



First United Presbyterian Church of Dale City

Chronicles

May 2020



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People of the Church, Ministers
Rev. Adam C. Bowling, Pastor
Dana Van Slyke, Chancel Choir Director
Justin Streletz, Pianist/Organist
Rebecca and 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

Seeing in the Dark

And in the fourth watch of the night He came to them, walking on the sea. But when the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were terrified, and said, "It is a ghost!" and they cried out in fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, "Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid." – Matthew 14:25-27

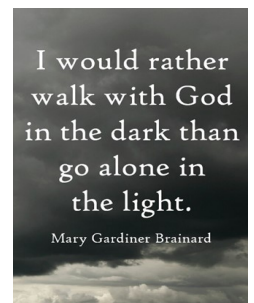
Darkness is the absence of visible light, in which humans are unable to distinguish shapes or forms. Those who have experienced total darkness know what a disconcerting feeling it is. In fact, one of the scariest attractions in the world is a psychological haunted house in Niagara Falls, Ontario, Canada. The tour takes about 10 minutes and is in total darkness, except for small red lights on the floors, walls, and ceiling that patrons must follow in order to get through the haunted house. Participants only need to utter a safe word "nightmares" to be ushered out of the attraction and placed on the public "chicken list." To date, 163,074 have opted out of this total darkness experience once they started.



In the "fourth watch of the night"—3:00 to 6:00 AM—on the Sea of Galilee it would have been dark enough for the disciples to be afraid of a form they saw moving towards them across the water. Indeed, they thought it was a ghost of some kind: "...and they cried out in fear" (Matthew 14:26). But it wasn't a ghost; it was Jesus coming to help them as they battled against the rough waves of the sea. While this is an event unique to the disciples, there is a principle imbedded for us: Jesus sees as clearly in our darkness as He does in our light. Our vision may be limited in times of darkness, but His is not.

An early symbol of the church was the boat, and Matthew used this symbol to represent the church. So, one way to interpret this text is to say that we the church are in the boat, in the midst of a terrifying storm. There is a global virus pandemic, the economy is suffering, and we are worried and afraid. We don't know what to do!

Friends, listen to Jesus, as He says, "Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid." If you find yourself in a dark place, where it is hard to see Jesus, do not worry. He sees you in your moment of need, and He will come and comfort you. Mary Gardiner Brainard once said, "I would rather walk with God in the dark than go alone in the light."



Continued on Page 2

Continued from Page 1

Know that Jesus will never leave you alone and that His name is our safe word when we are frightened or afraid.

On the journey with you,
Pastor Adam

*Refrain to "Jesus, The Light of the World":
We'll walk in the light, beautiful light.
Come where the dewdrops of mercy shine bright.
O, shine all around us by day and by night.
Jesus, the light of the world.*

Session Notes

April Session Report

The Session met via Zoom on April 21 with 100% of members present electronically. The vote of the congregation on April 13-14 to elect three deacons was affirmed. There were 107 votes with 106 yes and one (1) no. Duplicate votes due to clicking on "submit" more than once were not counted. Minutes of the congregational meeting were also approved as it is our usual practice.

Revised bylaws for the Little Hands Preschool were approved which covered the addition of the Toddler 2.5 classes which were added this school year. Director Tiffany Ramsey continues to work and plan for registrations for the 2020 - 2021 school year.

Session approved a motion to continue to pay our non-preschool staff at the current rate through June 30, 2020.

The New Dominion Choraliers May concerts have been tentatively rescheduled for September 26 (evening) and 27 (afternoon) with rehearsals on September 25 providing the church building is open at that time.

Ruth Washburg, Chris Martin and Sara Porter were elected commissioners to the May 26 meeting of National Capital Presbytery which will be held electronically.

A waiver to the counting policy was approved to adjust counting procedures due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Some committees have resumed meetings using Zoom or 8 X 8. Spread the Bread continues to feed about 40 people on Sundays and Spread the Warmth needle-workers continue to knit and crochet. The new ministry of Spread the Love has begun, helping our congregation to be connected.

Please continue to join worship at 10 AM on Sundays and share your prayer requests with the office as we continue to Connect - Grow - Serve.

Submitted by Sara Porter, Clerk of Session

Mission and Outreach

Face Masks Needed

In keeping with FUPCDC's commitment to serve the needs of the community, the Mission & Outreach Committee is launching a campaign to make face masks and distribute them where they are needed within the local community. We are committed to donate masks to the Greater Prince William Community Health Center and to Westminster at Lake Ridge for both staff and residents. In addition, there are several other places (nursing homes, assisted living facilities, first-responders, grocery store workers) where we will donate if there is an ample supply.

Any help you can give will make a big difference. It's easy to participate. All you need to do is make masks, put them in a zip lock bag, and drop them in the collection bin located outside the entrance to our church building.

Several online sources for patterns and suggestions on making masks are available. Here are a few you may want to look at:

<https://www.joann.com/make-to-give-response/>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9QrW4zljMwY&feature=emb_rel_end

If you have any questions please call Pat Manalio (703-283-2948) or Lora Nedimyer (703-680-5526).



Spread the Love

Volunteer to write cards/notes to those in quarantine or to folks who are experiencing isolation due to COVID-19. Other volunteer opportunities include making phone calls to check in with people who may need socialization. If you would like to volunteer for Spread the Love or suggest people to receive cards or calls, please email Sam Parris, samjparris@aol.com.



