



THE CARILLON

Monthly Newsletter
July 2020

First Presbyterian Church
Rev. Dudley Elvery, Transitional Pastor
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Web Site: www.fpchw.org

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Welcome to a special July issue of *The Carillon* in order to keep us connected during the Covid 19 pandemic. Our sanctuary is still closed at this time, but Zoom is allowing the church boards to meet and our web site plus YouTube allows us to have virtual worship.

RELIGION AND SCIENCE

The first event that is on-going and occurring in July is the free, online Zoom class from Tim VanNasdale. Dr. Hugh Ross presents a video entitled *Why Is the Universe the Way It Is?* and Tim, as host, leads a following discussion. Although the class began on May 20, it is possible to catch up by contacting Tim at tlvannasdale@gmail.com and by joining the classes via Zoom each Wednesday at 7 to 8:30 p.m. Tim can email all the links necessary to join. One class was postponed, so the class goes further in July than reported before and the topics are on different dates now!

Tim writes:

I'm excited to announce that we will be doing a new group study based on Dr. Hugh Ross' book, *Why the Universe Is the Way It Is*. Skeptics of Christianity have had considerable success in recent decades arguing that the universe is too large, dark, wasteful, and hostile to

life for there to be a Creator. This 9-week course explores why these characteristics are actually the best evidence that a Creator, precisely like the One the Bible describes, is necessary. We will watch 9 video sessions and hold discussion afterward. An outline of each session will be provided as a pdf for downloading before the class.

July 1 – If God made the universe, why is it decaying?

July 8 – If God made the universe, why isn't it perfect now?

July 15 – If God made the universe, what will God make next?

July 22 – If God made the universe, what does all this say about God?

I truly hope that all will join in on this free class. The classes will be conducted over Zoom. For instructions on how to connect on Zoom and to get the link needed to attend the class, please email Tim VanNasdale at tlvannasdale@gmail.com. Please feel free to pass along the invitation to any friends and family that might have an interest in exploring Christian responses to these questions.
Tim VanNasdale

A SERVICE OF HEALING AND WHOLENESS



The second event for July will be on Monday, July 6, at 7 p.m. We again present on our web site a virtual service of *Healing and Wholeness* as we did on May 25.

Please access this July service from our web site fpchw.org and use a pull-down under "Sermon." Our increasing awareness of how broken our world has become can either overwhelm us and push us into apathy or even despair or move us to say "enough is enough" and realign ourselves with God's dreams and possibilities for a Kingdom on Earth. This service can become a small step in that direction by helping us to experience anew God's healing, peace-giving grace or by refueling us for becoming agents of healing and reconciliation or both. Taking time for this mimics a pattern for Jesus and his disciples. They would be out in the thick of a clamoring multitude and then retreat to a quiet place to reconnect, recharge, and clarify their mission. Our quiet place awaits us in this service.

Dudley Elvery

COMMUNION SCHEDULE

(revision) Were you there? The sacrament of Communion was part of our *online* worship twice as of Pentecost, May 31. To participate in the future, prepare a place (I spread a napkin on my computer desk) and have a glass of juice and a piece of bread ready so you can follow the service as Pastor Dudley leads it. All who can access the fpchw.org web site by phone, laptop or computer can do this. You too! Until we are safely out of the woods from Covid 19, Communion will not be brought to your home. If you cannot access our web page and need "do it yourself" Communion, which is OK because every member is a minister, use the words at home by yourself from the Home Service printed in April and May issues. The dates for Communion are approved by the Session; now look for Communion as part of the virtual service on July 5th. (edited)



Holy Communion

Karen Maurer

SESSION REPORT

After not gathering for a Session meeting in March, April, and May, Session members took advantage of the new (to us, anyway) Zoom conference meeting technology in June. We discovered just how much we had done in the four months since our February Regular Meeting of the Session. Motions and email votes took care of most business items. Our email boxes were filled with advisory precautions regarding church closings and






reopening from the Presbyterian Church (USA) and the Presbytery of Chicago. Many churches have contributed explanations of their methods for coping with Covid-19 and how their members have adapted to new ways of "doing church."

