

Pastor's Log October 14, 2021

Give thanks in all things,
because we believe that God will work for good in everything we experience.

I have been wondering about a lot of things these last 8 months as we entered this new experience of what it means to be church. The Covid 19 Pandemic as meant we could not gather physically as we have in the past. That challenges many of our most treasured understandings and experiences of what it means to be faithful followers of Christ, as well as what it means to worship God. We have accepted that the Christian faith is both an individual one, and a faith expressed corporately, with others. We have accepted the understanding that wherever two or three are gathered in Christ's name, there Jesus will be. We delight in singing in our worship, both lament and praise. Yet, if I sing alone, am I heard.

These months have been a challenge for us. We have continued to hold to some of the core understanding that make Ewing-Covenant who it is. Among these are that we will not exclude anyone from our worship. That has meant that we have not rushed to gather again, because that would have meant excluding people due to age, physical condition, and fear. We have continued to worship on a weekly basis, moving to a platform for worship that allows anyone to be present whether they use a computer or a phone. Music has continued to be an important part of our worshipping identity as the gifted among us have recorded and shared their wonderful talents. Our Care Team and Parish Leader Ministries have continued to connect the people of our congregation, sharing prayer, good news and concerns in an ever-increasing circle of care. And those who have been able have continued to gather and deliver food and other things with people of our community.

I do give thanks in the midst of these times that we are learning anew what it means to be faithful "followers of the way". Yes, it is challenging, and we have all needed to learn new ways of doing things. But I think God is at work refining us for the ministry and witness that lies ahead.

In Christ's service,

Pastor Paul

Here are the current Zoom and phone links for worship, Study Groups and Pastor Conversations

Ewing-Covenant Presbyterian Church at Worship - Every Sunday, 10:00AM

<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)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown)

Sunday Afternoon Adult Ed. – 2:00 PM

Join Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81923102879>

By phone, dial 1-929-205-6099, Meeting ID: 819 2310 2879

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=UDNqWG5pN0t3MFJUEwZEc2R3REdz09> 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/86079729283>

By phone dial 1 929 205 6099

Meeting ID: 860 7972 9283

Please remember to send in your "Return to Church Survey" by taking it online

<https://forms.gle/Cd7e8768FfmrTxgF8>

Or fill out the survey below and send it to the Church Office at 100 Scotch Road, Ewing, NJ 08628.

Congregational Survey With the approval of Session, the Return to Church Committee is working hard to put into place the guidelines our congregation will need to follow when we are ready to go back to worshipping and meeting in person. Your thoughts and input are important to us and will help guide our decisions as we develop our plan for returning to church. Please take a few minutes to respond to the questions in this brief survey. The information you provide will be kept private and will be reviewed by members of the Return to Church Committee only.

Which of the following statements best describes your level of comfort with returning to in-person worship?

- I would be comfortable returning to in-person worship, understanding that I will need to follow established guidelines (social distancing, wearing a face covering, completing a brief health screening including a temperature check, etc.)
- I'm still unsure about returning to in-person worship.
- I am not comfortable returning to in-person worship at this time.

Which of the following statements best describes your level of comfort with attending in-person meetings at church (session, deacons, big committee, presbytery meetings, adult studies, mission tasks such as making bag lunches, etc)?

- I would be comfortable participating in in-person meetings, understanding that I will need to follow established guidelines.
- I'm still unsure about participating in in-person meetings.
- I am not comfortable participating in in-person meetings at this time.

Have you participated in the Sunday worship service via Zoom or by phone?

- Yes (by phone)
- Yes (by Zoom)
- No

If yes, what are your feelings about the virtual worship service?

If no, what has prevented you from joining the Sunday service via Zoom or by phone?

Once in-person worship has resumed, we plan to continue to offer the option of worshipping virtually (the live service will also be Zoomed and available by phone). Would you choose to continue to worship via Zoom or phone, instead of attending in-person worship, if that option is available?

- Yes, every Sunday
- Yes, occasionally
- No

Name: _____

Age:

- Under 18
- 18-30
- 31-50
- 51-60
- 61 -75
- 76 +

Please use the space below to share any additional concerns you may have on worshipping in person



November 1, 8, 15, 22
Sunday Afternoon Adult
Education 2:00 PM

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81923102879>
By phone, dial 1-929-205-6099, Meeting ID:
819 2310 2879

Continuing our Journey
As a *Matthew 25 Church*
through November

***Talking about Race:
getting comfortable with a very uncomfortable subject***

A discussion of "*Good White Racist?: Confronting Your Role in Racial Injustice*" by Kerry Connelly. Copies are available thru the Church Office or you can contact Pam Hoffman at 609-883-3772. A donation of \$10 per book is kindly suggested.

Study begins Sunday
November 1

via Zoom meeting link
and continues November 8,15,
and 22.

Sunday Afternoon Adult Ed. – 2PM

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81923102879>

By phone, dial 1-929-205-6099, Meeting ID:
819 2310 2879

ANTIRACISM
FOR WHITE
FOLKS

A starting
place