

The Window

May 2020

Message From the Pastor

We had hoped...

I have always been taken with the phrase from scripture from Jesus and the two friends on the walk to Emmaus after the resurrection. It sums up those experiences, gatherings, healings, losses, we had hoped to not miss out on.

We had hoped.....

...the surgery would have taken care of the cancer, but it has spread.

...we could go back to school, church, vacations, _____ (fill in the blank).

...to be together for grandma's birthday or the baby shower or the sleep over.

...to stop the spread so that doctors and nurses could go home to their own families, showers, and beds, safely at night.

...we would not have to let employees go.

It is a lament phrase. And we are lamenting many things. It is where we are living.

So, I wonder what you hope will happen when the threat of the virus settles down? What do you hope will be different?

I hope we will take some of the gifts of this time and continue them with intention. Like calling on your neighbors for help or to see if they need help. I hope our families will enjoy more dinners at home cooking, cleaning, and talking together. I hope we appreciate the rhythms of rest, not just recover from our hectic lifestyles. I hope we will value Sabbath time, resting in God's presence, not being productive, and noticing what God is doing around us. I hope we will honor the earth, the peoples of the earth, and take care of all living things as God does. For what do you hope?

When Jesus asked the two friends, what had taken place that day in Jerusalem, one responded,

"The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people,²⁰ and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him.²¹ But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place.²² Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning,²³ and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive." (Luke 24:19a-24)



I hope we will experience new life and hope through the gift of the Holy Spirit. I hope we will draw near to God as God draws near to us, to comfort, love, inspire, and enact in us good deeds. I hope we experience anew the power of resurrection!

With the Love and Peace of Christ,

Laura Smith Conrad, Pastor

Joining together on a journey of Christian faith, we seek to be Disciples of Christ and to share God's love in our community and around the world.

We do this as we Glorify God, Grow Disciples, Meet Human Needs.

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Weekly Lectionary Scriptures

- 5/3 4th Sunday of Easter**
Acts 2:42-47; Ps. 23;
1 Peter 2:19-25; John 10:1-10
- 5/10 5th Sunday of Easter**
Acts 7:55-60; Ps. 31:1-5, 15-16;
1 Peter 2:2-10; John 14:1-14
- 5/17 6th Sunday of Easter**
Acts 17:22-31; Ps. 66:8-20;
1 Peter 3:13-22; John 14:15-21
- 5/24 7th Sunday of Easter**
Acts 1:6-14; Ps. 68:1-10, 32-35
1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11;
John 17:1-11
- 5/31 Day of Pentecost**
Acts 2:1-21 or Num. 11:24-30;
Ps. 104:24-34, 35b; 1 Cor. 12:3b-13 or Acts 2:1-21; John 20:19-23 or John 7:37-39

June 2020

The Window Deadline

The deadline for articles, announcements, and features for the June issue of *The Window* is Wednesday, May 15.

Please email your item as a Microsoft Word document to the church office at window@forthillchurch.org or type the item directly into your email and send. If possible, please keep your articles to 500 words or less.



Natalie Adair Turner born on April 3 to **Marie & Trevor Turner**. Big brothers are **Daniel & Bennett**.

Hazel McKale Lloyd born on April 10 to **Charlie & Susie Lloyd**. Big brothers are **Brady & Hudson**. Grandparents are **Don & Janna McKale**.

Choir Corner

As I sit here alone in the music office at church, it is quiet! So very quiet!! I look out the window on an empty street, green trees and blue sky. There's no hustle and bustle of students headed to classes. It is quiet! So very quiet!!

Sometimes that is not a bad thing. I like quiet when I think. I like quiet when I pray. I like quiet when I sleep. But this is so very different. In the midst of a virus that is quiet and scary, that has taken over our world that does not give much warning — it is quiet! So very quiet.

What has brought hope and assurance in these quiet days is God's presence; God's people, and music; the services we have watched online from our homes and heard God's word read and proclaimed; the glorious organ music played by Judy Bonham allowing us to sing great hymns of the faith from our hearts; and the people we care about in our church family

I was amazed in the first weekend when life was shut down and we were unable to gather together in our sanctuary, there emerged on YouTube a video from Nashville of many artists sharing their musical gifts in many different places, yet together. And what were they singing? *IT IS WELL WITH MY SOUL!!* Yes, the beautiful, harmonious rendition of an old and amazing hymn we all know — *IT IS WELL WITH MY SOUL!!!!*

I couldn't believe it. Angels from all over were singing and assuring us that *IT IS WELL*. All I could do was smile and cry with tears of thanksgiving for the amazing gift of music from people I didn't even know. But they had joined together to assure us all that a pandemic, a scary virus, a quarantine, not able to see family and friends up close and personal, and the list goes on - - NOTHING can separate us from the love of God!

