

Notices

June 5, 2020

[Visit our website](#)

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
- Sarah Roberts, health concerns, wife of Matthew Roberts. The Reverend Matthew Roberts is pastor of Woodland Heights Presbyterian Springfield

Time for Children:
Every Thursday
at 4 p.m.
on Facebook Live

From

The Reverend Dr. Robert Bardeen,
Interim Pastor at First Presbyterian
Nevada, Missouri



A few days before the shelter-in-place order occurred, the Nevada Session decided to have some time for children at the church on Wednesday afternoons. It would start after Easter. We planned on some crafts, snack, Bible lesson, games, and a story. Little did we know what was coming ahead.

However, Facebook Live allows contact with each other and records the message for those who can watch it live. Thus, every Thursday at 4 pm, I have Time for Children at First Presbyterian, Nevada MO on Facebook Live within our Facebook group. It lasts for about 25 minutes and includes: welcome, scripture memory verse, a new game, a new story, and a closing prayer. The games vary from Kings on the Corner, one hour Monopoly, Scoop, coin games, and so on. I only introduce the game. The stories usually have 2 or 3 parts. The last three have been "The Brown Bear Who Went to Kansas City to Have Barbecue," "Sugar Creek Memories," "Harvey and Jack," and my current one - "The Turkey and Bambi." I use names of children who I know are listening.

During the last two weeks, we average 135 views. Parents tell me that their children want to watch several times. Our grandchildren in California watch live, and I have some friends in North Carolina who have started to watch.

If you want to see a former Facebook Live message, send me (bbard5@yahoo.com) your name and I'll invite you to join the First Presbyterian group. Then you can evaluate for yourself.

For Pastors of John Calvin Presbytery: PDA Building Resilience

Presbyterian Disaster Agency will offer a small group conversation for 15 pastors in our presbytery. The workshop will last about 90 minutes and will be led by three members of the National Response Team and staff of PDA.

The PDA panel will provide the lens of disaster recovery and ministry in times of trauma in these conversations as we share questions, ideas and wisdom, learn from one another, and consider next steps. While the nature and course of this pandemic is unlike any previous disaster, we offer panel discussions that will include a focus on disaster recovery processes and long term recovery timelines based on PDA work in natural and human-caused disasters.

We will also share resources and tools for building and maintaining resilience in the midst of ministry in this season of COVID-19. We all know how important self-care is, and we will continue our emphasis and offerings in this area as faith leaders respond to the shifting needs of those they serve, including anxiety, illness, grief as well as the ordinary and celebratory aspects of life inherent in communities of faith.

events.constantcontact.com

[REGISTER HERE FOR PDA - BUILDING RESILIENCE](#)

White Fragility Book Discussion

This will be a Zoom group so that we can join with our siblings in Christ from all around John Calvin Presbytery. Meetings will be every other Wednesdays starting on June 17th and running through August 19th. We will offer both a morning session at 10:00 AM and an evening session at 7:00 PM.

events.constantcontact.com

The Mission and Nurture Committee would like to invite you to be a part of a presbytery-

wide book study. Back on March 10th, right at the cusp of the Coronavirus pandemic and weeks prior to the current events taking place all over our country, we as a committee decided to offer a book study on *White Fragility* by Robin Diangelo. This is a more timely selection now than it was in March.

As a Matthew 25 presbytery we have taken on our denomination's challenge to end systemic poverty, fight structural racism and strive for congregational vitality. Discussing the topics addressed in DiAngelo's book is important to our discipleship and witness in today's world.

Please join us as we learn, discuss, and grow in our faith while moving through this book - it won't always be comfortable or easy, but it will help us aspire to be more Christ-like in our words, beliefs and actions. This will be a Zoom group so that we can join with our siblings in Christ from all around John Calvin Presbytery. Meetings will be every other Wednesdays starting on June 17th and running through August 19th. We will offer both a morning session at 10:00 AM and an evening session at 7:00 PM. If there are a couple weeks you cannot attend, please don't hesitate to sign up anyway. Each session you can participate in is wonderful!

[REGISTER HERE ~ WHITE FRAGILITY BOOK STUDY](#)

PCUSA RESOURCES ON RACE

With A Knee On Our Neck



For four hundred years and more it has been going on in this land colloquially known as America. Black life disrespected, expendable and cheap. Beaten, raped, stabbed, shot, dismembered, lynched, incarcerated, burned and dragged to death. The violence of it all. The brutality of it all. The protection of it all. The justification of it all. The sheer calculus of it all. The colonization of Black lives continues uninterrupted and with little to no consequence. There is no safe place. And we are angry.

Breonna Taylor was in the sanctuary of her own home in the early hours of night when Louisville law enforcement made their deadly raid. Another Black woman was killed, never to rise again in this mortal frame. Kenneth Walker, the love of her life, was initially arrested and jailed for defending their home in the ill-fated raid before later being released. Family and friends, loved ones and allies want to know what possible pretext could exist for the continued mistreatment and killing of Black lives. There is none. Multiracial community, in intersectional witness, filled downtown streets in protest. I live in Louisville, and I am angry.

