

Crescent Connections

A newsletter of Crescent Avenue Presbyterian Church
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Summer 2020

Dear Crescentonians

No one could have seen this coming---other than God. A season of pandemic wasn't something anyone was counting on. Faced with shutdowns, sheltering in place, watching death tolls and infection rates rise resulted in our world feeling like nothing we had ever known before. And yet, even in the middle of all of this, heroes emerged, great acts of compassion were offered, generosity soared and the work of the church continued (even if in new, unexpected ways). This has been a season where the mettle of our generation has been tested.

This certainly wasn't the first, nor even the worst epidemic ever to occur in history. Even as we looked back on what our forebearers did during difficult times, we made plans for dealing with what faced us and what tools we had to use for this time and in this place. Unable to gather on campus for worship, we developed worship packets and then quickly moved to online worship options. We adapted and changed and found that our hearts could be united in worship, even if we could not physically be united in praise. But the time has come for change again. In some ways back to what was 'normal' but we are all coming to understand that it will be a new normal, at least for a time.

This newsletter, which has always captured the highlights of the incredible work happening here in Christ's name, is yet again full of glimpses of God's hand in our midst. I hope you read through these articles and are touched by the miracles that have occurred, that way that God's providence has ensured His work continues, and the way we have remained faithful even during these times.

Just last week I released the information packet with the announcement of our reopening on July 5 (as indicated by my earlier video update at the 10th-week mark). This packet included Session's approved steps to help ensure the safest possible campus we could offer. It also provided for worship for those who are not yet ready to return (but we hope you will, soon!). Please read through this information carefully and call the church office if you have any questions, comments, suggestions or concerns.

As I wrote in my previous letter, even in this season of pandemic, of continued struggle for equal rights and justice for all peoples, the work of this congregation has not faltered nor have we failed to lift God's name in praise and in worship. God has remained faithful during these times and He will remain faithful in all things, calling us to do the same. May you be blessed, be well, be encouraged as we take these next wonderful steps in faith. I look forward with confidence to see God's continued grace unfold

Pastor Lynn



We know you have questions about what we are doing to help protect you during this time. Following are some questions you may have and some initial answers. Let us know if you have ore questions, we do want to hear your thoughts.

What date are we looking to open?

July 5 is our scheduled date to open the campus for worship.

Are there limitations on the number of people we can have in worship and are we required to follow a specific set of guidelines?

Although the governor has exempted religious services from limitations on sizes of gatherings the Session, in an abundance of caution, has elected to follow the guidelines as set forth for all gatherings in the state. They have carefully reviewed those guidelines and tailored them to our needs here at CAPC. Special Note: at 25% capacity we can accommodate 100 worshipers in the Sanctuary.

What will be provided for me and what should I bring to sanitize my area?

Masks and gloves are being provided if you do not have them. Hand sanitizers are available at entrances, exits and in restrooms. Also, if you are uncomfortable sitting on the pew cushions, you may bring a blanket or sheet to sit on.

What if I don't feel comfortable returning to campus just yet?

We understand. If you are ill, at risk, or just aren't ready to return, we understand. Worship packets will still be produced through the month of July. You can access them online at the website at crescentonline.org/worship-packets. When you are ready to return, we are here!

Is it okay for me to sing?

Following CDC guidelines, we are not encouraging people to sing

Will we have Coffee Fellowship?

Session has determined that for the foreseeable future we will not be having Coffee Fellowship. We will continue to review the situation and return to hosting as soon as it is determined to be safe to do so.

What if I am uncomfortable using a paper bulletin?

Online bulletins are available at crescentonline.org as well. Sign in from your mobile device or print one out at home and bring it with you.

Are restrooms open?

Although we are encouraging everyone to plan as best they can not to use the facilities, the restrooms will be open. We are asking you to utilize safe practices when using the facilities (i.e., sanitize your hands before and after, wash your hands thoroughly, please do NOT flush wipes down the toilet).

How long will these protocols be in place?

The Session recognizes that this situation is fluid and will continue to review these protocols and determine if changes need to be made.

What steps have been taken to sanitize the campus?

- The campus will be completely sanitized with products specially targeting the COVID virus prior to opening.
- Bathrooms will be equipped with hand-sanitizing stations
- Hand-sanitizing stations will be available at doorways to the church as well as the kitchen
- High-touch areas will be cleaned frequently with disinfecting cloths
- Campus doors will be propped open
- Gloves and masks will be available for your use.

