



July
2020

a publication of Fellowship Lutheran Church, Rev. Robin Wargowsky, Pastor
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"The Lord is my rock, my fortress, and my deliverer, my God, my rock in whom I take refuge, my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold." Psalm 18:2

Greetings Fellowship Members and Friends!

Can you believe that summer has arrived already? It seems like overnight we've gone from rainy spring weather, blooming flowers and the greening of our lawns and trees to hot and sometimes muggy weather - summer is here in full force and sunshine abounds. What a

wonderful time of year! Our church grounds have been all spruced up thanks to John Votino and his team and our friends at HTH who do our lawn care. The church inside and out is ready for your return.

Unfortunately the recent rise of COVID-19 cases in Ohio and Franklin County has thwarted our plans to resume in-person worship on July 5th. The coronavirus pandemic has changed so many things! Amazing Grace Day Camp: cancelled. Ohio State Fair: cancelled. Spring and some summer sporting events: cancelled. Columbus Marathon: cancelled. Who knows what will be next? What a change in the world we are experiencing, all due to a tiny biological virus now known worldwide as COVID-19.

Well, all kinds of things may be cancelled . . . but the love of God for us in Christ Jesus is eternal, literally. Our world may be a bit topsy-turvy right now, but God is our refuge and strength, today and always. We may be a bit unsettled, uncertain, perhaps even shaken, but we are receiving the kingdom of God that cannot be shaken (Hebrews 12:28). Our earthly future is filled with all kinds of questions and doubts, but in these times we find certainty in our God who is our "rock of ages."

What would our Lord and God want us to learn in these days? I think many things. Maybe God wants us to learn . . .

- ♦ As many of us are disappointed and even depressed about worldly events being cancelled, perhaps God wants us to reflect on how much time, energy, and resources we often devote to those things . . . and how those things can distract us from our devotion to and reliance upon the almighty God.
- ♦ As we witness a world truly hurting and longing for certainty, perhaps God wants us all to realize how fragile life is, and to learn evermore to love and care for our neighbor as ourselves.
- ♦ As we experience much "loss" of all kinds in these days, I am sure that God wants us to realize how many blessings are still ours . . . earthly blessings, relationship blessings, spiritual blessings.

I'm sure there is more to learn. So, let us seek the Spirit of God to comfort us, guide us, and lead us into the future . . . and let us always keep our eyes focused on Jesus!

God's blessings and love,
Pastor Robin

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Women's Activities

Women's Dinner - TBD

Women's Bible Study - Date TBD Come and join us as we discuss Chapter 12 from the book, *Finding Rest in a Busy World*, by Margaret Feinberg. Susan Wolfe facilitates the discussion. This will be our last meeting until fall.

Meals on Wheels for July

Friday, June 17	Farel
Saturday, July 18	Engen

When Will We Return to Our Regular Schedule? After watching the rise of COVID-19 cases in Franklin County and Ohio the last week and a half, council has decided that it would not be safe or wise to resume in-person worship services at this time. We will continue to watch the number of new cases closely and let you know when we are able to safely resume in-person worship services. Our weekly online services will continue.

Amazing Grace Day Camp AGDC is cancelled this year due to COVID-19. Fellowship will reapply for an Amazing Grace Day Camp in 2021.

Blessing Box We now have a blessing box on our property, thanks to HelpColumbus, a group that supports individuals and families recently impacted by the events of COVID-19. A blessing box houses non-perishable items like food, baby supplies, etc. If you or someone you know are in need of these items, feel free to stop by the church.

2020 Graduates Congratulations Leah Anderson, Abigail Cardimen, Michael Cherup, and Jillian Mott on your recent graduations. We are so proud of you!

Give to Fellowship with Your Smartphone with GivePlus+ - Our EFT provider, Vanco, provides a smartphone app, Give+, to enable anyone to donate at anytime to Fellowship. It makes it easy to give instantaneously for a regular gift, a recurring gift, or a special occasion gift.

