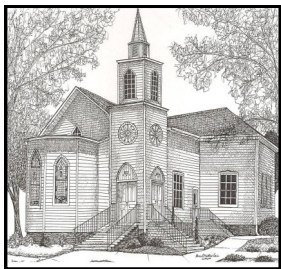


THE ABBEY NEWS



WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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MAY 2020

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FROM THE PASTOR

"Take Comfort"
"Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins."
~Isaiah 40:1-2

This week, the week of April 27, doctors and scientists of all kinds have coined a new phrase: "Quarantine Fatigue." As whenever new psychological phrases are coined, I thought, "yes! Finally! Something that describes exactly how I feel!" One of our worship team members stopped by on the last Sunday of April to check on me, and it was apparent that quarantine fatigue was taking its toll on her as well. The bottom line is, this thing is hard, friends. And, due to the rapid spread of this disease and the schools remaining closed, Session made the very difficult decision to remain virtual through May, and suspend public gatherings. It means that once again we will be celebrating one of our holy days, Pentecost, differently. It means that our circles might think about virtual meetings. It means that we will be getting even more familiar with Facebook Live, our website management, and all the other things that we have learned during this time of physical distancing.

If you are experiencing quarantine fatigue, take comfort in these words from Isaiah. The prophet uttered these words in a time of exile and isolation for the Israelites. They were probably not under a "stay at home" order, but they were feeling bereft and abandoned. Wise ones of their day may have coined what many were feeling as "exile fatigue." Exhaustion creeps in, and we feel like we are rowing the boat alone.

And yet, God comforts us. God assures us that the end of this exile is coming. God gives us God's hand to pick us up and carry us through. God lifts us up on eagle's wings, and carries us through these dark times.

A church sign that I've seen over the past month says, "The crucifixion happened before the resurrection. Darkness always comes before light." And so we might feel the darkness, but know that there is lightness too. Know that the light of the resurrection is peaking through, friends.

Take care of yourselves. Breathe. If it's safe for you to get outside, do so. Hear the birds chirping, see the flowers blooming. Take a nap. Or several. But above all else, I encourage you to rest in God's Word. Read your Bible, and pray, and worship with us virtually. The great thing about this virtual worship services is that they don't go away! You can watch them any time!

May will look different for us, friends, just like most of March and all of April did. But take heart that we are all being held in the palm of God's hand. Take comfort, people of God. We will get through this.

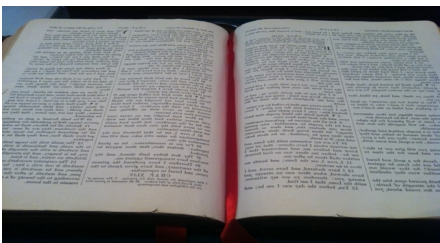
God's grace and peace be with you all,

Rev. Audrey

A Note from our Worship Committee Chair, Virginia Gordon:

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! Thank you to our wonderful worship team: Rev. Audrey, Nita, Jim, Steve and Barry. Every week they give their time, share their creativity and talents, and open their hearts. Laura Ann, Ash, and the many members who brought flowers have made our services special. All of you have ministered to our church family, community and beyond. God bless and keep you!

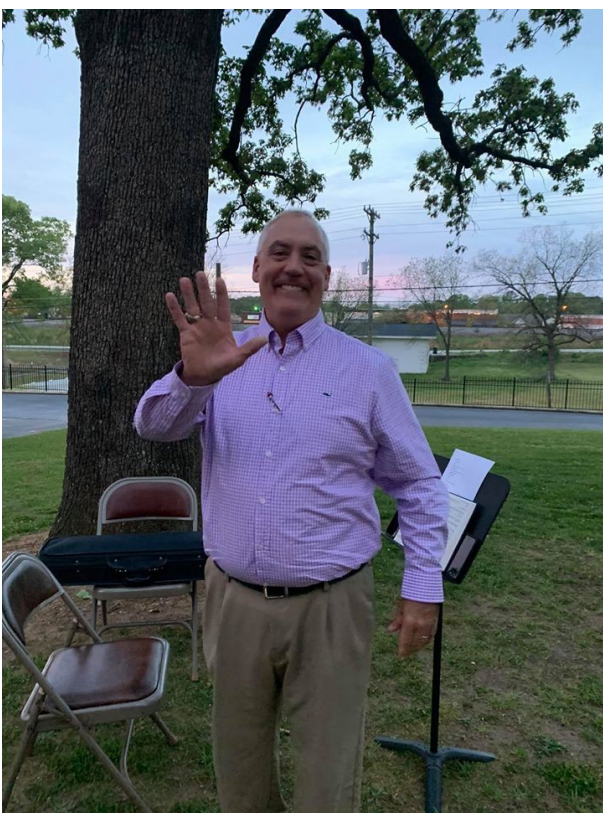
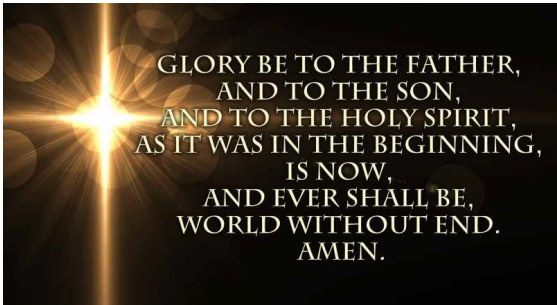
MAY SERMONS



