



The Church Mouse

First Presbyterian Church

401 Main Street

Watsonstown, PA 17777

May 2020 – Pandemic Issue 2

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Serving Christ, Community, and One Another Since 1872



Dear Friends,

I have been doing these diaries now for over a month. It has been a wonderful experience for me but I am running low on ideas. I need your help. If you have an idea for a diary entry, send it to me and I will try and expand on it. If you would like to do a full entry yourself, send it to us. We will even correct your spelling and grammar if need be. It would be wonderful to expand this project to our whole church family. Your input is welcomed and needed.

Besides being a way to help me out, it is good for you as well. You can share insights, express frustrations, even vent your anger. The only restriction I place is that you avoid making political statements, there's enough of that going around already. Share how you are coping with the crisis, what are you doing to fill the hours, what TV shows or books you find helpful (or not), or share a recipe or a favorite take out restaurant.

I place this challenge before you.

I will look forward to your response.

In Christ,

Pastor Paul



SERMONS FOR MAY

May 3 – “Bad Things Happening to Good People”

May 10 – “House Building”

May 17 – “A Ready and Kind Answer”

May 24 – “Don’t Be Surprised”

May 31 – “A Pentecost to Remember”

PANDEMIC ISSUE II

When putting together the information for the April newsletter, I had no idea then that I would need to write a second Pandemic Issue. So here is my best effort at giving more ideas for your days at home. If you would like to contribute stories, prayers, home spiritual practices & routines, or craft & project ideas to our pandemic communication efforts, please send them to Sherry at the church office.

→Organize your photos and send some to loved ones.

☺Spring clean your home and garage.

♥Grab a pen and paper: write in a journal, send letters to people on our special care list, or drop a card to someone on the birthday or anniversary list in the directory.

*Download an app for a video call to a friend or family member. Don't know how? Call a computer savvy person that can walk you through it.

✦Volunteer online. There are a lot of organizations that can use your help.

→Learn a new skill or take a free class online. Penn State and other universities are offering free online courses. Check out PSU, "EdX", or "Udemy" for their lists of free courses.

☺ Watch a documentary on a subject you know nothing about. Netflix has a large selection.

♥Start that book you haven't had time to read. If you are with family, take turns reading a book out loud.

*Learn a new language. There are free online resources for that too.

✦Get into an exercise routine. Take a walk every day, dance in your living room, or use an online yoga or tai chi video.

→Take a virtual tour of museums and historical sites. Colonial Williamsburg is a great place to start.

☺ Get creative with paint, decorating, clothing, baking, cooking, etc. There are You Tube videos, craft, and cooking sites that can teach almost anything!

♥Use this time to organize important documents and papers.

*Make a space for worship, meditation, and Bible reading in your home. Some suggestions: candles, smooth stones, buds & flowers from your yard, pillows or a comfy chair, devotionals, etc. This could be a good space to try an online guided meditation.

✦Start the genealogy research you've never had the time to do. Call or email relatives to contribute information (and keep in touch).

→ Pastor Paul would love some help with the Pandemic Diaries. Send him ideas or write a diary yourself. Your church family would love to hear from you.



Bible Readings for the Month

May 3 – Acts 2:42-47; Psalms 23; Peter 2:19-25; John 10:1-10

May 10 – Acts 7:55-60; Psalms 31:1-5, 15-16; 1 Peter 2:2-10; John 14:1-14

May 17 – Acts 17:22-31; Psalms 66:8-20; 1 Peter 3:13-22; John 14:15-21

May 24 – Acts 1:6-14; Psalms 68:1-10, 32-35; 1 Peter 4:12-14, 5:6-11; John 17:1-11

May 31 (Pentecost) – Acts 2:1-21 or Numbers 11:24-30; Psalms 104:24-34, 35b; 1 Corinthians 12:3b-13 or Acts 2:1-21; John 20:19-23 or John 7:37-39



