



GOOD NEWS FROM YOUR CHURCH

The Newsletter of The Presbyterian Church at Woodbury

July 1, 2020

Volume 57, Issue 13

SUNDAY, JULY 5

Online Abbreviated
Worship Service
Communion

9:30 AM

Live on Facebook

The Presbyterian Church at
Woodbury

This will also be sent out
through email afterwards and
will be available on the church
website:

www.pcwoodbury.com

FELLOWSHIP ZOOM MEETINGS are held on Sundays, at 10:30 a.m. to provide a fellowship time for our members to connect and “visit” with each other. An email will be sent out Saturday or Sunday morning with the details. You will be able to click on the link in the email to connect using your computer, phone or iPad.



From the Pastor...

Quarantine, Stay at Home, Social Distancing, Wear a Mask, Black Lives Matter, George Floyd, Stock market Drops, Defund the Police, Virtual Worship, Zoom meetings, Monuments, Virtual classrooms, Stage One moving into Stage Two, and the New Normal. Who would have thought the last four months would have brought us all of these issues?

The reality is that there’s no going back to the way things were. We have entered into a new reality and on-going change is going to be the new way of life for each of us and the church. I recently received an article about change and how different the change process will be in these unprecedented times.

Until recently, the change process involved psychologist Kurt Lewin’s classic three steps: Unfreeze: Disrupt the current state; Change: Create the future state; Re-freeze: Adopt and normalize the new current state.

Once the change was implemented, things went back to normal. Today, our relationship with change feels more like what organizational change theorist Peter Vaill described as “permanent whitewater.” Once we unfreeze and begin to change, re-freezing—if it occurs at all—is fleeting at best. Author, Nina Kern writes, “Beware of what we’re calling “the new normal.” It mutes the current way of life and should offer no comfort. Lewin’s change process is still valid, but with this caveat: change persists, accelerates and disrupts the way we’ve done things in the past. (<https://www.govexec.com/management/2020/06/theres-no-going-back-be-wary-new-normal/166278/>)

YES, we are in “Permanent whitewater” with lots of changes both small and large - trying to keep our head above water. Our lives are altered from February. We are worshipping, studying and serving as the body of Christ in very different ways, but there is one constant ---**Jesus Christ is still Lord!!** We are reminded by the Apostle Paul as he writes to a congregation that needs to be retold that they are in a covenant with God’s only Son and are called to live as faithful disciples of the rabbi from Nazareth. In the 13th chapter of the Letter to the Hebrews, the author proclaims what service was well-pleasing to God, and Christ’s continuity: **Hebrews 13:1-8**--Let mutual love continue. ²Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. ³Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them; those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured.^[a] ⁴Let marriage be held in honor by all, and let the marriage bed be kept undefiled; for God will judge fornicators and adulterers. ⁵Keep your lives free from the love of money, and be content with what you have; for he has said, “I will never leave you or forsake you.” ⁶So we can say with confidence, “The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can anyone do to me?” ⁷Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you; consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. **⁸Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.**

Let us also proclaim that the Lord is our helper and we will not be afraid because Eugene Peterson paraphrases, “For Jesus doesn’t change—yesterday, today, tomorrow, he’s always totally himself.” May we recognize Christ’s walk beside us as we live into this season of “permanent whitewater,” and seek to be the faithful followers of Jesus despite all the change happening in the world!

In Christ,
Rev. Dr. Philip W. Oehler, Sr.

FOOD BANK DONATIONS:

The GWCM Food Pantry is still open, but with new guidelines. Because of COVID19 restrictions, the pantry can no longer buy items in bulk and is short on several items. They especially need: cereals (hot and cold), jelly (lots), pancake mix, syrup, pasta, spaghetti sauce and toilet paper. All items can be dropped off at the Seventh Day Adventist Woodbury Church at 330 East Barber Avenue in Woodbury. Donations need to be left at the SINGLE door of the church which faces the large parking lot (Barber Ave. side). Donations are only accepted on TUESDAYS and THURSDAYS between 9:30 and 11:00 am. Covid19

policies are practiced.

THANK YOU to all who can help at this much needed time!



THANK YOU for continuing to send in your offerings and donations! We are very grateful for your financial support during this difficult time.

Online Donations: We are finally set up for **online giving**. You can go to the website: pcwoodbury.com or click on the **Give Now** button below. You can also continue to mail in your check made payable to the Presbyterian Church at Woodbury to the church or to Kathi Lynch, 1510 Manduit Street, Thorofare, NJ 08086.



