

MARCH 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 2:00 pm Drive In 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 10:00 am Adult SS, via Zoom Recorded Worship	15	16	17 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 Palm/Passion Sunday 10:00 am Adult SS, via Zoom Recorded Worship	29	30	31 7:00 pm Kid's Fellowship 7:30 pm Churchwide Fellowship via Zoom			

SPC SPOTLIGHT

Friends,

It feels strange to be in the season of Lent once again. In many ways, it feels like we've been in Lent – a shadowy season of waiting – for a year now. This season of pandemic has been much longer and harder than any of us imagined a year ago.

That is why I've invited us into what I'm thinking of as "gentle Lent." It's not that the emphasis on reflection and penitence is a bad thing, but I for one have had enough of contemplating mortality and the heavier things of life. So I'm thinking of this Lent, not as a trudge toward the shadows of Good Friday, but more of stroll toward the brightness of Easter Sunday.

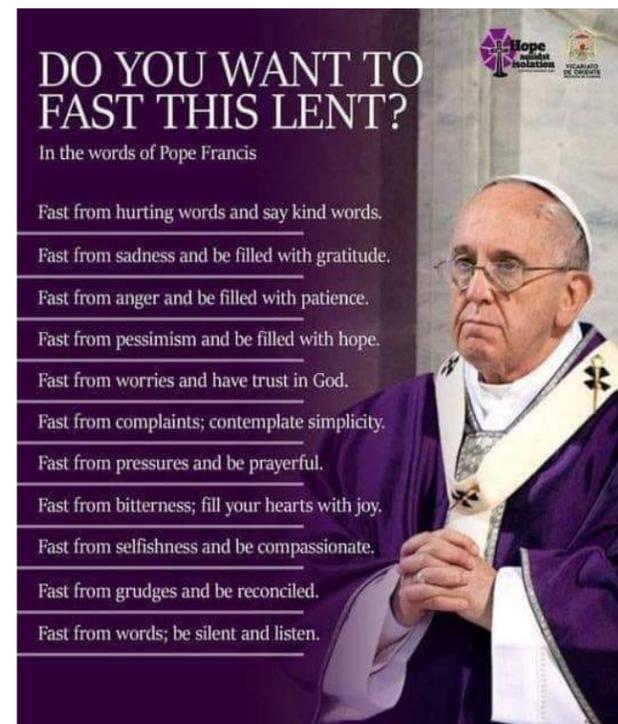
Our devotional for this season is around the theme of "listening well." (If you haven't picked up a booklet, visit <https://www.livingcompass.org/lent> for instructions on how to download it or contact the church office where we still have physical copies!) This devotional asks us to listen with our heart, soul, mind, and strength – to ourselves, to God, and to our neighbors. Listening, according to this guide, is a fitting approach to this season of change and is, in itself, an act of mercy and love.

So I'm trying to listen this Lent. I'm listening for what I think God is saying to the church, because I trust that God is still speaking in this hard season. I'm listening for wisdom and promises in all sorts of ways – through scripture, in conversation, in books and media, and in the silence. I'm listening for good news – focusing on stories that inspire hope, watching for signs of renewal, and tuning into whatever is positive and life-giving in the (admittedly messy!) world. I'm trying to listen to the truth of others, especially those different from me and those who have too long been silenced. And I'm listening for God's direction for my life, and what might be in store when my time with you is complete in a few months.

This kind of listening isn't always easy. As I'm writing this, I can hear the fussing of my children, the rumble of the garbage truck, the hum of the oven preheating for dinner, and most of all loud distractions between my ears – my long to-do list, my hopes and fears, my unanswerable questions, and my worries and stress. It's hard to even imagine listening with ALL my heart, soul, strength, and mind in this midst of all that. But thankfully, God doesn't wait until all is silent to speak to us. I believe – we believe! – that by the Holy Spirit's power, God is speaking all the time. It's just a matter of our paying attention to those whispers and the shouts, the wisdom and the whimsy, the lectures and the laughter and the love – which God is speaking in all sorts of ways, all the time.

This Lent, I'm not giving up anything – we've all given up so much this last year! Instead I'm trying to just listen. To take a deep breath and perk my ears up above some of the noise, or perhaps below it, to hear God's voice. To tweak what the old song says, I'm trying to "tune my heart to hear God's grace..." May we listen well.

Betsy



**Drive In Worship ♦ in your cars ♦ in parking lot
Sunday, March 7 at 2:00 pm**

We will be collecting your offerings and also donations 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. For Easter, we are asking for items for Easter bags which will be handled out to the children at The Mill community. These items will be collected as you are leaving the event. The requested donations for these ministries are located on page 2 .

