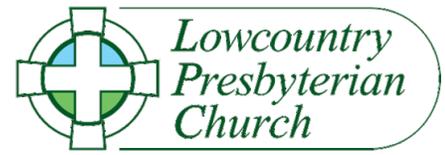




The Light



May 2020

Virtual Worship 101



We are so glad so many of you are finding our virtual worship services meaningful and a great way to connect with your LPC family! Many of you are likely curious what goes into a typical service and how all of this came about. Well, to start off, before all of this happened I had never recorded and edited a video. It has been fun to learn a new skill but at times overwhelming, especially with technological issues for a person who does not consider themselves tech savvy.

Session voted to suspend in person worship on Monday (3/16) and I had a vague idea of how we might go virtual. On Wednesday

afternoon (3/18), I ordered a tripod and upgraded my iPhone (which was desperately needed!). Thursday, thanks to a local pastor friend, I borrowed an external microphone to help with sound that plugs into my phone. At that point, things were a guessing game and I used my millennial instincts and help from friends, internet colleagues, and Google to get me through. I spent lots of time that week taking random videos of myself in various parts of the sanctuary, attempting to edit using iMovie, and uploading them to YouTube. Saturday (3/21) morning we had our first recording session which lasted around 3 hours for a service that was about 50 minutes long!

Although things have sped up a little bit since our first week, recording, editing, and uploading still takes an incredible amount of time! We are currently pre-recording services that are then edited and uploaded to YouTube and Facebook set to premiere as "live." A typical week of recording goes as follows:

1. Organize/Plan: Chris organizes times for the musicians, guests, and pastors to record. She then creates an order of worship and the preacher chooses hymns and liturgy. Those participating prepare and practice.
2. Record: Once the service is planned and things are organized, it is time to record! Due to the limited numbers allowed in the sanctuary for safety, I have typically been recording the musicians on Thursday, all of Chris and my parts Friday, and wrapping up with the scripture and sermon Saturday morning. The recording



process typically takes about 2-2 ½ hours each week with me setting up my tripod, using my iPhone 11 Pro to film, and an external microphone on a mic stand for sound. I move the tripod and mic stand depending what is being recorded and where, and sometimes have taken additional outside footage. There is sometimes a need to reshoot and each segment is recorded separately with a 10 second pause before and after each scene. That means there are often 15 separate videos to edit together!

3. Edit: After the recording production, I then head home to edit. I hope you have noticed that we have gradually tried to add in new elements for better engagement including words on the screen for the call to worship, hymn titles, photos within the sermon, and scripture verses. The editing process begins with me transferring all of my videos to a MacBook and then adding them in order in iMovie. Transitions are added, words are added, photos are added, hiccups are clipped out, sometimes things are cropped, and sound is adjusted. This process takes hours to complete. But that's not the last step!

(continued next page)

Virtual Worship 101 (continued)

4. Upload: Once the worship video is edited together, I then convert the video to a file. When using an older memory overloaded device this could take an hour and a half on its own. Then to upload to Facebook which usually takes about an hour and to YouTube which can often take two hours. A big reason for this is that these platforms did not expect churches all over the world to all of a sudden be doing virtual services. This overwhelms and slows down those websites depending on the number of people uploading large videos at the same time. Our videos have sometimes been 8 GB which is huge! My first iPod years ago was only 8 GBs.

a. In addition, while the uploading is occurring I'm usually editing the church website to make sure it includes the new worship video, hymns, and children's bulletin and all the links listed on Facebook and YouTube are correct.

5. Tada! We enjoy worship together!

As you can tell, this is a lot of work done with the cooperation, gifts, and love of many including Chris, Karen Ball, Robin Lind, Christy James, and guest participants Dale Nordby, Jerry Anderson, Janie Reynolds, Josh, Carter, and Cameron Fox, and Bo Welch.

A special thank you is extended to Chuck Thomas for his willingness to shadow me and try somethings out on his own, to Mike Manning for sharing his expertise and skill, and the many who reached out and offered to buy a new laptop for this process.



An extra special thank you to Colonel Bloom for donating his 2017 MacBook Pro. This has allowed our process to be smoother and more efficient. Thanks so much!

I encourage you to give as you are able to the technology fund so that we are able to continue these services even when the sanctuary is reopened. It has been such a blessing to Chris and me to hear from many of you how much you appreciate the services and our hard work, and that you are finding meaning and comfort through them. It is because of you and the good news of Jesus Christ that we do what we do each week. May these services continue to give you peace in these overwhelming times.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Stephanie



Subscribe to our YouTube channel!

