



Newsletter April 2020

Special Announcement

Due to the uncertainty of the coronavirus, many events have been cancelled, rescheduled, or postponed. We have made every effort to protect our church families with the hopes of scheduling events soon.

Church service and activities will be announced on a week by week basis.

Arrangements have been made for online sermons from Pastor Will. Please visit page 3 for further details.

Message From Pastor Will

Romans 8:28-31

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. 29 For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. 30 And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified. 31 What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?



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Emilie Gossiaux was riding her bike in Brooklyn when she was struck by an 18-wheeler. She suffered a traumatic brain injury, a stroke and multiple fractures in her head, pelvis and leg. Five weeks later Emilie lay in the hospital bed alive but because she was unable to communicate, the doctors had relegated the 21 year old to spending the rest of her life in a nursing home. The night before her discharge, her boyfriend decided to try a method of communication with Emilie used on Helen Keller by her teacher Annie Sullivan. He began writing words in her hand. He wrote "I-L-O-V-E-Y-O-U." Immediately Emilie said, "Oh, you love me? That's so sweet. Thank you."

This miraculous breakthrough began the long road to Emilie's full recovery. She eventually graduated from Cooper Union art school in New York. In her attempts to communicate while in her state of unconsciousness, Emilie would plead for someone to "pull me out of this wall, I'm trapped inside a wall." Though on the outside she seemed comatose, her mind was trapped in darkness confined to what felt like being trapped inside a wall.

Many of us are trapped inside our own darkness, feeling stuck inside a wall unable to move. We need someone to come and pull us out. The power of the spirit to reach out and believe when all else failed. When the flesh is trapped and confined, the spirit will rise to reclaim life. There is a stronger presence within that enables and is capable of bringing joy and redemption in abundance to your life.

Today Lord, pull me out of the wall. Set me free from the confined spaces in my life. Let me experience the fullness of your unconquered spirit and know the abundance of your joy.

IF GOD IS FOR US,
WHO CAN BE
AGAINST US?
—ROMANS 8:31
reesi.kehomeni.org

Love in Christ,
Pastor Will

To Our Church Family

Dear Church Family,

I miss you all, I miss our church and the time of fellowship. I miss the smiles, the hugs, the conversations about the week and just sharing with each other.

I have been away from church before- for a week or two due to illness or vacation or even snow- and have found I missed my church family, but not like this. There is a longing, a despair that I am feeling that I have not felt before. The unknown of when we will pray, laugh and hug together again- is quite unnerving.

But as Christians, We are Better Than This.

God's grace is constant and our Faith should be steadfast. God knows that we all do and will have challenges everyday of our lives. That is why He has promised to always be with us. In these days of staying at home and seclusion- we know we are not alone.

GOD IS WITH US.

I want to encourage you all to find ways to keep our church ministry going. Even in these days of social distancing- there are ways to continue our outreach to those in great need. You may have an idea of a project and how we could safely implement this- Let us know. Also let us know of any prayer concerns, special needs or hospitalizations so that we can respond accordingly. If you are needing to get out of the house and walk and maintain the 6 foot distance feel free to come up to our church yard and front park area. It is getting ready to burst into spring blooms and will be beautiful. You can see God's beauty in nature and feel close to Him.

Our custodial staff has continued to do deep cleaning and sanitizing of our church building during these weeks

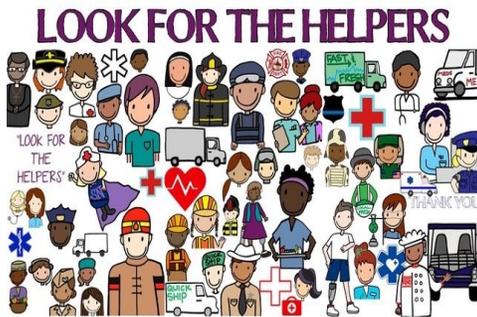
and we thank them very much.

If any of you feel you would like to volunteer for any projects in the church and maintenance, please just give me a call.

I don't know how long our church office and building will be closed and meetings postponed, but we must remain close in relationships and in communications. This is a time to Lean on the Lord, read the Word and find some Joy in each day. Easter is coming- a time to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Let's keep that in our minds and hearts in these days.

Let us stay calm, stay in prayer and stay in constant contact with each other.

God Bless You All,
Chip Artz



"When I was a young boy and would see scary things in the news, my mother would say to me, 'Look for the helpers. You will always find people that are willing to help' - Fred Rogers

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WE ARE PARK VIEW STRONG!

