



Worship Continues in Hybrid Model During October

As of August 30, 2020, we have resumed worship at 11:00 am on Sundays. Those who feel healthy and safe enough to do so are invited to sit in the pews from the middle to the back of the Sanctuary. Pews are blocked off accordingly. Social distancing will be in effect. Masks are required; Please do not come if you or someone in your family feels ill, if you are at elevated risk or you have someone at elevated risk in your home; no touching; observe social distancing when moving, standing, sitting; Please do not attend if you have been to another state or country which is on the quarantine recommendation list or you think you may have been exposed to Covid-19. In addition, a record of who attends will be kept and a greeter will take the temperature of all who enter. We will use a thermometer that does not require any contact. During the service, please respond responsively and pray jointly but please avoid singing.



Those who are not able to attend in person are able to participate in the service virtually, either in real time watching the Facebook Live stream on our page. A PDF of the bulletin is sent out prior to the service so those watching are able to follow along with the prayers, responses, and hymns. For those willing to wait and participate in the service later, the edited service will be posted to YouTube on Monday. The edited video includes the all parts of the bulletin on screen.

The Worship Committee has secured guest pastors for the month of October at the recommendation of the Pastor Nominating Committee. In the event a new pastor is approved and ready to begin before the end of the month, that person may



World Communion Sunday, October 4:

Rev. Kellie Weekley-Mills will be leading the celebration of Sacrament of the Lord's Supper in worship as we join with Christian brothers and sisters around the globe on World Communion Sunday. For those attending the live stream recording session Sunday morning, we will have the elements sitting in the back of the sanctuary to take upon arrival so that you may partake when invited to do so. Those watching from home are invited to prepare bread and cup before watching to partake as well.

Sunday, October 11: Rev. Carol Divens-Roth

Sunday, October 18: Rev. Kellie Weekley-Mills

Sunday, October 25: Rev. Daniel B. Merry

Pastoral Search Update

We started our pastor search in July and after a few weeks we received applications. Following the screening process, the PNC interviewed three highly qualified candidates from August 17th to August 30th. We are making good progress and are working with the Pittsburgh Presbytery in moving forward on the hiring process. We are thankful to God and blessed to have qualified candidates who are interested in serving our church community.

*In Christ,
Paul Otori, Chair PNC*

Stewardship Update

Tithes and offerings can be dropped into the offering plates in the narthex while worshipping on Sundays, mailed into the church office, or use the donate button on our website, [fpcedgewood.org](http://www.fpcedgewood.org).

Session Notes

At their September Zoom meeting, Session approved:



- Return to worship Sunday's in the Sanctuary starting August 30. Stated COVID protocols will be followed. The services will be live streamed too.
- Use of the Lounge on September 26, 23, 30, and October 6 by Mary Barr for a class.
- Use of the Social Room on Saturday, October 3 for an Eagle Scout Ceremony. COVID protocols will be followed.
- Moderator for this meeting was the Reverend Cheryl Khylllep.

Nominating Committee

The 2020 Nominating Committee has a full slate of proposed candidates for The Board of Deacons, but continues to search for two new candidates for Session. Please let us know if you feel called to serve in this special capacity

Rhonda Apossos, Mary Ann Hartman, Sallie Monk, Lisa and Jim Segedy

Virtual CROP WALK: Sunday, October 11

2020 Crop Walk, like other marathons/races/walks will be virtual but is still accepting donations as before. If you are interested in "walking", have questions or are curious about the Crop Walk, visit their website: CropHungerWalk.org.

Donations can be sent to FPCE notated on check line as "Crop Walk" or can be electronically donated at: CropHungerWalk.org. To date, we have raised a combined \$85.00 of our \$250 goal. If you would like to walk or donate, please visit the CROP HUNGER WALK website or contact Judy Mysels or Rhonda Apossos. We aim to fight hunger one step at a time. Moreover, proceeds help fight local hunger and Wilkinsburg Community Ministry is one of the beneficiaries of our work. Look for First Presbyterian, Edgewood on crophungerwalk.org to donate. Let's set a record for donations/walkers this year!



Tuesday Morning Book Group

The book group continues to meet most Tuesday's at 10:00 am., although we've moved indoors at the Apossos home: 361 Maple Avenue. All are invited. On 09/29/20, we are starting a new book, *Revolution* by David Jeremiah. Thus, it's a good time for new members. We hope to see you Tuesday.

Prayer Warriors

If you would like to know more about our "Prayer Warriors", add a prayer concern of your own, would like to be added to the email list and make intentional prayer a focus of yours, please contact Michelle Santo at cshell73@yahoo.com.

The Digital Upper Room

As a subscriber to *The Upper Room* devotional, FPCE was given access to a PDF version of the issue through a private link on the publisher's website. Hard copies are available at the church entrance, but if you would like the PDF sent to you, email Judy or Shaun.

