



The Covenanter

JULY 2020

Every Thursday at 10:00 AM I find myself sitting down in front of my computer and logging into a very special *Zoom* meeting. The meeting is hosted by Central Florida Presbytery and titled simply "Pastor Check-In". It's been active since about March with the goal of providing a safe space for the pastors and church leaders within Central Florida Presbytery to discuss these events we find ourselves living in. It started as a "check-in", ideas for self care, how to manage online worship, things to do with congregations during this time we've all been apart. But lately, these meetings have centered around one major question: how do we re-open the church?

Now, in seminary, professors and former pastors prepare you for a number of future challenges in church leadership. They teach you how to speak, how to deliver a sermon, how to pour wine into a goblet during communion, how to look at budgets and finances, run youth groups, even how to hold up your hands while doing the blessing! You know what they don't teach you in seminary...how to re-open a church during a time of pandemic. The pastors group has talked about everything big and small! Cleansers to use on wooden pews, how to keep people six feet apart, how to dismiss so there's no mingling, how to safely allow people to use the restroom, do we allow singing...the list goes on and on and on. The discussions have been helpful as we all try to serve our congregations and navigate these waters none of us have ever had to tread before and pray we'll never have to tread again. But, after all these discussions, ideas, and thoughts, there is one line that sums it all up best, that I can't seem to get out of my head...

"You know," one of my colleagues sighed a few weeks ago, "I thought the hardest thing I'd ever do in my career was make the decision to shutter the church in this time. It turns out the hardest thing I'll ever do is figure out how to reopen it."

I feel this statement right down to the very marrow of my bones right now.

It's been a long time, I hear you. I feel it too. I've heard from a lot of you during this time, I've seen even fewer of you and I miss you! I miss our talks and fellowship hour, I miss the brownies and jokes. I miss the laughter and the way we could once throw our arms around one another. I miss my kids. I miss my youth. I miss the Church as it was. And I know you do too. "When?" is the question on everyone's tongue. "When will we reopen?" "When can we come back?" "When will it be safe?" I'm sorry to say my answer remains the same as it always has. "I just don't know."

What I can tell you is that last month session authorized a small ad hoc committee to begin meeting to discuss the process of reopening. It's going to be a process. We kindly ask for your trust while we work diligently to ensure our return is not only joyful but safe. We ask for your prayers as we navigate the unexpected twists and turns that accompany once in a lifetime experiences. We ask for your patience just a little while longer as many of us are trying to accomplish "the hardest thing we'll ever do."

Pastor Emily

THANK
YOU

All God's
Critters!

Winter Park
Presbyterian Church

Virtual Vacation Bible School



Sometimes "thank you" just doesn't cover it. Usually this is the time of the year when I'm standing up in front of the congregation and thanking everyone for the beautiful job they did this year with Vacation Bible School. But this year has been far from normal. For a while I was afraid there would be no Vacation Bible School at all, that it would be cancelled entirely. But there are so many of you that stepped up to make sure that this awesome feat we call Virtual Vacation Bible School got off the ground. Whether you offered encouragement, volunteered and were told there was nothing to do, volunteered and then were told you were doing something completely out of your comfort zone...I thank you! Without all of you it wouldn't have come together as sweet or as wonderfully as it did. Special shout-outs this year to my storytellers, my arts and crafts leaders, and my science leaders who pulled together some awesome activities to share with our families. A big thank you to Carolyn Boyle, my second in command! Without you, I'm pretty sure I'd have gone gray or bald or maybe even both by now! And a big, wonderful, tremendous thank you to the one and only Doug Reece who donated more time than anyone to filming videos, editing videos, and setting up the YouTube channel. Without his dedication, there would be no Vacation Bible School this year. Did it look different? Yes. But at the heart of it all the word of God was shared with our 35 children. It was a beautiful thing! And all involved have my gratitude and thanks! I look forward to next year! ~Pastor Emily

WORSHIP WITH US AT HOME

Worship
with us
from
HOME

In person services are suspended until further notice. Please join us on Sunday mornings for our online worship service. A link to the video will be sent out Sunday morning along with a worship guide so you can follow along! You can also find sermons on our website at: <http://winppc.org/sermons/>.

ONLINE GIVING



WPPC continues to need your kind and generous financial support. As we are sure you are aware, even though we are not able to hold in person Sunday services the church's expenses continue. Gifts may be made by mail or on our website – www.winppc.org/give. As always, we are extremely grateful for your support that upholds the entire life of the church.