What can I expect when I arrive for worship?

Please note: If you are feeling unwell we are asking you to refrain from coming to worship to protect the health and wellbeing of the congregation. You may access a worship packet at www.crescentonline.org

What should I bring with me?

Masks are mandatory, but masks are available at the Narthex

You may bring a sheet or blanket with you if you are not comfortable with sitting on the pew cushions

If you aren't comfortable with a paper bulletin published on campus, you can access one online at www.crescentonline.org

Upon Arrival

We are asking everyone to enter the Narthex on the Watchung Avenue side. Doors will be propped open, please note that all others doors will be locked.

When you enter, you should already be masked. If you do not have a mask, one will be provided for you.

Everyone's temperature will be taken. If you have a fever you will be asked to leave by the Crescent Avenue side door.

Everyone is asked to sanitize their hands. There will be someone to assist you.

Paper bulletins will be available for you. They will have been prepared under sanitary conditions (i.e., Kennedy will be using gloves to copy the bulletin). In the bulletin you will find the scripture passages and the hymns. Note: If you are not comfortable with paper bulletins, you can access them online at www.crescentonline.org.

We are asking everyone to maintain safe social distancing (six feet). Family groups may sit together. There will be a pool noodle on display in the Narthex to help you judge this distance. If anyone is not in compliance with the safe distancing practices, elders are on hand to noodle anyone coming too close.

General Worship Practices

There will be no choir, but instead there will be guest soloists to help lead us in worship. There will be no physical passing of the peace. We are asking everyone to remain in place and 'wave' your peace, acknowledging one another

Gloria Patri and Doxology will be spoken, not sung following CDC guidelines. We are also not encouraging singing of the hymns. Please note that masks must remain on at all times.

Offering plates will be available at exit to receive your offering as we will not be taking up the collection during worship.

Communion

Our first Sunday back, July 5, we will be serving Communion (and the first Sunday of each month as we normally did).

Self-contained cups of Communion elements (wafer and juice) have been purchased and will be used instead of our traditional elements. Gluten free wafers will still be provided. The elements will be passed by elders during the service (they will be gloved and masked) with Communion trays.

If you feel uncomfortable taking the elements in this fashion, there will be a supply of packaged elements at the entrance.

We are asking everyone to take the packaging with them after worship and dispose of it at the exit door.

Upon Exiting

Please drop your offerings in the plate provided near the door.

At the conclusion of the service, we ask you to take all of your personal items and items you have used during worship (i.e., Communion packaging, bulletins, etc) and discard them in the receptacles by the exit.

Everyone is asked to exit through the doorway to the church house (just to the right of the chancel) and proceed directly outside through Watchung Avenue doorway which will be propped open. We are asking everyone to maintain social distancing at all times, please refrain from gathering either in the hallways or aisles.

We are very excited to get everyone back and we know that it will be difficult not to shake hands and hug each other. For the time being we will need to do these things with our eyes and from a distance. We want to make sure that everything is being done to keep us all safe. We look forward to seeing you all soon!





LORD HELP US BREATHE AGAIN

A Prayer by Darcella Sessomes, PTS Intern

(Genesis 2:7 inspired)

Gracious and Holy God, your word says that you formed man of the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the **breath of life**; and we became a living soul.

Lord When you breathed into these earthen vessels, we call the human bodies, all different shades, and genders, Lord, we became Alive. We thank you, Lord, for your breath of life. And because you gave the breath of life to your people, we pray that you protect us from those who would want to take the breath away.

Lord, in a world where we are feeling as if we are suffocating due to an abundance of hatred and a lack of love,
Lord, we can't breathe;

Lord In a world where we see a select group of your sheep is targeted with modern-day injustice and unfairness
Lord, we can't breathe;

Lord in a world where justice feels as if it is crushed to the earth to arise no more
Lord, we can't breathe;

Lord in a world when wrong seems as if its forever on the throne and hope is fleeting
Lord, we can't breathe.