This is a useful way to keep track of the activities of LPC on YouTube. This includes all virtual worship services, video devotionals, and some online Bible studies, and more! Just go to YouTube.com and search "Lowcountry Presbyterian Church." You should see our LPC page with our LPC logo at the top after you hit enter. Just click the red "Subscribe" button to the right and that's it! Feel free to peruse old worship services and rewatch our weekly devotionals.



Dear Church Family

As you may read under the Session Highlights, the Session has decided to keep the church closed for another month, through the end of May. While it was a sad decision, it was fairly straightforward given where we are with the virus, the mandates from the Governor, and with no cures or a vaccine. When we do open to in-person worship and the ability to gather at other times, we want to be sure we can so safely. In the meantime, we will be exploring how we can continue to provide the virtual services even when we are back together. You will be hearing more details as research is done and we have more specifics on what equipment we will need. We will provide that to you so that you can support with your donations to the Technology Fund. The Session will approve any expenditures.

In this continued time of closure, some ministry teams will continue to meet by Zoom and others through e-mail. Your elders have been diligent to continue their respective ministries as well as supporting the overall ministry of the church. They will continue to check in with you as well. I hope you will join me in expressing your appreciation to them for their flexibility and commitment in this unprecedented time of pandemic. This isn't what they signed up for!

Be sure to see the financial statements provided. We thank you for your faithfulness in remembering to support the church. Please be sure to let us know of needs you may have. No need is too small or insignificant. We need to continue to be a church family in this time when we feel unsettled, uncertain and unsure what the future holds. We do know who holds our future. I pray our worship services and other communications will help us all remember that!

Peace and blessings,
Chris

Outreach Ministry

Coming Soon:

Stay tuned for information about a virtual Blessing of the Animals service and how your beloved pets can be a part of it! Look out for more information via the church e-blast.



*Be Seen.
Be Known.
Be Loved.*



COMMUNICATIONS



The Communications Ministry is here for help with technology. If you have questions about viewing worship services or using Zoom, please contact one of the following members of our team:

Judy Hardie (215) 962-7213 or judyhardie281@gmail.com;
 Janit Maguire (845) 527-6409 or janitmaguire@gmail.com;
 Kate McClain (925) 639-6986 or katemcclain74@gmail.com, or
 Vicki Melton (843) 338-8735 melton.vicki@gmail.com.

Unfortunately, our membership directory is delayed. Due to COVID-19, Lifetouch closed their production facility until further notice. As with so many things, we must be patient.

Did you know? LPC has a church program called Realm to help connect members! Realm provides connection and interaction with church members. Realm allows you to manage your personal information and who is allowed to see it, get up-to-date information on your giving, and keep in touch with the church groups and people that matter to you.

We are hoping to better utilize this system and hope you will join so you can engage with LPC members in a safe way. More information is to come on this but in the meantime the first step is logging into Realm!



You cannot set up a Realm account without an invitation. This is for your safety and privacy. We will be sending out invitations for you to sign-up. Need help setting up your account? Or have a question? Email: lpcoffice1@hargray.com.

Already have an account? Log into your REALM account: <http://onrealm.org/>

Our next meeting is Wednesday, 5/18 at 4pm via Zoom. Please join us! If you are interested, please contact Janit Maguire (whose information is listed above) and she will send you a Zoom invitation for the meeting.



FROM THE MUSIC MINISTRY TEAM:

We are looking forward to the day when the Music Ministry Team of Karen and Robin can be joined by the Chancel Choir and Congregation for the singing of hymns and presenting anthems. It is a bit lonely without the choir members and congregation joining in the singing, but we hope that you are enjoying singing in your pajamas and having a cup of coffee with donuts as you watch the taped services.

Thank you to Karen Ball for holding things together musically and for providing such beautiful music during the month of April. Special thanks to Jerry Anderson for adding so much to the Easter Service, both piano and singing. And thanks to Dale Nordby for also providing special music this past month.

We grieve the passing of Stuart Kimble, who was such a wonderful member of the bass section in the Chancel Choir and send our heartfelt condolences to Joan and his family. He will be missed by all.

To everyone, please stay healthy and safe during the next month. Keep wearing those masks and gloves, even as the quarantine lessens. Love to you all in these challenging times.

