



# THE COLUMNS

May 2020, Volume 58, Issue 5

First Presbyterian Church, Waynesboro, VA



*First Presbyterian Church of Waynesboro is a community-minded congregation living out the love of Christ as we serve one another with humility, gentleness, and patience through God's grace.*

## Sunday Morning Worship Schedule

Audio Broadcast Until Further Notice

## Church Office Hours

Monday - Wednesday - 8:00 - noon

Thursday - 8:00 - 2:30

Friday - Closed

## SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

Session held a Stated Session Meeting via Zoom on April 15, 2020.

- The Clerk noted that the following meetings have been cancelled: Meeting of all Clerks in Presbytery to approve 2019 Minutes; May Meeting of Shenandoah Presbytery.
- Colleen has been in touch with the children in Sunday School.
- Disciples' Kitchen is distributing bag lunches on a regular basis in the parking lot of Second Presbyterian Church; FPC served April 2.
- FPC Food Bank is in full operation, delivering food to cars. The Food Bank in Verona is fulfilling orders without charge.
- FPC is participating in online worship services every Sunday, spearheaded by Westminster's Rev. April Cranford, along with Second Presbyterian, Smyrna and Hermitage. Roger Daggy, along with his family, is a mainstay every week.
- Session members will organize themselves to contact congregants, to stay in touch during this time of self isolation. This is in addition to work of the deacons.
- A lengthy discussion of maintenance items in the church building was held. The boiler needs to be replaced.
- The work of the Interim Pastor Search Committee, CAT Team and Church Nominating Committee is all "on hold".
- Session reaffirmed motions approved by email for closing of the Preschool and cancelling worship services until further notice.
- Moderator Rev. Sarah Wolf of Covenant PC in Staunton opened and closed the meeting with prayer.

## LET'S STAY IN TOUCH!

Being unable to stay in touch with each other on a regular basis is hard for most caring folks in our church. We're used to greeting one another enthusiastically - Passing the Peace during worship is sometimes longer than the sermon! We like to shake and hug and nibble and sip on Sunday mornings.

At the April Session meeting your elders volunteered to make a conscious effort to reach out to members and friends alike - not to replace the work of the deacons - but to augment it. You can be part of that movement as well by calling or emailing or texting a friend. Let's live up to our reputation as a friendly church.



## Music Notes



During this time of isolation, we are grateful to lean into the arms of the Lord. Scripture assures us of His unconditional love, which we need more than ever in these uncertain times.

We are thankful to continue coordinating music for the online Waynesboro Presbyterian services. However, nothing replaces the fellowship of gathering together for worship. We look forward to the time when we can see one another and give thanks for God's blessings in person! In the meantime, a variety of musicians have been providing selections for the hymns, anthems and offertories for the online service.

Musicians from Westminster Presbyterian Church include the Tindall family, with Bettie, Director of Music, who sings soprano and plays piano and flute; John, Director of Christian Education, who sports a fine baritone and Mattie, a student at Hollins University, who plays clarinet and piano. Others who regularly contribute to the service are organist Sue Wright, tenor Adam Phillips, soprano Sue Krzastek, who also plays guitar, and alto and tenor Katrina and Ed Crawford.

We've also been hearing selections by baritone Glenn Fields, Jr. from Second Presbyterian Church. Micheal and Justina McHale are fairly new to the area and have written original music for the services! Justina composes and plays violin and Micheal sings and plays keyboards. Our own Cathy Cunningham is preparing a harp piece, which we will be delighted to hear sometime soon!

In addition to coordinating music for the services, the Daggy family also provides selections for various aspects of each service. Roger plays either the prelude and opening hymn or closing hymn and postlude each week. Kimberlea and Max sing the hymn, with Roger sometimes chiming in! Occasionally, members of the family provide the offertory, including Celia. She has recorded herself playing viola at her temporary home in Red Hook, NY.