Lord God Almighty, with that single breath, you created your people so that we could live a healthy and fulfilled life in community with one another. A life filled with joy, peace, kindness, faith, love, and freedom. Lord, we pray that you breathe in your people again. Fill us abundantly with the oxygenated power of your holy spirit. Reconnect us to humanity as only you can and in a way that pleases you. Fill us with the breath of unconditional love for one another in the same manner you loved us. Grant us grace and peace as only you can. Amen.



VSK Does Double Duty During the Pandemic...

During May and June VSK served hot lunches on Tuesdays and Thursdays and the turnout and appreciation of the guests on both days showed it was a worthwhile effort. The need for food was greater during the early days of the pandemic and this was a way to put the extra donations to our food ministry to good use. We served from +/- 115 to a high count of 146 meals on the days we were open.

I would like to give special thanks to the Tuesday volunteers who also came in on Thursdays- Rich Mirocco, Janet Ramsey and Barbara Ridzy. Doing double duty in the heat of June was especially appreciated! Thank you to the other Thursday volunteers, Dorothy DeGeorge, Joan Mileski, and Joan van Pelt. And, of course, my thanks to the faithful Tuesday volunteers who helped during this time: Mary Claire Givelber, Joanne Macaluso and BJ Snyder. Even Pastor Lynn jumped in when extra hands were needed.

Starting July 7- we are returning to our usual Tuesday service. The stress on our dear Chef Kevin of pulling together two hot meals a week with the attendant shopping, preparation and clean up was certainly going the extra mile but as other organizations are providing a meal on Thursday (Salvation Army), we determined we could return to our regular schedule.

Our Costco pick up volunteers are an essential part of our lunch service: Jo-Ann Bandomer, Gary Mann, Emily Upton, Joan van Pelt and Darcella Sessomes. Extra credit and thanks to Emily and BJ who always make time to pack lunch bags for the daily giveaway, especially as the Tuesday/Thursday volunteers are usually too busy to pack lunch bags on those days. Their help with this has been crucial to the lunch bag program.

The dedication of the VSK volunteers cannot be overstated. Without them none of this would be possible. Kudos to Chef Kevin for always managing to put together a delicious hot meal that the guests love and for being willing to whip up scrambled eggs and veggies for late comers when the original menu items run out!

It's been a busy time, but the appreciation on the faces of our guests makes it all worthwhile.

Pat Fleming
VSK Chair

Mission and Outreach

Though the Covid-19 virus has hit our community, CAPC continues to be blessed by local charities and individuals that are willing to donate to our food services programs. With their generosity, we were able to add another Valarie's Soup Kitchen day on Thursday during the months of May and June. Thursday soup kitchen days will cease starting in July but Tuesday "Take Out" will continue! We are deeply grateful to Kevin and all the volunteers that made the commitment to Thursday service on behalf for the Plainfield community.

The committee is grateful to the following agencies that have donated food to us:

COSTCO
United Way of Greater Union County
ISE Farms, Inc. (BJ Snyder's daughter)
Ministerio Abundante

CAPC partnered with several organizations as together we battled hunger in the midst of the pandemic. We worked with the United Way of Greater Union County to distribute 3,000 boxes of food; and provided food to the following organizations:

Plainfield YMCA Food Security Project
Deacon's Closet of the Dunellen Presbyterian Church
Unitarian Church for their monthly grocery distribution
Living Hope Church



The Mission Committee in conjunction with Membership and Evangelism provided care baskets for Pastor Lynn, along with other front line members Kathy West-Aaron, Jacque Archer-Kennedy, Sally Nkellefack, Laura Mann and David Brown. Also, we were able to purchase gift cards purchased for our congregation first responders who work on the front lines in NY and NJ.

Hand made face masks were made with care by Dominique Stevens, BJ Snyder and Mrs. Rowe and were distributed to church members that work in the healthcare field, to volunteers at the Soup Kitchen and to others who were in need of this vital protection. Thank you to our generous sewers!



FROM THE OCEAN GROVE FIRST AID SQUAD;

Pastor Lynn - On Friday, May 15th, our 2 crews enjoyed dinner from Local Smoke BBQ and wanted to thank Pastor Lynn and Crescent Avenue Presbyterian Church, Plainfield, NJ, for the gift card. And also thank you for the gift card for Bruno's - that will probably go to good use this week! Yum!

Thank you for thinking of our squad during this pandemic. We are proud we have been able to serve and help the public during this health crisis.

Keep those prayers coming.