Regular Session Meeting, June 15, 2020

The first item of business concerned the continuing services of Rev. Dudley Elvery after his current covenant agreement with our congregation expires on July 15, 2020. The Pastoral Nominating Committee is hard at work looking at materials submitted by potentially interested ministers, but the PNC has not indicated a readiness to make a recommendation to the congregation. To give the PNC the needed time to function in these difficult times without pressure, Session voted to ask the Personnel & Administration Ministry Team to work with Rev. Elvery and the Commission on Ministry of Presbytery of Chicago to extend a new one-year covenant to Rev. Elvery, who indicated he would accept.

Session agreed by consensus to follow reopening guidelines issued by Presbytery of Chicago for worship and fellowship, which could include the Monday Night Community Dinners. Likewise, the web site worship services will be continued after reopening for the health and safety of members who will choose to remain isolated rather than risk infection before they are comfortable with the low level of risk in public worship.

With thanks to the editor of the March, April, May, and June 2020 issues of *The Carillon*, many of the following items have been presented before:

-  The remaining Lenten worship service schedule after Sunday, March 15, 2020, was cancelled, including Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and all worship services in the sanctuary.
-  The Special Worship Service for Healing and Wholeness was held on Monday, February 24, in Westminster Hall as planned after the Monday Night Community Dinner, but this Special Worship Service on Monday, May 25, 2020, was held using the church web site (virtual).
-  Worship service content for our virtual services on our web site is created weekly by Rev. Elvery and other volunteer members of the congregation.
-  Session meetings were cancelled in March until a later date.
-  Session voted to continue to pay our staff their full regular wages throughout the period of isolation. This was a condition of applying for a Payroll Protection Program loan from the Small Business Administration and obtaining loan forgiveness.

- ✚ The Church Office will be closed to all but essential business until civil leaders and health professionals allow it to be reopened.
- ✚ Session voted to remove the following Active Members from the Active Member Roll per their request: Stephanie Miller, Cameron Miller, Nolan Miller, and Samantha Miller.
- ✚ Session voted to close the entire church campus to all user groups, worship services, food service, outside support groups, committees, and Christian Education classes.
- ✚ Session voted to approve the completed Ministry Information Form as presented by the Pastoral Nominating Committee, with attesting signatures from the PNC Chair and Clerk of Session.
- ✚ For celebrating the Sacrament of Communion at home, Session voted to encourage all members who participate in the on-line worship services to have their own bread and juice at hand and to participate in the prayers and liturgy before eating the bread and drinking the juice.
- ✚ Session voted to approve Vacation Leave for Rev. Dudley Elvery from Tuesday, June 16, through Monday, June 29, 2020. Rev. Jane Tuma will lead virtual worship services for two Sundays.
- ✚ The schedule for celebrating the Sacrament of Communion through December 2020 was approved: July 5, Aug. 2, Sept. 6, Oct. 4, Nov. 1, Nov. 29, Dec. 24.
- ✚ Session voted to approve Elder Karen Maurer as Chair of Worship Ministry, with Elder Kathie Hazlett as webmaster and Deacon Laura Dillman at-large.

Many items have been received by e-mail, among them:

- ✚ Notification from Presbytery of Chicago of a 1/12th rebate to the church's 2020 Per Capita apportionment; our rebate is \$339.00.
- ✚ Receipt from Presbyterian Church (USA) of the Clerk's Annual Questionnaire for 2019.
- ✚ Receipt of draft and final copies of the Ministry Information Form from the PNC.
- ✚ Notification of the posting of "Building Closed" signs on all church outside doors.
- ✚ Request for certification of the MIF by Presbyterian Church (USA) Church Leadership Connection Database. When completed on March 26, 2020, the MIF was posted on the national database.
- ✚ Request from the Presbyterian Church (USA) Office of Special Operations for information on how our local 25% share of the Peace & Global Witness Special Offering was used.

