



**Stockbridge Presbyterian Church**

4740 N. Henry Blvd., Stockbridge, GA 30281  
www.spcusa.org 770-474-7777

Rev. Betsy Turner, Interim Pastor

**The Church At The Bridge**

Friends,  
This season has given us many opportunities to try new ways of worship and fellowship – as you can plainly tell from the newsletter, which is full of examples of how we continue to connect while apart. In September, we will try something else new – communion and congregational meeting via Zoom! Mark your calendars for **September 20 at 11:00 am**.

First, we will share a worship experience on Zoom, centered around the Lord's Supper. You will be getting more information about how communion will work, but for now, know that this is authorized by the Presbyterian Church and our Stockbridge Session, and that you don't need anything special to participate – just whatever bread/crackers and wine/juice/liquid you have on hand. I will preside, and you can serve yourselves where you are. I have participated in services like this with other churches a couple of times in recent months, and I'm so excited to share this new, yet holy, experience with you!

Then, right afterward, we will hold a congregational meeting to tend to the following church business:

1. Edit church by-laws to officially allow electronic meetings
2. Elect an Officer Nominating Committee. The slate is Jeffrey Cochran, Stephanie Phillips-Ayoola (chair), Laura Richardson, and Linda Roberts.

If you will not attend but have an objection, please contact Jim Beisner, Clerk of Session.

All of this will happen on Zoom at 11:00 am on September 20. It will be different than what we are used to, but what matters is that we show up – the Holy Spirit will do the rest!

Friends, we are living in an unusual time, full of hard challenges – but also wonderful opportunities to be the church in fresh, new ways. I'm particularly thankful to those who have stepped out of their comfort zone and made the effort to connect in ways we could not have imagined just a few months ago – you are worshipping online, teleconferencing, Zooming, doing virtual fellowship, praying through screens, and now will partake of the sacrament of communion and the business of the church in a way you've never done before. Even though it feels strange, the Spirit is moving among us. As much as I long for this time to be over, I'm also excited about the ways God is using this time to push us and to expand our vision of what it means to be the church.

I hope to see you on September 20, and connect with you in many other ways before then.

Peace,  
Betsy

Zoom information for communion and congregational meeting on September 20 at 11:00am: check email or contact Betsy for the Zoom information for this meeting.

\*\*As always, if you need help or training with how to use Zoom, let Betsy or your elder know. We are happy to help you connect!

**Communion and Congregational Meeting**  
**September 20, 2020 – 11:00 am**

via Zoom (join by video conference or dial in by phone)  
See Betsy's column and forthcoming emails for more info!

**JOSEPH'S PANTRY** We have a urgent need for the following items for Joseph's Pantry:

**Oatmeal, Grits, Pasta, Pasta sauce, Jelly, and Peanut butter**

Don't make an extra trip to the store, but if you're placing an order or going on a safe grocery run, please consider picking up some of these items.  
You can drop these items by the church, Monday - Thursday between 9 - 1pm. Or, if you need contactless pickup, let Linda or Betsy know, and we will work with the Witness Committee to arrange to get your items. Thank you for your generosity!

*a word from ...* **Ward**

Dear Friends,  
The way things are going, we have had to quickly learn how to work "outside of the proverbial box." In order to do so, I have had to "home-school" myself these past weeks on virtual recording production, the kind you may have seen on the internet. I am doing so in order to facilitate our online Sunday morning worship service.  
Our current task will be to give everyone an opportunity to record themselves saying the Lord's Prayer as we do in unison in church every Sunday morning. This is not just for choir members - all are welcome! All you need is: a computer with headphones or earbuds, and a smartphone or other device with a voice recorder app (Voice memos on iPhone and similar on other smartphones/devices). While you listen along with the guide track from your computer through the headphones (which prevents sound bleed) you will record yourself saying the Lord's Prayer on your cell phone. Then, save your recording and either email it to me at wardgaileyiii@gmail.com or text it to 678-414-7381.  
Confused? Call me - I am happy to work with you! We know not everyone will want or be able to participate in this, but I hope many will try... and the rest of you will pray for our success. Once we do the Lord's Prayer, I hope to have folks actually sing the Doxology together using the same procedure. All of these recordings will be submitted to Betsy for use in our recorded worship services.  
Please let me know if you are interested or have questions. Guide tracks will be forthcoming!

**PASTOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE**  
Our PNC is meeting on a regular bases via Zoom. We continue to look and review multiple PIFs/resumes and discern each one for a possible candidate for SPC. Please be in prayer for us. The pandemic has certainly made it more challenging, but we are still hard at work. Thanks for all your support!

**SUNDAY SCHOOL**  
Adult Sunday school is up and running – every Sunday morning at 10:00 am. We've had around a dozen participants each week so far, and it's been wonderful to see each other again! Plus, we've enjoyed great lessons connecting our faith and scripture with current events. Whether you have been part of one of our Sunday school classes in the past or not, this is a great time to get involved!  
Zoom information: check email or contact Betsy for the Zoom information for this meeting.

