

GREENSTONE GAZETTE

Nottingham Presbyterian Church PC (USA)
497 W. Christine Road
Nottingham, PA 19362-9760

May 2020

Phone: 610-932-0556

E-mail: office4npc@gmail.com

Website: www.nottinghampc.org



Bring the love of Jesus to our community by fostering an accepting, nurturing and compassionate environment. Expanding our missions, infrastructure and worship experiences to meet the community's needs. Passionately and enthusiastically developing opportunities for personal and spiritual growth. Seeking partnerships with local organizations in pursuit of God's vision for the greater Nottingham area.

So—What's going on?

- Pastor Merritt and Nina Hansen (Clerk of Session) have been meeting virtually with Donegal Presbytery twice a week, since the start of the shut-down.
- Session and Deacons have been meeting virtually, both separately and together during this shut-down.
- Sharon (The Church's Administrative Assistant) has been working from home to assist Pastor Merritt with weekly worship materials to be sent to members without internet access. She has been also working on office manuals that are used as references.

When will we get back to normal?

The short answer is "we don't know".
The long answer is: Many things have to happen first. We may have a "new" normal. Session is **REQUIRED** by Presbytery to have a written plan in place. Much of this plan will be dictated by the guidance of our Health Department and others. Things are changing each day!



So— When the State eases the isolation restrictions, that means it's safe to go out again, Right?

If you don't hear anything else hear this:

NO

Easing restrictions does **NOT** mean it's safe. What it means is the hospitals have beds, ICU beds, ventilators and staff to take care of you **WHEN** you get sick. Isolating is a way to keep the cases low enough for the healthcare system to take care of the sick. Right now, we have no other way. We don't have a vaccine, we don't know what "antibodies" mean as far as getting COVID-19 again and/or how long these antibodies last.

Saying you can gather in groups of 10 means if you have COVID-19 and don't know it, you can only infect 9 other people. If you gather in a group of 50, you could infect 49! We know from some testing, there are many people that have COVID-19 that don't appear sick.

Session voted at the beginning of the shut down to keep all of our employees (all part time except Pastor Merritt) on our payroll. We would like to thank everyone for their continued support of our ministries. Offerings can be made online at our website, or checks can be mailed into the Church Office.



Shout for Joy, Sing Your Praises!

What we miss by not being together is the shared joys and praises we hear each week. Some are answered prayers, some are unexpected joys, some are just fun things we communicate with each other. Each week we will have a joy and praise list in addition to our normal prayer list. Let's lift our spirits by the good things in our lives. PICTURES WELCOME! Please send them to Connie Lewis:

Lewis4450@zoominternet.net
610-932-5345

Some praises:

Genna (Lewis's daughter-in-law) has recovered from pneumonia and was negative for COVID-19,

Roger Moran—got a haircut!

Large Print Daily Bread available in our "Little Library" outside the church house

The Daily Bread daily devotional booklets are available in our "Little Library" outside the church house. Feel free to share them with your neighbors!

The Daily Bread is also available to your email box by signing up at: <https://odb.org/resources>. They also have an app "Our Daily Bread" for your phone.

May Birthdays

May Anniversaries

Deacons and Elders have been in touch with our Church Family. Please let them or Pastor Merritt know if you need anything during this time of physical distancing.

John and Marlene Lloyd welcomed a new grandson April 16!



Session (our Ruling Elders): Jean Bender, Donna Davis, Jerry Jackson, Jim Lewis, Nina Hansen, Becky Reiber,
Deacons: Brian Dewees, Chris Dolinger, Dar Gray, \ Eric Hansen, Connie Lewis, Dave Pohlig, Chris Ulrich

On the lighter side:



Mrs. Jones got a little too used to watching online worship from home.



Waddya mean? That wasn't you who just said "Good morning"?