Prayer Chain

Volunteer to receive one to two emails a week with prayer requests...and pray! If you would like to volunteer to pray, please contact the Church Office, office@fupcdc.org.



Mission and Outreach

Mission During the Pandemic

We now worship from our homes in front of a computer screen and we may participate in an online bible study. We reach out to check on and offer support to each other through phone calls, emails, text messages, and old-fashioned notes or cards sent by snail mail. But you might be asking “*What is our church doing to respond to the COVID-19 crisis in the community?*” The Mission & Outreach Committee has been looking at how and where we can make an impact on the lives of those affected by the pandemic. During April we identified 3 organizations to support where we can make a difference.

- The Greater Prince William Community Health Center, with locations in Lake Ridge, Manassas, and Dumfries, provides affordable access to high quality medical, pediatric, dental, behavioral health, and OB/GYN care. A donation of \$1,500 was sent to support their work.
- ACTS has experienced an increase in the need for their services in many areas from domestic violence to hunger to mental wellness. At the same time, they lost many volunteers who, as seniors, are at greater risk. Additionally, many practices and procedures were quickly changed to ensure the safety of their clients, staff, and volunteers. Food donations are currently lacking because many of those came through donations collected at local churches. A donation of \$1,500 was sent to assist with their programs.
- Presbyterian Disaster Assistance has approved more than \$1.1 million in COVID-19 grants. A donation of \$1,000 was sent to help.

Our Spread the Bread ministry continues to serve food each Sunday with modified procedures in place to ensure everyone’s safety.

We are grateful for what each of you are doing to respond to this crisis.

Finance and Administration Committee

A Financial Update

Many of you are wondering how we are doing financially during the COVID-19 crisis. The Finance & Administration Committee recently met via Zoom, and we want to share the following updates with you.

- We are stepping up as a church during this crisis and will continue to do so. The Mission and Outreach Committee has increased support for local agencies assisting folks impacted by COVID-19 and has launched a mask making campaign. Our Spread the Bread ministry continues to serve 50+ meals each Sunday with modified procedures in place to ensure everyone’s safety. As our outreach continues, you will be kept up to date on what our church is doing.
- We are not experiencing an immediate financial crisis and currently have reserves to pay our bills for the next several months.
- Our operating funds are held in safe accounts (checking and savings) so there has been no impact on them from the market downturn.
- Our revenues at the end of March were on target for what was anticipated. Our best estimate at this time is that there will be a shortfall during April.
- Our expenses at the end of March were close to what was expected. During April we expect to see some expenses lowered (for example, printing weekly bulletins has been discontinued and some programs were postponed or cancelled). We are working with each Elder/committee and prayerfully evaluating if we need to make financial adjustments as we move forward this year.

Continued on Page 6

Continued from Page 5

- We are continuing to pay all regular staff, but Little Hands Preschool had to furlough most of their staff as they follow Prince William School closures and there is no tuition coming in.

If you are in a financial position to do so, we encourage you to give to FUPCDC. You can send checks in the mail, make online donations via our website (<https://fupcdc.org/give-online>), or donate stock or other securities.

Your church is in a strong position to weather this storm. Your continued support will allow us to be a source of assistance for those affected by the pandemic. Thank you for the ways you are responding to the needs of others and for your continued support of FUPCDC.

Report on Offering

March 2020

	<u>Mar 2020 Actual</u>	<u>Mar 2020 Budget</u>	<u>Year to Date Actual</u>	<u>Year to Date Budget</u>
Offering Pledged	34,271	35,056	100,813	95,100
Offering Unpledged	<u>2,636</u>	<u>3,818</u>	<u>12,978</u>	<u>9,928</u>
Total Offering	36,907	38,874	113,791	105,028
Other Income			8,717	
Net from Restricted			<u>3,791</u>	
Total Income			126,299	
Total Expenses			119,274	



REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN FOR LITTLE HANDS PRESCHOOL'S LUNCH BUNCH PROGRAM!

The Lunch Bunch program is designed to extend the preschool day. Each program option is offered from **12:15 pm to 3:45 pm**. The program is designed to help children to foster friendships, language development, social skills, and positive peer relationships in a mixed group setting.

Please click the following link to register for the upcoming school year: <https://forms.gle/m18DcmHbTU7Xmzac6>.

The availability of this program for the 2020 – 2021 school year will be dependent upon enrollment numbers and parent interest. Little Hands Preschool intends to start this program when the preschool reopens, ideally in September. Spaces are limited. Drop in availability will vary every week.

Please contact Lunch Bunch Administrator Catherine Caseman via email: catherinecaseman@gmail.com. You may also, contact the Preschool Director via email: littlehands@fupcdc.org or by phone: 703.878.2366 for additional information.

**Offered Monday –
Thursday**

**\$350.00 per child /
per month**

**Offered Monday and
Wednesday**

OR

**Tuesday and
Thursday**

**\$180.00 per child /
per month**

**Offering a Drop - in
rate of \$35.00
per child / per day
(payment due in advance
& subject to availability)**

**Must be registered in
a 3, 4 or 5-year-old
class**

**THE DAILY SCHEDULE WILL
CONSIST OF:**

**LUNCH
STORY TIME
NAP / QUIET TIME
PLAY IN SMALL GROUPS
INDOOR/OUTDOOR PLAY**

Our “Spread the Bread” homeless feeding ministry volunteers have been hard at work getting ready to feed 40-60 folks experiencing homelessness.



Flowers blooming around our church grounds during [#stayathome](#)

Photos and Photo Collage by Elizabeth Glycer.