We will celebrate Holy Communion Sunday, May 24th during Morning Worship, 11:00 am.

May 3: "Can You Feel the Strength to Keep on Believing?" Luke 24:13-33
May 10: Can You Feel the Zest of Life? 2 Corinthians 4:7-12
May 17: "Can You Feel the Strength to Persevere?"
May 24: "Can You Feel the Miracle of Encouragement" Matthew 28:16-20
Communion
May 31: "The Promise of the Holy Spirit" Acts 2:1-4

We are so blessed to have a loving and caring church family here at WPC! If you would like to be a part of this family, we would LOVE to have you! You are only a visitor once at WPC! There are so many offerings of service through our church. There is one for YOU!



We miss our Church Family! During this time of unrest, illness and uncertainty, we must be diligent in keeping all of our beloved members healthy. Please follow our Virtual services each Sunday and we pray to see you in person SOON!



TREASURER’S REPORT

March receipts: \$ 10,360.09
expenses 8,095.98
+ 2,264.11

YTD receipts \$ 33,191.15
expenses 32,055.94
+ 1,135.21



Your giving to WPC directly affects the ministry and programs of our church. We are grateful for all that you give in your time, talents and money!

May Flowers

We pray that we will be back in physical worship in May! If that happens, here’s the list!

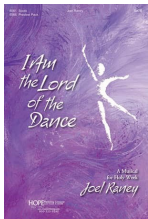


Please reach out to your Session with any concerns or needs during this time of Virtual Worship and social distancing. They are willing to serve in any way they can!

Clerk: Brad Stancil
Congregational Care: Martha Brancazio
Mission/Outreach: Trish McCoy
Worship: Virginia Gordon
Christian Education: Lou Haynes
Property: John Merritt
Stewardship/Finance: Michael Meades

****Session will be communicating via email and telephone to discern the best scenario for the health of our members.**

- | | | |
|-----------|-------------|------------|
| 5/3/2020 | Martha | Reid |
| 5/10/2020 | Mothers Day | Carnations |
| 5/17/2020 | Patsy | Morgan |
| 5/24/2020 | Marie | Dunnam |
| 5/31/2020 | Edna | Dillard |



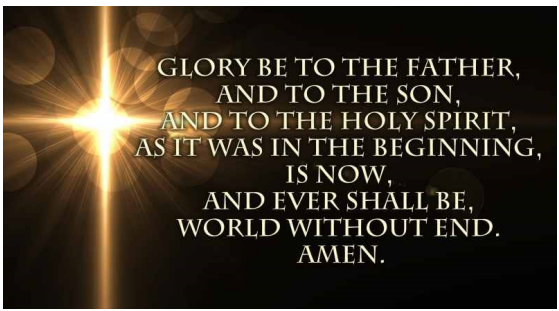
Choir members! Continue to listen to your CD and sing through the cantata!!

CONTINUING TO SERVE, BEING THE HANDS AND FEET OF CHRIST IN OUR COMMUNITY!

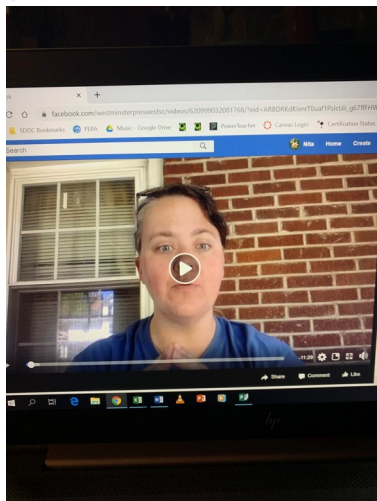
DOT’ KITCHEN



If you would like to join in the fun, fellowship and service of helping those in need at Dot’s Kitchen, please see Linda White or Joey Roeder and they can hook you up! It is a beautiful feeling to know that you can help others through Christ our King!



