



# Spreading the Word

Washington Presbyterian  
Church

May 2020

*From the Pastor's Desk...*

**Isa. 40:28-31**

*Have you not known? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. He gives power to the faint, and strengthens the powerless. Even youths will faint and grow weary, and the young will fall exhausted; but those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.*

**The bald eagle is my favorite bird. Maybe its my love for the majestic, white-capped flyer foreshadowed by my own white hair. (It has become more prevalent since I have been sheltering in place.) If white headed birds are considered elegant, then maybe we should take a clue from nature.**

**The wingspan of a female bald eagle extends from 70 to 90 inches from wingtip to wingtip. 90 inches—about eight and half feet! Compare that to a seven-foot tall basketball player to see that the eagle's wingspan is over a foot longer. The wings of an eagle are long and broad, making it perfect for soaring. The feather tips are tapered so that when the wings are fully extended, the tips spread far apart. This helps reduce turbulence as air passes over the wings. When the eagle is soaring, there is no "fasten your seatbelt" sign.**

**When an eagle is soaring, she preserves energy by sailing on the thermals and updrafts so she has little need to flap her wings to travel great distances. My fascination with eagles was never so clear as when my father was dying. I was mostly alone with his hospice care and was attending ICC in the evenings. It was then I began to notice somehow the eagle was paying special attention to me. Often, I would see it soaring above me, near me, or alongside of me—in my car! Especially the day my dad received the news he was terminal. When I look back now, I know that's when the sightings first began to occur and the Isaiah passage became so clear. My connection to nature has always been a God thing. One never knows what vehicle God might use to attend us.**

**I was home for the summer from Dubuque and able to take care of dad. Dubuque Seminary has a large Native American population to whom I made some close friendships. Having returned in the fall after my father's death, I was relating my eagle story to them. A curious question came from one of them. "Did you happen to look up at the cemetery?" I had not. He told me Indians see a soaring eagle as lifting a spirit to heaven. After hearing that, I noticed the eagle stayed with me for a long time and I connected the sightings with my father. Nowadays I don't see the eagle as often because I know my father has been lifted up and is no longer "weary."**

**I believe in an amazing God of nature who has blessed me with beautiful sights since a child. How very blessed I have been, indeed! May your days be filled with visions of God's great goodness. All we have to do is look.**

*Linda*



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## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Note From the Pastor	1
Mother's Day Message	2
Session Highlights	3,4
Mission	5
Save the Date	5
In memory	6
Bits and Pieces/ Prayers	6
Calendar	7
Birthdays	7

The *deadline* for submitting  
articles for the  
**June newsletter**  
**May 23 at 5 p.m.**

e-mail information to:  
**jsq85@aol.com**

*A Special Edition from the Pastor's Desk for Mothers...*

**"People are what their mothers make them."**

**Ralph Waldo Emerson**

On May 10<sup>th</sup> we celebrate our mothers—who are they, have been, and continue to be in our lives. As I grow older, I have a constant reminder of my mother—each morning when I look in the mirror—there she is. As a young girl I remember saying to myself that I would never want to be like her. Surprise! I have become her in so many ways. Why is it we never appreciate them when we are young? The sacrifices, the kindnesses, the lessons and, oh, the love. Once in a while I find myself wishing she were here to share something with her or to just talk to her and tell her how I wish I could have made her life easier. Then she would have said, "Nothing in life is easy."

I ran across a wonderful story written by Erma Bombeck-- a tribute to her mother. Perhaps you have read it before, but it is so worth sharing. Here goes...

When the good Lord was creating mothers, He was into His sixth day of overtime when the angel appeared and said, "You're doing a lot of fiddling around with this one."

And the Lord said, "Have you read the specs on this order? She has to be completely washable, but not plastic; have 180 moveable parts, all replaceable; run on black coffee and leftovers; have a lap that disappears when she stands up; a kiss that can cure anything from a broken leg to a disappointed love affair; and six pairs of hands."

The angel shook her head slowly and said, "Six pairs of hands—no way!"

"It's not the hands that are causing me problems," said the Lord. "It's the three pairs of eyes that mothers have to have."

"That's on the standard model?" asked the angel.

The Lord nodded, "One pair that see through the closed doors and when she asks 'What are you kids doing in there?', when she already knows; here in the back of her head that sees what she shouldn't but what she has to know; and, of course, the ones here in the front that look at a child when he goofs up and says, 'I understand and love you' without so much as uttering a word..."

