
News from St. Peter's Lischey's U.C.C.
This is the fourth edition of a bi-weekly news update.
Thursday, June 11, 2020

Church Council and Staff are endeavoring to send out this bi-weekly update because, due to the current circumstances resulting from the quarantine, and not knowing what safety standards will be in place when we may be able to gather again, long term planning is not possible. Committees will be meeting via Zoom to consider options and how to implement social distancing for future events and worship.



Message from the Pastor:

"My brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of any kind, consider it nothing but joy, because you know that the testing of your faith produces endurance; and let endurance have its full effect so that you may be mature and complete, lacking in nothing."

James 1: 2 - 4

I recently rediscovered an old daily devotional entitled, "God In the Midst of Every Day Life" by Ruth Hackman. The segment that caught my attention is entitled, "Not Every Traffic Light is Green." The author writes, "Is there not a day when we do not have to wait somewhere? Not every traffic light we approach is green."

It seems like we have been waiting and waiting for that "Green Light" to resume our activities for a very long time. Unlike the green traffic light, which is clearly green, there are still various shades or hues of green in this next phase. I just learned that the York Fair, one of the oldest fairs in the country, has been cancelled for 2020. Amusement parks, pools, restaurants, and more are not back to "the way things were." So now we are coming to terms with the fact that we may still have more waiting to do until things go back to way they were at the beginning of Lent in early March.

Council members have participated in Penn Central Conference sessions about re-opening churches. (There will be another session on June 16th. Check the PCC calendar to obtain the link.) They have reviewed documents from the Pa. Council of Churches and information sent by PCC from the CDC and other credible church related sources. With all this in mind, Council decided to begin outdoor services on Sunday, June 21st at 8:30 AM and offer a 10:30 service via Zoom. This will continue through July 12th at which time Council will reconsider the options. Please read the following pages so you will know about the set up for the outdoor service.

Paul wrote in I Corinthians, "Love is patient." Out of love, consideration and compassion for one another, Council and I have chosen to proceed cautiously. Let us prayerfully proceed with the faith, hope and patience Paul writes about - one step at a time.

In the peace of Christ,
Pastor Cathy



This section is intended to update the congregation and respond to questions that have been raised during these times. Please email the church office at: lischeys@gmail.com with your questions and concerns.

❖ **Outdoor Worship Beginning June 21st at 8:30 AM...**

You may bring chairs and sit outside or you may plan to sit in your car. When you arrive, members will be there to identify parking for those wishing to remain in their cars in order to best hear and see as well as places to sit while maintaining social distancing. Bud Hamme and Larry Spangler will be meeting prior to June 21st to coordinate this. You are asked to observe social distancing and wear masks while outside the car. It has been recommended there be no passing of the peace, offering plates, etc. There will be a stationary offering plate for your contributions.

❖ **What Happens if it Rains?**

Let's pray it doesn't! If it does, the Council President and the Pastor will decide if services are to be cancelled. In such an event, it will be posted on the website and Zoom worship at 10:30 will continue as usual.

❖ **Can't We Just Go Inside if it Rains?**

The information referred to in the Message from the Pastor, that has been received from PCC, recommends guidelines for resuming indoor worship which suggest removing hymnals (temporarily) to avoid touching, identifying spacing in pews, and providing masks and hand sanitizer throughout. These are some of the things to consider. Additionally, air flow needs to be considered. The best suggestion is to cool a facility prior to use and then turn it off. ALL of these things require advance preparation so it would not be as simple as in the past to just go inside. Keep in mind this is not forever.

❖ **What About Zoom Worship at 10:30?**

While Zoom is not perfect, one of the positive outcomes of this is that we are able to connect with members and friends in a way that was not done in the past. We are able to connect with our church family when out of town. And, unlike YouTube or streaming, Zoom provides the opportunity to see one another and talk to one another. That has been enjoyed and appreciated, despite some of the glitches with Zoom. Lastly, this is being continued at this time because Council realizes not everyone is ready to resume regular activity for a variety of reasons and we want to be considerate to that.

❖ **What About Meetings and Other Gatherings?**

Some meetings will begin to take place in the church, in the fellowship hall with masks and social distancing. The Task Force to Reopen has asked that only unisex bathrooms be used to avoid proximity. Also, the kitchen will remain closed for food serving, etc. Lastly, Council is asking any person, committee or group planning to host an event before the end of 2020, present their plans for safe health precautions to Council prior to any posting or announcement of the event. And, one more thing – at all times if you, or someone in your home, is not feeling well, please visit us via Zoom.

❖ **Questions and Concerns...**

If you have questions, thoughts, or concerns, PLEASE communicate them in a constructive manner. Emailing, calling the pastor or a member of Council is far more productive and considerate of the entire body than discussing them with one another on the phone. We are here to listen and are endeavoring to prayerfully move forward with care and compassion for ALL. Remember the next Council meeting is Monday, July 13th.

*a **LOOK** at
What's Happening*

Upcoming Dates and Meetings:

<i>Sunday, June 14</i>	<i>Sunday School via Zoom at 9:15 AM Worship via Zoom at 10:30 AM P, B & J via Zoom at 11:15 AM</i>
<i>Monday, June 15</i>	<i>Profile Committee at 6:30 PM in the fellowship hall</i>
<i>Tuesday, June 16</i>	<i>PCC Zoom meeting to Reopen Churches via Zoom at 6:30 PM</i>
<i>Wednesday, June 17</i>	<i>UnRaveled Bible Study via Zoom at 9:30 AM Christian Education & Youth Mtg. via Zoom at 7 PM</i>
<i>Sunday, June 21</i>	<i>Outdoor Worship at 8:30 AM Sunday School via Zoom at 9:15 AM Worship via Zoom at 10:30 AM</i>
<i>Wednesday, June 24</i>	<i>Final Session of UnRaveled Bible Study via Zoom at 9:30 AM Worship Planning Meeting at 7 PM via Zoom</i>
<i>Monday, July 13</i>	<i>Next Council Meeting at 7 PM at church</i>



Keep God's Music in Your Heart - a Message from the Music Director:

I recently attended a church meeting during which one of the participants remarked: "Do you know how to make God laugh? Make a plan!" Did you ever make a plan, only to discover events did not work out the way you hoped? Maybe you had to go to Plan B. Maybe you needed to discern where God was leading you.

Mrs. Ina Duley Ogdon (1877-?) experienced this. She was a talented Christian speaker and was selected to be on the Chautauqua Circuit. She would be able to reach thousands of souls with her Christian testimony and preaching. Just before she was to leave on her preaching tour, her father was injured in an automobile accident. She realized she was needed more at home and canceled her tour plans so she could care for her father.

While she may have been disappointed initially, she decided to be happy with the duties God had given her. Ina completed the poem "Brighten the Corner Where You Are" in 1913. It was set to a tune written by Charles Gabriel and became the theme song of the Billy Sunday-Homer Rodeheaver Christian campaigns. Her words have probably encouraged more people over the years than if she would have been on her speaking tour. We can always brighten whatever "corner" we are in by sharing our love and faith in all we do!

*Do not wait until some deed of greatness you may do,
Do not wait to shed your light afar.
To the many duties ever near you now be true;
Brighten the corner where you are.*

*Brighten the corner where you are!
Brighten the corner where you are!
Someone far from harbor you may guide across the bar;
Brighten the corner where you are!*

Keep God's Music in Your Heart!
Nancy