

## Notices

March 27, 2020

[jcpresbytery.com](http://jcpresbytery.com)

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### Prayers Requested .....

- The congregations of John Calvin Presbytery...
- **For all who suffer in body, mind, or spirit, that they may know the peace that passes all human understanding in Jesus Christ our Lord....**
- **All churches seeking** a new pastor, to understand God's call moving forward.  
First Presbyterian Church, Aurora, Missouri  
First Presbyterian Church, Carthage, Missouri  
First Presbyterian Church, Chanute, Kansas  
Crane Presbyterian Church, Crane, Missouri  
Community Presbyterian Church, Forsyth, Missouri  
First Presbyterian Church, Nevada, Missouri  
First Presbyterian Church, Sarcoxie, Missouri  
First Presbyterian Church, Scammon, Kansas
- JCPDA
- JC Living Waters Mission Team
- All Pastors of John Calvin Presbytery
- **Britney Shurtz, cancer treatments, daughter-in-law of Charley Shurtz.**  
Charley is pastor at St. Andrew@Hideaway
- **Prayers for Diane Cooke and her family upon the death of her mother-in-law Mollie Emerson, in Virginia.** Diane is the pastor at Willow Springs Presbyterian and First Presbyterian Mountain View.  
Expressions of sympathy may be sent to:  
Diane Cooke  
2710 Jennifer  
West Plains, Missouri 65775  
dcooke@missouristate.edu

Most of us are living under more restrictions this week than we were last week. And we know there may be more to come. We don't know when they will be lifted. I have been in direct contact with many people in John Calvin Presbytery over the past week. I am encouraged by the stories of resilience and creative approaches to ministry that I hear.

Today at noon, I heard a horn sounding and was reminded that I had read on our neighborhood Facebook page that the teachers from our neighborhood elementary school were going to have a parade. There were about 20 cars, some with posters and some with crepe paper streamers. Teachers were waving as they drove by. I went out on our porch to wave back at them.

It got me thinking about Palm Sunday and Easter, and how fun it might be to have a parade as a church. Red crepe paper streamers (and palms?) for Palm Sunday, and white for Easter. Of course, we don't know if that will be permitted on the actual dates, but we trust that the restrictions will be lifted at some point, and then we can have a very joyful parade.

In the meantime, I know that our churches are doing wonderful things. Here are some of the things I've heard:

- One church was already collecting peanut butter, canned tuna, and paper products before we knew there would be a shortage. They're ready to pass those things along to just the right people
- One church has been passing countless meals to students who would have ordinarily received meals at school
- More than one church has a calling plan to check in on their members and friends
- Many of our churches are worshipping online or with liturgy, hymns, and sermon text emailed out to them
- Countless people have done small acts of kindness for others, like picking up a few groceries
- One church's daycare has been deemed essential by their local government

All of our churches are essential! They have their part to play in their community. So in the meantime, we do those ministries that we can, that are so needed by our neighbors. And we can look forward to the joyful parade, when the time is right. What message might your poster say?

I have a request for you: If you are worshipping online, please send Gail, Beth, or me information about how you're doing that. If you can send a [link](#) that we can share in next week's Notices and on the ideas page at [jcpresbytery.com](http://jcpresbytery.com), we would appreciate that. That way, others who would like may join your worship.

I am working with Lisa Longo, our Ministry Relations Officer of the Presbyterian Foundation, to present a workshop online for us, "Stewardship in a Time of Pandemic." The workshop will be a Zoom call Tuesday, April 7 at 10:00 a.m. We'll have "space" for two people from each congregation. If you think you might need an extra person or two, let me know.

Please see other parts of the Notices for many more ideas, and [jcpresbytery.com](http://jcpresbytery.com), where ideas will be collected. We would love to hear your story. Please stay in touch.

In Christ,  
Malinda

JCP Pastoral Presbyter  
417-437-6748  
[mspencer@jcpresbytery.com](mailto:mspencer@jcpresbytery.com)

## "Stewardship in a Time of Pandemic"

Zoom workshop by Lisa Longo,  
Ministry Relations Officer for the Presbyterian Foundation  
Tuesday, April 7 at 10:00 a.m.  
Please see more details in Malinda's article,  
and watch for a more detailed description and how to register soon.



