

A Voice in the Pines

Presbyterian Kirk in the Pines newsletter

Volume XXXVI, Issue 7, July 2020

Jackson House facing stiff Covid-19 headwinds

In an interview with the authors, long-time Jackson House Executive Director Janie Woodall Smith just shook her head.

“I’ve never written so many grant requests in my life. And the competition for them has never been so high,” she said.

She went on to describe a landscape where grants were being rewarded well in advance of their proposed deadline because of needs created by the Covid-19 virus and its impact on the low-income and homeless community.

“If you don’t put in your request for the grant immediately upon receiving the proposal, you’re out of the running, so I’m burning the midnight oil responding to them,” Smith said.

Jackson House, the largest community support service in our area, provides free lunches, pantry food, crisis counseling for families and individuals in distress, transitional housing, rent support, a thrift shop, clothing, baby supplies, financial assistance and other forms of support to those who need it most.

For over 40 years, Jackson House has been a beacon of love and hope. But their resources are being stretched to the breaking point by the coronavirus.

Jackson House’s caseload has jumped to 15,000 cases involving about 35,000 people. Their lunch program has expanded by 60 percent to 250 lunches/day. The Thrift shop has been closed as a precautionary measure, resulting in lost revenue.

And, Ms. Smith is worried about what the future will bring as we get deeper into the economic impact of the pandemic.

Jackson House receives no government assistance and is completely dependent on grants, donations by



Jackson House in Hot Springs

churches, businesses, and individuals, and proceeds from the thrift shop. It also gets support from the United Way of Garland County.

When asked what she needs the most these days, Smith said very directly: “it’s money. I can stretch every dollar you give me in to \$10 for food purchases.”

She went on to describe how she bought 500 pounds of beef at 18 cents a pound for her lunch program by working with wholesalers. It was an example of how she’s able to effectively use every dollar she gets.

Smith also said that she’s grateful for any support, whether it’s volunteers to help with the lunch program,

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When we meet

Sunday worship service
begins at 10 a.m.



Saturday informal service
Begins at 5 p.m. in Hoffius Hall

For more meeting times see
www.kirkinthepines.org/calendar



We must talk about racism if we are to solve it

I heard a story on National Public Radio a number of years ago. It was about the isolation felt by soldiers when they return home after serving in the front lines of combat.

One of those interviewed explained that, typically, most soldiers do not want to talk about the horrible things they experienced in war. As a general rule, the last thing most returning soldiers want to do is relive the painful moments and expose their loved ones to the terrible things they witnessed.

So they are not likely to talk about what happened, and this silence is a problem. Experts and loved ones say in order for healing to occur, painful things need to be honestly faced and talked about.

It occurs to me racism is among the painful things many of us do not want to talk about. In fact, I have heard many people say they are “tired of having to talk about discrimination.” They say, “they’re tired of watching it on the news and they prefer to turn it all off.”

I certainly understand this. But it also occurs to me people of color are tired as well. They are tired of having to experience the pain, the humiliation and especially the violence of racial prejudice.

Pandemic squeezing Jackson House

Continued from page 1

people to work in the thrift shop, or the donation of food people give her.

“We’ve always found a way to help those in need and we’re so grateful for everything we’ve been provided,” she said.

The Kirk’s “Second Mile Giving” campaign will provide additional much-needed support for Jackson House and other community care providers such as Potter’s Clay, Project Hope Food Bank, Cooperative Christian Ministries/Clinic and the Arkansas Food Bank.

We live in an area where the poverty rate is high and the needs are many. Please prayerfully consider what you can do to heed our Lord’s call “to feed the hungry” and “care for the needy” among us.

Jackson House’s mission statement says: We are an interfaith community crisis center which provides short-term emergency assistance for the basic needs- food, clothing and shelter, and medicine without regard to race, creed, sex, or nationality-and without imposing our values upon those we serve.

Contributed by Bruce Dale and John Davis.

The Pastor's Corner Bill Bailey



How can we begin to talk about this painful topic? How can we honestly face the ugliness of racism in our history and in our culture? Especially, as followers of Christ, can we help in modeling appropriate ways to address this painful issue?

Many have told me they are reluctant to talk about this. Some are adamant they do not see color and, therefore, are not racist. Why, they ask, should they get involved in the fight against it?