Speaking of Celia, some of you may be interested to know that she is graduating summa cum laude from Boston University with a Bachelor of Music in Viola Performance. She has been accepted as a member of The Orchestra Now, based at Bard College. It is, in some respects, the musical equivalent of a AAA baseball team. They rehearse during the week and give concerts on the weekend in various venues, from Bard itself to Carnegie Hall and Symphony Space in NYC. Their tour of Norway has been postponed to 2022. It is a two-year contract with the option for a third - and she gets paid! Their purpose is to give highly talented graduates the opportunity to play in an orchestra while auditioning for a permanent position in professional ensembles. Once restrictions are lifted, Celia and Roger will play a recital at First Pres to thank everyone for the immense support she has received during her undergraduate studies.

Finally, Roger is, once again, providing mp3s of the preludes and postludes he has recorded for the online services to constitute a virtual First Friday concert. Be sure to tune in!

May you continue to receive comfort from the Lord while staying safe. We miss you and look forward to worshipping together again!

Blessings -  
Roger and Kimberlea Daggy

**PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE  
APPROVES MORE THAN \$1.1 MILLION IN COVID-19 GRANTS  
as of April 21, 2020**

In less than a month Presbyterian Disaster Assistance has granted 208 requests for assistance in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic for a total of \$1,119,688 in grants. These grants cover domestic, refugee, and international requests in an unprecedented crisis for PDA to address.

Nine people, working remotely, approved that many grants in a week and a half, and the money is already out the door. Most of the requests have addressed loss of income from people losing work due to precautions being taken and the strain that is put on service such as programs designed to address basic needs like food and housing.

In late March, as the scope of the crisis began to take shape, PDA announced it would be making \$2.7 million in grants. PDA made it clear funds would be granted over time, as COVID-19 is an ongoing crisis and new needs will develop.

The closest analogy to the current crisis in terms of quantity and dollar amount of grant requests in recent history is the Hurricane Season of 2017, which included historic storms such as Hurricane Maria, which devastated Puerto Rico; Irma, which ripped through the Caribbean and into Florida; and Harvey, which devastated the Gulf Coast of Texas and Louisiana. In all, the 2017 hurricane season produced 10 hurricanes, six considered major storms, inflicting just under \$295 billion in damage.

Staff members say they have seen churches “rising to the occasion” in midst of pandemic. We, too, can do our part by contributing to the ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING OFFERING. A check, made out to FPC and so designated, may be turned into the Church Office. Presbyterian Disaster Assistance is one of Compassion, Peace and Justice and one of the ministries of the Presbyterian Mission Agency.

**Donations for One Great Hour of Sharing will be collected until May 17.**



**Monday, May 25**

**Take a moment to remember those who gave their lives  
for our freedom**

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Folks who are used to putting their envelopes in the weekly offering plate may be wondering the best way to continue to pay their pledge. Checks may be mailed to the office (mailing address is P.O. Box 877). They may be dropped off at the church (just ring the buzzer). Bills need to be paid during this time of inactivity; your cooperation is much appreciated. Deposits are made only twice a month.

**The 224th General Assembly (2020) Goes Virtual**  
from Tricia Dyyers-Koenig

Grief. While we mourn first and foremost with those who have lost loved ones to COVID-19, there's a lot of other loss in the pandemic-afflicted world.

Because of unwillingness to risk exposing communities across the nation to the potential danger posed by gathering so many in one place as early as June-and the unlikelihood that the venue will even be available-the Committee on the Office of the General Assembly decided this week that the 224th General Assembly (2020) will be conducted electronically. The assembly will convene on Friday, June 19, to elect a moderator and vice-moderator or co-moderators, and resume to conduct other business on June 26-27, thus allowing the newly-elected to be brought up to speed with the technology in the intervening days.

Among those to be consoled when it comes to the demise of the usual format for General Assembly (GA) this year, we are sad for commissioners and advisory delegates who were looking forward to a very different experience, and certainly also for the wonderful folks in the Presbytery of Baltimore who for years have been working diligently to welcome us to their beautiful city.

The traditional committee process will not take place this time around, but those who were appointed as committee moderators and vice-moderators will continue to function as the Assembly Committee on Business Referral. COGA has identified a list of business to be considered in this pared-down assembly, based on items identified as "core and critical to our governance and ecclesiology."

