April 5 is Palm Sunday

WE WELCOME PASTOR ELIZABETH
YOUR SESSION AT WORK

Many around the world have faced trials, tribulations and sickness in the past few months. Many of those that became sick, lost their lives. We are now facing those same challenges and life as we know it has changed drastically and will change even more with the “stay at home” order. But God is with us. He will renew our strength during this time, and he will heal us physically, emotionally and spiritually. He is challenging us to grow our faith in him, to find new ways to share our love with others and to not be troubled and afraid. “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.” John 14:27

Although our congregation has not been able to come together and worship since March 8, your Session has been working hard to find new ways to share God’s message with you, our church family. Your Session held a Special Session Meeting and with considerable prayer and consideration for everyone’s safety, voted to suspend gathering for service at least until the first part of April. The health and safety of our church family is of the utmost importance to us and finding new ways to share God’s word will be a challenge that we will meet head on. Keeping the office staffed was a decision we did not take lightly either and have tried to put precautions in place to keep Karen Argo safe which is why the office is only open to her.

Our presbytery, Heartland Presbytery, has put many of the same restrictions in place and gone to holding remote meetings which your Session will do on April 1. We will be discussing plans for our congregation for April and how we can share God’s word with you in the event it is determined that the church should remain closed a little while longer for gatherings. Heartland Presbytery has shared a list of churches that offer live streaming services and hopefully you took the opportunity to join Lee’s Summit Presbytery for one of their live services this past Sunday. And although we are not meeting in our sanctuary for service, below are five ways we can continue to be the church (shared from a Facebook post):

1. Support your pastors. They need our love and support more than ever!
2. Send in your pledges and offerings. Make sure they are mailed to the PO Box 16536
3. Check on your neighbors.
4. Pray for your church family, our healthcare providers, first responders, government and others around the world.
5. Continue to worship!

It is a hard decision to not hold worship in person. Yet, it is a faithful and responsible decision by your Session to care for our church family and to not risk the spread the virus. This invites a new way of being the church together. The church will meet, and celebrate, and worship God, just not in person. May you and your family be safe and full of hope. May the Peace of Christ be with each of you today and always!

Yours in Christ,
Kim Scheerer
Clerk of Session
Sunday School lessons will resume when we can all worship together again. In the meantime, here are 5 steps for trusting in God’s plan during difficult times.

Accept where you are. Accept the situation you are facing so you can start moving through it. There must be a greater purpose to our suffering.

Surrender it to God. Our faith in God is not a magic pill. It does not make our struggles; all of our difficulties disappear. Know that there is a greater purpose, a greater plan. A greater power to lead you through.

Pray from a place of power. Utilize daily prayer time as demonstration of your faith. Prayer is an important healing practice that helps us not only to connect with the divine, but also helps us to focus.

Be open to receive guidance. Be open to assistance arriving in all forms. Do not discount something just because it is not what you expect. The most amazing gifts, come in the most unusual packages.

Take guided action. You must not only be open to receiving guidance, but then you must take action. Develop an action plan. Pray daily on that plan for guidance and for the success of the plan.

Here’s looking forward to May, June, July

End of Year Celebration – will be held May 17th for all Sunday School classes at 9:30 AM. Theme will be “Let Your Light Shine” and will include breakfast. Also, all teachers will be recognized during worship service. Hopefully we will all be together again to share and celebrate!

Graduate Recognition – June 7th – Please turn in graduate names and the name of the school (high school, college, university) to Christi Neal. Christi will collect and prepare the list of this year’s graduates.

Traveling Day Camp – July 20-24th. Registration fees will remain the same as last year. Stay tuned for more detailed information soon.

Summer Camps at Heartland Center in Parkville. Heartland is keeping their $159 price reduction from last year making camp more affordable and Christian Education Committee will pay 50% of the camp fee after the deposit has been paid by the camper’s family.

