

May 2020

FROM THE PASTOR

“Be Still and Know I am God” -Psalm 46:10

The Psalm verse from above continues to run through my head most days. It serves as a reminder to me that God has a plan which has yet to be revealed to me and it’s my time to sit still and wait. It reminds me to take a moment, to take some deep breathes and to know that I don’t have to be in control of each and every moment of my life.

For many, the COVID pandemic has caused life to slow down. Abiding by the “stay in place” rules have long run their course for many of us and most of us are becoming anxious to get back to life as normal.

For me, my workload hasn’t really lightened up but the stay in place mandate has cause me to shift my thinking process on how to do things. When planning worship, I need to think more about each aspect of the service. Am I on camera or off camera? Do I want that prayer on the screen? Oops, I need the lyrics printed out so people can read it while the music is playing. All of these small parts and pieces make me think about the details of the service much more.

Many of you have asked about what it’s like to preach to an empty church. It’s quite different preaching with just a camera man there. I’ve had to adjust how I reflect and project. My facial expressions and movements are lost to the camera for those of you watching at home. It’s been a cycle of experimenting and trying new things and ideas. Each week we continue to make minor adjustments. I hope you are all enjoying the services.

I’m amazed at the number of people who view the service each week. We continue to have 200-300 views each week from all over the country (and

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Presbyterian Women

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

As we begin our sixth week of New York on PAUSE, we are acutely aware of the people who can't stay at home to ride this pandemic out, but who must report to work and endure the stress of possible exposure to Covid-19. We are truly grateful to the workers who don't have the luxury of staying at home, who are keeping the essential businesses open—maintaining the food supply chain, keeping our pharmacies open, providing medical care, delivering our mail and packages, and all the other essential services. A kind "Thank you for working today," in the checkout lane is a small way to show our appreciation for these people, and keeping them in our prayers.

Some of you shared how you're spending your days. Many are using this time away from our usual "busy-ness" to slow down and spend more time in nature, pay attention to previously put aside projects, and reach out to extended family and friends. The scripture, "Be still, and know that I am God," (Psalm 46:10) comes to mind.

Pat H is shopping for her parents and then able to visit them from a distance, as they stand on their balcony and she stands below. Pat has also discovered playing online Euchre & Pinochle with her friends, near and far. She is using the free download, "Trickster Cards," which lets friends (or strangers) play card games on a computer or mobile device.

Cindy B likes learning new things; she is new to Zoom video conferencing and enjoyed attending her sister's virtual birthday party. She is also satisfying her curiosity about electrical sub-stations with online research, trying to understand the parts and how they operate. She walks past one daily when out with Bailey, and she fondly remembers her dad's alarm when as a kid she commented that a sub-station looked like a Jungle Gym.

Chris and Henry are hosting their Buffalo grandkids, ages 10 months, 5 and 7, while both parents work long hours in ICU units. Chris is also remotely covering maternity leave for a school speech therapist, so she has quickly come up to speed video conferencing with her students. Special prayers for Cara and Ryan, and all our healthcare workers, that they will stay healthy and know how much they are appreciated.

Cheryl and Ed are babysitting their young grandchild, Aurora, while Heather and Tom work from home. Cheryl has also found time to sew masks for their family. Deb & Josh have completed seven jigsaw puzzles to date, and are sprouting vegetable seeds in the kitchen. They are taking long walks and picking up litter. They are Zooming with the grandkids—celebrating birthdays and Easter virtually. Deb asks for prayers for small businesses at risk of going under, and for a friend in the medical industry who has contracted Covid-19.

Karen W has sewn cloth masks for the Marbletown Fire Dept and is taking special orders to make more. Karen also has fresh eggs to sale, on occasion, depending on the hens.

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Ginny B is finishing a cross stitch project from a year ago. She's also experimenting with new dishes in the kitchen, and keeping in shape with online exercise videos. Natalie L is gardening up a storm; sprouting seeds inside, rototilling her garden, and cleaning out flower beds. Natalie also helps at the Food Closet and helps unload the FoodLink truck every other Friday for the Free Lunch program and the Food Closet.

Deb T reminds us that although Laurel House is closed temporarily, fundraising events are continuing. **Laurel House has also set up a "Community Closet"** for personal care items, such as Depends, Pull-ups, bed protectors and medical equipment, which are available at no charge. Contact Laurel House (315-573-7028) for more information. Deb is also an avid gardener and will "farm" herself out, if anyone needs gardening help.

