



The Window

The Newsletter of Fort Hill Presbyterian Church

Message From the Pastor

September 2020

Common Ground

Perhaps you have read the quote, "Being taught to avoid talking about politics and religion has led to a lack of understanding of politics and religion. What we should have been taught was how to have a civil conversation about a difficult topic." Many of us sense that we live in an era of division, and every Presidential election cycle highlights this concern.

In the Presbyterian Church, our tradition allows for healthy dialogue, and we can disagree faithfully on many things. What unites us as Presbyterians are those essentials: the Centrality of Scripture, the Lordship of Jesus Christ, the Sovereignty of God, the Church's Mission and more. We are saved to serve, we believe in the Reformed faith. But that unity is hard for us to achieve. And that is where we commit the sin of self-sufficiency. We can never achieve unity. Unity in Jesus Christ is a gift we receive and seek to protect and care for (to steward).

Jesus prayed for us in John 17:1-26 that we will proclaim and live out the good news with "one heart and one mind." In the Book of Acts of the Apostles the Holy Spirit turned the world upside down to form an inclusive community of faith that honored differences- people from every nation, race, tribe and interest group. This group would become the Church of Jesus Christ who witnesses to who God is and how we are called to live. And in 1 Corinthians 12 we are given the image of a body working together with each part being honored. Each part also has an air of humility, not valuing any part above the other.

When we do disagree, we have a particular way to do this which is part of our Christian witness. We practice "mutual love and forbearance." We listen. We assume the best about the other person and try to be in a caring relationship. But we also take stands according to our theological and biblical understanding of who God is in Jesus Christ. This kind of discernment is born out of prayer and attention. We have resources in our *Book of Confessions* which give us understanding and guidance throughout the ages. And how we do this is set forth in our *Book of Order* which gives us processes for being the Body of Christ in a democratic way. Our Confessions and *Book of Order* are our constitution, but they are born out of Scripture and what we understand about the Triune God: Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer. In September we will hear passage of Scripture which guide us in how to live together in unity in worship on Sundays.

The question is not, "Will we disagree?" but "How will we go about it?"

Jesus has something to say about that!

Laura Conrad, Pastor

Inside this issue:

Weekly Lectionary Scriptures	2
Choir Corner	2
Antiracist Book study Information	2
Growing Up with Jesus	2
Christian Action Update	3
Inside the "Den"	3
Births	3
In Christian Sympathy	3
Church Mouse	4
PW News	4
Evening Prayers	4
September Birthdays	5
September Anniversaries	5
Return to Church Letter	6-7
Blessing of the Pets	back

Fort Hill Presbyterian Church

101 Edgewood Avenue
Clemson, SC 29631
(864) 654-2061
www.forthillchurch.org

Laura Smith Conrad, Pastor
Mary Morrison, AP for Discipleship
Michael Sanchez, AP for University Min.
Katie Wilson, Children's Ministry Coord.
Beth Olker, Youth Ministry Coordinator
Margaret MacKay, Director of Music
Judy Bonham, Organist/Handbell Dir.
Becky Bowman, Pianist
Lori Houck, Administrator
Julie Bryant, Admin Assistant
Scott Thrailkill, Facilities Caretaker

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.

Weekly Lectionary Scriptures

9/6 14th Sunday after Pentecost
Exod. 12:1-14; Ps. 149;
Rom. 13:8-14; Matt. 18:15-20

9/13 15th Sunday after Pentecost
Exod. 14:19-31; Ps. 114 or
Exod. 15:1b-11, 20-21;
Rom. 14:1-12; Matt 18:21-35

9/20 16th Sunday after Pentecost
Exod. 16:2-15; Ps. 105: 1-6,
37-45; Phil. 1:21-30; Matt.
20:1-16

9/27 17th Sunday after Pentecost
Exod. 17:1-7; Ps. 78:1-4, 12-
16; Phil. 2:1-13;
Matt. 21:23-32

Choir Corner

Could it be that the fall season is just around the corner? I hope so!! With that comes schools and colleges starting in some form or fashion; weather changes; and fall colors. And who knows what could happen with church.



Of course as mentioned in other choir corners, music is such an integral part of our lives. In these days, I see many people walking on the track in town and probably half of them have a phone in their hand with ear buds and listening to music. Sometimes I catch a sample of it -country, religious, reggae, hip-hop, etc. It does help pass the time and probably soothe their souls.

As we head into the fall wondering what will happen in this world, hopefully you can hear handbells, guitar, violin, organ, piano, a few voices safely distanced to share music. Unfortunately, it is not safe to make music together in groups because of the aerosols that are released into the air and traveling here, there, and yon! Playing wind instruments is a danger, too.

