



The Good News Letter



April 2020

God calls Christiansburg Presbyterian Church to be a welcoming, loving, and diverse community that offers people the opportunity to journey toward the fullest expression of their Christian faith.

Parsonally Speaking . . .

Do you remember the old “red hymnal” that so many Presbyterian churches, including CPC, once used? It contained one of my all-time favorite hymns, which, unfortunately, did not make it into the hymnal we’re now using.

I’m referring to the hymn, “Be Still, My Soul.” The words (originally a poem) were written in 1752 by a German woman, Katharina von Schlegel. Later, in 1899, the poem was paired

with the tune
FINLANDIA by a
Finnish composer,
Jean Sibelius.

I woke up the
other morning
humming this hymn
to myself. Does that
ever happen to you...
the moment you



awake, a piece of music has arisen from some unconscious place within and greets you at the very start of the day?

Given the uncertain and stressful times we’re living in these days, it was quite a blessing to me that “Be Still My Soul” welcomed me to a new day that morning. “God works in mysterious ways,” they say, and the words and music were just what I needed, just when I needed it. Through people of another place and time, God spoke to me, here and now.

Here are the words of the hymn. I invite you, when you have a moment, to pause, savor a few deep breaths and slow exhales, and then mindfully take in the message of this hymn. Perhaps God will speak to you through it as well.

*Be still, my soul: the Lord is on thy side;
bear patiently the cross of grief or pain;
leave to thy God to order and provide;
in every change He faithful will remain.
Be still, my soul: thy best, thy heavenly Friend
through thorny ways leads to a joyful end.*

*Be still, my soul: thy God doth undertake
to guide the future as He has the past.
Thy hope, thy confidence let nothing shake;
all now mysterious shall be bright at last.
Be still, my soul: the waves and winds still know
His voice, who ruled them while He dwelt below.*

*Be still, my soul: the hour is hastening on
when we shall be forever with the Lord,
when disappointment, grief, and fear are gone,
sorrow forgot, love's purest joys restored.
Be still, my soul: when change and tears are past,
all safe and blessed we shall meet at last.*

Peace and all good, Don

Attention, High School Graduates!

CPC's Class of 2020 High School graduates will be honored during worship on Sunday, May 17. All graduates who would like to be recognized that day are asked to complete a graduate information form. Do you have a child or grandchild who will be graduating from high school this spring? Please let them know about this upcoming celebration. Forms are available in the church office.



A Place to Pray

CPC's Prayer Chapel is located on the ground floor of the church building, next to the Multi-Purpose Room. Anyone who seeks a quiet space for individual prayer or meditation is invited to use the Prayer Chapel, which is available during regular church office hours (9 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays) and any other times the building is open. To arrange use of the Prayer Chapel at other times, please contact the church office (382-2802).



Communion for Those Who Can't Make It to Church

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper is available for those who are homebound, hospitalized, or otherwise unable to attend worship.

To have the sacrament brought to you, please call the church office (382-2802). Anyone who wishes to request Communion for a family member or relative who is not able to make the request her/himself may do so by calling the church.



Visit Us on the Web

Web Page: www.christiansburgpres.org

Facebook Page: Christiansburg Presbyterian Church

E-mail: cpchurch@usit.net

Presbytery of the Peaks: www.peakspresbytery.org

Synod of the Mid-Atlantic: www.synatlantic.org

Presbyterian Church, USA: www.pcusa.org



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The Rev. Dr. Donald E. Makin, Pastor

Sunday Worship Schedule

9:30 a.m. – Journey Groups for all ages

10:30 a.m. – Worship

Deadline for newsletter submissions is the 20th of each month.

Articles may be submitted in writing and left in the *GoodNews Letter* box next to the church office or submitted by email to Kathie Hollandsworth at luraedythe@gmail.com.

The *GoodNews Letter* is distributed via an email message linked to CPC's website. If you would like to receive a hard copy by mail, please call 540-382-2802 or email the church office at cpchurch@usit.net.

Ushers for April

Bru Brubaker, Elijah Brubaker, Eleanor Horton, Emilee Horton,
Ronnie Horton, Maggie Lawson, Melissa Lawson



A Message from CPC's Session

Dear CPC Members and Friends,

Greetings and blessings to all. We are in some challenging times right now, with the COVID-19 virus and the recommended limitations on social gatherings that the virus has created. So, we wanted to reach out to our CPC family to wish you well. We encourage you to follow as closely as possible the hygiene guidelines that have been established, in order to stay healthy during these times.

