



The GoodNews Letter



May 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 . . .

I'll admit it – these days of social distancing and a closed church building are starting to get to me. I miss the people of CPC. I miss the regular routine. I'm weary of having to find a different way to do ordinary things, at work and at home. I grieve the deaths of so many people in our country and in the world, and the suffering of those who have lost loved ones, and the misery of those who are ill. I feel a heaviness, a darkness. Do you feel it, too? "How long, O Lord?" (Psalm 13:1)

I notice myself looking down, rather than up. So it's been helpful to have come across a poem I cut out of a Presbyterian publication ("Monday Morning" – which was written primarily by and for Presbyterian clergy) years and years ago. The Rev. E. Paul Hovey, now deceased, shared these words about Easter in his poem, "The Touch of Eternity":

The touch of Eternity
is a delicate thing,
like a fragrant scent
wafted across a meadow
causing life to stir anew –
or like a flavor
wakening unused taste buds
to zestful living.
Most of our work keeps us
looking down.
The Uplifted Face of Easter
gives us that touch of Eternity
which makes us pause,
look up
and perchance catch a vision
of the far horizon –
of Eternity –
and God.



Memo to myself: "These are the days of Eastertide. Christ is risen. The whole world is in God's hands."

May each of us, and all of us, feel the Touch of Eternity in these unusual and challenging days . . . and look up!

Peace and all good, Don

Relief Fund Established

CPC'S Session has established a COVID-19 Relief Fund to assist people in our church family who may be adversely affected by the pandemic. This could be due to illness, loss of a job or income, or unanticipated expenses related to our current state of affairs. Individuals in the congregation who have been fortunate not to have additional financial stressors during this time are encouraged to give a portion (or all) of their economic stimulus money to this fund, so that it can be redistributed to others who are currently in need. To receive help from this fund, simply call the church (382-2802) and speak with Don Makin. If any funds remain at the end of 2020, they will be distributed by CPC's Compassion Ministry Team to a current area of need in our church or community.



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 and 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.

An Update from CPC's Session



- **Suspension of On-Site Church Activities Extended Through June 10:** In response to Virginia's stay-at-home order, and in view of the recommendation of the Presbytery of the Peaks, CPC's Session has made the decision to extend the suspension of all on-site church activities through June 10. This includes worship services, Journey Groups, choir rehearsals, face-to-face meetings, etc. The church office will remain open during this time, unless further developments call for a change in this regard. *Any shortening or extension of this time frame will be announced as soon as possible.* The Session regrets having to make this difficult decision, but reminds everyone that in this unusual time, the best way for us to love one another is to keep a safe distance apart. Please take care of yourselves and each other, and continue to be in prayer for everyone.
- **Staying Connected Online:** In this very unusual time, the best way to love our neighbors and show concern for one another is the opposite of what we've been taught – by distancing ourselves to protect each other from the spread of COVID-19. Until we as a congregation are able to be together again in person, the following online opportunities are available to help us keep connected as much as possible for now:



- **Tuesday/Thursday Online Devotionals:** Don Makin is posting a brief pre-recorded online "Devotional and Update" video each Tuesday and Thursday (available for viewing by 5:00 a.m., and any time later).
 - **Sunday Worship Services:** Pre-recorded abbreviated worship services are available each Sunday (available for viewing by 5:00 a.m., and any time later). Although the Sunday morning online services are not streamed live, those who wish to view the video each week at our regular worship time, 10:30 a.m., are invited to do so in order to have a sense of sharing worship together.
 - **"Children's Lessons with Mrs. Tam":** Tammy Craft of our congregation is providing video lessons for preschool through 4th grade children and their families each Sunday (available for viewing by 5:00 a.m., and any time later). *A link for printable handouts that go along with the lessons is included in the description section of each video.*
- **To view the online Tuesday/Thursday devotionals, Sunday Worship Services, and "Children's Lessons with Mrs. Tam," simply click on this link, and you will be taken to CPC's YouTube channel, where you will find the latest (and all previous) videos:**
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCXTMdF6MzaYeq__viFfXVbw
- **A special invitation:** During this time of being apart, CPC members and/or families are invited to submit pictures or short video clips of themselves, and they will be incorporated into the online Sunday worship service videos that are being made on CPC's YouTube channel. You can send them to cburgpres@gmail.com. Please note that submitting a picture and/or video means that you give permission for it to be used online.
- **Music for Comfort, Community, and Meditation:** Taylor Baldwin is sharing piano pieces that he has uploaded to his personal YouTube channel. It is his intention to do a daily post by around 8:00 p.m. Please subscribe to the channel if you would like to be notified automatically when any new upload is available. To access Taylor's music, simply click on the following link, and you will be taken to his YouTube channel (*please note that this is a different link from the link to CPC's YouTube channel*):
<http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCBwJptGdczA7Dz70D4NIhIA>