- ✚ Request from the *Daily Southtown* for specific information regarding our congregation's plans for reopening our worship services inside our building, with Clerk Wahl and Rev. Elvery responding.
- ✚ Text of Presbytery of Chicago Coordinating Commission position statement regarding issues and responses to the social unrest following the killing of an African-American citizen by a police officer in Minneapolis, MN.
- ✚ Advisory opinion from Presbytery of Chicago to refrain from attempting to reopen worship in our sanctuary until at least August 30, 2020.
- ✚ Positive discussion on the church investing in the Zoom Conference software to permit group gatherings from the peace and safety at home; and it was purchased.
- ✚ Notification from the Village of Homewood that the 2020 Farmers Market will not permit organizations to set up tents and greet attendees as in past years.
- ✚ Notification of a matching challenge grant of \$500 from an anonymous donor to help Jones Community Center with costs related to their food pantry program, with gifts requested by May 31, 2020. [A total of \$800 was contributed to meet the original challenge amount.]
- ✚ Notification of the death of non-member Maryann Dorr, cousin of Phil Dillman and Laura Dillman, on March 10, 2020.
- ✚ Notification of the death of Jay Webster's grandmother Norma on June 9, 2020, in Portland, OR.
- ✚ Notification of the death of former member Ann A. Wood on May 19, 2020. The memorial service will be private.
- ✚ Notification of the death of Active Member Elder Capt. John E. (Jack) Day on Wednesday, May 27, 2020. Funeral details and burial are private. A memorial service will be scheduled for a later date.
- ✚ Notification of the death of former member Gladys Noble on May 12, 2020.

For the last two Monday Night Community Dinners in March 2020, Elder Armistead thanked two anonymous member donors for contributing the meals; lasagna on March 2 and fully-cooked chicken on March 9, 2020. In the last full month of operation, we were serving an average of 66 guests and members.

Now you know what has been happening at church.

Respectfully submitted,
Edward C. Wahl, Clerk of Session





FROM THE PASTOR

Back to Basics



Back to basics, a concept that permeates any search for quality and solid success. Being excluded from church buildings has forced the church to go back to basics. If we look at the story of

the early church in the Book of Acts, we read nothing about buildings and much about being the church, the “ecclesia”—those called out. The references to gathering places, or places to “congregate,” speak of river banks and homes. Being the church meant being people who worship, who make God central to their lives. Early worship involved prayers, reading and expounding scripture, singing, and taking offerings to care for those in need. Sometimes, worship involved what we call the Lord’s Supper. While not in the same space together, we have been able to do all that. Our online worship includes all that. The Bible Study group that met at Panera now meets again via Zoom. The adult education gathering led by Tim VanNasdale has tackled a second course via Zoom. A challenge of matching a \$500 gift for the Jones Memorial Center as it struggles to feed people ended up with a total of \$1,300 being given to them. Our Prayer Chain hums with news of each other and cause to pray and offer thanks. *The Carillon* has special monthly editions when it would have had only one summer edition.

I think the going back to basics can lead us into two different directions. One would be to see ourselves as re-enactors, people who don the costume and customs of a bygone day to see what life was like then. If you have ever visited a living history museum, it’s hard not to have nostalgia, longing for simpler days, tugging at your heart strings. I think the second way embodies the hope any parent has to give their children roots and wings. Roots offer stability and nurturance while wings give them the freedom to fly to new horizons. We can see this building-less time as a time to put down our roots so we can fly. Didn’t Dr. Seuss celebrate this in his book, *Oh, the Places You’ll Go?* *Dudley Elvery*

Kathie Darman – My Thoughts, Part 2:

Wow! *What a reaction to the mandatory isolation rule!* So many people that I heard on TV were very distressed about not being able to go anywhere and, on top of that, were responsible for their kids’ education. “What?” I heard. “How am I going to comply with that?” or “I do not have the patience to deal with being their teacher,” or “I was told by my school that I have to teach my class on-line,” or “What if I run out of supplies at home (toilet

paper)?” Those were only a portion of what we were all going to be required to deal with now for a specified time. I heard so many people who seemed almost in a panic about what to do, or “Will I get the disease?” or “What is going to happen now?” During the first couple of weeks of realization and change, I continued to rely on my faith that God is in charge and whatever happens, it is for a reason and in the end all will be well. I decided to self-isolate—I mean REALLY self-isolate. I went nowhere. I had been out to the store 3-4 times and for walks when the weather permitted. I am content with my decision since I love my home and for years never was able to enjoy my space. Now I am forced to be here with no excuses to make about why I want to stay home. What a stress relief!

