



# Presbyterian Press



## *John's Jottings*

*"And it came to pass in those days . . ."* (K. J. V. Luke 2:1)

I once heard someone say that their favorite Bible verse was Luke 2:1, "And it came to pass . . ." He went on to say that he found comfort that things come to pass. They don't come to stay. Good things come and go, so do bad things. And it came to pass . . .

This pandemic too will pass. God will carry us through. On that we can depend. In the meantime, let me bring you up to date on where we are on various things in the life of the church.

The last time we were able to gather together as a church was on March the 15<sup>th</sup>. On Wednesday, March the 18<sup>th</sup> the session wisely decided to suspend all gatherings at the church. We thought at the time that this would only be for a couple of weeks. Now it looks like it will be a couple of months or more.

One of the positive things about this crisis is that it has been pushing us, especially me, to learn how to use the technology that is available to us. That has been a challenge, but one that will serve us well in the future.

On the Sunday morning worship front, the worship leaders have been gathering each Sunday morning to lead the services that are live streamed on our Facebook page as well as broadcast on WDPX Radio 104.9 FM & 750 AM. A special thank you to Jeanne Harris for playing the piano, to Rev. James A. Harris for his willingness to fill in for the worship leader, to Charla for her help with children's time, and to others who come to be the worship leader or provide special music. A big thank you to Bryon and Ginger Delawder for their tireless efforts to keep us on the radio and to provide the live streaming videos. You do not have to be a member of Facebook to see the service. You can simply enter [www.facebook.com/fpcclarksburg](http://www.facebook.com/fpcclarksburg) in your browser. If you do not want to join Facebook, click on the blue letters that say, "Not Now."

We have had some issues with our live streaming, but it continues to improve. Last Sunday, Bryon purchased a cable that plugs directly from his tablet into the church speaker system. That has helped a lot with the audio quality of the live stream. We are also considering switching internet providers so that we can have a much faster upload speed. That should help with the visual quality of the live stream. The Deacons have also voted to provide up to \$2,000.00 for needed equipment for a better quality video. Hopefully that will also give us the ability to zoom in on whoever is speaking or singing. The live stream will still be affected by the download speed in individual homes, but it should be better overall.

We are thrilled that our live steaming is reaching around 160 people each Sunday. That is far more than the average of 60 who usually come to church. Since we are reaching so many more people we will likely continue

our live streaming even after we can once more meet together.

I do want to take a moment to thank all of our members and friends for your faithfulness and generosity in sending in your offerings to the church. Thank you! In addition, since we are reaching a wider group with the live streaming, we have enrolled with the Presbyterian Foundation so that those who prefer to do so, can give their offerings on line. The cost of doing this is fairly small. The Presbyterian Foundation charges us a 2% administration cost on the gifts they process. There is no monthly or other fee. So if we don't receive any gifts in that fashion, there is no charge for that month. If we are receiving gifts from people who are now watching and have not given in the past, we come out way ahead.

If anyone wants to give online, the easiest way is to go to our web site [www.clarksburgfpc.org](http://www.clarksburgfpc.org) and click on the "Give online now" button in the white square in the church picture. That will take you directly to our giving page with the foundation. Then just fill out the form and hit send. For those who want to use their mobile phone, you can download the free app "give +" then search for our church by zip code, click on the church name and proceed.

On other fronts, we are starting to have our gatherings by Zoom. This is a teleconferencing program that allows people to join in the conversation either any phone or by computer/smart phone. In addition to our Session and Deacons meetings, our Monday morning prayer group (10:00 A.M.) and our Wednesday afternoon Bible Study (3:30 P.M.) are currently meeting by Zoom. Should you wish to join us for either of those:

Join from any phone by calling 1-301-715-8592, when prompted enter the Meeting ID number 551 720 2769 followed by the # sign.

Join by computer, smart phone or tablet by entering the following link in your browser.  
<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/5517202769>  
Meeting ID: 551 720 2769

I am told that every pious Jew wants to celebrate Passover at least once in their lifetime in the holy city of Jerusalem. So each year that they meet elsewhere, they say, "next year in Jerusalem." So each week now when we worship virtually from our homes, we give thanks for the technology that allows us to do so. And we say, "Next week in the sanctuary!"

Hope and Confidence,

John

Sunday Worship  
Church School 9:30 AM  
Worship 10:45  
Live on WPDX Radio  
109.4 FM or 750 AM

# **Session Highlights**

## **Wednesday, April 15, 2020 5:30 pm**

### **Report of Treasurer:**

1. Received the treasurer's report showing a net income through March of \$12,763.78. Report was filed for reference.
2. Voted to make Wayne, Jenna, and Buddy administrators on our on-line giving account with the Presbyterian Foundation.

### **Work Camp Implementation Task Force:**

1. We have received word that the Parkview Work group scheduled for May 31 - June 6 has been canceled. They hope to be able to come in the fall.
2. As of this date, the July 12-18, 2020 Hopewell Presbyterian Work Group is still on.

### **Report of Board of Deacons:**

1. The Deacons have begun calling church members to check on everyone during this pandemic. The calling is going well and so far none of our church members have the virus.