Robin Lind



Change Can Make a Change for May is Kindles For Kids

The effects of Covid-19 impact us all, down to the youngest students in Beaufort County. Pre-K through first grade students were sent home without technology devices needed to connect to their teachers and classmates. As time began to pass, the need to employ online learning became apparent but these children were left without a device to connect back to school. Hargray has committed to providing free internet throughout the county for every student, Pre-K through college which makes the **KindlesForKids** mission all the more possible.



No one could have foreseen this, but there is something we can do to help! Thus far, KindlesforKids has filled the need at one elementary school and we now realize the need exists at all 12 elementary schools, county-wide. With the funds raised, we will purchase and distribute an Amazon Fire 7 16GB Kindle to every pre-K through first grade child in need throughout Beaufort County. One device is approximately \$55 with tax and shipping but means a connection back to class for a young student in need. Imagine seeing a child reconnect after being out of class for a month and then help us get these kids back in class

with **KindlesForKids!** If you would like to help, please send a check to LPC (10 Simmonsville Rd. Bluffton, SC 29910) and make the notation of *Kindles for Kids* or *CCMAC*.



The Missions Ministry voted to send \$1,500 to the **Agape Family Life Center** in Hardeeville to help their food pantry and other programs. Another \$1,500 will be sent to the Soup Kitchen at the **Campbell AME Church** in Bluffton. They are distributing 150 meals three times a week from their parking lot and are delivering 89. The need is great everywhere!

Missions Ministry also encourages you to give directly to both Agape and Bluffton Self Help as they are on the front lines dealing with hunger. You can give directly to each using the directions below.

Agape Family Life Center

Go to Agape's website www.agapeflc.org and donate directly for their use to purchase needed food. Send food via Amazon.com to Agape Family Life Center, 5855 S. Okatie Hwy, Hardeeville, SC 29927 (phone number 843-784-6008).

Suggested food items are beans (dried or canned), canned tomatoes, soups, pasta, pasta sauce, rice and cereals.

Bluffton Self Help

Go to Bluffton Self Help's website www.blufftonselfhelp.org and donate directly to their Covid-19 Family Relief Fund. This fund has already helped more families in the past month than direct financial assistance in any previous year as the need is so great.

In addition, Bluffton Self Help is collecting non perishable items on Mondays from 10am to 2 pm. See the directions on page 7.

BLUFFTON SELF HELP

COVID-19 COMMUNITY IMPACT

Bluffton Self Help has worked tirelessly to support our community during the COVID-19 pandemic. Every day we see neighbors in need. Hard working neighbors who, despite their hard work, are now struggling to make ends meet. Thanks to supporters like you, we have been able to continue to serve our community and help neighbors get through this crisis. We know that helping individuals meet their basic needs first is essential in finding personal success and breaking the cycle of poverty.

We rely on our community to keep our Wellness Food Pantry shelves stocked all year long. During the COVID-19 pandemic the need continues to grow. Because of you, in just a few short weeks:

FEEDING NEIGHBORS



560+ HOUSEHOLDS

have been able to rely on Bluffton Self Help to put food on the table for their family.



1 in 4

households that have never had to ask for help before.



8,500lbs

of food on average is being distributed to families in need every week.



SUPPORTING NEIGHBORS



150

households have been able to make it through a difficult time with emergency assistance from our COVID-19 Family Relief Fund



\$160,000

has helped families to keep the utilities on and remain in their home in just a few short weeks.



100

new applications for financial assistance are received every week and the need continues to grow.



400

neighbors, young and young at heart, have been able to have a renewed sense of hope and remain safe and healthy.

www.blufftonselfhelp.org
39 Sheridan Park Circle
PO Box 2420 | Bluffton, SC 29910
843.757.8000





FOOD DRIVE

**DONATE NON-PERISHABLES AT
BLUFFTON SELF HELP
39 SHERIDAN PARK CIRCLE
MONDAYS | 10AM-2PM**

**NO-CONTACT COLLECTION CONTAINERS
WILL BE PLACED AROUND BACK AND
OUTSIDE OF THE BUILDING ON MONDAYS.**

Email Julia@BlufftonSelfHelp.org
with any questions or if you would
like to host a food drive

**Bluffton
Self Help**

The Cancer Support Group is meeting by e-mail. If you have cancer or had cancer you are welcome to join in. Every week or so Marilyn Gemme sends a quote or reflection and then invites responses by any who feel led to do so. All responses are seen by the group. In this time of social distancing, it is a good way to both give and receive support. Contact Marilyn Gemme at emagama49@gmail.com for more information or to sign up. ***You don't have to face it alone.***



Another way to support laid off workers in our community!

