

Pastor's Log 12-3-20

STAYING CONNECTED

The recent Wednesday Evening Visioning Conversations have been very interesting (you can still be a part of the ones that are scheduled for December 9 & 16). One of the things that has really been at the fore of the conversations has been the importance of staying connected with each other, with the people who live around us, the broader community, and most importantly with God. As we talked about what we are learning about what it means to be "church" in this very challenging time, the importance of connecting, of contact continued to come to the fore.

But then we already know that, don't we? We know that because in Christ, God acted to connect with us. Through the incarnation, God becoming flesh and dwelling among us, connecting with us. Through Christ, God becomes real in our midst, touching us, healing us, teaching us. As one scholar put it, in Jesus, God is no longer ephemeral. The picture of God reaching out and touching the head of a person is a new thing.

We have often talked about reaching out to people, touching them, changing their lives, showing the love of God through meeting them where they are. How do we actually do that in the midst of a Pandemic that brings the threat of a deadly virus with every trip from our house, in every human interaction?

We do what many of you already do. We reach out by phone, or across the internet, and by writing a card, a note, a letter. Taking the time to let another person know that they are valued, cared about and loved. That is a faith filled ministry in these times of separation.

God cares, and is using your words spoken into a phone, shared in a text or email, written upon a card, or shared in a letter to reach out to the least of us, to all of us.

Wishing you the peace of Christ in this season.

Pastor Paul

The Repurposed Scout Hut

For decades that small building behind Fellowship Hall housed Troop 15 of the Boy Scouts. The proud troop, with its history of producing Eagle Scouts, ended its role in the Ewing community in 2019, and finally disposed of its equipment this year. The Scout Hut has now become a central part of the life and ministry of the Ewing-Covenant Church, serving as the drop off and pick up center for our congregation. Check out this month's Connections newsletter to find out about all the ways that you can help our community by dropping off food, hats and mittens, school supplies, health supplies; almost anything and everything.

You will also find there a table displaying written materials for you to pick up: copies of the Advent Devotionals, Upper Room and Our Daily Bread, and information on our work and life.

Adult Education in Advent

Sunday mornings at 9:00pm join Sam Bonner for the Sunday morning Bible Study

Sunday afternoons at 2:00pm join Pastor Ann and Pastor Paul for an Advent Study focused on Elizabeth and Mary in proclaiming the good news of Emmanuel, God with us.

Arm in Arm needs volunteers

We have learned that Arm in Arm is in need of volunteers to help with its food pantry. **Arm in Arm** is a place where our community comes together to make sure we all have the most basic needs of food and shelter and, as possible, the livelihood to maintain them. For more information contact Pastor Ann or Pastor Paul, or go to:

<https://t.co/Wx0nkY5Gcw> <https://t.co/vkwbOQgsov>

Car Caroling December 18

Carol Houghton and Pastor Paul are making plans to go Car Caroling on Friday, December 18. Stay tuned for more information. Those who join will travel in cars with those of their quarantine bubble, to homes where we will sing outdoors, masked and socially distanced, carrying the joy of Christmas. If you would like to participate, please contact Carol at houghton.carol@gmail.com, or call the church office. If you would like car carolers to sing outside your home, please call the church office.

Christmas Eve Luminaries

Our Christmas Eve Service will be online via our Zoom link this year at 8:00. Nevertheless, we will still witness to the Light that has come into the world by placing luminaries in front of our church buildings this year. We invite you to help is putting out the luminaries at 4:00 on Christmas Eve. Come dressed for the weather, masked for safety, and bring a candle lighter.

Our Special Christmas Worship Services

See the Zoom links that follow to connect to all our upcoming worship services.

Sunday, December 20 – 10:00am Worship followed by special Christmas music

Wednesday, December 23 – 7:00pm Service of Solace and Hope

Thursday, December 24 – 8:00pm Christmas Eve Service

Sunday, December 28 – 10:00am Worship on the First Sunday of Christmas

Zoom Links

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

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

By phone, 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=WXV3dk5zYlkvUGJDUUEwZEc2R3REdz09>

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

Sunday Afternoon Adult Ed.- 2:00PM

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

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

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 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 Vision Conversations with Pastor Paul 7:00PM Dec. 9 & 16

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86079729283>

By phone dial, 1 929 205 6099

Meeting ID: 860 7972 9283