



PHILADELPHIA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

351 Morrow Road, Forest Park, Georgia 30297

THE CROSSROADS

Dear Philadelphia Church Family,

We certainly are living in unprecedented times. Laying heavy on our minds is the Virus and those of us who are in the at risk group live with the threat of death on our lives. And our children have great concern for us all. As I sit writing this the thought comes to my mind that Jesus lived under the threat of death at this time of the year. When facing death, the one thing Jesus did was to separate himself from others and look to His heavenly Father in prayer.

The Apostle Paul also wrote of his living under the threat of death. He writes these words of encouragement, "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."

Last evening as I laid down to go to sleep, I was remembering you in prayer. I also took a moment to see my friends' posts for the day. One of my friends from my hometown shared the thoughts of a doctor with whom he is friends. This is his wisdom for us all..."Stay safe, stay healthy, and stay away from one another!" As I meditated on that thought an additional phrase came to me..."Stay home, stay healthy, and draw near to God for he is our help and salvation."

I hope this finds you well and praying for all the world. May the Lord bless and keep you and give you peace.

Blessings on you all,
Jack =)

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A light in the community that brings all people to God through Christ centered worship and ministry and nurtures their faith in order to extend His kingdom.

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TO BE REMEMBERED IN PRAYER AND WITH CARDS (new info in bold)

Please notify us concerning new info and updates. Inquiring minds – and prayerful hearts – want to know!

- 02/18 Autumn Bolinger (friend of Serena Staats) – epilepsy & cyst on brain
- 03/23 Joe Bray (Debbie's uncle) - under home hospice care for colon cancer/kidney failure**
- 02/17 Carole Cabe (Fred's sister) – house destroyed by fire, lost everything
- 02/20 Pat Culver (Bob & Becky's daughter) – bone cancer treatments
- 03/03 Erwin & Ruth Gettys – several medical issues, would appreciate your prayers
- 02/25 Luke Key (Debbie Bray's friend) – 13 year old with acute leukemia, treatment, very sick
- 03/23 Charlie NeSmith—went to ER, no pneumonia, back home, weak, needs prayers**
- 02/18 Rhonda Pettit (Serena Staats' cousin) – viral lung reaction, to see cardiologist
- 02/11 Pat Randolph – heart issues, had pacemaker installed, now blood clot in arm

Update: Steve Cooper (Angie's nephew & Kathy Banke's cousin) - is now staying with his daughter in Titusville FL. He is really working hard to get back his strength. Thanks for prayer.

OUR HOMEBOUND: *Please refer to the Church Directory for contact information*

Marie Foster Patty Boone Becky Huie Ann & Charlie NeSmith

Prayer Request: Call 404-366-1851, Email secyppc@bellsouth.net or fill in the I WISH card and drop in the offering plate.

THIS MONTH'S BIRTHDAYS

- 08/ Erin Randolph
- 13/ Tom Smith
- 14/ Mallory Banke
- 17/ Kathie Pierce
- 17/ Angela Russ
- 23/ Serena Staats
- 24/ John Randolph

THIS MONTH'S ANNIVERSARIES

- 04/10 Ann & Charles NeSmith
- 04/15 Jennifer & Fred Rohrbach
- 04/21 Mallory & Chris Banke
- 04/24 Glenda & Rusty Taylor

THIS MONTH'S VOLUNTEERS

USHERS

- Fred Rohrbach
- Rick Pierce
- Mary Pat Smith
- David Hatch

Prayer Request: Call 404-366-1851, Email secyppc@bellsouth.net

Dear Church Family

Words are not enough to express how much your prayers, calls, and cards have meant to John and me as we experience medical problems and surgery. Thank you so much for your love and concern. May God Bless each of you as He has blessed us.

John and Pat Randolph



Ann and Charles NeSmith send their Love to all.

Annelle Maxwell and Angie Tharp have checked in at the office and are both doing well but still miss you all.

Henry & Betty Brock asked to be included in our emails.

Fred & Jennifer Rohrbach are staying home as much as possible. Jennifer is online teaching still. Bob is enjoying the company.

Jack & Ginger Westlund shared pictures of Philadelphia in the spring for you to enjoy.



O come, let us worship and bow down. Let us kneel before the Lord our Maker. For he is our God and we are the people of His pasture and the sheep of His hand.

PW MESSAGE CORNER



- APR 5—12:15PM—PWCT
- APR 9—10:00am—Mary & Martha Circle @ Kathy Banke's home
- APR 11—10:30am—Circle One
- APR 15—10:30am—Busy Bees Circle
(*subject to change due to COVID19 self quarantine*)

Come See Columbia Day, which is usually in April, has been postponed this year and will be held on Friday, October 16th. PW will be collecting contributions to fund scholarships for students at Columbia Seminary, with Columbia Friendship Circle, in August.

An update from the Finance Committee

Hi Folks.

We hope you are staying safe and sane during this shutdown. This is certainly uncharted territory. Session has committed to continue to pay all staff even though we have had to cancel Church services and other activities for the foreseeable future. Reverend Westlund is preparing online Sunday sermons and Verena is preparing the supporting music as well as editing the videos you are seeing on Sunday morning. Cindy is still available via email and taking calls in the church office.

