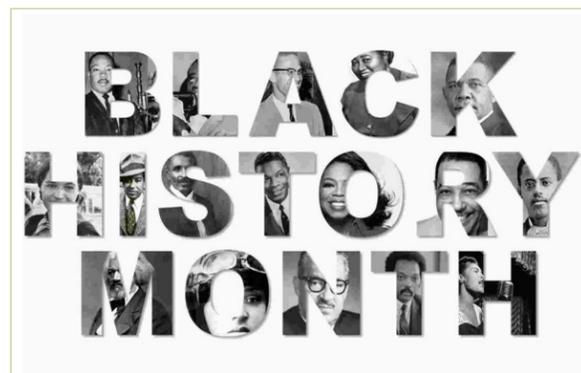


FEBRUARY 2021

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|-----|-----|---|---|-----|-----|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 7:00 pm Kid's Fellowship 7:30 pm Churchwide Fellowship via Zoom | 4 10:00 am Women's Bible Study | 5 | 6 |
| 7 10:00 am Adult SS, via Zoom Recorded Worship | 8 | 9 | 10 7:00 pm Kid's Fellowship 7:30 pm Churchwide Fellowship via Zoom | 11 10:00 am Women's Bible Study 7:30 pm Let's Talk via Zoom | 12 | 13 |
| 14 Drive Through Event 11-1 pm Recorded Worship | 15 | 16 | 17 Ash Wednesday 7:00 pm Kid's Fellowship 7:30 pm Churchwide Fellowship via Zoom | 18 10:00 am Women's Bible Study | 19 | 20 |
| 21 10:00 am Adult SS, via Zoom 11:00 am Live Worship with Communion | 22 | 23 | 24 7:00 pm Kid's Fellowship 7:30 pm Churchwide Fellowship via Zoom | 25 10:00 am Women's Bible Study 7:30 pm Let's Talk via Zoom | 26 | 27 |
| 28 10:00 am Adult SS, via Zoom Recorded Worship | | | | | | |

The Church At The Bridge



Friends,

In addition to Valentine's Day, and the start of Lent, there is another important happening during February: Black History Month! This celebration was begun by Carter G. Woodson, who noted that African Americans were underrepresented in culture and in the teaching of history. Woodson's organization Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History (ASALH) and his fraternity Omega Psi Phi together advocated for a "Negro Achievement Week," begun in 1924. It became "Negro History Week" in 1926, and eventually evolved to the month-long celebration we know today. February was selected to coincide with the birthdays of Frederick Douglass (noted African-American abolitionist and orator) and Abraham Lincoln (16th U.S. President and signer of the Emancipation Proclamation). In 1976, President Gerald Ford made it official, declaring February Black History Month and calling on Americans to "seize the opportunity to honor the too-often neglected accomplishments of Black Americans in every area of endeavor throughout our history."

Black History Month is not just for those who identify as black – it's for all of us to learn and engage with our shared history, by focusing on parts of history and culture that have been and often still are overlooked, vilified, relegated, or tokenized. So, here are a few ideas of how we all might mark Black History Month:

-In addition to well-known black historical figures such as MLK and John Lewis, learn about someone less well known, such as Bayard Rustin who helped organize the 1963 March on Washington, Claudette Colvin who refused to sit in the back of the bus (9 months before Rosa Parks did the same!), Bessie Coleman (the world's first licensed black pilot), Jane Bolin (first black student at Yale Law and first Black female judge in the U.S.), or Benjamin O. Davis, Sr. (the first black general in the U.S. military).

-Read a classic of African American literature: The Color Purple by Alice Walker, Roots by Alex Haley, or Their Eyes Were Watching God by Zora Neale Hurston.

