



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Shelbyville, Tennessee
December 13, 2020
Third Sunday of Advent~Joy



Dear Friends,

As always, I hope this weekly communication finds you and your loved ones in good health. Especially now as we are in the midst of an epic surge of infections and deaths caused by the COVID-19 virus. Our hospitals are becoming overwhelmed and patients in need of ICU beds are unable to secure them with some in hallways on gurneys.

Folks, we need to remain vigilant in our battle against this unseen but deadly enemy. Please, please, please, wear a mask, limit your visits to public places, sanitize your hands and if you are in public please keep as far apart from others as you possibly can and then sanitize your hands when you leave. Did I mention to wear a mask?

That's not what I had intended to lead off with this week but sometimes a writer doesn't know where the words are going to take him or her.

What I wanted to say was to pick up on something I mentioned in my sermon this past Sunday. I said for someone to stay focused on their tasks, day in and day out it really helps to have a reason, a "why" for what you are doing. What we do must have meaning and purpose for us.

I see our weekly Profession of Faith during worship as a way of reminding us why we do what we do and say what we say as Christians and particularly as Presbyterian and Reformed Christians.

You will have noticed by now that rather than confessing our support of the tenets in the Apostles' Creed week in and week out I have been using scripture, and excerpts from the two books that make up our denomination's constitution, our governing documents so to speak.

These, of course, are superseded by scripture. They are in fact our interpretation of scripture. Or as my theology professor in seminary, Dr. John Leith, would say, it is the application of our exegesis of scripture.

I hope you are finding them helpful and informative. I will continue to work the Apostles' Creed in. I like it and it a part of our denomination's confessions. It is also one of the creeds of the early church before it split into the Eastern and Western branches that still exist today.

That split occurred in 1054 AD and is known as the Great Schism. Then about 500 years later in 1517 the Western Church, also known as the Roman Catholic Church, split again. It was during this Protestant Reformation that our denomination was born.

I hope you find these professions of faith helpful. Like I said, for me at least, they help provide a reminder of the reason for why we worship the way we do and why we structure our ministries the way we do. These guardrails help keep us from veering too far afield in seeking new ways to be relevant in the world as we pass along the gospel message of God's great love.

Take care. Stay safe.

Grace and Peace,
Taylor

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY ~SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2020

Third Sunday of Advent~Joy

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Dr. Taylor Todd

Youth and Children's Announcements

Cindy Lamb

Prelude

Billie Crowell

Advent Greeting

Liturgy of the Joy Candle

James, Lori, Jacob & Susanna Smith

Call to Worship

Rev. Dr. Taylor Todd

Leader: The Promised One of God brings good news to the oppressed and binds up the brokenhearted.

People: We are witnesses to the light of Christ!

Leader: The Promised One of God proclaims liberty to captives and release to prisoners.

People: We are witnesses to the light of Christ!

Leader: The Promised One of God comforts all who mourn and gives a mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.

People: Rejoicing always, praying without ceasing, holding fast to what is good; we are witnesses to the light of Christ!

ALL: Let us worship God!

*Prayer of Preparation

Rev. Dr. Taylor Todd

*Call to Confession

***Prayer of Confession**

Merciful God, You pardon all who truly repent and turn to You. We humbly confess our sins and ask Your mercy. We have not loved You with a pure heart, nor have we loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not done justice, loved kindness, or walked humbly with You, our God.

Have mercy on us, O God, in Your loving-kindness. In Your great compassion, cleanse us from our sin. Do not cast us away from Your presence or take Your Holy Spirit from us. Restore us to the joy of Your salvation and sustain us with Your bountiful Spirit. In Christ's name we pray.

Time for Silent Confession

Through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

*Assurance of Pardon

*Gloria Patri (Instrumental)

Billie Crowell

*Passing of the Peace

Leader: Peace be with you.

People: And also with you.

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

A Time for Young Christians

Kate Canady

Children's Church

Cindy Lamb

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading:

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11 and Luke 1:46b-55

Sermon:

"The Great Reversal"

Rev. Dr. Taylor Todd

Music:

"Christmas – Hallelujah"

Debbie Crosslin, Guitar

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

***Profession of Faith**

The Apostolicity of the Church

Apostolicity is God's gift to the Church in Jesus Christ. In Christ, by the power of the Spirit, God sends the Church into the world to share the gospel of God's redemption of all things and people.

Because in Christ the Church is apostolic, it strives to proclaim this gospel faithfully...The Church has been and is even now sent into the world by Jesus Christ to bear that testimony to others. The Church bears witness in word and work that in Christ the new creation has begun, and that God who creates life also frees those in bondage, forgives sin, reconciles brokenness, makes all things new, and is still at work in the world. To be members of the body of Christ is to be sent out to pursue the mission of God and to participate in God's new creation, God's kingdom drawing the present into itself. Amen.

