



The Covenanter

SEPTEMBER 2020



When I was a senior in college, I got an apartment with a friend of mine named Kathy. We were the perfect pair for flat mates. We both enjoyed *Disney Movies* and *True Blood*. She found that she worked better in the mornings while I worked better in the evenings. She was fond of spending hours working on puzzles while I could spend those same hours curled up in my easy chair with a good book. Best of all, we were both avid game people. From cards to *Settlers of Catan* and even the old favorites like *Clue* and *Guess Who*, Kathy and I could spend hours at our dining room table playing games and chatting about school and boys and life in general. When college ended and I moved away, Kathy and I both missed those days that we'd spent together, talking and playing. We arranged several "skype dates" in the months that followed, but each and every one always seemed to be missing something. And then, one day, a package arrived in the mail for my birthday. It was from Kathy! I eagerly cut through the tape, opened the box, and nearly wept when I saw what was inside. It was the blue half of the game *Guess Who*. It's a simple game, just the same today as it was when it was first invented, but that night as Kathy and I gathered for our virtual "skype date" we each took out our half of the game, and played, she in North Carolina and me in Texas. Two time zones, two states, one game (which I won by the way).

I have a new nickname among the church staff, have you heard it lately?

It started as a joke a few months ago when everyone needed to have meetings scheduled on *Zoom* and I was the one with the account that could do it. "Just call me The *Zoom Queen Wasser*, and greet me as 'Your Highness' now, that's all the gratitude I require", I laughed with the staff. Little did I know that nickname was going to start making it's way around the church...

In the last few weeks it seems like this small private joke has become not so private. The quiet of July has passed, people are wanting to see some semblance of the life they knew before, of the world setting back into motion as it so often does every August. With this desire, the requests have begun to flood my inbox. In the last ten days I've scheduled potentially more *Zoom* meetings than I have all summer. Session meetings, Preschool Board Meetings, Committee Meetings, there is a special *Zoom* link for Children's Sunday School, one that will be used for Youth Group in less than a month, even Hannah Circle is starting to get in on the fun. The question it seems has become, in a world where nothing looks the same as it once did, how can we make it feel normal again.

I'm so grateful for technology, for the way it allows us to find those moments of familiar in the unfamiliar. For the games that I can play with friends across the country, for the Bible lessons that the children can still learn from their homes, for the get togethers the choir can still have, and for all the ways the Church can still be the Church. In the weeks that follow, as more of these meetings begin to pop up, as you go out in search of ways to make life feel normal again, please do not forget these wonderful opportunities you have. If you have an idea for a group you want to get together then reach out and lets talk about all the ways we can make it happen. And if you've never worked with *Zoom* before but want to be a part of something, let me know! I'm happy to spend some time with you in a practice session.

Who knows, if you get good enough, I might even bestow the title of "Knight" upon you, or give you a place in my *Zoom Court*!

Emily The *Zoom Queen Wasser*

DEACON'S DEN



I've been avoiding the news lately and shunning political commentary. I've realized that a good portion of this agitated chatter is about sales. Even if I agree with a journalist, he or she is selling an interpretation, a viewpoint. A straightforward news report may be factual, but the presentation influences my perception of the depicted events. I am not experiencing directly but seeing through filters set up by editors and programmers.

I'm trying to better understand what Paul means by, "For now we see through a glass darkly, but then face to face..." (1 Corinthians 13:12). How does my personal history alter my discernment of day to day reality? Of the Divine? Paul seems to be saying that the lenses in our minds only allow dim sparks of God's magnificence to shine.

Our hunger for communion with God is whetted, perhaps, by the glimpses we receive. We get a taste and greedily want more.

My son experienced ice cream for the first time when he was about nine months old. He made a face (the ice cream felt uncomfortably cold in his mouth), but then his eyes popped open. The flavor had struck. He squealed in anticipation when Judy raised the next spoonful.

He was less enthusiastic when we fed him boiled chicken and mashed peas. But as responsible parents, we couldn't give him ice cream at every meal. And its sweet delight would have faded and become common place.