Thank you,

Jeff - Captain, OGFAS



Two large lawn signs showing CAPC's support of our local essential workers are proudly displayed in front of the church and at the Watchung Avenue entrance. We want to continue to thank and recognize all those who helped us through this difficult season and continue to serve!



Finance & Stewardship

What great news from the financial front! The Endowment Fund rebounded a bit and we received the Payroll Protection Loan/grant in the amount of \$34,400 (thanks to the incredible efforts of Gary Mann who was tireless in his follow up!). This windfall offset the loss of rental income.. Even offering income was higher than budget! What a blessing to be in relatively good shape financially! We received another \$20,000 from the Snyder Trust for our food program during the month of May and our Food Ministries continue to be well funded. Individuals and organizations continue to be generous and thus are truly making a HUGE difference in this congregation. THANK YOU!



Membership and Evangelism

Thank you to Pastor Lynn for all the great Facebook posts, especially those of our beautiful building and grounds during our time apart. And the Puzzler of the Day posts have been SO much fun and an important way to stay connected with our beloved CAPC.

Committee members have continued to reach out to CAPC members and friends. What started with an idea to bring plants to our homebound members “blossomed” into the idea of dropping off a small surprise flower to local folks along with a clever saying and with a message of encouragement.

In conjunction with Mission and Outreach, the committee put together and delivered special “Care Baskets” for our front-line members. These consisted of health and beauty products designed to encourage recipients to pamper and care for themselves. A personal note for each included thanks for the care and service they have shown in the community and in their jobs. Recipients Jacque Archer-Kennedy, David Brown, Laura Mann, Kathy West-Aaron, Pastor Lynn, and Sally Nkellefack, were surprised and touched. **THANK YOU AGAIN TO OUR FRONT-LINE FOLKS!**



Pastor Lynn has been more than amazing getting worship services out to members and friends via email and also posting on our website. I do not think any of us realize the tremendous learning curve this has been and the amount of effort involved.

This does not say enough, but **THANK YOU** Pastor Lynn for keeping us all connected and cared for!



2019-2020..What a Sunday School Year It Has Been!

by

Stephanie DeGeneste, Director of Children's Ministries

There isn't a Sunday School program year that kicks off without the usual excitement and fanfare, but there were heightened expectations this year because we would be celebrating CAPC's 175th anniversary. The members of the Sunday School team, Pat Baker, Janice Haer, Chrystal McArthur and I, wanted to do something special to commemorate Crescent's milestone event, so we decided to create a customized curriculum which we entitled, So Great A Cloud of Witnesses. Our Bible verse for the year was Hebrews 12:1, "Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us." Our overall goal was to reveal to our students that throughout history God has used all sorts of people to accomplish His work, including those of us who are living today, and not just the people in the Bible or Crescentonians who lived long ago. We wanted the year's Sunday School lessons to showcase great people of faith, who like us weren't perfect, but God still used them greatly. During our first lesson we shared the names of Crescent pastors and our students were very surprised to find out that Pastor Lynn is the first installed female pastor in the history of the church. From September-November 2019 our lessons featured Adam & Eve, Cain & Abel, Noah, Abraham & Sarah, Jacob, Joseph, and Jonah. In December we worked on and presented our own original Readers Theater, Jesus is the Reason for the Season. In January 2020 we resumed our study of people in the Bible by looking at the lives of Moses and David. During Black History Month we explored the lives of Dr. Condoleezza Rice, Rev. James Pennington, Ida B. Wells, and on the 4th Sunday of the month the students and teachers made their Black History presentations about famous people and things connected to African American heritage that sparked their particular interest. On March 1st we studied about Ruth and on March 8th our lesson featured Esther. Things seemed to be moving along so nicely, and then it happened- the effects of the corona virus pandemic hit us like a ton of bricks, as was the case with everyone else in the world.

