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# CONNECTIONS

*The newsletter of the Ewing-Covenant Worshiping Community*

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June 2020

## **Connecting Thoughts, May 26, 2020**

Grace and peace to you all in this season of our lives.

This month's Connecting Thoughts will be an amalgamation of things we are doing, facing, and anticipating. How we have been, how we are, and how we will live out our faith in these times will be our witness to the love of God revealed in Jesus Christ.

First, our ongoing missional response to the Covid-19 Crises response has people dropping off food and other items to share with many in our broader community. We have members of the worshipping community gathering the donations, sorting, and delivering them to the Eastern Service Workers and the households they support. As the school year ends for our Head Start families we are working on ways to continue to share food and paper goods with them. The Covid Emergency Relief Fund that was created by the two Session has distributed the money given by people. It is now beginning the distribution of the first \$10,000 of the \$20,000 set aside by the Sessions for relief work. The Eastern Service Workers Association, Ewing-Lawrence Head Start families, and Home Front will all receive grants. The team responsible for allocating the grants is looking at other ways to connect with the needs of our immediate community. The team is allocating \$3,500 for use through the Pastor's Discretionary Fund to assist members of the worshipping community and local families.

The recent run of shootings in Trenton and area remind us that the Pandemic has not ended the many challenges to our community.

In the last few weeks, 7 people have been killed by gunfire, another 7 wounded. For six years we have joined with others in remembering those who have died violently over the previous year, gathering with surviving family members and those who share their grief. The current health crisis has meant the canceling of the Annual Unity in the Community gathering. The United Mercer Interfaith Organization is working to gather family members and caring people for a virtual gathering on Sunday afternoon, June 28. Please hold our community in prayers for an end of this violence, and a reign of dignity and respect that will seek the good of all.

I would like to invite you to join Ann and I in our Chat and Conversation times. They are opportunities to engage each other in times apart from the stress and uncertainty of the week. Ann has two chats, on Tuesday morning and Thursday evening. You will find the connections for those in this newsletter. My conversation is on Wednesdays, now at 6:30. I am looking forward to using this as a time to check in with people, but also as a time to share a thoughtful video for us to look at how our faith can support us in these days. The recordings we will be using will be able to be heard by those who join via phone. Come join me. Together, through our conversation, the strength of our faith, its impact on our lives, and our fruit of the Spirit will grow in our lives.

The two Session began the discussion of how and when the Ewing Covenant Worshiping Community might again begin to gather for worship in shared space. The overall attitude and approach is one of deep prayerful concern for the health and well-being of all who use our

space, including our congregation's worship space in Fellowship Hall and the 1867 Sanctuary. We will be guided by our local and state government guidelines, by our learning the facts about the disease and the pandemic. We will talk, and pray, and work with the basic understanding that our worship, our prayers, done in whatever way, gathered or in isolation is real, and will bring God glory. That we will be known by our care for one another, and those around us.

We are also moving on toward the goal of these two congregations becoming one. There are two important dates coming up.

**On Sunday, June 14**, immediately following our Worship Service on Zoom, we will join in a shared Congregational Gathering. The two congregations will begin in a shared conversation, and then be separated into separate meeting for each congregation. The link and call in number for this gathering will be the same as the worship link. This is a change from what the Covenant congregation had been previously told. **Note the correct link in the June 14<sup>th</sup> schedule below.**

**On Sunday, June 28**, both congregations will gather for the meetings that will make the blending of the two churches into one official. Our plan is that the two will meet together, with each congregation voting on the actions necessary for the establishment of the corporate and ecclesiastical identity of the new, emerging, blended congregation. Then, when all is accomplished, we will celebrate. The link and phone in information for this meeting will be the same as the Worship link that morning.

The link for worship and the meetings on June 14 and 28 will be:

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

To join by phone, dial 929- 205- 6099 , when asked enter: 910 100 569

Finally, our worshiping community will have a Summer Seminary Intern with from June 1 through August 16<sup>th</sup>. Alfredo (Freddy) Sanchez is a second year student at Princeton Seminary. He will be joining us from the Chicago area to complete his summer internship. He will labor with us for 36 hours per week for 11 weeks. Pastor Paul will be his supervisor as her works

with both pastors in caring for the congregation, preaching and leading worship, and assisting the congregation in our on-line worship possibilities. His will be a unique experience as he works with us through gathering in separation, caring with voices that cover all that divides us, and as we learn who we are to become as this emerging congregation.

