



THE CARILLON

Monthly Newsletter
June 2020

First Presbyterian Church
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RELIGION AND SCIENCE

Hopefully, those of you who enjoyed last summer's class on *Navigating Genesis* by Dr. Hugh Ross are already learning from *Why Is the Universe the Way It Is?* by Dr. Ross now in progress on Zoom and hosted again by Tim VanNasdale, our director of music. 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. Of course, new people are welcome to join also.

The following is information about this free, online Zoom class from Tim VanNasdale:

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.

[May 20 – If God made the universe, why is it so vast?]

[May 27 – If God made the universe, why is it so old?]

June 3 – If God made the universe, why is it so dark?

June 10 – If God made the universe, why is there an earth?

June 17 – If God made the universe, why so much for so little?

June 24 – If God made the universe, why is it decaying?

July 1 – If God made the universe, why isn't it perfect now?

July 8 – If God made the universe, what will God make next?

July 15 – 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

COMMUNION SCHEDULE

(revision) Were you there? The sacrament of Communion was part of our *online* worship twice as of Pentecost, May 31. To participate, 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 website 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; next one is in July.

SESSION REPORT

This afternoon (Friday, May 22), in a news conference, President Donald Trump identified houses of worship as “*essential places that provide essential services,*” calling on governors to allow churches and other houses of worship “*to open right now.*” The President also noted that if governors did not allow churches to open “*right now, this weekend,*” he would “*override the governors.*” He ended his comments with the words, “*In America, we need more prayer, not less; thank you very much.*” No questions were taken by the President.

As a response from the Presbytery of Chicago, we received the following message addressed to “Churches, Congregations, Pastors, Ruling Elders, Minister Members, church leaders, all:”

We would like to remind everyone that under our Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Constitution (Part 2, Book of Order) the Session alone has the authority to open and close our church buildings and locations of worship. Under their responsibility “to provide that the word of God is rightly preached,” the Session is responsible to “provide a place where the congregation may regularly gather for worship, education, and spiritual nurture.” The Session also has the responsibility to “nurture the covenant community of disciples of Christ,” which includes “managing the physical property of the congregation in furtherance of this mission” (see Book of Order, G-3.02a and c, page 48).

We encourage our Session Moderators and Ruling Elders to continue to meet these responsibilities and to communicate these responsibilities to the members of their congregations. At this point, to our knowledge, all Sessions have acted, directly or indirectly, to follow the stay-at-home orders of Illinois Gov. JB

Pritzker and other local officials, and to abide by the Restore Illinois Plan.

We encourage continued adherence to these plans and guidelines.... Let us continue to hold one another in prayer as we make our way through this time of the pandemic, fully aware of God’s presence and guidance, knowing we have come “*thus far, with the help of God*” (1 Samuel 7:12).

With thanks to Susan Krummel – Executive Presbyter, Kenneth Hockenberry – Stated Clerk, Sandra Zeles – Moderator, and Michael Welf – Moderator-Elect.

When our Ruling Elders meet electronically for our next Session meeting, this subject will be receiving prime consideration. There are many questions to answer and much work to be accomplished to prepare our two buildings to receive occupants for worship and fellowship. Thank everyone who has participated in the creation and/or sharing of content with our very successful on-line virtual worship services.

Respectfully submitted,
Edward C. Wahl, Clerk of Session



FROM THE PASTOR

[Part 1]

It is now clear that Covid 19 is a **deadly serious global pandemic**, and all necessary precautions should be taken. Still, C.S. Lewis’s words—written 72 years ago—ring with some relevance for us. Just replace “atomic bomb” with “coronavirus.”

“In one way we think a great deal too much of the atomic bomb. ‘How are we to live in an atomic age?’ I am tempted to reply: ‘Why, as you would have lived in the sixteenth century when the plague visited London almost every year, or as you would have lived in a Viking age when raiders from Scandinavia might land and cut your throat any night; or indeed, as you are already living in an age of cancer, an age of syphilis, and age of paralysis, an age of air raids, an age of railway accidents, an age of motor accidents.’”

