



© 2011 Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church (USA) and College Chapel Inc.

www.warrenwilsonchurch.org

Volume 27 Issue 4

May 2020

Steve's Slant

Like many of you, I'm sure, I long for the day when news about the corona virus no longer dominates our lives. I frankly would love to use this space to write about something else.

But as momentum builds across the country to reopen businesses and other public spaces, I think it's important to share with you where we stand on the question of when and how we might reopen our facilities and resume our regular ministries.

To begin, we have assembled a strong team that has been tasked by Session with preparing a clear set of recommendations for how and when we reopen.

They will be guided in this work by two main considerations:

The first is a set of guidelines produced by the Office of Theology and Worship of the PC(USA), detailing the broad range of questions that congregations must address in order to reopen safely. (You can find this document, along with many other practical and liturgical resources for use during this pandemic, on the PC(USA)'s website: pcusa.org.)

Second, the team will also be guided by state and local recommendations, requirements and limitations around the size of public gatherings--what is permissible and what is not, what is safe and what is not.

I wish I could say that the way forward for us (and for all churches complying with official stay at home restrictions) is clear, and that the plan for how and when to re-open will be straightforward: easy to write, easy to implement, easy to follow.

Regrettably, the truth is more complicated than that.

There is some chance that by the end of May, and per the current version of the governor's stay at home orders, present limitations around the size of public gatherings will be relaxed, and that groups larger than ten will be allowed to gather in churches, synagogues, temples and mosques for public worship.

But I think it's also possible, perhaps even likely, that the governor's current orders will be amended and that restrictions will not be lifted.

The COVID-19 virus remains very dangerous. And while transmission and fatality rates have dropped in certain parts of the country (thanks to stringent stay at home orders), they are starting to rise - - in some cases quite rapidly -- elsewhere. You have perhaps heard the news that the CDC now estimates the daily death toll in June could rise to as many as three thousand people--a staggering figure, and one that merits a vigilant response.

As of this moment, no one knows whether the virus will be sufficiently contained in North Carolina for the governor and local officials to continue implementing their multi-phased plan to reopen the state.

So, we will plan for the best case scenario. But we must all be prepared, emotionally and practically, for something other than that.

Which is why I want to close by assuring you of three things:

(Continued on page 6)

Church contacts:

Church Office 298-9092

Church Administrator; Donna Eagle Joslin 771-2097 e-mail= deagle@Warren-Wilson.edu

Minister; Rev. Dr. Steve Runholt 712-7803 e-mail= srunholt@Warren-Wilson.edu

Associate in Ministry, Rev. Grace Boyer 713-1491 e-mail= graceeboyer@gmail.com

Director of Music, organist; Joel P. Rogers= joelprogers1967@gmail.com

Treasurers; Leslie Sayyar, 333-8867 e-mail= treasurerwwpc@outlook.com

Jack Ballard, 777-6156 e-mail= Joballard67@gmail.com

Bookkeeper; Barbara Escalante e-mail= bookkeeperwwpc@outlook.com

During this STAY SAFE STAY HOME period, the church office phone will be checked remotely several times per day. Feel free to call 298-9092 and leave a message.

May Birthdays!

Gene Witherspoon	May 1
Lizzy Newman	May 10
Tess Newman	May 13
Ned Guardenier	May 27
Rick Garrison	May 30

Babs Guardenier	May 8
Pat Wilson	May 11
Bill Fore	May 27
Zach Pulsifer	May 28



Due to the Corona Virus, the Warren Wilson Book Group will be meeting via zoom in May. Take care of yourselves!

SISTER CONGREGATIONS JOIN FOR WORSHIP ACROSS THE ATLANTIC
The joint service is believed to be the first of its kind.

Since the On Sunday, May 10, beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, churches have been seeking new ways to worship without gathering in person.

the Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church is going to try something completely new: a joint worship service with its sister congregation, Dunkeld Cathedral, in Dunkeld, Scotland.

(Continued on page 7)





PLEASE KEEP THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE IN YOUR PRAYERS: Jon Hettrick and his family; Sara Wilcox; Ginnie Stevens; Käthe Mosher; Kim Reece, daughter of Nancy and Rick Garrison; Sandy & Paul, dear friends of Carolyn Cole, and Pat Crumpler.

PLEASE KEEP THE FOLLOWING HEALTH CARE WORKERS, AND PEOPLE WORKING AT MEDICAL FACILITIES, IN YOUR PRAYERS: Carolyn Cole; Jack Ballard; Richard Riddle; Laura Bethany Riddle; Kristin Williams; Blake Joslin; Lisa Mallory; Stacy Balzano, Toby & Sally's niece; Mika, Sandy Stanford's niece, and all those working to

provide medical care to others in this time when both need and risk are great.