The simple answer is, our Lord was not racist. Our Lord would be the first to stand up and speak about why the church should model a new humanity.

As St. Paul put it, “There is neither Jew nor Gentile, slave or free, male or female. We are all one in Christ.” (*Galatians 3:28*)

We are living in difficult times. We all know silence can be complicity. We must have the courage of our convictions and address this sin that continues to tear apart our country.

I am amazed at how the ugliness of racism and fear has resurfaced before us. And we must find a way to honestly talk about this together. For our sakes, for the Kirk’s sake and for our Lord’s sake.

Let me know if you’ve got any good ideas. In the meantime, let us continue to pray for healing and justice in our land.



Need a lift?

If you have any transportation needs, we have just the ride for you.

Just call Janie Smith at 922-7548 or Sally Fink at 922-9622.

Hard to greet Kirk friends without handshake, hug

The Kirk in the Pines has always been recognized as a friendly church. It is hard in this time of the virus pandemic not to give each other a hearty handshake or a hug.

Due to the virus, as we gather we must keep a safe social distance and give a smile or nod to indicate you are glad to see one another and wish them well.

Church Statistics as of June 12, 2020

Members – 285

Family Units – 196

Loss of Members

Jeanne Kleinschmidt passed away Dec. 29, 2019, in Oklahoma City. Interment was in April 2020 in the Kirk in the Pines Memorial Garden.

James B. Carpenter passed away on April 13, 2020, in Hot Springs Village. He will be interred in the Kirk in the Pines Memorial Garden at a later date.

We are saddened by the loss of a long-time Kirk member **Don Robinson** who passed away recently. While attending the Kirk he served in several positions although at the time of his death he was no longer a member and living in St. Paul, Minn. Cards of condolence can be sent to: Greg Robinson, 706 Ohio St. St. Paul, MN 55107. Arrangements are pending.

Removing Individuals from Kirk member roll

Eric Van Cleave requested his name be removed from the Member Roll.

Kari Florey was also removed from the roll. Recent attempts to contact Kari have not been successful.

Use of Kirk Facilities by outside groups

At the June Session meeting, a decision was made to not allow outside groups to use Kirk facilities until August or September because of the pandemic.

Adding non-members to the Kirk mailing list

The Kirk has received several requests from individuals who would like to receive information about church activities but for different reasons can't join the church at this time. The Session approved adding those names to the communications list.

Thank you to generous Kirk members

We should take a lot of pride in the Kirk members who have stepped up and been extremely supportive of the Kirk's Mission initiative – Second Mile Giving. To date, the Kirk has received more than \$18,630.

Called Congregation Meeting on June 14

The purpose of the meeting was to receive a report

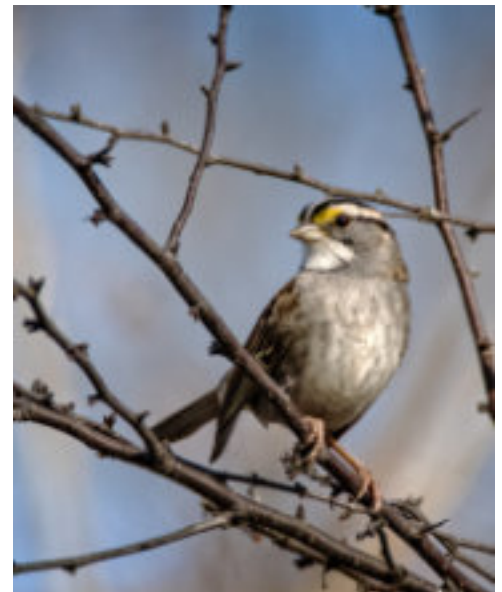
The Clerk's Corner

Jerral Johnson



from the Nomination Committee. It is with a great deal of regret we received the resignation of Lowell Gardner who was serving as Moderator of the Communication Committee.

To replace Lowell, the committee presented Bob Morrow to the congregation to serve the remainder of Lowell's term in Session. Bob was elected unanimously. He was to be installed at the Sunday Service on June 28.



God Cares

When His eye is on the sparrow
And each budding leaf that grows,
When He sends the dew each morning
And the sunshine to the rose;
You may know beyond all doubting,
In this trial you're passing through
God cares – and every moment
He is watching over you!