Sharing the Joys & Concerns of FPCE

Joys and concerns go here, probably in a bulleted list:

- Condolences/sympathy to Travis Allabon and family/friends of Helen Ebken, who passed away on Sept. 21
- Condolences/sympathy to the family of Charles Ganster who recently passed away from COVID-19.
- Jeremy Pike graduated from Purdue University in May 2020, with a degree in Nuclear Engineering. He also earned minors in Mathematics and Physics, and was quite active in the instrumental music program. Jeremy is now working in Lansing, Michigan.
- Prayers for Dan Mielke, who had hip replacement surgery on September 29



EDGEWOOD

The Edgewood Volunteer Fire Department invites you to **another** “drive-thru” pasta dinner, **Saturday, October 24th, from 2pm-7pm!** Enjoy a night off from cooking, while supporting the EVFD!



Stay in your car and drive through the fire station on Race Street! \$10 per dinner. Each dinner includes rigatoni with red sauce, salad, roll, & choice of drink (*sauce optional*). Baked goods will also be available for sale, priced between \$1-10. Payments can be made electronically using a credit card, Apple Pay or Google Pay.

Free delivery available for more than 5 dinners ordered by calling Steve at (412) 901-3096.

God makes all things new — even in a pandemic

Don't doubt God's promised future

By Nikki Collins | Presbyterians Today

The past few months have been this odd dance of ever-changing realities and downright monotony. We have completely shifted how we live. From shopping to Sunday school, nothing is the same. All the while, this new way of living has meant staring at the same walls, the same Zoom screen and the same people day after day. Waking up to wonder what crazy thing happened while I slept, while at the same time realizing that today's schedule will essentially look like yesterday's, has pretty much sucked the creative lifeblood right out of me.

How do you plan when you can't predict? Where do you find the stuff to fashion a future when the contents of your current toolbox have little relevance for realities at hand? The world we are living in has stripped me of any confidence I previously had in my experience (because this is all new) or my expertise (because I've never done my job or raised my children or even grocery shopped in a pandemic before). I feel like I know nothing. And I'm tired.

In June, after months of sheltering in place, I drove to Montreat Conference Center in North Carolina. With no conferences scheduled and most folks still staying at home, Montreat was as quiet as I've ever seen it. Still, walking the paths, hiking the trails and dipping my feet in the cool stream took me to the formative years of my faith as a participant in many of the summer youth conferences. Along with the gurgle of the creek, I heard the refrain often sung at one of those conferences, a tune from the Iona Community written by John Bell: *Behold! Behold! I make all things new, beginning with you and starting from today. Behold! Behold! I make all things new, my promise is true, for I am Christ the way.*

Bell's simple refrain points us to two texts in the New Testament. These texts find their way into our Presbyterian worship, showing up in the comforting words of the Assurance of Pardon — after we have made our public and private confessions — and being spoken to the grieving hearts in our funeral services that we call the Witness to the Resurrection.

In the pardon, when we have told the truth about who we are and how we've failed, we hear from Paul in 2 Corinthians 5:17: "Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. The old life has gone, and a new life has already begun."

We can't see it yet, but the promise is that something new has already been born. God lifts us from our humiliation and sets us on a new way. And then, when we stand beside the grave of someone we love, we hear God's words promising to be with us in a new way, wiping away tears, abolishing death and pain, saying, "See, I am making all things new ... write this, for these words are trustworthy and true" (Revelation 21:5).

When we are broken, tired and wondering how to begin again — or if we even want to — the Creator is urging us on, lifting our gaze, promising us more than we can imagine fashioned from this very moment, these very circumstances, our very lives.

Behold! Behold! I make all things new!

This refrain is a gospel “gut check” calling us back to hope, to awe and to surrender. But I admit it doesn't completely take away the confusion, frustration and irritability I still feel in these uncertain times. And that's OK. Richard Rohr, the Catholic priest and contemplative teacher, says that when we are faced with new realities, our most common responses are mistrust, cynicism, fear, defensiveness and dismissal. Reverting to these responses is our attempt to be in control rather than allowing this moment to teach us something new.

We need to be opened to be being taught. The new thing God is doing is what anchors us as Presbyterians whose heritage is steeped in the Reformers' cry of “reformed and always reforming.” Embracing the new is woven into our polity as the Book of Order reminds us, “The good news of the Gospel is that the triune God — Father, Son, and Holy Spirit — creates, redeems, sustains, rules, and transforms all things and all people. ... By the power of the Spirit, this one living God is incarnate in Jesus Christ, who came to live in the world, die for the world, and be raised again to new life” (F-1.01).

It's funny how figuring out the way forward takes us back to ancient words — ancient words that are trustworthy and true. Ancient words that continue teaching us.

Nikki Collins is the coordinator for 1001 New Worshiping Communities. She lives in Chattanooga, Tennessee.



First Presbyterian Church of

EDGEWOOD

The Community Church

120 East Swissvale Avenue

Pittsburgh, PA 15218

Join us for worship



In-person, socially distanced



Facebook Live Stream



YouTube channel