



Prayer List

Our Nation
Those Affected by COVID19
Our homebound and
Shut-in members
Our church leaders
Kirsten Bray
Maurice Hawkins
Denise Janssen
and Randy Creath
Lori Lohr
Raymond Ritchie
Nancy Yeary

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Keep Calm and Carry On

By Steve Stalnaker

Atttributed to the World War II British Government is a poster that reads: “Keep Calm and Carry On.” The point being no matter how bad things get, maintain your cool and go about your life.

We are starting our fifth month of COVID19-induced quarantine and only last month were able to resume in-person worship, under some very stringent guidelines.

Throughout this pandemic, folks of the Greenwood church family have decidedly *kept calm and carried on*. This article honors those at Greenwood who have continued these vital ministries.

Pastor Josette L. Franklin has aggressively led us to taking advantage of modern remote meeting technology for virtual worship, Bible study and prayer. In so doing, she has kept the church families together; she’s *kept us calm and kept us carrying on*.

We had to find creative and alternate ways for our folks to make their regular donations so vital to the church’s continued carrying on. Pastor Josette set us up to make electronic contributions using \$CASHAPP. Alternatively, we asked folks to mail

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In-Person Worship Critique

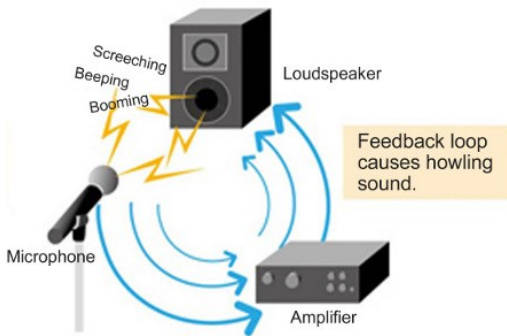
By the Greenwood/Laurel Park Charge Family

"It was good to be able to walk through the doors of the church and see the familiar faces that we have gotten so used to seeing and speaking to, even if briefly."

"... so nice to be back in church and see everyone."

"... was great to see people in person and talk with them."

Subsequent to Greenwood's first in-person worship on July 19, I asked for your feedback and many of you responded with both praise and constructive criticism, all of which was greatly appreciated. The opening quotes above are just a small sample of your positive comments.



We also got lots of constructive criticism, or, in current management-speak: "areas for improvement."

Let's define terms. I asked for "feedback," but what I meant was critique. In current business leadership circles, "feedback" means constructive criticism, both positive and negative. In audio engineering, "feedback" means "... whining or whistling sound resulting from an amplified ... signal ... returned as input and retransmitted." In other words, the microphone is too close to the audio speakers.

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*Our August Communion
Offering Goes to
the Pastor's Discretionary Fund*



Retaining Tax Documents

Downloaded from Turbo Tax's Web Site

Last month's extended July 15 federal income tax filing deadline has come and gone – time to breathe a sigh of relief! But before you throw all your tax documents up in the air to celebrate the occasion, think about how long you should keep that info in a safe and secure place.

That's right, you should store your tax information and documentation, including a copy of your tax return, just in case you need to refer back to it. But for how long?

Your tax documents include a copy of the return that you filed, W2 forms, logs for mileage, 1099s, receipts and any paperwork supporting claimed tax deductions or credits. Save anything you used to prove the state of your finances on your tax return.



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School Supplies Drive

This is the time of year when we start collecting school supplies to support the pupils of Longdale Elementary School.

Because of the quarantine, we don't know when Longdale will resume in-person classes, where kids might need our donated supplies. We also don't know if they'll even be able to accept outside contributions. So, we're not going to ask for donations now. Virginia will hold a sales tax holiday Aug. 7 — 9 so you can stock up on school supplies if you want and hold on to them until we know what's going on.

Meanwhile keep all the students, teachers and staff in your prayers.



Keep Calm and Carry On

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their offerings to the church.

However, there was some reluctance to mail checks to the church because letters might sit in the mailbox overnight or for a couple of days. One person, who asked to remain un-named has been picking up the mail and delivering it to the church office, six days a week for over three months, at no little inconvenience to herself. We now have a rotation of Greenwood volunteers performing this function, but **thank you, Linda** for this self-sacrifice over the last several months.

Pastor Josette and these volunteers are **not the only ones** who have carried on despite quarantines, pandemics and lock downs. I would name names, but some folks like to do their volunteer work without fanfare (*see Matthew 6:2*). So, I won't list names in this article. **You know who you are**, and we're all grateful for your selfless contributions.