When listening or reading about ways to stay occupied or how to entertain your kids, it takes me back to my younger days and how the lifestyle has changed from then to now. Then we had ourselves to think of what to do in our free time. We had neighborhood friends to play with, sidewalk chalk, roller skates, books, dolls—all that could be played outside. Or we had chores to do that kept us busy. Now, I’m not saying that was better or that now is worse, just thoughts about how different it was and how we sort of entertained ourselves in what would now be thought of as simple ways with snail mail, and rotary phones, or call waiting. On the other hand, now we have electronics. God knew what he was doing creating those minds that thought up these things. Thank God for them. Since I’ve been home, electronics and streaming have been my pals. (Yes, all you youngsters, streaming.) Shortly before this pandemic, I was trying to hook up more with one of my sisters with little success. During this isolation, that sister plus another one and I have been in touch several times/day using an app that allows us to see each other’s faces when we talk. What a gift!

With this same app, I am in touch with my grandson, who works for the city of San Diego park district. Talk about a shock! California people consider the outdoors as an extension of their homes and feel like they are in jail if they are not outside. He has had the job of trying to keep people out of the parks and off the beach, even so much as having the police stand watch. For two days, his coworker and he put up 350 cots in the convention center measuring the distance apart so the homeless had a place to come inside. I have also been in touch with my son who is the head painter at Great Lakes Naval Base. He gets tested periodically because he is in the thick of it, often going to the hospital units to make a room ready for 14 days of isolation for a service man coming in from overseas. He is also involved in putting

up tents and speed bumps in the parking lot for the screening process for people entering the base.

And what about the virtual church service on Sundays? That is a true blessing. I have also had a lot of time to contemplate the next step in my life after isolation. I have not quite come up with what that is yet, but I still have lots of time.

So all in all, this time of isolation has been a contemplative one for me. It will be interesting to see what permanent changes will come out of this time, like people working from home, or maybe even more family time. Only God know what the future will bring.

CHICAGO HEIGHTS FELLOWSHIP



Men's Fellowship

Some of the men of our church re-joined the Chicago Heights Men's Fellowship that met on Friday, May 22, and again on June 12.

They all met outside in a large circle on the grounds of the Chicago Heights First Presbyterian Church, bringing their own lunch and beverage and lawn chair. The weather cooperated. The men now hope to do it again on July 17, but this time returning to Paulie's Pub, 2736 Chicago Road, South Chicago Hts. We will be notified if that will not work at that time.

TRUSTEE REPORT

The Trustees have not met via email in June. This information can be shared: The church had two power outages for an extended period on Tuesday, June 9. As a result, an emergency lighting battery in the elevator had to be replaced under our service contract at no charge, and the office phone system had to be reset. Johnnie Dorsey has been removing weeds in the parking lot and along the east fence. Paul Gerrish and Laura Dillman have been weeding the Aki Garden. Marge Errant replaced and replanted the urn at the north Narthex steps and replanted the urns on the front steps. The Community Dinner sign has been deteriorating to the point of being unsightly, so it has been removed.



Property Board

Jim Foster

Kathleen O'Hanlon – Keeping Hope Alive

A personal experience that has inspired the most hope in me recently involved the Black Lives Matter Memorial Gathering, organized by high school girls, held June 18 at 6 p.m. at Patriots Park. During their program, that lasted a little more than an hour, they peacefully read original poetry, sang part of the "Black National

Anthem," stepped and chanted, spoke about their anguish over deaths at the hands of police, and finally led everyone present in prayer for the country's future, and held two minutes of silence after the names of too many Black victims were read aloud and repeated as each person attending held a candle in remembrance. They poured out their thoughts and their hearts, asked for support, and encouraged all of America to educate ourselves about systemic racism—and they did it all in such an articulate way, in such a spirit of national unity, that I felt hopeful for our country's future in the hands of such young leaders as these. I would humbly close with the observation that, in any country, the people are the treasure; let's learn whatever we need to learn and advocate for whichever policies work to keep as many of us alive as possible on our own streets.

