



Spreading the Word

**Washington Presbyterian
Church**

June 2020

From the Pastor's Desk...

"and now faith, hope, and love abide, but the greatest of these is love." 1 Corinthians 13:13

WHERE THERE IS DESPAIR, HOPE. This line in the prayer of St. Francis brings a feeling of optimism, for it says things will improve, it won't always be bleak, that we will rise above our present circumstances. Hope is an internal awareness that you don't have to suffer forever. When we recite this line, we are asking for strength to bring hope to all who are in despair as well as ourselves. In the presence of a hopeful vision, despair and suffering no longer hold our attention. I believe it is impossible for despair and suffering to exist simultaneously, because one cancels the other. In the prayer of St. Francis, we ask to reverse the process and cancel despair with a vision of hope. You have heard the old saying, "As you think, so shall you be."

We can keep and love all the objects of our attachments without renouncing them. In other words, you can love in a way and feel peaceful and unthreatened. This is exactly how God loves you. Unconditionally. In order to be genuinely happy there is only one thing to do. Deprogram yourself and get rid of those low energy attachments.

The apostle Paul mentioned hope in the New Testament 141 times. It is part of his use of a triadic formula. "Faith, hope, and love." These words belong to a process of new life in Christ that begins with faith and is fulfilled at the event of our salvation. A kind of guarantee of what God has begun in Jesus Christ will be completed on the last days. Hope provides the essential link between the already and not-yet of the salvation event. Hope assures the believer that there is more to come if we remain faithful. If you read last Sunday's sermon, I hope you related to the hope in Revelation that is coming. We must hold fast to the hope God's future.

I have always found it difficult to boil down what Paul tries to say in his many concepts. He definitely was a technical thinking kind of guy. I think that's why he illustrated in so many forms trying to get his point across to pave the way for those writers who followed him.

St. Francis refused to give up on what he knew was a calling from God. He simply knew he couldn't fail because his faith was so great, and obstacles became opportunities for hope rather than contributing to an attitude of despair. How wonderful it would be to sit at his feet and be taught by him. Who knows, maybe one day you will have a city like San Francisco named after you!

Prayer of St. Francis

*Lord, make me an instrument of your peace,
where there is hatred let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
where there is sadness, joy;
O Divine Master, grant that I may not
so much seek to be consoled as to console;
to be understood as to understand;
to be loved as to love.
For it is in giving that we receive;
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.*



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The deadline for submitting articles for the **July newsletter**
June 20 at 5 p.m.
e-mail information to:
jsq85@aol.com

The May session meeting was held May 21, 2020 at 6:30 pm. Rev. Dr. Linda Philabaun was the moderator. If you have any concerns for session, please communicate them to Clerk of Session, Cathy Strawbridge.

The next session meeting will be Thursday, June 18, 2020 at 6:30 pm.

Report of the Pastor:

Sermons and newsletter updates have been posted weekly on the website. Jean has been a huge help to me with the webpage. The Deacons have been on top of things and very helpful.

The Washington Ministerial Association has been sending out weekly updates as to what are the next moves for our churches. We are all doing the best we can to communicate and interject info to one another.

In preparation for our first Sunday communion, I was able to procure the individual communion wafer and juice sets. I believe that will be the most practical for us until we feel safe handling the elements.

Many phone visits and all-church correspondences have been made reaching out to most everyone to express my love and prayers. Personal touch is always best in time like these.

Report of the Treasurer: M.S.P. to approve Treasurer's report for April 2020.

Report of Commissioner to Presbytery: Great Rivers Assembly meeting, June 2, 2020, will be held via Zoom. Melody Wiseman will represent as our Commissioner Representative.

Facilities and Maintenance (Kevin Gall):

Request payment for lawn care and janitorial supplies as well as replaced vacuum cleaner bag. Also did the routine initialing of 14 fire extinguishers.

Finance (Bill Strawbridge):

As the Income Statement shows, we paid the Washington Ministerial Association \$400 in April. As a heads up, we recently sent a check to the Chamber of Commerce for \$250 in May. I am still visiting the church weekly to sign checks and deposit money received from our congregants.