But whatever takes place, keep this wonderful song in mind that our children have sung. **I am the church. You are the church. We are the church together. All who follow Jesus all around the world, yes, we're the church together. The church is not a building. The church is not a steeple. The church is not a resting place. The church is THE PEOPLE!!!**

We ARE the church praising God together wherever we are. So keep smiling-n-singing in your hearts and minds!!

Margaret



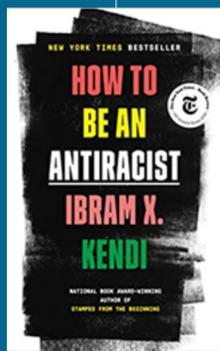
October 2019 The Window Deadline

The deadline for articles, announcements, and features for the **October** issue of *The Window* is **Wednesday, September 16.**

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,

How to Be An Antiracist by Ibram X. Kendi

**September 21, 28,
October 5, 12, 26 and Nov 2
7:00-8:00 PM on Zoom**



*Register by September 16
*Please purchase your own book/eBook
*See email updates for link to register.
After registering, you will receive a confirmation email with instructions on joining group

Christian Action Ministry Update

Although much of our mission travels have come to a halt this year, Christian Action Ministry has been hard at work preparing for the day we are back in action. To help us navigate the many mission opportunities, CAM is putting together a Mission Master Plan. This is really a fancy title for a multi-year calendar showing details and dates of the various mission opportunities our church members are organizing for our community and beyond. With this information, you will be able to select the mission project that best matches your talents or perhaps the date that works for your family. CAM has also developed guidelines to ensure we have a variety of offerings while also making sure that our resources are not spread too thin. If this interests you, CAM would love your input and ideas as we develop the Mission Master Plan.

Beth Durham

SEPTEMBER

Inside the “Den”

By the time y'all read this, you will be back in school. Maybe in the building, maybe from your house, maybe a combination. Know that no matter what school looks like this year, you are in the prayers and in the hearts of so many people both here in your church family and beyond. Here is a prayer that I shared with youth at the back-to-school church drive through. It is my prayer for each of you (and your families) as you figure out how to thrive in school this year.

*May God grant you strength to navigate whatever challenges you face
May God grant you wisdom to learn what is right be an example of
light & love*

*May God grant you patience to take the world as it comes, never letting
fears and frustration get bigger than your hope*

*May God grant you peace so deep that it soothes your very soul
May God grant you with knowledge every day that you are wonderfully
and amazingly made and beloved beyond comprehension*

And, when all else fails and everything seems like it is too much or too overwhelming, remember that God who created the mountains and placed every fish in the sea is the same God who made you and set you on this world to be amazed and to be amazing.

Grace and Peace,

Beth Olker



Congratulations to **Hack and Cheryl Trammell** on their new grandson, Harrison Philip Brooks, "Philip", son of Harrison Brooks and Caroline Trammell Brooks



Ed & Shelley Burchfield and family on the death of Shelley's mother, **Lois Seraphine Robison** on August 4 in Clemson.

Carol Pollock, Mitchell & Sara Elizabeth and family on the death of Carol's brother, **Karl Roberts** on August 12 in Columbus, GA.

Blackie & Grace Cook and family on the death of Blackie's sister, **Page Axson McGaughy** on August 14 in Norfolk, VA.

Ron & Ann Rash and family on the death of Ann's mother, **Pauline "Polly" Welborn Todd** on August 26 in Camden, SC.

Church Mouse

Oh my, we actually had people here one Sunday – how exciting! Ok, so they were outside. They had a Drive Thru with blessing bags handed out and canned goods given by members. Helpers were: Erika Hayes, Robbi & Mark Stokes, Pat Street, Jim & Caroline Thomas, Garland Gravely, Ronda Ricks, Chip & Diane Egan, Philip Storie, Clay Mohr, Chuck Conrad, Adam Scott, Amy Elrod, Nina Moede, Jackie Ellis, Sue Limber, & Stacy Miller and staff helping too: Laura Conrad, Mary Morrison, Michael Sanchez, Margaret MacKay, Judy Bonham, Beth Olker, Katie Wilson, and Scott Trailkill. I heard there was actually a puppet show one Sunday for the children's sermon featuring: Debbie Vaughn, Helen, Henry, Edward and Elizabeth Crader with Bo behind the camera, I bet.

Did you know that 20 people in our congregation are trained to use the CRP-AED? These are: Bill Beckwith, Greg Bearden, Judy Blackwell, Joan Borick, Bob & Susan Brown, Barbara Curl, Becky DeWitt, Sue Limber, John & Steve Martin, Aaron Mantia, Raenota Merrill, Helen Mohr, Marie Nebesky, Cindy Sloan, Bob & Carol Stout, Katie Wilson, and Heather Wright.