Worship Servers Needed! If you are able to help out at our 10:00 a.m. worship service when we resume in-person worship services, please let either Tracy Farel or Pastor Robin know. Assisting ministers, counters, greeters and ushers are needed.

Frebis Food Pantry They are open Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday. Healthy volunteers are needed at Frebis to fill orders, drive the truck, and work with the computer. If you are interested, call 614-300-3263 and ask for Joel, Paul, or David. You may also call 877-LSS-MEAL or Bill Lude at 614-707-3275 or 614-764-1084.

Thrivent Members - For those of you with choice dollars don't forget that Fellowship can be a recipient of those dollars. Thank you to all who have donated this way in the past!

Save the Date! Our annual outdoor service will be Sunday, August 9th at 10:00 a.m., at Murphy Park in Powell.

Kroger Plus Fundraising Information: If you would like to register your Kroger card for the Community Rewards Program, please contact Pastor Robin or the church office. Thank you so much for participating in this fundraiser!

Do You Order From Amazon? If so, then try Amazon Smile to support Fellowship Lutheran Church! First, go to Amazon Smile and choose Fellowship Lutheran Church, Columbus, OH as your charity. Then, shop as usual and Fellowship will receive a percentage of your purchase. It's that easy!

Attendance Information

<u>Date</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
5/3	streamed	6/7	streamed
5/10	streamed	6/14	streamed
5/17	streamed	6/21	streamed
5/24	streamed	6/28	streamed
5/31	streamed		

“Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.” Romans 5:1-5 NRSV

In April, I wrote that the Executive Committee and Council is working to insure that Fellowship continues to do our mission during the coronavirus. We thought things would be starting to get clearer by now. Unfortunately, as we have just postponed restarting worship services, we seem to still be in the middle of it. As mentioned in my last article, we continue to keep an eye on how we keep Fellowship going.

When this was starting, we had heard a church consultant predict that if a church is closed for 4 weeks, it could expect to lose 20% of its income. If it was closed 8 weeks or more, it could lose 30%. So, we planned for that kind of impact. In late March, we applied for a forgivable loan under the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP). Unfortunately, we were not approved before the funds ran out. Then, there was a second round in mid-April under the CARES act. We applied to our bank again and were approved for an \$18,000 forgivable loan on May 1. The program is intended to help payroll expenses and we have used it for that purpose. It was intended to help us cover those expenses in case we saw the impact predicted by those consultants.

We’ve been fortunate that our income has only dropped 5% to 10% so far. That is mostly due to lost facility use income. Generally, our members have managed to maintain their giving to Fellowship. THANK YOU! That has really helped the congregation. Now, with the delay in restarting, we have a cushion to tide us over until the coronavirus situation stabilizes again. We hope that that happens soon. The proceeds from the PPP will continue to help us cover our payroll and other eligible expenses as this drags on.

We will be applying for forgiveness of the loan once we reach the end of the forgiveness period. We should meet all of the criteria. We hope to have most or all of it forgiven when we complete it. In the meantime, we have managed to keep some of our missional work going. We were blessed with a Blessing Box out front to help our neighbors with food and other supplies. I know some people have contributed to that. If you’d like to help out, you can drop off non-perishable food items in the box out in front of the church. We also held a food drive for the Smoky Row Food Pantry, subsidized by an action grant from Thrivent Financial. And, of course, we are publishing our worship services on the internet where they are receiving more than 100 views each week. Hopefully, many of those are reaching people who are not regular attendees of Fellowship.

I know these are difficult times for everyone, both for church and personally. As we used to say in the 70s, “keep the faith.” Eventually, things will get more normal.

Yours in Christ,

Todd Engen – President

John 14:27 *“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.”*



I am looking forward...

I am looking forward as more medical treatments are becoming known.

I am looking forward as more people are taking the time to understand each other's differences and treating each other equally with kindness and love.