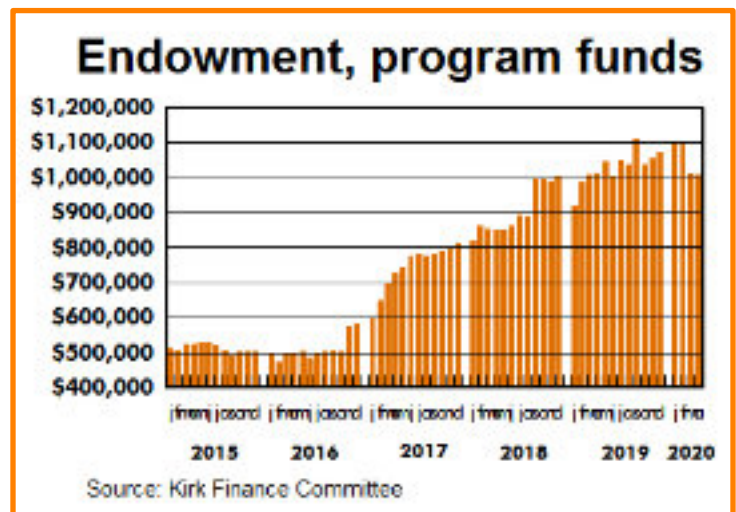
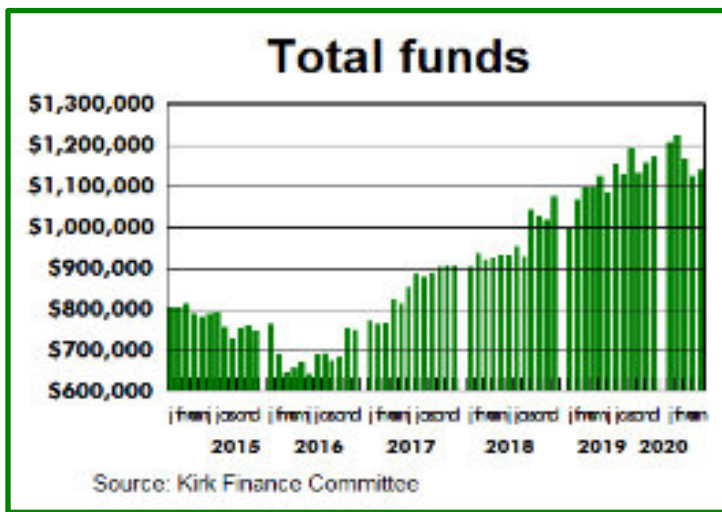
– Keith Bennett

Contributed by Barbara Worthley
Photo by Jamie Federick

Kirk in the Pines Financial Report

Year to date as of May 31, 2020

	<u>Month</u>		<u>Year to date</u>	
	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>
General Fund:				
Receipts	\$ 36,370	\$ 37,757	\$ 181,849	\$ 185,128
Disbursements	\$ 37,375	\$ 18,755	\$ 186,874	\$ 131,750
Building Fund:				
Receipts	\$ 4,218	\$ 6,502	\$ 21,091	\$ 25,736
Disbursements	\$ 4,660	\$ 3,472	\$ 23,300	\$ 23,844
Total all funds:				
Receipts	\$ 40,588	\$ 44,259	\$ 202,940	\$ 210,864
Disbursements	\$ 42,035	\$ 22,227	\$ 210,174	\$ 155,594
Checking balance				\$ 129,838
Special funds:				
Memorial fund				\$ 56,721
Luke 12:48 fund				\$ 237,413
Programs fund				\$ 49,917
Endowment fund				\$ 607,165
Maack-Ormsbee Fund				<u>\$ 56,566</u>
Total special funds as of April 30, 2020				\$ 1,007,782



\$535 for Mission

Thank you for generously supporting our Mission Dollar campaign.

A total of \$535 was collected in May.

If you wish to give more than a dollar, please use the envelopes in the pew racks when their use resumes.

We are always grateful for your generous gifts and prayers.

How to buy flowers

Do you have a special day or person you would like to commemorate? Provide flowers for the worship service and have the event or person noted in the weekly bulletin.

Flowers cost \$39.

To provide flowers for our worship service, contact Sandy Adams at 915-9006 or send an email to: sandyadams62@suddenlink.net.