Corner Perk has established a fund to help cover the lost wages of some of its employees.

For a \$100 you get all the items in the picture, (the coffee is of your choosing and the gift card is for \$20) AND not pictured: 20% all purchases right now at their coffee stand set up outside their building.



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION MINISTRY

Due to the Covid-19 Pandemic Quarantine all in-person educational opportunities have been postponed until further notice. In the meantime, we have some on-line experiences we hope you will try out!

Wednesdays at 5:00pm via Zoom join us for "Drive Through History: The Gospels." This is a series of videos exploring the life of Jesus as described by the gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. The sessions will be led on alternating weeks by Dan Herrin and Carol Bogle. **This is a new class and whether you have missed one or two, you can jump in anytime.** Whether you have been involved in a Christian Education class before or are looking to try something out, this is a great opportunity! When in-person gatherings resume, this class will meet during the Sunday school hour. Find the Zoom invite in the Saturday e-blast. We hope to see you Wednesday!

For a sneak peek on the class, watch here:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=20&v=EASqxQEnEnA

Starting May 7th, Chris and Stephanie will take turns leading a bible study on Galatians. Videos will be posted to YouTube each week on Thursday for you to watch and engage. Each study will include questions on which to reflect. We hope you will join, learn, and grow with us!

MEN OF PURPOSE (MOP) on Saturday mornings

At this point Men Of Purpose IS NOT MEETING in person and may not be meeting that way for some time. In the meantime we have had 2 successful ZOOM meetings on Saturday April 18th and 25th starting at 9:00 am.

We are studying the book, "The Lord is my Shepherd" by Harold Kushner

Please contact Bill Walker, billwalker42@gmail.com, if you would like to join in online. We will be trying to do this each Saturday morning. If you would like to join the Zoom meeting, just email me to let me know. All men are welcome. I will forward Jon Nickel's meeting information and how to join the meeting.

We pray for everyone's health and safety.





Thanks to **Jan Alpert, Cal Beltman** and their friend **Barry Burgoyne** who repaired, repainted and replaced the fencing around the HVAC units just last week!



Thanks also to **Fran and Dave Casperson** for beautifying our property!



Christian Caring Ministry

Greetings to all from the Christian Caring Ministry.

We continue to pray for all of you wishing you are surviving the social distancing and isolation you are experiencing. If we can be of any assistance please do not hesitate to contact me:

Bill Thorpe, 843 706-2739.

We hope you will remember that our team and others are willing to help deliver groceries or medicine to your door, or even take you to the doctor. If you have ANY needs, we want to know and meet your needs!

Please contact Chris, Stephanie, or Bill Thorpe if you have any needs or tell the elder who has been in touch with you. We are happy to help. Please know that our pastors, elders, Christian Caring team, and Stephen Ministers are praying for you!



MEMBER MAKES MASKS FOR OTHERS

Jerri Hanna has been busy at home whipping out hundreds of masks. Initially she made them for medical personnel and first responders. She writes, "I have family involved in hospitals and most of the masks have headed to where they work (CA and PA) and to family in CA, DE, & PA. I have done some for a local assisted living home...I've made around 300 masks so far with about 225 of those donated.



Then when it was suggested everyone should wear a mask when in stores, people had an interest in having one for personal use. That's when I decided I'd sell (\$4 a mask) to the neighbors and I will send the proceeds to Agape Family Life Center in Hardeeville.

I chose colorful material to brighten what are often long, difficult days for people in the medical field. I have made 4 different models. My next 2 goals are to carry a bunch with me and hand to workers in stores that don't have one and to have masks for children that I see out without one...Right

now I'm on hold as I'm out of elastic and need to wait until that comes in a week or two...

I had plans to do a thorough top-to-bottom housecleaning while waiting this out. I managed to get 2 rooms done...now the housework is on hold! This is a much more important thing for me. It has also helped to keep me centered during this time of uncertainty."

Jerri also made masks for the staff of LPC and we thank her for her generosity!