As I write this article, the news is giving statistics about COVID 19 and how this is impacting our lives, our community, our state, country and the world. Never in my lifetime have I seen anything like this and the effects worldwide. As the number of cases has grown and the loss of life has increased, it has been truly surreal. Now we are all dealing with more restrictions on our usual routines that have led to many being homebound. Yes, some even are fearful to go outside of their homes. BUT through it all, God is our ever-present strength and source of hope. We know that through God, All Things Are Possible.

So now we are not able to worship in a group setting at this point. We are all maintaining "social distancing". This is all different and yet many opportunities have been created and implemented

just in the past 7 days! Here are some ways our church has adapted yet still served:

- March 18- we provided 76 bagged breakfasts that were distributed at OASIS
- March 22- we had a "Drive Through" Baby Shower for Eva and Ciro Vasquez, right in our church parking lot,. Gifts were dropped off and well wishes sent and then all went home. Social distance maintained!
- March 23- Pastor Will presented a full sermon and led Communion online for us all and it was wonderful.
- Several have started putting scriptures and inspirational messages, texts, and/or emails during the week, that go out to many of our church family and friends.
- The Elders are calling many with words of care and prayer.
- Sunday School stories and art pages

have been sent to every child's home.

-Phone calls, texts, emails, and cards, are being sent during this time of mandated staying at home.

-Food Pantry utilized Drive Thru method to provide food for 4 needy families.

Church, this is only the beginning of what we can do to keep our church rolling and continuing to minister to our church family, friends and the community. There are challenges, but with God's help we will find a way to continue reaching out and being the hands and feet of Christ, during this time.

Let us all try to focus on our Lord and He will see us through this storm.

"Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might."

Ephesians 6:10

Be safe and know you are loved,
Gina, Elder Chair

Stay Connected

As the coronavirus pandemic has caused great despair, discomfort, worry, and uncertainty, we remain committed to serving you and meeting your spiritual needs. During this time, your Elders, Diaconate and Minister remain available via phone, email, and online platforms such as FaceTime, FaceBook, and Zoom.

Pastor Will has made arrangements for online Sunday sermons on FaceBook @parkviewccdoc

Please call (757) 484-1776 or email at parkvieccdoc@verizon.net to enroll in our "All Call" service to receive weekly announcements and reminders through your phone!

Also, sign up for email devotionals by emailing your email address to parkviewccdoc@verizon.net.

Wish to give online? Visit https://tithely.com/give_new/www/#/tithely/give-one-time/1300636

If you need any supplies and are unable to leave your home, please let us know. If you need prayers, assistance, or just someone to talk to, we are here for you!

This is a time when we must love and support each other. Above all, this is a time for intense prayer that this too shall pass! Please remember to pray for those who are leading the fight to combat this disease.

Love,
Your Park View Family



Easter Brings Hope For All

**He rode into town on a grey donkey that was slow
Nothing about him was ornate or full of show.
The people gathered and cheered for a KING
Not realizing that that he was God's son and would change everything.**

**They waved palms and shouted their praise
Not truly suspecting what would happen in the coming days.
He met his Disciples, his very best friends
In that Upper Room, his finest teaching would begin.**

**The example he set would remain forever with us,
To inspire, to serve, to have Hope when times are tough.
He showed servant leadership in how he washed their feet.
They were shocked and confused but the meaning was complete.**

**Then He broke bread and blessed the food and wine with these men
They didn't understand what he was doing and what was about to begin.
He told them "Do this in remembrance of me", some even asked why.
His best friends could not comprehend, that soon Jesus would die.**

**Arrested, beaten, shamed and jailed away.
The crowd gathered and yelling –condemning him that day.
Then Jesus was nailed to the Cross on Calvary's hill
Jesus suffered and died, but he accepted God's will.**

**On day three, the women went to the tomb,
The stone was rolled away and Jesus was not in that room.
Yes, Jesus was ALIVE, God resurrected him to show us his love
To show us God's forgiveness and grace that flows from above.**

**So EASTER brings Hope to all who believe in Jesus Christ
This what we cling to in time of stress and pain and strife.
Hope that is anchored in Faith is the strongest filled with love.
So My Prayer Is That Easter Will Bring You All the Hope From Above.**

With Love, Gina Artz

Inspiration

Prayer for Comfort

Comfort me with Your love O God
Wrap me up in Your strong embrace
Shelter me from the storm O Lord
Envelop me in Your tender care

By day I pour out my heartbreak to You
By night I give you my racing thoughts
In You I take refuge
In You I will not be afraid
For you hold me strong, You hold me safe
Calm my fearful heart O God
Still my anxious mind O Lord

For all my life is found in You
All my being is given to You
All my hope begins in You
sympathymessageideas.com

*"The Lord replied: "My precious child, I love and would never leave you.
During your times of trial and suffering, when you see only one set of
footprints, it was then that I carried you."
-Mary Stevenson*

He is with us always. We are one. We are one body. One spirit. One with Christ our Father. Over the past several weeks, we have experienced what can be defined as "the new norm". As a global society, we are struggling to understand how we can combat a virus that is wreaking havoc on us all. As we navigate the seas of the unknown, travel a path never traveled before, and endure an experience we never thought we would have to bear, let us pray for patience, understanding, and above all solace from our Heavenly Father.