SEALING OF THE WORD

Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer

All: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory forever. *Amen.*

*Doxology (Instrumental)

Billie Crowell

Prayer of Dedication

BEARING AND FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

*Charge and Blessing

Rev. Dr. Taylor Todd

*Postlude

Billie Crowell



Our Heartfelt Christian Love and Sympathy

Cornelius E. Hartbarger

Cornelius E. "Cory" Hartbarger died Sunday, December 6, 2020, in Asheville, NC. Born the youngest of five in Clifton Forge, Va., to Vida Tilley Hartbarger and Cornelius "Neil" Hartbarger, he was known also to family members and childhood friends as Sonny. He grew up as a highly competitive athlete and musician in Clifton Forge and the neighboring community of Waynesboro.

War came and he left school to join the navy, serving in the Pacific Theater during the last stages of World War II.

After his discharge he returned home to finish high school. Following brief stints as a mail carrier, an FBI clerk, and a baseball player with the farm teams for the Brooklyn Dodgers and the Philadelphia Athletics, he joined the Virginia State Police. During this time he met choir director Alice R. McConaughy when his brother James took him to choir practice.

Cory and Alice married on August 30, 1951, and established their first home in Buchanan, Va. During that Spring, as a Virginia state trooper he escorted Princess Elizabeth of England, soon to become Queen, on her visit to George Washington's home at Mt. Vernon. Alice and Cory's first son, Neil, was born that May.

Determined to have a life with less drama but to continue making a contribution to others, he decided to become a teacher. He attended Northern Michigan University on the VA Bill, where he was a standout athlete, lettering in track and field and scouting for the football team. He graduated in 1955 and went immediately to a position in the physical education department at New Trier High School, in Winnetka, Il., where their second son, Peter, was born. Several teaching positions took him and Alice to Decatur, Il., where son Christopher was born, and then back home to Waynesboro, Va., where son Stephen was born. From Waynesboro they moved to Bell Buckle, Tn., where they taught for a decade at the Webb School, a prep school founded in 1870. They next moved to Lithonia, Ga., where he became a trainer in the agent-development and certified-life-underwriting programs of Equitable Life Assurance. He retired in 1986, and they moved to a mountaintop home in Bridgeport, Al.

They missed the friendships they'd established in Tennessee, and so they moved back to a home in Shelbyville, where they could rejoin the church community where Alice had directed the choir. During their retirement they stayed in touch with many friends and family members, and made new friends. He also discovered the Senior Games and became a Senior Olympian in his eighties, receiving medals and ribbons in shot put, discus, and javelin.

His last competition was in Birmingham, Al., in 2017.

As Alice's health began to fail, they moved for the last time, to Asheville to be near son Chris and his family. He died in his home, with his sons caring for him during his last days.

Cory Hartbarger is survived by sons Neil, Peter, Christopher, and Stephen, daughters-in-law Juanita, Linda, Legaré, Kim, and Teri, grandson Errol, and granddaughters Emily, Loryn, and Colleen, and great-granddaughter Sadie, as well as his sister-in-law Mary Esther Cumberland, and numerous nieces, nephews, friends, and children of friends who consider him family. As a teacher his impact extended to shaping the lives of thousands. At the time of his death he had just learned that his second great-grandchild is on the way.

Memorial contributions may be sent to St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital,
<https://www.stjude.org>.

Neil Hartbarger

Third Sunday of Advent

Serving



December 13th

Greeters **Pat Marsh & Kristin Wilhelm**
Hall Monitor **John Marsh**
Advent Readers & Candle Lighters
James, Lori, Jacob, & Susanna Smith
Children's Church **Cindy Lamb**
Nursery **Lisa Turner**

December 20th

Greeters **Rob Marsh & Roy Turner**
Hall Monitor **Kathy Smith**
Advent Readers & Candle Lighters
Terry & Ginny Saylor
A Time for Young Christians **Kate Canady**
Nursery **Lisa Hittle**



ANNOUNCEMENTS & EVENTS

Please remember the family and friends of **CORY HARTBARGER** who passed away on Sunday, December 6, 2020. If you would like to send a card, send to: Neil Hartbarger, 10500 Lorain Ave, Silver Spring, MD 20901. Request for memorials to be made to St. Jude Children's Hospital. <https://www.stjude.org>

Sunday, December 13th

5 Cents A Meal Banks

Bring your food donations for Good Sam

Winter Coat Drive – Drop off a gently used or new coat at Shelbyville First United Methodist Church Monday-Friday, 9am-2pm; or The Shops at Main Wednesday-Saturday, 10am-6pm by **December 14th**.

Clothe Our Kids of Bedford County—is in dire need of clothing, any size, any gender; due to the rising cases of COVID. There is a drop box located at the New Covenant Christian Bookstore.

Friday, December 18th – Book Club – 10am – Never Rest Park – Bring your lawn chairs.

"The Good Lord Bird" by James McBride – Come join us! In case of inclement weather, the meeting will be in the Fellowship Hall at First Presbyterian Church.

Sunday, December 20th ~Christmas Joy Offering

Thursday, December 24th ~Christmas Eve Service~12:15pm and 5:00pm

PRAY

Guiding God, there are times when I feel lost and don't know which way to turn. Help me to trust in you when I feel lost. Reorient me with your love, truth, righteousness, and peace. Make a road for my steps. Amen.