LIBRARY NEWS

Summer is a good time to read. When it's too hot to stay outside, a book accompanied by air conditioning works wonders. True for adults and children!

Our library has many religious books plus a great number of fiction, biographies, cookbooks, large print books for adults, and a great number of children's books. Any book can be checked out for two weeks just by stopping in the church office to obtain the library key.



Hoot by Carl Hiaasen is truly a hoot! It's a quick read about saving burrowing owls on a quiet property turned over to a construction company who claims there are no owls on this property. All of Carl Hiaasen's books are interesting to read.

Other new additions to the library include Mary Higgins Clark's novel, *Kiss the Girls and Make Them Cry*. This is a story about a "terrible experience" while working at a high-profile television news network. This author has written 40 suspense novels and, with her daughter, coauthored five more suspense novels. She wrote the *Mount Vernon Love Story*, which is also in our library.

Another new book is by Noelle Hancock who feared almost everything. A quote by Eleanor Roosevelt, "Do one thing every day that scares you" makes an eloquent case for spending a year with Eleanor Roosevelt giving her strength to do shark diving, fighter pilot lessons, tap dancing, stand-up comedy and confronting old boyfriends. Her hilarious and harrowing adventures teach her about who she is and what she can become. Her book is *My Year with Eleanor*.

A number of new biographies were also added - Joe Biden's *Promise Me, Dad, Bobby Kenney—a Raging Spirit* by Chris Matthews, *Churchill and Orwell—the Fight for Freedom* by Thomas Ricks, and *Born Standing Up* by Steve Martin (which as named one of the ten best nonfiction books of 2007 by *Time Magazine*).



A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood (Spoiler Alert)

My wife and I recently watched the movie, "A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood". We expected a light-hearted profile of Mr. Rogers. Instead, we got a tense drama about a journalist, Mark Vogel, coming to terms with his past. Mr. Rogers intervenes at several points to prod and push the journalist forward. Roger's gentle quirky television persona falls away to reveal a man of deep conviction willing to respond to other people's pain and desperate needs.

Fred's influence eventually persuades Mark to reconcile with his father, to put his family's needs ahead of work, and to write an appreciative article about Mr. Rogers. Vogel overcomes his habitual cynicism and distrust as he puts some of Fred's beliefs into practice. The main lesson learned is that negative feelings aren't bad or need to be repressed. They need to be processed and released, however, before damage is done to others.

The journalist, for example, harbors a deep resentment toward his father for abandoning the family during especially trying times. At the beginning of the film, the journalist punches his father at a wedding reception when Dad clumsily attempts to begin a reconciliation. At the end of the film, the journalist sits at his father's death bed, forgives him, and tells him that he loves him.

Fred makes an appearance at a family gathering at the father's home. Mark's Dad lies in a hospital bed surrounded by his children, second wife, and grandson. Fred arrives bearing a dessert. They sit and chat until an awkward silence falls. Fred clears his throat and says, "It's hard to talk about death, but whatever is mentionable is manageable." The process of dying becomes more bearable when imminent mortality is faced and acknowledged.

Rogers approaches the dying man near the end of his visit, bends down and whispers in Dad's ear. Dad nods in agreement. Mark walks Fred out to his car and asks what had been whispered. Mr. Rogers says, "I told your Dad that he's very close to God right now. I asked him to pray for me."



Christian sympathy is extended to the family and friends of:

Sadie Singleton, May 31, 2020

Ginny Barker, June 14, 2020

Ralph Dunagin, June 24, 2020

FROM OUR MISSION PARTNERS



The Covid 19 virus has had a major impact on many of our mission partnerships. They seek our prayers and support in various ways.

Gordan and Dorothy Gartrell

They have received word that Presbyterian USA missionaries will not be returning to their countries until January 21, 2021. In the meantime, they are hearing from their church brothers and sisters in Brazil about the hardships that the virus has created in the lives of people. Some families are grieving the loss of family members and others are fearful of severe health problems. Brazil is one of the major epicenters of the virus so this is an extremely dangerous time for members of the church community as well as others in the country.