PLEASE KEEP THOSE WORKING ESSENTIAL SERVICE JOBS IN YOUR PRAYERS: Natalie Cowal; Carla Presnell-Smith; Susan Daugherty, and all those helping to keep essential services open for all of us.

Until further notice, Warren Wilson College has closed its campus to all visitors. Only employees and a few students are allowed on the campus grounds.

Help Youth Begin Life with A Solid Foundation Of Faith

April 13 - May 31, 2020
Pentecost

The Pentecost Offering unites us in a church-wide effort to support young people and inspire them to share their faith, ideas, and unique gifts with the church and the world.

A gift to the Pentecost Offering helps the church encourage, develop, and support its young people, and address the needs of at-risk children. 40% of the Pentecost offering can be retained by individual congregations wanting to make an impact in the lives of young people within their own community. The remaining 60% is used to support children-at-risk, youth, and young adults through ministries of the Presbyterian Mission Agency.

You may mail your donation to Warren Wilson Presbyterian church, 101 Chapel Lane Swannanoa, NC 28778 with Pentecost Offering on the memo line.

Nickel A Meal

The first Sunday of the month is when we collect our Nickel a Meal Offering. Although we will not be gathering at the church, please consider donating to this important cause. It may mean the difference between someone having, or not having a meal. Mail checks to:

WWPC 101 Chapel Lane Swannanoa, NC 28778



THANKS FOR YOUR GENEROSITY

The faithfulness and generosity of the members and friends of WWPC shined brightly in this time of forced separation. Many of us were concerned about the impact of not holding services on the finances of our congregation. The initial report for March was encouraging; although we cancelled services in the middle of the month, our giving was only slightly below the amount we normally collect. Our April report is even better; our giving actually increased from our March total. In addition, you gave \$975 to the One Great Hour of Sharing and \$155 to the Nickel a Meal Offering.

Of course, we depend on your continued support until we can meet again in person. Because more than 90% of our expenses go to salaries, gifts to others, and fixed expenses, switching to online worship services produces almost no reduction in the expenditure side of our budget.

We will continue to receive the Nickel a Meal offering, and we will collect the Pentecost Offering, which helps the church encourage, develop, and support its young people and addresses the needs of at-risk children. Forty percent of this offering remains in our congregation to support a cause that the Children and Youth Ministry Team will recommend to the session. You may make your gifts by sending them to the church (101 Chapel Drive, Swannanoa, NC 28778) or by giving online at our website (<http://warrenwilsonchurch.org/>). Beginning May 10, the Pentecost Offering will replace One Great Hour of Sharing as an option for online giving.

CLERK'S REPORT

The session met in the April stated meeting via Zoom on April 21. Most of the meeting involved reviewing ways to maintain the church's ministry during the current pandemic, but the session did take the following actions.

1. Authorizing the pastor and clerk to schedule called and stated meeting viz Zoom until it is safe to meet in person.
2. Approving a joint worship service with Dunkeld Cathedral on May 10.
3. Approving the use of general endowment funds to purchase a much needed computer, docking station, and printer to enable the church administrator to work remotely.





Lunches for the Homeless

The Covid-19 crisis appeared just as our church began our scheduled week of hosting Room in the Inn, and it has given us some great new ways to serve. We have grown a lot in six weeks!

Because the College was closed, we delivered our Room in the Inn meals to the AHOPE center downtown and learned of their amazing work. They were handing out over 100 sandwiches a day to homeless clients and we started bringing extra sandwiches. The “sandwich brigade” continued every

Thursday. Then the shelter moved to the civic center, we agreed to provide lunches of sandwiches, chips and fruit for at least 50 guests there every Thursday. All food needs to be packed in individual wrapped portions, so they really appreciate sandwiches. Asheville Poverty Initiative and Homeward Bound (the parent organization for Room in the Inn) jointly manage the civic center operation and do a lot more. They feed many homebound people, bring food to homeless camps, and continue to hand out food to a constant stream of street people at AHOPE. We have been delivering a big carload of food every Thursday, well over 100 sandwiches, and they say it all gets eaten.

Our church has shown amazing generosity! The sandwich brigade now has scores of people, and every week there seem to be more. People drop off donations at our house on Thursday morning. The Collins house is easy to get to (138 College View Dr.), and the delivery leaves at 11 AM on Thursdays. Folks just leave their donations on the porch that morning.

An even easier way to help is to send a check to the church with RITI on the memo line, or donate to Homeward Bound directly. Feel free to call Vicki Collins at 712-0251 if you have questions.

It has been a real blessing to serve with this group, and please pray for the homeless in Asheville.

