



The Good News



New Palestine Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

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June 2020

Beloved,

My apologies for holding up the newsletter this month (a little more than usual!). These are wild times we are in, between COVID-19 and recent protests of injustice. I pray that you all are staying close with the Lord, whether it be through engaging in church online, reading your own scripture devotionals, praying unceasingly, reaching out with gifts, or whatever else it may be. To help meet each other's needs, we have kept the church building closed for an extended time, while simultaneously we've also been working on when and how to open it back up.

Our current goal is to open the doors on June 28th. Of course, the Board will meet once more before then to confirm that decision and carry forward. A few of us will meet at the church building on June 22nd to begin preparations for the following Sunday. Such preparations will include sanitizing, marking seating and walking routes, setting up communion and offering stations, making hand sanitizer and masks available, etc. All who attend worship on Sunday the 28th and going forward will be asked to wear masks and practice social distancing. All who choose not to wear masks will be asked to sit on the opposite side of the sanctuary from those who do.

First and foremost, all who are over age 65 or have pre-existing conditions (which causes particular vulnerability to the virus) are being asked to remain at home and continue attending worship online. This includes Elders, Deacons, the Board, and all others responsible for leadership in the church. If you are in the particularly vulnerable category or are otherwise uncomfortable with physically going to the church building at this time, we cordially invite you to continue being our church leadership from home. You are not expected nor asked to lead meditations, prayers, readings, etc. in person. If you would still like to contribute as you have for our online services, please continue to do so by writing them out for us to read in person or by sending in recordings of yourself.

Likewise all who are symptomatic of COVID-19 are invited to remain at home and continue attending services online. All who have tested positive are invited to wait until cleared by a healthcare official to leave quarantine at home. Upon entering the building on Sunday morning, all will be asked a few questions to verify to the best of their knowledge their health in relationship to the virus.

Only those who are already planning to attend worship in person will be asked to help in person. Sunday morning worship in the sanctuary is a community effort, so if we are so blessed to have you there in person, we pray we will also be so blessed to have your help!

The decision to open the church building was discussed at length, and has been made with both celebration and caution in our hearts. We celebrate our freedom to join together physically in worship of our Lord, yet we do so with every intention to guard each other's lives, as the Good Shepherd guards all our lives. We also celebrate our congregation's ability to adapt to these strange times and willingness to continue engaging faithfully as church online. Live streaming and other online content will absolutely continue for those of you staying home, and for brothers and sisters who've joined us online but are otherwise disconnected. Please keep an eye out for each other, a few of our folks have been unable to join online because of not having computer speakers or other varying complications, and will still not be able to attend worship in person either for varying reasons.

Please remember you can contribute your help and support from wherever you are, through tithes and offerings, through all kinds of other gifts, through conversation, prayer, connecting online, and so much more. Currently we're looking to build up some cleaning supplies, masks, hand sanitizer, and other relevant items for opening the doors. Preferred masks are made of cloth, so those of you who like to sew, this could be a great project for the church!

Thank you all for every bit of your love, support, and grace throughout these wild times. No matter what's going on in the world or how we learn to adapt, the church is very much alive and active. All thanks and praise be to God for creating such a beautiful, disciplined, and faithful congregation. Please keep those constant prayers going as we step forward into a new normal (hopefully that new normal will involve me writing my newsletter articles in a more timely fashion!). Whatever the case, may God bless every one of your hearts throughout every step forward.

May the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you, *Travis*

June Worship

6/7/20 (Rev. Rick Spleth preaching)

Genesis 8:1-4 Matthew 28:16-20

"Lessons from a Quarantine:

Elder: Bob Howell

6/28/20

Genesis 22:1-14 & Matthew 10:40-42

"Great Provider"

Elder: Barbara Biersdorfer

Genesis 8:1-4 & Matthew 28:16-20

"Lessons from a Quarantine"

Elder: Bob Howell

6/14/20 (Rev. Carolyn Reed preaching)

Acts 16:16-34 & Matthew 9:35-10:8 (9-23)

"Disruption"

Elder: Barry Bowlen

6/21/20

Genesis 21:8-21 & Matthew 10:24-39

"Open Ears"

