

This month we celebrate our independence. It is a great word, independence; I love how it rolls off one's tongue. If we look to Merriam-Webster, we find this

Synonyms of independence include:

**ABILITY AUTONOMY
SELF-DETERMINATION
SELF-GOVERNMENT
SELF-RELIANCE
SELF-RULE
SELF-SUFFICIENCY
SEPARATION
SOVEREIGNTY**

independence *noun*

in-de-pen-dence | \ ɪn-də-ˈpen-dən(t)s \

Definition of independence:

1: the quality or state of being independent

2 archaic: COMPETENCE sense 2

**Our country even has a
Declaration of Independence.**

IN CONGRESS, JULY 4, 1776

The unanimous Declaration

of the thirteen united

States of America

When in the Course of human events it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation. We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. — That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, — That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all experience hath shewn that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. ~~Declaration of Independence.

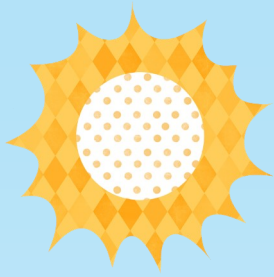
Why my friends, do we make such a big idea out of independence? Is being independent a good thing? I want in my life, something to rely on, something I can count on being there in the good times and the bad. I need to know, that I am not on my own, facing all the uncertainty and impediments that life throws at adults by myself.

I appreciate that I have a loving spouse, and kids I can usually count on for help, but sometimes even knowing I have these people in my life, I crave more. I want something that is bigger than a spouse, more definite than kids. I want something that is larger than me and my foibles.

But friends, I also appreciate that I am not intended to be independent. I was created, as were all humanity, to depend wholly on God. If we have any question of this, we need to reread the book of Job, especially chapters 38 to the end.

Yes, it is nice to not be under bad rulers or corrupt government. It is a hope that our youth will grow up and move out of their parent's home. It is nice when our children can potty by themselves. However, if we are truthful with ourselves, we cannot say we are independent. We were not made to be independent. Let us rejoice instead, that we have a loving, caring faithful God that we can depend upon.

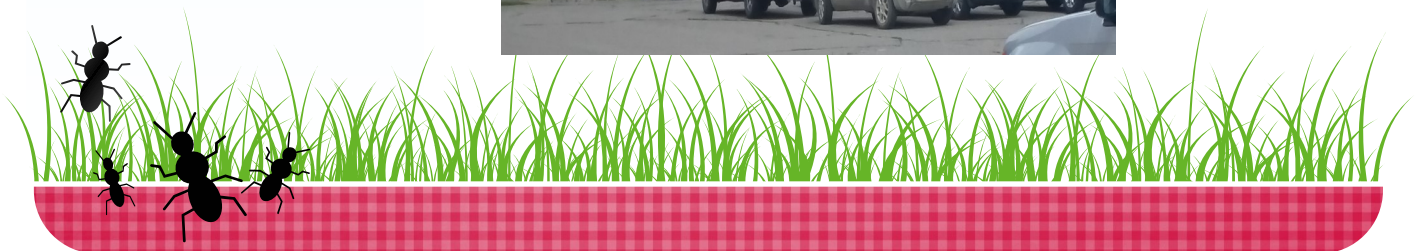
Let's talk about it.



Parking Lot Service

We would like to thank all who helped set up and kept us running, with special thanks to Ed Stone and Blessing Eboh for all the time and effort put in to make this successful, and to Bonnie Stone for the treats after the service.

Thanks to all who showed up and special thanks to God Almighty for giving us this wonderful opportunity to worship outside in beautiful weather.



We are looking forward to worshipping with you!!!



Session Minutes from June meeting

Motion made and seconded to open the church for church services beginning on Sunday June 14, 2020. **Approved unanimously.**

Noted that the pastor and W&M Comm. will revisit church numbers and continue to watch for any spike in COVID cases to determine the safety of continuing church indoors.

The pastor will have “meditative readers” each Sunday who will read the hymns instead of anyone singing hymns.