I am looking forward to walking into our church soon, to appreciate the hard work that John Votino and many other members did in refreshing the church.

I am looking forward to the children's sermon and the kids listening to Pastor Robin's word knowing there is a treat waiting for them.

I am looking forward to sharing the peace and seeing many of the smiles from our church family.

Please help me look forward, as looking around the past four months has been hard, hard on us all.

Looking Forward,
Chad

Upcoming Congregational Life Event:

Outdoor Service on August 9th at Murphy Park will be having a catered box lunch.

¹³ *Who is wise and understanding among you? Let them show it by their good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom.* ¹⁴ *But if you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth.* ¹⁵ *Such "wisdom" does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic.* ¹⁶ *For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice.* **James 3:13-16 NIV**

Sunday School News

As we continue this COVID-19 crisis, we are all wondering and praying when will it end. As of this writing, only God's hands and a vaccine will stop it. However, looking ahead to September 2020, we can plan and organize a Sunday School on paper if we can open up again and have classes. Teachers are needed for:

Pre-K - Early Elementary
Upper Elementary
High School
Adults

If you are interested in teaching, please call or email me. Thank you.

Virtual Sunday School

If parents are interested in some classes online, Pastor Robin and I will look into it.

Frebis Food Pantry

They are open Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday. I have not been there myself since the COVID-19 crisis began. I was advised by my doctor not to volunteer until all of this is over. However, they still need healthy volunteers. You may call 614-300-3263 and ask for Paul, Joel or David to help.

In God's Service,

Bill

For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. Romans 15:4 (NRSV)

²⁸ *Have you not known? Have you not heard?*

The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth.

He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable.

²⁹ *He gives power to the faint, and strengthens the powerless.*

³⁰ *Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted;*

³¹ *but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint. Isaiah 40:28-31 (NRSV)*

Who could not use some encouragement during these unprecedented times? We never imagined during normal times when we were in the middle of a hectic work/life schedule, when we longed for a break, vacation, alone time, or time at home; that we would get what we wished. However, we did not expect that we would get our alone time at home during a global pandemic, BUT...this is the situation in which we find ourselves. During this time, we rely on our faith and God's Word, to encourage us, give us hope, strengthen us, and remind us that we are never alone.

We can, and do, share our faith, hope, strength, and compassion with others by sharing our gifts and talents with others. Our church family and community members make our grounds welcoming to youth and families as an area to run and play, stocks the Little Library to invite readers to expand their minds with stories, offers a location for a Blessing Box sponsored by the Columbus Blessing Box Project to serve those in need of nutrition and/or hygiene items, donates and supports the Food Pantries at Smoky Row and Frebis with food and daily living products for families, delivers meals on wheels to homebound individuals, and other individual service activities and donations that serve God's children and pets who are in need.

The outreach effort at Fellowship will begin collecting school supplies in July and August. Please drop-off your donated items to the bins located in the Narthex at the church during office hours. The bulletin will announce detailed information as it is available.

Our daily living and support for ourselves and our families has changed. If you or your family members find yourself in need of support, please contact Pastor Robin at rwargowsky@gmail.com, or me at carolbjaeger@gmail.com. Compassion, encouragement, hope, strength, and love begins with our biologic and church families.

This coronavirus is fierce and knows no limits. Please stay at home, wash your hands frequently, wear a mask when among others, maintain social distancing, and avoid large gatherings. You are valued, you are loved, and you matter. God loves His children! ☺

"Our Church All Are welcome"

I sincerely hope that this message finds you all well as you can be in this totally interesting year of 2020. Stay safe, be smart & in all cases use common sense and of course wash those hands and stay as social distanced as you can when out in public.

On the stewardship side of things - please keep inviting your friends to spend maybe 45 minutes and join in our social media viewing of the Sunday services that Pastor Robin sends out for the current members, and share the video on your FB account and or You Tube.