The latest news from Presbyterian Women have the following serving the Team: Helen Wooten as Moderator, Cathy Keaton as secretary, and Gail Williams as treasurer. Other PW Committee Chairpersons are: Stephanie Scott, Eva Henry, Lauren Young, Nan Jones, Cathy McInnis, Myra Cato, Judy Blackwell, Joan Dixon, Susan Beckwith, Joan Dixon (again), Gensie Waldrop, Cynthia Gravely, and Mary Barron.

Great big thanks to all these people who help our church.



News from Presbyterian Women

Circle Information

Circle 1 — First Monday at 12:15 pm — TBA

Maranda Arnold (864) 654-8816, Email: marandaarnold@gmail.com
Carolyn Stroup (864) 973-8237, Email: dwstroup@att.net

Tuesday Evening Circle/Circle 2 — Second Tuesday at 7:30 pm — TBA

Janet Bean (864) 886-8108, Email: janetbean@yahoo.com
Nan Jones (864) 654-1539, Email: jones4927@bellsouth.net

Trinity Circle — Second Monday at 9:30 am — Zoom

Cynthia Gravely (864) 654-7207, Email: cynthiarg@bellsouth.net
Aleta Robinson (864) 868-9238, Email: sixmiletoo@aol.com

Circle of Hope — First Monday at 3:00 pm — Zoom

Judy Blackwell (864) 868-4153, Email: mandjblackwell@att.net

THANK YOU to all who stepped up to serve in positions of leadership! We really appreciate your willingness to go the extra mile to do all that needs to be done in our PW family!

If you have been considering taking a more active role in PW and are willing to serve, please volunteer! We have many jobs! Please contact your circle leader or Helen Wooten (see above contact info) for more details!

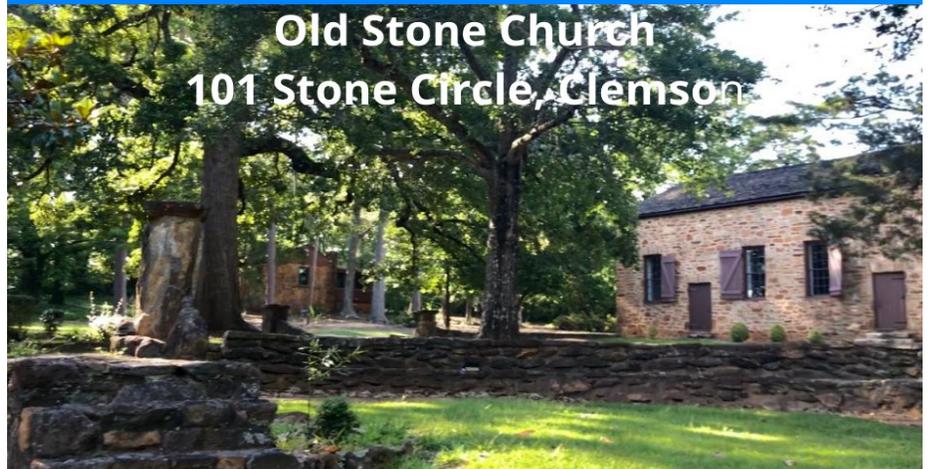
We are looking forward to seeing you in September, studying the scriptures, growing our faith, and enjoying the fellowship of our sisters in Christ! Come and bring your friends!

Submitted by Mary Barron, PW Publicity Chairman.
Contact at mb1cb1@bellsouth.net, or Tel: 864.247.1322



Evening Prayers

Old Stone Church
101 Stone Circle, Clemson



Starting Wednesday, August 26 at 7:00PM
Bring a Chair. Wear a Mask.



September BIRTHDAYS

9/1	Katie Blondeau Tim Daley Anna Wofford	9/9	Adelyn Hudak Walt Owens	9/17	Andy Ackerman Paul Kenney Mark Kwist Mary Stuart Turner	9/25	Cile Dunkelberg Ron Rash Jennifer Simpson
9/2	Emily Burchfield Derge Chen Angela Littlejohn Bridget Sehorn	9/10	Debbie Durland Jody Faithful Joy Van Daele	9/18	Joyce Daley Betty Shealy	9/26	Mary Dusenberry
9/3	Libba Shelton Josh Young	9/11	Jere Ross Louis Stone	9/19	Kevin Bronson	9/28	Susan Best Ashley Latiff Cal Sawyer
9/4	Susan Nunamaker Luke Turner Emma Worley	9/12	Lee Jones	9/20	Robin Denny	9/29	Alyssa Howard
9/5	James Kwist Joanne Nisonger Lou Ann Pursley Tom Shealy	9/13	Reagan Blondeau Wes Koch	9/21	Carol Hipp Jay Jones Denny Sherrod	9/30	Gerald Bitzer Craig Homan Emma Ouellette Adair Stevenson Vivian Stevenson
9/6	Lelia Stevenson Jordon Weir	9/14	Lisa Britt Mark Morrison	9/22	Chris Griffin Carol Pollock Michael Sehorn		
		9/15	Al Littlejohn	9/24	Gabby Bailey Abigail Martin Mary Kate Turner		
		9/16	Jordon Bolger Reynolds Clay Mohr Jim Van Senus				



