

The Church Steeple

First Presbyterian Church

July 2020

PASTOR CHRIS' CORNER

July, 2020---one more month in a year that has us all completely baffled. How are you holding up? Fraying around the edges? Wanting to make a getaway? Thriving despite it all? Finding pleasure in small things?

I hope you have been able to make some peace with the adjustments that you have had to make. Please keep taking care of yourselves: wear those masks, wash your hands, limit your exposure to large places where people gather, eat and sleep sensibly!

We hope to open the Church for Worship sometime in July. You will be informed of date and worship time. In the meanwhile, please watch the virtual services that are available to you from 1st Presbyterian Church by going to Facebook and typing Carteret Presbyterian in the search bar. Amy, Chris, and I have just made our 3rd one. We hope they are blessings to you!

Just a reminder on July 4th and all through the month of July:

Give thanks to God for our earthly home--The United States of America. May God heal her and bless her! Amen!

Some things to be reminded of in unusual times:

+ "I heard the voice of Jesus say, "Come unto me and rest; lay down, O weary one, lay down your head upon My breast. I came to Jesus as I was, so weary, worn, and sad; I found in Him a resting place, and He has made me glad." -- Horatius Bonar

+ "There's the wonder of sunset at evening, the wonder of sunrise I see; but the wonder of wonders that thrills my soul, is the wonder that God loves me." -- George Beverly Shea

+ "Grandparents are meant for kisses and hugs. For watching rainbows and catching bugs. For baking all of your favorite things. For books to read and songs to sing." -- Anonymous

+ Practice RAOK daily. What is RAOK? Answer: Random Acts Of Kindness. Practice them, and even though we are wearing masks, you will see people smile. FYI --God will be smiling, too.

+ Do something long enough, it becomes a habit. "Constant kindness can accomplish much.

As the sun makes ice melt, kindness causes misunderstanding, mistrust, and hostility to evaporate." -- Albert Schweitzer

+ *These two go together even though written by different people:*

"God marks across some of our days, "Will explain later." -- Vance Havner

"God's people live by promises, not by explanations." -- Warren Wiersbe

I invite you to share with me something that you, yourself, wrote or someone else has written that has been uplifting/life changing to you.

Send via email to darluz223@yahoo.com, I will share them in August's Newsletter. Thank you!

*With love and prayers for you all,
Pastor Chris*

If you are able please send in your offering envelopes. You can drop them in our secure mailbox or mail them in. Our church still has expenses that won't stop during this shut down. Thank you to all who have sent their envelopes in, they are greatly appreciated.

VIRTUAL WORSHIP SERVICE

We hope you enjoyed our virtual services, but won't it be great when we will all be together again? Sunday July 12, at 10:15 AM we will have our first in person Worship Service! **When attending please follow the following protocols:** Mask must be worn at all times in church building, 6' distancing must be maintained, only side entrance will be used, all Bibles and hymnals will be put away and will not be used during this time, ushers only greet and give direction, the collection plate will be placed at front and only the designated counters will touch, congregation will take their own offering to plate, pre-packaged communion will be used during this time, they will be placed on a table and each member will take his/her own there will be no servers, attendance will be recorded for tracing, if needed. All rugs and inside of building have been professional cleaned.

FINANCE & PROPERTY REPORT JULY 2020

Even though the Church has been closed, the Finance and Property Committee have been busy. Windows in the Nursery were approved to be replaced. The installation of the windows will be taking place soon.

In preparation for the opening of our Church, supplies needed have been ordered and received such as masks, gloves and several different types of sanitizers. We also have large signs as reminders for 6' distancing and wearing masks. The carpeting in the Church has been steam cleaned. There will be no Bibles or Hymnals used during the service.

Our Organist, Chris, has volunteered his time for the virtual services the Pastor has been doing with the assistance of Amy. It is wonderful to be able to hear him play his music.

We had a meeting with the SDA Minister and several of his congregation to go over the procedures of opening the Church. They are on the same page as we are and concerned for the safety and wellness of all. They will only be using the Church on Saturdays for one and a half hours at this time. Hours will be added as is permitted. There will be no food served and the children will sit with their families. They will have one person downstairs to supervise should anyone need to use the bathroom. We will be adjusting their rent for this time period. When they are able to go back to all the days they used the church, the rent will be adjusted accordingly.

Needless to say, we have taken a great loss these three months and more as we have not received any income from SDA or the Thrift Shop. The Lord, however, has taken care of us and has seen us through during this time and I trust the Lord will continue to do so.

*God Bless All,
Finance & Property Committee
Carole Sullivan
John Michael
Doris Stefura*

ZION'S FOOD BANK Please donate cereal, tuna, pasta sauce, pasta, rice, soups, and evaporated milk always needed. MORE THAN EVER!!

GINNY DROTAR THRIFT SHOP NEWS

We have been busy at the Thrift Shop trying to get it ready to open, of course with limits, and masks and all that is needed now a days. With the help of Stephanie Hendricks, who is a member of the Zion Church, we have been able to sort and weed winter clothing and switch the winter to summer. We have many bags of clothing that just didn't sell. The Carteret Board of Education is having a clothing drive to help with scholarships for Carteret High School students. John Michael has offered to take them over to the Board of Education building in his truck and the Stefura's have also offered their truck. This will be done on Sunday, July 12th, most likely after our first church service since March! It would be greatly appreciated if you are able to help load all of these bags onto the trucks. Please mark it on your calendar.

The Thrift Shop should be opening possibly mid-July or shortly thereafter. We have the supplies needed and the carpet was cleaned. The floors still need to be cleaned well. Customers will be limited and all will need to wear masks.

We pray all are well and anxious for the opening of our Church and Thrift Shop.

*God Bless,
Carole Sullivan for the
Thrift Shop Staff.*



A NOTE FROM YOUR CLERK OF SESSION:

Hi, can't believe it's been 4 months since we worshipped together. I certainly miss everyone. I hope & pray that all members & their families have been safe & healthy & no one was stricken with the Corona virus.

We are getting ready to open our sanctuary on July 12th. We will be worshipping at 10:15 AM until Labor Day.

The Property Committee has been busy making sure all of the safety measures are in place for a safe opening.

All carpets have been professionally Steam cleaned, & supplies have been received.

We hope everyone will attend our first worship service in our sanctuary in 4 month so we can see each other in person.

Remember to wear your mask.

*Doris Stefura
Clerk of Session*

SOCIAL MEDIA

Please check out our website Jesuslovescarteret.org you can find our newsletters and bulletin here.



Or check out our **Facebook** page **Carteret Presbyterian**, where you can connect with friends old and new.



July 4 Amber Sloan
July 4 Tom Sloan
July 12 William Kovacs
July 12 Jennifer Michael
July 13 Scott Sloan
July 23 Justine Stefura

THE CHURCH STEEPLE

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Please remember to keep the prayer list up to date!! Please look over the list each Sunday and make any changes and leave in the collection plate for Amy's attention. Thank you we love hearing that our prayers are working!!! And we love praying for the needs of this church and church family!

First Presbyterian Church

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JesuslovesCarteret.org