



PHILADELPHIA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

351 Morrow Road, Forest Park, Georgia 30297

THE CROSSROADS

Dear Philadelphia Presbyterian Church Family,

October has always been one of my favorites times of the year. In October, the skies are often deep blue and the days, especially here in the South, become mild while still remaining bright and sunny. Creation around us is changing with the coming of every new day and the fall leaves will inevitably turn from green to brilliant reds, and yellows and gold with a mixture of earthy browns. The trees around us, though changing and shedding their leaves are only preparing for new growth in the Spring.

It seems like it has been October for seven months, only the skies have not always been blue, but dark and ominous! For months, every day we have been reminded of death and have been living under the cloud of the virus, and watched the count of deaths rise, like falling leaves. We have lived apart from our neighbors and co-workers and the unknown people with whom we share life on the planet. We have not entered the church since March. When we have ventured out we have hidden behind our masks to prevent ourselves and others from becoming one of the corona casualties.

It is somewhat fitting that October should be the month when we reopen the doors of Philadelphia Presbyterian Church. Hopefully, on October 18, 2020, the sky will indeed be deep blue and the sun will be shining and there will be a gentle crispness in the air and we will come to worship with glad and thankful hearts!

Of course, the virus has not gone away, and we still need to protect ourselves and others, by following the guidelines of our health advisors. We know that some of us will still need to worship at home for their well-being. Masks and air-hugs are still the order of the day but it will be good to be in the house of the LORD!

As we drive to church on that day, let the changing leaves remind us, not only of what has been, but what we can anticipate in the glorious days ahead, as new life springs up all around the world! Join us as together we worship on the third Sunday of October giving praise to God who has been with us and will be with us wherever we may be!

Grace and good health to you all,
Jack

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Rev. Jack Westlund

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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!

Christian Sympathy is extended to Carole Masdon and family in the passing of her sister, Jeanette Wilkins on September 19.

THIS MONTH'S BIRTHDAYS

- 03/ Ethel Lynn Keeton
- 09/ Connie McWilliams
- 12/ Blondell Brown
- 13/ Gloria Dossouvi
- 16/ Jim Phillips
- 17/ Feroze Yusufji
- 19/ Cindy Adair
- 30/ Bud Steele
- 30/ Pam Rountree
- 31/ Karen Kelly Nelson

THIS MONTH'S ANNIVERSARIES

- 06/ Ed & Pegge Murphy
- 12/ Tom & Joan Murphy
- 21/ Feroze & Parveen Yusufji

- 09/09 Ruby Chapman (Serena's mother) – infection, doctors ordered Hospice Care**
- 08/26 Ruth Gettys—suffering from a form of dementia, she and Erwin need our prayers
- 09/02 David Hatch – is at home again recuperating, he would love to hear from you
- 08/11 Connie McWilliams – in therapy for pinched nerve in neck
- 08/25 Cathy Morris—recovering from surgery on 9/28 on right bicep and rotator cuff**
- 07/28 Joan Murphy – recovering from hip replacement surgery
- 09/29 Lee Rohrbach Sr. (Fred's dad) – skin cancer removed – awaiting test results**
- 08/11 Thomas Thigpen – recovering from hip replacement surgery

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

Marie Foster Patty Boone Becky Huie Ann NeSmith

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

Congratulations to Mallory and Chris Banke in the adoption on August 27, 2020 of

Christian Ross Banke

Proud Grandparents are

Rick & Kathie Pierce and Hal & Kathy Banke

PW MESSAGE CORNER

- Oct 8—07:00pm—Mary & Martha Circle (virtual)
- Oct 14—10:30am—Busy Bees Circle
- Oct 17—10:30am —Circle One



(subject to COVID19 self quarantine)

Ladies— In this year of cancellations, we must add the cancellation of this fall's Philadelphia Church Women's Retreat at Calvin Center that had been scheduled for Saturday, October 24. Unfortunately, due to the Covid-19 pandemic we need to be safe and cancel this year's retreat. We will schedule our Women's Fall Retreat for 2021 and look forward to a good time together then!

-- **Debbie Bray**



Sunday, October 18, at 11:00am, we will re-enter the sanctuary for "In Person Worship". Would love to see you there.

See safety instructions in the Session Report.

