



## Thyatira Presbyterian Church at Mill Bridge

Email: [office@thyatirapresbyterian.org](mailto:office@thyatirapresbyterian.org)

Website: [thyatirapresbyterian.org](http://thyatirapresbyterian.org)

Office: 704-636-1595

Pastor Steck: 704-245-8100

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### PASTOR'S REFLECTIONS

I grew on Sesame Street in the Neighborhood of Make Believe, alongside Big Bird and King Friday XIII. Not a bad place to spend one's childhood!

I'm 55 years old now, and the world is a far different place. Mister Rogers is dead, and so is Big Bird, or at least the actor who played him. There is chaos and division all around us. It's no wonder I remember them fondly.

Yet, it is not just nostalgia, or a longing for a "return to the good old days," that prompts me to remember them and offer here some of Fred Rogers words from his little book, "The World According to Mister Rogers." It is because despite the make believe quality of Mister Rogers, he offers us reality we need to take hold of every day.

I hope you can be inspired by him as well.

"The thing I remember best about successful people I've met all through the years is their obvious delight in what they're doing and it seems to have very little to do with worldly success. They just love what they're doing, and they love it in front of others."

"Confronting our feelings and giving them appropriate expression always takes strength, not weakness. It takes strength to acknowledge our anger, and sometimes more strength yet to curb the aggressive urges anger may bring and to channel them into nonviolent outlets. It takes strength to face our sadness and to grieve and to let our grief and our anger flow in tears when they need to. It takes strength to talk about our feelings and to reach out for help and comfort when we need it."

"How great it is when we come to know that times of disappointment can be followed by joy; that guilt over falling short of our ideals can be replaced by pride in doing all that we can; and that anger can be channeled into creative achievements... and into dreams that we can make come true."

"The values we care about the deepest, and the movements within society that support those values, command our love. When those things that we care about so deeply become endangered, we become enraged. And what a healthy thing that is! Without it, we would never stand up and speak out for what we believe."

"Some days, doing "the best we can" may still fall short of what we would like to be able to do, but life isn't perfect on any front-and doing what we can with what we have is the most we should expect of ourselves or anyone else."

*Stacy*

## **Prayer Concerns**

Please keep in your prayers the Session, Deacons, and Staff of the Church, as well as all who faithfully serve one another and our community through the ministries of the church.

Mocksville Senior Living: Mary Moon

At Home: JoAnn Kerr

- Jimmy Hoffner, recovering from surgery
- Mike and Amy Corriher, recovering from COVID-19
- Keith Townsend, undergoing radiation therapy
- Millicent Hoffner's brother, Joe Kerr recovering from kidney replacement surgery
- Phares Sechler's daughter-in-law, Kathy Himes recovering from surgery
- Tony & Kitty Harris
- Flora Calderón-Steck, recovering from surgery
- Kathy Helm
- Families affected by the COVID-19 crisis
- Pamela Reeves, Sandra Swanson's sister-in-law, being treated for cancer
- Kaye Hawkins' family members, Cindy, diagnosed with cancer, and Mitchell
- Tony Albright
- Bill and Carolyn Haggerty, as Bill is being treated for cancer
- Barbara Karriker, Joyce Caldwell's cousin, diagnosed with cancer
- Whitaker Raymer, being treated for leukemia
- Mike Hawkins, ongoing health issues
- Drema Clemens' brother, Arthur Warden
- Edna Stamper
- Julie, a co-worker of Jada, diagnosed with cancer
- Mike Hawkins' mother, Elizabeth, at Genesis
- Linda Gaylor's mother, Barbara



## **In Sympathy**

We extend our deepest sympathy to Carolyn Haggerty and family, following the death of her husband Bill.



## **July Birthdays**

1	Sarah Waller	16	Julie Bigsby
2	Riley Wilkie, Grayson Wilkie	17	Gerald Hargis Nell Fuller
3	William Feimster	19	Trisha Belk Nora Patterson Ben Watts
5	Beth Bates		
6	Emory Graham	20	Abigail Deal
8	Buddy Erwin Flora Calderón-Steck	21	Jessica Leazer
9	Abby Covington	23	Cam Hall
10	Mitchell Seaboch Steven Wetmore	27	Koen Franz John Parish
11	Keith Townsend	28	Adam Hall
13	Becky Daniel Kitty Harris	29	Jay Bates Jill Townsend
		30	Selena Bell

## **THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY**

We received 91% of our anticipated offerings for the month of June.

## **Giving During the Crisis**

The Session of Thyatira would like to express its gratitude to you for your generosity so far this year. You have made much ministry possible.

