

Pastor's Log, September 16, 2020

When the going gets rough, when things seem to be most difficult and complicated, where do you go for the strength and resilience needed to claim the next moment, the next day? In a world that seems to be going more and more crazy, where will we find the haven that shelters us, and then prepares us to move back out into the world. For me, the source of that strength, the place of safe haven and empowerment has been in my identity as a child of God. One of the places I find that continually reaffirmed is scripture. And I am thinking many of you will be able to guess which two passages I am about to cite for you.

“Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.” (Romans 12:2)

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Against such things there is not law.” (Galatians 5:22-23)

These two passages provide the powerful reminder that I need that this world is not about me, but rather is about the One who has created this world in which I exist. The Romans passage reminds me that I am most whole, most at peace when I exist within a plan, a will that is far beyond my plan, beyond the strength of my will. It reminds me that I am part of a larger picture

The Galatians passage reminds me of how I most fully live with that larger picture. The fruits of the Spirit are both the evidence of God's presence living in my life, and the indicator of how I am letting the Spirit transform me for life in the world that is God's.

In difficult times, they both remind me of “my better angel”, that sense of how I am to live as a citizen of God's beloved community.

What are the passages to speak from the midst of your life to reassure you that you are not alone, that God is with you in each moment? Let me hear from you about how you have found strength from God in your times of need.

Blessings,

Pastor Paul

The Peace and Global Witness to be dedicated Sunday, October 4.

Our congregation will again be participating in the annual special offering of the Presbyterian Church (PCUSA). Through this special offering (formerly the Peacemaking Offering) we join in working for peace and reconciliation in the world by transforming cultures of violence into communities of peace. 25% of the offering we receive is kept by this congregation for our use in ministries of peace and reconciliation. 25% will be used within this presbytery to support our shared ministries, with the remainder shared with our denomination for the work of

reconciliation throughout this world. You will be receiving more information about this offering in the next edition of Connections. You can contribute by using the Peace and Global Witness offering envelope you will find with your offering envelope, the envelope you will receive via mail, or by simply marking your offering to be for Peace and Global Witness. All checks should be made out 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
+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

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

<https://zoom.us/j/564813133?pwd=WxV3dk5zYlkvUGJDUUEwZEc2R3REdz09>

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

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

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

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

Would you like to become a better listener and at the same time have a positive impact upon the world? CONTACT of Mercer County is looking for volunteers to help carry out its mission ‘to save lives that might be lost to suicide, reduce stigma regarding mental health issues and provide a listening ear....’ Some of you may remember Eleanor Letcher, who was a very active member of our congregation and is now the Executive Director of **CONTACT**.

Training sessions (free) begin this week over Zoom, and run for a total of 10 weeks, on Wednesdays or Thursdays 7pm to 10 pm. Call to get Zoom login: 609-737-2000