Out of an abundance of caution Pastor Lynn cancelled Sunday School on March 15th. When Governor Murphy's Executive Order took effect and houses of worship were closed to on-campus services and ministries, CAPC started online worship on March 22nd, and on that same day our Sunday School teachers offered the first class via Zoom. We refused to be deterred. Realizing how challenging and frightening the Covid-19 situation is to everyone, but especially to children, we had two lessons designed to help our students see that their faith in an unfailing God could help them during such difficult times. We concluded our 2019-2020 program year with lessons about Palm Sunday, Easter, Peter, Paul, Timothy, and



Pentecost. After a review lesson on June 7th, our time with our Sunday School students culminated with an Awards Celebration on June 14th. What a Sunday School year it had been! We witnessed so much spiritual growth, resilience, creativity, diligence, determination, and collaboration, and all of this was cause for great celebration. Deidra McIntyre created a special slide presentation that reviewed our year in pictures. Pat Baker designed special awards for our students, whose grades range from pre-school to high school, to acknowledge their Sunday School attendance and participation in various ministries and service activities such as the Souper Bowl of Caring, Heifer International, Junior Usher and Greeter, Acolyte, the Soup Kitchen, Coffee Hour Fellowship, Black History presentations, and this year's Christmas program, Jesus is the Reason for the Season. Pat went the extra mile and created recognition awards for the teachers, including a special certificate for Pastor Lynn who joined us on zoom for the vast majority of the lessons. Her remarks always added special insight about the topic under discussion and her closing prayers brought great encouragement and comfort to us. This year's Student of the Year, Derion Amah, demonstrated one of the reasons he was honored with that distinction when he recited from memory Janice Haer's original poem Go. Be. Love., created for our study about Timothy. Her poem, a call to action for all of us to be living examples of God's work in our lives, reads:

Go. Be. Love.

by

js. haer

05.15.2020

None are too old
or too young
to hear the Word of God.

None are too old
or too young
to tell the Word of God.

None are too old
or too young
to live the Word of God

In all you do and say,
do and say in a God pleasing way.

Go - be a living example of Christ's love
in this world.

Go - be a living example of Christ's love
for this world.

Go - be a living example of Christ's love
to this world.

Go. Be. Love.

A Sunday School year that started out with heightened expectations, but one that was fraught with all sorts of hardships and challenges, yet still comingled with joys and accomplishments, ended in a way that far exceeded our expectations. We are so proud of all our Sunday School students: Derion and Divya Amah, Kristopher and Nicolas Archer-Kennedy, Malanee Boyd, Iyana Butler, Matthew Fagan, Lincoln & Colton Fyffe, Jasia Harris, Isley McArthur, Nina & Xavier McIntyre, Wendy Nkellefack,

Meshack Odawo, Kendell Richards, Paris Stephens, and Jordan, Morgan & Ryan Williams. What was achieved with God help was far above anything we could have envisioned at the start of the 2019-2020 program year. I think it bears repeating, 2019-2020...What A Sunday School Year It Has Been!





Worship, Music & the Arts

As we continue to worship apart from one another, Pastor Lynn continued to bring us together by continuing to add new ways to upgrade our worship offerings. In addition to our Worship Packet, she had added a live stream option. The Worship Packet will continue to be offered through July.

Glen Crane continues to take the Word document of the Worship Packet and converts it to a PDF form to post on our website along with the live stream video. He is also organizing sermons by series. Scott Snyder has been taping our live stream services. Scott has used his own tripod to allow for smoother panning and more professional quality camera work (he is, after all, a true professional, we are very lucky!) Thank you, Scott!

Once the recording is done, Pastor Lynn takes all of the elements and uses her video production skills on Adobe Pro to actually produce the videos. Then, once uploaded to YouTube, publishes them and even posts to Facebook.

For our live stream video, various members of the congregation volunteered and come down to church to be the lector (Joan Pivnichny, BJ Snyder, Jeff & Julie Downing, Glen & Drude Crane, Geraldine Harvey, Pat Baker, Emily Upton).

A special addition to our worship packets has been original poetry prepared by Elder Janice Haer. Janice's talents have been a wonderful addition not only to our service, but we will be looking to publish her work as well. Thank you, Janice!

On Pentecost Sunday, Lia Haynes performed a beautiful interpretative dance for the sermon hymn. What a blessing it was to have Lia expand our worship experience in such a powerful way.

For Memorial Day, Pastor Lynn produced a short video consisting of a brief remark and prayer, and while Cameron played his own arrangement of "America the Beautiful" as the honor rolls of those who served in both world wars, and the Korean and Vietnam conflicts were shown.

As we plan to return to live worship on July 5-, new protocols will be in place per the document you have previously received from Pastor Lynn (and included in this newsletter as well!). Two things to highlight are as follows.

