



Stockbridge Presbyterian Church
4740 N. Henry Blvd., Stockbridge, GA 30281
770-474-7777

The Church At The Bridge



Our own Janna Szeto was recently featured in the Henry Herald for her role in organizing a very successful food drive. Janna is the Partner Relations Manager for Visit Henry County, GA. She recognized early how much hospitality employees, not just businesses, would be affected by the pandemic shut down.

She worked with the partners of their organization to organize and develop "The Help for Hospitality Food Drive", which kicked off on April 14. Since that date more than 4,800 pounds of non-perishable food has been collected. An incredible example of being the church!

The food has been given to the Helping in His Name Ministry to be distributed to Henry County residents who are or were employed by a hospitality business. Appointments to pick a food box can be made through Connecting Henry at 770-288-6230.

Thanks be to God for Janna's good work!

Blessing for a Face Mask

By Mary Luti, Emerge: Blessings & Rituals for Unsheltering

God of health and wholeness,
of neighbor love and kindness,
bless this mask, my slight shield,
against great ills:

Bless the fabric that repels the drops,
the ties that go behind my ears,
the wire that fits snug against my nose,
the folds that cup my chin.

Make me grateful for my mask
even when it makes me hot,
even when I look funny in it,
even when I'm dying to take it off.

Bless me also, and everyone
who for their own or others' sakes
put on this holy inconvenience every day,
our minds made up to love.

Prayer Partners of SPC:

Thank you for your faithfulness in keeping me in your prayers. The many notes from your group did lift my spirits and refresh my heart!

I finished my treatments in April and I look forward to good health!

With Christian love,
Susan Williams

Rev. Betsy Turner, Interim Pastor

Dear Stockbridge family,

By now, you should have received word – by email, on Facebook, and/or from a Session member – that SPC will continue to be a church apart at least through August.

We know that's not what you want to hear, because it's not the news any of us wanted. We long to be together. The time is stretching out and blurring together. Tuesday feels like Thursday, March seems like forever ago but we also can't believe it's already July, and I anticipate July 4th this weekend won't feel like much of holiday but just another day in the long monotony of isolation. Some of us are lonely and bored, others exhausted and overwhelmed, some more calm and others more anxious. But we are in this struggle together.

I am reminded of the Israelites in the wilderness. You'll recall that they spent 40 years between Egypt and the Promised Land. And do you know what they did during that time? It was a time of discomfort and stress, no small amount of griping and complaining, quite a bit of learning and discerning, and a lot of growing together as a community of faith. And do you know what God did during those forty years? God stuck with them. God responded to their complaints with generosity – feeding them with manna and quails, enough for each day. God empowered the people – giving them commandments and faithful leaders and much grace. God taught them about gratitude and hope and patience. And God never, ever left their side. In fact, God was so faithful that the scripture tells us that "The clothes on [their] back did not wear out and [their] feet did not swell these forty years." Think about that and what it tells us about God's faithfulness!

This feels like a wilderness time to me. It's hard, and longer than we would like. We would like to go ahead and be in the Promised Land of whatever the new normal will be. We too know about discomfort and stress, griping and complaining, learning and discerning, and growing together. It's unsettling to be waiting and wandering, through the unknown path of Covid-19 and through the well-worn paths of racism and injustice. We are seeking to be faithful in this time, and we have no road map for how – we're figuring it out, in fits and starts, as we go along.

Your leaders are hard at work coming up with new ways we can connect while apart. We invite your input of what you would like to see and what would keep your proverbial clothes from wearing out and your feet from swelling. I remain ever grateful for your generosity to the church, one another, and the community at large. And most of all, I am grateful for God, who "has brought us thus far on the way" and "keeps us forever in the path, we pray."

Stay in, stay in touch, and stay generous,

Betsy Turner

Session Report

Special Meeting - May 17, 2020

Rev. Turner stated the reason for the meeting was to address issues that affect Stockbridge Presbyterian Church caused by the coronavirus pandemic.

