

Community Presbyterian Church

May 2020 Newsletter

Dear Members and Friends of Community Presbyterian Church,

It is fair to say we are all looking forward to the day when we can be back in our sanctuary and worshipping together. We miss not seeing each other. However, it will be a while before 'being back' is a reality. Brad Munroe, our presbytery pastor, has likened our return more to a 'rheostat' rather than a 'light switch'. We will gradually take steps to reopen the office and our sanctuary as we come out of our current situation, **but it will happen!**

The Session (Board of Elders) met Thursday, April 30th to discuss a number of issues that are reported in this issue of the newsletter. However, a very focused conversation took place about re-gathering for worship and what steps are needed before we can be together again. It was decided...

- Because of the average age of our congregation (large percentage of higher risk category attenders) we will be extremely cautious about opening too soon. We will probably open later than some other congregations in the area.
- At least for the month of May, we will continue with our 'virtual' worship services.
- A working group was formed to oversee, with Drs. Yost and Traeger advising, the implementation of the Grand Canyon Presbytery's **"Guidelines for Reopening Checklist"**. This checklist includes the following categories to be considered:
 1. Congregational Makeup and Risk Factors
 2. Physical Plant and Equipment
 3. Worship Options
 4. Sanitation and Cleaning
 5. Staff Management
 6. Community Connections and Outreach

To reopen in a safe and measured way is going to take time and patience. Please be praying for your congregational leadership as we strive to accomplish this mutual goal. In the Apostle John's vision recorded in Revelation 21:5, God says, "Behold I make all things new." From this time of closure, new and refreshing times will come. God has not forgotten us, rather God is 're-forming' us – in a sense we are living a faith adventure. Don't lose heart or get discouraged, God is with us – and that is 'Good News'.

Blessings and Grace, Bob

SESSION ACTIONS OF NOTE

-PNC – The Elders received an update from the **Pastor Nominating Committee** about their progress in the midst of the pandemic. The committee continues to meet and conduct business in a virtual manner. There has been significant progress made by the committee and the Session approved their proceeding as swiftly as possible in light of the current restrictions on travel. See an update to the **‘Roadmap’** later in this newsletter.



- Senior Service Award – Yearly each congregation in Grand Canyon Presbytery is asked to nominate a senior member for a **Senior Service Award**. This award is to recognize a person giving outstanding service to our congregation and the community. The recipients are honored at a luncheon presented by the presbytery – usually in May, but this year it will be held at a later date to be determined. The Elders unanimously elected **Arlene Kerr** to receive the award this year representing Community Presbyterian Church of Pinetop. **Congratulations Arlene!**

- White Mountain Apache Community – Because of the overwhelming support of the presbytery churches to the call to assist the Navajo Nation Relief Effort, our Session was asked to divert our donations to the White Mountain Apache Community. The Elders concurred with this request. We are still collecting food and cleaning items for our neighbors in White River, so please stop by with your donations. Thank you!

- On-line Donations – The Session also approved the establishment of a way to make on-line donations through our website. The application forms are being filled this week and we hope to have a **‘donate’ button** on our homepage in the near future. We will be working through the **Presbyterian Foundation** of the PCUSA.



A Big “Thank You”!

A big thank you is extended to **Tyler, Ryan, Lauren and Jared Cox!** This great team recently spent a morning working with the Buildings and Grounds committee to clean up the extra material (junk) from the back lot of the church. Thank you so much, the area looks so much better. Your efforts are very much appreciated!



MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers)



We want to let you know that we are still hoping to have a MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers) program in our church at some time in the future. Everything is too uncertain to be able to plan specifically at this time, but as a reminder, MOPS is a mid-week program, most likely twice a month. We will invite Mothers of preschool aged children to bring their children, and we'll have childcare at the same time as the moms meet for Bible Study, Fellowship, parenting tips, crafts, etc. We have been working with the MOPS International program (mops.org) to help us set up the program. We will need **VOLUNTEERS** from CPC to make this program work. MOPS International has sent us a Mother's Day Video that we'd like to share with you. Happy Mother's Day!!!