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

This is my third attempt to write the pastoral letter for this month of May, 2020. Each previous attempt has been saved for another use, but didn't seem appropriate for this purpose. Each was too academic and too wordy (yes, I am beginning to notice that tendency in myself!) Neither said what I really want to say to you (perhaps because I was not sure myself what I could say.)

I miss you. At the same time, I am so grateful for you and look forward to the time when we can gather together again. I am beginning to think that this is a little like when a beloved spouse, child or parent dies. The remaining person lives in the between time of trusting that there will be a reunion at the resurrection, but not knowing when or how long that will be. On another note, it is a little like the experience of the disciples following the ascension. They have experienced the joy of the resurrection, but now face life without the direct, physical presence of their leader, their teacher, the Messiah who held everything together. In the meantime, life goes on and a new reality needs to be navigated. In the case of the Church it is navigated, continually being navigated, and celebrated!

The Session and I will be working on a plan for moving forward which abides by the direction of the government and the presbytery – and is led by the Spirit in accordance with God's word of hope and love! We will include concerns for the most vulnerable of us (though none of us likes to admit we are vulnerable – and all of us are in some way or another!). We are looking at ways to help each of us feel connected to the whole, while minimizing the risk of exposing anyone to the virus. I rejoice that our Food Drive has been so successful and helpful to Divine Sent that the deacons decided to extend it through May 18. Once again, NPC has demonstrated our concern for the community in tangible ways! We are grateful, as well, for the support you continue to send to the church office (or use the website link) so that we can continue to pay staff and our bills.

We may not know exactly when we will be able to gather together again, but we know Christ leads us, and the Spirit empowers us! We do not know exactly what our new reality will look like, but we know that it will be glorious with the presence of God! May the vision of God inspire and uplift you always! God be with you 'til we meet again!

Pastor Merritt

FOOD DRIVE EXTENDED TO MAY 18!

Pastor Donna is so happy and excited each time we pull in with more food! She said to tell everyone thank you from the bottom of her heart for all your generosity, be it food donations or monetary. She feels so blessed to have the support and food to meet the needs of our community. Please continue to pray for the food cupboard, the workers, and the people who are in need of their services.

We continue the food drive for Divine Sent Food Cupboard. There are 2 ways you can help:

- If you have extra items you can donate, there will be 2 large bins on the church house porch. The bins will be checked on a daily basis and the food taken to Divine Sent Food Cupboard by the Deacons.

- If you would like to give a monetary donation, you can do so by sending a check to:

**Divine Sent Food Cupboard
198 Barnsley Road
Oxford PA 19363
Attn: Rev Donna Moore.**

Supporting our neighbors in need:

The first delivery of collected food for Divine Sent Food Cupboard.



The second delivery was even bigger!



How to Safely Wear and Take Off a Cloth Face Covering

WEAR YOUR FACE COVERING CORRECTLY

- Wash your hands before putting on your face covering
- Put it over your nose and mouth and secure it under your chin
- Try to fit it snugly against the sides of your face
- Make sure you can breathe easily
- Do not place a mask on a child younger than 2



USE THE FACE COVERING TO PROTECT OTHERS

- Wear a face covering to protect others in case you're infected but don't have symptoms
- Keep the covering on your face the entire time you're in public
- Don't put the covering around your neck or up on your forehead
- Don't touch the face covering, and, if you do, clean your hands

FOLLOW EVERYDAY HEALTH HABITS

- Stay at least 6 feet away from others
- Avoid contact with people who are sick
- Wash your hands often, with soap and water, for at least 20 seconds each time
- Use hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available



TAKE OFF YOUR CLOTH FACE COVERING CAREFULLY, WHEN YOU'RE HOME

- Untie the strings behind your head or stretch the ear loops
- Handle only by the ear loops or ties
- Fold outside corners together
- Place covering in the washing machine
- Wash your hands with soap and water



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Cloth face coverings are not surgical masks or N-95 respirators, both of which should be saved for health care workers and other medical first responders.

For instructions on making a cloth face covering, see:

[cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus)