



Well, here we are...12 weeks into Covid-19 restrictions. It does seem like we are starting to get back to "normal", but who knows what that even means. I know many of you are anxious to get back to in-person services, and believe me, so am I, but everything points to many risks if we get together too soon. So I ask you to remain patient and keep the faith. We will be having a Session meeting on June 18 and that will be the big topic of discussion. I'll let you know how it goes. I am also including the link to the workshop that Vince and I attended last week.

Theological, Ecclesiastical & Practical Issues to Re-opening Church Buildings led by Rev. Cindy Kohlmann, Co-Moderator of the Presbyterian Church (USA) <https://youtu.be/j1iq6pgY6gc>. It is also posted on the Lehigh Presbytery website at: <https://lehighpresbytery.org/news-events/other-news/>.

I would suggest listening to this. It is very informative and will give you an idea about the risks of opening too soon.

One note from last week's newsletter. Some folks were upset that I used the terminology "police brutality". I meant no disrespect and certainly did not mean that all police officers use excess force. It was just a comment dealing with the one incident in Minneapolis. Please forgive me if I offended you.

I am very excited to announce that Rev. Darcy Hawk and his wife, Jil, will be visiting us next week. They will be arriving on Monday, June 15, and will be staying two nights. Pete Ferguson has graciously offered a room at his B&B for the Hawk's visit. Thank you, Pete! I am coordinating their visit, so if you would like to meet them, please email/text/call me and I will let you know when and where they will be.

Fundraiser Updates:

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.

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. I was not able to attend the workshop on finances yesterday, but I am sure the recording will be on the Presbytery's website and I will check it out and let you know about it. The next webinar will be on Tuesday, June 16, 1:00-3:00. This one is titled: Ideas for a Hybridized Worship Experience Between People on Zoom and People in Person. 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:

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.
- I have had some people asking me about the different designations for giving. We have given the descriptions before, but since we haven't done that recently I thought it may be helpful.

- ✚ **Mission** – supports regional and international ministry activities. As opposed to Benevolence, Mission funds go toward organizations and initiatives. Shawnee Presbyterian Church sends its Mission donations to the missions supported by the Lehigh Presbytery.
- ✚ **Benevolence** – provides individuals, whether church members or non-members, with the basic necessities of life. This is distinguished from Mission giving, which goes toward organizations and initiatives. The most common assistance includes utilities, rent/mortgage, groceries, medical expenses, etc.
- ✚ **Per Capita** – goes toward the administrative expenses of the PC(USA), distributed among the Presbytery, Synod, and General Assembly. By paying the annual Per Capita, members enable the PC(USA) to put more resources toward non-administrative functions that benefit the church and global community as a whole. The amount of Per Capita varies each year – this year it is \$39.10 per member. Shawnee Presbyterian Church must pay for every member regardless of whether that member sends in their \$39.10.
- ✚ **Building Fund** – money that goes towards the upkeep and renovation of the buildings of the church.
- ✚ **Memorial** – money that is sent in remembrance of someone who passed away. Unless otherwise stated this will be put in the General Fund
- ✚ **General Fund** – used for most church expenses. All giving that is not otherwise designated goes into the General Fund

Please continue to 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.

PO Box 87, East Stroudsburg, PA 18301

Kiki Pollack, who is undergoing some medical testing.

1109 Woodland Xing, East Stroudsburg, PA 18302

Debbie Caputo and her son Matthew. (friends of Midge) Matthew requires a kidney transplant and his Mom is his donor. Pray for them and the surgical team.

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.

In His name,

Barb