- Happy Birthdays**
- Mar 1 Aaron Dunn
 - Mar 4 Pat Stanley
 - Mar 6 Lorren Huggins
 - Mar 9 Justin Pratt
 - Mar 12 Dora McManus
 - Mar 13 Justin Seal
 - Mar 13 Anne Watson
 - Mar 18 Adam Dunn
 - Mar 24 Kim Seal
 - Mar 26 Evangeline Newsome

- Mar 28 Tracey Clipper
- Mar 29 Chandler Pass
- Mar 29 Barry Newsome
- Mar 30 Bob Johnson

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)

Opportunities to Worship

- Mar 7 2:00 pm Drive-In Worship in Parking Lot
- Mar 14 Recorded Worship on Website & Facebook
- Mar 21 11:00 am Zoom Worship and Communion
- Mar 28 Palm/Passion Sunday
(Recorded Worship on Website & Facebook)
- Apr 2 Good Friday - 7:00pm
Combined Holy Week service on Zoom - communion and Good Friday Tenebrae
- Apr 4 Easter 11:00 am Drive-in worship in Parking Lot
(Recorded Worship on Website & Facebook)

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, March 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 in event on Sunday, March 7 or bring them by the church office Monday - Thursday. Please call first to make sure someone is there.



ADOPT

K-cups (coffee, tea, or hot chocolate)
Chips, cookies, granola bars and crackers (individually wrapped)

Items will be donated to the Transporters from Piedmont-Henry Hospital.



JOSEPH'S PANTRY

Oatmeal or Grits
Canned Beans (any but green)
Sweet Peas
Canned Ravioli

These items can be dropped off at the church office, Monday - Thursday, call first to make sure someone is there. Or you can bring them to the drive-in event on Sunday, March 7.

Easter Drive-In Worship Sunday, April 4 11:00 am in your cars in the parking lot

We will be providing at-home materials to you for Holy Week, including for Maundy Thursday.



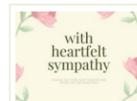
Our Witness Committee will be making Easter bags to be handed out to the children at The Mill community for Easter. They are asking for donations for this project. The items needed are listed below.

- Small packs of crayons or colored pencils
- Individually wrapped candies and snacks
- Small bags of chips

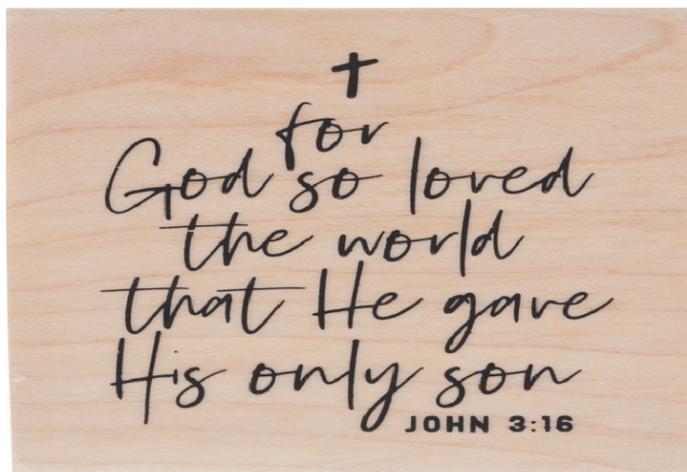
You can drop these donations off at the Drive-In event on Sunday, March 7 or at the church office.



Mabel White
981 Shiloh Road
Ellersville, GA 31806



Rose Miller White (Rose Fisher) passed away on February 7. She was a long time member of SPC. Our condolences to her family and friends.



Session Report

Special Meeting

Rev. Turner stated the reason for the meeting was to address issues that affect Stockbridge Presbyterian Church caused by the coronavirus pandemic and other actions necessary to operate the church.

The Session approved the following minutes of previous called meetings: 12/6/2020

The Session approved the following minutes of a congregation meeting: 12/20/2020

Committee Reports

Resources: Gene presented a short report on December financials. Approximately \$30,000 was received. Gene also reported the 2019 financial audit was completed on 12/15/2020. Betsy showed a video of the water damage done by the burst pipe in the education portion of the facility. Gene gave an update on the damage mitigation effort and the visit by an insurance adjuster. Gene is meeting with the mitigation team Monday 1/4/21 to find out the next steps in the recovery effort.

Discipleship: Aaron reported the committee will meet in early January to start discussions on technology needs of the church.

