

Letter from the Pastor

First
Presbyterian
Church of
Croswell

May, 2019

Well, it was a busy month that just flew by but it was a very good month, especially with Holy Week and all the services. I especially enjoyed the joint service on Maundy Thursday with our Methodist brothers and sisters and the Community Good Friday service with seven churches participating. It gives all of us a chance to share our faith in God in a common worship. We all work together and that is how it should be.

There are things that come up in churches that at times seem to throw us off the track we have planned. Several weeks ago we had the instance where Mary Anne was taken ill and could not play for us. We came through it in fine fashion when we worked together. It reminded me of an article I had read in a newsletter I subscribe to from the Outreach Foundation. It is a Presbyterian Foundation that has a group working to support our smaller congregations throughout the country. The person who heads up the group is Rev. Camille Josey who is a part time pastor in a small church near Atlanta GA as well as posting a daily message on the Facebook page. I thought that I would share what happened one Sunday so that we all can see that there are many things in common no matter where the church may be located and that we are not alone in handling the unexpected. So here is Camille's story;

Life in the Small Church:

I arrived just before 9, as usual, anticipating a final review of my sermon before the congregation began arriving. But then I received a call from our organist/director of music: "I'm at the hospital with C (his wife). She's having chest pains." Silver Creek doesn't have anyone else able to play the piano, so after reassuring the organist, I went into my playlist of worship music (Holly Aloise has a fairly extensive collection of familiar hymns of the church, played to accompany congregational singing), made sure the Bluetooth speaker was charged up, adapted the bulletin for the change in music, informed the choir and, after giving them time to process, ran through the new music with them (music from the Glory to God Hymnal is not part of the Aloise lineup). I updated the liturgist for the shifts in liturgy. And had about 3 minutes to review my sermon. A large church would have had someone else to step in to play and continue with the planned order of worship and few would have been the wiser. In the small church, flexibility and adaptability are key. A Bluetooth speaker and extensive playlist are helpful tools in the toolbox. And the ability to laugh at oneself when you unthinkingly stop the music before the concluding hymn is done.

It was a great morning to be in the presence of God!

Sounds very familiar! We are one family of God's children and when we support one another in worship and prayer we can rely on God to see us through, just as He did here and at Aloise Presbyterian.

It is great to be a part of the church here and now and in the future as we all move forward as the Church of Jesus Christ. And I am thankful for all of you!

See you Sunday,

Don

For Memorial Day let's remember our current military personnel.

Regina Battajaria, Cudney's grandniece, USA, CONUS
Brandon Bollman, Carpenter's great-grandson, USA, Iraq
Nikki Chandler (Smith), Colbeck granddaughter, USAF, Okinawa
Charles Cunningham, Hall's son-in-law USN Washington
Ross Dickinson, Black Nephew, ANG
Brett Francek, Summer Int. husband, USA, CONUS
Piper Thaler, Marines, friend of Debbie Lyons
Konrad Thaler, Army, friend of Debbie Lyons
Jeff Manning, Army, South Korea, friend of Paige Hammons
Joshua Hetzel, Hetzel son, USA, Texas
Jason Holt, , USA, GA
Ralph Kinsley III, , USNR
Astrid Mayne, Hetzel grand-niece, USN, Pensacola, FL
Dustin McClelland, Matthews's son-in-law, USCG
Jerry Oliver, Oliver's grandson, USMC, VA
Dennis Sample, Raeleen's grand-nephew, USA, Korea
Jason Putnam, Dave Edmiston's nephew, USN Bremerton WA
Darrin Reuss, Hetzel grand-nephew, USA, Germany
Benjamin Kinsley, USNR
Heather Hammons, USA, SC

***Memorial Day Prayer For Our Soldiers
My God Who Gave His Only Son,
To Shed His Blood For All Mankind.
Give Strength To All The Loving Ones,
Who Give Their Sons To Keep Our
Land Free.
Your Faithful Men And Women,
Venture Near And Far.
We Call Upon Your Mercy,
No Matter Where They Are.
Keep Them Safe, One And All,
On Land, In Air, On Sea.***

***And While We Know Some Will Not
Return,
Give Us Strength To Accept Their
Destiny.
And To The Men That Have Fallen,
Give A Special Place Of Grace In
Eternity.
And Help Me Lord To Never Forget,
The Price They Paid For Our Great
County.***

From Your Littler Library in the Corner

"Warning: This book should only be read by imperfect, flawed people in serious need of God's amazing grace. Thank you, Ruth Graham, for having the courage to bare your soul and then lead others back toward God's welcoming arms." From Philip Yancey's comment on *In Every Pew Sits a Broken Heart*, by Ruth Graham (daughter of Ruth and Billy Graham). (Copper Dot – Meditation and Prayer).

"This is the best book about Jesus I have ever read, probably the best book about Jesus in the whole century. Yancey gently took away my blinders and blazed the trail through my own doubting fears, pious know-it-all, and critical balderdash until I saw the Savior anew and thought I heard him ask me, 'Now who do you say that I am?' and I understood the question as I never had before." From Lewis Smedes comment on *The Jesus I Never Knew*, by

Philip Yancey. (Primrose Dot – Jesus).

"Just like Punchinello, we all want to fit in. To be accepted by the crowd. But at times that may mean we either have to look and act like others, or risk being rejected. Punchinello's hard-earned lesson shows us how important it is to be who we were created to be, and why it matters." From *If Only I Had a Green Nose*, by Max Lucado.

Need something new for family game night? Come check out all the fun games we have in our library. There are games to suit all ages and all skill levels. It's a great way to spend a rainy day or just a fun night in with the family.



Please Pray for the following people:

Debbie & Tom Damon

Gail Bales

Frank Tonge

Ruthann Kettlewell

Phil Lyons

Dave Edmiston

For Illness

James 5:14, Psalm 23:2-4, & Psalm 43:5

May 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Birthday Anniversary Church						
			1 Bill & Pam O'Connor	2 Nat'l Day Prayer	3	4 Nolan Reinowski
5	6	7 Keith Jamison James & Ruthann Kettlewell	8 Gerald & Audrey Warner	9	10 Gerald Reinowski	11 Scott Lusher
12 MOTHER'S DAY Barb Pabst	13	14 Fred Wilson MaryAnn Milarch Sessions 7pm	15	16 Food truck P.W. Spring Gathering 6:30pm	17	18
19	20	21 Andy Young Bonnie Wilson P.W. 6pm	22	23	24	25 Scott Bales John & Ann Matthews
26	27 MEMORIAL DAY	28	29	30	31	