

# SPC SPOTLIGHT

Stockbridge Presbyterian Church

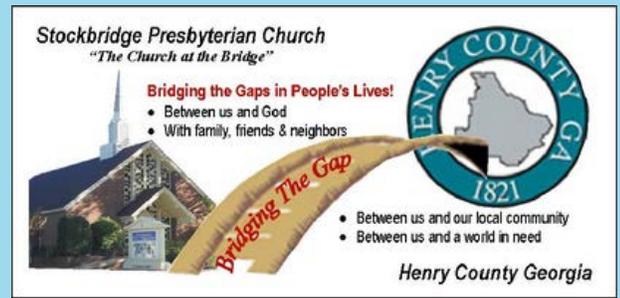
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Pastor Kristy Ray - [stockbridgepastor@gmail.com](mailto:stockbridgepastor@gmail.com)



## From Pastor Kristy

The word normal seems to be strange to hear anymore. There have been many conversations where the word normal comes up and seems either inadequate or even wrong to use. Normal means conforming to a standard; usual, typical, or expected.

What does that mean for us today? There are things that have and will go back to the usual or expected ways of interacting and being. Then again, it still feels different.

We may be able to come together in a space for worship, activities, education, work but nothing seems typical about the way in which we are interacting after being apart for so long.

I have been grateful to walk alongside this community in opening for indoor worship and continuing to meet the needs of others as they arise within this current way of life.

I think about the questions that arise among so many as to why things seem to move so slow in returning to "normal" ways of being. The teams and leadership have been diligent in following numbers and are trying to help a vulnerable population navigate this way of being during a pandemic. The standard practices of before have been transformed. There are elements of what we have done in the past but we are far from 'normal.'

Friends, not going back to normal or living in normal is ok. Life is full of adjustments and it is harder if we want normal over what is in front of us. There are of course new norms that come in living in community as we gather for worship, mission, education, and fellowship but something new is happening.

There are two scriptures that I hold on to during times of change and ways of being that make everything feel disrupted and in shambles. "Jesus Christ is the same; yesterday, today and forever." Hebrews 13:8 and "See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland." Isaiah 43:19

No matter what changes happen and continue to happen to shift us out of the perceived normal, God is the same and loves us the same, and also God is always making a way through the ever shifting ways in which the world around us seems so difficult.

Keep pressing on my friends. Be thankful to God in all things, and know that God is with us wherever we are!

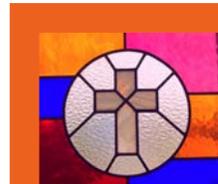
Joyfully,  
Pastor Kristy

## Installation Service of Pastor Kristy Ray



**AUGUST 8TH 6:30PM  
PAVILION**

SERVICE OF THE PRESBYTERY OF GREATER  
ATLANTA TO INSTALL OUR PASTOR.



## OPPORTUNITIES TO WORSHIP

- Aug 1** "Thanking God for Jesus"  
~John 6:24-35
- Aug 8** "Thanking God for Speaking"  
~1 Kings 19:4-8
- Aug 15** "Take a Look at Yourself in the Mirror"  
~James 1:17-27
- Aug 22** "Loving Your Neighbor as Yourself"  
~ James 2:1-10 [11-13], 14-17
- Aug 29** "Using Your Words to Build Up  
Not Tear Down"  
~James 3:1-12
- Sep 5** "Living in Community of  
Faithful Action"  
~James 5:13-20



## WORD FROM WARD

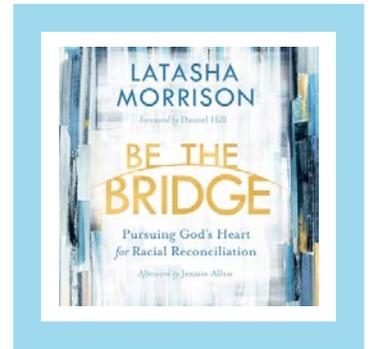
We have an idea. Would you all agree that children need to learn about God and they also should sing? Well, this is going to happen, starting after Labor Day. On Sunday, September 12, we will be starting a hybrid Children's Sunday School Class and Singing Session in the choir room from 9:15 till 10:15 am. All children are invited to participate, along with adult helpers too. Older children will be assisting in the teaching, as there is no better way to learn a subject than to teach it. I hope you are as excited as I am. Please contact me for details.