May the grace and peace of Christ be with you all.

Pastor Paul

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### June Worship at ECPWC

We will continue to gather for worship online for the time being. You can join us in worship through this link:

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

To join by phone, dial 929- 205- 6099, when asked enter: 910 100 569

#### **Sunday, June 7 Trinity Sunday**

10:00 Worship - Sacrament of the Lord's Supper  
- Rev. Paul Rhebergen preaching  
Lectionary Texts: Genesis 1:1-2:4; Psalm 8; 2 Corinthians: 13:11-13; Matthew 28:16-20

#### **Sunday, June 14 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

10:00 Worship - Rev. Paul Rhebergen preaching  
Genesis 18:1-15; Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19; Romans 5:1-8; Matthew 9:35-10:8

#### **June 14<sup>th</sup> - 11:10am Congregational Forum for Discussion of Blending of Congregations (This is the Correct Link)**

The Congregations of the Covenant and Ewing Churches are invited to attend a special Congregational Gathering on June 14, immediately following worship, for the purpose of discussing the upcoming actions necessary for the blending of the two congregations. The congregations will gather both together and separately for discussion.

The Ewing and Covenant Session have called for the special meeting of the two congregations meeting as one, for June 28, immediately following worship. The two congregations will share the one meeting, while voting separately

on the particular actions necessary for each congregation. Following the meeting the one congregation will celebrate what has been accomplished.

The Zoom link and phone in information for both meetings will be the same as the connecting information for the worship services.

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

To join by phone, dial 929- 205- 6099, when asked enter: 910 100 569

### **Sunday, June 21 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

10:00 Worship - Rev. Ann Schoonover preaching  
- Father's Day Habitat Offering received  
Genesis 21:8-21; Psalm 86:1010; Romans 6:1b-11; Matthew 10:244-39

### **Sunday, June 28 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

10:00 Worship - Blest Be the Ties That Bind  
Rev. Paul Rhebergen Preaching  
**11:10 Ewing and Covenant Congregational Meeting(s)**

### **Adult Education and Bible Study at Ewing Covenant Worshipping Community**

While we are separated by health and safety concerns, we are still able to grow in our experience and understanding of our Christian faith. You are invited to participate in any and all of the following experiences:

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

<https://zoom.us/j/564813133?pwd=WV3dk5zYlkvUGJDUUEwZEc2R3REdz09>

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=UDNqWG5pN0t3MFJlUeDN5SFcvQnpzd09>

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

### **Wednesday Evening Faith Conversations with Pastor Paul 6:30-7:30**

Check in with other folk, then view or listen to a short video and explore how our times have affected how we understand God, and Christ's command to love one another. Join by Zoom Link or phone:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/251970464>

By phone dial 1-929 205-6099 or 1-301-715-8592 enter Meeting ID: 251 970 464

**Jun 3, 2020 06:30 PM** What to Say When Someone Says the Pandemic Is Part of God's Plan

**Jun 10, 2020 06:30 PM** What We Owe Each Other During a Pandemic

**Jun 17, 2020 06:30 PM** How to talk about Hope when the world is falling apart

**Jun 24, 2020 06:30 PM** How to talk about Hope when the world is falling apart

**Jul 1, 2020 6:30 PM** TBD

**Jul 8, 2020 6:30 PM** TBD

**Jul 15, 2020 6:30 PM** TBD

**Jul 22, 2020 6:30 PM** TBD

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### **Connecting Thoughts – Pastor Ann**

*The trees of the Lord drink their fill, the Lebanon cedars He planted, where the birds make their nest.....Psalm 104:16-17*

May is Older Adult month, and I have daily reflected upon the blessings I receive from older adults (Yes, you are right: I am now an older adult myself, completely official with an AARP membership). As I write this at the close of the Memorial Day observance, I am keenly aware of blessings of older adults which for a long time have been all around us: the card-ministry from Margie Burtis, who writes notes not only to me, but to many of you as well on those occasions when we really need her words of wisdom and “Margie tlc”. Blessings such as the soups and cakes Betty Newberry graciously contributes to our church. Blessings such as experiencing Dave Tregurtha sing “O Holy Night” for all to hear in the hospital despite being so near to the end of his life. Blessings such as Ralph Sims’ sharing of his personal

museum of Black History collectibles and treasures with the church during Black History month. Blessings such as having known the pure heart of Gerri Apostolos, who, before she died, amazed us with her powerful readings from the Scriptures during our Sunday worship.

