

GRAPEVINE

May 5, 2020

"The Pastor's Page"

Emmaus

In Luke 24:13-35, two disciples are walking and talking in the days following Jesus' death and resurrection. They're trying to make sense of what's going on in light of recent events. Jesus joins them "but their eyes were kept from recognizing him" (v. 16). It is late in the day when it appears as though Jesus is going to keep walking; so, they urge Jesus to stay with them. Jesus sits to eat with them, and takes the bread, blesses, breaks and gives it to them – and their eyes were opened, they recognize him, and Jesus vanishes from their sight.

This is typical when eating with Jesus – the guest becomes the host. We think we are the hospitable ones when in fact it is Jesus who fills our deepest hunger and opens our eyes to the presence of new life around us. Like those two disciples, may we allow God's power to open our eyes that we would see new life around us. May we share our discoveries with the people who join us on this journey. Call or Facetime someone and invite them to sit at table with you as you walk, talk and eat together in this surreal time.

The following liturgy from *The Presbyterian Outlook* can be used to shape this conversation:

Read – Luke 24:13-35

Welcome Litany –

One: Come, let us gather around and see how the Spirit will nurture our faith today.

All: Who is with us?

One: Christ, the light of the world.

(Place a candle on a table in your gathering place and light it.)

All: Who is with us?

One: The Love of God, who came to meet us in the world.

(Place a cross on a table in your gathering place.)

All: Who is with us?

One: The Wisdom of God, who speaks through the Scriptures.

(Place an open Bible on a table in your gathering place.)

All: Who is with us?

One: The Grace of God, who proclaims we are children of God.

(Place a symbol of baptism – a bowl of water, a seashell – on a table in your gathering space.)

All: Who is with us?

One: Our risen Lord, who meets us at the table.

(Place a symbol of communion – a plate and cup, a loaf of bread, grapes – on a table in your gathering space.)

One: We are here, Holy Spirit, ready for your leading.

God sightings and prayer offerings –

Invite each person to share where they saw or experienced God this week. Invite each person to share something — a person, community, experience, event, etc. — for which they want to offer prayer.

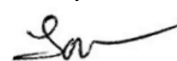
Closing Prayer –

Good and gracious God, we thank you for all the ways you were and are present in our lives and in the world. *[Invite each person to say aloud the sighting they named earlier.]*

We bring our prayers to you, prayers for... *[invite each person to say aloud the prayer need they named earlier]*. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.

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CONDOLENCES:

Our thoughts and prayers are with Jim Gardner on the recent death of his brother-in-law.

Mike and I would like to thank everyone who reached out to us following the death of my Mom. She passed as we had prayed she would, peacefully in her sleep. It's wonderful to still feel connected to our GPC family.

*Blessings to you all.
Kathy & Mike Wark.*

I would like to thank you for all the nice notes, cards and phone calls in celebration of my 90th birthday

Josie Brownley

Stimulus Giving

If you've received a government stimulus check, but haven't experienced a loss of income during this time, consider giving part or all of it to GPC! It may help make up for those who have lost jobs and can't give as they had hoped to do.

Mission Prayer List

On Sunday mornings we will be praying for the following people/groups that we support.

Please consider including them in your own prayers!

- 5/10 Marta Bennett**
Marta is a long-time missionary teaching theology and leadership in Nairobi, Kenya
- 5/17 Habitat for Humanity**
GPC was a founding church for this ministry which provides ownership for working poor families.
- 5/24 Carpenter's Gift**
A GPC ministry building primarily handicapped ramps for local people.
- 5/31 South Carolina Mission Trip**
This mission works with Sea Island Habitat for Humanity to build homes for working poor families each year.

Zoom Bible Studies

Adult Discipleship is seeking input about any interest in doing a Zoom Bible Study while we cannot be together face-to-face. We do not have a topic selected yet but would like to know if there is enough interest to pursue doing a Zoom Bible Study.

Please email Cheryl Betts at gpcdce@gettysburgpresbyterian.org if you are interested in attending such a study.

April 16, 2020 was National Health Care Decision Day. Originally, I had plans for GPC to have a day dedicated to Advanced Care Planning. Due to the Pandemic, this has brought Advanced Directives to the forefront. Advanced Directives have become a heightened discussion due to COVID 19.



What is an Advanced Directive?

A written statement of a person's wishes regarding medical treatment made to ensure that their desires are carried out should they become unable to communicate them to a physician.

This term is used to describe documents that give specific instructions about future medical care and treatments. Advanced Directives can include: Living Will (not the same as a Last Will and Testament), Do Not Resuscitate Order, Withholding/Withdrawing Treatments and Health care agent/ Health Care Power of Attorney. *A Health care Power of Attorney is different from a Financial Power of Attorney.*

Why should I complete an Advance Directive?

This document helps physicians and family members carry out your medical wishes and mental health care if you are too ill to decide for yourself (unconscious, or too weak to verbalize)

Who should complete an Advanced Directive? Adults (18 years and older)

Steps to get started:

- **Choose a Health Care Agent/ Health Care Decision maker.**
Think about "who" you respect and best understands your desires. This person is the designated person who "speaks" on your behalf when you are unable to voice your wishes.
They are the person who carries out *your wishes*.
- **Who can be a Health Care Agent?**
Your Health Care Agent can be a spouse, child, partner, significant other, friend, etc.
It is a good idea to choose at least 2 Health Care Agents /health care decision makers if one of them is unable to make decisions at the time you need their services.
- **Ensure you have a conversation** with the person you choose as your Health Care Agent so they know what your wishes are, do not assume they will *automatically* do it.
- **Get your paperwork in order.**
Obtain documents from your lawyer, primary care physician, or Pam Phillips RN FCN.
Paperwork varies from state to state.
- **Do not sign your Advanced Directives.**
The most common requirement is that the document is signed by you and 2 witnesses (not relatives or persons who will be beneficiaries), in front of your lawyer, or a notary. The requirements vary from state to state.