I would like to provide you with the current look of Our Church. I wish I had a video as we have accomplished a lot of behind the scenes work. I want to thank Mike and Bruce for spending the hottest Saturday morning of this year (LOL) to help stain the wood Cross on the entrance side of Our Church, also the bench by the entrance and the basketball bench. We also were able to organize and re-paint the back shed (which looks awesome).

If you have not been by Our Church lately, please take some time to pull in and drive by. We worked with Cody (the team that cuts our grass) on a reasonable bid to complete our landscaping project. And I must say it looks fantastic, a spectacular make-over of the first impression any of you will see and any potential new parishioners in the future when we get through our current Covid-19 situation. Please make sure you stop in and check out the prayer garden - it is very peaceful and relaxing - the ideal place just to sit - pray and be close to God.

The inside of Our Church was deep cleaned to high standards for preparation of potential future services. When the curve begins to flatten again, we will meet back together. As we all know, the recent increased cases of the Virus has prohibited us from getting back together. We installed hand sanitizer stations in strategic locations. We also separated the rows of seats in the sanctuary by removing every other row for safe distancing so we will feel comfortable when we can get back together again. And by the way, the inside of Our Church also looks spectacular.

Some future projects

1. Looking for bids to replace the basketball hoop that had the glass shattered about two months ago. I did not realize that this may be around \$900 to replace.

2. This one is a project we must do. I am asking if any of you know of some personal painters and or a reputable company. We need to paint the Narthex, the restrooms, the hallway going back to the classrooms and our gathering area. We have to have Our Church looking upgraded and fresh for our own satisfaction and also for new potential members when they visit our congregation. If you know of any one - please have them contact me via e mail jvvotino@gmail.com and or by Phone 614-205-4095 (leave a message and I will get back to them) too many ro-bo calls to answer the phone these days. Of course this has to stay on budget as our funds are tight.

3. We had to replace a compressor coil on the office air conditioner, and this week we will be repairing the sanctuary side air conditioner at a cost of \$2600 due to a blown compressor.

That's about it, on the positive side, Our Church is ready to get back to normal as I know we all are - if any one needs any thing and or can help, give us a call, and if you do get a chance please drive by and check out the landscaping. Many thanks to Bruce for donating your time and helping with the flower planting, weeding and watering, it is truly appreciated. And also to Mike for your time. **John**

It's been a long time since we've worshipped together in our physical worship space!

Our congregation's worship may have a new look, but its spirit remains the same. Thanks to Pastor Robin and our wonderful musicians, Michael Cherup and Amy Wargowsky, we are blessed with the opportunity to partake of a Service of the Word each week. We can enjoy the calming effect of lovely music and God's Word in a safe, home environment.

Virtual worship services

As Pastor shared last week, we will refrain from in-person worship services for the near term to support social distancing measures that will help protect our members. Watch for weekly email messages with links to services recorded by Pastor, Michael and Amy.

In the meantime, we've already taken measures to prepare for worship in the church when the time is right. These preparations include hand sanitizer stations, removal of hymnals from the sanctuary, a new seating arrangement with more distance between chairs, purchase of masks for worshipers who don't bring their own, a deep cleaning of the church, and many other measures.

We'll continue to monitor the COVID-19 situation to inform a decision about our eventual return in in-person worship services.

Outdoor worship service

We plan to hold our annual outdoor worship service at Murphy Park on Sunday, August 9.

Bring your lawn chair to gather at safe distances on the lawn of the park for a Service of the Word. We're currently investigating options for an alternative to our traditional potluck following the service, so watch for updates about plans for this date!