But in these final days of May, my attention has been also captured by those “older adults” who figured so significantly in my growing-up years. At first, I remembered the blessings I had received from the usual suspects—the four close-by neighbors (all church goers, btw), and also grandparents. Yet additional persons have surprisingly emerged from forgotten memories. And for these people now coming into sharper focus, I have newfound affection and gratitude. One of them, “Sis” Smith, only visited our house once, as far as I recall. Even though she lived just down the hill, and her elderly parents lived directly across from us.

As it turns out, Sis’ one- and- only visit was on a rather cold day, just after dinnertime probably in about early May. It seems Sis had come to talk to my parents about a new softball league starting up for girls. Not being invited into the conversation, I tried to hear it. It is best to say I experienced the feel of it, being separated by a door. After Sis said her spiel, there was the usual silence, to signal resistance to the idea. Expecting Sis to be dismissed soon by clipped sentences of my mother, I was intrigued to hear instead my father’s easy cadence. Before I knew it, Sis had left the house, the backdoor slapping shut. And a new rhythm entered my life that summer, as in the cool shade between our two houses, my Uncle Charlie and I spent mornings playing catch and improving my pitching.

Not until the spring before my father’s death in 2015 did I realize that he and Sis had at least one common denominator which swung the decision my way when Sis visited on that day: as a young man back from service in WW2, my father had played a key role in organizing the town’s Babe Ruth baseball league for boys. But any way you look at it, Sis Smith opened a door for me that had been closed. By doing this, she gave me, and all the girls of our town, a great blessing. This month, I’ve come to understand

that Sis’ blessing has been one I’ve had to count on many times since then, too. Without a sense of the spaciousness of the Kingdom of God, I would not, as a woman, have walked through the door of ordained ministry. It would seem that God’s Providence, once seen to shine so brightly, cannot easily thereafter be dismissed, doubted, or disregarded. Rather, I proceed now as if it is a given.

There is no denying that God’s blessings and Providence links the generations. While sheltering- in -place but continuing to meet by zoom, leaders in our church have deepened community partnerships such as that with Life-Ties, which serves youth and emerging adults. And as our church takes a deep breath for this coming summer season, we welcome a student intern. I ask that you consider ways that you already are making a difference in the life of a child, youth, or young adult. And then consider some more, asking: What further impact can I pray for? How might one small but significant blessing I can share impact the life of a child, youth or young adult? Maybe it is writing a note; maybe it is opening a door to a world of opportunity. Start praying about this, and ready yourselves for a rich harvest of new ministries that seem poised, at this very moment, to surprise us.

In Christ,  
Pastor Ann

### ***Thank you***

I am very grateful for all the kind notecards and letters which I have received from so many of you during the past months. As I have been going for chemo therapy treatments, your words, well-wishes, and expressions of faith and prayers have given me strength and determination; I have been deeply touched and moved to tears. Please know that I take all of your sentiments, as well as the actual notecards and letters with me every time I have a treatment. As of now, I have completed four treatments. I will have completed all six treatments, assuming all goes as planned, by the end of June."

Pastor Ann

## Happy Anniversary

Bob and Nancy Stoker



May 2nd, Nancy and I celebrated our 50th wedding anniversary. We were married in the First Presbyterian Church of Ewing. We celebrated in our house and the weather was exactly the same in 1970.



MERCER STREET  
FRIENDS

Friends Center for Parenting and Family Empowerment is responding to the needs of our clients by transforming a meeting room into a pantry, preparing bags of food along with distributing Diapers on Thursday afternoons. At first, we welcomed 5 families a week. Today, 50 families now seek support each week.

