

First News

The Presbyterian Churches of West Pittston and Wyoming
25 & 40 Institute Street, Wyoming, PA

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

Week of March 22, 2020

Sunday, March 22: 11:00 AM on Facebook Live – Worship
Tuesday, March 24: 7:00 PM on zoom.us – Devotion and Prayer
Sunday, March 29: 11:00 AM on Facebook Live – Worship

NORMAL OFFICE HOURS ARE MONDAY – FRIDAY 12:30 PM – 3:30 PM

Dear Friends,

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. This greeting is the example in many of the Epistles. I feel that we need to be reminded of the grace and peace we have on a daily basis even when it seems that the world is in chaos. I am reminded that in Genesis, God created order from the chaos. It feels like we are in chaos right now.

Last week, I encouraged you to stay home if you didn't feel comfortable coming out. This week, I am telling you to stay away from the church building. This Sunday, we will once again stream the service on Facebook. This is a way we can worship together, even if we are not physically together. This is how we will worship for Sunday, March 22nd and 29th. If you do not have Facebook, don't worry, you can receive the order of worship that we are following and do it at your convenience.

I am asking you that we try and follow the government recommendations and do not gather in groups of more than 10 people. We need to stay sheltered in place. Unfortunately, there is no accurate timetable for when we will be able to gather again, my hope is that we will be able to gather for Palm Sunday, but there are no guarantees.

For the time being, there is a new normal and a new way of being the church.

Here is what we can do to stay connected:

1. We will worship on Facebook on Sunday morning.
2. I will share a children's book several times a week on Facebook.
3. Check on church members. Please make phone calls to one another and see how each other are doing. If you hear of a need, please let me know so we can respond. We are a church that has resources (we have food, toilet paper, and resources if we know what we can do to help)
4. Participate in the opportunities to connect. Our first one will be Tuesday March 24th at 7pm. You can call in to the special number or get online and check in. I will offer a time of reflection on scripture and prayer as well as check in to see how you are doing.

We are the church that loves our members, so right now we are closing our doors to protect you. I am encouraging this not out of fear, but because I feel it is the responsible thing to do. Just like being a parent means you love your child enough to set limits and boundaries, we the church love one another enough to try and protect one another.

So be the church God has called us to be, go and check on one another (from a safe physical distance). Do not isolate yourselves, stay connected and be the church.

Blessings,
Martha

DEVOTIONS AND PRAYER On March 24 at 7:00 PM Pastor Martha will host a zoom meeting for a time to pray, reflect on scripture, and check in. To join electronically go to the zoom.us website or app and enter the meeting ID: 335 249 285. By phone dial (646)558-8656.

Zoom Meeting <https://zoom.us/j/335249285>

In light of rapidly changing situations regarding the COVID-19 virus it may become necessary to cancel or postpone some events listed below. Notifications will be made through email and updates on the church website and Facebook page.

IMPORTANT DATES FOR HOLY WEEK:

March 22 nd	* Memorial flower orders due *
April 5 th	11 AM in the Sanctuary - Palm Sunday Service
April 9 th	7 PM in the Sanctuary - Maundy Thursday Community Service
April 10 th	12-3 PM @ Langcliffe Presbyterian Church - Good Friday Community Service
April 12 th	7 AM in the Grove - Easter Sunrise Service
	11 AM in the Sanctuary - Easter Sunday Service

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS The next community connections event is scheduled for April 22, from 7-8 PM on financial planning for all ages and stages of life.

DEACONS' MOVIE NIGHT Save the date! On Saturday, April 4, the Deacons will host a family movie night at the Institute. Movie TBA.

NEWS FROM THE TUTORING TABLE

The tutoring program follows the Wyoming Area School District Schedule for cancellations.

Would you like to help? We'd love to have you (even for just one session)!

The next sessions are **4/15 and 4/29**.