According to this plan, most business will be referred to the 225th General Assembly (2022). Among the items that are proposed to be acted on this year are the election of the Stated Clerk (J. Herbert Nelson, II, who has been nominated by the search committee for a second, four-year term), confirmation of other leaders, nominations, and budgets. Special committees slated to report to this GA would be dismissed with thanks, and consideration of their reports delayed until 2022. Information, including minutes and reports requiring no action, will be received. And a couple of items of particular concern to mid councils are on the action list: the continuation of the administrative commission for the Synod of the Covenant, and a proposal for an administrative commission with the authority to consider proposals to change mid council boundaries between assemblies.

Other decisions still to be tackled by COGA include how to include some aspects of a normal GA that are non-business related (such as the exhibit hall, Bible study, and worship).

Stay tuned. <http://oga.pcusa.org/>



## Monthly Series for Serving Faithfully

“If we suspend our worship and close our doors during this pandemic, how will we continue to be the church?” That is the central question for congregational leaders. How do we build a community of faith when we are separated physically from each other? How do we lead in a crisis?

Crises are tests of our faith and leadership. In a crisis, people are prone to act out of fear, not faith. Fear breeds anxiety, which acts like a contagion in the Body of Christ. Like Elijah fleeing from the wrath of Jezebel (1 Kings 19), anxious and fearful churches can develop a “cave mentality,” feeling helpless and alone. Like the Israelites in the wilderness (Exodus 16), we can be reactive, urging a quick fix rather than adapting and growing through the challenges.

Many leaders internalize this anxiety and feed the fears of the people. But the best leaders are those who manage their own reactivity, compassionately address fears, and model a confident and hopeful trust in God. Here are some important reminders for leading in a crisis.

***Put on your own mask first.*** The familiar pre-flight warning, “in case of a sudden loss of cabin pressure ...” to put on one’s own mask before trying to help others is a good lesson for leaders. You can’t help others spiritually if you are not taking care of yourself. Practice good physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual health. Take days off, not just from work and church obligations, but also from anxiety-producing news and social media. Pay more attention to spiritual disciplines.

***Stay connected.*** As the song says, “the church is not a building ... the church is a people.” We can stay spiritually close even when socially distant. Pay special attention to those who might feel most isolated: the elderly and infirmed, those who live alone, and those on the other side of the digital divide who might not have access to virtual connections. A hand-written note or a phone call are a means of grace in a digital world.

***Communicate!*** Clear, regular, and honest communication is vital in a crisis, but people have a hard time hearing when they are anxious and fearful. Good leaders listen before they speak. Provide opportunity for people to voice their fears. Being a calm and empathetic listener will almost always diminish anxiety.

***Be open to God’s new thing.*** We are an Easter people! Even amid suffering and grief, God works to bring new life and hope. This could be the time to forge mission partnerships with community agencies and schools; to strengthen your online presence by live-streaming devotionals and prayer gatherings; to develop online giving capability.

***Remember who’s in control.*** Here’s a hint: it’s not you. This is God’s world and God is in control, even in a pandemic. We don’t need to carry the spiritual and emotional burden of “saving the church”—that’s been done already! Leadership is a team sport—so trust the other elders and pastoral leaders, but above all, trust God. Peter urged the persecuted believers in Asia, “Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you” (1 Peter 5:6-7).

Leadership in a crisis is an exercise in courageous faith. Angeles Arrien, a cross-cultural anthropologist, teacher, and author, defined courageous leadership in four steps: *Show up, Listen, Tell the truth as you see it from your heart, and Let go of the outcome.* That’s good advice for us today. God is in control; the Lord will see us through.

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The Reverend Dan Saperstein is executive presbyter for the Presbytery of Lake Huron. He holds a D.Min. in Executive Leadership from McCormick Theological Seminary. A “polity wonk” and an avid movie fan, Dan lives in Saginaw, Michigan, with his wife Liz. They have two grown daughters and one grandson.

