

Fincastle Presbyterian Church

A Message from David

In 1 John 1: 3 and 4 we read: “we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have Fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.”

First let me say “Welcome back” to all of us who gathered for in-person worship in our beloved Fincastle Presbyterian Church last Sunday! It was a special joy to see everyone’s smiling faces (safely “masked”!) and to “elbow-bump” with you outside the sanctuary after worship. It has been a bit more than one year since our last in-person worship time together.

At the same time it is important to affirm those of us who choose to worship through the live-streaming of the worship service. We should understand that each of us have

different levels of health concerns and different levels of need for “social distancing” to be protected from the corona virus.

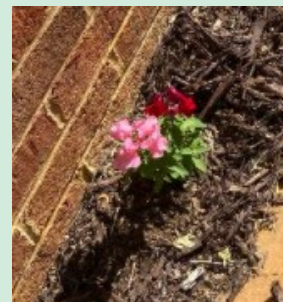
Either way, “in-person” or live-streaming, we are still “one” in the body of Christ. As we read above in 1 John 1: 3&4, our fellowship with one another is built upon our common faith in God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. That faith empowers our fellowship with one another to exist, whether we choose to worship together “in-person, or via “live-streaming”. Still we all long for the day when we all can assemble comfortably together for the worship of God!

May God bless you and keep you all.

David



Thank you to Lyn Barton, Verna Shuey and Becky Downs for the fresh new flowers at the front of the church.



Worship Committee

Facebook Live Worship Every Sunday 10:30 am

Directions for watching Facebook Live On Sunday

1. Go to <https://www.facebook.com/fincastlepresbyterianchurch/> on your computer or phone
2. Once the service starts, if you don't see the new Facebook post with the Facebook Live Video on the page above, refresh your page, or close it and go to the url above again.
3. The Facebook Live Video will begin at 10:30 AM. The service will start at 10:30AM. Music will start at 10:30

Musical Additions to Worship Service

- * Chiming of the hour at the beginning of the service
- * A time for Meditation and Personal Reflections immediately after the sermon

In Person Worship Every Sunday 10:30 am

1. Please call the church office by Thursday each week to "reserve" your attendance.
2. Enter through the front and side doors. There will be a basket outside the main door for your weekly contributions/pledges/donations.
3. Wear a mask and socially distance at all times. The pews are marked with green tape to show the "open" seats. Please do not remove the tape.
4. There will be no congregational singing but there will be congregational unison readings and praying.
5. The sections of the church will be "released" by David to prevent a "road block" at the exit.

Congregational Care Committee

Lyn Burton 5/2,
Rena Heslep 5/5,
Cindy Bailey
5/23,
Eric McGraw 5/24,
Joel Branscom 5/26,
John Hancock 5/31



May Birthdays

Prayer Requests and Concerns

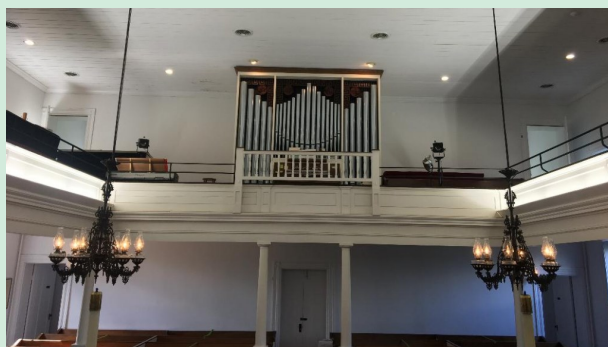


FPC Members: Evelyn Renshaw, Alan Brenner, Peggy Davis, Nathalie Givens, Kaki Peaslee, Phyllis Tenser, Dianne Poynor, Family of Clyde Givens, Family of Jean Branscom, Family of John Poynor

Friends and Family: Laura Holt McCann, Mary Lee Reese, Mary Black, Marilyn Koch, Alexis Porter, Molly Rose, Gretchen Greiner, Lisa Curlee, Marc Evans, Betty Miracle, Michael & Sandy Petrucci, Sharon Lane, Dana & Billie Wilson, Abigail Nikle, Geneva Ratliff, Lilly Porter, Marlene Davidow, Anna Burton, Weldon and Susan Martin

Re-Opening — Thoughts from Session

1. The session recognizes that it has been hard on the church members to have the church remain closed for these past 14 months.
2. However, our first priority was to keep everyone safe which was also mandated by our Presbytery
3. We did however achieve our goal of keeping everyone safe. We deliberately tried to error on the side of caution during this difficult and unprecedented time. Throughout this period, nobody has contracted the Covid 19 virus as a result of worship or fellowship within our church facility.
4. Now it appears we are coming through this pandemic and can begin resuming more normal times,
5. Let's please continue to be vigilant to stay safe, but to open back up to normal operations as quickly as it is prudent.

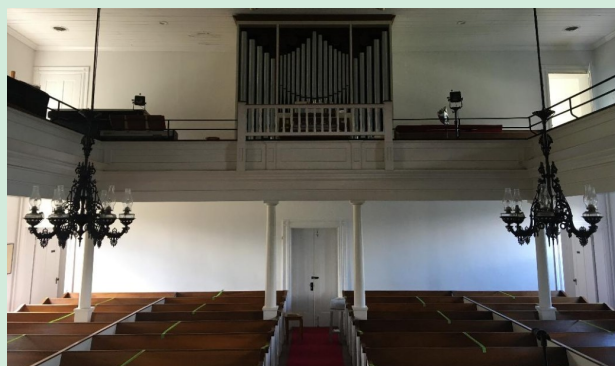


New LED lights in our sanctuary.