The following pairings with session members for sharing this calling duty are suggested

Jeanne Lynch & Bonnie Coleman	Susie Saunders & Hank Lawrence
Pam Mitchell & Ginger Delawder	Dottie Rinehart & Buddy King
Loria Cavallo & Jeff Strange	Sandi Nuzum & Jenna Bennett
Jo Eckert & Doris Holt	Lynn Sherlock & Beth Allen
Karen Tyson & Suzi Heger	

2. The Deacons are willing to contribute up to \$2000.00 for a better camera/equipment to improve our live-streaming of the services.

### **1. Worship and Music/Christian Education**

- A. Most of the activities for Scottish Heritage Sunday are canceled. Worship will still center around the Scottish Heritage theme, but we will not have a guest speaker, bagpipe band, or fellowship meal.
- B. Important dates coming up:
  - Mother's Day - May 10
  - Pentecost - May 31
  - Father's Day - June 21
  - Tentative VBS date July 5-9 with the program on Sunday, July 12<sup>th</sup>.

### **2. Evangelism/Fellowship:**

- A. The fellowship committee is working on having a homecoming Sunday scheduled for the fall.

### **3. Personnel:**

Session approved getting Cathy necessary equipment to work at home.

### **4. Mission Interpretation and Stewardship**

## **5. Property Committee -**

- A. Draft of Revised Building use fees was approved.
- B. The property committee has approved purchase of new stage curtain (\$819.00).  
The curtain has arrived. It will be installed soon.

## **6. Task Force for Emergency Use of Building.-**

No report

## **Report of the Clerk:**

1. **Minutes:** Approved the minutes of the March 25th, 2020 Stated Session Meeting as distributed.
2. **Membership /Statistical Changes**  
-no changes

## **Pastor's Report:**

**hospital visits: 1 Other significant Pastoral visits: 33** almost all by phone  
No Funerals, Baptisms, or Weddings to report

**Sacrament of Communion:** Communion was not celebrated on April 5<sup>th</sup> because of the pandemic.

We did celebrate communion electronically on Maundy Thursday. Because of the lockdown we have not attempted to serve Home communion in April.

**Pastor's Discretionary Fund 2020** - Report not available. We are still helping people who call in, but because the report is generated by Cathy, it is not available this month. Wayne is still keeping track of the numbers for us and a report will be available as soon as things return to normal.

## **Unfinished Business:**

1. FYI Pastor continues individual coaching with Bruce Stevens.
2. Presbytery Dates and locations:  
May 21, 2020 at Ronceverte (near Lewisburg) - Beth
3. We have agreed to host Presbytery on November 13, 2021.

## **New Business:**

-Approved the request of the Pastor for vacation for June 8-14 & July 13-26  
Sundays June 14, July 19 & 26

# May Scriptures and Sermon topics

## May 3 Scottish Heritage Sunday

Scriptures: Deuteronomy 26:1-11  
\*2 Timothy 1:3-14

Sermon Title: "Standing on the Shoulders of Giants"

Theme: We remember and celebrate our ancestors in the faith for many reasons. Knowing who they were, gives us a greater sense of who we are and where we fit into God's greater picture. The example of our ancestors keeps us humble and gives us hope. We may be going through a difficult time, but we are not the first to do so. Also, the same God who guided our ancestors through difficult times now guides us. As God was faithful in the past, so God continues to be faithful in the present.

## May 10 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Easter - Mother's Day - communion

Scriptures: Acts 7:55-60  
\*John 14:1-14

Sermon Title: ". . . and We Shall Be Satisfied"

Theme: If we asked people on the street to fill in the first part of the title above, what would they say? What would it take for you to feel satisfied, to feel like you had enough? For Philip, it was to see God. "Show us the Father and we shall be satisfied." That will be enough. In some ways Philip is talking about happiness. To be truly happy, is to believe that you have enough.

## May 17 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Easter

Scriptures: \* Psalm 66:8-20  
John 14:15-21

Sermon Title: "Get to the Point"

Theme: The modern mind set has a hard time with the concept of worship and praise. We have a tendency to come to worship with questions like these: What is in it for me? What can I learn from this that I can apply in my day-to-day living? What habits or practices will I embrace or change as a result of the sermon? In other words, we are looking for worship and praise of God to lead us to something else. Yet, in many ways worship/praise is the end we seek. We may feel closer to our girlfriend or boyfriend after we spend time with them. But the goal of spending that time is not so that you will feel closer. The goal is in the time spent itself. So it is with expressions of our love for God. We don't praise God so that it will lead to some other good. We praise God for the sake of praising God!

## May 24 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Easter

Scriptures: Acts 1:6-14  
\*Luke 24:44-53

Sermon Title: "Christ Reigns"

Theme: The story of Christ's ascension to heaven is a strange story. Yet it is important in that it reaffirms that Jesus was and is God. There is no God behind the God we see in Jesus. It is also important that the love and compassion that we see in Jesus is God's love and compassion for us and with us. Furthermore, in the midst of dark times, it is important to realize that the same Jesus who came to give himself for us, also rules. Jesus reigns! He is in ultimate control and we can trust ourselves without fear to him in all

times and places.

