

## A Note from our Pastor

Dear Friends

Covid-19. Stay home. Wash hands. Epicenter, Social Distancing. These are all things that we have been digesting for the last few weeks. Those who have contracted this virus have grown and the sad death toll has grown we have attempted to adjust to a new reality. Our stocks may lose their value according to the market's extreme roller coaster economy, but our God is constant.

I have been encouraged by the care and community that First Presbyterian Church has shown through this crisis. The amount of care that we have for one another and our community has really shown. I believe that this is a reflection of our faith in Jesus Christ. Thank you.

We are sending this email out as part of what would have been our newsletter. It is really not much news to note that everything has been cancelled, except for our online worship. Thank you Lorinda, Al, and Diane for all the work we have put into making sure that everyone that needs worship is getting it during this time. We are truly able to attest that Church is not about a building, but the community of Jesus Christ.

Here are a few bits of information that I wanted to pass along:

\*We will be having an online Bible Study/meet-up/ask the pastor on Facebook live tomorrow night at 7 pm. You can access this by going to the church's Facebook page [https://www.facebook.com/FPCHackettstown/?epa=SEARCH\\_BOX](https://www.facebook.com/FPCHackettstown/?epa=SEARCH_BOX)

\*Included in this email are the financials and Building on Generosity reports from Al Ravo that would have been included in our monthly newsletter.

\*The session and deacons have been systematically reaching out to every member to find out how we are doing during this time. If you have any needs that we can possibly help with let us know. We have also been

gathering prayer requests during these calls. I will be adding them to Sunday worship.

\*Please email me prayer requests (but know that the volume of communications has been large). It may take me a little to get back to you.

\*We will be having our Maundy Thursday service online as well. We are still talking about how to do that service for you. Communion will be what you bring to the table. So, make sure you have some sort of bread and juice available (any beverage if you have no juice).

I hope you know that you have continued to be in my prayers. I also know that we have so many prayer warriors in this church praying for the end to this virus. Thank you.

**Brian Merritt**

### **Building On Generosity Capital Campaign – April 2020**

During March, HQW Architects received bids from 3 contractors to perform the exterior renovations on the church. The bids were reviewed with our church task force (Diane Hull, Rev. Brian Merritt, Charles Lee and Al Ravo) with HQW. Sphere Construction Group of Denville, New Jersey was awarded the contract. A contract between Sphere Construction Group and the church was signed March 20, 2020. Diane Hull signed the contract for the church as President of the Board of Trustees.

A contract with Lamb Studios will be signed by the end of March for the work to put a protective covering over the stained glass windows.

The Building Permit application for Hackettstown has been completed by Sphere Construction Group. The fee for the permit will be paid by the church March 23 and the permit will be issued.

Areas of the parking lot have been identified and agreed to where a storage container, a trash dumpster and a Port a John will be located. Also determined is the location of construction fences and signage that will be placed around the building.

Even with the restrictions implemented because of the Coronavirus, construction work is able to continue, or in our case, start. Work is expected to begin the week of March 23<sup>rd</sup>.

During February, \$2,047.50 was donated to 'Building On Generosity' raising the total received since September 28, 2019 to **\$52,202.30**. Thank you for your continued support of this capital campaign.

Any questions about the 'Building On Generosity' capital project can be addressed to any member of the campaign task force: Diane, Charles, Al or Brian. Donations can be made to the campaign in the following ways:

- Make the check out to the First Presbyterian Church of Hackettstown, on the memo line write 'Building On Generosity' and mail it to the church.
- Cash donations can be made by placing your donation in an envelope clearly marked with your name and 'Building On Generosity' and placed in the mailbox at the back door of the church.
- On the church website, click the green Donate button on the Home page and selecting the 'Building On Generosity' option.

## February 2020 Financial Snapshot

The Expenses Paid and Income amounts below do not include any funds transferred from the Endowment to meet the church operating expenses.

	<b>February</b>	<b>Year To Date</b>
<b>Income</b>	\$17,753.69	\$37,661.77
<b>Expenses Paid</b>	\$20,663.74	\$38,504.71
<b>Net Operating Income / (Deficit)</b>	(\$2,910.05)	(\$842.94)
<b>Amount Needed from Endowment</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00

The 2020 Per Capita is \$39.00 for each of the 213 members of our Church. The total amount due in 2020 is \$8,307.00 or \$692.25 monthly. In February, \$339.00 was received for the Per Capita bringing the total amount received in 2020 to \$2,282.00 or 28% of the annual amount due. The majority of the Per Capita contributions are usually received early in the year.

Please contact Al Ravo if you have any questions or would like to discuss the Church's operational finances, the Endowment Funds or Per Capita.

