



**PHILADELPHIA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

351 Morrow Road, Forest Park, Georgia 30297

**THE CROSSROADS**

*Dear Philadelphia Presbyterian Church Family,*

The Apostle Paul began many of his letters saying, I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you... I confess that I do not always live up to his dedication to prayer... but I do remember you from time to time in my prayers with thanksgiving. Who would have believed we would not see each other face to face for nearly six months?

I am thankful for the internet more than ever, since it is the one way we have been able to continue to worship together through this ordeal. I only wish everyone in our church had the minimal expertise and the means to do so. So, to those who do not have access to Philadelphia through computers and cell phones, know that we are thinking about you and remembering you as well.

The new word that is becoming commonplace in 2020 is ZOOM! I thought that was a "Super Hero" word until these last months. Now it has been a means of connecting us to each other. Our Session meets through ZOOM and I have become more comfortable with the procedure in connecting to others through that program. We can, not only hear each other, but we can see one another as well. I have no idea how to initiate those meetings through ZOOM but I am grateful that Jennifer and Rick and others do! In the past month a number of us have also had coffee together on Sunday morning and the opportunity of meeting before the Worship Service through ZOOM and it has been great to see others in our church we haven't seen for months.

The rest of our life in 2020 is not characterized by ZOOM! We are not zooming anywhere as we usually do in life and the virus is not ZOOMING away for sure. I have been venturing out a little more, mostly to Publix and Chic fil-A lately. I did venture out to play golf with Ronnie Dodson one day last week. Ginger goes only to doctors and physical therapy at Piedmont Wellness Center. Recently, Ginger and I have had to make a difficult decision in our lives, deciding about whether or not to attend our nephew's Wedding. Our hearts want to be there for Hannah and Hunter's special day, but we are in the high risk category and it would be potentially dangerous for either of us to attend. I expect most of us have had to make similar decisions. This is very difficult and sad for all of us.

All this brings us back to prayer! And I pray that God will keep us all healthy and that a vaccine will come soon and that testing for the virus will dramatically improve and particularly the results will come more quickly for those awaiting results. And I pray for the medical staff who are working so selflessly with patients who have come down with the virus and I pray that treatments will improve for those who are suffering from Covid. O GOD, ZOOM IN TO BE OUR HELP AND SALVATION, in JESUS NAME! AMEN.

Grace, and peace to you all,  
Jack

**PASTOR:**  
**Rev. Jack Westlund**

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**404-366-1851**

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**WEBSITE:**  
**ppc-usa.org**

**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.**

**Inside this issue:**

Prayer List	2
Birthdays & Anniversaries	2
Volunteers	2
Thank You Notes	2
Craft Group	2
PW Corner	2
Clerk's Report	3

**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!*

**THIS MONTH'S BIRTHDAYS**

- 03/ Dot Pearce
- 06/ Mona Steele
- 06/ Pam Langley
- 10/ Eliot Lawrence
- 11/ Greg Durden
- 27/ Nell Cates
- 27/ Kekeli Dossouvi

**THIS MONTH'S VOLUNTEERS**

**USHERS**

- Jim Phillips
- Phillipe Karka
- Tom Murphy
- Debbie Bray

08/18 Rashaad Anders (Verena's nephew) – college student quarantined for COVID-19

**08/26 Ruth Gettys—suffering from a form of dementia, she and Erwin need our prayers**

08/11 David Hatch – transferred to Pruitt Rehab in Decatur

07/14 Jeff Langley (Jennifer & Pam's brother) – longtime smoker trying to quit, needs our prayers

08/11 Connie McWilliams – has pinched nerve in neck, in severe pain

**08/25 Cathy Morris—therapy for large rotator cuff tear/partial biceps tear, possible surgery ahead**

07/28 Joan Murphy – recovering from hip replacement surgery

07/28 John Randolph – recovering from surgery to remove melanoma behind ear, tests clear

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 [secypcc@bellsouth.net](mailto:secypcc@bellsouth.net)**

Dear Church Family,

Tom and I would like to thank everyone for all the cards, calls, prayers and visits after my hip replacement surgery.

