



Community Presbyterian Church

April 2020 Newsletter

Dear Members and Friends of Community Presbyterian Church,

I am writing this on what turns out to be ‘April Fool’s Day’ ~ it seems ironic to be writing on this day when things on the news and in our society are so serious and somber.

As we emerge from Lent and a time of introspection, we find ourselves facing ramped up ‘social distancing’. This makes me a bit angry (that we have to be apart) ~ it makes me a bit anxious (when will this end?) ~ it makes me a bit lonely (I miss not being able to gather in the church). My guess is you are also having similar feelings about many aspects of your life. Yet in the midst of this emergency, I intellectually understand the medical need to be apart, but emotionally it grates like sandpaper on my skin. While this turmoil is brewing inside of me, I find it interesting (comforting) to hear other voices as they address the common issues of this time.

Beginning with the scriptures, the apostle Paul is writing to the members of the church at Corinth. This was a troubled congregation and probably today the Presbytery of Grand Canyon would send an Administrative Commission to this church to address the issues. However in the first century, Paul writes them a letter in which he addresses the need to remember we work together as “Christ’s Body” (the church in the world). He says: “...there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for one another. If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it.” For me, this speaks to our current situation. We ‘suffer’ mild inconveniences so others in our community might live ~ more than an equal trade!

Gwendena Lee Gatewood, Chairwoman of the White Mountain Apache Reservation, recently wrote a letter to the tribal members. Part of what she said was: “Our prayers are for you all to be safe, protected - the building block for us is to stand with one another, working together to fight this virus for the sake of our people, it requires effort, love, prayers, and knowing that like the Mother who takes her child to get their shots, that the small amount of pain now will protect them from possible pain and suffering in the future.”

An unlikely source of encouragement came to me from Richard Griot. He owns Griot’s Garage in Tacoma, Washington ~ a business producing car care products. I’m on his email list and he wrote a letter to his customers this week. His conclusion reads: “Changes are ahead for our lives... we may not ever come back to the same path we were on just on a few months ago... but one thing is certain... if you believe in yourself, love one another, and sacrifice yourself for future generations, I believe we will all make it through this and come out on the other side stronger than ever before.”

I hope these other “voices”, from the past and the present, provide you with comfort and courage for this unusual time.

Grace and Peace, Bob

MINISTERING TO THE COMMUNITY



Same as with other programs, Sunday School is suspended until we can return to the buildings. In the mean time, please continue to pray for our children.

Children In Our Community Should Not Go Hungry ~ and they are not!

Thank you for your generous donations to the school 'food back-pack' program. We have helped meet the need of food for school children over the weekends. However, with the virus and school being suspended for the rest of the year, Blue Ridge school district is providing meals for the children (delivered by school bus at their neighborhood stops by our own Tammy! - and others) so the back-pack program is also suspended until school resumes in the fall. So, 'thank you' for now, you will hear more about how we can support this program when 'in-session' school resumes.





Cup of Joe !

The ‘Cup of Joe’ program was planned to run through Easter, however, we got cut short with our ‘stay at home’ declaration! Therefore, the money collected up to this point has been sent to purchase cups of coffee for military members. When we can all get together again, we will resume the collections to support this program. Thanks for supporting our military members!



The “ROADMAP” TO A NEW INSTALLED PASTOR

The ‘Roadmap’ To A New Installed Pastor: Don’t forget to **continue praying** for your Pastor Nominating Committee. Just as a reminder, below is the ‘roadmap’ to securing a new installed pastor:

February ~ May 2019 -- Spend time getting to know congregation (**Completed**)

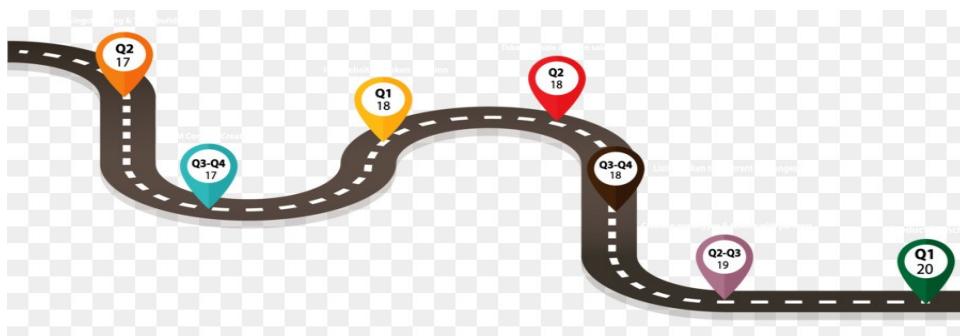
June ~ July 2019 -- Complete congregational mission study (**Completed**)