CRAFT GROUP

10/13 - 11:30am @ Kirby G's Restaurant, McDonough

11/27—11:30am @ Bigeon's BBQ Restaurant, Hwy 515 near Ellijay, Panorama Apple Barn afterwards

(subject to change due to COVID19 self quarantine)

PPC Clerk's Corner

Greetings from the Philadelphia Session,

I hope this finds you and your family continuing to stay well and practicing your "social distancing". It's hard to believe that we have been doing this now for a little over 6 months. I hope you have managed to stay in touch with your family and those closest to you. I just wanted to remind you that you are able to view Reverend Westlund's and Reverend Sundermeier's sermons on our church Facebook page. If you aren't on Facebook, you can still access the sermons by going to the church webpage. Rick Pierce has been uploading the sermons there for members to be able to view. The Church webpage is www.ppc-usa.org. The Session met on September 1, 2020 via Zoom. During this meeting we once again discussed the possibility of reopening the church. Based on the current data at that time regarding the virus it was decided that we would keep the Church closed at least until the end of September with a goal in mind of re-opening in October.

The Session had an additional meeting on September 24, 2020 via Zoom. At this meeting, it was decided that we would re-open the Church for in person service on October 18, 2020. In order for us to re-open the church there are several protocols that all members and visitors will be asked and expected to follow. It is our goal to keep everyone safe and healthy and able to worship in our Church again. However, if you aren't ready to return yet – we will understand. It is our plan to continue to provide our worship service through the church Facebook page and the church webpage. We will try to livestream our Sunday service on Facebook, but if there are technical difficulties we will record the sermon and post it for viewing later that day. **ALSO, please take note that we WILL NOT start with Sunday school yet.**

Below are the protocols that ALL members and visitors will be asked to follow.

Protocols for Congregation and visitors:

1. No ushers - Fred will be at the back door and will provide guidance/info
2. Bulletins will be placed on a table in the Narthex for individuals to pick up
3. Masks will be REQUIRED and are to be worn throughout the service.
4. Hand sanitizer will be available on the pews that seating is allowed.
- 5.. Doors will be open whenever/wherever possible
6. There will be NO SINGING during service.
7. Offertory plates will be in the Narthex. Members can place their tithes there.
8. Please sit with whomever you come with.
9. We encourage you to greet one another but please do not hug, etc.
10. If you don't feel well, please don't come to church.

Financial Update

The finance committee once again reports that current giving, while below normal levels, is quite good during these unpredictable times. Your support via mail and drop-off has allowed us to meet our utility expenses as well as pay our fulltime staff.

We continue to receive rental money from the Hispanic Church that is using some of the space in the Education Building and this too has helped cover some of the normal expenses at the church.

As always, we appreciate your financial support of our church home.

Something New:

We have continued to have our "Coffee Meet" on Zoom every other Sunday and for those who have attended it has been good to see you. Our next 'Coffee Meet' is supposed to be on October 4, 2020 so we hope you will make plans to join us. The 'Coffee Meet' starts at 10:30a.m. It's very informal and you don't have to drink coffee to come. It's an opportunity for us to see one another and just catch up on how folks are doing. If you are interested in joining us but need help with getting Zoom set up on your computer, please reach out to either Rick Pierce or Eliot Lawrence for assistance. Both gentlemen have offered to help anyone who is interested.

We recently learned of an opportunity – a way we can help. There are three International seminary students who are currently living at Calvin Center. They are living there because Columbia Seminary Campus is shut down and there is minimal housing available due to the pandemic. Their food and board is being provided for but they have very little left over for other necessities. They could use gift cards to such places as Walmart or Kroger. Even gas cards would be appreciated and as always, cash would be helpful. Please consider helping these students. If you are interested in helping you can contact John Westlund at Calvin Center or you can just drop something in the mail. Any help will be greatly appreciated.

We are looking forward to seeing you on October 18, 2020. If you have any questions concerning the protocols or anything else, please reach out to any of the elders. While it won't be our typical service, it will be good to be back in Church. Please continue to keep in touch with one another and if you know of someone who is having difficulties and/or just needs prayer please let us know. We hope to see you soon in person!!!

*Love,
Jennifer*

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
ppc-usa.org



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