

Ewing - Covenant Presbyterian Church

Pastor's Log, August 12, 2020

For as all die in Adam, so all will be made alive in Christ. 1 Cor 15:22

We are now about 6 months into what will likely be a year and some months of a “Covid19-aware” existence. While in prior writings I have expressed my hope in science and a vaccine, in recent weeks my hope has expanded to include changing our human capacity to relate to each other and to God’s created world. Specifically, I am hopeful that we will relate differently with the earth and animals, that we will change how we live.

What might it look like to live as “new creations” in an ongoing or post-Covid19 pandemic world?

I pose this question in the subjunctive tense, because I want you to ponder it, imagine it, and arrive at your own ideas and responses! I suspect, that like me, many of you are not entirely on-board with being new creations but would prefer to cling to “pre-covid19-aware” selves. So together we will explore, very gently, how we are becoming new.

As Christians, we proclaim that we are new creations in Christ: each lifetime is a living out and completing of our baptism, joining with Christ Jesus in his death but also in his resurrection. Theologian and scholar James Charlesworth writes thus: *The resurrection of Jesus...reveals God as one who includes humanity—with all its joy and sorrow, life, and death—in the divine life and thereby gives humankind an authentic glory and true hope.*

Like Jacob’s son Joseph in the story of Genesis (which we explored this past Sunday), we confront in this pandemic a traumatic loss of our everyday normal, as well as our expected future. By now most of us have let go of wanting things to “to back to normal”; we have accepted that things are quite different. Like Joseph betrayed by his brothers and sold into slavery, we acknowledge that although we have been harmed, God intended it for good.

Our most pressing spiritual task is to explore and as possible, articulate how we are “new”. For some, it may be that we have (re)discovered aspects of ourselves which were not able to be expressed until now...Or perhaps in slowing down, and being more isolated, we have had time and opportunity to listen to God’s invitations: to acknowledge broken places in ourselves, to invest differently in relationships, to reorder our activities to better fit our values. How are you each a new creation? How are you living differently now?

As Presbyterians, we worship together but also form intentional community, valuing the spiritual richness of relating in groups. Just as the covid19 experience has changed us individually so also our corporate life has become new: we gather together virtually now to worship and share community. It is inevitable, and right, that our life as “church”—in the midst of a pandemic world-- must also change.

Especially in this pandemic time “church” is being made new through the living Christ in our midst and the movement of the Spirit: worshipping and praising God by means accessible by all, caring for our bodies, nurturing the human spirit, ministering to persons impacted by Covid19, ministering to persons impacted by racial injustice, enacting intentional relationships with God’s created world, creatures and people, and sending us as disciples to proclaim the steadfast love and redeeming purpose of God, and the new life in Christ Jesus.

In these coming week, our church’s visioning team will be meeting together and discerning how we will be “church” going forward. Please pray for the work of persons serving on this team, and make your thoughts and dreams and visions known. As new creations in Christ, each of you are loved and valued.

Blessings and peace,

Pastor Ann

KINDLY NOTE: Please remember that all donations should now be made to the Ewing –Covenant Presbyterian Church.

Our Zoom Links

Ewing-Covenant Presbyterian Church at Worship

Every Sunday, 10:00

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/910100569>

Or by telephone dial 1-929-205-6099, if asked, enter the Webinar ID: 910 100 569

Sunday Morning Bible Study - 9:00 AM Led by Sam Bonner

<https://zoom.us/j/564813133?pwd=W XV3dk5zYlkvUGJDUUEwZEc2R3REdz09>

By phone, dial 1-646-558-8656 and enter when asked the meeting ID 564-813-133

Tuesday and Thursday Chat’s with Pastor Ann

Tuesdays at 10 AM to 11 AM.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81010467123?pwd=UDNqWG5pN0t3MFJUeDN5SFcvQnpzd09>

Meeting ID: 810 1046 7123 Password: 271785 By phone +1- 929- 436-2866 enter password: 271785

Thursdays at 7 PM to 8 PM.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/960150849?pwd=bTdYTVV3S1M0R2xmenZSWlc5MnhMUT09>

Meeting ID: 960 150 849 Password: 079496 By phone dial 1-929 -436- 2866 Password: 079496