Science, faith, and Francis Collins, all in one book

Science and faith, oil and water, right?

Francis Collins, MD, PhD, takes on the old but still highly relevant debate in *The Language of God: A Scientist Presents Evidence for Belief*. His name is not a household word, but it should be.

Collins is director of the National Institutes of Health (Anthony Fauci's boss) and in the past led the U.S. government-sponsored Human Genome Project. He discovered the genes for cystic fibrosis, neurofibromatosis, and Huntington's chorea.

As scientists go he is among the best of his generation and a devout Christian. This author of the definitive textbook of human genetics sees the human genome as God's road map for creation of complex life that ultimately produced humankind, hence the title and the pretext for this book.

In 283 pages and highly accessible language, Collins addresses gargantuan issues such as the origin of the universe and the improbability of formation of a habitable planet earth, the development and nature of life on earth, and the marvel of the aforementioned genetic code.

Collins speaks with a clear contemporary voice but draws heavily from sources as diverse as Augustine of Hippo, Immanuel Kant, Charles Darwin, C.S. Lewis, Albert Einstein, Stephen Hawking, and others.

This book is replete with mind-bending facts.

For instance, after the "big bang" if the "rate of expansion of the universe had been greater by even one part in a million, stars and planets could not have been able to form." From this he concludes "the existence of a universe as we know it rests upon a knife edge of improbability."

And, according to Collins, "a live reading of the genetic code at a rate of one letter (chemical base pair) per second would take 31 years."

He presents logical arguments for a creator God but disputes the claims of "young earth creationism" and "Intelligent Design" in favor of a term he coins: "BioLogos."

"BioLogos doesn't try to wedge God into gaps in our understanding of the natural world: it proposes God as the answer to questions science was never intended to address, such as "How did the universe get here?" "What is the meaning of life?" "What happens to us after we die?"

"Unlike intelligent Design, BioLogos is not intended as a scientific theory. Its truth can be tested only by the spiritual logic of the heart, the mind, and the soul," Collins writes.

But for me, both as a physician scientist and Christian, the most interesting story is Collins' own.

He was the child of intellectual parents and raised in



Carnegie Corner

By Dr. Bob Morrow

a secular home. In the dedication to the book he credits his parents for instilling in him a love of learning.

Ironically, it was this love of learning and investigation that was to lead him eventually to belief. Initially an agnostic, he progressed to atheism.

Yet, as a young physician he had what for me is a familiar experience. He writes of his patients, "I witnessed numerous cases of individuals whose faith provided them with a strong reassurance of ultimate peace, be it in this world or the next despite terrible suffering..."

The tipping point was when one such patient asked him what he believed. He confesses "I felt my face flush when I stammered out the words, 'I'm not really sure.'"

This led to a quest to consider "faith" which led to a conversation with a Methodist minister neighbor who introduced him to C.S. Lewis in the book *Mere Christianity* which ultimately led him to faith in God and Jesus Christ.

In *The Language of God*, Collins, quotes Augustine saying, "Thou has made us for thyself, O Lord, and our heart is restless until it finds its rest in thee." (Confessions).

You can find this remarkable book on the wooden shelf outside our Kirk library.

Open the Coffee Closet and honorably select a favorite brew or tea

The Coffee Closet is open in Hoffius Hall!

You will find a variety of products including organic ground and whole bean regular and decaffeinated coffee and tea.

Prices are posted on the back of the closet door. We are using the honor system for your purchase so please place your payment in the mug on the shelf in the closet.

Enjoy good coffee!
Read good books!





Pastor Bailey leads the first service on June 7 as congregants practice social distancing because of the coronavirus pandemic. (Photo by Jamie Federick)

Kirk members return to church on June 6 and 7

By Jamie Federick

Members of the Kirk met June 7 for the first time since mid-March.

The church office was notified by phone or email of those planning to attend. The Covid-19 guidelines were used in welcoming the congregation back into the church building. They were welcomed at the door by greeters who offered masks and hand sanitizer.

Safety of the members and guests was the prime objective of getting back to church.

Everyone wore masks into and out of the sanctuary but could remove them when they were seated if they felt comfortable. Ushers accompanied those in attendance to seats in alternating rows.