STEWARDSHIP/FINANCE MINISTRY TEAM

We grieve the passing of Jack Day, a member of the Stewardship and Finance Ministry Team for well over a decade, at the age of 101 years and four months. For the last year or two, the Ministry Team met at Jack's home because it was the best way for Jack to actively participate in the life and work of the church. Jack always took special interest in our support of Per Capita apportionment and the encouragement of our members to donate highly appreciated shares of stock or unneeded RMDs from retirement accounts and to maintain pledge balances. In the 1980s, Jack was chair of the Pipe Organ Committee, leading to the instrument's design, installation, and purchase campaign. For over 25 years, Jack was at the helm of Operation Ditty Bag at the church, packing 160 bags for the crew of the Navy's SSN-721 *Chicago* submarine. We will miss him...and his marvelous sea stories and pie treats at our meetings.

In the continuing shell game of who has the Payroll Protection Program money, the church came out the winner! In the first week of June 2020, the Small Business Administration accepted our application and transferred a total of \$14,855 into the church's checking account. Almost immediately, we received notice from our bank that procedures are being finalized by the SBA that we must follow if our loan is to be forgiven and we get to keep the money [estimated time to complete the SBA forms is 180 minutes]. So, the project is only half completed at this time.

In the church budget for 2020 adopted by Session last winter, a major assumption was included. That assumption was that the PNC would need most if not all of 2020 to select a candidate pastor to recommend to the congregation, and that was before the health issues and

home isolation procedures began in March. Therefore, the budget contains the funds known to be needed for Rev. Elvery to remain with us through 2020 as Interim Pastor without the need to amend the budget mid-year.

Once again we wish to thank the church members and donors who continue to send their offerings to the church. Please remember to use your numbered church offering envelope when you send a check to help us make certain your gifts are properly recorded. Please also use the church's P.O. Box 1519 address so your check envelopes do not get delivered to the street address and left in the outside mailbox by the church office door. Unfortunately, church mailboxes are not immune to theft by mail and package pirates.

The summary of receipts and disbursements for the First Presbyterian Church of Homewood for the month ending May 31, 2020, is in the following chart:

	<u>Through May</u>	<u>2020 Budget</u>
General Fund Income		
Identified Giving	\$55,338	\$130,000
Loose Offering	211	1,500
Initial Offering	413	500
Required Min. Dist./Stock Sale	8,266	5,000
Community Dinners Donations	770	3,000
Other Income	504	3,000
Dividends & Capital Gains	591	14,000
Sale of Investment Shares	0	37,400
Endowment Fund Distributions	0	9,000
Transfer from Designated Fund	<u>1,250</u>	<u>0</u>
Total General Fund Income	66,093	203,400
General Fund Expenses		
Missional Ventures	\$1,194	6,500
Faith Formation	167	1,800
Facilities	15,547	51,500
Staff	29,113	82,000
Transition	18,551	54,300
Administrative Support	2,652	7,300
Purchase of Investment Shares	0	0
Transfer to Designated Fund	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total General Fund Expenses	67,224	203,400
Designated Fund Income	\$8,600	
Designated Fund Expenses	10,733	
<i>Total Active Members—May 31, 2020</i>		<i>108</i>
Average Sunday Attendance—February 2020		59
Average Sunday Attendance—March 2020		50
Average Sunday Attendance—April 2020		0
Average Sunday Attendance—May 2020		0
Summary through April 2020 (5/12 of Budget):		
Income Over/(Under) 2020 Budget		(\$17,407)
Expenses Over/(Under) 2020 Budget		(17,526)
2020 Total Net Income (Loss) to Date		119

We need an average income of **\$4,000** each week to fund our mission and operate our church. This is inclusive of pledges and identified giving as well as other income sources. So, how are we doing?