Rev. Betsy Turner, Interim Pastor

-...or an African American memoir: I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings by Maya Angelou, The Color of Water by James McBride, or The Beautiful Struggle by Ta-Nehesi Coates.
 -...or an African American author in your genre of choice: try Attica Locke in thrillers, Alexia Gordon in mystery, and Selena Montgomery or Beverly Jenkins in romance.
 -Enjoy black poetry by Phyllis Wheatley, Gwendolyn Brooks, Lucille Clifton, or Langston Hughes.
 -Make an effort to seek out and support black-owned businesses both online and in your community (check out webuyblack.com, the blacknation.app, or eatokra.com).
 -Choose movies, TV shows, music, and other media made by black creators. You might even consider "blackout" – exclusively and intentionally enjoying only black creators for a time (a weekend, a week, or even all month!).
 -Reach out to a black neighbor or church friend.
 -With so many churches online, it's a great time to seek out a sermon by a black preacher – may I suggest my colleague Rev. Bridgette Hector-Mabote at New Life Presbyterian (newlifepresatl.com), Rev. Erik Vance at Floyd Chapel Baptist right here in Stockbridge (floydchapel.org), or perhaps Rev. Dr. Raphael Warnock at Ebenezer Baptist (ebenezeratl.org).
 -Dig into the history of Stockbridge and its fame as the hometown of Martin Luther King, Sr.
 -Join the SPC "Let's Talk" group that meets every other Thursday at 7:30pm on Zoom (the 11th and 25th of this month). This wonderful and diverse group is currently reading Jemar Tisby's book The Color of Compromise, which is all about race throughout American history and the church's complicity in racism. You are welcome to join this honest and challenging conversation.

The whole idea of Black History Month is to amplify Black people's success and share the overlooked achievements of African Americans. One scholar has noted, "it's about taking an unvarnished look at the past so we can create a better future."

And if you are wondering what all of this has to do with church or with our faith, I will remind you of Jesus' cross-cultural ministry, his call for justice especially for those who have been oppressed, and his command that we love our neighbors and proclaim the love of God for all people. The church has a particular role in confessing the sins of racism both past and present, celebrating God's image in all people, and seeking reconciliation. Black History Month is one tool, helping us all to appreciate our diversity, grapple more fully with our history, and engage the stories and experiences of our neighbors.

Peace,

Rev. Betsy Turner

SPC SPOTLIGHT

THE SPC SESSION

Jim Beisner, Clerk of Session

Discipleship

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

Witness

Stephanie Phillips Ayoola (21)
Arlene Lathrop (22)
Lee Hart (22)

Resources

Gene Ingram (21)
Kim Seal (21)



- Feb 4 Jean Bunker
- Feb 4 Sydney Clipper
- Feb 6 Arlene Lathrop
- Feb 6 Maegan Seal
- Feb 13 Jason Howard
- Feb 17 Doug Scott
- Feb 18 Allie Dunn
- Feb 19 Jim Beisner
- Feb 20 Sue Rodgers
- Feb 23 Elora Newsome
- Feb 23 Lucia Turner
- Feb 24 Carol (Turk) Davidson

Opportunities to Worship

- Feb 7 Recorded Worship
- Feb 14 Drive-Through Event - Recorded Worship
- Feb 21 Live Worship with Communion
- Feb 27 Recorded Worship

Recorded worship will be available on the website (spcusa.org), Facebook (Facebook.com/StockbridgePres), or listen by phone at 857-385-7514.



Join us on Sunday, February 21 11:00 am on zoom for a live worship and communion (via computer/device or by calling in by phone, see information below). It will be livestreamed to Facebook and available on our website and call in number afterward. Remember you will be preparing your elements for the communion part of the service.

Please contact the church office or Rev. Betsy Turner (stockbridgeinterim@gmail.com) for Zoom information.

If you have not been able to join us for the monthly worship services on Zoom but would like to receive at-home communion, please contact Betsy Turner (678-642-9810, StockbridgeInterim@gmail.com) and we will arrange a time for a visit by phone to share this sacrament.



Coat Closet

The items needed for the Coat Closet at this time are hats and gloves/mittens. You can drop off your donations at the drive through event on Sunday, February 14 or bring them by the church office Monday-Thursday, 9 - 1 pm. Please call to make sure someone is there.