Since the offering plate could not be passed in the service, it was placed in the narthex for gifts. Even though there was no standard “passing of the peace,” such as a handshake or hug, it was still accomplished with fond waves and making the “peace” sign to one another.

All agreed just seeing people in person was heartwarming.

Hymns were printed in the bulletins since using hymnals was not allowed. Clark Mowry and Randy Toney presented a lovely duet although they were the required distance apart.

The choir is on summer vacation until September. As usual, Donna Toney offered beautiful music on piano and organ. Pastor Bill seemed happy to have a live congregation to listen to his sermon.

The same provisions for safety were observed at the Saturday informal worship service where more than 20 participants kept their social distance. Conversation before and after the service was lively and worship was, as usual, highly animated.

It was a blessing to be in the Lord’s house on Saturday and Sunday. Hopefully, this coronavirus pandemic will be over soon, and services can be back to normal formats. During this time, the service will be available online for those not able to attend. We are so thankful for this technological way of being able to stay connected.

Jamie Federick is on the Communication Committee.

There are other ways we can help in time of crisis

By Susan Morrow

The new life constraints imposed by the coronavirus pandemic compel a response. Even with current restraints and social distancing, there are other ways you can help:

Food Donation – Bring non-perishable goods to the Food Pantry boxes at the Kirk. One is outside the Church office. Another is at the entrance to Hoffius Hall. John Davis, a member of the Missions Committee, says bring “any non-perishable food that can be used to make a meal.” John continues to take the food to Jackson House and Potter’s Clay.

Phone calls and emails – A five-minute phone call can make a world of difference in a person’s life. Call your friends and neighbors to offer concern and support.

Notes and letters – All of us look forward to a token of love and

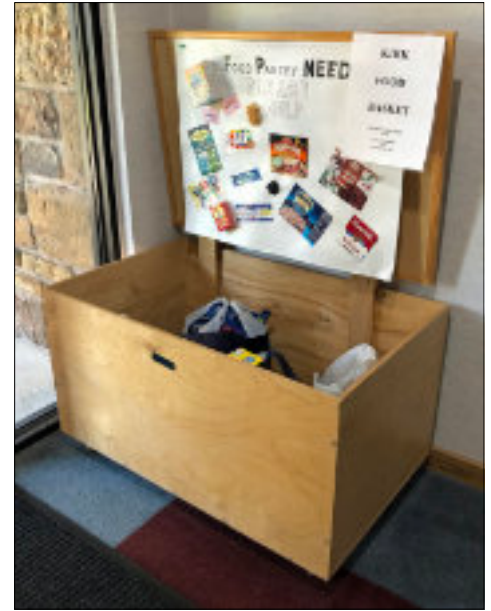
remembrance in the form of correspondence in the mailbox. Make someone’s day by sending a note by mail.

Prayer – Plug into the ultimate resource for help and guidance. Consider praying from a list of your needs and those of others. You may want to finish by praying the Lord’s Prayer or the 23rd Psalm.

The challenge is to find creative ways to stay connected socially with friends, family, and neighbors. My grandsons and I use the app TOGETHER to play games, draw, and read books.

Whether it’s dropping off baked goods for a neighbor, tailgating with a Shepherd Group, sending a fun box or letter to grandchildren, or volunteering to usher for in-person worship, everything is better together.

1 Corinthians 15:58 says:
“Always give yourselves fully to the



work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.”

Susan Morrow is on the Kirk’s Communication Committee.

Six groups get \$2,000 each under new initiative

By Harry Wakefield

The Kirk has responded in an outstanding way to the new Second Mile initiative.

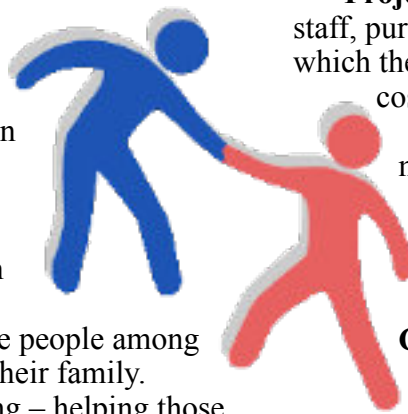
To date, Kirk members have given in excess of \$18,000 to help the neediest among us. The mission committee has distributed \$12,000 in response to the call to help provide food and shelter in our community.

