store shelves have been impacted by the pandemic, it has become more difficult to provide nutritionally balanced meals in the food bags they prepare. Financial support will provide the additional flexibility necessary to purchase the right foods.
- The Soup Kitchen prefers financial contributions as well.
- The Girl Scouts Blessing Box continues to be a readily available source of food and necessary supplies for local residents. There has been a steady stream of contributions into the box over the past few weeks as well as quick use by people in need. Please consider dropping off canned goods, boxed goods, feminine products, toothbrushes, toothpaste, shampoo, bars of soap, lotion and wash cloths.
- SCCAP, located at 153 North Stratton Street, is able to accept donations for preparation of pre-packaged groceries being prepared for people in need. In particular, their current needs include: canned peas and mixed vegetables, hamburger helper, cereal and bread. These items can be dropped off at the SCCAP building where food is distributed from. Just drop donations off in the grocery cart outside the building to maintain safe social distancing.

Local residents in need continue to appreciate the generosity and caring of the members of GPC.

Worship Online - Good Morning Video

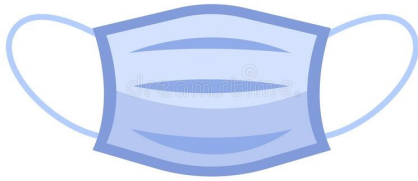
We hope to create a brief weekly worship video which shows members greeting one another. If you are able, we'd love for you to send a video (recorded on your smartphone will work – using a plug-in microphone will produce better audio quality). The video should be of you alone or you with family members already under your roof saying,

“Good Morning!” -OR- “Good Morning from _____ & _____!” -OR-
“Good Morning from the _____ family!”

[Be enthusiastic – Be creative - say it and sign it at the same time - say it in another language...]

Submit video by: Email: gpclou@gettysburgpresbyterian.org –
Via: www.wetransfer.com (using same email) -

Questions or alternate ways to send the video can be sent to email above.



Homemade Facemask Instructions for Personal Use or Wellspan Health Donations

GPC's Local Mission Team has learned how GPC members can participate in a much needed local missions project while still practicing safe social distance recommendations during the Covid-19 pandemic. Wellspan Health is requesting Hand-Made-Fabric-Masks and has provided instructions on their website at: www.wellspan.org/coronavirus/i-want-to-help [scroll down the page (about 1/3 way) and look for the reversed-out text in a bold blue band. Click on that for instructions.]

If you would like us to deliver the masks to Wellspan Health for you, there is a bin at the entrance to Fellowship Hall. Please place masks in a Ziploc bag with your name and number of masks and we will deliver them to Wellspan.

Any questions, call Bill Tindall at 717-357-1281 or e-mail him at agpr4you@yahoo.com.

High School Workcamp Amid COVID-19

Background: As a result of coronavirus, workcamp plans will be modified. We will not travel to NC – as REACH Mission Trips is unable to safely hold to their 2020 locations. REACH will provide interested youth groups with programming, logistics and their experience to assist the implementation of a REACH-like mission in their hometowns. We are fortunate that GPC member & Property Team Elder, Brian Campbell was coordinating with REACH to bring a camp locally. Brian contacted Rev. Nyiri to begin preliminary planning for an Adams County camp with two local youth groups with whom he is in conversation. Our tentative plan is to mix-n-match these youth groups and their adult leaders into work crews, so they still get the “REACH experience” of working alongside youth from other youth groups.

Tentative Dates (**NOTE: THESE DATES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE**
based on pandemic re-open &/or availability of youth/adult leaders):

Choice 1 – Week of June 21st (could be all or part of June 21-27)
this keeps original week we had planned to go to NC

Choice 2 – Week of July 12th (could be all or part of July 12-18)



More information will follow as we work out the logistics of lodging, costs, volunteer helpers, etc. We will be in touch via email, facebook, website, newsletter, etc. with news as we know it. If you have questions, direct them to Rev. Nyiri at gpclou@gettysburgpresbyterian.org or 717-253-2711.



Tune into a conversation between Pastors Dave and Lou on Wednesday, April 22 at 3:00 p.m. for a discussion about what's happening at GPC right now!


You'll be able to submit questions and comments, too. Just go to the regular streaming site to check it out! You can find the link on the church webpage or by clicking this link: [youtube.com/channel/UC0VLEYqfS9exy76HqL9Tbpg/](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC0VLEYqfS9exy76HqL9Tbpg/)



GPC Facebook Update

Parents check out a new weekly video of a children's Bible Story for you and your kids to watch. A new one will be posted each week on Wednesdays.

Youth Clubbers - Please check out a weekly lesson by Miss Barb on the GPC website under Ministries and Youth Club.