Finally, I would like to thank all the people who have sung or played music this summer. They include Greg, Jacob, Jeffrey, Linda, Arlene, Terry, Laura, Lin, Sandra, Maxwell, Marie Anne, Monica Andrea, Claudia, and Sophie. Covid restrictions limited us to using small groups. We look forward to resuming fully throttled singing and playing as soon as the Lord wills it. In the meantime, if you want to participate, simply contact me.



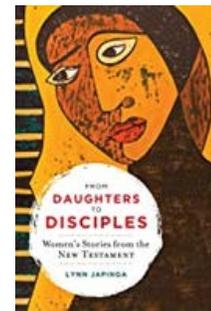
The Let's Talk group meeting dates for August are Thursdays, August 5 and 19 at 7:30 pm via [zoom](#).

Starting in August the group will begin studying "Be the Bridge" book. It will be a perfect time to join the Let's Talk group, please contact Pastor Kristy about getting a book and joining the study.



In August, the Women's Bible Study will be finishing our study of Hosea, and on August 19th we will start the book "From Daughters to Disciples" - Women of the New Testament by Lynn Japinga.

We meet on Thursday mornings at 10:00 am in the conference room. Come be a part of the encouraging, prayerful group.



The committee reviewed available computer programs for our church management needs. We decided the best product for our congregation would be the Church Trak software database for our membership needs. Since we moved into the building in July we have begun the process to find a permanent accompanist. Reviewing the June contributions shows another month of below budget giving. However, our missions and pantry are still in good condition.

# Session Minutes

## Special Meeting - 6/13/2021

Rev. Ray 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:

## 5/16/2021

### Committee Reports:

**Resources Committee:** Gene presented a short report on May 2021 financials. Gene relayed to the Session the change of insurance carriers from Guide One to Brotherhood Mutual. The change reduces the annual premium by \$3,000.00 with essentially the same coverage.

**Witness Committee.** Stephanie reported the Witness Committee discussed upcoming summer and beyond events. Arlene reported the last month supporting the transporter group at Piedmont Henry is June 2021. The last resupply will be late June. The committee is looking into partnering with nursing homes with similar support as the transporters.

**Discipleship Committee.** Aaron reported the committee will meet later in June to focus on technology needs for the church.

Jim advised that we were still waiting on forgiveness instructions for the Paycheck Protection Program 2.

**Gathering for worship** – There remains no activities at church facilities through June 30, 2021, except for scheduled drive thru events and parking lot worship services. The task force proposed the following recommendations to the Session:

Approve a drive-up Worship service on 6/27/21.

Approve moving worship services to the Fellowship Hall in July and August 2021. Appropriate covid safety measures will be enforced. Maximum attendance will be 40 people.

Approve allowing church groups of 15 or less people to meet in the Fellowship Hall with appropriate covid safety measures.

Approve allowing the Boy Scouts and AA to meet outdoors under the pavilion in June and July 2021. AA is allowed to use bathroom facilities in the building and use their coffee maker.

Session approved the four recommendations. The task force will develop safety protocols for meeting in the Fellowship Hall and distribute to small group leaders. The task force will be evaluating the effectiveness on the safety protocols and adjust as necessary.

Aaron reported he is researching equipment for broadcasting and live streaming worship services. Discipleship Committee will be involved in the decisions on equipment.

Kristy is continuing the "Let's Talk" discussions. Women's Bible Study will start meeting under the pavilion on 6/17/21. Kristy is looking at various new education initiatives.

Gene provided an update on the status of the building. All repairs are completed, and most items are back in place or will be by the end of June.