March 18, 2020

Dear Siblings in Christ,

These are truly trying times for all of us as we face a rapidly spreading virus, panic buying that has left grocery shelves nearly empty and supplies in great demand. We have seen the worst in people and the best. Yet, through it all, we take hope in Christ and the promise to never leave us.

We are holding each of you in prayer. Like the rest of the country, our Presbyterian communities are physically separated, but we are still deeply connected through our common humanity, spirituality and strong faith in God.

We are not only with you in prayer and solidarity, we are also here to serve you. In response to increased anxieties surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic, the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is committed to supporting mid council leaders and pastors who are on the frontline of preaching words of hope in these times. To assist you in that effort, the church has compiled [special resources](#) for pastors, congregational leaders and members. These resources include information about virtual worship services.

We are all in this together as we learn to cope with our new normal. Because the Presbyterian connectional system encourages us to learn from one another, we are encouraging “crowdsourcing” as a way of sharing ideas. What are your needs? What’s working well in your church communities? We want to hear from you! Tell us what you need, offer suggestions or suggest resources. Please reach out to us at [connected@pcusa.org](mailto:connected@pcusa.org).

We are hearing the concerns many of you have regarding stewardship. The Presbyterian Foundation offers access to an [online giving system](#) that allows congregations to accept secure online donations. We know that many people and congregations are experiencing economic hardship because of the coronavirus. However, for those who are able, we encourage continued support of your local church, and sharing God’s love with our neighbors in need worldwide. We are grateful for those presbyteries who are providing financial assistance to congregations. We recognize that not all presbyteries are able to do so. We plan to meet with some mid councils to assess needs, and discern ways in which we might be of assistance.

We are compelled by our faithfulness to Christ’s charge to love our neighbors. During this crisis, we are mindful of our denomination’s commitment to Matthew 25, and urge compassion for others by not purchasing more supplies than we need, and by speaking out against the racism being directed at some of our Asian siblings. Jesus makes it clear that how we respond to our neighbor is of paramount importance to him. These tough times call for the best of Christian character and actions.

Please note that we will hold an online Easter service from the chapel of 100 Witherspoon in Louisville for those of you who would like to be part of a national experience. Easter is a new way of life — in which we are “dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus” (Rom. 6:11) and called to “walk in newness of life” (Rom. 6:4). There is much *new* happening in the world around us. We pray for God’s comfort and grace as we walk forward together during these uncertain times.

Finally, the past week has been full of high anxiety and mounting fears. We have heard from government leaders and health experts, now let us turn to the Scriptures to find out where biblical people found faith, hope and courage in the face of pestilence. Over 100 times the Bible tells us, “Don’t be afraid.” In Psalm 27:1, David tells us why:

The Lord is my light and my salvation;  
whom shall I fear?

The Lord is the stronghold of my life;  
of whom shall I be afraid?

Yours in Christ,



Rev. Dr. J. Herbert Nelson, II  
Stated Clerk of the General Assembly of the  
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)



Rev. Dr. Diane Moffett  
President, Executive Director  
Presbyterian Mission Agency

100 WITHERSPOON ST.    LOUISVILLE, KY 40202-1396    888-728-7228 ext. 5375    FAX 502-569-8005



## Welcome and peace to all of you working and living through the COVID-19 crisis.

We understand the difficulties facing individuals, leaders, and congregations right now and hope to provide you with resources to help ease that burden. We've worked with our publisher friends to gather these resources. Please feel free to share this email with all who will find use from it. If it's easier to share through social media, a link to this email will be posted on our [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) pages.