Food Donation Connection workers have continued picking up donated food-stuffs and distributing them to those in need on Fridays.

Greenwood **church office volunteers** have carried on, answering the phones – especially calls from people needing assistance – and accepting food donations for Friday night distribution.

Keeping our Greenwood “campus” looking groomed and inviting are the **grounds maintenance** volunteers, who have been mowing the lawn or trimming the weeds.

The folks who **proofread** the weekly *Quarantine Quips* and your *Twig Bender*, and the production team who print and mail the newsletter have kept us in communication with each other.

The **Healthy Church Team** (HCT) developed and promulgated the procedures required by the Virginia Conference so we could re-open and made sure the Sanctuary was cleaned and ready for in-person worship.

We **thank God** for all these folks who have, despite the pandemic, *kept calm and carried on* with God's work at Greenwood United Methodist Church. **Praise the Lord!**



Critiquing In-Person Worship



(Continued from page 2)

The **principle problem** with virtual worship on July 19, the issue most respondents had, was “**feedback.**” Not constructive criticism, but the occasional screeching coming out of the speakers, both for those of you tuned in on Zoom or Facebook Live as well as in the Sanctuary.

Midway through the service, we determined what was causing that audio feedback and **we fixed it.** The problem was that I hadn’t properly muted the built in microphone and speakers on the laptop I was using to run the slide show. I apologize and hope everyone’s ears have recovered.

Many of you also mentioned that there was **too much moving around** in the chancel. This was a function of us trying to fix that audio feedback discussed above, so that issue shouldn’t recur.

On July 26, we had “**In-Person Worship 2.0**” where we applied the lessons learned from July 19. In my humble opinion, the service went much more smoothly.

Remember, this is **something new** for all of us; we’re sorta making it up as we go along. Also keep in mind that we’re operating under strict guidelines from the Virginia Conference and from the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Thanks for your frank feedback, critique, constructive criticism or whatever you call it.

Taking Summer Vacation

The Ruth Circle, Willing Workers Circle, Fellowship Dinners and FunRaisers Bag lunches are all taking the summer off; they’ll return in September.

No Men’s Breakfast in August.



Be Prepared — Read the Scriptures

August Lectionary Readings

Aug. 2	Genesis 32:22-31; Psalm 17:1-7, 15; Romans 9:1-5; Matthew 14:13-21
Aug. 9	Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28; Psalm 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b; Romans 10:5-15; Matthew 14:22-33
Aug. 16	Genesis 45:1-15; Psalm 133; Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32; Matthew 15:(10-20), 21-28
Aug. 23	Exodus 1:8-2:10; Psalm 124; Romans 12:1-8; Matthew 16:13-20
Aug. 30	Exodus 3:1-15; Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45c; Romans 12:9-21; Matthew 16:21-28

Aggie's Attic is Open!

Summer hours — Thursday through Saturday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Sunday Combined Virtual Worship

Every Sunday at 11 a.m. on Zoom or dial 301-715-8592

Meeting ID: 829 5710 1589; password: 929829

Also on Facebook Live

Wednesday Prayer Call

Every Wednesday, 6 to 6:15 a.m. also on Zoom or dial +1-301-715-8592

Meeting ID: 851 1374 4202; password: 452446



Saving Tax Documents

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In general, **keep your tax records** for at least **three years** after the date you filed – according to the statute of limitations promulgated by the IRS. For example, if you filed on March 15, 2020, you should keep your 2019 tax return documentation until March 15, 2023.

This time limit benefits both you and the IRS. You have a set amount of time to claim any additional tax refund owed you. Conversely, the IRS has three years to levy another tax if you made a mistake while reporting your income.

There's always a "but." Keep retirement account tax records for seven years after the funds have been completely withdrawn. Also keep documentation that long if you claim a bad debt deduction or a loss on securities that you labeled as worthless.

Keep **property records** (including stocks and equipment) until the three-year statute runs out on the tax year that you sold the property and claimed it on your tax return. If more than 25% of your income was omitted from your tax return, the IRS has six years to impose any additional tax required. If this situation fits your finances, keep those records for at least six years.

If you filed a **fraudulent tax return**, or if you refused or forgot to file a tax return, then **you've got bigger problems** than document storage. You should keep your financial records forever.

Some people decide to **keep all their financial records forever**. With technology being so convenient, it's easy to back up all your financial records on your computer. Be sure you're using strong security software. It's a good idea to back up your financial data on a device that's not connected to the internet all the time.

