



Week 10...here we come! So happy that the county is turning "yellow" tomorrow. It gives me hope that we will be seeing each other soon! I know that doesn't mean we will be having in-person church next week, but at least there is hope. And like I've said before...the church is not the building, it is the people. The church, the body of Christ, cannot be closed. We might have left the building, but we are still the church! And

as long as we are communicating with each other, helping each other, caring for each other...there is HOPE!

We had a Session meeting last week and as promised, I've listed some of our topics...

- We started discussing procedures for returning to church. It was stated that things will not be the same. We will look at what we did during this time and decide what we liked and didn't like and try to incorporate some new things into our practice. We hope to continue putting sermons online and reaching out to our community and to people who cannot get to church.
- Session approved a motion to apply for a technology grant through the Lehigh Presbytery. This would help update some of our software, among other things.
- We are planning on having a Work Day in the near future to clean up around the outside of the buildings. If you are interested in helping, please contact Lee Bower at 570-534-8930.
- We are planning on having a professional cleaner come into the sanctuary and clean everything before our first in-person service. Hopefully, this will alleviate people's worries about being infected in the church.
- We discussed changing the time of our service to 10:00 or 10:30. Nothing was finalized, but there will be an on-going discussion in the next month or so. If you would like to offer an opinion on this, please reply to this email and I and the Session will take a look at your responses.

Fundraiser Updates:

Bill Dolph really needs you to help out with the Pocono Raceway Fundraiser. This was a great success last year and we are hoping that we can get even more volunteers this year. It will be a great way to connect with folks that you haven't seen in a long time. The dates are June 25-

28. If you can help out or you need to talk to Bill about the fundraiser, his number is 570-807-6969.

We are hoping to have the rummage sale in the fall, so we are still accepting donations. You may drop them off any Tuesday or Thursday morning when Lori is in the office. If you can get in the building, you can leave anything in the back room, off of the Sunday School room or you can leave them in the back entryway. Just let Maggie DellaFera know something is there so she can get it into the building.

The Presbyterian Women are still collecting Weis receipts. This is one of their biggest fundraisers and they would like your help. You can mail receipts to the church (address below) or you can drop them off. There will be a basket in the front hallway and one on the stairs in the back hallway.

Mike Sodano has graciously donated many LED light bulbs and the light fixtures in the sanctuary will be beaming with light when we return. Thank you, Mike!

The Lehigh, Lackawanna, and Northumberland Presbyteries are sponsoring three free online workshops on topics of concern for churches in the COVID-19 era. It is open to any pastor, ruling elder or church member who is interested. The first one is Wednesday, June 3, 2:00-3:30. This one will be on issues related to re-opening church buildings. If anyone is interested, please contact me. My info is at the end.

Reminders:

- If you need to get in touch with Ginny to either donate to the food pantry or to let her know about someone who needs supplies, her phone number is 570-476-9393 and her email address is gsodano@ptd.net.
- Make sure to continue sending in your "lily" orders. We want the sanctuary to be blooming for our "Easter" service! You can mail your money and order to the church address, written below.
- Following is the pulpit supply through June:

May 31	Rev. Rhonda Kruse
June 7	Rev. Grace Kim, with a virtual communion
June 14	Rev. David Cornell
June 21	Rev. Tom Bartha
June 28	Rev. Tom Bartha

Lori will be sending out an email reminding you of how to access the message. I also hope that you have been enjoying the music being videoed and sent to you by Midge.

- As always, I want to thank you for sending in your offerings. We have been receiving them through the mail. You may continue to do that using the address below, but if you prefer to do things digitally, another option is our online giving account. All you have to do is go to the church's webpage (shawneechurch.net) and click on the online donation button and follow the directions.

Please pray for:

Mary Resh, who was in the hospital but is now back at Grace Park.

Grace Park, Apt. 119, 1170 West Main St., Stroudsburg, PA 18360

Mary Wolbert, who is in back at home. She is on oxygen, but is doing better.

PO Box 87, East Stroudsburg, PA 18301

Kiki Pollack, who is undergoing some medical testing.

1109 Woodland Xing, East Stroudsburg, PA 18302

The family of Gerry Pritchard, a friend of Pat Markowitz, who passed away from Covid -19, and especially his wife, Sally, who is suffering through chemotherapy treatments and is not doing well.

The church's address is: PO Box 145, Shawnee on Delaware, Pa. 18356. And as a reminder, if you need to get in touch with me, my phone number is: 570-460-5754 and my email is barb514@ptd.net.

I was moved by Chera Wertz's message when she stated, ... "What I have seen over the last several weeks is people helping their neighbors, not expecting anything in return, families spending time together. Although worship looks different and we may not be in the same room, more people are hearing God's Word... This abnormally new normal, it's strange, it's different, it's scary, and there are so many words to describe the good and bad that have emerged during this time. I chose to see the good, I chose to see the love." I chose to see HOPE!

In His name,
Barb