## **May 31 Day of Pentecost**

Scriptures: Numbers 11:24-30  
\*Acts 2:1-21

Sermon Title: "A Sailboat Church"

Theme: On Pentecost the Holy Spirit came upon the disciples with the sound of a mighty wind. The word for wind and spirit are the same in both Greek and Hebrew. Joan Gray, former moderator of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), wrote a book called, "The Sailboat Church." In that book Gray talks about churches who are "Rowboat Churches." These are churches that plan and do things based on their human abilities. These rowboat churches work hard and do some good things. Other churches are "Sailboat Churches." Sailboat churches rely on the power of God's Holy Spirit to move them. They plan and do things based on what the power of God can do. Boats moving under the power of the wind can go much further and make far greater journeys than those who are powered only by muscles and oars. Since the day of Pentecost, the Christian Church has been called to be a sailboat church powered by the wind of God's Spirit.

### OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Friday  
9:00AM to 2:00PM  
Phone: 304-622-6831  
Fax:304-622-6831  
[www.clarksburfpc.org](http://www.clarksburfpc.org)

### CHURCH STAFF

#### Pastor

Rev. John F. Koerner  
209 Ohio Ave  
Nutter Fort, WV 26301  
Phone: 304-534-2324  
[johnkoerner75@yahoo.com](mailto:johnkoerner75@yahoo.com)

#### Session

Jenna Bennett, Clerk  
Ginger Delawder, Asst.Clerk

#### Parish Associates

Rev. Charla Waters Koerner  
Rev. James A. Harris

#### Church Secretary

CathyLibert  
[CburgFPCSecretary@yahoo.com](mailto:CburgFPCSecretary@yahoo.com)

### Office Volunteer

Elsa Davis  
[Elsadavis59@gmail.com](mailto:Elsadavis59@gmail.com)

### Educaiton Coordinator

Terra M. Burnett  
[angeleyes1177@hotmail.com](mailto:angeleyes1177@hotmail.com)

### Choir Director

Jeanne Harris  
Phone: 304-669-9191  
[Jagapelove50@gmail.com](mailto:Jagapelove50@gmail.com)

### Organist

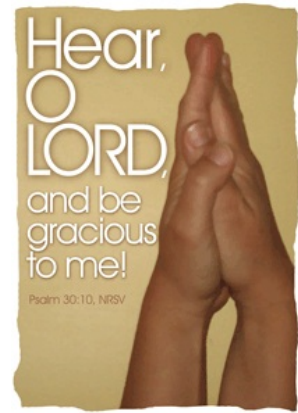
Dr. Mary Kay Devono

### Church Treasurers

Wayne Northey  
Jenna Bennett  
Chuck Leuliette  
Dave Allman

### Nursery Attendant

Ashleigh Burnett



**Children's Moments**

May 3- Scottish Heritage  
May 10-Dick Ogden  
May 17- Maria Morrison  
May 24-  
May 31- Jeanne Harris

**Worship Leaders**

May 3- Scottish Heritage  
May 10-Bryon Delawder  
May 17- Buddy King  
May 24- Pam Mitchell  
May 31- Jeff Mitchell

**Deacon Greeters**

May 3- Judy McQuaid  
May 10- Sandi Nuzum  
Courtney Nuzum  
May 17-Pam Mitchell  
May 24- Dottie Rinehart  
May 31-Loria Cavallo

Denver Atkinson	May 2
Xochitl Leuliette	May 7
Annabelle Leiberling	May 8
Dianne McGriff	May 8
PR Watson	May 8
Ann Davidson.	May 9
Tammy Kennedy	May 10
Andrew Sedera.	May 13
Brett Boyles	May 15
Lance Kuhens.	May 15
Harriett Northey	May 17
AJ Paletta	May 18
Molly Hugus	May 21

Adkins, Charles  
 Arnold, Sara  
 Cox, Eddie  
 Cox, Jeremy  
 Cunningham, Debbie  
 Fowler, Angie  
 Griffin, Carol Lee  
 Gump, Yvonne  
 Hardman, Derek  
 Hardman, Bob & Janice  
 Holt, Jack  
 Hood, Robbie  
 Kuhens, Eric  
 Lawrence, Charles  
 Linton, Doug  
 Lynch, Jerry  
 McClean, Nora  
 Michome, John  
 Mick, Jillian  
 Moore, Bob & Mary (aunt of Sandi Nuzum)  
 Nardone, Nickolas  
 Oldaker, Kenneth  
 Oldaker, Wilma  
 Orr, Susan (Carole's Sister)  
 Pack, Amy  
 Pitzer, Donna  
 Plybon, Jo  
 Rogers, Joey  
 Saunders, Susie  
 Shiffra, Everett  
 Simmons, Melanie  
 Smith, Bonnie  
 Smith, Chuck  
 Smith, Donna  
 Tyson, Karen  
 Wamsley, John  
 Wetzal, Jennifer