September ANNIVERSARIES

9/1	George & Cile Dunkelberg	9/8	Gary & Pat Gardner	9/25	Lin & Kay Dearing
9/2	Jerry & Edmee Reel	9/13	Bob & Carol Stout	9/26	Tom & Betty Shealy
9/3	Lanny & Linda Parsons	9/15	Walt & Rameth Owens	9/30	Mark & Kerri Kwist
9/5	Bill & Jan Beckwith Derick & Beth Durham Mark & Kristen McInnis	9/16	Leland & Grace Hawthorne		
		9/24	Owen & Johnnie Van de Sande		

Return to Church Update



Update on our Return to Church for Fall (or Gathering as the Church, Rather)

August 20, 2020

Dear Fort Hill Family,

Good news! We are glad to share with you some ways we can fellowship now. Church leadership has established that we are in Phase One of our plan based on regional case numbers, percent positives, testing presence, and hospital bed availability. We are seeing the benefits of using masks in our community and hope that trend continues. So outdoor gatherings are now permitted.

At all Fort Hill gatherings, we covenant to:

- wear masks and physical distance (6 ft.)
- If you are in the vulnerable group or caring for a vulnerable person- recommended to stay home.
- Not attend if you have a fever, illness, or have been exposed for the well-being of one another.

WEDNESDAY EVENING PRAYER BEGINS

We can gather in groups outdoors for longer than a drive by visit. Beginning Wednesday, August 26, 7:00pm we will gather for Evening Prayers at the Old Stone Church worship space at 101 Stone Circle, Clemson, SC. In the event of rain, please stay home and pray since we do not have an indoor option. A brief time of music, scripture, prayer will be offered. Greeters will welcome you with a quick registration so we can always contact trace if there is an issue. Download a QR reader on your phone like below to get ready. Will share the video on [YouTube](#) [Fort Hill Presbyterian Church](#) Thursdays for those who cannot attend. Bring your Bible or bible app!

- August 26 Scripture Focus: Psalm 23.
- Please wear a mask and bring a chair or blanket.
- Plan to keep 6 feet distance between you and non-family members



QR Code Reader Barcode & QR Code Scanner

SMALL GROUPS GATHER OUTDOORS

Effective immediately, smaller gatherings of interest groups, circles, or teams can take place outside. They can occur anywhere. Physical distancing is being practiced. If not, please wear masks. If you wish to meet outdoors on FHPC grounds, please get that on the church calendar so we do not all show up in the same spot at the same time! Tents are set up in the Courtyard. The backyard and porte-cochere are available. Contact Julie.bryant@forthillchurch.org for assistance.

Return to Church Update con't



FORT HILL PRESCHOOL STARTS

September 10 our Preschool will welcome small groups of children with safety practices and protocols. A plan has been developed by our Fort Hill Preschool Board to do so in conjunction with FHPC phase one status as approved by Session.

WORSHIP- SACRAMENTS OF BAPTISM AND THE LORD'S SUPPER

We will hold baptisms for our littlest members. Our August 30 Worship Service will include the baptisms which will be held on Saturday with immediate families, a few elders, and the family deacon to represent you, the congregation, as we make promises to nurture these children in the faith until they profess their own faith in Christ Jesus.

First Sundays of the month we will return to having the Lord's Supper in Worship- virtually with our own bread and juice or possibly in a Sunday outdoor setting. Stay tuned for more information. We will continue to worship virtually, but our media team is working on having our livestream worship up and running soon. We just installed a full internet network so this can be possible.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Children will continue to have virtual fellowship and growth opportunities. Youth will have an outdoor Youth Group on Sunday, September 13 with online opportunities as well. Watch your email newsletter.

BLESSING OF THE PETS- Sunday, September 20 at 5:00 we will celebrate God's gift of animals in our lives who bring us comfort and joy. More details to follow.

Our Task Group and Session will continue to monitor the information on the spread of COVID-19 in our community. Session will determine if we can move forward to Phase Two or if we need to return to Safer at Home phase. If there is a rebound in Covid-19 numbers, we will immediately address and change our plans accordingly.

We all look forward to seeing you online or in person in the coming weeks. Praying for your family during these challenging times and trusting us all to God's abiding care.

Together in Faith,

Pastor Laura



Non-Profit Organization
US POSTAGE PAID
Clemson, SC
Permit #11

101 Edgewood Avenue
Clemson, SC 29631

(864) 654-2061
www.forthillchurch.org

Return Service Requested



BLESSING OF THE PETS

September 20
at
Fort Hill

Please bring your pet
and a donation for
Clemson Paw
Partners

More info to come