October 2019 -- Elect a Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) (**Completed**)

Oct ~ Nov 2019 -- Complete Ministry Information Form (MIF)(resume of the church) (**Completed**)

December 2019 -- Submit MIF for circulation (**Completed**)

January ~ August 2020 -- Review Personal Information Forms (PIF) - Interviews - Neutral
Pulpit presentation - present candidate to congregation for vote



Did You Know That You Can Donate To The Church By Using Your IRA?

Because of changes in the tax laws there is now a tax-friendly way to contribute to qualifying charities (like a church). In general, distributions from a traditional IRA are taxable in the year you receive them. But one exception to this rule is the Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD). A QCD generally is a nontaxable distribution made directly by the trustee of your IRA to an organization eligible to receive tax-deductible contributions. You must be at least age 70½ when the distribution is made. Also, you must have the same type of acknowledgment of your contribution as you would need to claim a deduction for a charitable contribution. (You can't claim a charitable contribution deduction for an QCD not included in your income.)

This provision of the tax code may be of interest to taxpayers who are at least age 70½ and have a traditional IRA. These individuals must take required minimum distributions from their IRA each year. Seniors in this position can now make charitable contributions while at the same time reducing their taxable income by directing the trustee of their IRA to make qualified charitable distributions (QCD), which count towards their minimum distribution.

For more information please call the church office or see IRS Publication 590-B.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMAN

Presbyterian Women's Group Update

Our Presbyterian Women's Group is scheduled to begin meeting in May as many of our members begin to return to the Mountain from their winter residences. Our tentative date for our first meeting is Tuesday, May 5th at 10 A.M. in the Fellowship Hall. We encourage newcomers and existing parishioners to join us and help us with new and creative craft ideas that will assist us in preparing items for our Craft and Bake Sale which takes place in August.

Once again, PW will be supporting Living Hope Pregnancy Centers' Baby Bottle Drive which runs from May 10 – June 21. This is from Mother's Day to Father's Day this year. This is a pro-life ministry and facility in the Show Low area that provides a home and a variety of resources for pregnant women and their children, as needed. Please assist us in supporting this ministry by placing loose change, bills, checks, or credit card information in the baby bottle and returning it to our table which will be set up each Sunday, beginning May 10 through June 21.

As we know, all of these dates are subject to change dependent upon the updates regarding COVID 19.

Georgia Merrick

PW Moderator



MINISTRY NOTES



Attention all men! We are going to try and continue our Sonrisers meetings. If you aren't aware of them, they meet each Wednesday for donuts and coffee and discussion about a book that we are using. Right now, we are looking at the book by Max Lucado titled "Cast of Characters." We are going to try to do this by using "Zoom", a communications app on your computer. It is free! If you are interested, please contact Stewart Lewis, (stewart.lewis.68@gmail.com). We will look at starting on Wednesday, April 15 at 8:30 am. Participants have to provide their own donuts!!

One Great Hour of Sharing Offering

Normally the ***One Great Hour of Sharing Offering*** is received during Holy Week. However, the Mission Committee decided to push this special offering back to the time when we can all be together for worship and have it be part of our celebration and thanksgiving. Stand by for more information on how we are making this an offering of gratitude for our return from social distancing.

Updates on Website: If you haven't checked out our website (www.cpcpinetop.org) recently, please do. You will see many updates containing different types of material. Some of the information is directed toward folks seeking a church to attend, others is information that you as a member/attender may need to know. The biggest change you will see is the addition of videos of the anthem and sermon from our Sunday services. So if you miss a Sunday and wanted to hear the message, no worries, you can watch it wherever you are!

The CHURCH MOUSE

What might the 10 Commandments say if they were handed down today, in our fast paced, modern, ever changing world, taking nothing away from God's words and the original one-and-only Ten Commandments. But, what if...