### THREE CHEERS FOR OUR FOOD BANK!!!



Our Food Bank is being ably managed by our dedicated volunteers twice a month. The procedure for distribution has changed since the pandemic. Boxes of food are delivered to the trunks of clients' cars. They're presented with a shopping list of fresh produce and frozen food from which to choose....which are delivered to the cars.

The Blue Ridge Area Food Bank in Verona is not charging for any commodities until the end of June. They are encouraging us to distribute a lot of food so clients do not have to leave their homes frequently. We are seeing new clients every time we're open, but we are not overrun.

How can YOU help? We need boxes, toilet paper, personal care items, and cereal. Call the Church Office (949-8366) if you need pick-up or ring the buzzer at the door for entry to deliver.

## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

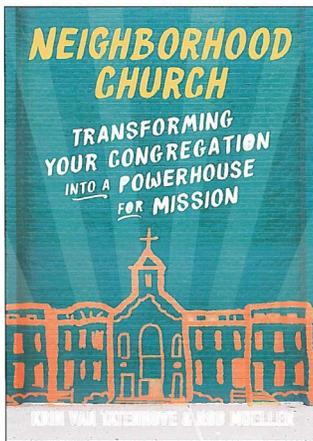


PRESBYTERIAN  
WOMEN

There is little, if any, chance of Presbyterian Women being able to meet in May. But let's look ahead to summer. That's right, summer. If possible, PW will not be taking a break during the summer. It will move its meetings from Summit Square to the Barksdale Room at the church.

There are two lessons to go. Lesson #8 - the Ninth Word - "You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor" and Lesson #9 - the Tenth Word - "You shall not covet...."

Let's look forward to the second Wednesday of June and July (August, if necessary) at 10:30 a.m. - light refreshments to follow.



Coffee and a book! TO BE RESCHEDULED



## UNDERGRADUATE COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS FOR 2020-21

Once again First Presbyterian Church will offer financial support for the continuing education of worthy students in our community. Scholarships from the Church's Memorial Educational Fund are available for undergraduate, vocational training and nursing students. Some funds are available specifically for students pursuing teaching or religious careers. Applications are available in the Church Office and on the Church website .

A Scholarship Selection Committee selects recipients each year for varying awards depending on funding availability and the number of applications received. Scholarships are awarded as grants, not loans.

**APPLICATION DEADLINE:** The Selection Committee must **receive** completed applications and all support information from applicants **no later than Monday, June 1, 2020**. Applicants must also submit copies of their most recent high school or college transcripts with their applications. Late or incomplete applications will not be considered.

If you have questions, please email Holly Bennett at [hollybbennett@outlook.com](mailto:hollybbennett@outlook.com)



**Sunday, May 10**  
**HISTORY OF MOTHER'S DAY**

Celebrations of mothers and motherhood can be traced back to the ancient Greeks and Romans, who held festivals in honor of the mother goddesses Rhea and Cybele, but the clearest modern precedent for Mother's Day is the early Christian festival known as "Mothering Sunday".

Once a major tradition in the UK and part of Europe, this celebration fell on the fourth Sunday in Lent and was originally seen as a time when the faithful would return to their "mother church"-the main church in the vicinity of their home-for a special service.

Over time the Mothering Sunday tradition shifted into a more secular holiday, and children would present their mothers with flowers and other tokens of appreciation. This custom eventually faded in popularity before merging with the American Mother's Day in the 1930s and 1940s.

Did you know? More phone calls are made on Mother's Day than any other day of the year. These holiday chats with Mom often cause phone traffic to spike by as much as 37%.