Nursery-CLOSED UNTIL FUTHER NOTICE

Hours are 9:15AM—12:15PM
Children are welcome to join us in worship each Sunday.
Nursery ages: Infants - 2nd grade

Nursery Supervisor: Kerri McCorkle along with BRPC volunteers
BRPC Sunday Schedule

Communion 1st Sunday

9:15AM - 12:15PM - Nursery available for children up through 2nd grade
9:15AM - Breakfast Snacks  9:30AM - Sunday School Class for all ages
10:45AM - Worship

Join us for coffee fellowship following worship, everyone is welcome.

ALL ACTIVITIES ARE CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

People We Are Praying For

Edgar Urriola who is in Research Hospital
Theodora Shelton
The Scarlett Family
The Rev. Dr. Ron Galvin, HR, Interim Pastor is taking rehab at home now
Marleen Merrill and her daughter, Pat Merrill Jackson
Jack and Dixie Miller
Stefanie Ziegenhorn
Mary Lou is having heart health issues
Kerri McCorkle who recently had sinus surgery
Paul Vance
Peggy McCarty
Bobby Neal’s brother William is now in rehab
Ron’s mother, Darlene Castille, who is facing surgery
Four year old Phoenix Mendoza who is battling leukemia
Grandson of Paul and Donna Vance currently stationed in Afghanistan
Patricia Jackson’s cousin, Trenton, on second deployment
Sandy MacMorran, brother of Marsha Elbasani, and his wife, Ellen.
Todd Radenbaugh, Oberlanders’ nephew, receiving cancer treatments
The Oberlander’s daughter and son-in-law, Laura and Mark

Jean Martin       Anita Briggs      Gordon and Margaret Neal         Loydine Kranz
John Sinden       Lucy Becka        Bruce Odenbaugh                Lynn Forsythe
KR Family

Barry Elbasani who is now home and healing

NOTE: If you have prayer concerns; names/info to be added/changed or removed please call/email the office by Wednesday evening each week Thank you
DEACON REPORT

In preparation for writing this month’s deacon column for the newsletter, I was asked to write about what it means to be a deacon to me. I spent a lot of time thinking about this and decided the best way to do this is to explain my journey through the church. It is not the building or the location that make this church my home; it is the people. I have had special relationships with so many people in this church that I find myself coming back every Sunday that I am able to see them. I formed bonds with people starting with my first logos teacher Becky Foster, when I was thirteen. She and I were very close until she was called home to God. I went through confirmation with Pastor Dave Cliburn and my elder Charlie Chick. I was first ordained as a youth deacon by Mark Braden and re-ordained as a full deacon by Pat Jackson. I was especially heartbroken when Pat announced his intention to leave our church because I was planning to get married the year he left. My husband and I actually had our first date during a youth bowling trip. We were married in this church by Ron Galvin surrounded by my church family. I say all of this not only to explain why this church is so important to me but also as a way you look to the future. I have had special connections with all the pastors that have served during my time here and I look forward to welcoming Elizabeth Strobel into our special church. It is my job as a deacon to help the people of this church make this transition. I encourage those who have not been active to come back and make a connection. We are the people of BRPC and the children of God. It has been an honor and privilege to serve as your deacon and I pray you make special connections too.

Angela Janney

Missions and Outreach

Mission and Outreach News

Who knew? Hope everyone is staying safe! It was hard to cancel the Pancake Breakfast/Bake Sale fundraiser for REAP. At the time, we did not realize how much we were going to cancel. I would like to thank everyone who had signed up to work and come help. You were great! Our thanks to Christi Neal for contacting Faiths of Raytown to send out that notice to the churches. We added the suggestion that people might want to send a donation to REAP to help towards what we would have made.

We received a thank you note from NOROC for the $683 we sent them from Sloppy Joe fundraiser.

When Session met to figure out what was the responsible way to keep our members safe, it was so comforting to have Pastor Ron on speaker phone. We were so lucky to have him as an interim pastor, and now we are looking forward to our new pastor, Elizabeth, who is starting at a most unfortunate time. Our prayers are with both of them and with the whole world. A friend of mine sent this Irish saying on St. Patrick’s Day: We live in the shelter of one another.

Blessings to all.