Perhaps God gives us the amount of light, peace and comfort we can profitably absorb. Too much too often wouldn't be useful or good. Instead, moments of insight are reminders that there is more to life than the daily worries plaguing us.

The news may be tinted, and our experiences further color our perceptions. We see darkly. But grace gives us the reassurance that we will eventually know not in part but in whole.

That promise gives me hope.

~Dennis Schmalstig, WPPC Deacon



Christian sympathy is extended to the family and friends of:

Patsy Pulliam, 8/21/20

Joan Schwab, 8/21/20



LIBRARY NEWS

What is Worship? Listed below are five elements of Worship with a theological grounding.

1. Prayer is the heart of Worship.
2. Scriptures is the reading hearing, preaching, and confession of the word - even expressed in music.
3. Baptism is a response of repentance, faithfulness and discipleship. It is needed only once.
4. Lord's Supper is the communion of the faithful.
5. Self-Offering is commitment by giving and sharing, self dedication.

Worship is of primary importance to our life as people of God. Worship is a dialogue between God and His people. In section #285 in our church library, you will find books on worship, catechism, creeds, and beliefs.

A number of people in our congregation have donated books to our library. There is a whole section of Nicholas Sparks books. Each one is a good read. I just finished *The Last Song* which is a story of two children whose parents divorce. The father is a former concert pianist who moves from New York City to North Carolina. The children, after three years absence, come for a visit. That's when the story gets so interesting that one can hardly put down the book!

Steve Martin's book, *Born Standing Up* is about his life as a comedian. He had a complicated childhood with a father that criticized him all through school and beat him with a belt one time until welts covered his body. Steve started on stage at a young age but was not an overnight success. He worked for free frequently at first until becoming an exceptional entertainer.

Added to the library recently are books by John Grisham, Karen Kingsbury, and a number of books by James Patterson. Patterson's *Juror #3* is about a young attorney trying her first major case which is a murder case. *The First Lady* is about a woman who has not drowned but is being held for ransom of \$100 million. *London Bridges* relates how, in broad desert daylight, a mysterious platoon of soldiers evacuates the entire population of Sunrise Valley, Nevada. Minutes later a huge bomb detonates laying waste to a town in an instant.

Access to the library books can be obtained by checking out those in the narthex or by getting the library key from the front office.

~Doris Anguish, Librarian



Children's Sunday School is back! And we're going...virtual!

All children aged 3-10 are welcome to participate in a live Zoom led Sunday School. The class will start at 9:30AM and will last 15-25 minutes. Led by Carolyn Boyle, Theresa Coker, Meg Ball-Thomas, and Emily

Wasser, this will be a great time for children to check in and interact with one another as well as continue to explore the Wonder of God's amazing love, still at work in the world.

Because this class will take place via *Zoom*, please contact Emily Wasser at emilyw@winppc.org, to obtain the *Zoom* link. We will also add your e-mail address to our roster so you receive weekly updates and printouts for your children! We can't wait to see you all again and welcome some new faces as well!



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. You can also find sermons on our website at: <http://winppc.org/sermons/>.

YOUR GIVING MATTERS!

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.



Below is an update from Dr. Robert Gamble D.Min, PC(USA), Executive Director of thischildhere.org. This Child Here is a validated ministry in the Presbyterian Church and a U.S. 501c3 at work in Ukraine, Believing children deserve a life grounded in peace and dignity.

Ukraine has a program for providing an assistant to any special needs child. (Many kids from orphanages can have special needs). Most parents don't know about this. School administrators don't want to be bothered, teachers don't want these kids in the classroom. The easy solution always was to send them to the Orphanage. We are trying to change that system by meeting and working with the Mayor's office in Mikolaevka and local social services.

About COVID: People wear masks in some stores. You can't buy products at the grocery store without a mask. One training was canceled because a participant tested positive. Otherwise, I don't hear a lot of talk in taxis and from friends about people getting sick or testing positive. I stay out of buses and away from crowds.