In addition, please be reminded that should you find yourself economically affected by the COVID-19 measures, you should in no way feel obligated to give as usual.

With that in mind, please accept this gentle reminder that although we are not meeting together on Sunday mornings for a little while, the church still carries on and continues to have both obligations and opportunities to meet. If you are able, please share your regular offerings by mailing them to the church, using our website's online giving page ([thyatirapresbyterian.org/giving](http://thyatirapresbyterian.org/giving)), or taking advantage of the convenience of the GivePlus+ mobile app which you can easily download.

Thank you again for all the ways you express God's generosity!



## **PHONE PRAYER CHAIN**

If you, a family member, or friend would like to be added to our Phone Prayer Chain, please call Jim Albright at 704-279-3317. Whatever your prayer need is, finding peace of mind provides a foundation of strength to face any situation. Your request is a sacred trust and is kept confidential among our prayer list members.

## Good News...

This is a shortened copy of the letter that was mailed out in June.

Dear members and friends of Thyatira Presbyterian Church,

I am pleased to announce that beginning Sunday, June 28, we will resume meeting together for face-to-face worship as we gather in the Picnic Shelter. This decision is, of course, dependent on the ever-changing situation with the virus, as well as the weather. Unfortunately, we are not yet resuming Sunday School or other activities.

I am writing to share with you the conditions under which we will meet so that you can decide how you would like to participate and so that you may come prepared to care for yourself and the others gathered. I want to make clear that no one should feel any pressure to participate face-to-face. Your health and well-being are our foremost concern.

- ◆ We will continue to broadcast on Facebook Live. The experience will be slightly different, but we plan to make it as consistent with our last twelve weeks as possible.
- ◆ We will practice social distancing:
  - ◇ We will set up the picnic tables and other chairs with the required distance between them and ask that only families that have been quarantining together sit together.
  - ◇ You may feel free to bring lawn chairs and sit as far away as you feel comfortable.
  - ◇ As hard as it will be to avoid the temptation, we are strongly discouraging lingering after service. Please depart promptly when we are finished.
- ◆ We will use best practices to avoid sharing anything but God's grace:
  - ◇ Please wear your coolest, most creative mask as you enter and leave (and consider it for during the service too).
  - ◇ Hand sanitizer stations will be set up on both sides of the Picnic Shelter. Please use it upon arriving and leaving.
  - ◇ We will "pass the peace" in place without circulating to shake hands or hug. Feel free to practice your bowing between now and Sunday.
  - ◇ We will use projection for the order of service so that handling papers and books will not be necessary. If you will need to sit closer to the front to be able to see the screen, please make plans to arrive early or let me know so we can save those seats for you.
  - ◇ We will not "pass the plate" for the offering but have baskets available for you to share your tithes and offerings.

We thank you in advance for your cooperation with all these limitations. Together we can make sure worship at Thyatira is conducted joyfully and responsibly.

If you have any questions, or suggestions to make our time together even safer, please do not hesitate to contact Pastor Stacey or the church office.

### A NOTE OF



A big thank you to...

- ◆ Tom Hall for grinding all the stumps on the church property.
- ◆ Thyatira's Youth for cleaning up the church grounds.
- ◆ West Rowan Elementary School thanks Thyatira Church Members for supporting the West Rowan Community during Spring Break. It was so reassuring to know our families received support with meals. We are so thankful for your partnership. —Kris Wolfe, Principal

## Church Groups...

If you are interested in conducting Sunday School, Youth Group, or any other church programming via Zoom, please contact Pastor Stacey or the church office and we can facilitate that!

# Parish Nurse Ministry

July 4, 2020 in American: Holiday or Hazard?

In our familiar, but strange way, we will continue to celebrate the birth of our nation by eating hot dogs first created in Germany, setting off fireworks invented in China, and listening to Orchestras play Tchaikovsky's 1812 Overture commemorating a Russian (not an American) military victory. As a nation of immigrants this all makes sense.

## **Past and Present:**

At the time of the first Fourth of July, after a long period of pent-up frustration, the colonies let loose when hearing the words of the Declaration of Independence in 1776. Military personnel and civilians in the Bowling Green section of Manhattan tore down the statue of King George III; Philadelphia patriots used the King's coat of arms as kindling for a bonfire; and in Savannah, Georgia, the citizens burned the king in effigy and held a mock funeral for their royal foe.

July 4, 2020 finds us facing challenges like no other time in our lives. A patchwork pandemic, economic instability, and social and political issues that have long been ignored have shown us a future that is uncertain. "Crisis are political only until they are personal," wrote journalist Elaina Plott.