LOWCOUNTRY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Phone: 843-815-6570

E-mail: lpcoffice1@hargray.com

We're on the Web!
www.lowcountrypres.org

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87wt1514@gmail.com

Session Highlights

At its April 27th Stated Meeting the Session via Zoom:

- Elected Elder Thorpe to chair the 2020 Congregational Officer Nominating Committee (aka Elder Nominating Committee). Elder Hartley was also elected to serve on the Committee.
- Noted that LPC currently has 372 members and 22 affiliate members.
- Reviewed a summary of the church's financial results for the first quarter of 2020 and adopted a statement to the congregation for publication elsewhere in this edition of The Light.
- Took further steps to begin implementation of a plan for the deployment of new technology to improve the worship, communications and Christian education. The first focus of the newly created Building and Grounds led task force will be to build upon the church's current worship service video recording capability to create a capability that would enable the video recording and streaming of in-person worship once the church opens again.
- Finally, the Session concluded that to protect the health of the congregation and support governmental efforts to control the spread of the virus, it is still necessary to keep the church closed and continue the suspension of in-person worship through the end of May.

The next Stated Session meeting will be at 7:00 PM on Monday, May 25, 2020.

If you have any questions please contact Ernest Bush, Clerk of Session at 843-290-3218 or elbush@mac.com

Online Giving

Lowcountry Presbyterian Church now offers you a way to **GIVE ONLINE**. Your gifts to LPC matter now more than ever! Our expenses continue, as our staff provides essential services working remotely. We continue to pay all of our staff and our mission giving is badly needed by the organizations we support. While we're unable to pass the offering plate, we encourage you to continue to send your offerings to the church or use our new **ONLINE GIVING**. Your continued generosity at this time makes a big difference. Thank you! Go to our website www.lowcountrypres.org and click on:

[DONATE NOW](#)

Or click here and go directly to [Donate Now](#).



First Quarter 2020 Summary Financial Results

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>
<u>Receipts</u>		
Membership Offerings	\$122,091	\$120,150
Loose Offerings	8,713	8,370
Bank Interest	1,646	1,750
Building Rentals	6,376	4,500
Other Income	1,206	675
	<u>140,030</u>	<u>135,445</u>
<u>Expenses</u>		
Clergy Staff	46,744	48,915
Support Staff	35,227	35,591
General Administration	16,671	16,962
Facilities Administration	18,753	22,100
Missions	9,249	9,749
Worship	1,283	1,265
Communications	950	699
Outreach	277	873
All Others Combined	<u>522</u>	<u>1,025</u>
	<u>129,676</u>	<u>137,179</u>
<u>Net Total</u>	<u>\$10,354</u>	<u>\$(1,734)</u>

These financial results have been reviewed by the Session who believe that they are consistent with the performance anticipated in the 2020 budget.



- | | | | | | |
|---|------------------|----|---------------|----|--------------------|
| 1 | George McCartney | 7 | Nancy Spears | 22 | Naomi Davis |
| 1 | John Reneau | 8 | Diane Bush | 23 | Terry Parker |
| 1 | Clint Young | 9 | Bill Bogle | 26 | Cristi Rozea |
| 2 | Fran Parker | 11 | Stephen Ball | 27 | Andy Hough |
| 2 | Tony Panno | 13 | Chad Grayson | 27 | Nancy Johnson |
| 4 | Dave Casperson | 16 | Joe Lieser | 27 | Marilyn Waterworth |
| 4 | Pam Davis-Webb | 18 | Marilyn Gemme | 28 | Robin Bloom |
| 6 | Nancy Dietz | 19 | Gray Toulmin | 30 | Venus Holland |
| 6 | Sharon Stauffer | 20 | Judy Barons | | |
| 7 | Debbie Hough | 22 | Herb Costolo | | |



Member Prayer List

Herb Costolo	Dave Tanner
Marilyn Miesner	Shirley Wanket
Cindy Marshall	Al Thomas

With Deepest Sympathy

Christian sympathy is extended to...

The family of **Stuart Kimble**. Plans for a memorial are to be determined;

The family of **Bob Harding**;

Bill Thorpe on the death of his friends, *Dr. Steven Whitten and Dr Robert Graham*, who died from Covid 19 ;

Janit Maguire on the death of her husband Tom's *Aunt Mary and his cousin Paul*, also due to Covid 19;

Frank Branda on the death of his sister, *Elaine Gowin*

Dear church family,

With much joy in my heart I am excited to share my news with you! As many of you know my cancer prognosis is rather dire. But I have qualified for an immunotherapy program, which I view as a wonderful opportunity. Your prayers have made a huge difference in my life and I could not be more grateful. Thank you, thank you...

Sincerely, **Cindy Marshall**