The children's sermon will be presented in two forms. Since the worship packet will still be offered, Stephanie will record her message via video just as she has been doing. In addition, her remarks will appear in printed form in the bulletin.

Communion will occur on July 5 with changes in the way communion will be prepared and served. Preparers will be gloved and masked. Only two people will serve as the manner of distribution will be different. Because there will be a minimum of two pews between where people sit, the serving elder will pass through the empty pew and serve each person. The tray will not be passed by the congregants. The elders will only go out to the congregation once as the elements are prewrapped and all in one. In addition to masks being worn, serving elders will also wear gloves. There will also be a supply of pre-packaged Communion elements in the Narthex for anyone uncomfortable with being served.

Even in the midst of a pandemic, Crescentonians continued to worship, serve and praise God. Whether it is virtually or in person, we have held to our faith and trust in God as a constant. Thank you to everyone who worshipped with us (and even included extended family in their services as well!). You have each been a blessing.

Hope to see you back in worship on July 5! We are excited to gather once again as a community of faith, as the Body of Christ, as the disciples God has called us to be, rejoicing in His Holy Name.



Harmonic Brass Postponed

Another victim of the pandemic, Harmonic Brass has been forced to postpone their fall concert tour of the northeast United States. Plans are now underway to combine the fall tour with the late winter tour of the central states. Mindful of the long relationship CAPC has with the Brass, Hans Zeller has assured us of a prime place in their schedule. Of course, the schedule will ultimately be determined by government regulations on travel as well as appropriate social distancing for the audience. As of now – we hope to have Harmonic Brass in our Sanctuary in mid February 2021.



From Our Director of Music

Wow! I have had the privilege of being a part of the Crescent Avenue community for nearly a year. Though it is not too often that we get to see each other due to my commute from Delaware! In this article, I wanted to take some time and share with you a bit about myself and my life outside of CAPC. Let's start at the very beginning, a very good place to start...

I was born on August 8, 2001 in Wilmington, DE. I have always lived in Wilmington. I grew up attending mass at St. Matthews Roman Catholic Church where I would soon be the Assistant Organist in Residence. I began studying music at the age of seven at the Music School of Delaware, though it was never something I wanted to pursue as a career. For as long as I could remember, I wanted to enter the seminary to become a catholic priest. I always felt called to that, until I realized many of the things I could accomplish as a musician. In the fifth grade I auditioned for Cab Calloway School of the Arts as a piano and voice major. I was then accepted and began my studies the following year, while still continuing at the Music School of Delaware.

During my middle school career, I began studying cello and organ, two instruments I fell in love with. I continued my studies at Cab Calloway for seven years until my graduation this past June. Throughout the past two years I have started a vocal group called the Cab Calloway Chamber Singers, a group of about six to eight students who get together every Thursday night at my house and sing some REALLY difficult music. This has been a joy for me. Over the past year I have been studying at Cab Calloway, The Music School of Delaware, and The Juilliard School in NYC. At Juilliard I studied organ performance, master level theory and ear training, orchestral conducting, and the study of Johann Sebastian Bach. All very challenging classes, though very enjoyable.

I am thrilled to be a part of the community at Crescent Avenue and am happy to do whatever I can for the Glory of God, Solo Dei Gloria. "We sing the notes on the page, But it is GOD who makes the Music" - J. S. Bach

Peace and Blessings, Cameron J. S. Kuzepski, FGMS Director of Music Crescent Avenue Presbyterian Church Cab Calloway Chamber Singers P.S. Choir Members - when we return to singing together in the choir room. Posted somewhere you will see that quote from J.S. Bach!

Spirituals in Concert - February 23, 2020

If pictures say a thousand words, we don't even have to say another word! Congratulations and many thanks to EVERYONE who made this concert such a great success! Definitely one for the books!





Seasons (A Pandemic Reflection)

Ecclesiastes 3:1 Matt.28:20

js. haer
07.01.2020

Seasons come.
Seasons go.
Seasons come and go
year after year
in expected order...
summer, fall, winter, spring
summer, fall, winter, spring.

Seasons of the year
bring rhythm and routine to our life
always knowing when
it is time for this
time for that...
an assurance that
all is well
in our life...
and with the world.