Witness: Arlene reported to Session on Witness Committee's effort to adopt a staff unit at Piedmont Henry Medical Center. The committee chose to adopt the Transporter Unit of 19 employees. The initial support was purchasing a Keurig coffee maker and k-cups. Stephanie reported on the committee's effort to distribute gift cards to residents of The Mill trailer park on 12/12/2020. Gift cards were given to 23 families which will help 69 children. The gifts were well received by the families.

The church received loan forgiveness for the entire Paycheck Protection Program loan of \$24,400. An application for the second round of PPP loans will be considered once information is received on the application process and loan requirements.

Gathering for Worship

The Session ratified the approval of no activities at church facilities through February 28, 2021 except for drive thru events which were previously adopted by email vote on 12/19/2020. 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. A letter signed by the task force members encouraging church members to receive vaccinations when available will accompany the January 2021 newsletter.

PNC: Aaron provided an update on the PNC's progress in finding our next full-time pastor. The PNC will meet the first week of January 2021 to continue the next steps in the search.

Aaron stated the Discipleship Committee will continue analyzing technology needs of the church.

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 discussed ways to conduct Elder training for 2021. The Session will meet via Zoom from 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm on 1/10/21 to conduct the administrative portion of the training and will decide then on when to meet for the visioning and planning session.

The Session approved conducting communion on 1/24/21 during the 11:00 am worship service via Zoom.

The Session approved conduction Elder Installation on 1/24/21 during the 11:00 am worship service via Zoom.

Session Business: The Session decided to have a called meeting via video conference on Sunday 1/24/2021 at 3:00 pm to discuss additional actions as dictated by the situation concerning coronavirus.

Special Meeting—January 10, 2021

The purpose of the meeting was to examine the Elder Class of 2021 in accordance with G-2.0402 of the Book of Order. Elders elected to the Class of 2021 Stephanie Phillips Ayoola and Aaron

Roberts received training on the Book of Order and duties and responsibilities of Elders, were examined, and found to be proficient (Attachment I). The Session unanimously approved to sustain the examination and accept the above individuals as ruling elders and members of the Session.

The Elder Class of 2021 will be installed on Sunday, January 24, 2021.

Elder Commissioners were elected for 2021 meetings of the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta. (Attached)

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

Special Meeting—January 24, 2021

Rev. Turner stated the reason for the meeting was to address issues that affect Stockbridge Presbyterian Church caused by the coronavirus pandemic and other actions necessary to operate the church.

The Session approved the following minutes of previous called meetings: 1/3/2021, 1/10/2021

Committee Reports:

Resources: Gene presented a short report on December 2020 and January 2021 financials. Gene also reported on the status of on-going projects the committee is working.

Discipleship: Aaron reported there was not much new with the committee. There will be an Ash Wednesday Zoom worship service on 2/17/21 at 7:30 pm. Ashes will be distributed at the 2/14/21 drive thru event.

Witness: Arlene reported to Session Witness Committee has made the first donation to the Transporter Unit at Piedmont Henry Hospital. Arlene stated the hospital chaplain was extremely pleased SPC adopted the Transporter Unit.

The application for the Paycheck Protection Program 2 loan has been submitted to Ameris Bank. We were notified the bank needs some additional documentation which Linda will address this week.

Gathering for worship – Gene reported the task force is not meeting at this time. Task force members are looking at what resources will be required to execute worship services in church facilities. 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. The task force encourages church members to receive vaccinations when available.

Aaron provided an update on the PNC's progress in finding our next full-time pastor. The PNC is meeting every 2 weeks and is in contact with the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta.

Aaron stated the Discipleship Committee will continue analyzing technology needs of the church.

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

Building Update. Gene provided an update on the damage to the building from the water pipe burst. Service Master was called back to the church to address the tiles in the hallway on the second floor that are buckling and coming up. Additional mitigation is being performed this weekend and Gene will follow up on Monday.

Pastor's Report: Betsy reminded the Session of their homework in preparation for Elder training on 2/7/21. She also asked for volunteers for the 2/14/21 drive thru event.

The Session approved the review of the membership rolls.

The Session approved conducting communion on 2/21/21 during the 11:00 am worship service via Zoom.

The Session approved conducting parking lot worship services on Sunday 3/7/21 at 2:00 pm and Sunday 4/4/21 at 11:00 am.

The Session approved a \$1,000.00 gift to the New Church Development Commission.

Session Business: The Session decided to have a called meeting via video conference on Sunday 2/21/2021 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.