*“In other words, do not let us begin by exaggerating the novelty of our situation. Believe me, dear sir or madam, you and all whom you love were already sentenced to death before the atomic bomb was invented: and quite a high percentage of us were going to die in unpleasant ways. We had, indeed, one very great advantage over our ancestors—*anesthetics*; but we have that still. It is perfectly ridiculous to go about whimpering and drawing long faces because the scientists have added one more chance of painful and premature death to a world*”

which already bristled with such chances and in which death itself was not a chance at all, but a certainty.

“This is the first point to be made: and the first action to be taken is to pull ourselves together. If we are all going to be destroyed by an atomic bomb, let that bomb when it comes find us doing sensible and human things—praying, working, teaching, reading, listening to music, bathing the children, playing tennis, ...not huddled together like frightened sheep and thinking about bombs. They may break our bodies (a microbe can do that) but they need not dominate our minds.”

[Part 2]

In our current situation, the adage I grew up with—“two wrongs don’t make a right”—seems to have transformed itself into “two rights make a conundrum.” Some religious leaders noisily claim the right for their congregations to gather. That certainly can be considered a “right.” In exercising that “right,” we violate people’s “right” not to be harmed or put in danger. So two “rights” make a complex conundrum.

As information about Covid 19 began to circulate, it seemed to me that we might still gather while maintaining “social distance.” We did that once. The Session wisely decided even that put people at risk as well as violated the governmental ban on gathering. **Please note:** *we are banned from gathering in one place physically not virtually. We are banned from gathering in one place physically not from believing. We are banned from gathering in one place physically not from being the Body of Christ. We are banned from gathering in one place physically not from acting to reach out to even the least of these* as we have done with our challenge to help the Jones Center feed the families they serve. I supported and continue to support our decision. To knowingly put the health of our members at risk would be the worst thing I could do as your pastor.



My heart aches to see and be with you. I am the designated gofer and dog walker in our household. As a result, I sometimes encounter members of our congregation. Even as I write about doing so, a smile comes to my face. I struggle preaching or reading to a camera. The faceless camera cannot substitute for seeing each of you.

Someone asked me if I ever thought I would be dealing with our current situation when I agreed to be your Interim or Transitional Pastor. I had no way to guess this pandemic lurked around the corner. I am glad that I am here because I would not want to wish these early days of sorting out how to do and be church on a new pastor.

I trust that when your new pastor comes, you will be on your way into the new post-pandemic landscape.

If pondering our situation, our congregation, and your well being and writing about it can be considered a form of prayer, then I say, “Amen.”

PS: if you want to read an interesting article about the “rights” debate follow this link:

<https://www.christiancentury.org/article/editorpublisher/churches-obsessed-their-right-reopen-are-missing-point>

Dudley Elvery



CHICAGO HEIGHTS FELLOWSHIP

Some of the men of our church rejoined the Chicago Heights Men’s Fellowship that met on Friday, May 22. They all met outside in a large circle on the grounds of the Chicago Heights church, bringing their own lunch and beverage and lawn chair. The weather cooperated. The men hope to do it again on June 12.



TRUSTEE REPORT

[The Trustees met on May 20, 2020, via email.]

The church building was officially closed on March 17, 2020. Out of an abundance of caution and concern for our staff, Debra Campbell and Johnnie Dorsey were furloughed with pay, and Amber, being an independent contractor, was let go. To limit access to the building, all outside groups were cancelled as well as all meetings, committees, and groups from the church.

Jim Foster has cut the grass a couple times, after struggling to get the church lawn mowers to work. Now the Trustees have approved a contract of \$60 per week with E & Sons Lawn Service of Crete (Eli Martinez) for further mowing, replacing Hamilton Landscaping that had previously done both plowing and lawn service but was unable to continue either.

The Trustees also approved installation of a letter slot (\$348) for the exterior door at the office entrance, which will replace the external mailbox hanging by the door and thus provide much greater security for mail that is not sent via the P.O. Box number.

While the church is \$1300 behind the budget in giving so far, with the building closed, the Trustee portion of the budget is way under projections. The Contingency Fund has a balance of \$1400.