We are reminded every day there are people among us who don’t have the money to feed their family. That is what the Kirk’s efforts are doing – helping those agencies that provide for the most basic needs.

Across the board, the agencies say giving is down while the need is up. The following organizations have each received \$2,000 to date:

- **Jackson House** continues to provide the homeless with prepared meals six days a week, along with providing counseling and a host of other services to their clients.

- **Arkansas Food Bank** provides food packages to the public and is the source for much of the food used by other agencies in 33 Arkansas counties in the southern portion of the state.



- **Project Hope Food Bank**, working with volunteer staff, purchases grocery-store quantities of food for which they charge their clients 25-percent below their cost.

- **Meals on Wheels** provides regular meals to many hundreds of people in our community who depend on them for their next meal. With the slowdown in giving, they are losing between \$100 and \$300 a day.

- **Cooperative Christian Ministries and Clinic**, in addition to their medical services, provide clients with nutritious meal kits and counseling to help them escape the cycle of poverty and hunger.

- **Potter’s Clay** provides food and shelter for women and children in abusive relationships. They are helping these women and children break the chains of violence and addiction and to find a new life.

As the need will continue, the Second Mile initiative will need support from Kirk members as you are able to give above and beyond your pledge and support for the Kirk’s ministries.

Harry Wakefield is Moderator of the Missions Committee.

Sexton Chip Johnson keeps the Kirk sparkling

By Jan Holtberg

Arthur "Chip" Johnson has been the Kirk's Sexton since Sept. 4, 2018. He is truly a jack of all trades. He sweeps, mops, shines, polishes, shampoos, oils, washes, and mows. Chip plays a huge part in the seamless functioning of the church.

Chip is responsible for the appearance, cleanliness, maintenance, and security of the Kirk's building and grounds. He works in close association with Barron Gage, Building Moderator, and Tom Hayek, Grounds Moderator.

In addition to the above-mentioned responsibilities, Chip sets up tables and chairs, makes coffee, and provides ice water as needed for church services, committee meetings, bridge, Green Horns, and church events, including weddings, funerals, memorial services, and receptions. He has even placed urns in the columbarium, washed dishes, and made minor repairs.

Set-up extends to outside groups using our facilities such as the Village Big Band, Tai Chi, Focus Group, AA, and Al-Anon. What is set up also has to come down.

And if that isn't enough, his responsibilities extend to the grounds. He can be seen cutting the grass, trimming hedges, blowing leaves, caring for flower beds, and shoveling snow.

When asked how his job has changed with the restrictions imposed by the Corona Virus, he said it really hadn't changed much. The church still has to be kept clean and maintained and the grounds kept up. What did change was the set-up and take-down for the myriad church events after the church lock-down began on March 15.

This extra time has allowed Chip to focus on some big projects that he previously had to squeeze into his already very full schedule. He has been able to clean out closets, deep clean rooms, shampoo carpets, clean gutters, and power wash the walkways.



Chip Johnson, Kirk sexton, reloads a sanitizer dispenser, one of many in the building. (Arnie Holtberg photo)

Now that the church is opening slowly, Chip's workload will ramp up due to the set-up parameters for the Saturday and Sunday services and the extra disinfecting necessary for floors, pews, tables and chairs, and filling hand sanitizers.

When church services resumed in early June, the church just sparkled.

Chip says the workload is manageable and he has missed everyone. We owe a big debt of gratitude to Chip for keeping the church clean and maintained, and for keeping the congregation safe and healthy during this unusually challenging time.

Jan Holtberg is on the Communication Committee.

Kirk golfers finally find the fairways, begin 2020

By Jim Hess

We finally began our 2020 golf season on June 14 at the Magellan Golf Course followed by dinner on the deck at Xplore Lakeside Restaurant.

It was wonderful to share a Sunday afternoon with 19 fellow Kirk golfers on 9- and 18-hole teams.

Save the date of July 12, which is our next Kirk Sunday Golf Group event.



The golf course and restaurant will be announced on your sign-up email.

If you are new to our Kirk or are a current member and would like to join our Kirk Sunday Golf Group, we welcome you.

We are couple and single golfers of various abilities who play 9 or 18 holes, your choice. We play our Village courses with dinner to follow after golf the second Sunday of each month, April through October. If you would like additional information call me at 922-2326.