To maintain social distancing, as well as confidentiality, social workers contact the families directly, ascertain their needs and invite them to pick up their diaper and food package on the table outside the building.

**Parenting Impact  
Center Responding  
to Basic Needs -  
Diapers and Food**  
Brian Peterson

Since the beginning of  
April, Mercer Street

Sue Maloney, Supervisor of Parents as Teachers Program explained that, “Diapers are a precious commodity. They are expensive and not covered by SNAP (food stamps).” Matthew Mayer, Healthy Families Program Supervisor said that, “what we do here obviously won’t solve everyone’s problems, but we can give the families the supplies they need during the pandemic to alleviate stress as it creates problems and negative consequences that results.”

To provide support to the Parent and Family Empowerment Diaper and Food Program, donations may be dropped off at the Food Bank warehouse located at 828 Silvia Street, Ewing, NJ 08628. Items may include:

Boxes of diapers, sizes 4-6

Nonperishable items such as baby food, baby snacks, juices, as well as rice, pasta, soup, cereal, etc., for families.

THANK YOU!

**PRAYER**  
*changes things*

**Christopher Andriana**  
**Louise Armbruster**  
**The Bentley Family**  
**Dr. Mari Berens**  
**H. Wayne Berens**  
**Bonnie Brandt**  
**Shirley Bryant**, *mother of Cynthia Bryant*  
**Louise Burroughs**  
**Steve Carter**, *friend of Mari Berens*  
**Julie Ciccone**  
**Janet Corbin**  
**Doris Cregar**  
**Dorothy Crum**

## **The DeWees Family**

**Maryann Eleuteri**, *friend of Judy Carapezza*  
**Eleanor Everett**, *sister-in-law of Pam Miller*  
**Peggy Formaroli**, *mother of friend Gino – Gerri Apostolos*  
**Rita Freilinghaus**, *sister of Judy Carapezza*  
**Karen Fuchs**, *sister of Laura Wallin*  
**Thelma G.**, *friend of Nancy Kriegner*  
**Alice Haines**  
**Terri and Ken Harvey**  
**Kevin Hecky**  
**Beth Hensler**  
**Lydia Hill**, *cousin of Cathy Holland*  
**Joe Hodak**  
**Cathy Holland**  
**Dan Hough**  
**Dan Hudock**, *Brother-in-law of Will Olson*  
**Mary Jane Inman, Dan Sergott & Chuck Sergott**  
**Ruthie Jetter**, *cousin of George Renwick*  
**The Keller Family**  
**Carmel Keifer**, *Will Olson's son-in-law's in-law*  
**John Kelso**, *friend of Ginny Saiia*  
**Nancy Kriegner**  
**Charlie Magee**, *brother of Judy Carapezza*  
**Margaret Marcks**  
**Carol Martin**  
**Paul Matyas**  
**Chris McSwain**, *friend of Mari Berens*  
**Samuel Meservey**, *grandson of Lois Meservey*  
**Kennedy Miles**, *friend's daughter*  
**Aaron Morgan**  
**Rachel Morgan**  
**Daniel Mungra**, *brother of Isaac Mungra*  
**Isaac & Niomi Mungra**  
**Leslie Nevius**, *cousin of Barb Salles*  
**Ray Norton**, *friend of JoAnn Trevor*  
**Karen Parr**  
**Patrick Petti**  
**Charlotte Philbrook**, *friend of Nancy Coleman*  
**Marissa Porfirio**  
**Betty Ranson**  
**Dylan Ray**, *friend of Nancy Kriegner*  
**Susan Robinson**  
**Robert Rodgers**, *friend of Laura Wallin*  
**Laura Ryan**, *niece of Sandra Gwin*  
**Shirley Sandford**  
**Michael Baily Schafer**, *grandnephew of Mary Hough*  
**Jay Schugadt**, *friend of Bonnie Brandt*  
**Jane Schwilk**  
**Sandy Schwilk**  
**George Self**