Items needed for Joseph's Pantry:

- Oatmeal or Grits
- Green Beans
- Pasta Sauce
- Peanut Butter
- Jelly

These items can be dropped off at the church office, Monday - Thursday from 9 - 1pm. (call first to make sure someone is there) Or you can bring them to the drive-through event on Sunday, February 14. Thank you for your support of Joseph's Pantry!



In the past your support in paying the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta per capita was greatly appreciated. The Session is again asking for your support with per capita in 2021 by providing a gift of \$27 per SPC member. Anyone who wishes to offset this cost is of course welcome to do so.



A Word from Ward

All our music will continue to be virtual, of course, and it has proven to be a worthy challenge that we humbly accept. Upcoming, expect to hear Lenten solos by Terry and Greg, as well as Monica Andrea on the violin. Our mixed trio of Linda, Laura, and Jeffrey are already working on a couple of favorites and will be practicing in my home studio soon. If you would like to participate musically, please let me know. We can use technology to teach, rehearse, and record folks of all ages, voices, and instruments.



Drive Through Event Sunday, February 14 from 11-1 pm

We will be collecting items for Joseph's Pantry, the Coat Closet, and our newest ministry—ADOPT, a Partnership with Piedmont Henry to provide coffee supplies, snacks, and treats for OUR Transport Unit.



SPC has ADOPTED the "Transporters" from Piedmont Henry Hospital!

In an effort to show our commitment to serving our community during these uncertain times, SPC has Adopted the Transporter Department from Piedmont Henry Hospital! Our mission is to provide the Transporters (19 employees) with coffee and goodies to get them through their long days. Our first drop-off was on January 5th. We donated a crate of goodies ranging from individually bagged chips, cookies, granola bars and crackers, to chocolate and hard candy. Even a Keurig coffee maker was gifted to the Transporters for their breakroom, along with K-Cups. (They had no coffee available in their breakroom!) The second drop-off was on Friday, January 22. Linda Roberts made the second drop-off and was able to meet the Chaplains from Piedmont Henry Hospital. They said that the Transporters were very happy and felt very appreciated for the work that they do at Piedmont Henry Hospital. The Transporters are an often over-looked group of workers, yet they are very important in the daily operations of the hospital.

The Witness Committee is asking for donations of individually wrapped goodies that are readily available to eat. (No microwave items, etc.) The coffee maker uses the standard K-Cups, so if you would like to donate a box of K-Cups, that would be appreciated, too. (You can get K-Cups of hot chocolate and tea, also.) If you are planning to attend the February 14th Drive-Thru event at Church, you can drop your donations at that time.

Thank you to all for your generous donations to this important Community Outreach Mission!

Sincerely,

The Witness Committee



Hello everyone from your PNC members! We wanted to remind everyone that we are still hard at work trying to find our next pastor. We have not stopped working since the committee was formed. Although Covid-19 has certainly placed some challenges along the way, we still have been hard at work through it all. Much has been done over the last year. We ask for your prayers and patience as we continue this very important work. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to reach out to one of the members. They are: Aaron Roberts, Kim Seal, Paul Szeto, Terry Holmes, and Annetta Harper.

Session Report

Special Meeting - December 6, 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: 11/15/2020

Committee Reports

Resources: Kim reported \$15,038.32 was received in November 2020. Kim discussed having an offering at the Christmas Eve service. Baskets will be placed at the exit where members can place their gifts. Session approved.

Discipleship: Aaron reported on the 11/29/2020 advent drive thru event. Attendance was good along with giving to the coat closet, Joseph's Pantry, and other missions. The committee will start planning on how the Christmas Eve service will be manned for movement and control of attendees.

Witness: Stephanie reported the committee has decided to distribute gift cards to residents of The Mill trailer park. Gift cards will be given to 23 families which will help 69 children. The gift cards will be distributed on 12/12/2020.