In an online meeting on Sunday, March 22, the Session made some important decisions related to everyone's health and well-being and the on-going life of our church during this difficult time:

- **All on-site church activities are suspended through April 30 (no on-site Worship Services, Journey Groups, choir rehearsals, face-to-face meetings, Holy Week or Easter-related events, etc.).** If for any reason the April 30 date is changed, we will let everyone know as soon as possible.
- **An online abbreviated Worship Service will be streamed live each Sunday of the coming weeks at 10:30 a.m.** To foster a sense of congregational oneness, everyone is invited to set that time apart to worship "together in our separateness." The services will be recorded and will be available at other times as well. To access the service in real time, or the recorded version at a later time, click this link: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCXTMdF6MzaYeq_vIFfXVbw
- **A brief, twice-weekly (Tuesdays and Thursdays) online devotional time, along with church announcements, prayer concerns, etc., is available by clicking the same link.**

Even though we are not meeting together, we still have financial obligations, including our staff and the costs to maintain and support our facilities. We humbly request, as you are able, that you continue your financial support of our church. You can mail checks directly to the church (107 West Main Street, Christiansburg, VA 24073). Or, you might wish to consider setting up a direct payment to CPC from your bank. If you would like to do this and you are not sure how to proceed, members of the Framework Ministry Team would be willing to help. You can reach out to Jay Muscatello (jaymuscatello@gmail.com), Tom Greene (j.tomgreene@gmail.com), Tim Lawson (tim@timlawsonphotos.com), or Gary Overstreet (garyoverstreet11@gmail.com) for assistance.

It is very important at this time for CPC to be able to communicate by email with as many of you as possible. This is the best means we have to keep everyone up to date on church news. If you have not given your current email address to Shelda Wills in the Church Office, please call and do so now (382-2802). *If you do not have email access, please let Shelda know so that we can communicate with you by phone or regular mail.*

CPC's Session members are holding you in prayer, and we wish each of you the very best during this time. Please let us know of any special needs you may have, so that we can offer the church's help to you. We plan to be checking in with everyone by phone over the coming days, so you may get a call from a number you don't readily recognize. *If we do not have an up-to-date telephone number for you, please contact Shelda in the Church Office (382-2802) and let her know what number you are using.*

Blessings to all, and thank you for your continued support of CPC and our ministries.

Love and all the best,

CPC Session Members



About the One Great Hour of Sharing Easter Offering

Jesus' ministry was among those who were most vulnerable. He preached good news to the poor and release to the captives. The One Great Hour of Sharing Easter Offering helps us share this same good news with those same vulnerable people in our world today: those who are hungry, who are suffering from disaster, who are dealing with oppression in society. Every gift made to this offering will meet the needs of real people. Today, projects supported by OGHS are underway in more than 100 countries. Your gifts help carry out the work of:



- **Presbyterian Disaster Assistance**, which works within communities as they recover and find hope after the devastation of natural or human-caused disasters.
- **Presbyterian Hunger Program**, which takes action to alleviate hunger and its systemic causes, and helps create access to healthy food for entire communities.
- **Self-Development of People**, which partners with people and communities with tools for development and education to alleviate poverty, oppression, and injustice.

As you are able, please plan to give generously to this special annual offering during the Easter Season this month. On behalf of all who will benefit from your help, many thanks!

Elders Ordained and Installed March 15

It was a joy for all of us to have the service of ordination and installation for our recently elected Elders on Sunday, March 15. **Bill Rhudy** (Class of 2022) and **Emilee Horton** (Youth Elder, Class of 2020) were ordained and installed to active service on CPC's Session. Previously ordained **Dinah Arnott, Linda Crate, Pam Goff, and Kathie Hollandsworth** were installed, Class of 2022. Please remember these and all your Session members in your prayers, and express your appreciation for their service the next time you see them.