With the church closed and Johnnie Dorsey on furlough, Jim Foster has been going in regularly to check the refri-



Property Board

generator, freezer, restrooms, and elevator. The heavy rains on May 18 overwhelmed the main, secondary, and backup pumps resulting in flooding the area outside the restrooms at the rear of Westminster hall. The boiler room and C.E. pumps worked fine. Nancy Beaudoin and Emily Hanley have been systematically cleaning and sanitizing the sanctuary, narthex, parlor, and kids' class rooms. Johnnie Dorsey is recovering from a foot injury, but will be returning to very limited duty one or two days a week, sanitizing restrooms and applying insecticide. Jan Wahl placed artificial flowers in the front and north urns, flowers that Marge Errant had stored at the church. Marge will begin weeding the front bush area. Paul Gerrish and Laura Dillman have been working on the Aki Garden. Many thanks to all who have been pitching in.

Rod Dunlap and Jim Foster



A STORY OF COMPASSION

From Laurie Ulrich

"One good story deserves another" seems as if it is always true, and I've heard so many tales of compassion, love, sharing, hope, and positivity in the course of this Stay-at-Home order. Here's one I especially like because it hits so many different ways in which people can reach out *for* help and then reach out *to* help:

One of my daughter's friends is a nurse who volunteered to go to New York when the pandemic was at its worst there. After she had been there for a week, she got in contact with her friends at home who were looking for ways to help her as she stayed in New York. There was a long list of things that would help her and her fellow nurses, who were from various states and who were all staying in hotel rooms when they weren't at work—unable to shop for food or other things that would have made life easier. The word went out across social media, and lots of people responded, making her respond with gratitude on behalf of herself and her fellow volunteers.

Fast forward two weeks: the peak has been hit and the cases are diminishing in New York, but now my daughter's friend has Covid 19 herself and is both quarantined and sick. Of course, she can't come home and is far from her husband and children as she weathers the virus. Her biggest concern now?—her family as they continue to try to do school and work from home while knowing she is sick.

So... Now my daughter has taken on the task of creating a Meal Train to provide meals for the family—which

involves lots of phone-calling and organization and then finding ways to get the food to the family without exposing them (or providers) to unnecessary risk. This will surely go on from now until the mom has not only recovered and returned home, but until the family's life can return to any level of new-normalcy.

So many ways in which compassion shows up in this story: the nurse who volunteered, the friends who passed along her requests, the people who answered her requests, the friends who stayed in touch and looked for ways to help, the heart that thought of providing meals, the people who are doing the cooking, etc. And the people who hold them all in prayer. Surely, we are all one!



STEWARDSHIP/FINANCE MINISTRY TEAM

"Congratulations! Your application for the SBA Pay-check Protection Program has been authorized by the Small Business Administration. Your funds have been allocated and are reserved."

Thus begins an email from our bank. Following this is a description of four steps, each with multiple subparts, that must be completed before our loan is finalized and real money is electronically deposited into our church's checking account. Considering that one month ago our application had been denied, this is a good sign of real progress. Thanks to Church Treasurer Linda Daanen and Clerk of Session Edward Wahl for not giving up hope after the initial denial and for giving the application process a second attempt.

As you know, one of the conditions was that no church employee could be paid less than his or her full regular salary and that no employee would be laid off and sent to collect state unemployment benefits. We have and continue to meet these conditions. Our goal is to receive full loan forgiveness because we have met the terms of our contract with the SBA. Loan forgiveness will help us be in a better financial position to make a call later this year for a new pastor.

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 April 30, 2020, is in the following chart:

	<u>Through April</u>	<u>2020 Budget</u>
General Fund Income		
Identified Giving	\$42,028	\$130,000
Loose Offering	211	1,500
Initial Offering	397	500
Required Min. Dist./Stock Sale	5,266	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	51,017	203,400
General Fund Expenses		
Missional Ventures	\$1,194	6,500
Faith Formation	167	1,800
Facilities	13,979	51,500
Staff	22,629	82,000
Transition	14,841	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	55,462	203,400
Designated Fund Income	\$6,450	
Designated Fund Expenses	10,733	
Total Active Members—April 30, 2020 113		
Average Sunday Attendance—January 2020 53		
Average Sunday Attendance—February 2020 59		
Average Sunday Attendance—March 2020 50		
Average Sunday Attendance—April 2020 0		
Summary through April 2020 (4/12 of Budget):		
Income Over/(Under) 2020 Budget		(\$16,783)
Expenses Over/(Under) 2020 Budget		(12,338)
2020 Total Net Income (Loss) to Date		(4,445)