(Submitted by Vicki Collins)

Session Available: If you have any questions about the operations and ministry of the church, please contact Pastor Steve Runholt or any other member of the session. The elders currently serving on the session are:

Class of 2020: Sandy Brauer, Carolyn Cole, Nancy Garrison

Class of 2021: Susan Daugherty, Bob Gambrell, Fran Roberts

Class of 2022: Sharon Lytle, Ken Murchison (clerk), Tacci Presnell-Smith

Adult and Children/Youth Classes during the Pandemic

During the pandemic, we are not physically meeting for Children, Youth, and Adult classes, but we are still finding ways to connect through Zoom, YouTube videos, emails, and phone calls.

The Adult Class has been doing a book study for Lent/Easter (March 1-May 3)—Rachel Held Evans' book *Inspired: Slaying Giants, Walking on Water, and Loving the Bible Again*. When we could no longer meet in person, we went online! The class receives reflection questions by email each week and then meets by Zoom at 9:30 am on Sundays to discuss. On May 10 & 17, Dr. Marc Mullinax, Professor of Religion at Mars Hill University, will return to continue his Jan-Feb series, "What We Can Learn..." about our Christian faith by studying other religions. In May he will focus on Islam.

Each weekend, families with children and youth are receiving a children's message video from Grace based on the Sunday worship's Bible story. Along with it, families receive a link for a coloring page. On Easter Sunday, instead of receiving a video, these families met live by Zoom to wish each other Happy Easter and share a joy, concern, or place where they had seen new life around them.

The Confirmation Class will be having a Zoom gathering in May, but right now the plan is to wait until they can gather again in person to continue their curriculum. Confirmation is a journey of a lifetime, so we will continue that journey this summer or fall.

If you would like to join the Adult Class discussions, or receive the weekly Children's message videos and coloring pages, please contact GraceEBoyer@gmail.com.

Steve's Slant continued...

1. We will only open our doors and resume our normal ministries, including Sunday morning worship, when qualified medical experts deem that it is safe to do so, and when the governor and our local officials here in WNC have lifted the current restrictions on the size of public gatherings.

2. Until then, the church staff will continue to work hard to provide meaningful online worship services. Yesterday, for example, some members of the Liturgical Arts Team met via Zoom to brainstorm ideas for our Pentecost service (Sunday, May 31st). I think you're going to be delightfully surprised by the results. And this Sunday, as you know, we will be sharing in a joint service with our sister congregation in the Dunkeld Cathedral, which I think is going to be very special.

3. Working together with you via Zoom and other means, we will also continue to explore new and creative ways to be church, and to do church, in these arduous times.

You have heard this before but it bears repeating: we will get through this. Until then, and as we live into a future full of many unknowns, may God bless you and keep you, and fill you with a peace that passes understanding.

Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church and Dunkeld Cathedral Service May 10 at 10:00 am

More than any time any of us can remember, churches all around the world are sharing a common grief, while also sharing the common challenge of not being able to meet for worship," says Rev. Dr. Steve Runholt, pastor of the Warren Wilson Presbyterian congregation. "In talking with our sister congregation in Dunkeld, we thought perhaps we can share in this grief together, and also seek meaning together as we journey through it," Runholt added.

The joint service will include readings of the 23rd Psalm in both English and Scots, and will also feature a violin performance by noted Scottish fiddler, Pete Clark, on a violin played by its original owner in the trenches of World War I.

The service will be broadcast on YouTube at 10:00 a.m. local time, 3:00 p.m. in Scotland, and is believed to be the first of its kind.

"I don't know of another example of a service like this, when two congregations separated by an ocean gathered together for a joint worship service," observed Doug Orr, President Emeritus of Warren Wilson College and co-chair the Dunkeld and Birnam / Asheville Sister City Committee.

"It's such a perfect expression of the Sister Cities' mission of building bridges between distant communities throughout the world," added Orr.

The two sister congregations are part of a larger Sister City relationship between Asheville, and Dunkeld and Birnam in Perthshire, which was established in 2017.

"This shared service is a lovely way for our two communities to come together during this difficult time," added Fiona Ritchie, host of the popular radio show *The Thistle & Shamrock*, and a member of the Cathedral congregation. "It's a way to show that even when we're staying home and staying safe, we can still connect with one another."





At Warren Wilson
Presbyterian Church we
are mothers and fathers,
single and married, gay
and straight, young and
old, black and white,
prosperous and poor,
uncertain and sure, broken
and whole - and
everything in between.
Together we are the many
faces of humanity, yet as
a joyful, caring and loving
community of faith, we
are committed in our
diversity to be one in
Christ!

Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church
101 Chapel Lane
Swannanoa, NC 28778

The Extended Family