Spiritual Direction Available

Jennifer Makin is available to assist individuals seeking to deepen in their personal relationship with God or who find themselves in the midst of spiritual crisis. The spiritual life is one of "formation" characterized by periods of healing, growth, and transformation as we gradually allow ourselves to know and be known by God. During such periods, it can be extremely helpful to have a spiritual companion or director who provides faithful listening in the context of a safe and trusting relationship where confidentiality is held in sacred trust. Jennifer is a developmental psychologist, spiritual director, massage therapist, and healing touch practitioner. As such, she has many tools and resources to draw upon to assist those on the path to wholeness. To make an appointment, you may call her at 382-2390, or email her at ringbearer01@hotmail.com.

Notes from the March Session Meeting

- The Session heard faith statements from and examined Emilee Horton, candidate for ordination as Youth Elder in the Class of 2020, and Bill Rhudy, candidate for ordination as Ruling Elder in the Class of 2022. Following the approval of their examinations, the Session voted to proceed with the ordination and installation of Emilee and Bill on March 15, along with the installation of previously ordained Ruling Elders in the Class of 2022, Dinah Arnott, Linda Crate, Pam Goff, and Kathie Hollandsworth.
- Communications were received from New River Community Action, UKirk Ministry at Virginia Tech, Presbyterian Children's Home of the Highlands, Habitat for Humanity, Sunnyside, Valley Interfaith Child Care Center, and Women's Resource Center, each expressing appreciation for the first-quarter benevolence gift.
- Speakers with volume controls have been installed in the parlor and in the Gathering Space.
- Shelda Wills, Commissioner to the February 13 Presbytery of the Peaks meeting at Forest Presbyterian Church, briefly reported on the day's events.
- The Christian Formation Ministry Team reported that it is working on a job description for the Youth Activities Coordinator position that was added to the 2020 budget.
- The Session approved a recommendation from the Christian Formation Ministry Team that Suzanne Dunn be hired as the Youth Activities Coordinator, pending approval of a job description.
- The Compassion Ministry Team reported that everything seemed to go well with CPC's support role in the "To Our House" program in February.
- The Framework Ministry Team reviewed the income and expense report for February that showed income of \$20,341.29 and expenses of \$22,836.51, for a deficit of \$2,495.22. Year-to-date income is \$46,515.45 (which includes \$12,750 carried over from the 2019 surplus), and expenses are \$46,188.77, for a surplus of \$326.68. The team also reviewed the February designated accounts.
- The Session approved recommendations from the Framework Ministry Team that the deteriorated wooden painted church signs on College Street and on West Main Street be replaced with new painted signs, at a total cost not to exceed \$1,000 using funds from the Memorial Fund; that \$6,000 of the 2019 surplus be set aside for the purchase of a commercial grade lawn mower and other replacement lawn equipment as deemed necessary; that \$643.79 of the 2019 surplus be used to clear the negative balance in the playground fund; and that the remaining funds in the 2019 surplus be transferred into the Building/Operating account of the Endowment Fund.
- The Togetherness Ministry Team reported that plans had been finalized for the Annual Soup Luncheon Fundraiser for the Montreat Youth Conference, that team members would assist the CPC Men's Group with breakfast following the Easter Sunrise Service, and that the all-church picnic and worship service has been scheduled for August 2.
- The Worship Ministry Team reported that plans are being made for the Spring Concert and for a special hands-on 5th Sunday Worship service on August 30.
- The Session approved recommendations from the Worship Ministry Team that permission be given to Taylor Baldwin to serve as pianist with the American Institute of Musical Studies in Graz, Austria, July 5-August 16; and that \$1,000 from the 2019 surplus be allocated for the music program.



Presbyterian Women News

Due to the coronavirus pandemic (COVID-19), Presbyterian Women circles will not meet in April. The Spring Gathering for PW in the New River Valley, Roanoke Valley, and Highlands Neighborhoods that had been scheduled for April 19 at Covenant Presbyterian Church in Roanoke has been cancelled.