"I can't quit now...already I have one who heals herself when she is sick, and can feed a family of six on one pound of hamburger, and can get a nine-year old to stand under the shower."

The angel circled the model of the mother very slowly. "It's too soft," she sighed.

"But tough!" said the Lord excitedly. "You cannot imagine what this mother can do or can endure."

"Can it think?"

"Not only can it think, but it can reason and compromise and dream," said the Creator.

Finally, the angel bent over and ran her finger across the cheek. "This one's got a leak," she pronounced. "I told you that you were trying to put too much into this model."

"It's not a leak," said the Lord. "It's a tear."

"What's it for?"

"It's for joy, sadness, disappointment, pain, loneliness and pride."

"You're a genius," said the angel.

The Lord looked somber, "I didn't put it there."



*The April session meeting was held April 16, 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, May 21, 2020 at 6:30 pm.**

### **Report of the Pastor:**

Sermons have been completed each week and put online since March 15<sup>th</sup>. Thankful to Jean for being so helpful in navigating the webpage. Holy week required extra editions i.e. Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter in addition to the newsletter. Have received many positive responses from those who have read them as well as received many lovely cards.

Tried to keep in contact with as many people as possible with phone calls, emails, texts and notes. My hope is that people do not feel forgotten during these times of sheltering in place.

I continue to pray daily for all of you. The deacons have done a wonderful job of staying in touch with everyone they can. We are so blessed to have such a great team.

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

### **Facilities and Maintenance (Kevin Gall):**

- \* Paid Church Mutual Policies, Elevator Corp. for service, and various other bills relating to the church maintenance.
- \* Replaced all filters in the four forced air furnaces. Initialed all fire extinguishers for March (to be done on a monthly basis).
- \* Church sign on front lawn has not been working and is being checked out.

### **Finance (Bill Strawbridge):**

- \* One Great Hour collection has been extended due to COVID-19 Shelter in Place.
- **M.S.P.** to establish a new scholarship fund, called the J. Hollis Spirios Scholarship Fund.
- \* Impact of Covid-19 on church financial processes:
  1. Review of the Books is delayed until the "shelter in place" order is lifted.
  2. Scholarship Applications are being requested; however, the interviewing may have to be virtually, and we will need confirmation that schools will be holding classes this fall.

### **Mission (Jean Escue):**

- \* **Donations for April:**
  1. **Children's Hospital:** card games
  2. **Almost Home Kids:** batteries/any size
  3. **OSF Antepartum Unit:** none
  4. **WHIP-** Jelly
- \* **Donations for May:**
  1. **OSF Antepartum Unit:** Body Wash
  2. **Children's Hospital:** none
  3. **Almost Home Kids:** Kleenex
  4. **WHIP** –Canned Chicken/Canned Tuna in water



### \* **Special Offering – Pentecost Offering**

1. Helps youth begin life with a strong start – a solid foundation of faith formed in the first third of life, from childhood through young adulthood
2. Receive the Offering on Pentecost Sunday (May 31) Donations will be accepted thru – July
3. **40% of the amount collected stays with our church and will be used to support the mentoring program at the schools.**
4. 60% of the amount collected will be sent to Presbytery of Great Rivers

## SESSION HIGHLIGHTS — April 2020, cont.

### \* Special Offering – Pentecost Offering, cont.

- 5. 25% - Young Adult Volunteer
- 6. 5% - Youth Ministries (ages 12-18)
- 7. 10% - supports the "Educate a Child, Transform the World national initiative.

### Unfinished Business:

- \* PNC: PNC updated Session and the search continues.

### New Business:

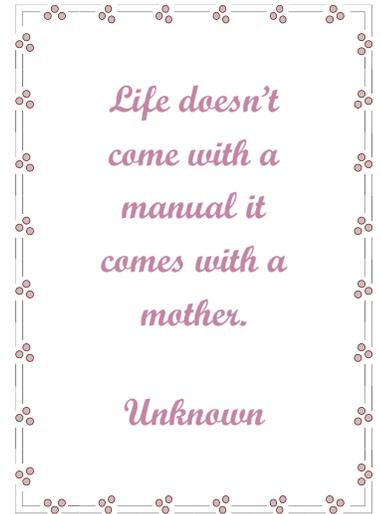
- \* Easter Celebration Service will be the first Sunday we return to worship. Once the governmental bodies lift the Shelter in Place Order, the Session will establish the date of our first service and communicate that date to the congregation via the Phone Tree Calling list.