- Weekly average for January (4) \$3,526
- Weekly average for February (4) \$3,646
- Weekly average for March (5) \$2,161
- Weekly average for April (4) \$2,880
- Weekly average for May (5) \$3,265
- **Weekly average for 2020 (22) \$3,061**

ADDITIONAL GRADUATES

High School Graduate

Lina Jursa graduated from Homewood-Flossmore High School and will attend Monmouth College in pre-med.

College Graduates

Leslie Bonthron received a Master of Science degree in civil and structural engineering from Purdue University. She will work for Ruby and Associates, a structural engineering design firm in Detroit.

Michael Bonthron received a Bachelor of Science degree in mechanical engineering (Summa Cum Laude) from Illinois Institute of Technology. He will seek a Master of Arts degree in applied mathematics from DePaul University while working in Chicago.



PRAYER CARDS

The following members, friends, and staff of First Presbyterian Church of Homewood will receive a card telling them that the church is praying for them. Please pray for those listed. Kathie Darman

Week of July 5

Pat Steiner
Eleanor Steiner
Brian & Kelly Tufts
Paul & Sylvia Tufts
Laurie Ulrich

Week of July 12

Sandy VanHorn
Tim VanNasdale
Dean/Linda VanNasdale
Ed & Janet Wahl
Deb Way & Nolan

Week of July 19

Jay & Nick Webster
Leighton Whitaker
Carolyn Wiley
Susan Zorns
Karen Allison

Week of July 26

Joan Alvers
Joyce Anders
Donna Anderson
Earl Anker/Jan Bunker
Dave/Shirley Armistead

Janet Wahl – Reconnecting with Nature

Let the field exult and everything in it. Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy. Psalm 96:12

I did not re-connect with nature during shelter-in-place because I am always connected to nature. I live in Hamilton Wood. Besides inheriting something from my grandfather who was a Game Warden for the state of Illinois, from 4th grade until the end of graduate school, I lived in 10 acres of woods. *However, this year I had more time to observe the nature around me.* So I noticed that the warm/freezing weather in early 2020 caused a lack of blossoms! There were almost no forsythia flowers, fewer daffodils and azalea blooms, even black walnut trees with fewer flowers! I have 12 areas of orange day lilies, like those that grow along road sides. Only one area has buds for coming flowers! However, all the spring rain has given everything tons of leaves—plenty of greenery this year and plenty of weeds. I also noticed the animals. There seem to be more birds this year. The raccoons have 4 babies, and I saw a mother opossum transporting 7 babies on her back when she was displaced by spring mowing! Summer now means constant weeding and bush trimming. Yet, there is always joy for the great outdoors.

HOSPITALIZED

In the hospital during the past month were Mary Cantway, Nancy Llewellyn, Bruce Miller, Karen Maurer, Evelyn Dixon, Carolyn Gerrish-Starn, and Richard Hanley's grandfather.



NURSING HOMES / REHAB

Mae Evert, Lemont Center Rehab; Pat Steiner, Plymouth Place, LaGrange Park; Marilyn Perdue, Clarendale of Mokena (new room number **3212**).

New: Nancy Llewellyn, Franciscan Health Hammond, Room 319, 5454 Homan Ave., Hammond, IN, 46320 219-515-2046

Karen Maurer, Westminster Place, Room 113 McGaw North, 3200 Grant St., Evanston, IL, 60201 847-492-6003 She thanks you for keeping her connected to her church family.

SYMPATHY



Church sympathy is extended to the family of Gladys Noble and to Jay Webster on the death of his grandmother Norma.

I am the Resurrection and the Life saith the Lord: he that believeth in me though

he were dead, yet shall he live: and whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die.

GIFTS AND MEMORIALS

The following have been recorded in the Memorial Book in the Narthex: the grandmother of Jay Webster and Capt. Jack Day.