A Time for Prayer



Join Rev. Audrey each Wednesday at 12 noon for a Time for Prayer! She will go live on Facebook each Wednesday to gather us together to pray for all the concerns of our world in these difficult times. Have your prayer cross handy and join us!

Praying for You

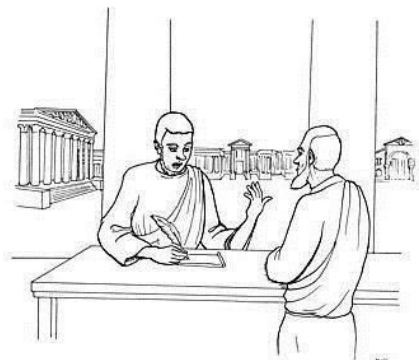
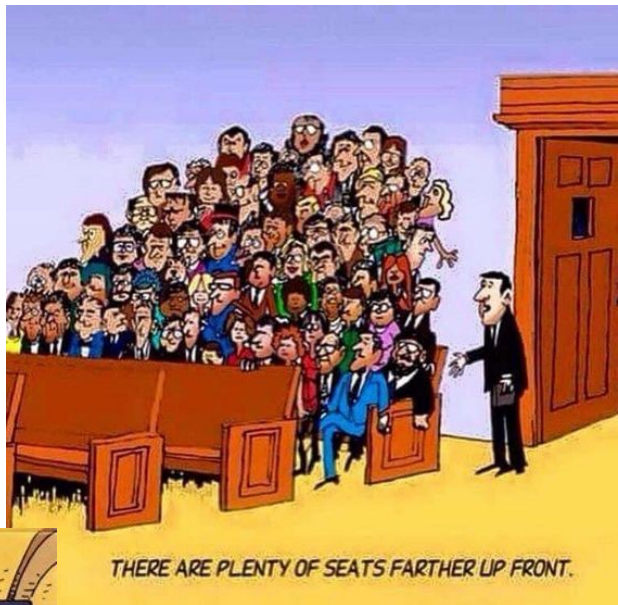
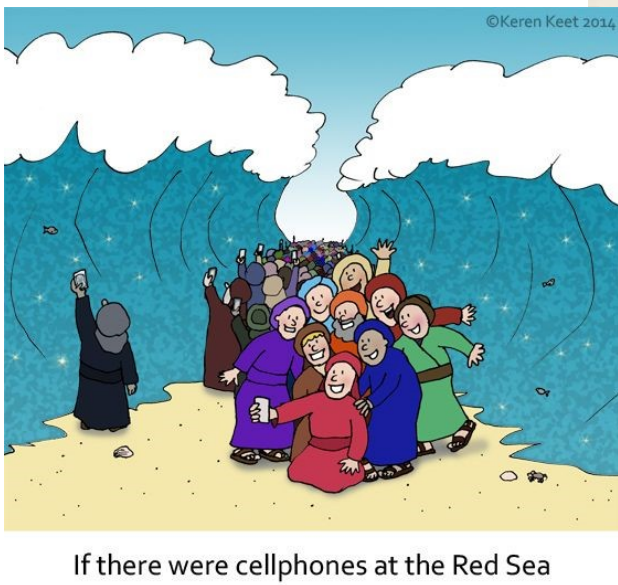
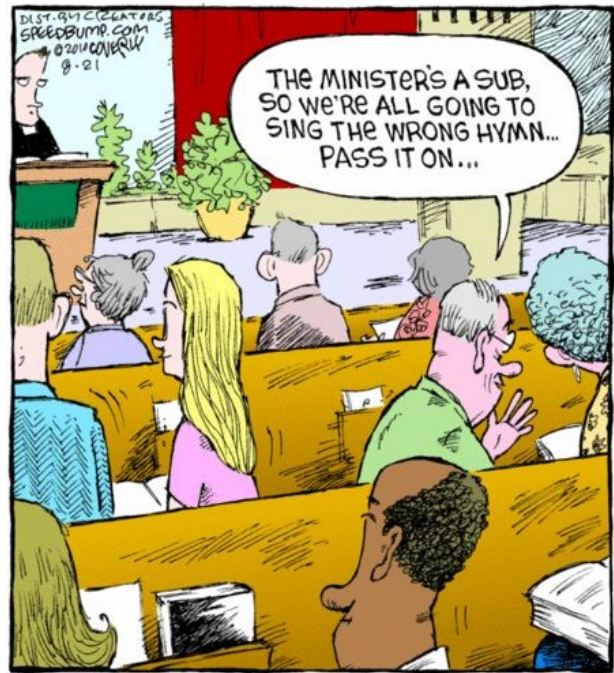
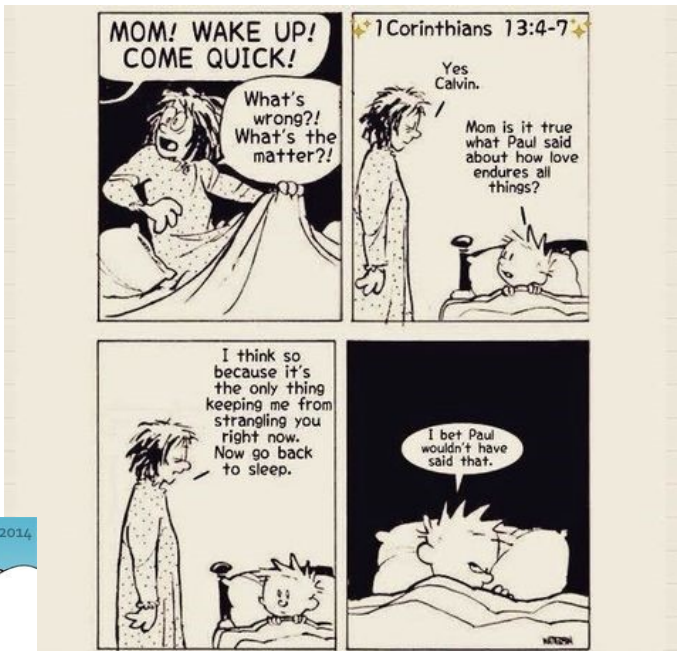
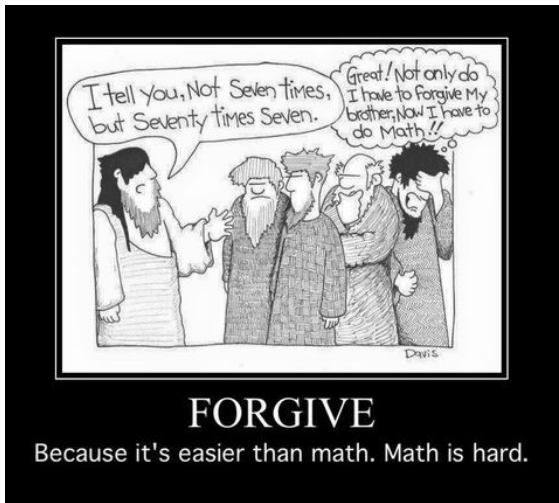