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 2020 (17) \$3,001**

FAITH FORMATION MINISTRY

Our congregation is blessed by the presence of Tim Van Nasdale, our director of music, a seeker and searcher of faith for his own life—who is also eager to share the road with others. Watching the video of the first class, May 20, it was easy to imagine the almost 20 people

gathered in their homes by their screens on Zoom to be in the chapel at FPC Homewood as we were last summer. *Why the Universe Is the Way It Is*—the sheer vastness of it—puts one in the mind of the Psalmist who looked up at the night sky, with no Hubble telescope to aid him, and wondered, “...what is man that thou are mindful of him, and the son of man that thou does care for him?” If you missed the beginning of the course but want to join Tim in the wondering, check with him at 517-617-1935 or at tlvannasdale@gmail.com.

Children’s Sunday School now numbers eight children with a toddler brother coming along. Each received a May postcard by snail mail about looking up (stars) and down (worms) at God’s creation. Pastor Dudley interviewed each one about promises and prepared a moment for them each Sunday in online worship. They were invited to bake cupcakes to celebrate the Church’s birthday on Pentecost. After Pentecost we begin those long green growing months called “Ordinary Time” on the liturgical (church) calendar. Using the ancient symbol of a fish, children will be asked to wonder what it means to be Christian—to be the Church—and how we can be the Church if we are at home. They have been promised an egg hunt when we are able to return—not to the Church, but to the church building.



Panera Bible Study has evolved into Prayer-and-Hymn-Sing on Tuesday mornings at 10:30 a.m. with input from several participants and piano accompaniment by Joyce Anders. Naturally, we *STAY HOME* and sing along. Check with Joyce at 899-5066 or at j.s.anders@comcast.net.

Karen Maurer

A STORY OF HOPE

From Rev. Susan Krummel, Exec Presbyterian of Chicago She begins with a blog post by A.J. Juliani and then adds her own comments.

“If they cancel the rest of the school year, students would miss 2.5 months of education. Many people are concerned about students falling behind because of this. Yes, they may fall behind when it comes to classroom education.... But what if

*“What if instead of falling ‘behind,’ this group of kids are **ADVANCED** because of this? Hear me out:*

✚ What if they have more empathy, they enjoy family connection, they can be more creative and entertain themselves, they love to read, they love to express themselves in writing?

- + *What if they enjoy simple things, like their own backyard and sitting near a window in the quiet?*
- + *What if they notice the birds and the dates the different flowers emerge and the calming renewal of a gentle rain shower?*
- + *What if this generation are the ones to learn to cook, organize their space, do their laundry, and keep a well-run home?*
- + *What if they learn to stretch a dollar and to live with less?*
- + *What if they learn to plan shopping trips and meals at home?*
- + *What if they learn the value of eating together as a family and finding the good to share in the small delights of every day?*
- + *What if they are the ones to place great value on our teachers and educational professionals, librarians, public servants, and the previously invisible essential support worker like truck drivers, grocers, cashiers, custodians, logistics, and health care workers and their supporting staff, just to name a few of the millions taking care of us right now while we are sheltered in place?*
- + *What if from among these children, a great leader emerges who had the benefit of a slower pace and a simpler life to truly learn what really matters in this life?*
- + *What if they are ahead?"*

[Rev. Krummel writes for churches]

What if we learn that there are people who will join virtual worship and thereby experience the love of God every week who would never have joined us in the sanctuary?

What if the members of our congregations learn not to rely on the “professionals” for the contours of their spiritual lives, but find ways to create new practices and habits that bring them into the presence of God in new ways?

What if [the professionals] get to eat more meals with their families or calmly by themselves at their own tables and discover again the need for quiet and peace...?

What if our churches and ministers, wherever they find themselves, are at the forefront of a new Reformation, aided by the tool of the internet, but led by the Holy Spirit, to reach people who are lonely and frightened in a way we have never done before? ...

HOMEWOOD FARMERS MARKET

The Village of Homewood has approved operation of their 2020 summer market. The market has been reconfigured as an in-and-out, no-touch market, in consultation with the Cook County Department of Public Health, with new requirements for vendors and customers that include social distancing and enhanced sanitation. Please keep in mind that the primary driver behind their decisions has been public safety, for both customer and vendors, and Homewood would not be able to open the market at all without this necessary reconfiguration.