Thanks be to God for the quiet and powerful beauty of music.

Keep smiling-n-singing! I look forward to seeing and hearing you back in the pews when it is safe to do so.

Margaret

Mother's Day Special Offering

For more than 50 years, congregations across our state have impacted the Presbyterian Communities of South Carolina (PCSC) in countless ways. One of the greatest impacts is the annual Mother's Day offering for Charitable Care.

In Psalm 71, David talks with God about his old age and fear of abandonment. Verse 9 says "do not discard me in my old age: as my strength fails, do not abandon me." Many of the elderly share David's fear. Throughout the Bible, God puts responsibility on us to take care of each other. In 1st Timothy 5, Paul writes that when there are legitimate material needs among believers that cannot be met by family members, as a church we are to assist in meeting these needs.

At any given time, up to 7% of the PCSC residents, who have spent decades of their lives saving for retirement, find themselves in a difficult situation when they simply outlive their resources. It is through the generosity of churches and faithful individuals that PCSC is able to provide anywhere from \$1 - 2 million in charitable care each year for qualifying residents, enabling them to continue care with one of the six Presbyterian Communities in South Carolina.

So on this Mother's Day, honor your Mother by giving generously to our special offering. Help replace fear and concern with reassurance that all will be taken care of until God calls us home.

Specify "Mother's Day Offering" in memo line when making an online contribution or mailing in a check.

Thank you for your consideration.

Prayerfully,
Catherine Latiff, Christian Action Ministry Committee

"Honor your father and your mother, as the LORD your God has commanded you, so that you may live long and that it may go well with you in the land the LORD your God is giving you."

Inside the “Den”

Since the beginning of our social distancing, we have still been gathering each week as a youth group. We have spent time checking in, sharing our joys and the concerns, and asking the question, “How can we pray for you?” The answers have ranged from “help me not get sick of my sibling” and “help me figure out online learning” to “be with my family since my grandparent died” and “help my parents stay safe when they have to go to work”.

Prayer is a way we can connect with each other when we are not together. That is as true when we are separated by social distancing as well as when we are separated by the busyness in each of our weeks.

When we pray for each other we build a youth connection stronger than any distance we may face.

So, Fort Hill family, I ask you this month (and always) to keep our youth and youth advisors in your prayers.

Pray that they all stay healthy and are able to find ways to connect with the people they can't go visit.

Pray for our graduating seniors (listed with stars by their names) and seek ways to celebrate their accomplishments.

Pray for everyone who is now a virtual, online learner and teacher.

Pray that the time will come soon when we can all safely gather together again.

Pray for them by name.

Ellen and Ethan Ackerman

Michael Alexander-Alonso

Hayden Anderson

Elizabeth and Luke Artigliere

Carter Bandy*

Katie Blondeau

Bennett and Walton Bost

Ben and Tatum Rose Bronson

Ransom Broome

Helen Crader

Alex and Sarah DuBose

David and Paige Durham

Ford Fagan

Zander Graff

Billy, Miller, and Rees Gregory

Ella Griffis

Cooper and Sawyer Hays

Elyse* and Kate Hollingsworth

Catherine Jones*

Andy and James Kwist

Andrew Latiff*

Jacob Lawson

Mary Limber

Jen, Lucy, and Mac* Martin

Jensen McInnis

Lachlan McLaurin

Emily and Tyler Miller

Clay* and Dulcie Mohr

Olivia Mueller

Addie and Alena Nebesky

Katelyn Peele

Ryan Poetz

Ellis Rutland

Cody Satzger

Audrey and Bridget Sehorn

Bryce and Stephanie Smith

Mary Kate and Will* Turner

Emma and Sarah Van Daele

Sydney Weeks

Catherine Whisler*

Ally Wilson

Caila, Emma, and Savannah Worley

Coleman, Spencer, and Tipton Wright

Thank you for holding us in prayer. Please know that we are praying with and for you too!

Grace and Peace,

Beth

Life and Death

When Spring each year, sneaks softly in,
my heart begins to sing, but then

Brash Summer starts a tug of war; a
match she's always won before.

But bury despair, and live in hope,

For this is the business of God,
Who holds both ends of the rope.