**FELLOWSHIP**  
JOIN US for fellowship and fun each Wednesday night - 7:00 pm for kids, and 7:30 pm for church-wide fellowship!  
Zoom information: check email or contact Betsy for the Zoom information for this meeting.

**LET'S TALK**  
Let's Talk, our conversation about race and racism, is going well - thanks to those engaging in this important topic. We've decided to continue meeting by Zoom every other Thursday evening (September 10, 24) at 7:30 pm, and engaging the works of various authors.  
Email StockbridgeInterim@gmail.com or call the church office if you want to join this group!

|                        |                        |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| Sep 4 Tami Pass        | Sep 21 Alisa Newsome   |
| Sep 4 Bryan Wharton    | Sep 21 Lin Gailey      |
| Sep 6 Richard Maccombe | Sep 23 Christina Pratt |
| Sep 6 Linda Roberts    | Sep 24 Mike Bailey     |
| Sep 11 Vivian Maccombe | Sep 26 Noah Clipper    |
| Sep 11 James Rutledge  | Sep 26 Jason Stanley   |
| Sep 12 Sue Scheer      | Sep 29 Sara Moseley    |
| Sep 13 Ron Scheer      | Sep 30 Gene Ingram     |
| Sep 14 Tom Francis     | Sep 30 Cathy Wegner    |
| Sep 15 Gabriel Newsome |                        |

**WAYS TO GIVE** We continue to be so thankful for your tithes and offerings during this time. There are different ways to give. You can visit our website at www.spcusa.org and click on Give at the top of the page. You can also mail it to the church or drop it by the office Monday-Thursday 9 - 1 pm.  
If you have given online, you probably got a notice about Blackbaud's security breach. We addressed this in an email from Betsy dated August 11th, but the main thing is that the most sensitive information seems not to have been compromised, and we have confidence in continuing to use this giving platform.

**THE SPC SESSION**  
Jim Beisner, Clerk of Session

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| <b>Discipleship</b><br>Aaron Roberts (20)<br>Paul Szeto (21)<br>Terry Holmes (21) | <b>Witness</b><br>Stephanie Phillips Ayoola (20)<br>Arlene Lathrop (22)<br>Lee Hart (22) |
| <b>Resources</b><br>Gene Ingram (21)<br>Kim Seal (20)                             |  |

**Session Report**

**Special Meeting - July 19, 2020**

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

**Committee Reports**

**Resources:** Kim discussed the financial condition of the church through the month of June 2020. Expenses again exceeded gifts for June. Kim updated the Session on July revenue of \$12,854.08 through 7/15/2020. The Session approved closing the Building Fund account and moving the balance to an account in the Mission Fund.

**Discipleship:** The committee met and discussed ways to connect with the congregation using Zoom technology. Ideas included using Zoom for Sunday School and possibly Children's Church. The committee also discussed a one-time event around discussions on race relations. Aaron reported the Discipleship Committee is looking at the church's digital presence moving into phase in of activities and the future. He also stated the committee is exploring involving other individuals in the weekly on-line worship service. They are also exploring editing software that is needed to produce the weekly service.

**Witness:** The committee met and discussed ways to do mission with the Henry County schools we support through Goodness and Groceries. They also discussed conducting a drive through event at the church where groceries and school supplies can be dropped off. There are difficulties in contacting the schools to identify their needs.

Kim discussed this year's performance evaluation process. Evaluations must be completed by 8/31/2020. Zoom will be made available to conduct the reviews.

Jim provided an update on the loan forgiveness application for the Paycheck Protection Program. Ameris Bank is developing an on-line application that will speed up the loan forgiveness process which has not yet been published.

Betsy lead a discussion on the Elder nominating process for 2020. Stephanie will chair the committee with Kim providing guidance and support as needed. Betsy asked for the Session to think about how we can conduct an election of Elders remotely. She is checking with presbytery on suggested ways to hold a congregation meeting.

**Gathering for worship** - The task force is looking into items o be purchased for cleaning and sanitizing the church facilities when we move into Phase 3a. It was determined that further research on availability and cost of these supplies needs to be done before the next meeting.

**PNC** - Aaron and Kim provided an update on the PNC's progress in finding our next full-time pastor. The PNC is meeting every other week. They are still reviewing candidate PIF's. Kim mentioned they have reviewed 131 PIF's so far.

Betsy reopened a discussion on serving communion. She wants the Session to continue to think about ways communion can be served during the time we cannot gather as a congregation. Discipleship will take this up at their next meeting.

Arlene and Terry were elected to serve as commissioners for the Special Presbytery meeting on 9/15/2020.

**Session Business**

The Session decided to have a called meeting via video conference on Sunday 8/9/2020 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.

SPC SPOTLIGHT