Ukraine Orphan Transition Foundation

Audrey Ball Santiago has written about the hardships facing orphans and their families in Ukraine. The young adults with jobs have suddenly found themselves unemployed without any income and yet expenses continue. There are no governmental programs to help subsidize them. The Transition Foundation is seeking to provide them with some additional support during this time. In view of the virus, orphans who have families were sent home. Unfortunately these families were already over burdened and thus the placement of the children. The Transition Foundation is partnering with the Pishana Orphanage Team to bring food packages to these desperate families on a monthly basis. These are costs beyond their usual ministry. You can send additional help to Ukraine Orphan Assistance Foundation, 3530 Diamond Leaf Lane, Oviedo, FL 32765, or through the church.

AIR (Alliance for Reforestation Guatemala)

Anne Hallum has written about the hardship facing the people they serve in Guatemala. The country is in a state of almost complete shutdown. While the virus situation is less a source of fear in the rural areas where AIR works, people are also facing the danger of hunger because markets are shut down and their gardens will not begin producing until July. AIR is seeking to help 178 families during this time.

Santa Clara Presbyterian Church-Cuba

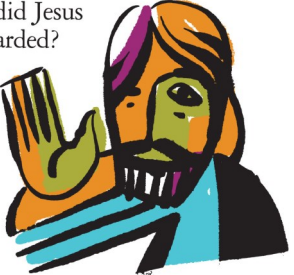
Pastor Reile has shared the good news that the virus in their areas and other parts of Cuba (with the exception of the Havana area) is becoming less of a threat. Unfortunately the economic situation in Cuba generally is now much worse and food has become scarce. They continue to pray on a regular basis for Winter Park Presbyterian Church.



Bible Quiz

What seemingly small act did Jesus specifically say would be rewarded?

- A. Giving a child a toy
- B. Giving a lost traveler directions
- C. Giving someone a cup of cold water
- D. Giving a sad person a hug

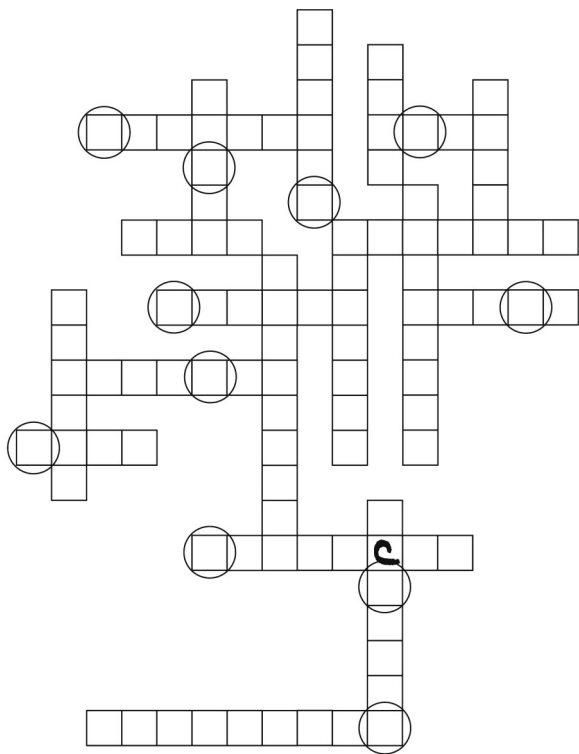


Answer: C (See Matthew 10:42.)

Puzzle!

Fit the names of these Bible-times places in the puzzle. Then write the circled letters on the lines below, in the order found, to find out where your citizenship is.

Tyre	Sidon	Kedesh	Ephesus	Philippi
Cana	Berea	Sychar	Corinth	Bethlehem
Rome	Lycia	Galilee	Iconium	Jerusalem
Gaza	Athens	Ephraim	Damascus	



God's kingdom

~~oops!~~

From a church newsletter:

~~Upcoming family events~~

The family camping trip will be held August 4 to 6.

~~Reserve your spot by July 29~~

We're glad to know when that will be held — so we can avoid it!

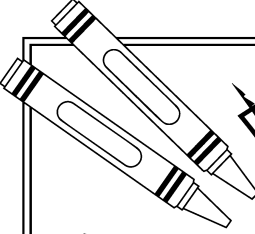
~~oops!~~

From a newsletter in Syracuse, New York:

~~we need your help:~~

Work day tasks include widow washing, new cleaning, weed pulling.

What an interesting window into this church's social outreach.




PUZZLE

WATER WORKS!


The gospels record Jesus' miracles, many of which involve water.