*"There are times when we stop, we sit still. We listen and breezes from a whole other world begin to whisper."
—James Carroll.*

Now more than ever, as we stand in the stillness of chaos, let us listen to the whispers from our Heavenly Father.

You are not alone. We are a church family, the body of Christ, and together we will stand in solidarity with all our brothers and sisters across the world, and with one voice, say, "We shall overcome."

Love in Christ,
Kelly Collins, Membership Chair



Easter Special Day Offering April 5 & 12

The Easter Special Day Offering is one of four special day offerings in our church year. Each offering is set aside to use for specific purposes—this offering is used to support what is called the General Ministries of the Church which are many:

Central Pastoral Office for Hispanic Ministries
Christian Board of Publication/Chalice Press
Christian Church Foundation
Council on Christian Unity dba Christian Unity and Interfaith Ministry
Disciples Church Extension Fund (DCEF)
Disciples Home Missions
Disciples Women
Disciples of Christ

Historical Society
Division of Overseas Ministries/Global Ministries
Higher Education and Leadership Ministries
National Benevolent Association
National Convocation
North American Pacific/Asian Disciples
Pension Fund

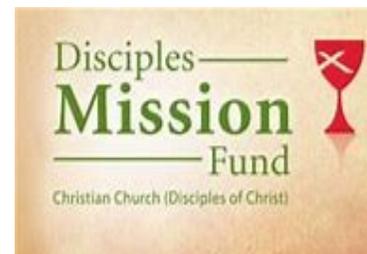
I will not try to explain each of these in this short article but if you would like to know more about each of them you can visit:

disciplesmissionfund.org/special-offerings/

But as you can see what ever you give must go a long way to support many things so please think about giving as much as you can.

Remember—even if we can't meet as a body at the church building during this Coronavirus crisis, we can meet online with Pastor Will and you can send your offerings to the church by mail or by online giving and still give "cheerfully"! Just be sure to designate "Easter special offering" in the memo area of your check.

Carolyn Jones, Outreach Chair



Church family,

If you wish to drive by and drop off your donations of food for our Food Pantry, Diapers for our Diaper Drive, and your financial church offering—please contact Chip Artz at (757) 439-0273 regarding a time when we will be at church to accept these Drive Thru offerings. We have also set up online giving.

Thank you all so much.

Diaper Drive Spring 2020

In all the turmoil of this Corona virus pandemic problem don't forget that there are people out there who are depending on us to collect diapers for children and adults who without us would not be able to obtain them.

We started our drive on March 15 and intended to end it on April 5, Palm Sunday, but have so far only been able to collect several hundred diapers!

So we will extend the drive to the end of April. For your convenience you can drop them off either at my house, 3 Treakle Terrace in Portsmouth and leave them on my porch most any time or call me at 757-695-0361 to make arrangements, or someone will be at the church on Saturdays from 11 am to 1 pm until we are able to open the church doors again and have church services.

Carolyn Jones, Outreach Chair

Here's What's Happening!

Park View is extremely fortunate to have 9 departments that are our Kingdom Builders! With their contributions, we are able to accomplish our Mission, serve the Lord, and be active in the community! Below are the goals of each department for 2020. All are welcome to join! Let us be Kingdom Builders of Living Stones, architects for Christ! He is calling you, pay attention to your journey, stay woke to the growth! For a complete overview of the departments, please visit the Church office for the 2020 Spring Congregational Meeting packet.

Christian Education Department GOALS

1. Organize more parent volunteers, who are willing, to take turns monthly to teach the children or assist in care on a rotational schedule.
2. Include more technology in class with smart TV, laptop activities, etc.
3. To work with Pastor Will to offer a special evening/Saturday Bible Study.
4. Plan and implement Vacation Bible School this summer and reach out to the community.
5. Promote Craig Springs Christian Camp and sponsor at least 3 children.
6. Host a Regional training session for Worship and Wonder at PVCC.
7. To encourage more adults to attend Sunday School classes.
8. To gain training and resources to assist our special needs children to enjoy learning about Jesus and God's word.
9. To encourage formation of activities and study group for our teenaged youth.