Ahmaud Arbery was jogging while Black through a neighborhood in Brunswick, Georgia, when a self-proclaimed citizen's arrest turned deadly. He didn't live far from where he was followed, filmed, accosted and shot twice in the chest. It didn't matter. Another mourning mother's son, another grieving father's child, another precious Black life gone, in a world turned callous and cold to his dreams and possibilities. After video of the shootings emerged, arrests were made. My beloved comes from that southeast region of coastal Georgia, less than an hour away. Multiracial coalitions against murder have risen in powerful protest, and I am angry.

George Floyd is the Minneapolis man who died in police custody mere days ago. The video is harrowing. So many of them are. Still, justice is far from guaranteed. What this one shows is a police officer kneeling, pressing down on the nape of Floyd's neck, the back of his head, an authority figure, oblivious to bystanders' entreaties to stop. For several agonizing minutes, handcuffed on his stomach, nose bleeding, body ground into the pavement, Floyd gasped for air, pleaded for breath, and called out to his deceased mother with his dying words. Across the nation, the people are taking to the streets. I am a Black man from Minnesota, and I am angry.

The world has not changed much since the pandemic. In some ways, perhaps, it has. Tragically, the coronavirus has taken the lives of hundreds of thousands of people the world over. More lives will doubtless be lost to us. The world of pandemic has infected, impacted and decimated countless millions more. Engrained social inequities in our health care systems have especially been exposed. We are sore distressed. We grieve for the children of God everywhere, lost to our world too soon.

Many people yearn for a “return to normal.” Others speak of a ‘new normal.’ I am not interested in either scenario. Racism, that most common of American diseases, also continues normative and dominant, a viral strain long ravaging our society. It is scarcely mentioned in polite company, except when the people raise their voices in protest. The convergence of pandemic and epidemic, Black life and suffering, from the denial and absence of health care to heightened rates of death and harassment on public streets, is not something many white Americans want to hear or accept. It is profoundly true.

Resistant to the winds of change, American racism continues to rear its ugly head. Differently contextualized in white supremacist and respectable white culture makes it no less destructive or dehumanizing. Debilitating to our national health and well-being, it powerfully resurfaces time and time again to expose our country’s deep-seated and self-inflicted wounds. In our myriad transgressions, obsession with hierarchy, and arrogance of empire, we have made Black communities especially susceptible to disease and death. We have exported our brands of racial death and social contradiction to the world.

The fear, hatred, bigotry, illogic, and indifference associated with racism is chilling and manifest. It finds its way into forms of personal decision, policy-making, and insouciant policing. It radically diminishes the life chances of many. Racism has long been America’s original sin. Amid a pandemic, now as before, I see Black death everywhere. I am angry and have every right to be.

The magnificent Audre Lorde said it best: “We use whatever strengths we have fought for, including anger, to help define and fashion a world where all our sisters can grow, where our children can love, and where the power of touching and meeting another women’s difference and wonder will transcend the need for destruction.” Fury and anger between equals and peers – when there is a knee on our necks, an invasion of our homes, in the very taking of our lives – is an act of righteous resistance, an insurrection against power and privilege, and an invitation for all into solidarity. May it be so.

In the Presence,

Alton B. Pollard, III

President and Professor of Religion and Culture, Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary

EMERGING NEEDS GRANT AVAILABLE.....

A new grant has been created to help congregations respond to emerging needs in their community, in response to the COVID-19 virus. Explanation and application for this grant can be found on our webpage.

EMERGING NEEDS GRANT

**Creative Ministry Grants Available
Deadline to apply is June 15, 2020**

Send completed application by [email to Malinda Spencer](mailto:malinda.spencer@louisvillepresbytery.org)

Or by mail: John Calvin Presbytery, P. O. Box 787, Shell Knob, MO 65747

We invite you to send your mission story to the Notices!
Please send to Malinda Spencer ~ mspencer@jcpresbytery.com

As requested...
the verbal portion of the floor report from Pastoral Presbyter at the May 21 meeting of presbytery, by Zoom-Video Conferencing.

SYNOD OF MID-AMERICA....

Throughout the period of online worship, the staff of the Synod of Mid-America will be providing a sermon for you to use every fourth Sunday. To have access to this sermon, **please visit our website and sign up for our main SoMA mailing list**. This is an offer open to every preacher, regardless of where the congregation you serve is located.

Thank you for all you are doing. Those of us you serve are so very grateful.

Grace and Peace,
Landon Whitsitt

Sign up for SoMA mailing list

PCUSA RESOURCES FOR CONGREGATIONS AND MEMBERS

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
Coronavirus/COVID-19
Resources for Congregations and Members

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

Pastoral Presbyter: Malinda Spencer

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Administrative Ministries Committee Moderator:

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Committee Ministry Moderator: Janice Zanders

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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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Mission and Nurture Committee Co-Moderator: Lou Ellen Hartley

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Mission and Nurture Committee Co-Moderator: Bill Agnew

417-209-7227 / Dr.WilliamAgnew@gmail.com & copy m Spencer@jcpresbytery.com

JC Living Waters Ministry: Sharon Marsh

417-880-5988 / smarsh43@icloud.com

JCPDA Ministry: Todd & Kathy Morriss

Kathy: 417-234-4643 Todd: 417-848-7471 toddandkathy.morriss@gmail.com

Recording Clerk: Gail Wilson

417-838-4402 / 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 (2020 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.

Visit our website for full pulpit supply list