



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Shelbyville, Tennessee

Weekly Newsletter

April 4, 2020



Virtually the Church

The church building has been eerily quiet during these days of voluntary quarantine. Hopefully you are all well and safe at home, not getting cabin fever, and still enjoying the company of your loved ones.

Current conditions have left us with a surreal reality. The “social distancing” has curtailed cultural activities that we often take for granted like going to cinemas or restaurants and coffee shops, not to mention church. Though some people yearn for the good ol’ days when everybody wasn’t in such a rush and living had less to do with driving around on a whim, our present days rely on the latest communication technology that keeps us connected and at least somewhat productive. It’s a weird juxtaposition. I’ve noticed how much quieter it is now.

In her book *Liturgy of the Ordinary*, Tish Harrison Warren suggests that life with a regular space for quiet is a necessity for sustained living. She says we’ve gotten so accustomed to over the top busyness, loud, entertainment oriented culture that we’ve become personally dull and hollowed out. Life without all that stuff isn’t boring. We are the boring ones.

She recommends that we cultivate liturgies of everyday activities. Waking up in the morning can be a liturgy of new life inside the identity that God gave you. Making up your bed can be a liturgy of reveling in the organization of creation. Eating left overs rather than your favorite fancy treat can be a liturgy of gratitude for grace and God’s nourishing providence. For her, all these things, and any other such ritual of the ordinary that you can imagine, pushes back at market driven culture and instead celebrates God’s culture and the presence of God’s spirit in our everyday lives. What liturgies can you imagine?

Our Session has met by email and voted to continue to keep the church quiet for the through Easter but that may extend until May because stronger quarantine measures from the state government may be immanent. We will continue to broadcast church services from the sanctuary where only I will be personally present. So Palm Sunday services this week will be on Facebook and will not include communion. Holy week will certainly be different than in the past and Maundy Thursday communion and Easter celebration are the subject of current planning. Your Session plans to meet regularly by electronic means.

Please keep each other in your prayers and know that Cindy and I are praying for you and your families and that we will continue to bring you the best religious experiences that we can over the internet.

Peace be with you,

Allen

Backpacks Spring 2020

150 boxes of food for Bedford County kids...Thank you for making this ministry fruitful.



Back row- Dawson Hasty, Cade Caldwell, Hunter Wilhelm, Robbie Watkins, Manny Stewart, Devyn Heath, Taylor Glover, Lee Freitag. Middle - Laura Conte, Maddie Hittle, Abby Hittle, Molly Jensen, Zoe Jensen, Ean Matussek, Morgan McCormick. Front- Annie Grace Jensen, Dallas Wilson, Lydia West, Makenna Lamb, Sophie Miller, Delaney Curtis

A Message from Ms. Cindy

Sundays...always so busy and so frantic that sometimes I really have trouble enjoying them. But last Sunday was different. The only preparation that I had to do was do the video for the kid's lesson, and then I settled in to watch our church service on Allen's Facebook page.

Sometimes people that work in Children's/Youth Ministry feel isolated and don't have the opportunity to worship with the rest of the congregation. And as I "tuned in" to Allen's Facebook live, I still felt a little isolated. Until I started seeing the comments of the members of First Presbyterian that were watching the same service. It felt as if we were all in the same room together! The sermon was amazing and I know we were all thankful to have words of hope and encouragement from our pastor.

I just finished talking to some of the youth in our church, getting their take on what is going on in the world today. I thought maybe you would appreciate hearing from them and seeing that not only are we affected by all of this, but so are our children. Here's what they had to say:

Grace Wilhelm: *I am frustrated. I don't like missing school. I have some online work, but it is not near as engaging as being in the classroom with my friends. I am worried about certain things, one being that one of my family members might get the Coronavirus. I don't want my grandparents to get it. I am praying a lot. I am praying for the sick people and I am also reading my Bible every night.*

Ean Matussek: *I have pretty much stayed inside and am doing assigned work from school. I have been golfing, and I think that is ok because I am social distancing while doing this sport. I have also been helping my granddad do some work. I really miss my friends and I feel like I am missing good educational opportunities while being at home. But I am glad of one thing...that we will be missing the yearly testing. I am worried that some of my older family members might get the virus. I think I am pretty safe because of my age. I try to stay away from the news.*

Ms. Cindy continued....

Sara Flannagan: *I really haven't thought a lot about what is going on. Sometimes I hear things on the news and I worry about when all this is going to end and IF it's going to end. I am pretty bored and I miss my friends. Before school was out, my teacher made a big packet of work for us to take home. Next week, we'll be doing some online stuff. I am not able to be on my travel basketball team and I am sad about that. There is really nothing positive about what is going on right now. I did listen to the online sermon on Sunday and I liked that.*

Parents, just as your children are doing classwork because you don't want them to get out of the habit of learning, please continue their spiritual learning as well. Here is a list of websites that you can go to with some great lessons and resources. Don't forget to check out our Kid's Facebook page

(<https://www.facebook.com/First-Presbyterian-Kids-Shelbyville>)

where you will find learning activities and your child can join our Trivia Contest!

For Parents: <https://parentcuestore.org/> <https://d6family.com/category/parenting/>

For Kids: <http://www.virtualchurch.org/vchurch/kids.htm> <https://www.adventurebible.com/>

For Youth: <https://open.life.church/categories/315-youth>

<https://www.josh.org/resources/youth-family/daily-devotions/youth/>

Love, *Ms. Cindy*

Easter Trivia

Ms. Cindy invites you to Easter Trivia. You can find the trivia questions and be able to respond at:

<https://www.facebook.com/First-Presbyterian-Kids-Shelbyville>

What are you up to at home?



Continued on next page.....



Let us know how you are spending this time at home. Respond to the email:

first.pres.church600@gmail.com

Youth Room Update



Thank you, Billie.
POD kids love you!

Parent's Day Out