### Dates still as scheduled:

- \* Shared Service (5<sup>th</sup> Sunday) at Danvers, May 31, 2020 (CANCELED)
- \* Picnic in the Park, June 14, 2020

M.S.P. to adjourn the meeting and closed with prayer at 8:40 p.m.

***The next stated meeting is Thursday, May 21 , 2020 at 6:30 p.m.***



## Mother

*A Mother always understands  
the things you say and do.  
She overlooks each of your faults,  
she finds the best in you.*

*A Mother's love is a special love,  
it inspires you each day.  
She spreads her joy and happiness,  
in her warm and caring way.*

*A Mother's all these things and more,  
there's no greater treasure known.  
The most precious Mother in all the world...*

*...Is the one i call my own.*



# MISSION

## ANTEPARTUM UNIT

**BODY WASH**



## ALMOST HOME

KIDS

**KLEENEX**



## WHIP

**CANNED CHICKEN AND / OR CANNED TUNA (IN WATER)**



### COFFEE HOURS—

July 12, August 9, Sept 13,  
Oct 11, Nov 8, Dec 13,  
2020



### CHURCH IN THE PARK

**JUNE 14, 2020**

**WENGER SHELTER**



**5th SUNDAY  
SERVICE IN MAY  
CANCELED**

### Scholarship Applications

*Due May 1st, 2020*

*Forms available from Judy in the  
Church office or by e mail from Jean  
Escue (jsq85@aol.com)*





# In Loving Memory

Rita Ann (Haase) Hale, of Washington, IL, died at 7:45 am Tuesday, April 21, 2020 at her home in Washington.

She was born on July 30, 1951 in Streator, IL to Inez Eleanor (Thieme) and Roy Earl Haase. She grew up in Flanagan, IL, graduating from Flanagan High School.

While she received training and worked in various industries and occupations in numerous locations, Rita was a free spirit with a spark for life. She loved animals and activities and whether waterskiing, motorcycling, or playing pool, she had a competitive spirit that brought extra excitement to any event she attended.

Rita was a member of the Washington Presbyterian Church.

She was preceded in death by her parents and her beloved husband, Denver Barry Hale. Rita is survived by her sister, Peggy Joyce Haase of Flanagan, IL, her brother, Roger Lee Haase of Little Rock, AR, nephews, nieces, aunts and cousins by whom she will be sorely missed.

Cremation rites will be accorded and Rita will be inurned with her husband near their home in Goshen, AR. A celebration of her life will be held at a later time. Deiters Funeral Home and Crematory in Washington is assisting the family with arrangements.

Memorials may be made to a charity of the donor's choice.

## Rita Ann Hale

July 30, 1951 ~ April 21, 2020



## 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 or drop a note in the offering plate. We don't want to miss anyone.

**SPECIAL OFFERINGS**—One Great Hour of Sharing offering will continue thru the end of May and 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.

### PRAYERS FOR:

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



### Deacon Ministry

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. May meeting tentatively scheduled for May 17, 2020.



2020



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
 <p>NATIONAL BARBECUE MONTH AND NATIONAL HAMBURGER MONTH</p>					<p>1 <b>BATMAN DAY</b></p> 	<p>2</p>
<p>3</p> <p>Services Canceled</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Teacher's Day</p> 	<p>6 National Nurses Day</p> 	<p>7</p> <p>NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER</p> 	<p>8</p>	<p>9</p>
<p>10 Services Canceled</p> 	<p>11</p> <p>Eat What you Want Day</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14 Dance Like a Chicken Day</p> 	<p>15</p>	<p>16</p> 
<p>17</p> <p>Services Canceled</p>	<p>18</p> <p>No Dirty Dishes Day</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20 Pick Strawberries day</p> 	<p>21</p> <p>SESSION MTNG 6:30 PM</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Newsletter info due</p>
<p>24 Services Canceled</p>	<p>25</p>  <p>Memorial DAY</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Sun Screen Day</p> 	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30 Water a Flower Day</p> 
<p>31</p> <p>5th Sunday Services canceled</p>						



**Birthdays:**

- 8 Jean Escue
- 16 Kim Siu
- 16 Marlene Meegan
- 17 Margie Rodgers
- 20 Linda Philabaun
- 21 Ann Tharp
- 24 Gerald Wilder
- 29 Madeleine Siebert
- 31 Bonnie Boss



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