**Submitted by Gina Artz,
Christian Education team leader**



Disciple's Women Report GOALS

1. Involve more women of all ages into this Fellowship group/Bible Study.
2. Provide Secret Place devotionals to all families all year.
3. Conduct service projects including a Food Drive for our church pantry, and funding supplies for monthly OASIS breakfast provisions.
4. Sponsor the Tools for Hope projects and provide donations to national and international areas that suffer a major disaster (ex. hurricane relief, Red Cross).
5. Plan and implement 2 major fundraisers- Fall Bazaar and our Spring Brunswick Stew sale. Host Community Yard sale in June.
6. We plan to promote and participate in the Shoebox Christmas Child ministry and Operation Santa Clause in December, as well as help church families in need.
7. Host a Men's Appreciation Dinner, for all men of the church to say Thank You!
8. Sponsor the Mother-Daughter Banquet.
9. Help to pay for children to attend Craig Springs Christian Camp.
10. To be more active in regional and State CWF conferences as well as Church Women United of Portsmouth/ Chesapeake.
11. To provide/set up and cater receptions or lunches following funerals, weddings, and other special occasions.

**Submitted by Gina Artz,
Disciple Women President**

Elder's Report GOALS

1. To meet regularly, (monthly) and have intense prayer time, reflective devotionals and discuss ways to be a spiritual support system to the entire church. To work with the Diaconate and provide training and assist in caring for our church family.
2. To expand the Shepherding Program in which each Elder cares for a group of people and reaches out in times of need. Plans are to assist in visitation of members, guests, those hospitalized, recovering at home, or bereaved.
3. To take communion to those who are homebound or hospitalized as needed.
4. To plan and provide special worship opportunities for the congregation with Minister's help, such as The Last Supper portrayal, Pentecost, Christmas Eve service. Offer Open Prayer Service and invite the community.
5. To have a rotational schedule, where 2 Elders would serve at the Communion Table each Sunday and be available for any other special services during the year.
6. To possibility have an international study or podcast a couple times a year about expanding the role of the Elder.
7. To communicate with our Pastor, the needs, prayers, and concerns of church members and guests to offer assistance.

**Submitted by Gina Artz, Mike Tefft,
Carolyn Jones, Judy Harman, Sid Harman, Joyce Brennan, Bonnie Gifford,
Janet Sydenstricker**

Here's What's Happening!

Evangelism Department

GOALS

1. Planning projects that open our doors to the community and the PVCC church family.
2. Inviting the community to our church.
3. Spreading the love and work of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Projects

1. Easter Egg Hunt
2. Pizza & Movie Night
3. Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser
4. Spring Family Festival
5. Vacation Bible School
6. Truck or Treat

**Submitted by Charlie Arnold,
Evangelism Chair**

Membership Department

GOALS

1. Internal and External Communication with congregations and visitors- calendar of events, save the date flyers, etc.
2. Continuing Membership connection- sending flyers, emails, etc.
3. Hosting Church Family events/occasions
4. Host Annual/Biannual membership classes, or leadership retreat
5. Marketing/Promotional items for Visitors -updating welcoming packet, marketing materials
6. Community outreach with members by hosting community events and outreach
7. Outreach to Visitors for invitation to attend church, church events, and participate in outreach programs
8. Membership Card Campaign, including our "shut-ins" -mailing of cards to members for various occasions
9. Sunday Service Welcome Greeters

**Submitted by Kelly Collins,
Membership Chair**

Property Department

GOALS

1. Improve appearance of interior of Church by replacing ceiling tiles in remaining classes.
2. Recharge fire extinguishers.
3. Prepare and perform maintenance on lawn equipment for the spring, summer, and fall seasons.
4. Recommend a special Sanctuary roof replacement account be immediately established to replace the leaking roof.
5. Replace filters in heating units in kitchen, narthex, and furnace room.
6. Evaluate the feasibility of refurbishing of pews in the sanctuary.
7. Clean, sand and epoxy coat Baptism pool.
8. Repair broken pews in sanctuary.
9. Purchase and install fluorescent lights in remaining class rooms.
10. Repair roof leak in Mechanical Room.

**Submitted by Sid Harman & Mike Tefft
Department Chairs**



Stewardship & Finance Department

GOALS

1. Obtain a debit/credit card for the church and establish internal controls for use.
2. Review and implement an Online Giving option for regular financial giving.
3. Search and implement a new Stewardship Program to promote education about stewardship and opportunities.
4. To prepare all reports for official bi-monthly meetings, keep accurate records and to create a Church Budget.