Elder: Ed Haines



June 8 Tim Sullivan

June 13 Lynnette Bowlen

June 24 Jackie Howell

June 14 Don & Jenny Bussell

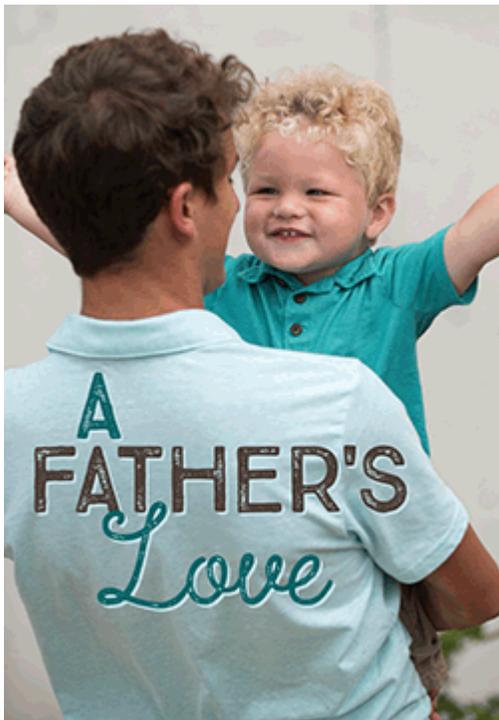
June 18 Larry & J'Nene Jessup

June 20 Tim & Becki Sullivan

June 23 Dale & Patty Chambers

Is your birthday or anniversary missing?

Please notify the church office.



JUNE 21st

Happy Father's Day

Welcoming the Holy

Abraham and Sarah welcomed three strangers who turned out to be the Lord. Jesus said, “If anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones who is my disciple,” the giver will be rewarded (Matthew 10:42, NIV). An ancient Jewish proverb asserts: “Hospitality is one form of worship.” A Russian Orthodox monk is said to have told a younger one, “Sometimes I see a stranger coming up the road and I say, ‘Oh, Jesus Christ, is it you again?’” And an old Gaelic poem declares, “Often, often, often, goes the Christ in the stranger’s guise.”

Sometimes we think we must do something big to serve God. Today, when you smile at someone on the street, take time to entertain a child’s question, bring cookies to a new neighbor, thank a server or clerk ... know that you are serving Jesus, that you are worshiping God.

—Heidi Mann

“Years may wrinkle the skin, but to give up enthusiasm wrinkles the soul.”

—Samuel Ullman

* * *

“Always laugh when you can. It is cheap medicine.”

—Lord Byron

* * *

“Solutions are not found by pointing fingers; they are reached by extending hands.”

—Aysha Taryam

* * *

“No man stands taller than when he stoops to help a child.”

—Abraham Lincoln





Special dates

- Trinity Sunday, *June 7, 2020*
 - Flag Day, *June 14, 2020*
 - First day of summer, *June 20, 2020*
 - Father's Day, *June 21, 2020*
- *CHURCH TO REOPEN June 28, 2020*



On their seventh wedding anniversary, John and Jacque McBride of Indianapolis took their two small children to Sunday liturgy at St Mary's Catholic Church in Danville, Indiana. During petitions, the priest, Fr. Charles Chesebrough, asked children if they wished to offer any prayers.

Four year old Justin McBride raised his hand, intending to ask for prayers for his parent's weeing anniversary, but it came out this way: "I'm praying to Jesus that Mommy and Daddy will get married today."

Olive

The olive branch is a symbol of peace, harmony and healing. Olive trees provide shelter, as well as oil used for ointment and consecration. The olive branch also represents deliverance from hardships and anxiety because a dove brought an olive leaf back to Noah's ark after the flood ended (Genesis 8:11).

We have been thru a very rough time. Let us remember the olive branch for the peace, harmony and healing.

Amen



Bible Quiz

Ecclesiastes 3:1 says, "For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven." Which of the following are mentioned in the list that follows?

- A. a time to teach, and a time to learn
- B. a time to mourn, and a time to dance
- C. a time to fast, and a time to eat
- D. a time to work, and a time to rest



PUZZLE

Wherever we go

No matter where we journey, God always protects us.

Directions: Use the map and compass to answer the clues. Then write the boxed letters in order in the spaces below to complete Psalm 121:8, NIV.

		🌍	✈️
🧳			
	🚗	🚶	
🏠			



Start at the SHIP.
Move 1 space N, 3 spaces E, and 2 spaces N _ _ _ _

Start at the WORLD.
Move 1 space W, 1 space S, and 1 space SE _ _

Start at the SUITCASE.
Move 1 space NE, 2 spaces S, and 1 space E _ _ _

Start at the PLANE.
Move 2 spaces SW, 1 space S, and 1 space W _ _ _

Start at the CAR.
Move 1 space E, 1 space N, and 1 space NW _ _ _ _

Start at the SIGN.
Move 1 space SE, 1 space W, and 2 spaces NW _ _ _ _ _ _

The _ ORD will watch ove_ your comi_g and go_ng
both no_ and for_ vermore. Psalm 121:8, NIV

Answer: plane, car, sign, ship, world, suitcase. The LORD will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore. Psalm 121:8, NIV

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