The Homewood Farmers Market will open Saturday, June 13. The operating hours of 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. have not changed. Unfortunately, the Wednesday evening market has been postponed indefinitely.

At this time, *the only vendors that can be physically present at the market are farmers and food vendors.* There will be a curbside pickup option for pre-paid pre-orders, and hopefully all vendors will take advantage of that service. **Homewood cannot offer exhibit space to community groups and local businesses.**

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 June 7

Ian & Shannon Miller
 Craig Miller
 Vern Moore
 Ray & Wanda Nielsen
 Kirk Nicholson/Priscilla Mereness
 Jim & Kathie Ogden

Week of June 14

Kathleen O’Hanlon
 Betty Owens
 Paul & Eliz. Palumbo
 Marilyn Perdue
 Judy Petrovic

Week of June 21

Richard & Barb Pizza
 Norinne Pulec
 Helen Rachford
 Janice Rolls
 Betty Ross



Week of June 28

Emily Rozak
 Jay & Debra Ruklic
 Ron & Bev Shropshire
 June Sluis
 Shirley Smiddy

WORKING-WORLD REPORTER

Phil Dillman’s Street Beat

As a truck driver based in the Chicago area, I work in what is considered an “Essential Industry,” a term made more commonplace during this Covid 19 pandemic. I’m

in a unique position that allows me to go about my job each day without any significant changes to my routine.

As I travel out and back to different customers each day, I get to observe the different behaviors of both people and businesses. Naturally, the use of masks over our nose and mouth varies from place to place. Many people wear their mask everywhere they go, even when driving their vehicle or out walking in the neighborhood. Some folks, myself included, don't wear a mask unless a business requires it.

Admittedly, the decrease in highway traffic saves me travel time, though some drivers see these wide-open highways as their chance to practice "qualifying for the Indy 500"! Grabbing lunch on the road has definitely changed the procedures for many restaurants, with long lines in the drive-thru or curbside pickup options. I sometimes feel out of place as I walk along in the drive-thru lane, but my truck won't fit! Fortunately, most fast food restaurants located in truck stops still sell food "to go."

While I obviously can't work from home, it's nice seeing so many Facebook posts with instances of families spending quality time playing games or putting puzzles together. Some folks are out walking or bike riding with their kids when the weather cooperates. One pleasant surprise for me is learning that so many people are "tuning in" to the increased number of available online church services, not just from our church, but others as well. I can listen to those while I drive. With the occasional frustration and challenges of dealing with the virus, most of what I am seeing is people trying to work together to get through it.

Now, to grab my mask and go buy some toilet paper!

HOSPITALIZED

In the hospital during the past month were Jay Ruklic and Eleanor Steiner.



NURSING HOMES

Mae Evert, Lemont Center Rehab; Pat Steiner, Plymouth Place, LaGrange Park.

New: Marilyn Perdue [send cards only]
Clarendale of Mokena, Memory Care Room 1205,
21536 S. Wolf Road, Mokena, IL, 60448.

SYMPATHY

Church sympathy is extended to the families of Ann Wood, Jack Day, and to Emmanuel Hilario on the death of his brother.



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.

WORKING-WORLD REPORTER

Kathie Darman – My Thoughts

Everything was going along just fine, and we were living our routine lives just as we wanted them in March 2020. At work in the Surgical Department of Advocate South Suburban Hospital on the evening shift, I saw people who were having surgery, some during the evening with their families waiting in the designated room waiting for word on how the surgery was going, how much longer it would last, and when they were moved to recovery room. There were reports of this virus that was in China and was creeping into the U.S. Visitors as well as fellow employees had mixed feelings about how serious the problem really was, and the reactions were also varied from disbelief to panic.

I had some discussions with my co-workers who had various reactions about what we should do or if we needed to worry. Several even asked me why I was still working seeing that I was in the over 60 group and should certainly stay home. I was of the opinion that because I was healthy and hardly ever sick that "why would I stay home?" The news about this virus was on all day in the waiting room and, as usual, the reporters talked in such a way with words and tone of voice that, in my opinion, were causing a lot of panic and making a mountain out of a molehill as they very often did. So, you might say, I was in total denial about how serious this would or could turn out to be. After all, I have worked in the medical field for at least 65 years, so "I have seen and done it all." This is just another illness.