Jim Hess is the Kirk's golf coordinator.

The Kirk now has its own YouTube channel

We never believed we would watch our Kirk services on the internet! But it happened! Covid-19!

Though some are back to “in person” services the virtual service will continue to be prepared and shared with the congregation. Each week the Kirk office sends out a link and order of service to the congregation so they can watch.

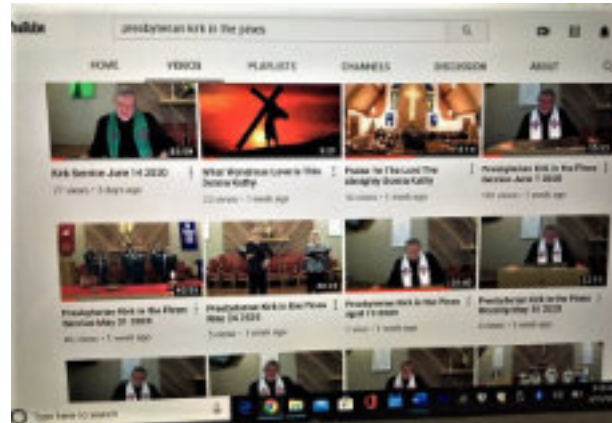
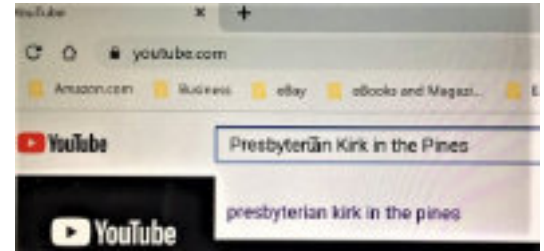
The videos are stored on YouTube. If you did not watch or want to watch again you can find them by going to YouTube and search for Presbyterian Kirk in the Pines.

You can share them with family and friends by clicking “share” under the video. A box will pop up and allow you to click copy. Then you can send an email or go to Facebook and paste the copied link by right-clicking on your mouse and choosing “paste.”

If you do not have a computer, there are DVD's in the Kirk office you can borrow to watch. All the services are on DVD as well. We will get through this together!!

Step One:

Go to YouTube.com and type in “Presbyterian Kirk in the Pines.”



Step Two:

Choose the program you want to watch



Shepherd Group 5 Tailgates Together

Shepherd Group 5 met June 9 for a beautiful evening "Tail Gate" supper on the Kirk parking lot. It proved to be an excellent spot to eat and greet members not seen in some time. It was such an easy way to get together. Conversation with all present was much better than a restaurant where you can only converse with just a few at a time. We may do this again sometime soon. Those attending were Barb and Daryl Henry, Ellen Marshall, Helen Van Stone, Ruth Richards, Ron Lovett, Joyce and Paul Hayek, Carol Sue Williams, and Vianne and Bob Huff. *(Barb Henry photo)*



Clark Mowry and Randy Toney singing at the first service on June 7. (Jamie Federick photo)

Preparing music means being flexible and flexible

“Flexible.” That’s the term Randy Toney uses to describe the summer music schedule.

Things are constantly changing, so “it all comes together at the last minute,” says Randy. In truth, haven’t we all had to be flexible and adaptable in this peculiar time?

Special groups of choir members will, as usual, sing for the summer worship services. Both Randy and Susan Morrow are recruiting choir members to sing in small groups of eight to 12 persons for summer worship services. Rehearsals will predominately be individual and with the use of recordings. Only one or two in-person rehearsals will be required.

Have you sung along with the video services? Have you even tried singing the anthem with the ensemble group? Hmmm, maybe you are “choir material.”

Singing along kind of keeps one in the spirit of the service. Our video services have been possible because of the special skills of Sharon Gardner in audio-visual filming. Of course, preaching to an empty sanctuary has taken some getting used to by Pastor Bill Bailey.

Donna Toney’s skills as a pianist are so enjoyable,



Choir Notes

Dotty Rector

the ensembles do so well, and the guest musicians are a treat. We are so grateful that our pastor, the musicians, and, of course, Sharon Gardner, our videographer, gave of themselves to keep our worshipping community together.

Special musical treats on the calendar for this summer include Kathy Ogilvie, who again played the violin on June 28, and Rebecca Bingham, Gloria Pickett’s daughter, playing the cello in August.

