



Pastor's Ponderings

A year ago, life included parties, happy hours, travel, public transit, workdays in the office, going to church, shopping for groceries, picking the kids up from school, and hugging people. That world is gone now. Every single one of these elements of “normal life” has been disrupted, cancelled, turned on its head. The world we inhabit is strange, unfamiliar, and scary. We don’t know what the future will hold or how long this season of upheaval and uncertainty will last.

Can we get together with our extended family for the holidays?

Since Joyce and I live in Pasadena, here is the guidance we get from the Los Angeles County of Public Health:

“...we remind residents that, if they are planning a private gathering, limit it to just your household and two others, and, in the foreseeable future, create a stable group with these households. All private gatherings must be outdoors. Always wear a cloth face covering and practice physical distancing of at least 6 feet. Do not share food with other households. Limit your visit to no more than 2 hours and do not attend a private gathering if you are not feeling well. We all can take these steps to enjoy friends and family as safely as possible.”

These guidelines don’t exactly embrace our traditional holiday get-togethers! Common sense details are:

- no large group gatherings
- stay outdoors
- stay 6’ apart at all times
- wear a face mask except when eating
- Prepared portions rather than buffets
- keep visits to 2 hours or less
- stay home if you do not feel well

We will do our best to plan virtual activities for the holidays and continue to keep in touch.

Grace and Peace,

Henry





Because of COVID-19 and not being able to meet at the church, we are having to do things differently. We will hold a congregational meeting via Zoom on Sunday, November 22, at 11:00 a.m., for the purpose of electing elders and deacons. Although we cannot meet in person right now, it is important that all members of our church have a say in the election of church officers. Your vote is important.

In order to participate in the meeting, you will need to download Zoom.us. It is a free download which you can get from the Apple App Store or the Google Playstore. Pastor Henry will moderate the meeting as usual, and our Zoom host will be Sue Bain. Here is her Zoom information:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/91293288926?pwd=OEZvS2NJTWZFaG9jRHd3NXhmSmRaQT09>

Meeting ID: 912 9328 8926

Passcode: 12345

Please put this date on your calendar and plan to attend.

Mission Giving Opportunities

The Presbyterian Giving Catalog for 2020-2021 has many opportunities for mission giving. You can read about them by going to their website presbyteriangifts.org. We would like to highlight one of them Community Gardens.

More than 23 million Americans live in food deserts, typically low-income neighborhoods where fresh, affordable food is nearly impossible to find. With few healthy food choices, residents in these areas often experience lasting health effects, like high rates of diabetes. Community gardens supply nutritious produce where it's most needed, while providing employment and educational opportunities that nurture communities.

Among the other giving opportunities are things such as Rice Seeds, Farming Tools, Youth Agriculture Training, Family of Chickens, Latrine, Water Filter, Fishing Net, etc. These are just a few of the opportunities listed in the catalog.

We also encourage you to consider a gift to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. Their website is pda.pcusa.org. Some of the disasters to which they are currently responding are COVID-19, Pacific Northwest Wildfires, Colorado Wildfires, Hurricane Sally, Malawi Flooding and Food Crisis, Indonesia Tsunami, etc. You may designate your gift to a specific disaster/relief effort or merely to OGHS Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (OG1000000), and it will be used where most needed.

To donate to any of these causes, please send a check, designate on the memo line where you want your gift to go, and mail to:

Presbyterian Church USA
P.O. Box 643700
Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700

You may also use a credit card and give by phone by calling 800-872-3283.





“This Advent let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that the Lord has made known to us!”

The stars shall light our way. Yes, the stars cut out on luminarias, otherwise known as paper bag lanterns. This ancient tradition will be part of our Advent celebration this year. As your parish associate for arts & spirituality, I have put together packets of 4 luminarias and battery- operated tea lights for members to place outside their doors – one luminaria for each Sunday in Advent. Advent begins November 29. By Christmas, you will have 4 luminarias lighting the path to your door as a symbolic lighting of the way to guide the Holy Family to a safe place. For more on the history of luminarias, go to <https://flicluminaries.com/content/14-luminary-history>

There will be packets of the luminarias and tea lights with instructions available at the church for you. You can pick them up on Tuesdays, November 10, 17 & 24 between 9 and noon. If you are unable to pick them up at that time, please contact me at 951.321.0473 or at rebekahart@me.com so we can make other arrangements.