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

July	July
3 Kathie Darman	18 Barb Foerch
8 Lina Jursa	20 Dorinda Jensen
Judy Petrovic	22 Sylvia Tufts
10 Joan Alvers	26 Linda Daanen
11 Ron Shropshire	30 Leslie Bonthron
13 Betty Ross	31 Jay Webster



Laura Dillman – Sharing Our Lives

I've been pretty busy lately keeping up with family and family friends on the phone and Facebook as well. I've been really enjoying our Panera Zoom Bible Studies and Tim's class on *If God Made the Universe*—very fascinating and informative. Being able to see the faces of our members and friends is great. Thank you, Tim, for providing another opportunity to learn and come closer to the knowledge that we are here because God put us in the right place at the right time. Thanks be to God. Paul Gerrish and I have been busy trying to keep up with the weeding in the Aki Garden, a never ending project for our wonderful garden. I'm missing everyone at church, but I understand that safety is paramount during times like these.

Also, I paid it forward at Krispy Kreme twice: one for the next person behind me and another day I took a dozen donuts each to the Homewood Police Station and the Homewood Fire Station. I just wanted to say thank you for all that they are doing to keep our town safe and secure. They were very surprised that I did this. It gave me complete joy to do it. And I also say thank you to all I come in contact with at the stores for all that they do.

I'm keeping in touch with my brother Phil on a regular basis, too. I miss him on Sunday and his cartoon of the day. I've been busy at the house in Midlothian planting flowers and keeping up with the weeding there, too. Watching the flowers grow is such fun and enjoyment.

Sending you all love, virtual hugs, prayers, and blessings

VIRTUAL WORSHIP SERVICES



Online
Worship

Kathie Hazlett will continue to edit and post online worship services during the month of July on the church web site

fpchw.org under the heading of Sermons. Join the service at 10:30 a.m. each Sunday in order to worship “together” or at any other time. Right now we have virtual church, much like the words of a song by Ken Medema, who wrote “Come Build a Church.”

Come build a church with soul and spirit;
Come build a church of flesh and bone.

We need no tower rising skyward;

No house of wood, or glass, or stone.

Come build a church with human frailty;
Come build a church of flesh and blood.

Jesus shall be its sure foundation.

It shall be built by the hand of God.

One of the verses of Ken Medema’s song is appropriate for all of us now.

Guide our feet in peaceful pathways.
Teach us peace of heart and mind,
Peace with God and all God’s children,
Till we leave our wars behind.
Surely joy will come and find us
Like a breeze that cools the night,
Like the rain upon the desert,
Like a candle’s gentle light.

Rev. Susan Krummel (Exec Presbyter of Chicago)

Viruses and Introverts

“We are all managing our lives differently because of Covid 19. ...

One of the ways congregations are most affected by this kind of vigilance has to do with practices surrounding worship. ...you have probably been in multiple meetings trying to decide what is right when it comes to worshiping in person. Of course, while the leadership is spending time on these details, some of your members are wondering if they even want to go back into the sanctuary where they can’t fast forward. ...

How will you celebrate Communion? ...

What will you do at the door after worship? ...

There will be no passing of the peace in the usual way...

We all need to take the necessary precautions to protect ourselves from this virus and from illness in general. In your discussions about worship practices, you are mak-

ing ‘worst-case scenario’ decisions right now. But when this time has passed, you might want to think about the ways you welcome both introverts and extroverts into worship. Is everyone being treated as a unique child of God? Even now, you might begin to ask those who worship with you in whatever way you are worshiping, what is it that they value about the way you have done things the last three months, and what do they miss? What do they look forward to doing again when you come back together and what do they hope remains permanently changed? How do all of our practices when we gather for worship and companionship value our differences so that we may each come to know hope in Jesus Christ?”

AUGUST CARILLON

Yes, there will be an August issue of *The Carillon* this year! We need to stay connected in as many ways as possible. The deadline for having articles or information placed in the August *Carillon* will be **Monday, July 20**. Please turn in all materials in writing and e-mail the Editor at ewahl@sbcglobal.net. Remember to keep on sharing joys and concerns about sheltering-in-place or about reopening or about virtual church or Tim’s class. The key word is *share*. Hearing about each other is good for the soul. The Editor thanks all the July reporters for their assistance. *J C =W=*

[NOTE: The whole month calendar will return when the pandemic passes.]

