

# APC Connections

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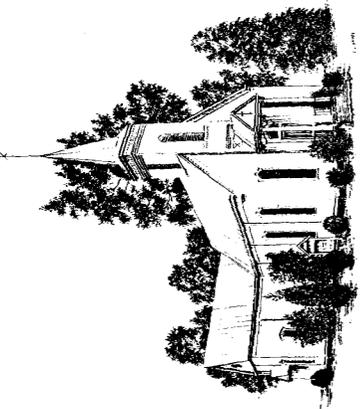
September 2019

**Pastor**  
Rev. Kerra English

**Admin. Assistant**  
Susan Vitale

**Director of Music**  
Karla Bloom

**Organist**  
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ASHLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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### Upcoming Events

- Sept. 4—7 PM  
Choir rehearsals resume
- Sept. 8 — 9:30 AM  
Rally Day Break-fast; Session meets 12:15 PM
- Sept. 10—PW Circle meets 11 AM
- Sept. 15—9:30 AM  
Sunday School classes begin



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### Pastor's Page

*The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. (Lamentations 3:22-23)*

Friends,  
What do we do with suffering? How do we stay connected when the world seems to be falling apart? How do we understand who our loving God is when hate and violence are so much a part of the daily news? I may not have answers, but my wish is for us to explore the questions together.  
This verse from the book of Lamentations sheds some light on what I hope will come from thinking about and doing the spiritual practice of Lament. It is in the middle of many verses, before and after, about the great suffering and despair that human beings face where we find this startling opportunity to put our hope in God. Even in the midst of sheer and utter chaos – the steadfast love of the Lord can be trusted.

In September and October, I plan to preach from two books of scripture, Lamentations and Jeremiah. You may have heard before that Jeremiah is called the weeping prophet. Jeremiah, perhaps more than any other biblical figure, gives us an understanding of loss, and lies, and the incredible power of lament.

I can't say just yet where exactly we will be going on this journey, but I challenge you to spend some of your devotional time opening those two books. Read a chapter or read just a few verses. If there are verses that seem to be speaking directly to you, pay attention to that. Let the words travel through time and space to connect with your heart.

Perhaps we heal the brokenness by truly shedding our tears, tearing at our clothing, and allowing our anger to surface at the pain and injustice of our world. Join me in our common lament.

Blessings and peace, Pastor Kerra

## Session Sound Bites

The following is an overview of our August 11 Session meeting;

- ◆ Ashland Presbyterian currently has 75 active members on our church roll.
- ◆ Session approved the renewal of Kerra's Covenant Agreement through August 31, 2020.
- ◆ The session offered our deep appreciation to Mike Carneal for his service over the past years as a session member.
- ◆ Our year-to-date financial deficit through July stands at \$7,478.
- ◆ We reviewed the exciting plans for the Adult and Youth Sunday School programs for 2019-2020.
- ◆ The session approved the use of APC for the upcoming wedding of Kathy Basilio's son Ben and his fiancée Jamie Colgin on October 26.
- ◆ Michael Raymond presented proposed plans to make changes to our current accounting practices in order to better differentiate and track memorial giving and outreach fund flows.
- ◆ Michael proposed moving church balances currently in CD's to more liquid money market type accounts as returns on CD's have fallen to nominal levels.
- ◆ Audit Committee will now meet and report to session by September 30.
- ◆ Stewardship committee will initiate efforts to encourage greater use of online giving by the congregation.
- ◆ APC will co-host the October 19 Presbytery meeting at New Hanover Presbyterian Church.
- ◆ Union Presbyterian Seminary is offering a Seminary for a Day program of various short studies open to all church members on September 28. For more information see the poster on the bulletin board.

Our next stated session meeting is scheduled for September 8. Feel free to contact any Session member for clarification on any of the above items.—Roger Cole, Clerk

## And News and Notes

This year, the session is working on accounting practices that would separate the Memorial Garden and Memorial Gifts funds from the general year to year budgeting process so that we can track those funds more accurately over a longer term.

The completion of the Memorial Garden and the subsequent addition of the pathway to the sidewalk and the associated gifts and costs have now been accounted for. Initially the cost of a brick in the garden had built into the price an amount that would help establish and continue the garden into the future. Noting that the largest expenditures for that project are now complete, the Session has reduced the cost of purchasing

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## Usher and Greeter Schedule

	GREETERS	USHERS	COMMUNION ELDERS	COMMUNION PREP & CLEANUP	LITURGIST	FLOWERS
9/01/18	W. Rainey	L. Allison, M. Summerson	D. Dunn	S. Carneal		Coles
9/08/18	P. Shinnamon	K. Basilio, M. Summerson	<i>REMEMBER, If you cannot serve, please find a replacement and leave a message on the office phone, 798-5543.</i>			Basilio
9/15/18	B. Shea	R. Cole, L. Herring				
9/22/18	M. Summerson	L. Allison, R. English, C. Phillips, C. Schutte				
9/29/18	J. Tate	S. & M. Carneal				Tate
10/06/18	S. Vitale	S. Henderson, M. Summerson	S. & D. Moncol, C. Schutte, M. Summerson	K. Basilio, J. Tate		