Eileen T and Holly B sewed masks for hospitals through "*Hallagans' Healthcare Helpers.*" Eileen has been going out every night at 6pm to support "Horns for Heroes". Eileen is also checking in with friends via phone, and handwriting thank-you notes to essential workers.

Deb C is using Zoom for meetings, playing games online, and getting back into knitting. Deb says she misses seeing people at church and would appreciate prayers for her health, in particular her increased back pain.

As for Bob and Mary, they are working from home. Bob's moved his "table" desk in front of a window looking out into the woods behind the house. He is seeing all kinds of wildlife that pass through the yard daily, as if on parade. Besides making masks for family and workmates, Mary has been indulging her passion for quilting. *Thanks to all of you who shared your activities for this article. Now we all feel like we had a virtual coffee hour visit!*

The **2020 Annual Rummage Sale** is on hold until we can gather safely again.

New PW Bible Study starting in September! Chris Stephens will be leading the 2020-2021 Bible Study, ***Into the Light: Finding Hope Through Prayers of Lament.*** If you haven't subscribed to the PW magazine, *Horizons*, the study may be purchased separately for \$10.00 from pcusastore.com. Let Chris know if you'll be joining the study this fall.

Presbyterian Women's Birthday Offering is still being collected. To donate, make checks payable to "*PW at Park Church*" and mail to church, Attn: Ellie Foote, PW Treasurer, 110 Maple Court, Newark, NY 14513.

Thank you for your support of Presbyterian Women and our purpose to nurture our faith, support the mission of the church worldwide, work for justice and peace, and build an inclusive, caring community of women that strengthens the PC(USA) and witnesses to the promise of God's kingdom.

Stay healthy & safe, everyone!

Deb Compher & Mary Cree
Your PW Co-Moderators



Website Changes

The website is and will be going through some changes in the near future. Current and ongoing church events will scroll on the main website page. To prevent events from "slipping through the cracks" we will soon be implementing an event promotion form. Keep an eye on the website for the roll-out of that form. Until that time if you want your event listed on the church calendar, in the bulletin, on the website, or in social media please e-mail J. at: park-church110@gmail.com.

May Birthdays

CHURCH FAMILY Life News

1
Cooper & Keegan Ehle

6
Judy Leone

8
Susie Earl

9
Quinn Ehle

10
Diane Allerton

12
Heather Appleby

13
Everett Cole
Berk Burgess

18
Christopher Mergener

20
Anthony Humphrey

21
Ellie Conklin
Bonnie Hammond
Kathy Short

22
Cali Cree Tanea

27
Nadine Brill

28
Bob Tack

30
McKenna & Brendan
Briggs
Mary Guchone

Hello Everyone,

I was asked to still write a Parkview article, even though we aren't able to host events. So, I asked myself, what can I write about? Then I thought, YOU! I have chatted with a few of you, so I'll attempt to share some of what I can, that has been going on. Sharon and Dennis are fine and awaiting the day when we can meet at church again. Sharon said that all of the common areas in the "High Rise" are locked up except for the laundry room. She spends some of her time watching reruns of tv shows. Dennis has been seen out walking to get some fresh air. Eileen Taylor and Sue Mitchell have been making a lot of masks to donate and Sue and Steve have done some repainting in their home. Sue reports that her parents, Ken and Roxanna are doing well. Bill and Karen Doebler have used Instacart and been pleased with their service. They also enjoy taking drives. Deb Compher has picked up a scarf that she never finished, and is doing some knitting. She also keeps connected by having Zoom conferences with friends, twice a month. Ellie continues to work at the Food Closet and says that when she is bored, she bakes, and that she has done a lot of that! Pat Hart enjoys playing card games on the computer with a friend in Florida. Scott Blondell remains an essential worker at RIT and also at our church, by checking in and making sure that things are running well. Both he and Rick Bald have conferred with construction workers, while practicing social distancing, to make sure that the renovations continue. Ann Rogers and Carol Thurston remain active in doing what they can, during these times, to ensure that Family Promise continues providing support to families in need.