**Pastor's Report:** Kristy asked Session members to make sure they are in contact with their under-shepherd folks as the building opens. She also asked committees to review their use of the church building to determine current and future use of the space. Kristy asked for the Session's approval to conduct her installation service on 8/8/2021 at 6:30 pm outdoors. The Session approved her request.

Kristy proposed creating a part time custodian position that will be on contract (attached). The session approved the contract position. A weekly rate of \$125.00 for routine recurring cleaning tasks with non-recurring tasks paid by the task. Resources will develop a pay scale for the non-recurring tasks Jayden Wayne Burch will be contracted to perform the work.

The Session received and approved Gene Ingram's resignation from the Session effective 6/30/2021. (Attached) Gene's under shepherd list will be redistributed to other Elders. Terry Holmes will replace Gene as chair of Resources Committee. The Session approved leaving Gene's position on session vacant to the end of 2021.

**Session Business** – The Session tentatively set Sunday 7/11/2021 at 3:00 pm for the next called meeting via video conference to discuss additional actions as dictated by the situation concerning coronavirus.

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

## How Can I Help?



### Love for Nursing Homes

(There are several nursing, assisted living, and rehab centers in our area our church is working toward direct contact and support of two Riverdale Nursing Home and Benton House).

Be in prayer for our Nursing Homes, Rehab Centers, and Caregiving Facilities as they are navigating the ever changing world with a pandemic. Many of these facilities are once more facing shut downs and closing visitations. As we know this puts such an emotional and physical strain on all persons involved; the staff, the residents, and the family and friends of residents. May we be in prayer as facilities are in shut down or facing closures to visitors and the public.

God, you know us and love us in all seasons of life. Guide us to remember those that are isolated and confused. Be with those who desire to be with their loved ones and are separated for safety and health amidst this pandemic. Guide the nursing team and staff as they navigate the continuing changes. Help them to gain rest while home to be empowered to lead, provide, and serve the residents. Open their hearts to be filled with your compassion as they have become more than staff to the residents as closures have isolated residents from their familiar visits. Lead us O Lord, to care for those who are neglected, lost, lonely, and suffering. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.



### Coat Closet needs

- Men's T-shirts (Sizes-Medium to XXL)
- Men's Socks



# August

2021

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 <b>NO Sunday School</b> 11:00 Worship	2	3	4 7:30 pm Wed. Fellowship <a href="#">Zoom Link</a>	5 10:00 Women's Bible Study 7:30 Let's Talk (via Zoom)	6	7
8 9:15 Sunday School <a href="#">Zoom Link</a> 11:00 Worship 6:30 Pastor Kristy's Installation	9	10	11 7:30 pm Wed. Fellowship <a href="#">Zoom Link</a>	12 10:00 Women's Bible Study	13	14
15 9:15 Sunday School <a href="#">Zoom Link</a> 11:00 Worship	16	17	18 7:30 pm Wed. Fellowship <a href="#">Zoom Link</a>	19 10:00 Women's Bible Study 7:30 "Let's Talk (via Zoom)	20	21
22 9:15 Sunday School <a href="#">Zoom Link</a> 11:00 Worship	23	24	25 7:30 pm Wed. Fellowship <a href="#">Zoom Link</a>	26 10:00 Women's Bible Study	27	28 Drive-thru Ice Cream Social 2-4:00 pm
29 9:15 Sunday School <a href="#">Zoom Link</a> 11:00 Worship	30	31				

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**



Aug 4 Cooper Keller  
 Aug 5 Edna Fisher  
 Aug 6 Jo Linda Ingram  
 Aug 10 Monica Coutin-Baxter  
 Aug 12 Ken Roberts  
 Aug 15 Sarah McQuade  
 Aug 19 Janna Szeto  
 Aug 23 Sophie Szeto  
 Aug 24 Elle Roberts  
 Aug 29 Gerald Taylor

**THE SPC SESSION**

Jim Beisner, Clerk of Session

**Discipleship**

Aaron Roberts (21)  
 Paul Szeto (21)

**Resources**

Terry Holmes (21)

**Witness**

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

**Treasurer**

Kim Seal