



APRIL 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 10:00 am Women's Bible Study	2	3
4 Easter Sunday 11:00 am Drive In Worship	5	6	7 7:00 pm Kid's Fellowship 7:30 pm Churchwide Fellowship via Zoom	8 10:00 am Women's Bible Study	9	10
11 10:00 am Adult SS, via Zoom Recorded Worship	12	13	14 7:00 pm Kid's Fellowship 7:30 pm Churchwide Fellowship via Zoom	15 10:00 am Women's Bible Study 7:30 pm Let's Talk via Zoom	16	17
18 10:00 am Adult SS, via Zoom Recorded Worship	19	20	21 7:00 pm Kid's Fellowship 7:30 pm Churchwide Fellowship via Zoom	22 10:00 am Women's Bible Study	23	24
25 10:00 am Adult SS, via Zoom Recorded Worship	26	27	28 7:00 pm Kid's Fellowship 7:30 pm Churchwide Fellowship via Zoom	29 10:00 am Women's Bible Study 7:30 pm Let's Talk via Zoom	30	



- Apr 1 Ken Day
- Apr 4 Kaitlyn Buck
- Apr 11 Cynthia Weekes
- Apr 13 Ian Turner
- Apr 14 Jacob Ingram
- Apr 22 Phyllis Howard
- Apr 22 Savannah Sewell
- Apr 23 Amara Pass
- Apr 25 Joel Bryant
- Apr 26 Dan Martin
- Apr 27 Lee Hart
- Apr 30 Betsy Turner

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)

SPC SPOTLIGHT

The Church At The Bridge

Friends,

There is something about this time of year that feels full of newness and possibility. It seems like there is a freshness and a sense of hope in the air. I looked back, and apparently this is an annual tradition – last April, when we were in isolation in the early weeks of the pandemic, my newsletter column was on this same topic: hope.

Part of it is the springtime. As I type this, I can literally hear birds chirping. The daffodils are popping up, the dogwoods are blooming, the forsythia in my yard has turned its brilliant golden. The time change means that the sunlight stretches into the evening.

As far as the pandemic, my social media feed has been full of pictures of bandaged arms and vaccine cards, and every vaccine in an arm feels like a dose of hope. After the long trudge and deep tragedy of this pandemic season, we are seeing glimmers of the new normal, even as we continue our precautions and wait for the statistics to improve locally, as well as nationally. I encourage you to seek out a vaccine if you have not gotten one yet, and then see if you can help others obtain an appointment and get theirs. As of this writing, all adults 16 and over are eligible in the state of Georgia. (On a personal note, I got my first dose in late March and am looking forward to my second dose in a few weeks!)

For us Christians, of course, this time of year is also marked by Easter – in just a few days, we will walk through the drama of Holy Week, toward the joy, exuberance, and good news of Easter. This has been a gentler Lent, lighter on the penitence and shadow and somber reflection, and heavier on the looking forward to Easter and pondering God's grace. I hope you will utilize the at-home resources provided for Holy Week, and join us for recorded worship on Palm Sunday (3/28), Zoom worship with communion at 7:00pm on Good Friday 4/2, and worship in our parking lot at 11:00am on Easter morning.

Close to home, SPC is also in the midst of hopeful changes. As you read this, the building is abuzz with rebuilding efforts, which will repair the damage from December and bring some freshness to our building. I hope next month's newsletter will contain pictures of the completed work. A special thanks to Gene Ingram, who has worked tirelessly with our Resources Team, Session, and contractor throughout this time. As you can imagine, renovation deci-

sions by committee(s) has been a process, and I thank everyone who has been so thoughtful and patient throughout this time.

The search for your next pastor continues. Your Pastor Nominating Committee is now meeting weekly, and they report that they have talked with several candidates. While they have not pinpointed the person God is calling quite yet, I feel hopeful that a wonderful pastor is on the way in time for a smooth transition this summer. I am, with gratitude, sorrow, and hope, planning for my departure as your interim pastor. More on this in the weeks to come.

All of that adds up to a feeling of newness and a resurgence of hope. Hope doesn't mean there aren't deep worries and difficult struggles and very real pain – in our lives and in our troubled world. But hope isn't about the absence of pain or fear. It's not even about optimism and cheer and "looking on the bright side." Václav Havel reminds us that: "Hope is not prognostication. It is an orientation of the spirit, an orientation of the heart. It transcends the world that is immediately experienced, and is anchored somewhere beyond its horizons..."

So in these spring, Easter, transitional days, that feeling in the air just might be hope. I admit that it feels a little like trying on clothes you haven't worn in awhile. Hope has been a little hard to come by over the last year, with the pandemic and isolation and political unrest and racial reckoning and personal struggles of all kinds.