BIRTHDAYS

May 1 – Ruth Brouse

May 2 – Claire Groover

May 6 – Jeff Bower

May 9 – Delaney Gruber

May 10 – Joanne Frantz

Bill Groover, IV

May 12 – Keith Ayers

May 14 – Jesse Egli

Jim Moore

May 16 Gwen Holmes

May 20 – Marc Ahrens

Ryder Davis

May 30 – Jennifer Bower

Marianne Greenawalt



ANNIVERSARIES

May 10 – Don & Aladean Weaver

May 29 – Billy & Kelly Groover

May 30 – Dennis & Bindy Seese



Our prayers are with:

Our Essential Workers, Kaci Stevenson, Alice Cotner, Norm Kobbe, Lu Reed, 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, Snack-Pack Program

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



*Thanks to Ruth Brouse, Vicki Egli, Anne Griffin, Sherry Armstrong, Carl Bower, Don Weaver, and Rick Wolfe for weeding the church flower beds

*Thanks to Laura Smith and Pastor Paul for all the work on the Video sermons

*Thanks to Chris Frantz for connecting us with music

*Thanks to Rob Brown for getting the sermons, music, and Pandemic Diaries online

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

*Thanks to Sherry for "dressing the stage" each week



Jesus, during Your ministry on Earth, You showed Your power and caring by healing people of all ages and stations of life from physical, mental, and spiritual ailments. Be present now to people who need Your loving touch because of COVID-19. May they feel Your power of healing through the care of doctors and nurses.

Take away the fear, anxiety, and feelings of isolation from people receiving treatment or under quarantine. Give them a sense of purpose in pursuing health and protecting others from exposure to the disease. Protect their families and friends and bring peace to all who love them.

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

—Philippians 4:6 (NIV)

God, as more people get sick, healthcare workers and first responders are working longer hours with fewer supplies and with more risk of contracting the new corona virus themselves. Renew their energy and sustain them on long shifts. Bring Your protection upon them as they work with patients. Multiply their supplies so they have the protective items needed to stay safe on the job.

Inspire and invigorate the research doctors developing better tests to diagnose the virus, create vaccines to prevent it, and identify protocols to eliminate the disease's spread.

God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore, we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea ...

—Psalm 46:1-2 (NIV)

Father, we seek Your wisdom daily. Be with people making decisions that affect the lives and futures of our families, communities, countries, and the wider world. We pray that they communicate clearly, truthfully, and calmly — with each other and with the public — and that their messages are received and heeded. May truth and empathy be the touchstones of people setting policies for our protection.

Have mercy on me, my God, have mercy on me, for in you I take refuge. I will take refuge in the shadow of your wings until the disaster has passed.

—Psalm 57:1 (NIV)

Holy Spirit, as families adjust to everyone being home as businesses and schools close, we ask that You guide people in their new realities. Give spouses grace for each other. Prompt worn-out parents to speak words of kindness and encouragement to their children. Help children find creative ways to experience the beauty of all You have created and continue learning.

Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.

—1 Peter 5:7 (NIV)

Jesus, we thank You for Your faithfulness in how you have guided and equipped people in their jobs and have provided in the past. It can be scary and overwhelming not knowing how bills and obligations will be met or to not be able to provide for families. As people feel financial strain during the uncertainty, bring them comfort and peace, reminding them that You are there for them. Provide for them in their times of need.

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.

—John 14:27 (NIV)

Prayers from worldvision.org

Church Financial Report

From the Treasurer and
Finance Committee:

During these trying times we are grateful to those of you that regularly send in offering to sustain the church.

Though we are unable to worship in our sanctuary at this time, our church still has utility bills, payroll, postage, withholding tax, and insurance to pay. We have gotten dues relief for the next three months from the Board of Pensions for our contributions to the Pastor's benefits program but that is just one of many bills on which we must keep up to date. Our church often depends on our investment funds but as the stock market experienced recent downturns, so did our investments and we are reluctant to use it at this time.