When you dispose of your records, **shred** them. Henrico County routinely hosts document shredding. Navy Federal Credit Union also hosts a shredding day for which you don't need to be an NFCU member.

However you decide to save or dispose of your financial records, **remember to be safe and secure.**



August Grass Cutting Detail

Your Trustees have established a volunteer rotation for cutting the grass on the church grounds this summer. This month's schedule is:

- Week of August 3:Harry Shuler
- Week of August 10:Bob Stapleton
- Week of August 17:Lewis Daniel
- Week of August 24:Steve Stalnaker
- Week of August 31:Harry Shuler



If anyone else would like to help with this summer's grass cutting, please give Bob Stapleton a call at 804-672-8408. Thank you from your Trustees.

Food Donation Connection

August Pick Up Rotation

Thanks to everyone who has been bringing in canned goods and fresh vegetables. Fresh vegetables are the first things to go. Bring your donations to the church office Tuesday through Friday. 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Wednesday, Aug. 5: Charley Banks; Thursday, Aug. 6: Lewis Daniel; Friday, Aug. 7: Adamarye Patteson.

Wednesday, Aug. 12: Jean Mowatt and William Gibbs; Thursday, Aug. 13: Lewis Daniel; Friday, Aug. 14: Trish Hayes.

Wednesday, Aug. 19: Charley Banks; Thursday, Aug. 20: Lewis Daniel; Friday, Aug. 21: Carolyn and Ray Smith.

Wednesday, Aug. 26: Jean Mowatt and William Gibbs; Thursday, Aug. 27: Lewis Daniel; Friday, Aug. 28: Adamarye and Riley Patteson.

Wednesday, Sep. 2: Charley Banks; Thursday, Sep. 3: Lewis Daniel; Friday, Sep. 4: Trish Hayes.





Greenwood Church Family Birthdays

Linda Wagner	8/2	Jeannette Jackson	8/14
Nancy Yeary	8/3	Madison Elliott	8/15
Alan Daniel	8/9	Javier Shuler	8/22
Ray Smith	8/13		

Anniversaries

Alan & Emily Daniel	8/11	Richard & Mary Walker .	8/24
Patty & Bill Prout	8/14	Carolyn & Ray Smith	8/29
Teresa & Darrell Coleman	8/24		



*Don't see your birthday or wedding anniversary in The Twig Bender and would like to have us publish it? Send your dates to admin@gumcva.org or call the church office at 804-266-5341; likewise, let us know if you'd like your birthday or anniversary **re-moved**.*



Twig Bender

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Greenwood United Methodist Church

August 2020



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Campfire Day No Men's Breakfast 
2 Communion Sunday 11 a.m. In-Person and Virtual Worship	3 Watermelon Day 	4 U.S. Coast Guard Day 	5 6 a.m. Prayer Call 	6 National Fresh Breath Day 	7 6 p.m. Free Food 	8 National Clown Day 
					Sales Tax Holiday	
9 11 a.m. In-Person and Virtual Worship <div>Sales Tax Holiday</div>	10 Lazy Day 	11 Annual Perseid Meteor Shower 	12 6 a.m. Prayer Call 	13 Left Handers' Day 	14 6 p.m. Free Food 	15 Feast of the Assumption 
16 11 a.m. In-Person and Virtual Worship	17 Thrift Shop Day 	18 World Daffodil Day 	19 6 a.m. Prayer Call	20 Nat'l Radio Day 	21 6 p.m. Free Food 	22 Nat'l Tooth Fairy Day
23 11 a.m. In-Person and Virtual Worship	24 Pluto Demoted Day 	25 Nat'l Banana Split Day 	26 Dog Appreciation Day 6 a.m. Prayer Call	27 Global Forgiveness Day	28 Twig Bender Deadline 6 p.m. Free Food 	29 Int'l Bacon Day 
30 11 a.m. In-Person and Virtual Worship	31 Nat'l Eat Outside Day 					

Mark Your Calendars

Sep. 7 Labor Day
 Sep. 11 Patriot Day
 Sep. 19 Virginia Annual Conference Virtual Gathering
 Oct. 12 Columbus Day
 Oct. 31 Halloween
 Nov. 3 Election Day
 Nov. 26 Thanksgiving Day

Our Mission



The mission of The United Methodist Church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Matt. 28:19

Greenwood's Vision

Loving

Learning to love and connect with God and People

»

Growing

Acquiring tools for being transformed into the image of Christ

»

Serving

Participating in church ministry and community outreach