



# First United Presbyterian Church of Dale City

## Chronicles

### April 2020



14391 Minnieville Road  
Woodbridge, Virginia 22193  
703-670-7834

<https://fupcdc.org>  
LIKE us on Facebook  
Find us on Instagram  
@fupcdc

People of the Church, Ministers  
Rev. Adam C. Bowling, Pastor  
Dana Van Slyke, Chancel Choir Director  
Justin Stretetz, Pianist/Organist  
Rebecca & Chris Anderson, Contemporary Worship Directors  
Ike Evans, Jubilation Handbell Director  
Joann Paige, Nursery Supervisor  
Tiffany Ramsey, Little Hands Preschool Director  
Homer Detrich, Sexton  
Kim Parker, Office Manager

#### MESSAGE FROM PASTOR ADAM

# CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) AND THE CHURCH

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ,

As we are all aware, the global spread of the coronavirus, COVID-19, has become a central topic of discussion and concern for many of us. It has caused us to think about the things we take for granted and to rethink how we go about the practices of our daily lives. In the church, this pandemic has caused us to consider new ways to approach what have been longstanding practices and traditions. We have moved worship to online only Live Streaming, and are learning to meet and gather via video conferencing.

Rather than live in fear, let us together approach this challenge in faith. We have an opportunity to model for our children, for families, for our community, and for each other what a faith-filled and faithful response can be. Instead of living in panic and in fear, being reactionary and taking a self-centered response, we have a chance to remain rational and reasoned, and to approach this pandemic in a spirit of trust. For we know that God is sovereign and Lord of all things. As Colossians 1:17 says, *“He himself is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.”*

Continued on Page 2

**Here are some scriptures to focus on in the days, weeks, and months to come:**

***“do not fear, for I am with you,  
do not be afraid, for I am your God;  
I will strengthen you, I will help you,  
I will uphold you with my victorious right hand.” – Isaiah 41:10***

***“... when I am afraid, I put my trust in you.” –Psalm 56:3***

***“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.” –John 14:27***

***“...for God did not give us a spirit of cowardice, but rather a spirit of power and of love and of self-discipline.” -2 Timothy 1:7***

***“There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love.” -1 John 4:18***

***“But now thus says the LORD,  
he who created you, O Jacob,  
he who formed you, O Israel:  
Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;  
I have called you by name, you are mine.” –Isaiah 43:1***

***“I hereby command you: Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.” –Joshua 1:9***

Friends, do not forget who we are and to whom we belong. As a church, we need to take preventive measures and commit ourselves to prayer. We need to rely on the health professionals for advice and entrust our lives to Christ. We need to take full advantage of the resources we have been given and follow the best-practices of those who can give helpful and health-giving advice. And then we need to step back and stay centered and remember and remind each other that we belong to Christ.

Know that I am praying for you and for our church family. I am praying for our leaders and for those who will make decisions throughout the world. I am praying for our Elders and for our Deacons and for God’s Holy Spirit to protect us as a church. I am praying, and I will continue to pray until the coronavirus is over, and beyond. But, I am not afraid.

The apostle Paul says it well, ***“Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. <sup>7</sup> And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” –Philippians 4:6-7***

We should be concerned. The coronavirus is real. But we cannot and we will not be afraid. We are the Church and, together, we belong to Christ.

Grace and peace,  
Pastor Adam

## Session Notes

### March Session Report

The Session met in the sanctuary on March 17 with individual tables spread six feet apart. There were ten members present plus one elder connected electronically. Appropriate health-care measures were taken.

The Session approved closing the building to all in person worship, programs, events and activities beginning March 18, 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic until the Safety and Security team in concert with authorized government officials deem it safe and prudent for the welfare of the community to meet in person again. Pastor Adam and Kim can be reached by phone or email If you need to communicate with them.

The March 15 worship services were live streamed and worship services will be live streamed at 10 AM Sunday mornings while the building is closed. Check the church web site for links to connect or to view prior services.

The Session, Session committees and team meetings of the church are authorized to make use of electronic meetings (E-meetings) to continue the business of the church. Other groups such as Bible studies may also use this technology. This ability to meet electronically will continue after the closing as needed. The Session approved a policy for electronic voting when needed.

The Session approved \$350.00 for a Women's Retreat and authorized payment of the church's lawyer retainer fees.

The Session approved insertion of a contracts section into the church's Personnel Policy.

*Submitted by Sara Porter*

## Stewardship Committee

Wondering how you can give your offerings while our building is shuttered? It's easy -

- Go to the church website, [www.fupcdc.org](http://www.fupcdc.org), and click on the Give button on the top right corner of the screen; if the Give button is not displayed click on the 3 horizontal bars first and then click on Give, or
- Send a check by mail

The question “*Can I give securities instead of the normal cash?*” has come up. The answer is Yes and the procedure is quite simple. If you wish to use this option please call Pat Manalio, Stewardship Elder (703-283-2948) and she will walk you through the process.