All that was on Wednesday and Thursday. On Friday, I received a call from Linda, the person who does my same job during the daytime, telling me that I didn't need to come in because the surgeries were done for the day. This was common practice. Then she told me that I would not be coming in for the unknown future because the surgeries would be only emergencies and those that would negatively impact someone's life if delayed and that no visitors would be permitted in the

hospital for the near future. No need for me to take care of the waiting room with no one there! Yikes, I thought, this is seriously serious! That is when it hit me that life was going to change. I had no idea at that time just how much that change would be.

So we were advised to stay home and not congregate. Of course, there are always those who just want to do things their way regardless of the consequences and those who are not afraid of getting sick or who think they are healthy and don't catch illnesses easily. Because of not being willing to change ways or just being in denial of how serious this was, the mandatory isolation rule was initiated. I have been in touch with Linda (my friend who does my job in the morning). She has told me that the ancillary surgery staff and the recovery room staff have been "redeployed" to other areas of the hospital where they are needed. One of my nurse anesthetists said that before the virus, it took about 5 minutes to get ready to do a surgical case; now it takes about 15 minutes due to the protective equipment like masks, head gear, protective clothing that she has to don prior to the surgery. These items have to be discarded and changed for each case. The surgical cases are still mostly emergencies. To this date, I have been out only 3 or 4 times—to the store and to take the masks we have made to Linda at the hospital along with some munchies. I have also taken walks on the nice days. Other than that, I have gone no place. So, for the sake of myself and for others, I will continue to isolate until I feel safe enough to go out, even though some places have opened and will continue to open.

CONGRATULATIONS

High School Graduate

Alexandra Massey (grandniece of Janet Wahl) graduated from Harpeth Hall High School in Nashville and will attend Yale University. She will be on their swim team.

College Graduates

Sadie Ushman (granddaughter of Ed Wahl) received a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from Austin Peay University. She is entering an artistic apprenticeship. Sherman McLawhorn (grandson of Betty Owens) received a Bachelor of Science degree from Lewis College. He will enter law school.



THANK YOU



Thanks for all of it. Wow! Lots of credits for doing stuff I love to do. I am pleased that I have been able to use my social media skills and passion to serve our larger community and our membership to share the love of our God and Savior and promote the encouragement and inspiration that we continually receive from the sermons. Some water; some sow; some reap, and I praise God that I can be part of "some." I love being a part of the team that is making our church work in spite of the stupid virus. Working with FPCH is a joy! Glad that all who want to virtually visit us can enjoy it as much as we do! We are an amazing fellowship, and I'm glad it's out there for everyone to be able to see who we are.

Kathie Hazlett

WORKING-WORLD REPORTER

Kathleen O'Hanlon's Dwelling in Gratitude

In the midst of a pandemic and an economic storm that threaten lives and livelihoods, how exactly do we walk on? What wisdom do faith and science impart to reflective Christians who need hope and courage in times of coronavirus? For thousands of years, scripture has offered us a spiritual tool, and in the past century, psychologists and neuroscientists have verified its power. Gratitude can bring us back to our center. When our cup runneth over, it allows us to bless others with that abundance. And gratitude can drive out fear.

In one research study after another, people who call to mind, write down, and dwell on their blessings demonstrate more emotional coping skills, more optimism, and more creativity, and they are more likely to seek help and support when they need it. They become more resilient, always a good trait but especially in tough times. Philippians 4:8 tells us, "Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things."

In one city after another, people's grateful hearts have overflowed and blessed others. Two commercial fishermen, out of cell-signal range, sailed into Montauk, New York's harbor the day the state's lockdown began, suddenly unable to bring their enormous blessing to market. So they filleted as much fish as humanly possible and then brought their whole catch to neighbors all over the city—a blessing passed on and not wasted. "We love everyone," one fisherman said simply. Scripture tells us that, in thankfulness for God's love expressed through

Jesus Christ, our spirits respond by wanting to love and bless others. The more we dwell in gratitude, the more we can act as gift to our neighbors and our God.

