

October 1, 2020

There is a conundrum in science that involves the process of observation. When you look at something it looks back. Down below the level of atoms it can radically alter what you see. Up here on the people level we all know that weird feeling that someone or something (after all it is October) is watching. As your interim pastor my first job is to observe how you go about being a church but, you can't stop the process and, now I am part of the process. I am not seeing you as you normally go about being church and while few people would call me normal the situation pushes things further out of shape. It is an honor to be a part of your lives in this crisis and I hope to draw on the resources of past generations as well as the strength of your stories in order to guide us through these times or trial.

How Shawnee Church deals with this situation says a lot about all of us but, this is not life as usual. We all need to remember that things done now to address what is happening to us and our community are creative solutions that tax our problem solving skills. The times are odd but not unprecedented. A century ago our predecessors had to face an influenza epidemic without the medical knowledge we have today. They lost many people on the heels of a terrible world war. We are here now because they figured out ways to proceed with life.

One of my Sunday School teachers often responded to distressing situations by quoting the King James version of John's Gospel (14:27), "Let not your heart be troubled," the verse goes on to say, "neither let it be afraid." Jesus said this as he announced his departure. We join the disciples by feeling medical science has left us and, some feel authority figures have failed. What can we say in the face of these troubles? Well, Jesus said "Peace." Not the world's peace because it is in short supply right now but, a peace that is beyond comprehension; unity with God.

### **Upcoming Events:**

The Presbyterian Woman continue to participate with the ***Girls on the Run*** shoe drive. There is a bin in the back hallway of the CE building and another one in the narthex. Please donate any type of shoe - men's, women's, children's - in clean, decent shape. The bins will be emptied on a regular basis so that we do not have a stinky shoe smell in the church.

The Presbyterian Women will also be having their monthly meeting in the next few weeks. We'll be sure to notify you when the date/time have been set. The meeting will be held via ZOOM so if you're interested in participating be sure to let Maggie Della Fera know and she will be sure to provide the meeting information to you.

We continue to be a great resource for members of our community through our ***Food Pantry***. Non-perishable donations are always needed. Some suggestions include: fruit, pasta, mac and cheese, drink boxes, canned chicken, white and brown rice, salad dressing, noodles, cereal, pancake mix, syrup, and paper towels. If you need to get in touch with Ginny Sodano, her phone number is 570-476-9393 and her email address is ggodano@ptd.net. A big "thank you" to Ginny for all she does with this important ministry!

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**Prayer Concerns:** Please pray for the following people:

Tim and Diane Bowman –

Tim has been hospitalized with pneumonia. He had covid-19 earlier this year as well.

He is currently living at Slate Belt Nursing Home because of his Parkinson's.

Diane is well. Prayers for strength for her would be appreciated.

*104 Kistler Street, East Stroudsburg, PA 18301*

Jil Hawk –

As many know, Jil broke her foot before our move to Shawnee on Delaware. She has gotten permission to wear a tennis shoe around the house for a few hours a day, but she still has to take it easy!

*PO Box 305, Shawnee on Delaware, PA 18356*

Linda Jennings -

Linda fell, hurt her shoulder, and is doing better, thanks to physical therapy. Continued prayers for the healing process.

*151 Naomi Lane, East Stroudsburg, PA 18301*

Kiki Pollack –

Kiki has been diagnosed with brain cancer and has been undergoing chemotherapy.

*1109 Woodland Xing, East Stroudsburg, PA 18302*

Mary Resh –

She fell and broke her femur. Surgery resulted in a pin being implanted in her leg. She is currently in stable condition in the hospital and will be going to a rehab facility as soon as they are able to move her.

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

Mary Wolbert –

Mary is being moved to a nursing rehabilitation center in Easton so she can get better, gain strength and return home. She is also suffering from a bladder infection. Her son, Robin, is very concerned about her condition at this time, and is thankful for prayers and that we continue to think of her!

*PO Box 87, East Stroudsburg, PA 18301*

You can reach me a number of ways:

- call the church office, leave a message, 570-421-5518,
- call the manse, 570-664-6829 (yes, we have phone and internet!), or
- email to my attention at shawneechurch@verizon.net.

It's great to be connected!

God Bless!

*Darcy*