### [Resources for Congregational Study](#)

- Our newly created [intergenerational curriculum based on lessons from Mister Roger's Neighborhood](#) provides a wealth of activities and spiritual formation. You

### [HELPFUL LINKS](#)

- [Tips for virtual meetings](#) from NEXT Church
- [Detailed information](#) from the PC(USA) about online worship, including information about sacramental

can have families carry out the activities at home and share pictures and experiences to a Facebook group, or use with the entire congregation through Zoom or another video conferencing app.

- Our friends at The Thoughtful Christian are offering their new Lenten downloadable study packs for both adult and youth groups for free during this time. While we are halfway through Lent, you can begin the studies from the first session and have multiple online study meetings each week, or you can use it each week past the season of Lent. We've combined all of the sessions into one PDF for easy sharing. Each study includes six sessions.

- Adult Study: "Jesus Sees Women: An Adult Lenten Study" The purpose of this six-session Lenten study pack for adults is to examine the Gospel stories about Jesus' interactions with women in order to shed light on how we are called to be disciples of Jesus in our own time. [Download Participant Handouts](#) | [Download Leader's Guides](#)
- Youth Study: "Sabbath Keeping for Busy Teens: A Youth Lenten Study" The purpose of this six-week Lenten study pack for youth is to offer the opportunity to reflect on the frenetic consumer culture that demands their time, energy, and loyalties and consider how Sabbath can be a tool to resist the "culture of now." Based on Walter Brueggemann's book Sabbath as Resistance. [Download Participant Handouts](#) [Download Leader's Guides](#)

### Resources for Families with Children

- Each week we'll be providing in our emails and on our [Facebook](#) page a [free story with corresponding activities](#) and a [pack of five coloring pages](#) from the children's curriculum, Growing in Grace and Gratitude. Click the links above for this week's offering.
- Our friends at Flyaway Books have a full list of free and downloadable activities like an [origami butterfly](#), a [paper airplane](#), parable-themed [coloring pages](#), and [more](#). Also, if you have some of their children's books, there are discussion guides as well.

celebrations

- [Additional information](#) from the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
- [A very comprehensive site with information about doing church \(worship, ministry, study, etc\) online](#) from a solely online church. There are a number of resources here!
- [Online giving information](#) from the Presbyterian Foundation
- Groups are partnering to [provide online recovery meetings](#) with in-person meetings such as AA being cancelled
- [Previously recorded webinars](#) about technology and the church from Practical Resources for Churches
- [Online worship opportunities](#) from More Light Presbyterians
- [PC\(USA\) Store Customer Service changes](#)
- Hymnal and Book of Common Worship [Rights and Licensing Information](#)
- Information about [distributing curriculum to church members](#) for purchasers of Growing in Grace and Gratitude, Feasting on the Word Curriculum, and The Present Word

### Resources for Adults

Our friends at Westminster John Knox Press have made a number of resources available for free or reduced cost.

- You can [download chapter five](#) from Walter Brueggemann's new book [Materiality as Resistance](#). This chapter is about how the materiality of place informs our faith. As our concept of place changes during this crisis, this is an appropriate chapter to study individually or as a church community.
- The following three ebooks are available for free through Amazon Kindle:
  - [Living into Lent by Don McKim](#) can be used as a devotional or group study. Please share this link with your church members and utilize the book for devotion and group study. You may read aloud from the book on live-streaming platforms. We ask that you read small sections at a time and not have your videos permanently online. Facebook groups are a great way to organize book studies. Leaders can ask questions and post videos and all can participate.
  - [Mindfulness and Christian Spirituality](#) by Tim Stead can help provide readers with mindfulness practices during this time.
  - [Overcoming Stress](#) by Tim Cantopher, MD, offers information on both acute treatments and longer term management in avoiding stress and its ill effects.

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## Advisory Opinion

### Communion in an Emergency/Pandemic

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Advisory Opinion

- [An ebook sale is also happening right now](#) from our ebook provider friends through Friday, March 27. You can also find all of these books in printed form on PC(USA) Store.
- Last year Westminster John Knox Press also [started a Facebook group about reading the Bible in a year](#) using the resource, [The Year of the Bible](#). You don't need to have the book to participate in the group and readings and group discussion questions are posted in the group. The ebook version is currently on sale in the sale listed above if you want access to the book.