5. Work with the Living Endowment Committee to help encourage more participation by members in this valuable opportunity for the future through this vibrant ministry.

**Submitted by Chip Artz
Department Chair**

World & Local Outreach Department

GOALS

1. Special Offerings: Easter, Pentecost, Thanksgiving, Christmas
2. Special Mission Funds: Week of Compassion which helps in the relief, refugee, and development
3. Reconciliation Offering: works toward reconciliation and anti-racism in the Church
4. Local Outreach: Diaper Drive, Food Pantry drives, Operation Christmas Child, Operation Santa Clause

**Submitted by Carolyn Jones,
Department Chair**

Worship Department GOALS

Upcoming Worship Events

April: Palm & Easter Sunday

May, June, & July:

Outside Pop-Up Worship Services-

"Party in the Park"-An opportunity for the community to party in our park after church with live praise music

September-Homecoming Sunday

All Church Picture

*Please feel free to submit your worship requests, thoughts, song selection, and praise portion to Liz!

**Submitted by Liz Artz
Worship Chair**

My Lord,

This morning I place my life in Your loving hands. I depend on You to light and guide my way and seek Your will in all I do. Please help to heal the scars of my past and allow me to outgrow the many things in my life that only keep me down. As I sit here in our quiet place of prayer, I confess my sins and ask that You cleanse me of my wrongful ways. Father, I ask that You please continue to mold me and change the parts of my life that are not pleasing to You. May I seek stability and answers from my Bible each and everyday for the remainder of my time here on earth. Thank You for all of the joy, peace and love You allow me everyday. In Jesus name I pray, Amen

“The way of the Lord is a refuge for the righteous, but is the ruin of those who do evil.” Proverbs 10:29



@parkviewccdoc

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Email:

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Website:

www.parkviewccdoc.com

Sign Up:

For Kingdom Building devotionals by emailing your email address to Church email!

Serving
Elders
5: **Gina Artz & Janet S.**
12: **Carolyn Jones & Sid Harman**
19: **Bonnie Gifford & Joyce Brennan**
26: **Mike Tefft & Judy Harman**

April Diaconate
Eva & Ciro

Presiding
5: **TBD** 12: **TBD**
19: **TBD** 26: **TBD**

Welcome Center-TBD

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

18: **Charles Jones**
20: **Sallie Chuma**
24: **Jennifer Mowery**
27: **Ozzie Artz**
28: **Kyle Dominguez**

Revised Common Lectionary Readings for April

5: Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29
Matthew 21:1-11

12: Acts 10:34-43
or Jeremiah 31:1-6
Psalm 118:1-2, 4-24
Colossians 3:1-4
or Acts 10:34-43
John 20:1-18 or Matthew 28:1-10

19: Acts 2:14a, 22-32
Psalm 16
1 Peter 1:3-9
John 20:19-31

26: Acts 2:14a, 36-41
Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19
1 Peter 1:17-23
Luke 24:13-35

Pray for our Nation and its leaders.
Pray for protection to all healthcare workers, first responders, pharmacy staff, researchers, police, fire fighters, EMTs, delivery drivers, restaurant workers, truck drivers, dock workers, shipping workers, grocery employees, and all those affected by the coronavirus.
Please pray for all our Church family, the Elderly, the Homebound, our church family who are out of work or furloughed, our most needy, the poor, the disabled, and the homeless.

Family News & Prayer Requests

Ed Sparrow needs prayers for ongoing cancer treatments.
Mitchell Daniels suffers from frequent lung infections because of cystic fibrosis.
Warren Brennan is receiving treatment for his knee pain.
Leo Ruffing has COPD and Parkinson's disease.
Peter Austin, son of Ken & Joan Austin, has Huntington's Disease.
Allen Powell, had successful surgery on Feb. 24 for colon cancer. Prayer is requested.
Chip Artz is now awaiting results from cancer treatment. Prayers needed.
Janice Cubberly is undergoing a cardiac work up pending surgery and is suffering from pain in her right arm/hand. Prayers are needed.

Betty Lou Cummings has severe right leg pain and spinal complications.
Shirley Byrd is now home recovering well at home from total knee surgery.
Sonny, Shirley Byrd's brother, is battling cancer at home and is in need of prayers.
Paula Sparrow needs prayers for a serious pulmonary disease.
Jason & Sallie Chuma, have safety arrived in their new home in Washington. Please send cards of love to:
**11696 Vantage Vista Place, NW
Silverdale, WA 98383**

**Park View Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)**

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Chesapeake, Virginia 23321

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Website: www.parkviewccdoc.com

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