

# June 2020

## FROM THE PASTOR

“Every Praise is to Our God!”

By the time you read this article we will have experienced our on-line Pentecost Worship Service, which was titled, “Every Praise is to our God.” The text for our lesson was taken from 1 Corinthians 12b-13. I chose this text because it speaks to the one body of Christ and the roles we each play in our part in the church.

Each of us has an important and special part in the life of the church, especially in this time of the pandemic. *It’s been a long 12 weeks since our in-person worship was suspended, but the work of Christ has continued to move by the work of the Holy Spirit, throughout the church body and the community.* Many of you have stepped up to make mask, to deliver food, to work in the food closet and offered to help one another. Christ proclaimed, “Love your neighbor as yourself.” Many of you have lived into this call by being so generous with your time and talents to serve those around you. Praise God!

With the recent announcement that churches were essential, all I could do in response was shake my head. My first thought was, our church has never “closed,” our work has always been essential, and in many ways we are stronger than we’ve ever been. Yes, our physical building has been temporarily closed, but Christ work continued to flow in a safe fashion whenever and wherever possible. We practiced social distancing. We maintained boundaries to remain safe and to stop the spread of the virus. We postponed a few events until a safer time. But, we never lost sight of our mission and never gave up our position of being essential. We just found new ways to do things. While we all like our Sunday morning services and traditions, the “church” has grown to an all new level. We were forced to think out of the box with little time for discussions on how to do it. There were no committees set up, which is the Presbyterian way of course, to discuss the details. You might say we flew by the seat of our pants. Every worship service, zoom meeting and our mission work has offered us opportunities to find new and more improved ways of doing things.

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# June Birthdays

## CHURCH FAMILY Life News

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George Schwartz

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Sarah Humphrey

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Nancy Ottnod

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Ginny Bodine  
Natalie Lemmon

18  
Cheryl Lotz

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Sue Kline

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Betty Falstick  
Kalyn Norton

23  
Emily Lang  
Ron Lehman

26  
Frank All

28  
Diana Lagenor

29  
Mary Lewis



Hello Everyone. Last month Rev. Christopher and our team hosted a virtual ice cream social, using Zoom, to reconnect with others in a fun way. Participants enjoyed their own take on having an ice cream social treat from the comfort of their own homes. Some made sundaes, ate out of the carton, had fresh fruit, or drank tasty beverages. We all enjoyed conversation, laughter, seeing some pets, and catching up on what others have been doing, while keeping socially distant. It was nice to meet Pat Hart's sister that evening and see the unusual mask that she wears! Since we felt that this event was received positively, we will host another Park Church Zoom Ice Cream Social on Friday, June 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:30. We hope that you will consider attending to help us bring joy to others, as well as for your own enjoyment. You are missed!

I hope you've had a chance to get outside and enjoy the beautiful weather that we've had lately. Sunny blue skies, green grass, trees swaying in the breeze, flowers, and chirping birds. Just when we thought better days seemed far off, with frost on the ground last week, God blessed us with a break in the weather. May you continue to find ways to try some new things or finish projects that you've put off, during this time apart, and remain healthy.

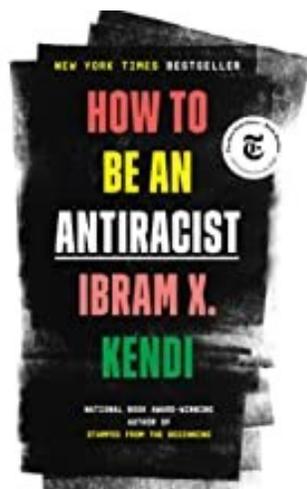
Upcoming Events:

**Virtual Zoom Ice Cream Social on Friday, June 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:30:** Look for the Zoom link to join us with your own treat and help spread some merriment to others. We welcome your friends and pets!

*Cheryl Lotz*  
*Church Family Life Team Leader*

## 2020 Graduates

Congratulations to all of the 2020 Graduates. Especially the graduates from Newark High School. GO REDS! A very special congratulations to Eric Blodgett, Brendan Briggs, and McKenna Briggs. Park Presbyterian Church wishes the Briggs twins and Eric all the best in their future endeavors, as well as all of the Newark High School Graduates.



## BOOK STUDY/DISCUSSIONS

We will begin a book study/discussion group on July 9<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 pm (this way you will have time to get the book and read it) on the book “How To Be An Antiracist.” This will be a 3-week commitment. This book came onto my radar as several of my pastor friends recommended it as a way of educating people on what we each can do in the aftermath of the unfortunate and tragic George Floyd incident.