Although you don't have the opportunity to give weekly in person, the church still relies on your contributions to keep the salaries and utilities paid. Please consider continuing to tithe and mail your offering to the church office or dropping them in the locked mailbox by the Fellowship Hall. Several members are using the convenience of online banking to send weekly checks. We are here for you now and pray to be here when this all settles down.

Rick Pierce
Co-chair Finance

I have a saying that I saw on a Church sign that I have relayed to the patients and staff at the Good Shepherd Clinic. It has had meaning for a lot of the people whom I have shared it:

"Worrying about tomorrow steals joy from today".

I would like to encourage my Philadelphia Church Family to stay home as much as possible and make the most of this slower paced time! This too shall pass, and we will be back to our busy, crazy schedules soon enough! May God bless you all and keep you safe.

*Love to you all,
Kathy Banke*

CRAFT GROUP

04/14—11:30am @ Cravens Restaurant, Hwy 20, Hampton
(Publix Shopping Center)

04/28—11:30am @ Gabinos Mexican Restaurant, Rock
Quarry Rd., Stockbridge
(*subject to change due to COVID19 self quarantine*)



Greetings from the Music Department,

Dear Philadelphia Presbyterian Family,

As we face these unprecedented times together I have prayed that I could have something comforting to offer. William and I are keeping you in our prayers, and so far we are doing just fine and grateful for the blessings we have including our home, our colleagues, our families (including you!), music, and our pets.

We have pre-recorded some music, both Lenten themed and hymns of hope and gratitude. You will hear them over the course of the next few Sundays on Philadelphia Presbyterian's Facebook page. If for some reason you are not able to access Facebook, feel free to email if you would like the music video files: verenalucia@yahoo.com

This is a journey we are all taking together, albeit physically apart, and we can connect through our prayers, our common good, our God, and even our song.

I leave you with the last verse of the hymn from this past Sunday:

Perfect submission, all is at rest

I in my Savior am happy and blessed

Watching and waiting, looking above

Filled with His goodness, lost in His love

This is my story, this is my song

Praising my Savior all the day long

This is my story, this is my song

Praising my Savior all the day long

Verena

PPC Clerk's Corner

Greetings from the Philadelphia Session,

I hope this finds you all doing well and still practicing your "social distancing". I guess this will be one of the new phrases for the 2020 year.

When the Session met on Sunday, March 8, 2020 one item of importance that was discussed was our finances. As of March 8th, we were \$2,909.29 in the negative balance. Over the next several months, Session will be looking at the budget to see if/where we can make any changes that will help with our financial situation. We are open to any suggestions you may have so if you have a suggestion please reach out to one of the Elders on Session.

On a positive note – we will celebrate 195 years this year!!! What a wonderful opportunity to celebrate God's love and blessings on our Church. We need to start planning for this celebration which means – **WE NEED A HOMECOMING COMMITTEE!!!** We need your help with planning this celebration because it's going to take ALL of us working together to get things ready. If you would like to be a part of the Homecoming Committee and/or chair the Homecoming Committee please notify either myself or Serena Staats. We need to start planning as soon as possible. Right now though that could mean our planning is done through emails, texts, etc.

The Session had a called meeting on March 17, 2020 to decide how to best proceed during this time and it was decided that we would cancel Sunday services through March 29, 2020. We will then meet – via email, text, etc – to decide how best to proceed after March 29th. Our decisions will be based on what is going on around us and what the recommendations are with regards to gatherings. Please know that we want to do all that we can to keep you – our congregation – safe. This situation is definitely new for all of us, but we must be vigilant in keeping each other safe and out of harm's way.

So, even though we can't be together to worship on Sundays, Reverend Westlund is providing us with a message on Sundays and it is being shown on the Church Facebook page. We also have the opportunity to hear Verena's lovely voice as part of the service. So if you are on Facebook and haven't checked out the Church facebook page – please do so. We also ask that you continue to be faithful and send in your tithes and offerings during this time. As Cindy so eloquently put "The mission and ministry of Philadelphia Presbyterian Church does not cease but in fact increases all the more during times of national emergencies." You can mail your gifts to the Church or you can also come by the Church and place your offering in the locked mailbox outside of the Fellowship Hall.

All shepherds are asked to check on their sheep on a weekly basis. However, if you – whether you are a shepherd or not - know of someone who is in need of help please notify that person's shepherd, the Church office, or a Session member. We are still here and want to help in any way that we can.

At this time, it is our hope that we will be together on Easter Sunday, however, we just don't know yet. As the Session meets to discuss the situation, we will keep you informed.

Stay safe, check on one another either by calling or sending cards, and continue to pray and talk with God. We will get through this!

Love,

Jennifer

While our building is closed for the time being, we are all still a church family.

**Blest be the tie that binds
Our hearts in Christian love;
The fellowship our spirit finds
Is like to that above.**

OUR MISSION: is to offer spiritual peace in a chaotic world through the stability of traditional Christ-centered teaching, worship and prayer.

OUR CORE VALUES:

- Radical Hospitality (Romans 12:9-21)**
- Passionate Worship (John 4:21-24)**
- Intentional Faith Development (I Corinthians 9:19-24)**
- Risk-Taking Mission and Service (Matthew 25:14-30)**
- Extravagant Generosity (II Corinthians 9:6-15)**

Find us on the web
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