Linda Lockwood
Moderator

Galatians 6:2

2 Bear one another’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.
Something from a Sunday School teacher.

In this third week of Lent, I was reminded of Deuteronomy 4:9. Only be careful and watch yourselves closely so that you do not forget the things your eyes have seen or let them slip from your heart as long as you live. Teach them to your children and to their children after them.

As we are staying home as much as possible, it reminded me that we should focus on what happened at the cross more than on the things of this world and continue to teach this to our children. This virus is frightening for many people and we pray for all.

I think John 12: 35, 36, quoting Jesus could have been quoted at this point in time. "You, (the disciples) are going to have the light just a little while longer. Walk while you have the light, before darkness overtakes you. The man who walks in the dark does not know where he is going." 36. "Put your trust in the light, while you have it, so that you may become sons and daughters of light." They didn’t realize at the time what Jesus was going to do for them. For us, who know Jesus and what he did to save us, we keep remembering, teaching our children and giving thanks.

In HIM
Charlie Chick

**FINANCE**

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Income is down, but so is our expenses so we are doing well.

Joy Scholarships are due to start coming in April 1. Please send it to our P.O. Box 16536 attention Sandy Moore.

This is trying times for all of us & we miss not getting together every Sunday. And even though we are not collecting an offering our expenses go on. In this light you can mail your pledges to our Post Office Box 16536. We thank you in advance for your contributions.

This too shall pass & soon we will be back together.
Blessings to all,
Sandy Moore, Moderator of the Finance Committee

**PRAYER CHAIN CONTACTS**

Jane Nutt 1130janenutt@gmail.com 816-524-5195
Avis Odenbaugh aoden33@gmail.com 816-923-9653
Carla Weiss Swtadcw44@gmail.com 816-679-8771

"FOR THE LORD YOUR GOD WILL BLESS YOU IN ALL YOUR HARVEST AND IN ALL THE WORK OF YOUR HANDS, AND YOUR JOY WILL BE COMPLETE."

Deuteronomy 15:9
Recently our chancel choir sang a setting of Psalm 91. There are few psalms which verbalize God’s continued providence in our lives as well as this one. To be honest, right now, it’s hard for me to read the words of the refrain without weeping. “God will raise you up on eagle’s wings, bear you on the breath of dawn, make you to shine like the sun and hold you in the palm of God’s hand.” There’s not been a time that I can remember when I’ve felt the need to be held in the palm of God’s hand as much as right now.

The devastation of so many peoples lives, health, income, businesses, and welfare is beyond my comprehension. We’ve never needed the comfort offered in this text more than we do right now. Most of the time I’ve experienced God’s hand by joining together with the body of Christ and yet the healthiest thing we can do for now is keep our physical distance. This is counter intuitive and very hard for most of us.

It has helped to think about practicing the medicine of physical separation from one another for a time as an act of Holy Distancing. I’ve found just a kernel of hope in the thought that by keeping space from others for a while can be an act of love which might allow God to do God’s work without interference. This goes against my natural desire to rush in and fix things, my instinct to kiss away the hurt. To keep my distance when I’m in pain isn’t usually the right thing to do but this time around it may be the primary thing to save us.

We don’t have to be undone by this remedy. There are ways we can continue to care for one another and strengthen our bonds in the midst of this crisis. It takes a little creativity and problem solving but we can continue to reach out to one another through prayer, phone calls, texts and e-mails to help hold one another up and strengthen the body of Christ. Our Divine Creator made each of us in the image of God as creatures who hold inherent creativity. Let’s exercise this gift and strengthen our community by seeking new ways of connection during this time of distancing that God’s love may continue and grow when we need it most.

Grace

Since our March gathering was cancelled, we will reschedule New Harmony Handful at a later date. And since the “Stay at Home” order will still be in effect, we also will NOT have OWLS on April 15th.

But, we are still holding out hope that by May 20th, we will be able once again to gather together for a good meal and fellowship together. And, we have a special treat to look forward to! The violinist extraordinaire, Jennifer Mitchell will perform for us! We have been fortunate to have Jennifer play at some of our worship services. Here is a little more about Jennifer in her own words: I LOVE to play my violin for anyone who will listen. I am looking forward to playing for the OWLS. You will be serenaded with a program of violin music including genres such as: classical, Disney tunes, folksongs, gospel, movie themes, patriotic, pop, show tunes, swing, and traditional church music favorites. I will also provide a lyrics sheet so you may “Sing Along with MITCH”.