So, golden, wrinkled leaves aglow, lose
their luster as they grow.

Sweet flowers along the forest floor,
adorn my woodland path no more.

And trills within the trees all slowly
disappear,

For busy birds have tiny birds to rear.

What cooling breeze the earth exhales,
fades away when
coolness fails.

And gentle showers as once the norm,
succumb to raucous thunderstorms.

There are a multitude of things that hail
the certain death of Spring.

But oh, what woodland wonders wait, if
we let time just fill our plate.

Thus, patience is the fee to stay,

And quietly experience

A bold and new display.

For Summer leaves give gracious shade,
to decorate a lonesome glade.

Fragile flowers now gone to seed, yield
future sprouts for future need.

And freedom lives, as new-fledged
wings explore

Vast realms above the vale we watch
them watching o'er.

Cicadas welcome warmer days, calling
bees to honey ways.

And lightning sends the rain to nourish
all that lives, to grow and flourish.

To all, this happy chorus sings, beyond
the certain death of Spring.

Though worldly fortunes wax and wane,
there echoes clear, a welcome refrain:

“In matters of change or strife,
You never find life without death,
Nor ever death without life.”

Ben Sill

May 7, 2019

Confirmation Class 2020

2020 Confirmation Class – “social distanced”, but relationship strong! Submitted by: Robin Weeks

A Fort Hill Faith Practice that our Confirmation Cohort focused on from the earliest stages of our planning and preparation was to “*build relationships intentionally*”. The class covenant signed by confirmands, parents, covenant partners and teachers/leaders, includes some role for each of us to actively build personal relationships.

We appreciate our extended Fort Hill family who continue to support us with prayer throughout this faith journey. Reflecting specifically on the relationships fostered between confirmands and their covenant partner, these proved to be a solid foundation from which to support each other and continue to learn together during the multitude of challenges spread by a virus. I hope it will be as uplifting to our congregation as it was to me to read these brief thoughts shared by each of our confirmand-covenant partner pairings. Their intentional steps toward building connections, will allow the support and conversation to continue even as we are separated and will serve as solid ground from which we will reconvene as a class someday...soon!

Hayden Anderson & Ed Halbig: We had lunch at Your Pie. We talked about Hayden’s faith statement and our project for presenting our Declaration. During the quarantine when we read scripture, we talked about it afterward.

Walton Bost & Mark Morrison: Mountain biking was our connection. We’ve visited about the trails, certain skill sets, and, of course, crashes. At first, we met at church every other week or so and went over the Westminster Confession of Faith. Later Mark listened to what Walton had written down for his Statement of Faith. Just before the COVID19 shutdowns we did get together at Stumphouse Mtn Bike Park to ride some trails.

Ben Bronson & Stephen Pettigrew: We met together several times before quarantine started. Mr. Pettigrew was really a big help in understanding the Apostles Creed and scheduling it out for presenting to our class.

Alex DuBose & Nathan Wilson: Before the quarantine took place, we had a nice pizza lunch together. We talked about Alex’s faith statement and worked on our presentation to the class. We visited about a wide range of other subjects too, from bike riding to time travel!

Paige Durham & Melanie Job: We made Valentine’s Day cookies (cutting and decorating!) at Ms. Melanie’s house, for the class. We planned to make Easter cookies too, but “social distancing” happened. Ms. Melanie brought snacks and was present to see me off on our class mission trip. We have sent each other letters during quarantine.

Billy Gregory & Tom Waldrop: We found common ground in music. Billy currently plays tuba in the school band and Mr. Waldrop still plays tuba after 50 years! Another connection is scouting. Mr. Waldrop’s two sons earned Eagle Scout in Troop 235. Billy is now an active scout in that troop!

Kate Hollingsworth & Billie Jackson: We have gone to dinner together (Kate’s family included). We talk and text, and she sends me hand-written notes and candy! We go over scripture, sometimes we share a prayer, and we discuss various things like Kate’s school.

Emily Miller & Donna Crader: Ms. Donna Crader has helped me in my discovery of faith throughout the confirmation process. Before quarantine, we met in Tartan Hall and followed up after confirmation class to review scripture, pray and just visit together. Since quarantine, we have talked on the phone, sent text messages and emails on a regular basis.

Dulcie Mohr & Donna McCubbin: In addition to each Sunday morning class, we had dinner a few times as we talked about our confession and learned more about each other. Since we’ve been separated, we communicate mostly through texts, but we’ve also had a Zoom chat. Dulcie’s track meets were on Donna’s calendar, but well... we know why that didn’t happen. Instead, Donna looks forward to going to Dulcie’s tennis matches in the fall.



