

APC Connections

Volume 12, Issue 7

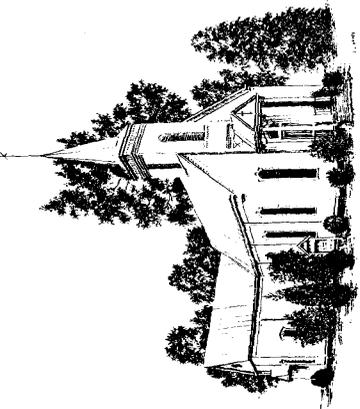
April 2020

Pastor
Rev. Kerra English

Admin. Assistant
Susan Vitale

Director of Music
Karla Bloom

Organist
Austin Wachsmuth



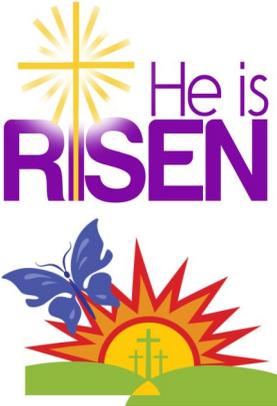
804-798-5543
email: ashlandpres@aol.com
www.ashlandpresbyterian.org

ASHLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

401 Virginia Street
Ashland, VA 23005

Upcoming Events

- April 5—Palm Sunday, 9 AM online
- April 9—Maundy Thursday Service, 7 PM online
- April 12—Easter Sunday, 9 AM online



Inside this issue:

<i>Note from Our Intern Jay</i>	3
<i>April Events</i>	5
<i>Ushers/Greeters Birthdays</i>	5

Pastor's Page

Friends,

It seems as though the whole world has changed just over the past few weeks. With the increasing mandates coming from the Governor's office to shelter in place because we will be safer at home from the devastation of the coronavirus, the Session initially moved our worship to online only in mid-March and now plans for our next evaluation to happen toward the end of May. Therefore, now and through Sunday May 31, unless restrictions are lifted before then, here are the decisions that have been made about this in-between time:

- ◆ Worship will be in an online format. **The options for worship are:** 1) Sunday Morning 9 a.m. LIVE worship on our Facebook page – with Kerra leading worship and Austin playing hymns, 2) a Worship Guide linked to our website on the sermon archive page: www.ashlandpresbyterian.org, and/or 3) receiving the Worship Guide by email and/or in your mailbox the following week.
- ◆ Maundy Thursday worship (April 9 at 7:00 p.m.) and the first Sunday in May will include communion at home. You will need to provide your own elements from what you have in your pantry – bread, crackers, wine, grape juice, or water.
- ◆ Our food pantry will be closed until we re-open for gatherings at the church. First Baptist and ACES are still (so far) operating area food ministries, and the schools are working to feed families with children. This ministry will be greatly needed even after businesses and churches re-open. We will

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

be planning for that!

- ◆ None of our staff members are obligated to be at the church office. Kerra and Austin are planning worship from their computers at home. Susan will be limiting her in-office time. We are giving the buildings a time for any trace of the virus to die out before we expect Shelby to clean every surface from top to bottom. Karla is staying connected with the choir. And Pete is connecting with Trey about what can be done to maintain our outside appearances.
- ◆ Our plan is to continue to pay our staff for their work. They are beloved to our congregation, and we see this as one of our ways to show God’s love. The Presbytery of the James is offering bridge loans should we need help to do that.
- ◆ Your offerings are still greatly appreciated! If you can donate online, the link can be found to do so on our website. If you can mail in a check, it may be delayed a bit in being deposited, but it helps to continue our ongoing expenses during this time, and we will certainly be witnessing many opportunities to grow our local mission in the weeks and months to come.

Now, we will be living even more into our *Call to Love* and our being *Sent to Serve*. Since we are staying at home these days, being “sent” may look more like making a phone call, offering your prayers, delivering a kind word, or if you are able, supporting a variety of relief efforts with your expertise or financial gifts. All are needed as we figure out how to be God’s beloved community in a very anxious time.

Speaking of that anxiety – I know you will know many situations being made more stressful by the adding of this pandemic to the mix. Let me know of them and I will be praying along with you. But I also ask that you keep our current intern Jay Morgan in your prayers as he is finishing seminary and his internship in this most unusual time. And pray for Sam Zeigleras she will be coming on board with us this Fall. Pray for the Randolph Macon college community and particularly Austin as his graduation is being disrupted by what it is taking for all of us to remain safe.

I am still here with you. So is your Session. We’ve all made plans to stay connected the old-fashioned way -with a lot of phone calls - while we await the day where we can connect in person again. Know that you can call me anytime – day or night – if you are feeling lost, alone, or stressed out by all that is going on. Calls, texts, emails, Facebook – or any way you prefer to reach me is absolutely fine!