I travel with an iPad, iPod and Bluetooth speaker that allow me to play all types of music with beautiful piano, chamber music or full orchestral accompaniments. Not quite as fun for me as playing with Linda – but she’s a busy gal!

Just a little about me…I play the violin in the Kansas City Civic Orchestra (KCCO) and lead their educational outreach program. I taught elementary strings in the Shawnee Mission School District for 36 years. Since retiring in 2015, I volunteer to perform solo violin programs for seniors at six assisted living facilities and also engage in elementary school outreach by performing in schools and libraries throughout the Greater Kansas City Area. Rather proud we have performed for over 11,000 students thus far.

I have been married to David for 44 years. We have two handsome sons, and three beautiful grandsons. Life is GREAT!!!
Holy Week Services
This year, BRPC will offer three different Holy Week Meditations on Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday. These will be posted on our website just like the Sunday services.

Online Coffee Fellowship
BRPC will gather online every Sunday at noon for Coffee Fellowship! We will use the Zoom application to get together. You may join us from your computer, tablet, or smart phone by clicking this link: <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/801765302>.

Or, if you’d like to call in by phone, you may call 312-626-6799 and enter the Meeting ID “801 765 302“.

Committee Meetings
If you are a Committee Moderator and would like for your folks to meet digitally, please let Pastor Elizabeth know. She will set up a Zoom meeting for you and then give you a Zoom orientation!

Facebook
Since we are apart, we will be leaning much more heavily on social media! If you aren’t already “friends” with us on Facebook, connect with us at <https://www.facebook.com/brpcraytown>!

Ask Me Anything: Want to get to know your new pastor? Pastor Elizabeth will be on Facebook Live every Tuesday for the foreseeable future and will invite you to “Ask Me Anything.” She respond to as many questions as possible – personal, professional, theological, etc! Please call in or email your questions to Pastor Elizabeth or Karen Argo.

Church Closure Update
Due to stay-at-home regulations from Jackson County, BRPC will remain closed to the public through at least May 15. We will continue to follow County restrictions for the good of our community’s health.

This, unfortunately, includes worship, weddings, funerals, and all meetings.

Funerals
Unfortunately our stay-at-home orders do not allow us to celebrate Funeral Services together at this time. Please don’t worry. Should a funeral be necessary for your family, our church will remain in prayer for you and we will schedule a Funeral or Memorial Service as soon as possible after, please don’t hesitate to contact Pastor Elizabeth.
What if we woke up today with only the things we thanked God for yesterday?

Spring Cleaning!?

Save the “good stuff” for the Annual Rummage Sale June 10-13, 2020 Items can be brought to church beginning May 19th

We will NOT be accepting clothing this year
A BIG THANK YOU TO LARRY

EASTER 2019

YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL WITH CARLA

BIBLE STUDY

ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION OF ELDERS AND DEACONS 2018
Blue Ridge Presbyterian Church
6429 Blue Ridge Blvd.
PO BOX 16536
Raytown, MO 64133
Phone: 816 353-2296
office@brpcraytown.org
Website: www.brpcraytown.org

In God We Trust

April 2020

The Mission of BRPC is to
- **Proclaim** the Good News of Jesus Christ;
- **Worship God** with reverence, warmth and joy;
- **Nourish faith and discipleship** through prayer, fellowship, giving, study and service;
- **Work** for justice and peace; and
- **Share the love of Christ** with the community and the world.

BRPC Staff

Pastor: Elizabeth Meador Strobel  (816) 377-9411
email: elmstrobel@gmail.com

Office Manager: Karen Argo
email: office@brpcraytown.org

Director of Music: Grace Cox-Johnson
email: fuscia567@gmail.com

Organist: Linda Mann
email: themanns@manneco.com

Nursery Supervisor: Kerri McCorkle
email: ryleedog2009@gmail.com

We're a Matthew 25  
church  
pcusa.org/matthew25