<https://vimeo.com/213101031>

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)** ☒

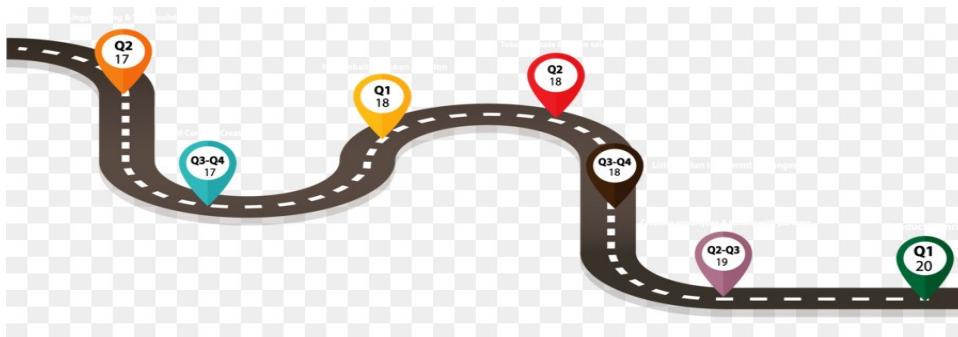
October 2019 - - Elect a Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) **(Completed)** ☒

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 - **(Partly completed)**

Neutral Pulpit presentation - present candidate to congregation for vote **(in Process)**



One Great
HO**UR**
O F S H A R I N G

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.

MINISTRY NOTES

Thoughts, Just for Fun...

Until further notice the days of the week are now called this day, that day, other day, some day, yesterday, today and next day!

Coronavirus has turned us all into dogs. We roam the house all day looking for food. We're told "no" if we get too close to strangers and we get really excited about car rides.

If you thought toilet paper was crazy ... just wait until 300 million people all want a haircut appointment.

Get It On The Calendar: If your group has an event/meeting planned at the church, please call the church office and have Tammy put it on the master calendar. Without this information, 'double-booking' could easily happen. Thanks for your help!

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.

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!



GARDING GOD'S WAY

*Plant three rows of peas:
Peace of mind
Peace of heart
Peace of soul*

*Plant 4 rows of squash:
Squash gossip
Squash indifference
Squash grumbling
Squash selfishness*

*Plant 4 rows of lettuce:
Lettuce be faithful
Lettuce be obedient
Lettuce really love one
another*

*No Garden without turnips:
Turnip for meetings
Turnip for service
Turnip to help one another*

*Water freely with patience and cultivate love
There is much fruit from your garden
Because you reap what you sow.*

*To conclude our garden we must have thyme:
Thyme for God
Thyme for study
Thyme for prayer*

THE CHURCH MOUSE



I came across an article the other day and I enjoyed it so much I want to share it with all of you. It's called:

"Theology As Explained By Children"

The first book of the Bible is Guinnessis, in which Adam & Eve were created from an apple tree.

Noah's wife was called Joan of Ark.

Lot's wife was a pillar of salt by day and a ball of fire by night.

Samson slayed the Philistines with the axe of the Apostles.

Unleavened bread is bread made without ingredients.

Moses went to the top of Mt. Cyanide to get the 10 commandments.

The 7th commandment is 'Thou shalt not admit adultery.'

Joshua led the Hebrew in the battle of Geritol

David fought the Finkelsteins, a race of people who lived in Biblical times.

Solomon has 300 wives and 700 porcupines.

Jesus was born because Mary had an immaculate contraption.

The people who followed Jesus were called the 13 decibels.

The Epistles were the wives of the Apostles.

One of the opossums was St. Matthew.

Paul preached holy acrimony, which is another name for marriage.

A Godly person should have only one wife. This is called monotony.

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

Love To You All,
Webster

BUILDING AND GROUNDS



CONSTRUCTION IN PROGRESS FOR OUR BEAUTIFUL NEW ENTRYWAY!



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Presbyterian Women's Group Update

We had hoped to begin our Presbyterian Women's Group meetings on May 5th; however, we will wait until Governor Ducey gives us an update and guidelines that would allow us to meet on our traditional Tuesdays.

We have not been able to do our traditional PW Birthday Offering in April but would appreciate anyone wishing to contribute to please note on a check or envelope that you have designated funds to the PW Birthday offering in the notation section. Those funds support specially selected ministries both in the United States and around the Globe.

Once again PW hopes to support Living Hope Centers' Baby Bottle Drive which runs from Mother's Day to Father's Day. Again this will depend upon our being able to attend church services once again. 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.

Georgia Merrick



Since 1952, the first Thursday of May has been designated the National Day of Prayer. This is a day set aside to pray for our nation, our leaders and our communities. The theme for 2020 is: **"Pray God's Glory Across the Earth"** (based on Habakkuk 2:14 "For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord as the waters cover the sea."). Normally, the sanctuary would be open for people to come and pray together on this special day, but of course, this year, we have to pray from home. Please do take time to pray for our nation on Thursday – for wisdom and courage and that God would be glorified in all that we, God's people, do and say.