News from Presbyterian Women

May Magazine Collections for Campbell Veterans and Harris Psychiatric Hospitals

Thank you to everyone who donated magazines, books and puzzles for **Campbell Veterans Hospital** and **Harris Psychiatric Hospital**. We will continue taking contributions through June. Your support for this worthwhile project is appreciated!

Box Tops for Education and Paper Goods for Helping Hands

Please continue to collect Box Tops for Education for **Thornwell**. Place your labels in the basket provided in the kitchen opposite the **FHOG Office**.

Bring paper goods to donate to **Helping Hands** to the Collections Room in the "dungeon" at the base of the stairs opposite the Club Room.

Clothing Drive for Columbia Theological Seminary

We would like to send a **BIG THANK YOU** to **Joan Dixon, Susan Beckwith** and **Gensie Waldrop** for their hours spent sorting and packing clothing for Mission Haven, the resale store for students of Columbia Theological Seminary and their families. Each October and March, PW Women collects in-season clothing to provide tasteful, low-cost clothing for thrifty shoppers. In October, the clothing goes to the Safe Harbor Thrift Store, and in April, the clothing goes to Mission Haven Thrift Store for missionaries home on furlough, and for the seminary students. Thank you for your generous contributions!

Submitted by Mary Barron, PW Publicity Chairwoman.

Contact at mb1cb1@bellsouth.net, or Tel: 864.247.1322(c)



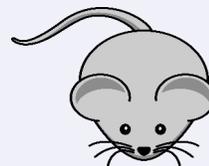
Keith & Terri Smith on the death of Terri's mother, Kay Wilson on April 18 in Seneca.

Barry & Aleta Robinson on the death of Barry's brother, Carter Robinson on April 15 in Houston, TX.

Grace and Blackie Cook on the death of Grace's brother Lloyd Tumlin on February 20 in San Francisco, CA.

Grace and Blackie Cook on the death of Grace's sister-in-law Ila Berg Tumlin on April 20 in San Francisco, CA.

Church Mouse



Oh my, oh my – it is so quiet around here. A couple of weeks ago I heard voices outside and ran out to see who it was. **Scott Thrailkill** and PSA students, **Freddy Matney, Tim Wayman** and **Kaitlyn Truesdale** were repainting the lines in all of Fort Hill's parking lots. I had to be so careful not to run through the fresh paint. Be sure to thank them the next time you see them.

Soon after that came **Bob Jones** with his van full of wheel barrows, rakes and shovels. Then came a big truck that dumped bark where he pointed. He left his equipment behind so the students and **Scott** could work on spreading the bark. After several weeks, it is all done and the place outside looks great. I LOVE running around it the new bark – smells great.

Did you know that every Wednesday group called "Feasting in the Word" meets or does a group email about the scripture for the coming Sunday's worship service? **Pastor Laura** and the group discuss the meaning – **Raenota Merrill, Tom & Stephanie Scott, Dusty & Nancy Oates, Jake McKinney & Rose Marie McDonald**.

Sometime every week, I hear **Judy Bonham** playing the organ while **Chuck Moede** films **Pastor Laura** for the Sunday Service for something called YouTube. My, oh my, I am certainly learning new words (stay at home order and social distancing) and social media things (Zoom and YouTube) during this thing called a pandemic. I do miss all the people who are usually at church.

Then I heard a really loud noise early one Monday morning. They said it was a tornado – all I know was it sounded like a freight train. The Deacons started checking on you but most are ok. God was looking out for you for sure.

Everyone says stay safe, so I will too.

From the Finance Ministry

Online Giving

Giving online is a convenient way to give to Fort Hill Church. To give online, click on the "Give Online" link (at the top or bottom) of the Fort Hill Church website home page (www.forthillchurch.org).

If you use Fort Hill's website to give, you now have the opportunity to help Fort Hill Church offset the processing costs for receiving online donations. Please know that this is an **optional donation**. As shown in the screenshot below, if you check the "Contribute an extra \$\$\$ to help offset processing costs" option, you can choose to make an additional donation to help offset these costs. **Please know that this is an optional donation.**

If you do not wish to make the additional contribution to help offset these costs, please make sure the box next to that selection is unchecked. No one is required to pay these additional processing costs, though if you do donate to offset these costs they are considered a donation from you and will be included on your annual contribution statements. As always, Fort Hill Church greatly appreciates your generosity.

