

June 4, 2020



As we begin our eleventh week of not seeing each other, there are so many emotions going through me that I find it hard to communicate. On the one hand, I am very happy that the restrictions in our lives have started to lift, but I am also impatient, scared, anxious and tired that it is taking so long to get back to "normal". Most of all, though, I am so saddened by the police brutality, racism, riots and looting that have taken over our county. There is so much anger! It has spread from city to city, from state to state, even into other countries. When will it end? I thank Rev. Tom Bartha for his prayer of hope. As Anna Braithwaite Lehn's prayer states,

*"I cry for our world...I cry and I pray, trusting my tears mingle with your own, hoping this tearful river softens and shapes the hardest canyons of injustice-- or at least lays the groundwork. I pray and I act, moving my body and resources toward your kingdom vision, trusting my skills and gifts carry forward the new, just world you imagine and are always bringing. I remember this work is mine to do."*

Here is hoping and praying that we can do God's work and bring justice and kindness and make amends for the many injustices that have been caused by this hatred.

Fortunately, amid all this coronavirus chaos and the hatred and riots, I do have some good news to tell...

Our Pastoral Search Committee and Session are pleased to announce that we have found our Transitional Interim Pastor! We would like to introduce Reverend Darcy Hawk. He comes to us with over 35 years of experience as a pastor at a small Presbyterian Church outside of Pittsburgh. He and his wife are close with their grown daughter and son-in-law, who live in the Pittsburgh area. His interim training will be an asset to us while he assists our church to find the long-term leadership that we desire. He has indicated that he is highly motivated to support us and help us reach all of our goals. We are looking forward to him and his wife joining us at the beginning of September. They are very excited about residing in our manse and being a part of our congregation and community. A Transitional Interim Pastor is typically with a congregation for a one to three year period. Reverend Hawk will fulfill all our congregational needs, such as lead us in worship, work with our Session, provide pastoral care, and work with our committees to strengthen our

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church. We are very excited for this new chapter to begin and we want to thank the hard work and diligence of our Pastoral Search Committee.

#### Fundraiser Updates:

Unfortunately, the Pocono Raceway fundraiser has been cancelled. I believe they are still holding the races, but there will be no spectators, so therefore, no volunteers will be needed. Thank you, Bill, for all the hard work you have done! Looking forward to next year when, hopefully, things will be back to "normal" and we will be back at the raceway!

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. Both Vince and I attended the first webinar yesterday. It was very informative, but also cautioned us on opening our sanctuary too soon. There is still a lot of risk and we do not want to put anyone in danger. We will be discussing this in more detail during our June Session meeting. The next webinar will be on Wednesday, June 10, 1:00-2:30. This one will be on issues related to helping us address the effects COVID-19 has on stewardship and giving – now and in the future. 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](mailto: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.

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- Following is the pulpit supply through June:

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](http://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 in the hospital.

Lehigh Valley Hospital, Room 388, East Brown St, East Stroudsburg, PA 18301

Kiki Pollack, who is undergoing some medical testing.

1109 Woodland Xing, East Stroudsburg, PA 18302

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](mailto:barb514@ptd.net).

Hopefully, Tom Bartha will not mind if I borrow the last prayer from his email to the congregation. I feel that it gives us some hope!

*"Christ has no body but yours, no hands, no feet on earth but yours, yours are the eyes with which he looks compassion on this world, yours are the feet with which he walks to do good, yours are the hands, with which he blesses all the world..." (Prayer of St. Teresa of Avila, 1515-1582).*

In His name,

Barb