1. Prayer is not a "spare wheel" that you pull out when in trouble, but it is a "steering wheel" that directs the right path throughout the journey.
2. So why is a car's Windshield so large & the Rear View Mirror so small? Because our PAST is not as important as our FUTURE. So, look ahead and move on.
3. Friendship is like a BOOK. It takes years to write but only a few minutes to burn.
4. All things in life are temporary. If everything is going well, enjoy it, they will not last forever. If everything is going wrong, don't worry, it can't last long either.
5. Old friends are Gold! New friends are Diamond! If you get a Diamond, don't forget the Gold! Because to hold a Diamond, you always need a Base of Gold!
6. Often when we lose hope and think this is the end, GOD smiles from above and says, "Relax, sweetheart, it's just a bend, not the end!"
7. When GOD solves your problems, you have faith in HIS abilities. When GOD doesn't solve your problems HE has faith in your abilities.
8. A blind person asked St. Anthony: "Can there be anything worse than losing eye sight?" He replied: "Yes, losing your vision!"
9. When you pray for others, God listens to you and blesses them. Sometimes, when you are safe and happy, remember that someone has prayed for you.
10. WORRYING does not take away tomorrow's TROUBLES, it takes away today's PEACE.

Until next time – be happy, do good deeds, and keep love in your heart.

Love To You All,
Webster





MOPS – Mothers of Preschoolers *this is motherhood*

MOPS is an organization connecting moms all over the world to a community of women, in their own cities, who meet together to laugh, cry and embrace the journey of being a mom. The Christian Education Committee at CPC is exploring starting a MOPS group in our church. We are hoping to meet on a weekday twice a month, and we need some help. Here are a few things we've thought of so far. We will need:

1. Moms and their preschoolers (do you know anyone to invite?)
2. Childcare volunteers
3. Leaders for the Moms' discussions
4. Speakers (any subject! Retirees would be welcome to tell us about ANY of your stories, experiences, vocations and avocations).
5. Craft Leaders

We would entertain any suggestions you have for bringing some young moms and their children to our church. Please prayerfully consider helping out however you think you could. We covet your prayers and suggestions.

- Laurie Yost 928-521-7630 dlyostpr@gmail.com

- Debbie Leivers 719-351-4264 nana2bhm@gmail.com





CPC Building and Grounds April 2020 News

Life is sometimes anything but easy. So many things have the potential to bring us to our lowest points. Whether it's the monotonous everyday grind, anxiety about the future, unfortunate life events, or simply turning on the daily news (COVID-19), it's easy to feel pretty unhappy. It is only when we fix our eyes and hearts on the Word of God that we will find the clarity and peace that we desire. And boy, are we in luck. The Bible is stuffed with reminders of God's love and goodness and grace toward us.

Patrick and I are happy to report there will be some big changes at the Church soon. Already, we have doubled the size of our overflow parking area. A contract has been given to revamp the front entry, to remove the old concrete, and the shrubs will be replaced with decorative pavers. And last but not least, we awarded a contract to have the parking lot repaired, re-sealed and re-striped. Weather permitting the projects should be finished by mid-May.

These changes will bring renewed energy and protect our investments for a long time.

In God's Love,
Patrick McKinley and John Marble
B&G Moderators

DEACON'S DOINGS
COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
APRIL 2020

Happy April,

I hope all of you have had a happy, healthy and safe Winter and now Spring is here. Your CPC Deacons are ready to "Spring into action" to be of assistance, to you, if and when needed.

You should have already received a card or not from your Deacon. If you DID NOT receive a note, PLEASE contact the church office to update your contact information. Lynda Marble and Tammy, the church secretary, Have been working very hard to update the church directory. Your Deacons have divided the names up alphabetically, as follows:

A,B,C,D: Steve Rodney
E,F,G,H: Arlene Kerr
I,J,K: Mary Freemon
L,M,N,O,P: Sheila Hogan
R,S,T: Temporarily Unfilled
U,V,W,X,Y,Z: Pat Mecey

In God's Love and Mine,
Arlene Kerr, Deacon Moderator



You may have noticed some discordant sounds coming from our organ during worship. The best way to explain it is to say our organ is getting tired. At times, certain keys just refuse to work. At others, the stops go a little wonky. We have a repairman scheduled to take a "look see" at the end of April. Our hope is to apply a Band-Aid and get at least another year out of the present organ. Nancy Turner and Jan Mullins are working diligently to investigate alternatives. With all the other projects going on at the church, a new organ is just not feasible at this time. Please be patient with a few wrong notes or the occasional pause when there are no notes. Most likely it is the organ and not the organist!

Wishing you a glorious Palm Sunday and a Blessed Easter,

Judi Bee and Jan Mullins