

NOVEMBER 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 All Saints' Day Service Recorded Worship Drive through Giving 11 - 1:00 pm	2	3	4 7:00 pm Kid's Fellowship 7:30 pm Churchwide Fellowship via Zoom	5 7:30 pm Let's Talk via Zoom	6	7
8 10:00 am Adult SS, via Zoom Recorded Worship	9	10	11 Happy Veterans' Day! 7:00 pm Kid's Fellowship 7:30 pm Churchwide Fellowship via Zoom	12	13	14
15 10:00 am Adult SS, via Zoom Recorded Worship	16	17	18 7:00 pm Kid's Fellowship 7:30 pm Churchwide Fellowship via Zoom	19 7:30 pm Let's Talk via Zoom	20	21
22 10:00 am Adult SS, via Zoom 11:00 am Live Worship with Communion	23	24	25 No Zoom Activities Office Closed	26 Happy Thanksgiving!! Office Closed	27	28
29 10:00 am Adult SS Recorded Worship Advent Drive-through Event 11 - 1 pm	30					

SPC SPOTLIGHT

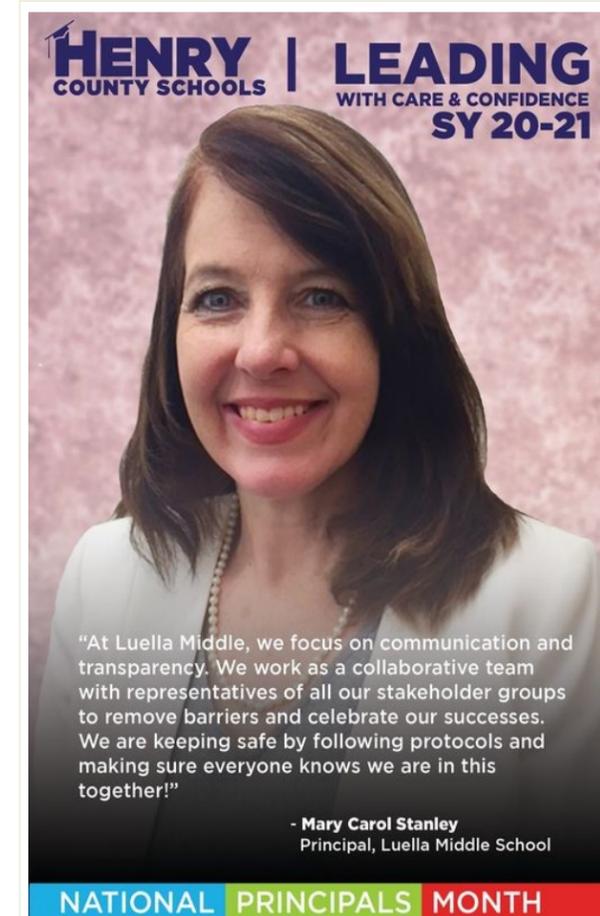
The Church At The Bridge

Friends,

I am writing this in the final week before our national election, and you will receive it around Election Day. I don't know what the outcome will be, but like most of us (I suspect), I'm very ready for it to be over and decided, one way or the other. I'm deeply aware that, whichever way any of the races go, there will be very different reactions – those who will feel happy and sad, disappointed and excited, hopeful and despairing. So what shall we do once the results of this election are known? Here are a few of my thoughts:

1. We stick to our identity as followers of Christ. No matter who sits in the Oval Office or in any other political office, our prime allegiance is to God made known to us in Christ Jesus, and the proclamation of God's coming kingdom.
2. We get to work. That kingdom God promises is one of peace, mercy, justice, and love, so regardless of other circumstances, we continue our pursuit of those things. We will continue being neighborly, serving others, and building the world God desires, a just and generous world. In the words of the prophet, "do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God." In the words of Christ, "whatever you do to the least of these, you do unto me."
3. We do not despair. Yes, we are all allowed our own opinions and emotions. Yes, depending on how the election goes, there may be very real fears and concerns that we carry with us. But our confidence in a good and gracious God means we are not called to a state of despair. We are to live in, and operate out of, HOPE. This is not something we manufacture, but it's a gift of the Holy Spirit.
4. We are kind. The world doesn't need any more divisive language, aggression (or passive aggression), dishonesty, or hateful talk. And those things are not of Christ. In fact, they go directly against the hospitality and love that Christ preached and practiced. So, it's not enough for us to just lament or denounce or roll our eyes at the harmful and toxic rhetoric out there – we have to do better and be better! In the name of Jesus, we should model a better, kinder way. We do that by being open and honest, checking our sources and sticking to what is factual and true, refraining from mean language, looking for common ground, and really listening to and having empathy for our friends, and even our enemies, and especially for those who are most vulnerable.
5. We practice gratitude. I've always thought it was a lovely coincidence that just a few weeks after November elections is our holiday of Thanksgiving. It's a reminder that whatever happens, even in a really hard year like this one, there is something life-giving about a posture of gratitude. So we give thanks. Maybe you could stop right here and now and think of 10 things you are thankful for:

➤ _____ ➤ _____
 ➤ _____ ➤ _____
 ➤ _____ ➤ _____
 ➤ _____ ➤ _____
 ➤ _____ ➤ _____



Congratulations to Mary Carol Stanley! She was featured by the Henry County Board of Education for her leadership as Luella Middle School principal. We are extremely honor to have Mary Carol as part of our SPC Family!

(Betsy's article continued)

In fact, maybe we could start listing 10 things to be grateful for every day: 10 relationships, 10 necessities, 10 luxuries, 10 foods, 10 Bible verses, 10 gifts you've received, 10 simple joys, 10 artists whose work you enjoy, 10 memories, 10 teachers who shaped you, 10 things about someone you love... and on and on. Once we get going, maybe we could even practice empathy and Christ-like living by challenging ourselves to list 10 things we're grateful for in this difficult year, or in the other political party. It would be wonderful to try doing that for the whole month of November and beyond. I think I'll start by giving thanks to God for each of you, and the joy of serving as your pastor.

Peace,

Betsy

Nov 8 Gene Park
 Nov 9 Sally Smith
 Nov 10 Carrie Keller
 Nov 14 E.G. Mani
 Nov 14 Diana Taylor
 Nov 17 Aaron Roberts
 Nov 20 Bettye Cochran
 Nov 27 Michael Bennett
 Nov 27 Justin Palmer

THE SPC SESSION
 Jim Beisner, Clerk of Session

Discipleship
 Aaron Roberts (20)
 Paul Szeto (21)
 Terry Holmes (21)

Witness
 Stephanie Phillips Ayoola (20)
 Arlene Lathrop (22)
 Lee Hart (22)

Resources
 Gene Ingram (21)
 Kim Seal (20)



November 1	All Saints Sunday Recorded Worship Philippian 1:6, 3:12-14 "Always Being Reformed...Toward More Perfect"
November 8	32nd Ordinary Recorded Worship Guest Preacher: Jesus Matthew 5-7 Sermon on the Mount
November 15	33rd Ordinary Recorded Worship Matthew 25:14-30 "Entrusted"
November 22	Christ the King Sunday Live Worship with communion, via Zoom (livestreamed to Facebook and recording available afterward)
November 29	1st Sunday of Advent Recorded Worship

Coat Closet



The weather is turning colder, so we are now collecting long sleeve shirts, small blankets, socks, scarves, gloves for the Coat Closet. Items can be dropped by the church office Monday-Thursday, 9 - 1 pm.

LET'S TALK

For the month of November, our Let's Talk conversation about race and racism will be meeting every other Thursday - November 5 & 19 at 7:30 pm. Please email Stockbridgeinterim@gmail.com or call the church office if you would like to join this group.

JOSEPH'S PANTRY

Joseph's Pantry needs:

Canned Peas
Canned Potatoes

We are so grateful for all the donations given to Joseph's Pantry, and at present our selves are stocked. This is due to your tremendous generosity. We continue to make appointment and serve Henry County residents. The two items listed above are the only things we are low on at this time.

Ways to give during Covid. Give on-line, below is a link to donate to SPC. You can also mail your checks to the church or drop it by the office Monday-Thursday 9 - 1 pm. Thank you!



A Word from Ward

Dear Friends,

My first full time job out of grad school was as a full-time minister of music in a Baptist church in Columbus, GA. I never did another full-time or a Baptist post, but continued to work part-time at Methodist and Presbyterian churches and even the synagogues in Columbus and Atlanta. One day long ago, a certain parishioner at the aforementioned church was asked by a rather nosey minister's wife: "Where have you been lately, Jean?" After which, Jean said: "Well, Betty, even the devil sometimes takes a holiday!"

