

Pastor's Log October 21, 2020

What have the last 8 months taught us about our faith, and what it means to be a Christian in these complicated times. How has your understanding of, and your practice of your faith been impacted by the complications of our times? What have you learned about being a witness to the love of God in Christ through the refining challenges of these days?

We have a challenge before us, friends. The challenge is to claim a future that is formed by God from and through the opportunities that our current life presents. In the midst of these times, how will we witness to the presence of God in our lives? How will we offer praise to God? How will we show and share God's love with those around us?

Over the course of 4 Wednesday evenings, November 11, 18, 25, December 9, I invite you to join with me in discovering the faith filled vision that will guide this congregation into the future Christ holds for you. Attend one, or all, but join in the Zoom conversation on Purpose, Call, and Vocation for you as an individual in faith, and for this congregation in faith. Look for more information in the next Connections newsletter.

Meanwhile, know that our work and ministry continues to flow. I thank all of you who returned the recent survey, sharing your thoughts on our return to gathered ministry and worship. We have had more than 70 responses that will inform the work of the Return to Church Committee. That Committee will share a draft report with the Session next week, lining out what the sequence of steps for returning will be once it is safer for us to gather in small groups and for larger gatherings for worship. That time is not yet as the number and rate of virus infections is again growing in Mercer County.

The work of renovating office space for Pastor Ann is underway, and hopefully it will be ready for her when she is ready to return to working from her church study. We are also moving forward with the painting of the entryway of Fellowship Hall, and the foyer of our Worship Space. The work of replacing the chair lift in Fellowship Hall, and the work on the porch of our Office Building still awaits the permits need to continue that project.

The important ministry of caring for those in our community continues. We just purchased an iPad for a Head Start family that will allow their preschool child to participate in the program. Carol and Mike, and others continue to transport and distribute the food gathered for the Easter Service Workers Association, and Pastor's Ann and Paul continue to minister to families beyond our congregation as they grieve the deaths of loved ones.

Our Care Team members, and the Elders and Deacons continue their crucial work of connecting with and caring for the people who consider the Ewing-Covenant congregation their church home. Theirs is a powerful ministry that has grown even strong in the time of Pandemic.

And we continue to come together for worship. There are ways that our on-line worship has strengthened the ties that hold us together, making even more real the awareness of the Spirit that joins us in faith, no matter the distance. Be sure to join our All-Saints Sunday worship on

November 1st as we celebrate the lives of all those of our church who have died since All-Saints Day 2019.

I give thanks to God for your faithfulness in these times.

In Christ's service,

Pastor Paul

Mark your Calendars to attend our "All Saints Day" Sunday worship and jazz concert on November 1st.

In addition to celebrating Communion on November 1st, we will also celebrate the saints—those members and close friends of the church who have died this past year. As is our tradition, we will read their names aloud during our worship service. Beginning what may be a new tradition, we will also be showing a video compiled from photos submitted by the families and friends of these dear ones. From what I have glimpsed of the photos thus far, the video will be sure to bring back fond memories and remind us of how we have loved one another over the year...all the while proclaiming the gospel and living lives of faithful discipleship among our brothers and sisters in Christ.

And finally, to cap off our celebration, jazz musician Peter Lauffer will provide an on-line concert immediately following worship. Simply remain signed in on your telephones, iPads and computer laptops to hear Peter, and partake of an "at home" church jazz brunch. While we can't actually gather together in person, each of you is encouraged to prepare a fancy snack or a traditional brunch of your own styling at home. In the spirit of New Orleans, Peter is sure to include "When the Saints Go Marching In" as well as classic jazz pieces for us all to enjoy.

See you then,

Pastor Ann

For your Refrigerator door

Here are the Zoom Links that bring us together:

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 Afternoon Adult Ed.

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=UDNqWG5pN0t3MFJlUeDN5SFcvQnpzdz09> M

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



Sunday Afternoon Adult

Education 2:00 PM

November 1, 8, 15, 22

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81923102879>

by phone, dial 1-929-205-6099, Meeting ID:

819 2310 2879

Talking about Race:

"Willing to be Uncomfortable with an Uncomfortable Topic"

A discussion of *"Good White Racist? Confronting Your Role in Racial Injustice"* by Kerry Connelly. Copies are available. 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