It has been fun to remain connected with some of you at the Zoom coffee hours after the church service on Facebook Live. Hopefully more of you will give it a try sometime. A special thank you to J. for all of his efforts in recording the service and keeping us informed each week of any news. We've learned that Ron and Christopher have been doing a lot of yard work and bush trimming, on the nicer days, and also did some interior hallway painting. They enjoy taking rides and bringing a meal home sometimes, to support local restaurants. Dale and Kay are doing well, as is Karen Cameron. Paul and Jean continue to be active and we always ask to see their "puppy", who has gotten rather large already. Cindy Best brings good humor to the conferences and Bob Hanson always has news to discuss. Ed and I continue to babysit for Aurora, since her parents are both essential workers and she has gotten very busy!

Well, I guess that's all that this "gossip monger" has to report. If you make a few calls to any church members, be sure to let me know what you've learned so that I have something to write about next month! May you all continue to keep your hands washed, wear your masks, remain at least 6 feet apart, and remain in good health!

God bless and missing you all!

Cheryl Lotz
Church Family Life Team Leader

FAMILY PROMISE UPDATES

Family Promise is hoping to be back up and running from the new day center on Holly Street in Lyons by the middle of May . However, for May and June we will be hosting one or two families in an apartment in Savannah which we will rent with money from an emergency housing grant. The apartment is owned by Pastor Karen from the Methodist Church in Savannah and her husband. The families will be sheltering in place if need be.

Since the Park Church rotation is coming up on May 24-May 31 we will need to provide food for the families for the week as we would if they were housed at Park. Our goal is to have donated food dropped off at Anne Rogers' house and she and Carol will drive it to Savannah. Right now , the evening meals assigned to Park are for Wednesday , Friday and Saturday . Other Churches will be providing meals for the other days of the week and will be driven over also by us two or three times that week and left on their porch .

As the dates get closer we will make a menu and a list of food items needed for the family and ask if you might volunteer to provide some of the items.

The Family Promise board and staff are anxious to help folks with housing needs as much as we can.

If you would like to host at our next rotations the last week in September , or the last week in October please sign up for training on Zoom with the director being offered every Thursday at 2:00. The trainings last about one and a half hours . You may sign up by contacting Carol Thurston or Anne Rogers at 315 879 5478 . We will connect you with Graig , the director. We hope you will join us as we minister to those who need our help so much.

Anne Rogers, Family Promise Coordinator

Beginning May 3, Family Promise will begin their first round of online auctioning of baskets for a fundraising benefit. I am writing to ask for volunteers to donate items for these baskets. You can call the church office at (315) 331-2255 to arrange a drop off time or you may contact me for pick up with social distancing in mind.

The 2 themed baskets are Lego and Spaghetti Supper. items needed are: pasta, sauce, spices, Parmesan cheese, a colander, and Bisquick for rolls; Lego kits (any size for any age), mini figures, Lego books, Lego base plates. Thank you in advance for helping in these special times.

Carol Thurston, Family Promise Coordinator
carol.thurston1960@gmail.com or 315-573-9316

Bulletin Board

In an effort to keep the bulletin boards current we will be leaving items posted (with Office permission) for a period of three months. Please keep an eye out for new postings for upcoming and ongoing events.

Mailing List

Keep an eye out for weekly e-mails from the church office. Not on the e-mail list? Send an e-mail to park-church110@gmail.com and ask J. to add you to the mailing list.

Mission Minute

At the beginning of March, volunteers with the Newark Free Lunch program were feeding about 50 people daily on Tuesdays-Fridays in the basement dining room of Emmanuel United Methodist Church.

With the advent of the pandemic, the dining room was closed and Grab-and-Go lunches were handed out at the door. The numbers needing a free lunch rose to over 100 each day, with a high of 123 on March 16. The need for financial support is great.

Checks can be sent to Emmanuel UMC/Newark Free Lunch Program, 301 E. Miller St., Newark, NY 14513.

Sandi Marcano—Mission Chair

Directory Listings

In anticipation of a new directory for 2020 please e-mail or call the office with any changes in your address, phone number, or e-mail since last year, or with that information if you want to be added to the directory.

FROM THE SECRETARY'S DESK

Nearly two months into New York "On-Pause" and I think that we are finally getting into some sort of rhythm with how things work. Pastor Christopher and myself have Sunday mornings down (other than my occasional mis-click and putting up the wrong video feed) and are hoping we can continue with streaming services once the building re-opens for in-person services. I think this will be a nice addition for those who may be ill or injured, or those who miss their Park family because they are so far away (Hi Mary Guchone!). There will be a bit of a learning curve for running the back end with the new additions of a camera and streaming. Hopefully Scott and Deb are up for learning how it works!