IN MEMORIAM

Sarah Love

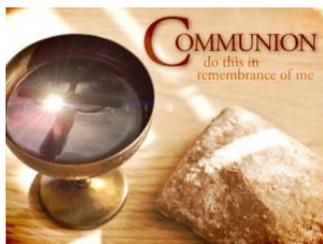
June 29, 2020

"I am the Resurrection and the Life; he who believes in Me, though he die, yet shall he live, and whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die." John 11:25

WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN MOVING FORWARD: Session had been given information from the Presbytery on all that is needed in order to reopen. We know there are many questions and issues; so in line with WJP recommendation there was a MOTION to form a Covid 19 committee to explore all of this and report back in mid-July to Session and Trustees. The committee consists of Eric Campo, Janet Edick, Rose Fredericks and Dale McIntyre. It was seconded and carried. The committee has representation from Session, Trustees, staff and someone from the Health Care field. They also reserve the right to invite other staff as necessary.

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS: John Atkinson and family, Sam Speers and family, Pat Davis and family, Kay Black, Cheryl Schad, Ron Mohring, Meg Orem, Charlotte Nelson, Janet Muhm, Judy Fetty, Clara Petry, Florence Hillman, Dave Orem, Emma Mustard, Amelia Exley, Alex Jenei, and Marie Batten. A reminder to keep our military personnel in your prayers, including Jonathan Gabler, Nathan Wadding, Cameron Wadding, Jarrod Fetty, and Wesley Tatham.





ONLINE COMMUNION

The Session of the Presbyterian Church has approved online communion for Sunday, July 5 and Sunday, August 2. As this is a new way of celebrating the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, please review the article that follows as you prepare your heart, mind and worship space for this sacred meal with the congregation through Facebook Live.

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH AT WOODBURY An Invitation to Online Communion

Celebrating at the Lord's table together is a time in which we are united with the global church, affirming of our baptismal vows, and receive the invitation extended to us by Christ. A significant part of celebrating communion is the preparation of space. Our Directory of Worship says, "Space for Christian worship should include a place for the reading and proclaiming of the Word, a font or pool for Baptism, and a table for the Lord's Supper."

For the Presbyterian Church at Woodbury's participation in virtual communion, the Session and staff would like to encourage you to engage in the following intentional practices of remembering your baptism, setting up your space, what virtual communion will entail and reading the Word for the day.

Remember Your Baptism: At 9:20 am, go and wash your hands, remembering your baptism. Every time we gather at the Table, we are called to be reminded of our baptismal promises, so participating in a hand washing—something that all of us are already adhering to—reminds us that God continually makes the ordinary sacred.

Cultivate Your Space: Set up your communion space in a way that reflects your understanding of partaking in this meal. Perhaps it will mean putting a colorful scarf over a coffee table, spreading out a blanket on the floor, or putting a piece of paper on a tray table and writing out words and phrases you want to be reminded of while partaking of communion.

Prepare Your Elements: Select a cup, plate and elements that represent your household. The Directory of Worship states: "*The bread used for the Lord's Supper should be common to the culture of the congregation*" W3.0413. This might look like anything from wheat bread and apple juice to pita and wine! By encouraging people to use the elements in their own spaces, we are also sending a message of asking people to practice physical distancing and safety guidelines by not leaving their houses to pick up the exact bread and drink used in communion at the Presbyterian Church at Woodbury. We do recommend any type of bread: white, wheat, pita, hoagie or potato roll and any type of juice: grape, cranberry, apple, orange or wine to celebrate this sacrament.

Prepare Yourself: Just as you took time to remember your baptism, intentionally spend time in the Word. Read over the scripture passages for the day as a means of preparing your heart for the service of worship as well as the meal you will be partaking in.

COMMUNION PREPARATION

Sunday, July 5: Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

Taking the Lord's Supper: As usually occurs within worship, the Invitation, Prayer of Great Thanksgiving, and Words of Institution will be spoken by the pastor. Once the Words of Institution are spoken, the pastor will extend the invitation for all to take of their bread element and to dip it into their drink element. Due to the nature of online lag, the pastor will leave more time for members to partake in the elements.

Conclusion of Worship: The Directory of Worship states, "*At the conclusion of the Service for the Lord's Day, the bread and cup are to be removed from the table and used or disposed of in a manner approved by the session, in keeping with the Reformed understanding of the Sacrament and principles of good stewardship. This may be accomplished by consuming what remains or returning the elements to the earth.*" W3.0414 We will share this with the congregation, and encourage them to eat and drink the remainder of their elements as being good stewards of the earth. If you prefer not to consume them, then be intentional in how you return the elements to the earth. We look forward to celebrating the meal that Christ offered to those first disciples, and we partake in during this season of physical separateness. Please know that we are still bound together through the love of Christ!