I plan to make a video of all the luminarias people set outside their doors. In order to do that, I will need photos from each of you. Please take a photo with your phone after having set out two luminarias in front of your door and send it to me at rebekahart@me.com or 951.321.0473. Try to get a photo that shows both the luminarias and your door or part of your door in the photo. More than one photo is fine.

Although we cannot be physically together this Advent/Christmas season, it is my hope that this activity will bring us a sense of shared hope and purpose. As we all participate in lighting the way for the Holy Family, we will find a way to join together in spirit to welcome the Christ child into this world, a way made visible by the lanterns and the pictures of your lanterns.

Blessings,

Becky Millhollin

Parish Associate for Arts & Spirituality



From your session



We met via Zoom in October:

- The PCUSA is doing a lot regarding hunger and disaster assistance. The congregation will be made aware of these programs
- The Healthy Pastors and Congregations Commission of Riverside Presbytery has agreed that because small churches are facing additional problems due to COVID-19, elders and deacons who have served 6 consecutive years may serve 1 additional year.
- The first Sunday of Advent is November 29. Advent banners will be hung in the sanctuary before that date.



GENERAL FUND	October 31, 2020	Year to Date Totals
Income	10,610.00	82,384.04
Expenses	6,395.19	71,725.71
Net Income	4,214.81	10,658.33

DEACONS FUND	October 31, 2020	Year to Date Totals
Income	155.00	1,925.00
Expenses	22.00	1,535.97
Net Income	133.00	389.03



NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 4..... *Susan Bain*
- 6..... *Jerry Neumann*
- 7..... *Jimmy Nyeango*
- 16..... *Margaret Jameson*
- 17..... *Jean Neumann*
- *Jill Nelson*
- 23..... *Lynda Rodisch*
- 28..... *Glen Nelson*

NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 2..... *Pete & Marilyn Mittelstadt (1974)*
- 26..... *Mel & Susan Bain (1993)*



PRAY DURING NOVEMBER FOR THESE FAMILIES

- Awu Ncha*
- Glen & Kelly Nelson*
- Jerry & Jean Neumann*
- John & Qi Liu Nyeango*
- Alison Osborne*
- Anne Purcell*
- Alice Reille*
- Rita Riolta*
- Lynda Rodisch*
- Mike Say*



November 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11 ^H	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26 ^H	27	28
29 ^{Advent}	30					



Due to the Stay at Home order that is in place, limited activities are scheduled. Worship is being conducted via the email message being sent out weekly. The message can also be found on our FB page and our web site.

Ongoing activities



Sacred Space
Nov. 1, 8, 15, 22,
29 9:30am via
Zoom



Book of Job Class
Nov. 5, 12, 19,
7:30pm via Zoom



Session
Nov. 21, 10am
via Zoom



Congregational meeting
Nov. 22,
10am via Zoom



Vietnamese Church
every Sunday at
1:30pm

**These activities will resume
once we are able to be
together again**



Adult Bible Study Sunday
at 9:30am



Worship Sunday
at 10:30am



Last Sunday of each month is Food Donation Sunday.



*4th Saturday of each month, Women's breakfast, Original Pancake House, Norco, 8am
Loving Needles, 9:45am*





950 Ontario Avenue, Corona CA 92882



MAKING DISCIPLES OF JESUS
CHRIST THROUGH WORSHIP,
DISCIPLESHIP, FELLOWSHIP,
MINISTRY AND MISSION

Our Church Staff

Pastor (Transitional)	Henry DeGraaff
Administrative Assistant	Judy Hanson/Marilyn Mittelstadt
Accompanist	Delia E. Martinez-Samojluk
Church Treasurer	Terrie Burbank
Bookkeeper	Teri White
Parish Associate for the Arts & Spirituality	Becky Millhollin
Director of Social Media	Sue Bain



Phone: 951-734-1920
E-mail: judy@fpc-corona.org
Pastor: 626-808-7472

SUNDAY SCHEDULE
9:30AM Adult Sunday School
10:30AM Worship Service
Sunday School (nursery care available)
First Press deadline – 22nd of every month
Editor reserves the right to edit for content & space



We're on the WEB
<http://www.fpc-corona.org>
www.facebook.com/coronafirstpresbyterian