In one moment after another, thoughts of gratefulness can vanquish fear. Cognitive behavioral psychologists train people to challenge their anxious or fearful thoughts with realistic, helpful thoughts *that are just as true*. Then, we get to choose the thought—the reality—in which we move forward. Or more to the point, which thought *will* move us through fear to courageous action? We can choose that one. “For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power, and of love, and of self-control,” we are told in 2 Timothy 1:7. Gratitude might be our Christian superpower as we walk the road of learning to love others as God loves us, pandemic or not.

VIRTUAL WORSHIP SERVICES

Kathie Hazlett will continue to edit and post online worship services during the month of June 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” that the choir sang a few times in 2019.

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.

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

June	June
2 Emmanuel Hilario	20 Rod Dunlap
8 Debra Ruklic	22 Nancy Beaudoin



May God grant birthday blessings to you all this year

SHARING OUR LIVES WHILE APART

Roxy (Kentish, Brown) Marsh: *I was baptized, confirmed, and attended the First church for over 50 years. I love reading The Carillon each month. I have now lived in Florida for almost 27 years and still miss my old Homewood church. My husband, Ambrose, of 24 years*

passed away in February. I am doing well. I attend my church service online and now will try FPCHW, also. Will we ever be back to normal?

Karen Maurer: *Life at Sunrise on Vollmer Road*
Probably the biggest change in my life here was the closing of the dining room two months ago—dinner was my primary social interaction with the community. Because my rent includes three meals a day, that continues to be provided, delivered to my front door by the breakfast/lunch/dinner bus by our full-time bus driver, Juan, a pleasant, cheerful guy, whom Hooda has pretty much made peace with. Not so much with the menu lady who makes her rounds at 9 p.m., opening the storm door to take my three pages of meal requests for tomorrow and to leave blank menus for the following day. Hooda hears the storm door open and goes berserk—EVERY SINGLE NIGHT! I am missing all of you.

Laura Dillman: *I've been keeping pretty busy both at home and with the work of the church. I've been keeping in touch with church family as well as my own family and friends. Plus, I made a phone call to our church staff to see how they were doing and to see if they needed anything. I'm a firm believer of being there in every way and being supportive of them all. I've been working on Mandalas as well and baking, too. On Wed. May 20, Paul Gerrish and I went over to the church to do some very much needed weeding and clearing out of the middle of the Aki Garden. I was so surprised that the weeds were about as tall as I am. Now that is saying something! The fresh air was wonderful and, of course, the chirping birds were providing some entertainment. I'm pretty sure that the 2 robins were protecting a nest in the bush next to the sidewalk. I tried as much as I could to reassure them we would be leaving as soon as we were done. Two and a half hours later we were done with part 1. Whew! It was so good to be there even though going inside was not a good idea. I entered the building only to get my garden tools and that was it. Paul and I both disinfected the doors going in and coming out. An ounce of prevention. I've also been doing some singing and sharing on Facebook as well. Spreading joy and love to all is so paramount in trying times as these. A real highlight of the month was that I was able to see my brother, Phil Dillman, for a few brief moments on Sunday, May 17. It was the first time I had seen him since Saturday, March 14. It gave me hope for better days ahead. I'm sending you all love and many more blessings in abundance.*



Lee Hilario: *At this time of sheltering in place, the song by Carroll Roberson comes to mind, "Shelter in the Arms of God." What a better way to shelter in place knowing that God is there with me. John 14:1 says, "Do not let your heart be troubled, trust in God, trust also in me." What a promise for those who trust in Him. So I do not worry of what the day brings, and tomorrow is in God's hands.*

Our God Almighty is in control. Our lives are uncertain, and it is important to trust God for his grace in all circumstances. He did not say life will be easy and without trials for believers of Christ. But James 1:12 says, "Blessed is the man who perseveres under trials because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God promised to those who love him."

There are many blessings to be thankful for. God gave us the opportunity to choose the way we live. We have our family, helpful neighbors, new and old friends. Our church through virtual worship makes connection with fellow believers in spite of social isolation. The daily scripture is a valuable tool to remind us to make connections with God. Thank you to all worship participants. Thank you to the creator of the virtual worship. We are abundantly blessed.

JULY CARILLON

Yes, there will be a July 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 July *Carillon* will be **Saturday, June 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*. Would you like to be a working-world reporter? Go for it! Hearing about each other is good for the soul. The Editor thanks all the June reporters for their assistance.

J C =W=

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

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.