What is a Living Will?

A living will specifies your wishes, your organ donation preferences, your treatment preferences, and your personal values, including your goals for end of life.

Living Wills may include:

- ~ CPR resuscitation (CPR): What do you want done if your heart stops beating and/or you stop breathing
- ~ Artificial Ventilation
- ~ Blood Transfusions
- ~ Hospital Transfer
- ~ Medical workup
- ~ Antibiotics (to treat infections)
- ~ Artificially administered Fluids and Nutrition
- ~ Dialysis (substitute for normal kidney function to purify the blood)

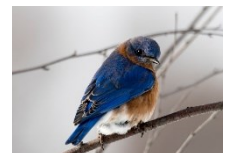
How often should I review my Advanced Directives?

I would encourage you to review your Advanced Directives annually. As we grow older, diseases occur, etc, our thoughts change regarding our end-of-life wishes. This review gives *you* an opportunity to make changes to your Advanced Directives. Ensure that you share your changes with your Health Care Agent/Health Care Decision maker, so they are aware of your current desires for end-of-life decisions.

If you have any questions about Advanced Directives, need assistance with completing your Advanced Directives, or need Advanced Directive materials, please reach out to me at 410-596-0777 or gpcfnc@gettysburgpresbyterian.org

Missing my GPC family. Please stay safe!
Pam Phillips RN FCN

"He will cover you with His feathers and under His wings you will find refuge" Psalms 91:4



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.

For more contacts & information – go to the Covid-19 page on GPC website: (<https://gettysburgpresbyterian.org/covid-19-info/>) and click the “How-to-Help Local Missions” link under Local Resources and Needs.

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 Facemasks Needed: Gettysburg Borough, Wellspan Health & Fruitbelt Farmworkers Christian Ministry (FFCM)

The Local Mission Team is seeking to provide an organized GPC response to meet the increasing need for facemasks. We hope to continue collecting facemasks to help residents stay healthy as we continue to protect ourselves against the coronavirus pandemic. Previously, we responded to Wellspan's request for Hand-Made-Fabric-Masks. We will now expand the effort to include the Gettysburg Borough and FFCM (migrant workers) requests for facemasks.

Step-by-step instructions for these easy to make facemasks can be found on GPC's website under COVID-19 Info dropdown menu under the Local Resources heading (<https://gettysburgpresbyterian.org/wellspan-facemask-making-instructions/>). For ease of distribution, there is a tub at the door leading into Fellowship Hall marked for face mask donations. Please place masks in a Ziplock bag with your name and number of masks and the Local Missions Team will deliver the masks.

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

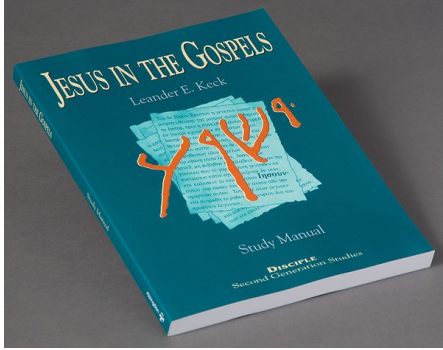
Choice 2 – Week of July 12th (could be all or part of July 12-18)

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.





If you would like to have a copy of the current Our Daily Bread devotional, please email Cheryl at gpcdce@gettysburgpresbyterian.org and we will place a copy in a plastic bag taped to the outside door of Fellowship Hall so you can pick one up at your leisure.



Disciple Bible Studies for fall

Jesus in the Gospels course will be offered on Sunday evenings from 4-6 p.m. beginning Sunday, September 13, 2020.

This 30-week course will study the portrait of Jesus found in the four Gospels – Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.

The word “in” used in the titles signals that this study takes an approach different from the familiar “life and teachings of Jesus” approach of reading stories of what Jesus said and did.” We focus on Jesus himself by the ways they situate him in time and place.

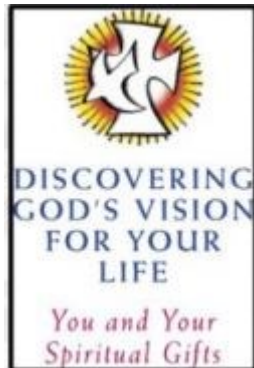
Fall will be here before we know it. Please contact Cheryl Betts at 717-334-1235, ext. 5 or gpcdce@gettysburgpresbyterian.org if interested in this wonderful study.

The facilitator will be Rev. Nancy Davis. Cost of the 2 books is \$49.



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.



Jen Clark and Megan Ziegler are doing an online

Spiritual Gifts Class

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 disconnected 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!



Our hope is that we will be able to 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.




The
 Presbyterian
 Women
 May Banquet
 has been
CANCELLED

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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 May 14, 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.

**May 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

Read the Book of Ephesians each week to prepare for the preaching series!