Easter will look different this year. As we contemplate the empty tomb, we will be

(Continued on page 3)



Mark Your Calendars

All Services will be on FaceBook Live



Communion Service
April 9 at 7 PM



April 5, 2020
at 9:00 a.m.

Easter Sunday, April 12, 2020
at 9:00 a.m.



PW Circle

The Circle meeting scheduled for Tuesday, April 14 at 11 a.m. has been cancelled. In lieu of the PCUSA Presbyterian Women organization has made lesson overviews for our Horizons Bible Study now that we are all sheltering in place. The link is www.Youtube.com/user/PresbyterianWomen and Lesson 8 discusses Words of Love: Speak Truthfully. Stay safe and be well.



Important announcement: This will be the last newsletter until we are back up and running. Watch for Staying Connected emails and One Call Messages!

Happy Birthday: April

- 1 Liz Campbell
- 13 Flo Sthresley
- 17 Caitlin Blair
Erin Blair
Rob DuPriest
- 20 Linda Herring
- 23 Ginger Young



May

- 3 Sheila Henderson
- 11 Pete Shinnamon
- 16 Annette Shuff
- 17 Ellie Shea

June

- 24 Julie Tate
Jennifer Raymond
- 27 Carol Dedischew
- 1 Rebecca Raymond

Remember to check out our website at: ashlandpresbyterian.org where you can find Kerra’s sermons, current (and old) newsletters, and upcoming events.

You can also find us on Facebook!

(Continued from page 3)

voice.

APC teaches me that hospitality involves a kind of openness that isn't just generous of what *we* have to offer, but that's also generous of our space and time to see what identities, talents, and stories might also be offered to us. As your guest, you all have let me try and bring what I could to your table. You weren't sure what I would be doing—and you were willing to be there all the same. That openness is what hospitality is about, I think.

The Apostle Paul writes in 2 Corinthians 5:17, “if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation.” APC illustrates Christ as you continue to adapt to new interns, new losses, new hopes, new members, and new challenges like the coronavirus. In Christ we are open to new circumstances and new realities. I'm unhappy to be writing a goodbye to this church family when I know we may not see each other in person until after my internship is over. You all have given me so much support, practice, help, and encouragement in my ministry and I will always be grateful to you.

Thank you all so very much for your hospitality. May God continue blessing this church with the Spirit of Christ who makes way for it. And remember, “Life is short. We do not have much time to gladden the hearts of those who journey with us. What should we do? Be swift to love and make haste to be kind, that God's love and light may be with you and all people everywhere. Amen.”

-Jay Morgan

NOTE: Sadly, we will not get to celebrate Jay's time with us. We can, however, send cards to Jay to express our thanks and well-wishes. His address is 1804 Grove Avenue, Richmond, VA 23220.



**Electronic
Fund Giving**

Treasurer Note: DONATE ONLINE

With Shelter In Place in effect until June 10 and Services of Worship being done online, we obviously are not able to personally attend church services. As this is the case, please consider scheduling an electronic contribution. (*Donate Online is at the bottom of our web page*). The **One Great Hour of Sharing** is also one of the choices on our web site for giving. If you do not wish to give online, Susan is still in the office to receive checks for deposit.

(Continued from page 2)

so aware of all the empty churches. They are only the buildings, not the Spirit! Remember that this emptiness is a sign of our love and care for one another. And when we are able to see each other again face to face, the proclamation of faith that **Christ is Risen** will mean so, so much to us. Know that you are in my prayers constantly.

There's a charge that I've been using in my weekly worship and will continue to do so until we meet again – stick it on your refrigerator or put it by your phone as a reminder that your faith community continues to endure as it always has, as it always will.

Every hand that we don't shake must become a phone call that we place. Every embrace that we avoid must become a verbal expression of warmth and concern. Every inch and every foot that we physically place between ourselves and another, must become a thought as to how we might be of help to that other, should that need arise. –Rabbi Yosef Kanevsky of Los Angeles

God be with you until we meet again!

Pastor Kerra

A Note from Seminary Intern Jay Morgan

Dear Ashland Presbyterian Church,

This church is a place of hospitality. You host one another each week. You host family members, friends and neighbors whether they are present or whether you create space in the beginning of worship to lift them up in prayer. You also host new interns like me each year.

The hospitality of this church is what makes pastoral internships possible. APC has dedicated I don't know how many years to helping seminarians like me find voices and pastoral identities. You've welcomed me into your church and your welcome is only the beginning of your hospitality. I didn't need to be anybody else as your pastoral intern. You let me be me. Once I felt welcome, you gave me space I needed to explore how I might together preach God's Word and be true to myself. When my dog Sully died you gave me space to cry in the pulpit. When I wanted to practice styles of preaching that I wasn't sure would mesh with who I am as an aspiring pastor, you gave me enough room and good feedback to try and better understand my sense of

(Continued on page 4)