**Brad Shropshire**, *Doug & Carol Taylor's brother-in-law*

**Kristen Berens-Smart**

**Richard Stenger**, *husband of Amy Smith Stenger*  
**Gwen Thomas**

**Jean Thompson**- *Grieving the death of her Aunt Helen*

**Ann Tregurtha**

**Talib Truth**, *son of Rae Richardson*

**Travis Turner**, *nephew of Gay McGraw*

**Gloria Vernam**

**Deborah Visonti**, *daughter of Sandra Gwin*

**Harold Walter**

**Diane Watson**, *niece of Harriet Berens*

**Kaitlynn Webster**, *granddaughter of Nancy Coleman*

**Sam & Peace Weigh**

**Alfred Wensley**

**Eileen Whang**

**Doris Wiles**, *sister of Harriet Berens*

**Cory Nwankwo Young**

**Madison Zuczek**, *niece of Patty Mulligan*

Do you know someone you would like to be added to our prayer list? Please let them know first, and then call the office (609.882.3673). We will ask for the correct name spelling and any other information to be included. If you know of anyone who should be removed from the list, please contact us.

## **Remembering our Beloved Departed**

May the souls of all  
the faithful departed rest in peace.



**John Smith** - 97yrs. Aug. 12<sup>th</sup>, 1922 – May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2020 Husband to Joan and father of Jay Smith

**Doris S. Strzelec** – 92yrs.

**Scott Forrest & Jeff Laschever**  
Friends of Covenant

There will be a service of remembrance, where we will be remembering them and others who have died during this time of pandemic and sheltering in place.

## Blanket Sunday Donations

May 10<sup>th</sup> was Mother's Day, a time when we honor or remember those who



are or have been like mother's to us.

***We thank all of those who's generosity will be so helpful to so many.***

George Renwick - *In memory of my mother, Ann Skeeter, and grandmother, Rose Hilton*

Jane & Vince Perelli - *In memory of Thelma Walsh and Ann Marie Perelli*

Janice Rockmore - *For all the mothers in my life*

Bette Schubert - *In memory of mother and grandmother*

Elizabeth & Robert Schofield – *In memory of the mother's in the Schofield & Gettler families*

Mike & Carol Hecky – *To all loved ones*

Jane & Larry Kidder – *In memory of Peggy Micklewright and Beverly Kidder*

Alice & Frank Haines – *In honor of her daughter-in-laws Karen and Tricia*

Carol and David Pollison - *In loving memory of our mothers Margaret Lovell and Dorothy Pollison*

Dwight Stein - *In memory of my mother Mary Stein and wife Rita Stein*

Joan Hodak - *To honor my step- daughter Sheila Colon and my grandson's wife Katie Hodak*

Sylvia & Wayne Allen – *To honor our mothers Magda Sofia Johnson and Aileen Allen*

Marjorie Moore – *The Moore's and the Libby's*  
Covenant Presbyterian Church Benevolent Fund



**Congratulations to all the graduates** at all the different levels connected to our worshipping community. Please let us know who you are so we can honor your accomplishments by name.  
Email: [churchoffice@ewingpres.org](mailto:churchoffice@ewingpres.org)

## FOR ALL OUR NURSES

# THANK YOU

FOR EVERY SHOULDER TO LEAN ON • EVERY MEAL & MOUTH FED • EVERY CLEAN ROOM • EVERY WELCOMING SMILE • EVERY XRAY, ULTRASOUND & MRI • EVERY KNEE REPLACED • EVERY BABY DELIVERED • EVERY DIAGNOSIS MADE • EVERY SURGERY CARRIED OUT • EVERY CALL TAKEN • EVERY FORM FILLED OUT • EVERY MEDICATION ADMINISTERED & PRESCRIBED • EVERY LIFE SAVED • **THANK YOU FOR EVERY SINGLE THING YOU DO**