The Support & Endowment Committee has received 2 scholarship applications and is awaiting a third. Interviewing of all applicants will be done by Zoom in the upcoming weeks. A recommendation for scholarship amounts will be presented at the June Session meeting.

Mission (Jean Escue):

We will not be assisting this year with the Red Cross Blood drive scheduled in June at Five Points. Becky Moore spoke with a Red Cross representative to let the Red Cross know and he was very understanding and indicated he would reach out again sometime in the future.

Check Requests: Office Depot \$219.96. Purchased 4 wireless keyboard/mouse combo's for 2nd grade classroom at Germantown Elementary school as part of the school mentoring program.

Donations for May:

OSF Antepartum Unit: body wash/soap

Children's Hospital: NONE

Almost Home Kids: Kleenex

WHIP: canned chicken/canned tuna in water

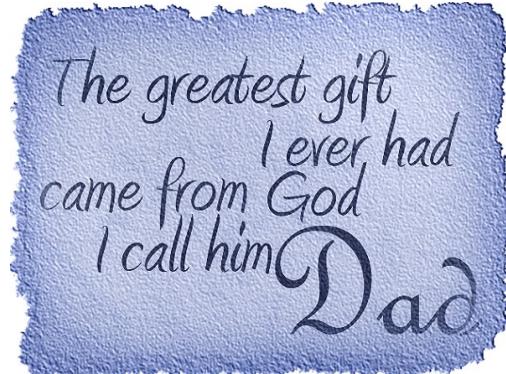
Donations for June:

OSF Antepartum donation: Shampoo

Children's Hospital donation: stickers/color books

Almost Home Kids: NONE

Whip: Soup/canned pasta



Mission Committee to meet virtually or correspond via email with thoughts on where and how to distribute the allotted \$12,000. **Mission Committee members** include Paula Sights, Carol Voorhees, Lila Gammon, Becky Moore, and Jean Escue.

"Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be courageous; be strong." - 1 Corinthians 16:13 (NIV)

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS — May 2020, cont.

Unfinished Business:

Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) continues with their search.

Easter Celebration Service will be the first Sunday we return to worship. Once the governmental bodies lift the Shelter in Place Order, the Session will establish the date of our first service and communicate that date to the congregation via the Phone Tree Calling list.

New Business:

Reopening the Church – Processes and procedures. Abiding by CDC, Governor of Illinois, and the Presbytery Leadership Guidelines, the consensus of Session was to keep the church closed for June. Session members will be calling congregants to inform them and to solicit their feedback.

The next stated meeting is Thursday, June 18, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.



HEAVEN'S GROCERY STORE

I was walking down life's highway a long time ago.
When I saw a sign that read "Heaven's Grocery Store."

As I got a little closer, the door came open wide.
When I came to myself, I was standing inside.

I saw a host of Angels. They were standing everywhere.
One handed me a basket and said, "My child, shop with care."

Everything a Christians needs was in that grocery store;
And all you can't carry you could come back for more.

First, I got some Patience, Love was in the same row.
Farther down was Understanding, you need that everywhere you go.

I got a box or two of Wisdom, a bag or two of Faith;
I just couldn't miss the Holy Spirit, for it was everyplace.

I stopped to get some Strength and Courage, to help me run this race;
By then my basket was getting full, but I remembered I needed Grace.

I didn't forget Salvation, for Salvation, that was free,
So, I tried to get enough of that to save both you and me.

Then I started up to the counter to pay my grocery bill,
For I thought I had everything to do my Master's will.

As I went up the aisle, I saw Prayer and just had to put that in;
For I knew when I stepped outside, I would run right into sin.

Peace and Joy were plentiful, they were on the last shelf;
Songs and Praises were hanging near, so I just helped myself.

Then I said to the Angel, "Now how much do I owe?"
She smiled and said, "Just take them everywhere you go."

Again, I looked at her and said, "Just how much do I owe?"
She smiled again and said to me, "My child, Jesus paid your bill, a long time ago."



MISSION

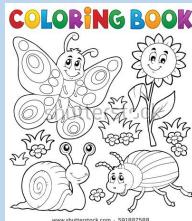
ANTEPARTUM UNIT SHAMPOO



WHIP SOUP AND CANNED PASTA



CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL STICKERS AND COLORING BOOKS



COFFEE HOURS—

July 12, August 9, Sept 13,
Oct 11, Nov 8, Dec 13.



