

May 20, 2020

Brothers and Sisters

It is a joy to write to you again; please know that even though we are not together you are in my thoughts and prayers constantly. It is a joy to serve Jesus alongside faithful followers of our Lord.

Many of you are wondering when we will be able to worship again in person within our sanctuary now that the Governor has moved our county to the "Yellow Phase". Session recently considered the limitations included within the Yellow Phase and the CDC guidelines for religious communities. While the new phase has softened the stay at home order for many people, social distancing of 6 feet is still recommended. Session expressed concern in our inability to provide this safe space within our sanctuary even with moving chairs around. Along with the distancing recommendation this phase also limits the number of people who can gather for any event to 25 people. It is with these guidelines in mind that the Session recently determined to not worship in our building during the "Yellow Phase". The health and wealth of our members and visitors, children and those most vulnerable, is our upmost concern.

While we wait for a time to gather safely our congregation continues to meet on-line via Zoom on Sunday mornings. There was a slight hiccup this past Sunday, yet this congregation persisted, and we worshipped God together. My apologies to those who were unable to join us this past week. We have set forth a new plan to contact everyone by email or phone when plans change at the last minute. On-line worship has been a blessing for many of us. Our attendance has increased 45-50% since going on-line. It is great to see and hear everyone each week. Please continue to share the information about worship with your friends, neighbors, and family members. Many churches are not offering any worship opportunities during this time of closed buildings, some are offering a Facebook or You-tube service to watch at your convenience. Zoom provides one critical component these others do not offer – **community**. So, invite your friends, not just to worship, but to our community during these isolated times.

During this time of social distancing, there are several ways to find companionship within our church community. You are welcome to join in.

- Sunday morning at 9:30 is Adult Bible Study led by Becky Petronsky. Children meet every other Sunday for Sunday School (*check with Heather Campbell for details 412-860-1142*).
- We gather on Wednesday evenings at 7 pm for intercessory prayer.
- Thursday afternoons at 2:30 we check in with each other just to chat.
- Friday evenings the Youth of all ages gather at 6:30 for games and a Bible lesson.

Please join us on-line or by phone for these times of precious community. You may sign in with the information that you use on Sunday morning for any of these events.

Mark you calendar for **Sunday, May 31st**. This is Pentecost Sunday and the youth will be leading worship to celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit upon the Early Church and the Church today. The youth have worked very hard from each of their homes to craft a worship service which honors God. We are blessed with an abundance of talented and dedicated youth who love Jesus and look forward to leading worship. So spread the word and be sure to sign on to Zoom on May 31st.

As you can clearly see the ministry of Carnegie Presbyterian Church continues despite the current status of the quarantine. We are available to support those who are in need, so please reach out if you or someone you know is in need during this time. Please continue to support the ministry of this church with your offerings, as you are able. Your donations are important at this time.

As always, my “door” is open. Feel free to contact me if you have concerns, are in need, or have ideas of how we can be “**the church**” during this unique time.

May you experience God’s presence daily

Colleen

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