Dates to Remember

August 9

Outdoor service

FOR OUR MEMBERS:

- | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Fritzi Bear | Hazel Lambert |
| Major N Crispin | Frank & Leena LeMay |
| Bob Drake | Sonja Meighen |
| Barb Fisher | Joshua Mott |
| Margery Gress | Martha Sampson |
| Cheryl Hamilton | Ray & Carol Ward |
| Lillian Kachic | Bill Zahn |

FOR OUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS:

- Joan Albert**, Ruth Albert's mother
- Charlene Amrhein**, Carol Ward's sister-in-law
- Chrystal Barley**, Teena Buckley's daughter
- Toni Carroll**, Pastor Ron Bott's wife
- Rosemary Craig**, Cindy Frey's mother
- Donna Engen**, Todd Engen's mother
- Janet & Eric Goldberg**, Sherri Reed's friends
- Erin Jacobson**, Karen Harris' family friend
- Chris Johnson**, Bruce Johnson's sister-in-law
- Suzanne Kimperman**, Sonya Thelin's co-worker
- Roger Linley**, Barb Fisher's friend
- Jo Anne McCracken**, Cheryl Hamilton's aunt
- Anna & Les Schmelzer**, Sherri Reed's friends
- Belinda & Gabriella Seemer**, Sherri Reed's friends
- Dr. Jenifer Takats**, Todd Engen's wife
- Baby Hayden Valesky**, Votino's great nephew

DEATHS:

- Carol Niedecker**, Stacy Niedecker's mother
- Heidi Tipton**, Michelle Cleveland's aunt
- Shirley Tipton**, Michelle Cleveland's grandmother

July Birthdays

- | | |
|-----------------|------|
| Erin Jaeger | 7/02 |
| Katie Rankin | 7/03 |
| Jason Hobbins | 7/04 |
| Carolyn Crispin | 7/06 |
| Diana Drake | 7/06 |
| Andy Poland | 7/08 |
| Lorien Crispin | 7/11 |
| Callen Anderson | 7/12 |
| Amy Wargowsky | 7/15 |
| Jason Cleveland | 7/16 |
| Fiona King | 7/16 |
| Taylor Engen | 7/23 |
| Cindy Frey | 7/24 |
| Evelyn France | 7/26 |
| Grayson France | 7/26 |
| Nina Capers | 7/29 |
| Jean Johnson | 7/29 |



Happy Birthday to those celebrating birthdays this month! This list reflects the information we have in our computer at this time. We welcome your corrections and additions!

July Anniversaries

- | | |
|-------------------------|------|
| Mark & Diana Drake | 7/16 |
| Steve & Cheryl Hamilton | 7/20 |
| Ryan & Rebecca Roll | 7/20 |



Church Staff

Pastor	Rev. Robin Wargowsky
Treasurers	Heather & Chris Tonn
Financial Secretary	Tracy Farel
Office Secretary	Tracy Farel
Organist	Michael Cherup
Sub. Organist	David Fleisher
Sunday evening pianist	Amy Wargowsky
Choir Director	George Biemel
Custodian	Kenneth Hunt

Executive Committee

President	Todd Engen
Vice-President	Mike Rankin
Secretary	Ruth Albert Pastor Robin

Congregational Life

Director	Chad Laucher
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Education & Youth

Director	Bill Lude
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Outreach

Director	Carol Jaeger
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Stewardship & Support

Director	John Votino
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Worship

Director	Sonya Thelin
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Thank you for your leadership!!!

July 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28 10 am - Worship (streamed)	29	30	1	2	3	4
5 10 am - Worship (streamed)	6	7	8	9	10	11
12 10 am - Worship (streamed) 11:30 am - Executive (Zoom)	13	14 7:00 pm Worship (Zoom)	15	16	17	18
19 10 am - Worship (streamed)	20	21 7:00 pm - Council (Zoom)	22	23	24	25
26 10 am - Worship (streamed)	27	28 7:00 pm Nominating (Zoom)	29	30	31	1

Fellowship Lutheran Church
7350 Sawmill Road
Columbus, OH 43235

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Our Purpose: To share God's love and grace through our words and actions.

Our Vision: To be a "called and gathered" family of faith whose members so fully experience the undeserved love of God that we are moved to express that same love of God, in our relationships with one another and our whole community . . .

July 2020 Newsletter