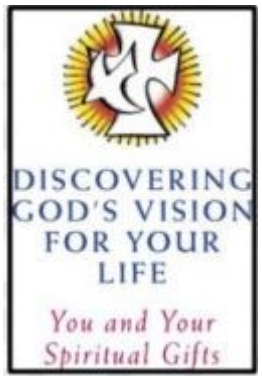


Click on the link to see the lesson in full.

NOTE: This week, April 22nd will be the last one. Once we can be together again we will celebrate our 5th graders moving on to Mid-SHIP

HIKING CLUB

We are still planning to go on our May hike to the abandoned turnpike on May 23rd. We will leave the church parking lot at 8am and will be back between 3-4pm. Be sure to dress in layers, bring a lunch (unless you want to buy), water, and wear comfortable hiking shoes. If we need to cancel May's hike, we will post that in the next newsletter. Keep up-to-date with our latest announcements on our Facebook page at "GPC Hiking Club." Stay safe and healthy!

Jen Clark and Megan Ziegler are doing an online **Spiritual Gifts Class which begins this week**

We use Zoom to connect weekly. Spiritual Gifts is an 8-week, hour long program created by Stephens Ministries.

Each session combines lecture, discussion, and practical application. Participants will find clues to their gifts through the *Haugk Spiritual Gifts Inventory* and other gifts discovery activities. We need to know who is interested in taking part in this since materials are needed and to decide a day that would work best. Please email MeganZiegler2014@gmail.com for more information or to sign up!

How Prayer Requests are Being Handled During COVID-19

During these disconcerting and dis-connected times, the words of Philippians 4:6-7 come to mind, "...in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

In following CDC recommendations to flatten-the-curve we discontinued in-person worship. In order to keep connected with our GPC family, our church leadership (Session, Deacons, Pastoral Care Team, Staff and Stephen Ministers) began making phone calls which has led to an increase in prayer requests. As we receive your prayer requests, we want you to know: 1) Your prayer requests are important to us; and 2) How your prayer requests are shared.

Prayer requests are shared in the following ways:

1. Prayer Team which confidentially prays for each request by name.
2. Pastoral Care Team which will follow up accordingly.

Sunday Morning Prayers may not always include specific names, however, prayer requests will be grouped under category headings (i.e. "We ask that you give strength to those in need of healing and wholeness") believing God knows each individual's name included in that prayer.

If you need to discuss this further or would like information about joining the prayer team, then please contact Rev. Nyiri at gpclou@gettysburgpresbyterian.org or 717-253-2711.



Mexico Mission Trip

We will be making a final decision about whether or not to go ahead with our mission trip to Mexico this summer by mid-May.



Please let Pastor Dave know of your interest in the trip!

Men's Interfaith Luncheon has been CANCELLED for May 6th

CONDOLENCES:

Please keep Kathy Wark in your prayers following the recent death of her mother.

Kathy and Mike's address is:
7604 E. 28th Street #3
Denver, CO 80238

CHURCH WOMEN UNITED

Due to the continuation of cases of COVID-19 virus in Adams County, it has been decided by the consensus of the Church Women United Board, that the Wednesday, May 6 CWU Meeting & Luncheon at the Gettysburg Church of the Brethren, will be cancelled.



Our hope is that we will be able to be back together sometime soon. In preparation for that, we are looking for individuals who can be with our youngest children during worship. We will plan to have a children's church at the 8:15, 9:30 and 11:00 services during June and 9:00 and 10:30 during July and August. We have easy-to-teach curriculum for these months. If you can share your love, your faith and your time with our youngest children, please contact Cheryl Betts at gpcdce@gettysburgpresbyterian.org or call her cell at 717-357-8163.

Thank you for giving of your love to our children and giving our regular leaders the summer off. God bless.

Gettysburg Presbyterian Church
208 Baltimore Street
Gettysburg, PA 17325
Office: (717) 334-1235
Fax: (717) 334-0666
www.gettysburgpresbyterian.org


Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Gettysburg, PA 17325
Permit No. 198

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Gettysburg Presbyterian Church Mission Statement

Gettysburg Presbyterian Church believes that God calls us to invite people to faith in Jesus Christ, and equip them to grow as His fully devoted followers. As disciples we:

- * study regularly
- * pray daily
- * witness boldly
- * live faithfully
- * serve passionately
- * give generously
- * worship weekly

 **Next Newsletter Deadline:
Noon, Thursday April 30, 2020**

**PLEASE NOTE
THAT THE
CHURCH OFFICE
IS CLOSED.**

If you need to contact a member of staff, call the church office number and your call will be forwarded to our administrative assistant.

We will do our best to get you what you need.
Be safe.

**April 2020
GPC WORSHIP SCHEDULE
WORSHIP 10:00 a.m.**

We will continue worshipping virtually until it is safe to meet together based on the parameters set by the CDC and the state of Pennsylvania.

We will have a 10:00 a.m. service streamed live each Sunday.

www.gettysburgpresbyterian.org
Click "New Streaming Link" on the top right hand corner