SPECIAL OFFERINGS—The Pentecost offering (40% of the amount collected will be used to purchase classroom equipment for the mentoring program.) will begin with Pentecost on May 31 and will continue thru July. Wireless keyboards, sound reducing headphones, erasable clipboards have already been purchased to support the school mentoring program. **We are saving to purchase a Cricut machine and other miscellaneous supplies for a 2nd grade classroom. Please consider supporting our youth.** If you are interested in making a donation to directly support the project please make note on the memo line of your check. Thank you for your support.



To Open or Not

After much discussion during the May session meeting, session concluded the church will remain closed through the month of June. Guidelines from the Presbytery Leadership, from the Governor's office and our concern for the at-risk congregants in the church led to the decision. Of our "usually" attending congregants, 75% fall into the +65-age category, which, along with those with other vulnerabilities, puts them at risk. Session members will reach out to the congregation to further communicate the reasons for the decision and to touch base with everyone.

Thank you to all who have continued to support the work of the church by sending in pledge money. The funds have been deposited, bills paid and the work of the church is continuing. Our Fidelity account is recovering nicely from the low point. Please stay safe and God Bless.

WPC Session

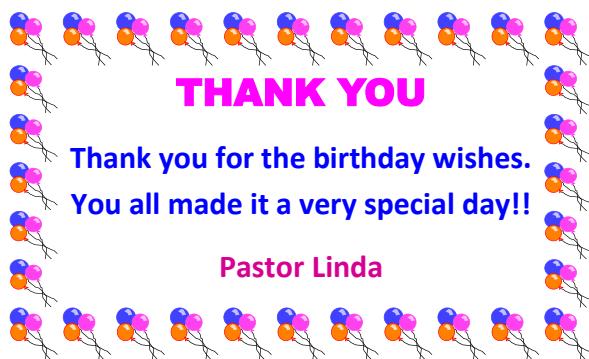


BITS AND PIECES



2020 Graduates

If you have a child or grandchild or know of someone from the church who is graduating from 8th grade, high school or college please let Judy know. We don't want to miss anyone.



PRAYERS FOR:

Ann Tharp	Marge Honeg
Michelle Johnson	Fran Freeman
Harriet Maddock	Matt Bainbridge
Winne Ebert	



The Deacons are in contact (calls or cards) with members/friends who

do not have family in the area. Due to the social distancing and stay-at-home restrictions, this limits our abilities to help or serve those in need. Nearly all of our congregation is in the high-risk category, but thankfully our list is very short.

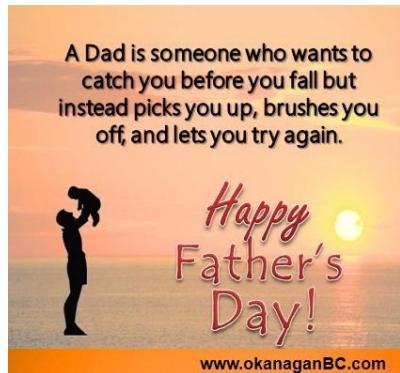


SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 Oscar's b-day 	2	3	4 Aesop's b-day 	5	6
7 Services Canceled	8	9	10	11	12 Peanut Butter Cookie Day 	13
			National Gardening Week			
14 Services Canceled FLAG DAY 	15 Fly a Kite Day 	16	17 Eat Your Veggies Day 	18 SESSION MTNG 6:30 PM	19	20 First Day of Summer Newsletter info due
21 Services Canceled	22	23 Typewriter invented	24	25	26 Toothbrush Invented 	27
28 Services Canceled	29 Camera Day 	30				
				ROSE MONTH 		



Birthdays:

3 Betty Laughlin 9 Sydney Ksycki 26 Roberta Spitz
 6 Karin Earl 10 Beau Carter 28 Kent Casey
 7 Lee Moore 11 Hayley Earl 30 Jennifer Proffitt
 8 Sandy Fritz 21 Jacob Reese



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