When I started reading the book, which I have not yet finished, I was struck by the following quote:

“What’s the problem with being “not racist”? It is a claim that signifies neutrality: ‘I am not a racist, but nether am I aggressively against racism.’ But there is no neutrality in the racism struggle. The opposite of “racist” isn’t “not racist.” It is “antiracist.” What’s the difference? One endorses either the idea of a racial hierarchy as a racist, or racial equality as an antiracist. One either believes problems are rooted in groups of people, as a racist, or locates the roots of the problems in power and policies, as an antiracist.”

I knew instantly that this was a book that should be shared broadly, with as many concerned folks as possible, who have been left with a flurry of “thoughts and prayers” and wondering what to do next. We must begin the dialog on now how we can be impactful in a positive way to correct this continued and growing problem in our society.

Please consider reading this book and joining in the discussion. Books can be ordered through Amazon in print or kindle form. If you need help obtaining the book, please contact the office via email or phone and we will be glad to assist you in getting you a copy of the book.

## 2020 Session MEMBERS

**Pastor:**  
Christopher Mergener

**Clerk of Session:**  
Cari Taylor

Cindy Best

Paul Salisbury

Sandi Marcano

Dale Groover

Scott Blondell

Cheryl Lotz

Karen Cameron

## 2020 Deacons

Gil Burgess

Holly Burgess

Steve Mitchell

Sue Rowe

Deb McCrossen

Natalie Lemmon

Ellie Foote

Carol Thurston

Judy Leone

*(Continued from page 1, From the Pastor)*

We will continue to do things in a safe and orderly fashion.

Since the pandemic we have doubled and sometimes tripled our worship “attendance.” While we have maintained our core group of worshipers, we have gained some new ones as well. Please invite your family and friends to join. If they cannot be there while we are live, they can always go back and view the service at a later time or date.

The online service has brought many possibilities into the light. Going forward I am certain we will continue to offer our worship services on-line. One benefit in doing so we will be able to stream the service into the lounge. Those who find the steps challenging or want an experience that is on the quieter side can do so, then join us for the coffee fellowship hour afterwards. It seems like a win-win situation. I wish it hadn’t taken a pandemic for us to realize how easy it is to offer both.

Zoom meetings have continued with great success. We even added a coffee hour most weeks after service. Again, it doesn’t offer fellowship in the same way as in-person coffee hours, but it seems to be fulfilling the need of many of our congregants. If you haven’t tried one out, be sure to join us for one in the future.

On-line Adult education will continue soon with a book study and a bible study. Watch your emails for the details and zoom information. If you would like to lead a session, please let me know and we can work you into the schedule.

Please keep the session in prayer as we continue to work towards a re-opening date of the building and our worship services. As of now, no firm date has been set to reopen. Presbytery leadership has many suggestions on how to reopen the building safely, offering that the earliest we should consider re-opening the building would be in phase 4 (if we are all set with the safety measures). Meetings have already taken place to develop a game plan for a safe and successful reopening. Many of you have expressed that you are anxiously waiting for the reopening while others have stated they will not be returning until a vaccination is secured. There is a wide range of thoughts and ideas on when it will be safe to be in full operation with full participation. Please be patient, pray, and know that we are doing the best we can to make smart decisions that are in the best interest of all congregants.

May Christ peace be with you today and every day!

Rev. Christopher

# How to CONTACT Pastor CHRISTOPHER

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EMAIL ADDRESS

315-664-2573  
CELL PHONE NUMBER

Facebook Messenger  
(PLEASE ADD HIM!)

# June 2020

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

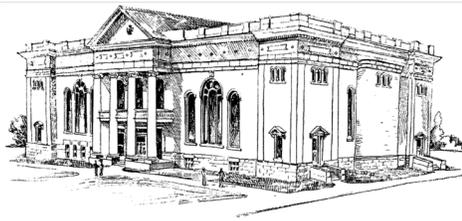
SATURDAY

	1	2	3	4 Karen Cameron	5	6
7	8 Scott Blondell	9 Rick Bald	10	11 Katherine Golding George Schwartz	12 Sarah Humphrey	13
14	15	16 Nancy Ottnod	17 Ginny Bodine Natalie Lemmon	18 Cheryl Lotz	19 Sue Kline	20 Betty Falstick Kalyn Norton
21	22	23 Ron Lehman Emily Lang	24	25	26 Frank All	27
28 Diana Lagenor	29 Mary Lewis	30				

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Newark, NY 14513

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JUNE 2020



*“We will make Christ visible  
by believing, living and  
sharing the word of God.”*



Be sure to check out our social media sites for a way to see the Sunday Services.

Facebook is at: [www.facebook.com/parkchurch110](http://www.facebook.com/parkchurch110)

(Be sure to like and follow to get notifications when we go live.)

Find us on YouTube by searching for Newark Park Presbyterian.

(Subscribe and click the notification bell to find out when we post new videos.)