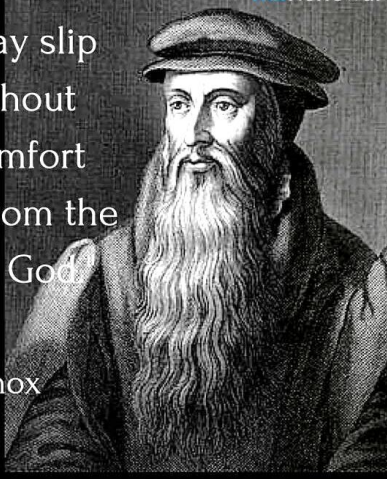
April (nurse), niece of Bonnie Brandt  
Alysha Benedetti (nurse)  
Loren Ciccone (nurse), daughter of Wayne and Erica Cowan (aide)  
Carol Dakin (nurse, educator)  
Barbara Gigliello (nurse)  
Katie Houghton  
Patricia Maisano (nurse)  
Kylie Pezzillo (student)  
Becca Rhebergan (desk, Physical Therapy)  
Laura Ryan, nurse, niece of Sandra and Keith Gwin  
JoAnn Trevor (nurse)  
Debbie Visconti, (administrator) daughter of Doreen Reid (aide)  
Sarah Vincent (aide)

**A Grateful Thank You to all our Church connected Nurses.** Please email all additional names so that we may honor your heroic efforts and profession.

Email: [churchoffice@ewingpres.org](mailto:churchoffice@ewingpres.org)

"Let no day slip  
over without  
some comfort  
received from the  
mouth of God"

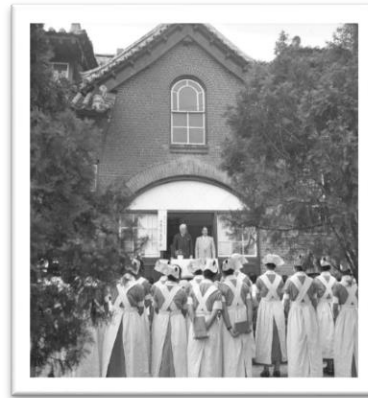
John Knox



## Presbyterian Moments in Humor

**"But we were good boys...we didn't break the Sabbath often enough to signify--once a week perhaps... Anyway, we were good Presbyterian boys when the weather was doubtful; when it was fair, we did wander a little from the fold."**

*Mark Twain's "Sixty-Seventh Birthday" speech.  
Picture – First Presbyterian Church of Hannibal MO,  
Mark Twain's Church*



In recognition of the incredible work being done by healthcare workers in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic, The Presbyterian Historical Society have curated a collection that celebrates the long history of

Presbyterian involvement in nursing, from training prospective nurses in Presbyterian schools and hospitals, to hands-on work with the sick and suffering.

Please visit our website;  
<https://digital.history.pcusa.org/nursinghistory>  
to celebrate and learn more. *Pictured above:*  
Taegu, South Korea Nurses' School dedication, June 1952.





# JUNE<sub>2020</sub>

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> Pastor Ann's 10am Fellowship/ Prayers Zoom Webinar	<b>3</b> Supper Conversation with Pastor Paul 6:30PM Zoom Webinar	<b>4</b> Pastor Ann's Evening Conversation 7pm Zoom Webinar	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<u>Zoom Webinars</u> Worship 10am Bible Study 9am  <b>Communion</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> Pastor Ann's 10am Fellowship/ Prayers Zoom Webinar	<b>10</b> Supper Conversation with Pastor Paul 6:30PM Zoom Webinar	<b>11</b> Pastor Ann's Evening Conversation 7pm Zoom Webinar	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<u>Zoom Webinars</u> Worship 10am Bible Study 9am	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> Pastor Ann's 10am Fellowship/ Prayers Zoom Webinar	<b>17</b> Supper Conversation with Pastor Paul 6:30PM Zoom Webinar	<b>18</b> Pastor Ann's Evening Conversation 7pm Zoom Webinar	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>  World Refugee Day  Summer
<u>Zoom Webinars</u> Worship 10am Bible Study 9am  Father's Day	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> Pastor Ann's 10am Prayers/ Fellowship/ Zoom Webinar	<b>24</b> Supper Conversation with Pastor Paul 6:30PM Zoom Webinar	<b>25</b> Pastor Ann's Evening Conversation 7pm Zoom Webinar	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<u>Zoom Webinars</u> Worship 10am Bible Study 9am Social Justice 5pm	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> Pastor Ann's 10am Prayers/ Fellowship/ Zoom Webinar				

**Please refer to the Worshipping schedule portion of the Bulletin in the above pages for all zoom and phone in connections.**