April Celebrations Shower Us

Birthdays

Apr. 1	Dave Andrews	Apr. 16	Lindsey Craft Hale
Apr. 3	Brian St. John		Kelly Stulce
Apr. 5	Kortlin Owens	Apr. 17	Suzanne Dunn
Apr. 6	Bru Brubaker		Taylor Peebles
	Elaine Gall	Apr. 21	Libby Beamer
Apr. 8	Jesse McMullen		Kristina Cook
	Patty Prince	Apr. 23	John Epperly
	Ella Stulce		Wayne King
	Gene Winters		Doris Miller
Apr. 9	Aiden Gunther		Eric Snow
Apr. 11	Anderson Peebles		James Williams
	Isabel Shelor	Apr. 24	Nicholas Keeling
Apr. 12	Kenita Brugh	Apr. 25	Sarah Akers
	David Couch		Avalon McMullen
	Beth Childress Presley	Apr. 26	Dallas St. Clair
Apr. 13	Cole Hudson	Apr. 27	Herb Miller
	Amanda Overstreet		Norm Morgan
	Sydney Rumpf	Apr. 28	David French
Apr. 14	Rosalie Jurisson		Paulos Gorzycki
	Collin Smith	Apr. 30	Tyler Gall
Apr. 15	Judy Diloia		Tom Teates



Anniversaries

Apr. 3	Ken & Lori Keeling
	Jim & Sue Taylor
Apr. 4	Jared & Marie March
Apr. 5	Dave & Pam Goff
Apr. 6	Jeff & Julie Stanley
Apr. 7	Steve & Susan Frank
Apr. 11	Sam & Janet Doak
Apr. 23	Ralph & Sandra Clements
Apr. 25	Richard & Alice Alley
	Bru & Martha Brubaker
	Tyler Kirby & Aaron Harris-Kirby

Many Thanks for Your Support

Dear CPC Family,

Thank you for supporting my seminary education. This semester has been quite busy as I returned from South Africa in January and began my chaplaincy internship at the Presbyterian Village, a senior living care center, in February. I am enjoying my classes and internship, and I am beginning to study Greek in preparation for my summer class. While I am not very enthused about taking online classes for the remainder of the semester, my seven-month-old kitten enjoys my new homebound schedule! I wish you all the best.

Stay well.

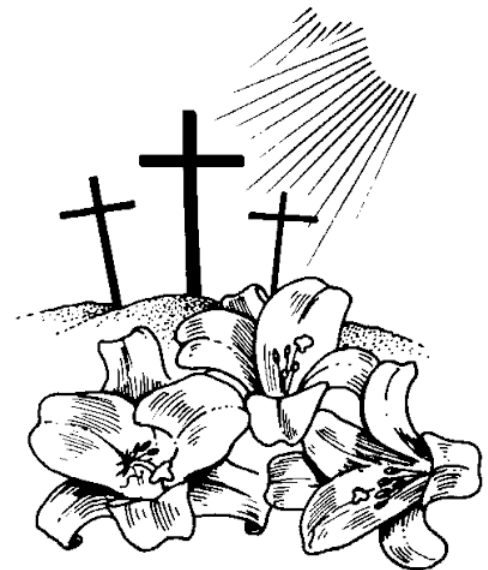
Peace, Rachel Sutphin



Dear CPC Family,

Thank you so much for the care package! The snacks held me through my back-to-back classes quite well. I always look forward to them. Once again, thank you!

Erin Rhodes



We Welcome All Who Worship with Us

We welcome all visitors to our worship services and activities. If you are a visitor, please know that your presence among us is noted and appreciated. We hope to see you again. Members, if you see neighbors or co-workers visiting us, please extend your personal greeting, and invite them to return. Let's be sure all our visitors know that they are welcome and needed here!



Need a Helping Hand Around the House?



CPC's Men's Group is dedicated to offering assistance to anyone in the church who may need a little help from time to time with small jobs at home. Need some furniture moved? A leaky faucet fixed? A running toilet repaired? A hard-to-reach light bulb replaced? Furnace filters changed? Smoke detector checked? Pictures or mirror hung? We would love to help . . . no charge!

Please call the church office (382-2802) to make your request. Your information will be passed on to us, and we will be in touch to set up a time. While we are not able to perform routine yard work (such as mowing, trimming, raking) or major repairs or renovations, we are eager to pitch in with the many smaller odd jobs that crop up around the house all the time. Please do call the church office to let us know how we can lend a hand!

Remember Our Shut-In and Out-of-Town Members

(For contact information on any of our shut-in or out-of-town members, please call the church office at 382-2802.)

*Estelle Chandler
Charlotte Davis*

Judy DiIoiá

*Ray Obenshain
Edith Reed*

"Why are you looking among the dead for one who is alive? He is not here; he has been raised. Remember what he said to you while he was in Galilee: 'The Human One must be handed over to sinners, be crucified, and three days later rise to life.'"

