

The Church Mouse

First Presbyterian Church

401 Main Street

Watsonstown, PA 17777

April 2020 – Pandemic Issue

servantchurch@windstream.net (570)538-1491 www.watsonstownpresby.org

Serving Christ, Community, and One Another Since 1872



Dear Friends,

You will notice that this month's Church Mouse is slightly different. This is of course due to the Corona Virus. Keeping that in mind we have decided to make some suggestions as to how you might while away the time at home and enhance your faith journey. Hopefully this newsletter will help in this endeavor.

Here are some suggestions:

- *Read the Bible through cover to cover. Bible Gateway has tons of reading plans. Create an account and use it.
- *Every day read the Daily Bread devotional. Many of you already do this.
- *Check the names of friends of the church who are in nursing homes or are home bound. Send them a card a week or give them a call.
- *Check the list of Birthdays and Anniversaries. Send cards or send an online greeting.
- *Watch my Sunday sermon on You Tube and our Face Book page.

*Check You Tube for sermons by other pastors.

*We are including word searches, and other puzzles. They aren't just for kids anymore.

*If you have kids around check out Sermons4Kids.com a great website for resources for the family.

*Have family worship on Sunday morning. Include prayer, scripture, and music.

The Newsletter will include upcoming sermon titles. They will be broadcast on YouTube and Face Book, unless things improve and we can come back together.

We will continue to send out Pandemic diaries, updates, and sermon links as they become available.

In Christ,
Pastor Paul

SERMONS FOR APRIL

April 5 – “Easter Parade”

April 12 – “God Is My Eternal Song”

New Sermon Series

April 19 – “Eulogy”

April 26 – “Mercy”

PANDEMIC ISSUE

Our aim with this special edition of our Church Mouse is to give you some ideas for your enforced time at home that will help you in your spiritual journey and give you comfort, purpose, and some enjoyment.



Our church often turns to Bible Gateway to print Bible passages for our lay readers and Pastor Paul. After some research, we found that they have a wonderful page of Bible reading plans. You can create an account and the website can help you track your progress. They have plans for the whole Bible, the Gospels, the New Testament, and selected books of the Bible. Check it out and see what you think. Copy and paste the link into your browser.

www.biblegateway.com/reading-plans.?version=NIV



There are a lot of devotional websites out there. Here are two to get you started:

www.guideposts.org/faith-and-prayer/daily-devotions

www.ourdailybread.org/read/

We also have Easter week and Daily Bread devotionals in a basket outside by the parking lot door. Stop by any time and pick one up for you and your family.



Check out a favorite resource of Pastor Paul and Sherry for children's lessons and activities:

sermons4kids.com

Not only are there weekly children's sermons, there are also topical sermons with activities, coloring pages, and puzzles. And remember our newsletter children's page.



Bible Readings *for the Month*

April 5 – Matthew 21:1-11; Psalms 118:1-2, 19-29; Philippians 2:5-11 ; Matthew 26:14-27:66

April 12 – Acts 10:34-43; Psalms 118:1-2, 14-24; 1 Corinthians 3:1-4; John 20:1-18

April 19 – Acts 2:14, 22-32; Psalms 16; 1 Peter 1:3-9; John 20:19-31

April 26 – Acts 2:14, 36-41; Psalms 116:1-4, 12-19; Ephesians 5:8-14; John 9:1-41



BIRTHDAYS

April 3 – Joyce Ahrens

April 10 – Siara Seese

April 13 – Molly Eshenaur

April 19 – Bill Groover

April 21 – Sam Cooper

Kelly Groover

Emilie Hogg

April 24 – John Williams

April 27 – Richard Weigel

April 28 – Bob Hormell

April 29 – Pat Groover



ANNIVERSARIES

April 12 – Mike & Michelle Gruber

April 18 – Dale & Linda Ayers

April 23 – Chris & Shawnee Hilliard



A Prayer for Our Uncertain Times

May we who are merely inconvenienced remember those whose lives are at stake.

May we who have no risk factors remember those most vulnerable.

May we who have the luxury of working from home remember those who must choose between preserving their health and making their rent.

May we who have the flexibility to care for our children when their schools close remember those who have no options.

May we who have to cancel our trips remember those who have no safe place to go.

May we who are losing our margin money in the tumult of the economic market remember those who have no margin at all.

May we who settle in for a quarantine at home remember those who have no home.

As fear grips our country, let us choose love. And during this time when we may not be able to physically wrap our arms around each other, let us yet find ways to be the loving embrace of God to our neighbors. Amen.

- Submitted by Fr. Michael Graham, S.J.

A Corona Virus Prayer

Loving God, Your desire is for our wholeness and well being.

We hold in tenderness and prayer the collective suffering of our world at this time.

We grieve precious lives lost and vulnerable lives threatened.

We ache for ourselves and our neighbors, standing before an uncertain future.

We pray: may love, not fear, go viral.

Inspire our leaders to discern and choose wisely, aligned with the common good.

Help us to practice social distancing and reveal to us new and creative ways to come together in spirit and in solidarity.

Call us to profound trust in your faithful presence,

You, the God who does not abandon. Amen.

Prayer for People Critically Ill or Facing Great Uncertainty

God of the present moment,
God who in Jesus stills the storm
and soothes the frantic heart;
bring hope and courage to all
who wait or work in uncertainty.

Bring hope that you will make them the equal
of whatever lies ahead.

Bring them courage to endure what cannot be
avoided, for your will is health and wholeness;
you are God, and we need you.