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From the Reverend Diane Cooke, pastor of congregations at Willow Springs and Mountain View, Missouri.....

Silence phones, TVs etc. Gather a Bible, paper, and pen. A candle, if you wish. Take a minute to settle down. Light the candle, pray for the Holy Spirit to bless your time of worship. Read Psalm 27:1-2 and Psalm 86:1-13. Reflect on the qualities of God...his power, his love. Read Philippians 4:4-14. Consider Paul's situation and the ways his words encourage us. Take time for prayer. If you wish, make a list of the people and situations you believe need prayer. Pray aloud for these. Pray the Lord's Prayer aloud. Remember the many times you have prayed aloud with the church family. Realize that, although not together physically, you are joined in spirit as you pray. Sing the Gloria or Doxology or a favorite hymn. Set aside your offering to the church. Remember the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering is coming up at Easter. Putting your offering in the mail is an act of worship.

Close with 2 Cor. 13:13 as a benediction.

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## Christian Ed for the whole family!

Come share in story time and prayer, in discussion questions and learning labs, and do it all online with experienced commissioned pastor and educator, Julie Gvillo, from Giddings–Lovejoy Presbytery.

**Topic: Online Faith and Family Retreat**

**Time: March 29, 2020 ~ 9 a.m.** (Central Time (US and Canada)) [Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 354 633 418

Password: 012146

**Topic: Online Faith and Family Retreat**

**Time: March 29, 2020 ~ 11 a.m.** (Central Time (US and Canada)) [Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 365 964 690

Password: 342835

**Topic: Online Faith and Family Retreat**

**Time: March 29, 2020 ~ 4 p.m.** (Central Time (US and Canada)) [Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 661 738 324

Password: 550551

Julie Gvillo, Consultant and Commissioned Pastor, PC(USA)

Reiki Master Practitioner and Teacher

Certified Zentangle Teacher

Creative Executive Director, A Place of Grace

Like my page:

<http://www.facebook.com/juliegville.aplaceofgrace/>

Check out my website:

<http://www.aplaceofgrace-juliegville.net>

618-410-5060

## BOUNDARIES TRAINING

All ministers serving congregations are required to complete boundaries training annually. A few opportunities are scheduled on different days, times, and locations, to make it possible for everyone to attend.

**If you would like to host a training for your area, please contact Malinda.**

Malinda Spencer  
Pastoral presbyter  
John Calvin Presbytery

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### Contact Us..... How can we help?

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**Administrative Ministries Committee Moderator: Julie Mercer**

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**Committee on Preparation for Ministry Moderator: Diane Cooke**

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**Committee on Representation Moderator: Lorraine Whittington**

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**JC Living Waters Ministry: Sharon Marsh**

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**JCPDA Ministry: Todd & Kathy Morriss**  
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**Recording Clerk: Gail Wilson**  
417-838-4402 / [gwilson@jcpresbytery.com](mailto:gwilson@jcpresbytery.com)

**Please continue to mail all remittances  
Per Capita, Shared Mission and special offerings to:**

John Calvin Presbytery  
P. O. Box 787  
Shell Knob, Missouri 65747

**PULPIT SUPPLY** for a minister leading worship and preaching for a congregation as a visiting minister should ordinarily receive \$100.00, plus the IRS approved mileage amount per vouchered mile (2019 IRS rate \$0.575 per mile). Pulpit Supply is \$100.00 with the understanding that is only if one (1) service is to be prepared. It was approved by COM that if two (2) services are required the honorarium would be \$150.00. If overnight lodging is required, motel and meals should be provided at the church's expense. Honorarium for moderating a session is \$50 plus the IRS approved mileage rate per vouchered mile.

### **MINISTERS.....**

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### **CANDIDATE FOR MINISTRY....**

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### **RULING ELDERS.....**

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Only Kansas Churches

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Springfield, MO 65804

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### **JCP MISSION SPEAKERS.....**

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Springfield, MO 65804

Visit our website