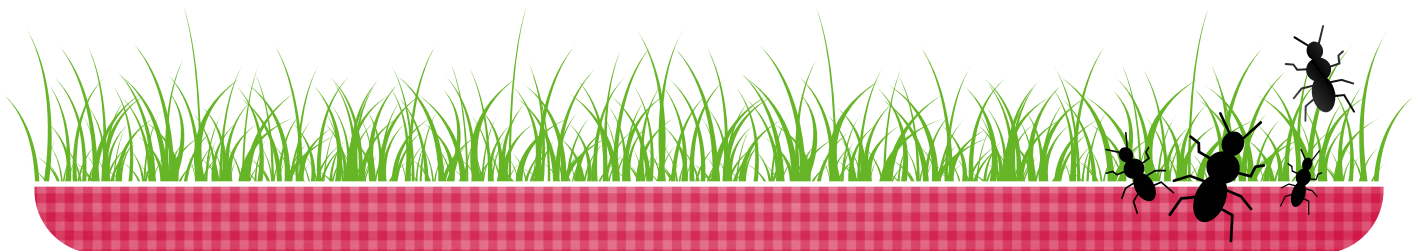
A letter to the congregation with notice of the church service in the church beginning June 14, 2020 and the new protocols has been drafted by the pastor and reviewed by Session members.

Motion made and seconded to approve **no use** of church by outside groups, i.e. Boy Scouts & AA, until further notice. Approved.

Pastor will begin office hours beginning Wed. June 10, 2020 and requests that members call to make appointment. 679-3352 Leave Message and someone will get back with you.

Pastor handed out possible change in bulletin order which met with session approval and “Things to do instead of singing”.

On the next page you will find our opening and social distancing outline and we request that everyone entering the church comply with all new stated rules. It is for the health of our congregation and our community.



MASKS: Masks must be worn into building and during service. Masks will be available for those who don't have a mask or forgot. (Pam O'Connor able to purchase 150 paper masks for \$60); masks will be available at both front and back doors.

HAND SANITIZERS: Will be available at both front and back doors. There will be "pumpers" at each station pumping the sanitizer for each individual entering building (so that not everyone is touching the hand sanitizer). All committee members will be on the look-out for purchasing of hand sanitizers as it appears it is still hard to come by; hand sanitizers will be donated to the church by a committee member if there is not enough sanitizer purchased.

BATHROOMS: Only upstairs bathroom will be available for use (not basement bathrooms). Lisa will sanitize before service. Hand sanitizers will be in this bathroom as well as Clorox Wipes (so that people can clean doorknobs and/or faucet handles. Pam O'Connor will bring in a bottle of wipes.

STAIRS TO BASEMENT: Will be closed preventing people from going downstairs.

SUNDAY SCHOOL: Try to start up Sunday School classes in the Fall and will watch to see how public schools handle reopening school. Noted that Pam O'Connor and Gayla Todd have been taking activities to the homes of the students that were in their SS class.

PEWS: Every other pew will be taped off with blue painters tape. All hymnals, Bibles, and pencils will be removed.

SINGING: No hymns will be sung, but the hymn will be played by the organist and the pastor (or lay person) will read the hymn verses during the playing of the hymn.

Church members will be urged to bring their own Bibles if they want to read the Bible during the service.

BULLETINS: Will be set out by the front and back doors for individuals entering the church.

OFFERING PLATES: Will be set out by the front and back doors and members/visitors will be asked to drop off their offering into the plates. Pastor will still have a prayer for the Offertory but no offertory music will be needed/used.

DISMISSAL: The "pumpers" will also be the ones to dismiss church row by row starting from the back rows. Members will be asked not to go into Frostick Room (it will be closed off) and if they would like to visit with each other they can do it outside the church.

FRIENDSHIP HOUR: Will not be held until further notice.

COMMUNION: Communion cannot be served as usual. Prepackaged Juice and Wafer kits are available (Sally Pomeroy purchased a box of 500/\$109.95). These will also be set out by the front and back doors for each individual entering the church to pick up on Communion Sundays.