Directions: Using the illustrated equations, fill in the blanks to describe each miracle. Use the Bible references for help.

 + e



Water changes to

JOHN 2:1-11

 - k + d


Heals a man born

JOHN 9

 - op +  - w


Calms a

MATTHEW 8:23-27

f +  - d

Catch of

LUKE 5:1-11

 - ch + er

Walks on

MATTHEW 14:22-33

Answer: wine, blind, storm, fish, water

If you have driven by the preschool recently, you may have noticed the construction work that is taking place. Large trees have been removed to improve ground drainage when our typical Florida storms bring a lot of rain in a short period of time. The roofs are being replaced on all preschool buildings. The toddler playground is being completely renovated, and will have an artificial turf surface and large shade canopy.

These improvements have been carefully planned by the Winter Park Presbyterian Church property committee and an architectural firm. The decision was made in January to not hold our regular 6-week summer camp program so that the work could safely take place without young children on campus. We did not know at the time that a novel coronavirus would be circulating, causing us to be closed from mid-March through the end of the school year as well.

We are all very excited to return for the new school year! Our teachers are ready, and word has it that our parents and children are VERY anxious to be back at school. Many new policies and procedures are being implemented to help protect our students, their families and our staff from illness. The first day of school is August 10th. We have big plans, and can't wait to get started.



Congratulations to Suzanne Lomas on her retirement from our Preschool!

For almost 30 years, Suzanne taught all ages of children from toddlers to kindergarten, and served as Assistant Director during her last years with us.

Enjoy your retirement, Suzanne!



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 <i>Paul Danley</i>	2	3	4 <i>Peggy Bargar Carolyn Deatruck Alison Frazier</i>
5 <i>Katharine Antommara</i>	6 <i>Michelle Trahan</i>	7	8 <i>Jeremiah Boyle Wade Edwards Dee Herschel</i>	9 <i>Catherine Fields Jennifer Fields</i>	10 <i>Lou Hazzard Shanda Needham</i>	11 <i>Anne Bensinger Jayne Leach</i>
12 <i>Ann Paulsen Tricia Wilson</i>	13 <i>Yvonne Manking Cynthia Skelton</i>	14	15 <i>Jean Cumming</i>	16	17	18 <i>Melissa Storey Mark Wilson</i>
19	20 <i>Nancy Miller</i>	21	22 <i>Donna Brokop</i>	23 <i>Christina Trexler</i>	24	25
26 <i>Charles Wagenhauser</i>	27	28 <i>Jennifer Roe</i>	29	30 <i>Sue Erdmann</i>	31 <i>Leeann Lee Gene Pickler</i>	



The Rev. Dr. W. Darren Bess, Senior Pastor
 The Rev. Emily Wasser, Associate Pastor
 Carolyn Achenbach, Director of Operations/Accountant
 Cindy Mitchum, Executive Assistant
 Barbara Hordern, Administrative Assistant
 Justin Chase, Director of Music
 Penny Walsh, Organist
 Susan Davis, Director of Handbells & Children's Music
 Tricia Wilson, Director of Preschool Programs
 Kenny Lovelace, Sexton

SESSION

2020

Doris Anguish
 Marilyn Bryant
 Rick Davis
 Steve House
 Larry Seel
 Bob White

2021

Phillip Anderson
 Lisa Dreasher
 Jayne Leach
 Shaheed Mohammed
 Peter Rice
 Nelson Roe

2022

Theresa Coker
 Bonnie Gaughan
 Fran Morrissey
 Sean Tallungan
 Michelle Trahan
 Jay Van Hook

DIACONATE

2020

Ardyth Austin
 Cathy House
 Caroline James
 Jim McKinney
 Dennis Schmalstig
 Matt Straub

2021

Mike Galyean
 Reta Jackson
 Julie Kent
 Curtis Koon
 Sara Van Arsdel
 Jeanne Vinci

2022

Susan Davis
 Jane Munns
 Rachel Myers
 Christine Rich
 Meg Ball Thomas

MISSIONARIES

Rev. Gordon and Dorothy Gartrell - Brazil
 Jenny Bent - Dominican Republic
 Mark Hare - Haiti
 Dr. Dan & Elizabeth Turk - Madagascar

For Covenanter or Sunday bulletin submissions, please fill out a publicity request online at <http://winppc.org/publicity-request/> or contact Cindy Mitchum at cindym@winppc.org or 407-647-1467.