If you have any questions, please contact Lori Houck at lori.houck@forthillchurch.org or 864-723-1669.

Sign In

How would you like to give?

CREDIT OR DEBIT | BANK ACCOUNT

Account Number

Name On Card | Expiration Month: 03 | Expiration Year: 2020

Billing Address 1 | Billing Address 2

Billing City | Billing State | Billing Postal Code

Save for future use.

Contribute an extra \$27.50 to help offset processing costs.

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May Birthdays & Anniversaries



- | | | | | | | | |
|-----|---|------|---|------|--|------|---|
| 5/1 | Jim Barker
Susan Beckwith
Peggy Rutland | 5/9 | Pam Waddle | 5/21 | Eliza Bost
Grace Bost
Ford Fagan
Stephanie Smith | 5/1 | Charles & Mary Barron
Gene & Carol Goodwyn |
| 5/2 | Bill Carnes
Brad Harper
Lauren Young | 5/10 | Will Turner | 5/23 | Stephen Ackerman
Joan Borick | 5/2 | Jason & Katie Wilson |
| 5/4 | Paul Borick | 5/11 | Pansy Duke
Alex Hicklin
Mark Torres
Eva Williamson
Shelly Wilson | 5/24 | Julie Johnson
Jamie London | 5/3 | Mike & Marie Nebesky |
| 5/5 | Rob Griffin
Marsha Griffin
Cindy Trammell | 5/12 | Judi Cundiff | 5/25 | Ginger Littlejohn
Keith Smith
John Stevenson | 5/10 | Jim & Donna London |
| 5/6 | Stella Hudak
Tyler Miller
Trevor Turner | 5/14 | Carol Goodwyn | 5/26 | Annette Halbig
Sarah Massios
Doug Satzger | 5/12 | David & Marlene
Nicholas |
| 5/7 | Tootie Poteet
Ralph Ricks
Ben Sill | 5/15 | Jackie Ellis
Tim Howard | 5/27 | Randy Moore
Laura Shick | 5/14 | Jim & Judy Eidson |
| 5/8 | Jenny Leisinger
Jill Weir | 5/16 | Joan Dixon
Carol Stout
Art Williams | 5/28 | Linda Wofford | 5/15 | Greg & Jenifer Griffis |
| | | 5/17 | Claudia Harris
Greg Sosebee | 5/29 | Rameth Owens | 5/19 | Josh & Emily Poetz |
| | | 5/18 | Ed Burchfield
Don Davis
Darrel Hedrick
Bill Mostertz
Jonathan Mudge
Pat Rutledge | 5/30 | Maranda Arnold
Elaine Rogers
Cindy Sloan
Robbi Stokes | 5/21 | Bill & Bonnie Lanier |
| | | 5/19 | Donna Crader
Eddie Payne | 5/31 | Charlotte Gruosso
Mavis Sabin | 5/22 | Mike & Kathy Moore |
| | | | | | | 5/24 | Norman & Jackie Ellis |
| | | | | | | 5/28 | Dan & LeAnne Greene |
| | | | | | | 5/31 | Hack & Cheryl Trammell |



The Fort Online
www.thefortonline.org
 Find worship & faith formation opportunities, videos, and other resources for children and families to use at home

CHILDREN'S OPPORTUNITIES

- *Zooming Wednesdays
- *The Fort/The Fort Jr. Marco Polo Groups
- *TheFortOnline.org
- *Letters from The Fort

For more info or to signup, email katie.wilson@forthillchurch.org

YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES

- *Mid High Youth Group (5-6pm Sunday night)
- *Sr. High Youth Group (6-7pm Sunday night)
- *Lunch Gathering (1-2pm Wednesday afternoon)

For more info or to signup, email beth.olker@gmail.com



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Care Resources During COVID-19

Fort Hill Presbyterian Church, Clemson, SC

<https://forthillchurch.org/>

Alcoholics Anonymous Meetings

Virtual -- <https://www.aa-intergroup.org/> Phone -- 877-544-8426

FAVOR Anderson Virtual Meetings Monday-Friday at Noon, Saturday at 6:30pm <https://www.facebook.com/favoranderson864/>

Safe Harbor for Domestic Violence, 24 Hour Help line tel:800-291-2139

Mental Health Resources during Covid-19 at DHEC

<https://www.dhec.sc.gov/infectious-diseases/viruses/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19/mental-emotional-health-covid-19>