Even with the building being closed for normal operations the work in regards to the truss has been trucking right along, The truss itself is complete, Scott and Rick added a safety railing up in the ceiling space in case anyone ever needs to get up there again, and the ceiling contractors have been in and finished all of that work. Now we are just waiting on the flooring contractors to come in and get all of the new flooring installed. Once that is done we will have the use of the entire building back. With that will be a bit of a learning curve for me and getting all the different areas scheduled for use without conflicts.

It is amazing to see that the Park Family is keeping things going and we can see that by the fact that even with everything "On-Pause" our newsletter is just as long as it would if everything were running full swing. Keep it up everyone.

J. Joslyn—Secretary

CROP WALK News

The theme for this year's Mabel Hommer Memorial Newark CROP Walk is - "Raising Animals; Growing Communities." In the coming weeks, I hope to share the many ways that the CROP Walk helps to stop hunger and poverty here in our community and around the world, through self-help initiatives.

Amid the COVID-19 crisis, Church World Service, like other helping agencies, is facing increased needs and can't afford to lose its support nor can our local helping agencies who benefit from the Walk. This is not just a local crisis. It is a world-wide crisis, and our world relief organizations are pressed to respond, as are our local agencies.

The May walk for this year has been postponed until Fall. As time progresses, we will have a better idea of a realistic date. In the meantime, please stay safe and healthy.

Karen Cameron—CROP Walk Coordinator



Got an article idea for the Parkview? Submissions are welcome. Please send your articles/ideas to: park-church110@gmail.com. Please make sure all submissions are sent prior to the last Monday of the month, although earlier is always better.

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the World, thanks Seth Burgess for tuning in). Many of the views come in after the service has taken place, usually within the first few hours with some views coming in later in the week. It is a blessing to be able to serve so many people in new and exciting ways.

I believe the virtual services will continue after the pandemic restrictions are lifted.

The live feed provides us with endless opportunities. Once we get past the restricted use of the building, we hopefully will be able to live stream the service into the chapel for those folks who have a hard time maneuvering the sanctuary steps. While viewing the service in the chapel may seem restrictive, it will allow everyone to participate in the service and then join in the coffee hour fellowship once we are moved back into the upstairs lounge. I don't know why we didn't think of this before. Some good things can arise from the COVID19 situation.

The Pandemic has created needs in many areas in the community, especially the free lunch program and the food closet. The church has donated to both causes but please keep them in mind if you would like to donate additional food or financially. They could use help in both areas. Now is the time to live into our Matthew 25 initiative as bold Presbyterians helping in whatever way we can and feel moved. Please see the article on page 6 for more details.

The building is continuing to move along slowly. The truss is installed as well as the ceiling replacements on the second and third floor. Carpets have been selected and ordered for all three floors as well. Once we get full use of the building, we will have some major clean up days ahead. Watch for future announcements regarding that work.

As always, stay safe and stay healthy. Please continue to "stay in place" using the good health guidelines of wearing a mask and washing your hands often. While it may seem like we are close to this being over, we still have a long way to go before things will be back to normal.

May Gods Peace and Blessings be with you!

Rev. Christopher

How to CONTACT Pastor CHRISTOPHER

pastornppc@gmail.com
EMAIL ADDRESS

315-664-2573
CELL PHONE NUMBER

Facebook Messenger
(PLEASE ADD HIM!)

May 2020

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

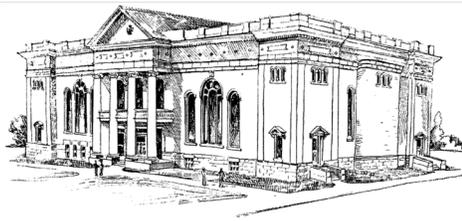
SATURDAY

					1 Cooper Ehle Keegan Ehle	2
3	4	5	6 Judy Leone	7	8 Susie Earl	9 Quinn Ehle
10 Diane Allerton	11	12 Heather Appleby	13 Everett Cole Berk Burgess	14	15	16
17	18 Christopher Mergener	19	20 Anthony Humphrey	21 Ellie Conklin Kathy Short Bonnie Hammond	22 Cali Cree Tanea	23
24	25	26	27 Nadine Brill	28 Bob Tack	29	30 McKenna Briggs Brendan Briggs Mary Guchone
31						

Park Presbyterian Church
110 Maple Court
Newark, NY 14513

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MAY 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\](https://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.)