- **Tutors** - Teachers welcome, but we also need people who can read with children (or flip flashcards)
- **Hosts** - talk with families while their children are being tutored
- **Childcare** - watch and play with little siblings
- **Kitchen** - meal prep and clean up

Contact anyone on the Tutoring Table team - Michelle Klaproth, Marge Zeigler, Erin Viglione, BJ Ahearn. (Adult helpers need clearances. They are free and we can help you get them.)

Do you know sign language (ASL)? We can use you for Tutoring Table!

The Tutoring Table needs school supplies (pencils, erasers, notebooks, folders, crayons). If you have some (or know someone who does) please drop off at The Institute between 12:30 and 3:30 weekdays. Thank you!

FLOWER ORDERS ARE DUE TODAY! Today is the deadline for ordering Easter flowers. Please call TODAY if you wish to order flowers for the sanctuary on Easter.

Wyoming: Betty Lou Murdock 570-693-1118
Checks payable to Wyoming Presbyterian Church

West Pittston: Bettie Ann Morgan 570-822-2582
Checks payable to First Presbyterian Church

NAME _____
Lilly - \$7.50 # _____
Hyacinths - \$5.50 # _____
Tulip - \$5.50 # _____
IN MEMORY OF _____

IN HONOR OF _____

PRESBYTERIANS AT PRAYER

We fulfill scriptural instruction when we pray for those we know and those who are known to others who ask us to lift their concerns to God in prayer, the names below are the most recent additions to our prayer List. We need not know the specifics of their situation, trusting that God will know what is needed. Please let us know when it is time to remove a name thanks to answered prayer, crisis passed, or entry into “the heavenly host.”

Bill and Susan Butcher, Sandy Knouse, Adelaide, Florence & John Coolbaugh, Paul & Christine Fazio, Jim Williams, Mark and Sharon Weber, Judy Black, Judy Burke, Bill Lawler, the Rugh family, Guy Fasciana, Mark & Ann Williams, Val Burke, Kelly Wynder Rodgers, Dakota Segeda, Amy Wiggins, Andy Kuffa, Patricia & Rich Tolladay, Nora Terran, Zack, Marlene, Amy Gromel, Shirley Weber, Linda Houck, Dorothy Rugh, Ann Crawford, Maverick Schwartzenburg, Maurice Dionne, Rev. John Markarian, Barry and Grace Hosier, Nance Browdie, Margaret Coolbaugh, Bill Kendall, Di Jolley, Donna Salerno, Kennedy, Andrew Maculloch, USMC, Teresa Stacchiotti, Dolores Martini, Douglas Skene, Joan Tilley, Gloria Green, Mary Claire Gallagher, Joan & Jack Finn, Maureen Krokos, Bonnie Houpt, Casen Lear, Jim Coolbaugh, Florence Lombardo, Fulvio Ranalli, Henrietta Timinski, Jessica Malone, Victoria Everett, Cheryl Scott, Barbara Krohmer, William Sommerville, Sally, Dennis Dalrymple, Jennifer Williams, Julia & Claire Emmert, Michelle Klapproth, Kyle & Corey Loftus, Ron Hagenbaugh, John Jr., Frank, Bernice Ashford, Cassidy Palamieri, Jennifer Beard, Barb & David Fairbrother, Irene Amato, Dennis, Claude Collins, Brenda, Raymond & Bonnie Banaszek, Alberta Simonson.

Let Us Also Pray for our servicemen and women, for peace in the Middle East, for victims of the storms, for the worldwide church and for members and friends of our church in need of our prayers and concern – Ruth Eaton, Matt Ross, Rev. Carol Coleman, Mary Williams, Thad Kanaske, Darren Michael Eaton, Betty Miller, Shirley Butler, Anita Yurek, Jennifer Helfrich.

Please feel free to reach out to Pastor Martha to share your prayer concerns.

If you have prayer requests you would like to have included in this space, please call the church office by 1:00 PM on Friday afternoon.