See how bright our sanctuary is now.

Property Committee

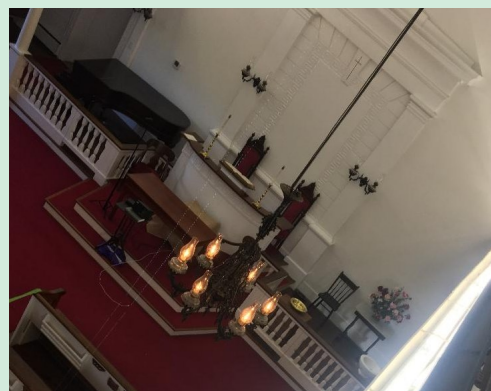
Here is a picture of our beautiful sanctuary illuminated with natural light (FYI—this picture was taken in the morning)



During our live streaming, we noticed a humming coming from the florescent lights. A baluster was going bad. David, Sandy, Patsy, Lynne and I talked about what we could do and we decided (with the session's blessing) that the "old" lights should be replaced with new LED lights. On May 3 the electricians came into the sanctuary and installed LED lights and new canned lights in the balcony. All of these lights are connected on dimmer switches.

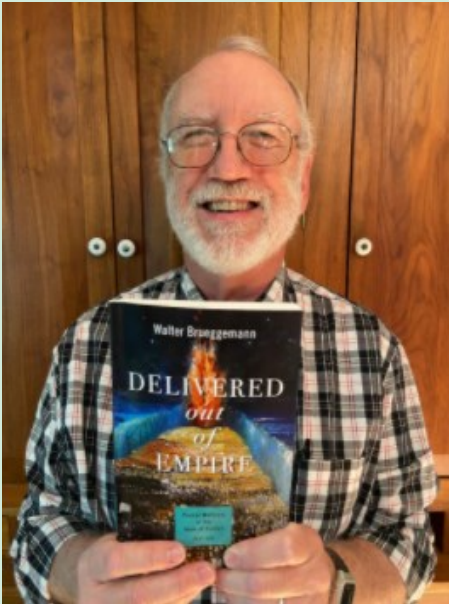
Thanks

Alan Brenner



Book Review

Note from Editor— I hope to make this a regular “article” in the newsletter. If you want to make a contribution, please let me know. Patsy (psdicke@yahoo.com)



“**Delivered Out of Empire**” by Walter Brueggemann (Pivotal Moments in the Book of Exodus Part One)

Each year I take a week of study leave to read one book with 7 of my fellow Union Presbyterian Seminary graduates. This year this was our book. The book contains 10 chapters that examine the first 15 chapters of Exodus. In those chapters, Brueggemann looks closely at: ancient Israel and its enslavement in Egypt; their cry for deliverance; the God of Israel who hears their cry and answers; Pharaoh and his advisors who resist the Lord’s will; and, finally, God’s defeat of Pharaoh and his armies, and God’s deliverance of the Lord’s people into freedom and the very beginning of their long journey to the Promised Land. According to Brueggemann Israel’s ancient story of deliverance from Pharaoh’s Empire can parallel stories in our modern era of the oppressed who are crying out for deliverance from the “empires” that oppress them.

I would like to begin an Adult Sunday School class based on this book. As a student all you need to do is read and study the first 15 chapters of Exodus and other Bible texts referenced in the book. If you want to buy the book, it can be easily ordered through Amazon or Barnes and Noble, etc. (ISBN—13:978-0-664-26538-0) Please let me know if you are interested and when you would like to start! I think that it will be an enlightening study.

Peace and Love in Christ,

David

New Church “Mailbox”

There is a new “mailbox” that has been installed by Alan Brenner on the door on the west side of the back of the church. Church members are welcome to drop their tithe/contribution into the box. It is locked on the other side, only accessed with a key. If you have messages for David or Beth, this box can be used for that also.



Congregation Recipe—Yummy! Yummy!

..... From Sandy Gates

Mammaw's Pound Cake

Ingredients:

- 2 sticks butter
- 1/2 cup shortening
- 1 teaspoon lemon extract
- 2 teaspoons vanilla extract
- 3 cups sugar
- 5 eggs
- 3 1/2 cups sifted all-purpose flour
- 1/4 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/4 teaspoon salt

Directions:

Cream butter, shortening with sugar. Add lemon and vanilla extract. Add eggs, one at a time and blend thoroughly with mixer. Add flour mixture alternately with milk a little of each at a time. Pour into a greased and floured tube pan. Bake at 325 degrees for one hour and 30 minutes. Frost with MamMaw's Caramel Frosting if desired.



Note from Editor— I hope to make this a regular "article" in the newsletter. If you want to make a contribution, please let me know. Patsy (psdicke@yahoo.com)

Mammaw's Caramel Frosting

Ingredients:

- 1/2 cup butter
- 1 cup firmly packed brown sugar
- 1/4 cup milk
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 2 cups sifted confectioner's sugar

Directions:

Melt butter in sauce pan, add brown sugar and cook over low heat two minutes stirring constantly. Add milk and continue stirring until mixture comes to a boil. Remove from heat and add 1 teaspoon vanilla flavoring. Add confectioner's sugar and stir until right to spread. May have to add condensed evaporated milk if too thick.

Session Thank You to You

Most everyone is aware that the church has acquired 2 plus acres behind the church. The lot has been cleared and is now being mowed on a regular basis. Thanks to everyone who has contributed to the purchase of this land. If you have not seen this plot of land, you should go behind the church to see it.