We all look forward the whole choir again singing together in worship of our Lord. Until then, we will stay safe by wearing our masks, keeping our distance, and wash, wash, washing our hands.



Happy dates



Birthdays

July 4 Ted Smith
 July 5 Margaret Boschetti
 Lowell Gardner
 July 6 Hannah Bailey
 July 8 Ralph Greene
 July 9 James Knox
 Jean Mowry
 July 11 Barbara Keegan
 July 12 Horace Shankwiler

July 13 Deanna Kincheloe
 July 15 Bob Morrow
 Patty Van Cleave
 July 17 Dottie Isaacson
 July 18 Helen Van Stone
 July 19 Harry Wakefield
 July 21 Mary Carol (Mac)
 Throckmorton
 July 24 Gay Crone

July 25 Sally Fink
 Sharon Gardner
 July 27 Jay Nielsen
 July 28 Bill Drews
 Dick Massey
 July 29 Carolyn Starr
 July 30 Nell Moss-White

Anniversaries

July 1 Halene and Ivan (Bud) Strautman	70 years	July 20 Barbara and Tony Booth	57 years
July 6 Anne and Bill Bailey	47 years	July 22 Jean and Clark Mowry	53 years
Diana and Joe Milligan	36 years	July 29 Vicki and David Rosenquist	42 years
July 18 Ruth and Mark Smith	50 years		

New camellias, maples add beauty to Memorial Garden



New and established Japanese maples add to the beauty and serenity of the Memorial Garden. (Bob Morrow photo)

Although peace and tranquility in our Memorial Garden is a constant, seasonal changes bring varied opportunities to maintain and enhance our grounds.

Late spring and summer bring the opportunity to mulch and add to the beauty of the garden with new plants. Recent additions include three new camellia bushes and two new Japanese maples.

Funds for the maples were provided by a generous gift from Yvonne Jones as a memorial to her husband, Wendel, and two sons.

Ornamental grasses have also been added along the parking lot. Our rainy spring and recent warmth and sunshine have resulted in exuberant growth of our many shrubs but also of weeds and grass.

At the workday on June 5, Dennis Faulk joined Tom Hayek, Priscilla Hayek, and Chip Johnson weeding, weed whacking, watering, pruning, and blowing around our parking lots and along Asturias Drive.

The next Memorial Garden workday is scheduled for July 10. Volunteers are appreciated and needed to share in the work. Of course, social distancing is observed even outdoors and the work is generally very light.

Joining the workday is a great opportunity to enjoy fresh air and sunshine, outdoor fellowship, and to gain a new appreciation for our beautiful garden and grounds.

For more information, contact Tom Hayek, Moderator of the Church Grounds/Memorial Garden Committee.

Elusive spider takes center stage in window

By Lowell Gardner

William Shakespeare in his play *The Tempest* was thought to be the first to pen the phrase “strange bedfellows” when making reference to partnering with misery.

It takes not a great amount of imagination to equate our current pandemic to misery even if stay-at-home orders, especially for retirees, falls a bit short of “misery.” But the concept of “strange bedfellows” is not far off the mark.

I recently observed my wife engaged in a unique relationship with a spider. I admit they got off to a rocky start. He (or she – I have no deep insight related to that dimension of the story) took it upon ... itself ... to establish a spider web – obviously – between the screen and window in our living room.

My wife promptly opened from the inside our specifically designed

window pane and cleared out the space while spying no evidence of the little contractor.

A few days later the industrious and persistently elusive creature had rebuilt and expanded on the design.

Not totally blind to raw ingenuity, my wife noted the recent developments and made a point of making me aware of them as well. She went so far as to invite our good friend and current house guest to inspect the work, drawing the draperies aside to establish a better view.

Now daily reports are submitted with no immediate plans being made to re-clean the area.

A normally rational, tidy lady and a member of the arachnid family. Strange bedfellows indeed while doing battle with the coronavirus.

Lowell Gardner is a former Moderator of Communication.



Kirk staff

William B. Bailey – Senior Pastor

Randy Toney – Director of Music

Donna Toney – Organist/Pianist

Janie Smith – Visitation Coordinator

Chris Taylor-Wilmoth – Secretary

Beverly Schaumburg – Business Administrator

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