But hope is an orientation, something deep instead of circumstantial, all of which means it is something we can actively seek out and choose. It's something we can do right now, even while we worry and suffer and wait. I'm reminded of a lovely poem from Wendell Berry:

February 2, 1968 ~ Wendell Berry
In the dark of the moon, in flying snow, in the dead of winter, war spreading, families dying, the world in danger, I walk the rocky hillside, sowing clover.

My friends, as the daffodils are coming up, the repair and search are in process, and the good news of Easter is on its way and in our midst even now. We are, to borrow the poet's phrase "sowing clover."

In hope,

Betsy

Opportunities to Worship

HOLY WEEK WORSHIP

- 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
Sermon: Risen Indeed!
(Enter on Burke, stay in your car and tune your radio to 90.5FM)
Recorded version of this service will be available on Website & Facebook on the evening of April 3.
- Apr 11 Recorded Worship
Sermon: "Oh, Thomas!"
- Apr 18 Recorded Worship
Sermon: "Hands and Feet"
- Apr 25 Zoom Worship at 11:00 am (also streamed to FB live)
Sermon: "A Word from the Shepherd"

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



Hi from your PNC. We wanted everyone to know that we are meeting frequently so we can find our next Pastor. We are feeling more optimistic and encouraged over the last few weeks. Please continue to pray for us. We appreciate all the prayers and encouragement we can get. If you have any questions you can reach out to Aaron, Kim, Terry, Annetta, or Paul.



COAT CLOSET

The items needed for the Coat Closet at this time: **Socks**

You can drop off your donations at the drive in worship service on Easter Sunday, April 4 or call to arrange a time to drop by the church office..



JOSEPH'S PANTRY

- 1 lb. bags Rices
- Canned Beans
- Canned Corn
- Canned Soup
- Canned Pasta



WORD FROM WARD



Despite the pandemic, this has been a time of thanks. I would like to thank our musicians for stepping up during this time. The dutiful trio of Laura, Linda, and Jeffrey have trekked several times to my home in Conyers, where we have recorded anthems for our services, including this Good Friday's "In Remembrance." Greg Lathrop has been an excellent partner in providing a radio signal for our drive-in services, in addition to his harmonica gift. This Easter Sunday, a quartet of ladies, including Terry, Lin, Laura, and Arlene will be singing a special Easter song at the drive-in. I am so thankful for all these fine folks and I bet you are too. Have a happy Holy Week.

Ways to give. Give on-line, below is a link to donate to SPC. You can also mail your checks to the church. Please contact the church office if you wish to bring your donations by.



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.

Below is a sweet thank you note received from the Transport Unit we are partnering with at Henry-Piedmont. They appreciate and thank you for all the goodies you have sent their way.



Session Report

Special Meeting - February 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 meeting: 1/24/2021

Committee Reports

Resources: : Jim presented a short report on January 2021 and 2020 year end financials. Jim also reported on Gene's meeting with a contractor concerning water damage repairs.

Discipleship: Aaron reported there was not much new with the committee. The committee is meeting next week to discuss Holy Week and upcoming parking lot worship services.

Witness: Stephanie reported the Witness Committee is discussing donations for the Easter bags being developed for the children of The Mill.

Gathering for Worship

The Session approved to permit no activities at church facilities through April 30, 2021, except for drive thru events and parking lot worship services. 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. Gene will contact Henry County to make available the church parking lots as vaccination site, if needed.

PNC: Aaron provided an update on the PNC's progress in finding our next full-time pastor. The PNC updated the church MIF and is meeting every week and is in contact with the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta. The latest batch of candidates is larger than previous ones.

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. Confirmation studies are on hold until face to face meetings is allowed.

Building Update: Gene provided an update on the damage to the building from the water pipe burst and his meeting with a general contractor.

Pastor's Report: Betsy informed the Session she will be off on Sunday 3/14/21. She also reminded the Session to keep in contact with members on their Undershepherd lists.

The Session approved conducting communion on 3/21/21 and 4/18/21 during the 11:00 am worship service via Zoom.

The Session approved to change the Joseph's Pantry requirement from each recipient may only receive food from the pantry once every six months to only receive food from the pantry once every two months for the remainder of 2021.

Session Business: The Session decided to have a called meeting via video conference on Sunday 3/21/2021 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.

Drive In Worship ♦ in your cars ♦ in parking lot Sunday, April 4 at 11:00 am

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.

These items will be collected as you are leaving the event. The requested donations for these ministries are located on page 2 .



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

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



Our Let's Talk group is scheduled for Thursday, April 8 and April 22 at 7:30 pm. We are 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.



Come be a part of our Wednesday night fellowship! We get together via zoom each Wednesday night - 7:00 pm for kids, and 7:30 pm for church-wide fellowship!

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



Construction to repair the building has begun! Access and hours will be limited during the repair. Telephone messages and emails will be checked and responded to promptly and the mail will continue to be checked daily. Linda Hodges will be working from home for much of this time but will be available if you need to drop off anything. Please call and leave a message or email to make arrangements.

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.