And that's what Lin and I did this past last Sunday through Wednesday of October. (Not that we're devils.) We went to the mountains, specifically Highlands, NC to get some rest, restoration, and to see the leaves. We were also fortunate thrice.

First, leading up to the last day, I lost our room key somewhere in Highlands village. Fortunately, a good Samaritan found it and returned it to our landlord so we had a place to sleep the final night. Secondly, we left just in time to miss hurricane Zeta. Our blessings continued on Thursday, the day that tropical storm Zeta came through our area. Fortunately, no tree or house damage occurred. I'd say we are blessed!

So now we are "back in the saddle." My first order of business is to send everyone an email with a plea to all who are able and willing to submit a recording of themselves singing the Doxology. Let me know if you have any questions.

 We would love to have you join us! Our Adult Sunday school is meeting via Zoom every Sunday morning at 10:00 am.

Zoom information:

Check email or contact Betsy for the Zoom information for this meeting.

 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.

*"If comparison is the thief of joy,
then Lord, help me to not compare my life today
to my life 6 months ago.
Help me find the joy in THIS life,
and in THIS day and to know that it is from you,
and it is enough."*

Nadia Bolz-Weber

thankful



This event will have the same procedure as on 11/1. You will pull in on Burke St, be greeted by volunteers and your pastor. You'll drop off items for food pantry, coat closet, items for the "Fuzzy Tree" and church offerings. PLUS receive a special bag of Advent/Christmas goodies. For this event, we require everyone to wear a mask correctly (over mouth and nose), and to stay in their car.

Thornwell Home for Children "Fuzzy Tree"

Things may be a little different this year but one thing never changes and that's the commitment of SPC to our ministries. We will again be collecting items for boys and girls, 0 - 18 years old, including clothes, sleepwear, and outerwear, such as gloves, hats, and scarves. Monetary donations are also appreciated. You can drop off your items at the Drive-Through Event on Sunday, November 29 or at the church office. Thornwell Home and School for Children is a mission of the Presbyterian Church, located in Clinton, SC.



Virtual Visit to the Sanctuary

There's a new feature on our church website: a 15 minute "virtual visit to the sanctuary." You can access this easily by clicking the big blue "SPC Sanctuary" button on the front page of the website, or directly by using this link: <http://spcusa.org/spc-sanctuary/> Turn your volume on to listen to hymns, or mute to sit in silence. We hope this will allow you some holy time in holy space through the gift of technology. Many thanks to Betsy's husband Ian for putting this together. And stay tuned for an Advent/Christmas version coming in the weeks ahead.

Session Report

Special Meeting - September 20, 2020

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

The Session approved the following minutes of previous called meetings: 8/30/2020

Kim led a discussion on formulating the 2021 operating budget. Each committee submitted their budget requirements. Kim will prepare the budget for approval at the next Session meeting.

Committee Reports

Resources: No actions or recommendations.
Discipleship: No actions or recommendations.
Witness: No actions or recommendations.

No new information on preparing the loan forgiveness submission for the Paycheck Protection Program.

The congregation approved the Elder Nominating Committee consisting of Jeffrey Cochran, Linda Roberts, Laura Richardson and Stephanie Phillips Ayoola at the congregational meeting.

Gathering for Worship

The Session approved to cancel all activities in the church facilities from 10/1/2020 to 11/1/2020.

Aaron provided an update on the PNC's progress in finding our next full-time pastor. The PNC is meeting every other week. Paul is hoping to start recording at the church this upcoming week.

Betsy asked the Session how they felt about the communion service held earlier in the day. All agreed it was meaningful and should be continued.

Betsy updated the Session on the conversation on race discussions, adult Sunday School and Kid's Bible Study.

Betsy informed the Session that she has been called to perform duties on the Federal Grand Jury. Her commitment is 2 to 3 days in 1 week every month until her term is completed. The Session discussed holding a communion service at the end of the week Betsy must perform jury duty instead of having her prepare for weekly recorded message.

The Session approved Rev. Turner's interim minister contract for the period of 11/19/2020 to 5/18/2021.

The Session approved applying for a Virtual and Vital Technology Grant from Presbytery. The request is for \$1,000 to purchase video recording equipment.

The Session had a short discussion on how to conduct the Christmas Basket program during the pandemic. Aaron will work with Witness on options for the program.

The Session approved serving communion on Sunday 10/25/2020.

Session Business

The Session decided to have a called meeting via video conference on Sunday 10/11/2020 at 3:00 pm to discuss additional actions as dictated by the situation concerning coronavirus.

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