-Adapted from New Zealand Prayer Book, p. 765



Our prayers are with:

The Kerstetter Family, Lu Reed, Rose Aikey, Pam Bower, Wayne Houser, Lori Yost, George Sherry, Greg Wesner, Donna Hoskins, Terri Hauck, Eric Powell, Mark Trutt, Rebecca Cotner, Rhonda Snyder, Linda Zarzecki, Aaron Walker, Donna & Lawrence Walker, Roxie Trutt, Don Gresh, Glenn Walker, Alex Bartlett, Cliff Elmore, Pat Groover, Ella Novcarvis, Sandy Pick, Nancy Fisher, Al Patterson, Ruth Walker, Betty & Vergie Heim, Kate Shade, Norma Bower, Ellen Malloney, John Marshall, Bonnie Catherman, Janet Reasner, Clair & Margaret Walker, Paul Berger, Edith Umstead, Ace Elmore

Our Special Care List: Bob Bartlett, Jeanne Becker, Jane Bergman, Peggy Calabro, Reba Dotson, Gladys Klapp, Shirley Willkow

Deployed Military: Stefan Armstrong

Ministries: Missionaries-Doug Orbaker, Juan & Shirley Ocasio; Neighbors Helping Neighbors; Presbyterian Disaster Assistance; Haven Ministries

★ **Please give updates on the status of those on the list to Paul or Sherry.** ★

The Other Side of the Virus, An Opportunity to Awaken...

Yes there is panic buying.

Yes there is sickness.

Yes there is even death.

But,

They say that in Wuhan after so many years of noise,

You can hear the birds again.

They say that after just a few weeks of quiet

The sky is no longer thick with fumes

But blue and gray and clear.

They say that in the streets of Assisi

People are singing to each other

across the empty squares,

keeping their windows open

so that those who are alone

may hear the sounds of family around them.

They say that a hotel in the West of Ireland

is offering free meals and delivery to the housebound.

Today a young woman I know

is busy spreading fliers with her number

through the neighborhood

so that the elders may have someone to call

on.

Today Churches, Synagogues, Mosques and Temples

are preparing to welcome

and shelter the homeless, the sick, the weary.

All over the world people are slowing down and reflecting.

All over the world people are looking at their neighbors in a new way.

All over the world people are waking up to a new reality

To how big we really are.

To how little control we really have.

To what really matters.

To Love.

So we pray and we remember that

Yes there is fear.

But there does not have to be hate.

Yes there is isolation.

But there does not have to be loneliness.

Yes there is panic buying.

But there does not have to be meanness.

Yes there is sickness.

But there does not have to be disease of the soul

Yes there is even death.

But there can always be a rebirth of love.

Wake to the choices you make as to how to live now.

Today, breathe.

Listen, behind the factory noises of your panic-

The birds are singing again

The sky is clearing,

Spring is coming,

And we are always encompassed by Love.

Open the windows of your soul

And though you may not be able

to touch across the empty square,

Sing.

- Written by Fr. Richard Hendrick, OFM, March 13th 2020



*Thanks to those that helped with the Lenten Loup Supper

*Thanks to Vicki and Linda for their work on Game Night

*Thanks to Rob Brown for his technical help in posting sermons to the internet

*Thanks to those that remember our church with their tithes and offerings in this difficult time

*Thanks to Pastor Paul for keeping us connected during our isolation



Elders

Moderator – Rev. Paul A. Smith	570-742-3086
Clerk of Session – Ruth Brouse	570-490-0302
Stephan Armstrong	570-768-6906
Keith Ayers	570-772-5783
Carl Bower	570-713-7374
Wally Fairman	570-814-8193
Emilie Hogg	570-437-2392
Janet Kling	570-506-3217
Ruth Ann Williams	570-337-1741
Rick Wolfe	570-220-7106

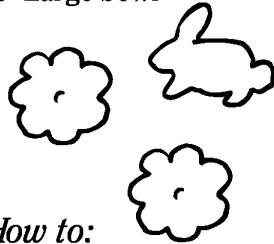
APRIL 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

Make a celebration snack!

You need:

- * 4 boxes of gelatin dessert in any flavor (4-serving size)
- * Boiling water
- * 9" x 13" pan
- * Cookie cutters
- * Measuring cups
- * Spoon
- * Large bowl



How to:

Put dry gelatin in large bowl. Mix in 2½ cups of boiling water. Stir until dissolved completely. Pour into a pan. Refrigerate until firm (at least 3 hours). Cut spring & Easter shapes with cookie cutters.

Enjoy!



Just for KIDS Easter

Easter is a special day for Christians. The days before are dark and sad, but on that special day – we celebrate! Why do we celebrate?

Write the word to fit each definition. Transfer the numbered letters to the corresponding boxes. Read the answer.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	----	----	----	----



14	15	16	17	18	19	20
----	----	----	----	----	----	----

great happiness

a place where plants grow

opposite of evening

a shape that means love

it rises every morning

a close companion

Jesus was nailed to it

it blocked the door of Jesus' tomb



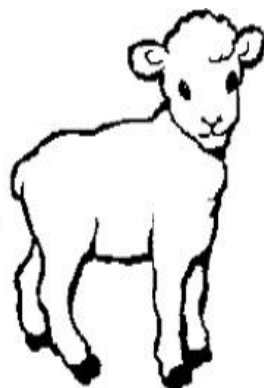
joy, garden, morning, heart, sun, friend, cross, stone

Jesus rose from the dead!

All We Like Sheep

All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all. Isaiah 53:6 (KJV)

Unscramble the letters and write the word correctly in the space provided.



1. EGON _____
2. NWO _____
3. IYIUTIQN _____
4. URDNTE _____
5. YWA _____
6. CEHA _____
7. EIKL _____
8. RASATY _____
9. ODLR _____
10. SEHEP _____

like

gone

each

own

Lord