New Business

Gathering for worship – The Session approved cancelling all activities in the church facilities from 6/1/2020 until 7/1/2020. The Session appointed Arlene Lathrop, Gene Ingram and Stephanie Phillips Ayoola to a task force to develop a plan to reopen SPC. The task force will consist of 5 members. Betsy will contact Jack Shedd, Betsy Sierra, Sue Scheer and Jeffrey Cochran to see if they are interested in filling the remaining 2 positions on the task force. Jim Beisner will act as recorder for the task force and Betsy will act as an advisor.

The Session discussed the financial condition of the church and the April 2020 financial statement.

Jim provided an update on the application for a loan through the Paycheck Protection Program. The church received approval of the loan request and \$24,400 was placed in the general fund on 5/11/2020. The next action will be asking for loan forgiveness once the funds are expended.

Gene provided an update to the repairs to the church facilities that were approved by the Session in February 2020.

Aaron reported on the church's digital presence moving into the phasing in of activities in the future. The Discipleship Committee did not meet but Aaron did some initial research on cost for equipment which he feels will be nominal. The Discipleship Committee will meet and provide an update at the next session meeting.

Session Business – The Session decided to have a called meeting via video conference on Sunday 6/7/2020 at 3:00 pm to discuss additional actions as dictated by the situation concerning coronavirus.

The reason for the meeting having been accomplished, Rev. Betsy Turner closed the meeting with prayer.



Jul 1	Amy Roberts
Jul 10	Krimson Mani
Jul 10	Jo Price
Jul 14	Paul Szeto
Jul 15	Carolyn Francis
Jul 18	Abigail Newsome
Jul 18	Mary Thompson
Jul 19	Piet Huggins
Jul 20	Carol Abbott
Jul 24	Darin Clipper
Jul 25	Mike Seal

Piedmont HEALTHCARE
We have been asked by the chaplaincy department at Piedmont Henry to remind you that it is safe to go to the hospital. They have seen cases of people delaying going to the hospital or avoiding it altogether when having chest pains or other concerning symptoms, because of fear of Covid-19. Please be assured that the Piedmont Henry (along with other hospitals) is following CDC guidelines for sanitation and hygiene, and it is safe to go there to receive care should you need it. As always, if you are sick, please let us know so that we can check on you and be in prayer for your healing and comfort.

a word from ... Ward

Temporarily, but maybe for an extended time, we will not be singing for health reasons. We can manage. Fortunately, we have folks who can do other things like bells, violin, keyboards, etc. But we will need people to step up to play whatever instruments we are talking about. This is already being studied and people are being contacted. We have the time to work things out. Are we up to the challenges? Time will tell. If I were a betting person, I would say that we definitely are. Meanwhile, it is up to all of us to show our love in a different way: by NOT shaking hands, or hugging, etc. Please, wear your mask. That's a new and important way to prepare and show love too.



We continue to be so thankful for your tithes and offerings during this time. There are several ways to continue your giving, even when we are not meeting in the church building.

- ◆ On-line giving. Click the Give Now link below and then follow the steps.



- ◆ If you have bill pay set up through your bank, you can add Stockbridge Presbyterian as a vendor/organization. Usually, there are options to send a one time payment, or even to set up recurring automatic payments.
- ◆ Mail your check directly to the church.

Stockbridge Presbyterian Church
4740 N. Henry Blvd.
Stockbridge, GA 30281



Our Women's Bible Study continues every Thursday morning using conference calling. If you would like to join in, please contact Rev. Betsy Turner or the church office for the dial-in information.

THE SPC SESSION

Jim Beisner, Clerk of Session

- | | |
|---------------------|--------------------------------|
| Discipleship | Witness |
| Aaron Roberts (20) | Stephanie Phillips Ayoola (20) |
| Paul Szeto (21) | Arlene Lathrop (22) |
| Terry Holmes (21) | Lee Hart (22) |

Resources
Gene Ingram (21)
Kim Seal (20)