The church received information on timing for loan forgiveness applications for the Paycheck Protection Program. Ameris Bank has prioritized the loan application process and will notify SPC when to submit our application.

Stephanie reported the Elder Nominating Committee has two members, Aaron Roberts, and Stephanie Phillips Ayoola, commit to one-year terms. Aaron and Stephanie will be presented for election at the congregation meeting on 12/20/2020.

Gathering for Worship

The Session approved a blanket approval allowing for drive up and drive thru events on church grounds with all necessary safety protocols in place. The task force will revisit this matter at their next meeting paying attention to whether the number of Covid-19 cases are rising in Georgia and Henry County.

PNC: Aaron provided an update on the PNC's progress in finding our next full-time pastor. The PNC will meet twice in December. The PNC is communicating with candidates of interest. Paul reported the church video is still being prepared and hopes to have it complete in the near future.

Aaron updated the Session the purchase of a FM transmitter has been completed and tested at the 11/29/2020 drive thru event. Betsy updated the Session on the conversation on race discussions, adult Sunday School and Kid's Bible Study. Betsy updated the Session on the conversation on race discussions, adult Sunday School and Kid's Bible Study.

Pastor's Report: Betsy had nothing to report.

The Session approved Jim Beisner as Clerk of Session and Gene Ingram as Assistant Clerk of Session for 2021.

The Session approved Kim Seal as Treasurer/Chief Financial Officer (CFO) for 2021.

The Session decided to not produce a 2021 Activities Calendar until conditions allow gatherings in church facilities. Events will be considered for approval as needed.

Aaron will review 2020 Session Minutes.

Kim will review membership rolls.

The Session approved adding Lexie Jo Buchan to the baptized rolls of Stockbridge Presbyterian Church.

Session Business: The Session decided to have a called meeting via video conference on Sunday 1/3/2021 at 3:00 pm to discuss additional actions as dictated by the situation concerning coronavirus.

Congregation Meeting - December 22, 2020

Rev. Betsy Turner called the meeting to order at 12:10 PM. She opened the meeting with prayer and declared a quorum of 10% of members present.

The first order of business was to elect Elders to the Class of 2021. Stephanie Phillips Ayoola, Chair of the Nominating Committee, introduced her committee members as follows: Linda Roberts, Jeffrey Cochran and Laura Richardson. Stephanie related to the congregation that the committee not only prayerfully considered the suggestions presented by the congregation but also closely reviewed the church rolls seeking individuals who felt called to service as an Elder utilizing their time and talents. The following slate for 2021 was presented: Stephanie Phillips Ayoola and Aaron Roberts. Betsy asked if there were any nominations from the congregation. A motion was made and seconded to close the nominations. The above slate of candidates was elected unanimously.

The second order of business was to present the 2021 Church Budget which was approved by the Session at a stated meeting on October 11, 2020. Jim Beisner, Clerk of Session, stated the Resource Committee decided to not prepare a missional budget for 2021. Jim presented an overview of the changes to the operation budget for 2021.

The purposes for which this meeting was called having been accomplished, Rev. Turner closed the meeting with prayer.



I wish I could hug my church family and friends to say I love you, and to say "thank you" for your prayers, cards, calls, and contributions. And for all the love you have shown me during this difficult time.

God Bless, with love,
Sally Smith and family



Joel Bryant
221 Paul Cagle Drive
Waleska, GA 30183



Our Let's Talk group is scheduled for Thursday, February 11 and February 25 at 7:30 pm. We are currently reading from the book "Color of Compromise" by Jemar Tisby. Please email stockbridgeinterim@gmail.com or call the church office if you would like to join this group.



The Ash Wednesday service will be held on the Wednesday night fellowship zoom at 7:30 pm. Please contact the church office on information on how to connect via zoom.

Ashes will be distributed, not imposed at February 14 drive-through. For the Ash Wednesday zoom service on February 17, you can use your own ash, dirt, dust, oil, or simply a touch for the ash part during the service.