Recognizing that there are many experiencing a shortfall in cash at this time, we ask that if you are unable to meet your pledge that you let us know by sending an email to [Treasurer@FUPCDC.org](mailto:Treasurer@FUPCDC.org). No hard feelings, no judgement; this just lets us plan during this unprecedented time.

Please stay safe and stay informed.

## Easter Flowers



Update on Easter flowers. Due to the Coronavirus, we will be stopping the sale of Easter flowers this year. All orders already placed will be purchased and used for the Easter service that Pastor Adam is broadcasting. If you elected to pick up your flowers after the Easter service; they will be placed outside of the church door.

Please note that due to flower availability, some substitutions may have to be made. If you have any questions, please email Gail Cobb at [gailz Cobb@gmail.com](mailto:gailz Cobb@gmail.com).

## Adult Christian Education

Due to the current Covid-19 restrictions on meeting in groups, all current in person classes are on hold. Pastor Adam is inviting everyone, members and non-members to join him studying Matthew.



See Pastor Adam's email for more invitation or contact him at [adam.bowling@gmail.com](mailto:adam.bowling@gmail.com).

## SPREAD THE WARMTH



Now we have more time on our hands during this period of staying at home, why not put those hands to good use and knit or crochet some warm hats and scarves for our Spread the Warmth ministry. If you are not familiar with our group, we make items for our friends who are homeless throughout the year. If you would like to start a project and need some yarn, please contact Elizabeth Glycer at [lizglyer@gmail.com](mailto:lizglyer@gmail.com) and she can bring the yarn to your house and leave it on the doorstep.

# FUPCDC Earth Care Group

Celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> Earth Day on April 22, 2020!



Although we won't be celebrating the Earth Day 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary together, as planned, we have more reasons than ever to personally honor and care for God's creation. The **BEST** way to do that is to bring Earth care into our personal prayer life and ask the Lord to lead us to minimize our environmental impact through better home and work practices.

This period of quarantine gives us a perfect opportunity to not only examine ways to **REDUCE**, **REUSE**, and **RECYCLE**, but to put better practices into action **NOW!**

**Here are two books to help you and your children find ways to get started: "50 Simple Things You Can Do to Save the Earth" by John Javna, Sophie Javna and Jesse Javna and "50 Simple Things Kids Can Do to Save the Earth" by the Earthcare Group.**

*"And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. ~" Genesis 1:31*

## **Soles4Souls**

**THANK YOU** for your generous donations to our **Soles4Souls** program. To date we have collected 213 pairs of shoes and 24 bags/boxes of clothing. We have temporarily suspended our donation drive, however, please keep on collecting your items and we will resume it once we are back to normal in person meetings at church.



## **PLEASE HELP AND NOTE THE FOLLOWING:**

Only donate **clothing** and **shoes** (including sandals and boots) in any condition but **NO household goods**, please. Place a rubber band around each pair of shoes (or tie the shoelaces together). Put shoes and clothing in separate bags/boxes clearly labeled "Soles4Souls".

[CLICK HERE](#) to help prepare and deliver donations to the Chantilly, VA, drop-off location.

**WE SO APPRECIATE YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THIS WORTHY CAUSE.**

## Mission and Outreach

Due to our concern for the well-being of all involved, we have postponed our April 25, 2020 Rise Against Hunger meal packaging event.

Please note we plan to reschedule the event later this year.



So what is One Great Hour of Sharing? Since 1949, Presbyterians have joined with millions of other Christians through One Great Hour of Sharing to share God's love with people experiencing need. Your gifts support ministries of disaster response, refugee assistance and resettlement, food for the hungry, and community development that helps people find safe refuge, start new lives, and work together to strengthen their families and communities.



The three programs supported by One Great Hour of Sharing, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program and Self-Development of People, all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope. One Great Hour of Sharing lets us come together to open our door as well as our hearts to share the love of Christ through our ministries of justice, compassion, and joy. It is the church saying, "We'll be there when you need us."

If you would like to give to the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering, you may mail your check to the church. Please indicate "One Great Hour of Sharing" in the memo line. If you would like to give online, please go to <https://fupcdc.org/give-online> and click on Give Now, then Donations, and Local Mission. During the month of April, all online Local Mission gifts will be given to One Great Hour of Sharing. Thank you!

"You shall be called repairers of the breach." – Isaiah 58:12



This newsletter covers events from: April 1 - April 30

Articles for newsletter can be submitted to the editor via: [newsletter@fupcdc.org](mailto:newsletter@fupcdc.org)