We are training social workers, educators and administrators in the justice system, local staff for family support and family control, as well as the families. Our hope is that success in Mikolaevka can lead to success in other regions. Below we sign the contract.



We just rented office space for consultation with families and trainings of foster parents. \$400 a month. It's the first time we have rented office space. Below our friend Misha puts in drain lines for the sink.




This past week, with the help of extra donations, we paid for a well for a family of eight, mother and seven kids. Some photos below of the family and workers digging the well.





Bible Quiz

Which of these was not one of the 10 plagues God brought against Egypt to persuade Pharaoh to let the Hebrew people go?

- A. an abundance of frogs
- B. the Nile River turned to blood
- C. the collapse of the pyramids
- D. thick darkness



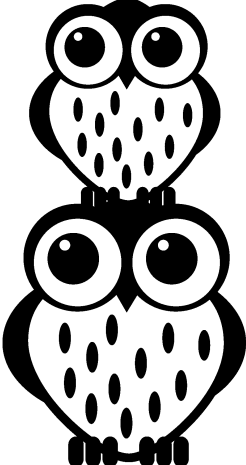
Answer: C (See Exodus 7:14-12:32.)

WISDOM FROM THE WORD

God makes a special promise to people who study Scripture.

Directions: Arrange the word list in alphabetical order. Then write the circled letters in order below to complete Joshua 1:8, NIV.



school	— ○ — — —
paper	— ○ —
wisdom	— — ○ —
read	— — — ○
play	— — — —
learn	○ — — —
grow	— ○ — — —
pencils	— — — —
pray	— ○ — —
art	— — — —
student	— — — ○ —
kids	— — ○ — —
apple	— — ○ — —

“... meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be _____ and successful.”

JOSHUA 1:8, NIV

Answer: apple, art, grow, kids, learn, paper, pencils, play, pray, read, school, student, wisdom, prosperous

From a church newsletter:

The choir is touring this fall. Can you help hose the visiting choir members? They need room and board for one night.

We hope they each find a hospitable *host*!

~~oops!~~

From a church bulletin:

Attend the revival! Carol Johnson is preaching, and Joy Burke will lead the sinning. Refreshments served afterward.

This event is sure to get people talking (and *singing*)!

Puzzle!

Using the code, fill in the blanks to discover what we should do each day.

CODE

A	B	F	G	K	L	O	R	U	V
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D	E	H	I	M	N	S	T	W	Y

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Answer: Talk to God and listen for God. “Be still, and know that I am God.” (Psalm 46:10)



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<u>1</u>	<u>2</u> <i>Rachel Myers</i> <i>Victoria Snyder</i>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u> <i>Larry Morse</i>
<u>6</u>	<u>7</u> <i>Allie Yadav</i>	<u>8</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>10</u> <i>Barbara Lane</i>	<u>11</u>	<u>12</u> <i>Eleanor Fisher</i>
<u>13</u> <i>Ray Schieber</i> <i>Elaine Young</i>	<u>14</u> <i>Lou Hollingshead</i>	<u>15</u> <i>Rick Dillard</i>	<u>16</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>19</u> <i>John Evans</i>
<u>20</u>	<u>21</u> <i>Dona Stepp</i>	<u>22</u> <i>Joan Branch</i> <i>Wendy Jamison</i> <i>Teresa Kountz</i>	<u>23</u> <i>Keith Naylor</i>	<u>24</u>	<u>25</u> <i>Hal Eastburn</i> <i>Asher Green</i> <i>Debby Roberts</i>	<u>26</u> <i>Norman Hittinger</i>
<u>27</u> <i>Warren Deatruck</i>	<u>28</u> <i>Bill Branch</i>	<u>29</u>	<u>30</u> <i>Mike Galyean</i> <i>Dana Irwin</i> <i>DeLores Mamone</i> <i>Nancy Ocque</i> <i>Andy Riccio</i> <i>Jim Spivey</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.