Rehab therapy is going well and hope to be climbing mountains soon (or at least walking much better).

Thank you. **Joan Murphy**



**PW MESSAGE CORNER**

- Sep 9—10:30am—Busy Bees Circle
- Sept 10—07:00pm—Mary & Martha Circle
- Sep 19—10:30am —Circle One



*(subject to COVID19 self quarantine)*

**LADIES:** The Mary and Martha Circle has been meeting every month since May using our home computers. It has been a blessing to be able to see and hear each other safely in this manner. At this time we plan to continue our virtual meetings as we start the new lessons based on Lamentations. We will be meeting on the second Thursday of each month at 7:00 PM. We would like to invite any of the women in our Church to join us if they have access to a computer. Please contact Kathy Banke for more information.

Due to COVID 19's presence this year's **Tomato Sandwich Party** was moved outdoors and became the Tomato Sack Party. The Tomato Sack Party was a drive through event with music, interviews, items for sale including – yep – good old ripe tomatoes. The late John Denver recorded a song titled "Homegrown Tomatoes" which can be view on You Tube at:

[https://www.youtube.com/results?search\\_query=john+denver+homegrown+tomatoes](https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=john+denver+homegrown+tomatoes)



A big thanks to everyone who supported this event which raised in excess of \$60,000. Thanks, too, to Philadelphia Presbyterian Church for your continued support of this local mission through contributions and volunteers. Most startup free clinics have about a three year life expectancy. This year the Good Shepherd Clinic is celebrating its 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. We couldn't have made it this far without you and God looking over our shoulder. We are always available to speak at church, civic or business luncheons and to give tours to anyone interested.

Thank you.  
**Jim Phillips**

**Stay Safe and Mask Up**

**CRAFT GROUP**

**09/08 - 11:30am @ Olive Garden, McDonough**

**09/22—11:30am @ Silver Bay Restaurant, Stockbridge**

*(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 5 almost 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](http://www.ppc-usa.org)

The Session met on August 4, 2020 via Zoom. During our meeting we once again discussed the possibility of reopening the church. Based on the current data regarding the virus as well as the upswing in the number of cases, it was decided that we would keep the Church closed at least until the end of September. However, when we meet in the next couple of weeks, we will revisit that decision. If it's felt that the numbers are improving, we may reconsider this decision. It is our hope that we will be able to comfortably reopen the Church soon. However, with that being said, please know that we want you to feel safe and comfortable with all that we are doing. When we do reopen, if you aren't quite ready to return – we will understand. It is our plan to continue to provide our worship service through the church Facebook page and the church webpage.

### 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. When we received the PPP in the spring, the amount we received was for approximately three months' worth of salary for our employees. This was a blessing. We wanted to let you know that we have about used all of this loan. 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.

### When we return:

Some of the changes that you will see when we return include:

- Areas marked off for sitting
- Most doors open so that you won't have to touch handles
- Hand sanitizer located on the pews where sitting is allowed
- Offering plates will be in the back and you can just drop your tithe/offering there
- No ushers, however, Fred Rohrbach will be in the Narthex
- The choir will not sing – at least not for a little bit. There will be music, but congregation will be encouraged to not sing yet.
- We will not have our usual Meet and Greet. You will have to wave to one another.
- We will not start back with Sunday School for at least a few weeks.
- Wearing masks during service.

### Something New:

A few weeks ago, Rick Pierce set up a 'Coffee Meet' on Zoom for any members that wanted to attend. The 1<sup>st</sup> Coffee Meet was on August 9<sup>th</sup>, and we had our 2<sup>nd</sup> Meet on August 23<sup>rd</sup>. The plan is for us to have a 'Coffee Meet' every two weeks on Sundays 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.

If we can be of any help, please let us know. Please 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



**DEVOTIONALS: A copy of the next edition of "Our Daily Bread" is available to you.  
You may find them in a container outside the building at the office door. Pick one up at any time.**

**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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