Sometimes
the seasons of our life
come not of our own timing or choosing
and never expected, asked for, wished for...
seasons when what we thought we knew
we no longer know or...
know how to know.

Sometimes
the seasons of our life
bring us disorder
sometimes uncertainty
sometimes unrest.
But God is
all Knowing and abides in our unknowing.
God is
Order and abides in our disorder.
God is
Certainty and abides in our uncertainty.
God is
Rest and abides in our unrest.

God is God
of all seasons...
expected and unexpected.
God is God
in all seasons...
expected and unexpected.
He will never forsake or abandon us.
He will always
guide us, sustain us, strengthen us
if we but reach out
our hand to Him.
His hands of Peace and Love and Comfort are...
Waiting. For. You.



Scenes from Easter April 12, 2020

Easter 2020 was, we are sure, like nothing Crescent Avenue Presbyterian Church had ever experienced. Yet, we were there, as in ages past, celebrating the empty tomb, either on the CAPC front lawn or worshipping at home online. For those of us who were on campus, it was incredibly moving and hopeful to peek into our marvelous Sanctuary and see the Chancel adorned with lilies, to look up at our spire reaching up to Heaven, to hear the famous bell ring strongly and gloriously. (Thank you Pastor Lynn, Henry and Ron!) Lilies were sent home to adorn congregant's homes. We are each so blessed!

Christ is Risen! Christ is Risen Indeed!



a NEW thing!
Isaiah 43:19

By Darcella Sessomes

Yes, beloved God is in charge of everything

But faith without works is dead, which means you don't get to sit in pity and do nothing

It requires that you fight for your rights, GET UP begin to do something!

Rise up Oh Nation, let the Lord hear the advance praise you sing

Indeed the hurt they inflict is painful and has started to sting

But the pain they caused can't compared to the wrath that will by brought by the King

They despise the fact that every day you rise because it's a victory bell your presence rings

All while historical untruths and hate they love to sling

But the God of justice sits high and looks low and to THIS comfort you must cling

You've faced so many injustices and your prayers to God you must continue to bring

In faith ask for peace in the storm for the King can do anything.

Then sit back and watch GOD work, for GOD promised he will do a NEW thing.



Buildings & Grounds



Though we have not officially been open, much has still been done on the CAPC campus. The light in the tower has been repaired and the bell rope replaced. (Thank you Henry for scaling those scary heights!) The Assembly room floors have been refinished and the sanctuary floors have been cleaned yet again before our reopening for worship. (Again, thank you Henry!)



The sanctuary has been disinfected prior to official opening and hand sanitizer stations have been installed.

Tom Rowe (who dedicated his labor during this season AND donated his entire stimulus check to the Food Ministries program here at CAPC) completed the following:

- . installed mirror in Session bathroom
- . installed handrails on stage (front and back)
- . repaired foot lights on stage (broken during an event)
- . secured banners (front and back), installed last month to recognize front line workers
- . installed bike racks
- . installed shield for outside unit for walk in freezer
- . installed cabinet doors for Director of Facilities desk

Check out all that has been done here on campus. The choir room (being repainted by our own Director of Music) is scheduled to be finished repainting as well. Even a pandemic doesn't stop work here at CAPC! In addition, we are currently working to secure the repaving of at least one parking lot on campus.



From the Desk of The Director of Facilities **Dominique Stevens**

During the COVID-19 pandemic, some CAPC events have been restructured to meet the needs of the community. We continue to open the facilities to The First Unitarian Church's (FUSP) mission, so they provide groceries to the increasing number of families that need food. FUSP's requirements have been relaxed, making it easier for all families to receive groceries during this time. (FUSP can be contacted at 908.312.1815).

Worship service renters such as Fountain of Praise and Ministerio, have changed the look of their services to on-line, similar to CAPC and other worship institutions.

Many of the events scheduled for 2020 have been tentatively rescheduled for late 2020 or 2021. Unfortunately, we have had a few cancellations. Promisingly, we booked a new wedding for October of 2021 and rental of the large classroom for the school term beginning Sept 2020 through June 2021.

I have been taking this time to restructure the building usage documents and fees to ensure we are comparable to facilities similar to CAPC. In addition, I am working on wedding-package pricing, as well as guidelines/pricing for CAPC sponsored, CAPC member and staff events. The first draft of these documents have been submitted to Session for approval.