What does all of this mean to our health? It is not just our physical, but also our mental and spiritual health which must be preserved. A positive of this time is that we have opportunity for contemplation to guide our choice and commitment to all of the issues our country and we, personally are facing.

In an article in the New York Times, Tara Parker-Pope gave 5 rules to live by during this pandemic which many experts identified as patchwork because different areas of the country and segments of society are experiencing this in individual ways.

## **Rule 1. Check the health of your state and community**

To gauge your risk of coming into contact with an infected person, pay attention to two important indicators of Covid-19: the percentage of tests that are positive and the trend in overall cases.

Start by learning the percentage of positive Covid-19 tests in your state. This tells you if testing and contact tracing are finding mild and asymptomatic cases. When positive test rates stay at 5 percent or lower for two weeks, that suggests that there is adequate testing in your state to get virus transmission under control. You are then less likely to face exposure to the virus. The closer the number is to 2 percent, the better. This does not give you reason to feel that you have total freedom,

but it does verify lower risk. To find out whether your state is meeting the testing criteria, go to your state health department website.

## **Rule 2. Limit the number of your close contacts**

You're safest with members of your household, but if you want to widen your circle to extended family or friends, keep the number low and as consistent as possible. Some people form a "corona bubble," which happens when two households form an exclusive social circle, agreeing on safety guidelines and to see only each other. This arrangement requires a high level of trust. Keep communications open and without judgment, so people feel comfortable disclosing new exposure risks.

## **Rule 3. Manage your exposure budget**

Risk is cumulative. Going forward, you'll need to make trade-offs, choosing activities that are most important to you and skipping things which might matter less. A once-a-week trip to the grocery store is lower risk than a trip to have your hair cut if they are following proper procedure. You may blow your entire budget if you spend time in a crowd.

## **Rule 4. Keep higher risk activities as short as possible**

Every time you make plans ask yourself, "If an infected person happens to be nearby, how much time could I be spending with him." Honestly evaluate personal risk because of age and health of yourself and others. Our motto must be, "Do no harm."

## **Rule 5. Keep taking pandemic precautions**

Already some people in many communities have stopped wearing masks, suspended social distancing, and returned to pre-pandemic socializing. Prevention is physically rewarding in the long term, but not emotionally rewarding in the short term. People who stay at home will not get an emotional high from their continued good health. Those who flock together will feel hugs and sunshine.

## **Quotes from the wise for times like these**

"The man who removes a mountain begins by carrying away small stones." William Faulkner

"It's no use going back to yesterday, because I was a different person then." Lewis Carroll

"You will never really understand a person until you consider things from his point of view...Until you climb inside his skin and walk around in it." Harper Lee

"Facts do not cease to exist because they are ignored." Aldous Huxley

*Continues on page 5*



I wish I could say the children have been practicing and will be singing next Sunday. We know that's not happening, but it sure would make me happy. I hope the kids continue to sing in the shower, or sing in the rain, and to always keep a song in their heart.

Much love,  
Ms. Millicent

The Young Disciples of Thyatira have been keeping our postal carriers very busy during the pandemic. By the end of August, they will have made and mailed over 300 cards! This certainly speaks of the care and compassion our children possess. Our card ministry would not be one hundred percent successful without the help of the parents, and sometimes older siblings in overseeing their child's work. Thank you all!

Keep up the good work disciples of Christ.

Millicent

**Note from Jimmy Hoffner,  
our Sunday School  
Superintendent**

The pandemic is going to make me forget how to count! No, but it sure shows me how important you folks at Thyatira are to me. It will be a happy day when we can be back together in Sunday School.

***Parish Nurse Ministry—Continued from page 4***

"Whether you think you can or you think you can't-You're right. Henry Ford.

"Be that change that you wish to see in the world." Mahatma Gandhi

"I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel." Maya Angelou

"Everyone thinks of changing the world, but no one thinks of changing himself." Leo Tolstoy

"If you judge people, you have no time to love them." Mother Teresa

"Anyone who has ever struggled with poverty knows how extremely expensive it is to be poor." James Baldwin

"Don't cry because it's over; smile because it happened." Dr. Seuss

**Quotes for a bit of humor**

"It would be nice to spend billions on schools and roads, but right now that money is desperately needed for political ads. Ambrose Bierce

"When I was a boy, I was told that anybody could be president. I'm beginning to believe it." Clarence Darrow

"Reader, suppose you were an idiot. And suppose you were a member of Congress. But I repeat myself." Mark Twain

"The statistics on sanity are that one in every four persons is suffering from a mental illness. Look at your three best friends. If they are OK then it's you." Rita Mae Brown

Thyatira Presbyterian Church  
At Mill Bridge  
220 White Rd.  
Salisbury, NC 28147-5606

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