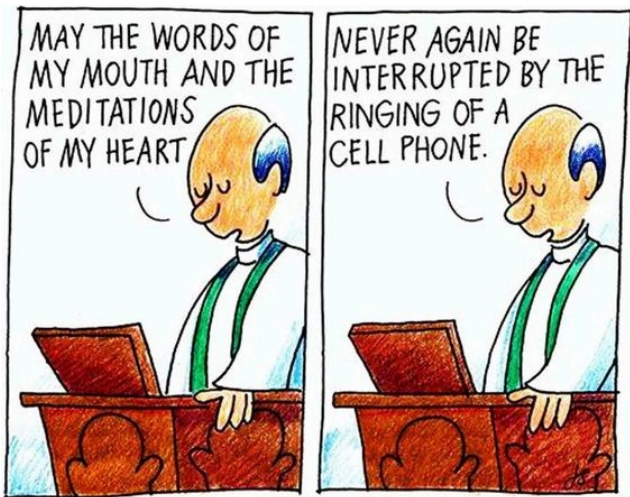
Imogene Giles
Ruth Payne
Kathy Darnell
Mary Frances Mabry
Robbie McClure (Marie
Dunnam's brother)
Nancy Dougherty

All of those who are fighting the Coronavirus and their caregivers

Victims of the terrible devastation from the tornado in Seneca



Laughter is Good for the Soul!



God Bless you dear friends! We pray these little cartoons brought you a little sunshine in these dark times! What a friend we have in our wonderful Jesus! He is there to hear our every prayer!