All incoming calls for events continue to be forwarded to my cell phone, as not to miss any opportunities. I have started looking at unused rooms on floor 3rd to determine the best way to redesign and make more attractive to renters who are interested smaller (classroom events, conferences, etc.).

As we look forward to welcoming new events, we will have to support a reopening plan which includes reducing room capacity, constant sanitizing of common areas and enforcement of physical spacing. Our doors will be opened for events only when we can offer spaces that are safe for our guests and our event staff.



175th Anniversary Committee

The amazing CAPC 175- Anniversary Celebration Year of concerts, Gala, Homecoming weekend etc. culminated as it began, with a festive brunch. These are some scenes from the wonderful food and fellowship!



CAPC Puzzlers – During the pandemic we engaged in posting pictures on Facebook and quizzed everyone to test their knowledge. Here are just a few pictures. Do you know where these are? See answers on bottom.



Top left: Cross on front lawn sign; Top right: artwork based on the Book of Tobit, located in Chapel; Middle left: end of bannister leading to choir room; Bottom left: Organ pull stops; Right: cabinet in Bride's Room.

2020 Leadership

ELDERS

Class of 2020

Leslie Fagan
Kathy Mann
BJ Snyder
Kathy West-Aaron
Joan Pivnichny

Class of 2021

Pat Baker
Glen Crane
Janna Peterson
Andre McIntyre
Jacque Archer-Kennedy

Class of 2022

Henry Ward
Thylene Torres
Janice Haer
Emily Upton
Laura Mann

Clerk of Session:

Joan
Pivnichny

Administration:

Joan
Pivnichny
Emily Upton

B&G

Community

Partnerships

Congregational Care

Henry Ward
Joan
Pivnichny
Laura Mann

Nick Stevens, Janna Peterson
Dominique Stevens

Sherrie Granger, Darcella Sessomes,
Barbara Wensberg, Noelle Perrine,
Kathy Mann, Chrystal McArthur,
Dominique Stevens, Janna Peterson,
Jacque Archer- Kennedy, Kathy West- Aaron
Janice Haer, Jacque Archer-Kennedy, Stephanie
DeGeneste, Chrystal McArthur, Deidra McIntyre,
Sally Nkellefack

Education & Discipleship:

Pat Baker

Finance & Stewardship:

Kathy Mann

Gary Mann, Joan Pivnichny, Andre McIntyre

Membership & Evangelism:

BJ Snyder

Janice Haer, Jacqueline Archer-Kennedy,
Andre McIntyre, Deidra McIntyre,
Edwin Opoku, Janna Peterson, Noelle Perrine,
Laura Villanueva, Thylene Torres,
Georgiana Manu, Sherrie Granger,
Julie Downing

Mission & Outreach:

Andre
McIntyre

Sam Diony, Noelle Perrine, Thylene Torres, Leslie
Fagan

Valarie's Soup Kitchen:

Patricia
Fleming

Pat Baker, Leslie Fagan, Winnie Neal, Sherrie
Granger, Janna Peterson

Nominating:

Laura Mann,
Janice Haer

Drude Crane, Dominique Stevens,
David Brown

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|---|
| Personnel & Admin: | Joan Pivnichny, Pat Baker | Janice Haer, Henry Ward |
| Worship, Music & Arts: | Janice Haer | Glen Crane, Drude Crane, Jeff Downing, Henry Manu, Jacque Archer-Kennedy, Janna Peterson, Wendy Reid, Stephanie De Geneste, BJ Snyder, Norma Fagan, Kathy West-Aaron, Geraldine Harvey |

STAFF

| | | |
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Pray for Peace – Maya Angelou

Father, Mother, God, Thank you for your presence during the hard and mean days. For then we have you to lean upon. Thank you for your presence during the bright and sunny days, for then we can share that which we have with those who have less.

the Holy Days, for then we are able to friends. For those who have no voice, we unworthy, we ask you to pour your love who live in pain, we ask you to bathe those who are lonely, we ask you to keep depressed, we ask you to shower upon them the light of hope. Dear Creator, You, the borderless sea of substance, we ask you to give to all the world that which we need most—Peace



And thank you for your presence during celebrate you and our families and our ask you to speak. For those who feel out in waterfalls of tenderness. For those them in the river of your healing. For them company. For those who are