Notes from the April Session Meeting

- A communication was received from the Presbytery of the Peaks regarding a one-time gift of \$1,000 for all Peaks churches to assist with expenses incurred as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- In response to the congregation's request during the Annual Congregational Meeting in January, the Session voted to give the pastor a one-time gift of \$1,000, with \$450 coming from member donations and \$550 coming from reserve funds.
- Bru Brubaker and Bill Rhudy were elected to serve as CPC's Commissioners to the June 13 meeting of the Presbytery of the Peaks at the Presbytery Office in Lynchburg.
- In addition to the weekly online worship services and Tuesday/Thursday devotionals being prepared by Don Makin during the COVID-19 pandemic, Taylor Baldwin is recording a daily selection on piano, and Tammy Craft is preparing a weekly online video lesson for preschool-4th grade children and their parents.
- Appreciation was expressed to Gary Overstreet, chair of the Compassion Ministry Team, for his coordination of CPC's support role in the "To Our House" program in February.
- The Framework Ministry Team reviewed the income and expense report for March that showed income of \$21,308.88 and expenses of \$22,061.29, for a deficit of \$752.41. Year-to-date income is \$67,824.33 (which includes \$12,750 carried over from the 2019 surplus), and expenses are \$68,250.06, for a deficit of \$425.73. The team also reviewed the March designated accounts and the first-quarter rental properties report.
- The Framework Ministry Team continues its work on removing ash trees, making plans for the removal of the Bradford pear trees in front of the church, replacing signs on College Street and West Main Street, mowing the church grounds, etc.
- Following discussion, the Session voted to recommend to the congregation during a future called special congregational meeting that the church manse be sold to Don and Jennifer Makin.
- The Session approved a recommendation from the Framework Ministry Team that CPC apply for financial assistance from the Small Business Administration Paycheck Protection Program.
- In response to Virginia's stay-at-home order, and in view of the recommendation of the Presbytery of the Peaks, the Session voted to extend the suspension of all on-site church activities through June 10, with the understanding that this time frame could be shortened or extended.
- The Session voted to allocate \$1,500 from reserve funds to assist CPC's custodian and her family, as they are having to replace the roof on their trailer.



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.

May Happiness Be with You!

Birthdays

May 1 Michael Foster
May 2 Rebecca Nixon
Ryan Osborne
Linda Price
May 3 Patrick Wheeler
May 5 Kate Feuchtenberger
Evelyn Kimball
May 7 Melissa Milione
Jeff Urch
Steve Vacca
May 8 Julianne Clements
Michaela Goldammer
May 9 David Dunn
Melody Yuvanavattana
Mays
Dave Thomas
Natalie Wheeler
May 10 Jennifer Smith
Jeff Stanley
May 11 Logan Price
May 12 Christopher Neal
Kevin Poole
May 13 Julie Campbell
Brian Hamilton
John Weatherspoon

May 15 Steve Frank
May 17 Cindy Hawley
Vicki Kitts
Jean Wonderley
May 20 Henry Showalter
Meredith Morgan
May 21 Steve Rhodes
May 22 Allison Lee Craft
Carie Muscatello
May 23 Tristan Hall
Sean Osborne
May 24 Sam Eubanks
Stephanie Graham
Julia Lucas
Kelli Wheeler
May 26 Luke Hamley
Joe Thompson
May 27 Jack Duke
Joe Hamed
May 28 Chris Messner
May 30 Audrie Bouchard
May 31 Wyatt Hurley

Anniversaries

May 1 Steve & Kim Rhodes
May 3 Henry & Kelly Showalter
May 9 Tim & Melissa Lawson
May 12 Dan & Kenita Brugh
May 19 Kevin & Jennifer Poole
Dallas & Kasey St. Clair
May 21 Brian & Cyndi Hamilton
David & Kelli Wheeler
May 24 Jeff Hamley & Kymn
Davidson-Hamley
Hank & Dana Partin
May 25 David & Kati Williams
May 27 Ralph & Estelle Dobbins
May 30 Scott & Ann Urch



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!

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!



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 DiIoià

*Ray Obenshain
Edith Reed*

The spring is fresh and fearless
And every leaf is new,
The world is brimmed with moonlight,
The lilac brimmed with dew.



Here in the moving shadows
I catch my breath and sing—
My heart is fresh and fearless
And over-brimmed with spring.

“May Night” – Sara Teasdale