We would like to thank all those that have donated time and skills in order to have our services put online for us to enjoy. We would also like to thank those that keep the church facility looking nice and running smoothly. We would like to thank Pastor Paul especially for his efforts in reaching out to the congregation through his letters, services, and phone calls.

As you pray this month, please remember to pray for our church family, Pastor Paul and Laura, the Session, our local hospitals, the essential workers, our financial situation, and for healing all over the world. Thank you!

Report as of April 24, 2020

Regular Offering \$14,926.53
Other Income \$405.37
Merrill Lynch \$5,000.00
TOTAL INCOME - \$20,331.90



TOTAL EXPENSES - \$25,384.74

Play "God's Creation" Game





The goal of the game is to find things all around you that God has created. You can play alone, with friends or in teams.

You will need:

-  Friends or family members
-  God's creations

How to play:

 Go outdoors – to a park, in your back yard or on a hike.

 The first person says the name of something he sees or thinks of that begins with the letter A, such as an ant or an apple. The next person says something he sees beginning with the letter B. Continue in order through the entire alphabet.

A variation:

Each player says the name of each thing that has been found so far, and then adds a new one to the list.



SESSION



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

MAY 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8 Stay at Home Order May Lift	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
<hr/> 31						

Plant a Tree!



You will need:

- ♫ seeds from a grapefruit, orange, lemon or tangerine
- ♫ a flower pot
- ♫ soil

How to:

Soak the seeds in water overnight.

Fill the flower pot with soil.

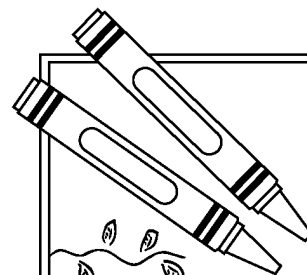
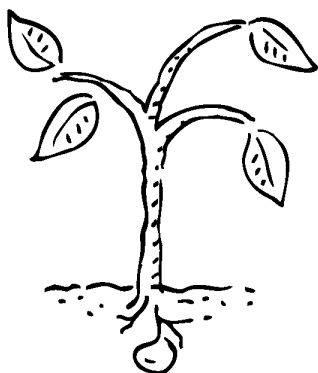
Plant 3 or 4 seeds about half an inch deep.

Keep soil moist. Water once or twice a week.

Keep pot in a warm, bright place.

The seedlings will sprout in about 8 weeks.

Leave only the strongest plant in the pot. It will grow into a little tree with dark, shiny leaves.



Just for KIDS

"A Time to Plant..."

The spring of the year is time to plant gardens or tend to other plants. The list below contains the names of plants that grew in Bible times. How many do you recognize? Circle the names from the list. They may be found → ← ↓ ↑ ↘ . There will be 13 letters uncircled. Write them in the spaces below.

myrrh	aloes	cassia	mint	dill
lentil	apple trees	crocus	barley	cucumbers
balsam trees	melons	leeks	onions	garlic
oak trees	wheat	figs	mustard	grain
pomegranates	olive trees	beans	millet	cane
almonds	cinnamon	pistachio nuts	rose of Sharon	
lily of the valley				

P L E N T I L M C C J E B S U
 I O G R A I N I I U B E A N S
 S A M I N T E L N C D A L S U
 T P Y E S B N L N U R L S S C
 A P R M G A A E A M A M A E O
 C L R E A R C T M B T O M E R
 H E H L R L A L O E S N T R C
 I T S O L E S N N R U D R T O
 O R N N I Y S N A S M S E E F
 N E O S C D I L L T O F E V I
 U E I W H E A T L E E K S I G
 T S N G O A K T R E E S O L S
 S R O S E O F S H A R O N O D
 L I L Y O F T H E V A L L E Y

Who is the "Master Gardener"?

_____, _____.