May 2      Bird Heuchert  
May 8      Anne Harris  
May 12     Roger Bryant  
May 13     Walt Flora  
May 14     Don Hashagen  
May 15     Betty Dixon  
May 16     Carrol Smith  
May 25     Mark Hammock  
May 26     Ron Smith  
May 30     Gil Ayers  
May 31     Molly Martin

May 17     Mike and Kathy Brown  
May 19     Burnie and Carol Powers  
May 24     Cary and Holly Bennett  
May 25     John and Cynthia Hoover  
May 29     Bill and Polly Bare  
May 31     Danny and Pam Leech



## Prayers for Health and Other Concerns:

The Legacy: Eloise Morris

Lodge at Old Trail: Mary Frost

Shenandoah Nursing Home: Rubye Schwab

Summit Square: Ruth Quillen, Lillian Hryshkanych

Home: Dick Huff, Nancy Garber, Mary Ultee, Edie Lawrence, Steve Doherty

Friends and Family: Kaiser family (Anne Harris), Andy & Jean Robeson, Wanda Braden, Lucy Colbert, Charlie Fairchilds, Steve Dowdy (Cunninghams), Nancy Vilain, Chris Davenport (Jen Jones), Danny Smith (Nancy Hypes), Jennifer & Charlotte Sergeant (Kathy Brown), Emily Bardeen (Sandi Henderson), Sara Verwymeren (Hashagens), Kathy Doyle (Cindy & Rodger Doyle), Peter Johnson, Lawrence Maddox, Joan Blazek, Glenn Fields, Sr. (Jen Jones), Jim & Pat Lewis (Sandy Bellamy), Bill & Ruth Metzler (Joyce Tipton), Grayson Coleman, Tony Poplin (Colleen Cash), Marianna Callaway (Ruth Kelley)

Military: Jeremiah Henderson, Carson Craig

Missionaries: Elmarie & Scott Parker, PC(USA) Regional Liaisons to Iraq, Syria & Lebanon

### PRAYERS FOR ALL DURING THIS TIME OF COVID-19

God, our refuge and strength,  
these are truly trying times for all of us  
as we face a rapidly spreading virus,  
with panic buying that has left grocery shelves nearly empty  
and supplies in great demand.

We have seen the worst in people and the best.

Yet, through it all, we take hope in Christ  
and Christ's promise to never leave us.

We are holding one another in prayer.

Like the rest of the country,  
our Presbyterian communities are physically separated,  
but we are still deeply connected  
through our common humanity, spirituality,  
and strong faith in you, our God. Amen

(~The Rev. Dr. J. Herbert Nelson, II, Stated Clerk of the PC(USA), and the Rev. Diane Moffett, President and Executive Director of the Presbyterian Mission Agency)

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**Layout**—Colleen Cash

**Reporters**—Members of the Congregation & Staff

**COLUMNS Mailing List**

During the pandemic the newsletter is being mailed to members and friends. Please remember to give your new address to the Church Office when you move. We do not want you to miss any of the Church news. Just contact the Church Office (949-8366 or [church@firstpresway.com](mailto:church@firstpresway.com))

*Sermons, bulletins and many Columns articles can be found on the church website: [firstpresway.org](http://firstpresway.org)*

**Deadlines: COLUMNS:** 20<sup>th</sup> of the month

**May Calendar**

Sunday, May 10	Mother's Day
Thursday, May 14	Food Bank 2-4 pm
Monday, May 25	Memorial Day
Thursday, May 28	Food Bank 2-4 pm

*Sunday services and bulletins can be found on our church webpage.*

*We are thankful to all those that make this worship service possible.*

**Pun-ishment!**

(If you don't have a sense of humor, please stop reading now!)

If you are holding a bee, what is in your eye?  
Beauty. Everybody knows that beauty is in the eye  
of the bee-holder.

The first computer dates back to Adam and Eve. It was an Apple with limited memory, just one byte.

And then everything crashed.

I can't believe I got fired from the calendar factory.  
All I did was take a day off.

Atheism is a non-prophet organization.

"Doctor, there's a patient on line 1 that says he's invisible."  
"Well, tell him I can't see him right now."

Thanks for explaining the word "many" to me.  
It means a lot.

**Mailing Address**

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**Website**

[www.firstpresway.org](http://www.firstpresway.org)

**Church Office Hours**

Monday-Wednesday

8 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Thursday

8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

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**Audio/Visual Technician**

Mr. Craig Cavanaugh

**Maintenance Technician**

Mr. Michael Griffith

**Custodian**

Mrs. Caroleia Strandberg

**Child Care Attendants**

Nate & Karalyn Rudin