### Happy Birthday to: September

- 2 Terry Alexander
- 7 Bob Lybrand
- 14 Sallie Moncol
- 20 Grace Arey  
Pat Dunn



SPECIAL OFFERINGS  
PEACE & GLOBAL WITNESS

**World Communion Sunday**  
**October 6, 2019**

Your gift enables the church to promote the Peace of Christ by addressing systems of injustice across the world. Individual congregations are encouraged to utilize up to 25% of this Offering to connect with the global witness of Christ's peace. Our portion goes to Hanover Save Place whose mission is to prevent sexual and domestic violence, provide services to those affected, and create community awareness for support and resources.

**AND Sub and Sundaes Fellowship**  
following morning worship at 12:15 p.m.

## PW Circle

The PW Circle will meet the second Tuesday of each month beginning in September (**September 10**). This year's Horizon Bible Study is Love Carved in Stone--A Fresh Look at the Ten Commandments. Ginger Young will lead the study. Please see Debbie Moncol for a copy of the book. —Debbie Moncol, Moderator



## Back To School Time

Rally Day is coming on September 8, which means that Sunday School is right around the corner. On **September 15**, our **Adult Sunday School class** will begin a study of the Beatitudes. The class will have different teachers throughout the year. Please come and join us. Coffee and tea are provided each Sunday.

Classes for **young people** will begin on **September 15**. Their study is entitled "Just Eating? *Practicing Our Faith at the Table*" with Wendy Rainey and Susan Vitale teaching. The first Sunday of each month the youth will have singing with Annette Shuff.



## The Ash Grove at Richmond Hill November 8 & 9, Friday 4 PM to Saturday 4 PM "TURNINGS" GUEST SPEAKER: Leslie Shiel

Who are you at *this* moment in your life? Is there a singular story of your life? Or are there versions of your story that you tell yourself and others? Using Mary Oliver's poem "The Journey" as a starting point, we'll welcome, name, question, and honor our multiple stories, enriching our exploration by reading poems and prose from several writers. Through discussion, journaling (which you may choose to keep private), lectio divina, artwork (any form that calls you), you will reconsider, reframe, and give one of your past stories a new place in your spiritual history. We'll also help each other uncover and recognize the voice of a current longing. Leslie is the author of the poetry chapbooks *Self-Portrait as a New Name* and *Braided* (Finishing Line Press), Leslie Shiel teaches at Virginia Commonwealth University ("Writing Poetry," "Nature Writing," and "Medicine in Literature") and at the Visual Arts Center of Richmond ("Advanced Poetry"). She is a Quaker (who is also involved at Richmond Hill), married, the mother of a 20-year-old daughter. Brochures are now available in the narthex, and our website is ready for you to register for the retreat. Also, The Rev. Dr. Sandi Goehring will be back this year to introduce us to her "old friends" the Beguines - sisters she discovered during her doctoral dissertation work.

**REGISTER SOON** – fill out a brochure or register at [ashlandpresbyterian.org](http://ashlandpresbyterian.org).

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a brick to \$100, which covers the cost of the brick, its engraving, and installation at around \$70 (give or take any changing of vendors) and allows us to accumulate a minor amount to help us with replacing plants or tending to a broken brick or small fixes. Were we to incur greater expenses related to this part of our facilities, we may need to revisit that price point, but for now, we find it to be affordable for most families, and Session is happy to consider individual requests if it is not feasible at that price. A big thank you to those who helped us get this project to the point it is now – through designated giving or the purchase of a brick for a loved one. Your contributions made it all possible!

As we have received some major bequests and ongoing giving to remember loved ones who have been members of this congregation, we are also realizing that establishing some direction on how we track and consider use of general Memorial Fund donations is becoming even more important. We are grateful that we have had a combination of reserve funds (from the sale of the manse) and memorial donations that have made recent renovations to our buildings possible. Thank you for your consideration of those larger projects! Now, it's an opportunity to think about how we remember our beloveds into the future with the legacy they are leaving to us. If you have suggestions or input to offer, feel free to share your thoughts with any current Session member or Pastor Kerra.



**SEPTEMBER**  
**Mark Your Calendars!**



**Choir Practice**

Resumes Wednesday, **September 4**  
at 7 PM. New members are welcomed!



**RALLY DAY**  
**Potluck Breakfast**  
**September 8**  
**At 9:30 a.m.**

Sign-up sheet will be in the narthex!

## Meet Our New Intern at the Breakfast

We will welcome Jay Morgan as our incoming intern starting with the Rally Day breakfast on September 8. Jay is from Richmond and has completed a summer of Clinical Pastoral Education at the hospital at VCU. Please remember to introduce yourself and wear your name tag as Jay gets to know who we are.