DOORS TO OUTSIDE: Will be kept open before and after church service. Doors will be closed by the "pumpers" once the service begins. This will help to alleviate the door being touched by everyone who enters the building.

Motion made and seconded to approve not paying organist if church reopens and organist continues to stay-at-home. Approved. It was noted that the church paid the organist for approximately 3 months during the church closure due to COVID pandemic.



JULY 2020 SCRIPTURES

Sunday, July 5 (Proper 9)
Genesis 24:34–38, 42–49, 58–67
Psalm 45:10–17
Romans 7:15–25a
Matthew 11:16–19, 25–30

Sunday, July 12 (Proper 10)
Genesis 25:19–34
Psalm 119:105–112
Romans 8:1–11
Matthew 13:1–9, 18–23

Sunday, July 19 (Proper 11)
Genesis 28:10–19a
Psalm 139:1–12, 23–24
Romans 8:12–25
Matthew 13:24–30, 36–43

Sunday, July 26 (Proper 12)
Genesis 29:15–28
Psalm 105:1–11, 45b
Romans 8:26–39
Matthew 13:31–33, 44–52

August 2020 SCRIPTURES

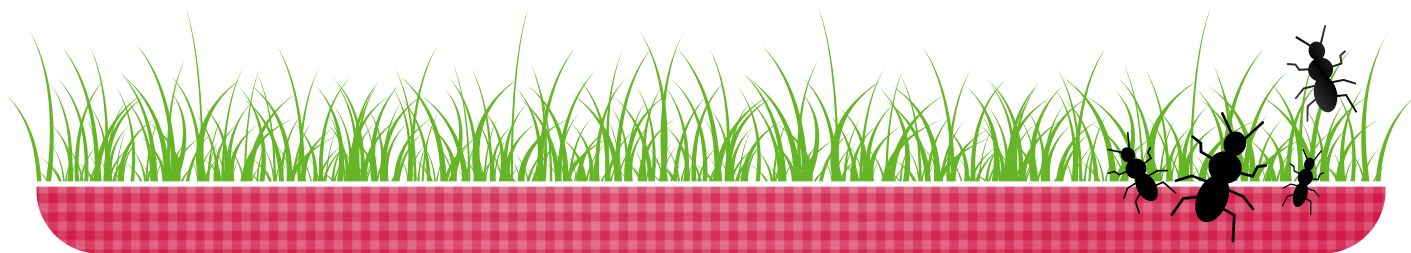
Sunday, August 2 (Proper 13)
Genesis 32:22–31
Psalm 17:1–7, 15
Romans 9:1–5
Matthew 14:13–21

Sunday, August 9 (Proper 14)
Genesis 37:1–4, 12–28
Psalm 105:1–6, 16–22, 45b
Romans 10:5–15
Matthew 14:22–33

Sunday, August 16 (Proper 15)
Genesis 45:1–15
Psalm 133
Romans 11:1–2a, 29–32
Matthew 15:[10–20] 21–28

Sunday, August 23 (Proper 16)
Exodus 1:8–2:10
Psalm 124
Romans 12:1–8
Matthew 16:13–20

Sunday, August 30 (Proper 17)
Exodus 3:1–15
Psalm 105:1–6, 23–26, 45b
Romans 12:9–21
Matthew 16:21–28



July 2020

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

	<i>Birthday Anniversary</i>		1	2	3	4
5	6	7 <i>Laura Kinsley</i>	8 <i>Dave Joann Hall</i>	9	10	11 <i>Ann Milletics</i>
12	13 <i>Jane McLane</i>	14 <i>Pam O'Connor</i>	15	16 <i>Richard Sample</i>	17 <i>Ramona Clarkson Jimmy Kettlewell</i>	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25 <i>Debbie Damon</i>
26 <i>Tom Curtis Ken Marg- aret Hetzel</i>	27 <i>John Penny Flaherty</i>	28	29	30	31	