



1st Presbyterian Bulletin: March 20th



What is the 1st Presbyterian Bulletin?



Things are obviously very different right now. I don't think anyone out there knows exactly what to do or how long this might last. One thing is for sure, we can't do things the way we normally do. This bulletin is a way to pass on information during this

crazy time. We plan on putting it out a few times a week as long as we are able.

I would like this bulletin to be more than just passing on information about the pandemic. I would like this bulletin to be something that truly helps us. I want to be able to put in all sorts of things: helpful links and websites; prayer requests, funny stories, jokes, helpful tips, ideas of ways we can stay connected and anything else that makes sense.

I would especially like to put in stories and thoughts from you all. Do you have a funny story, do you have a thought you would like to share, maybe you could tell us your favorite memory from church, or a Scripture that seems to speak to right now? With that in mind, please submit items to the church email as you find them or think of them firstpresofc@gmail.com.

Watch Out for Scams!



There will always be people who try to take advantage of any situation. We all have read the stories of people who are profiteering off of toilet paper and hand sanitizer. Yet, other people are trying to take advantage by posing as humanitarian aid agencies. They pretend

to be representing an organization that is trying to help. Really, they are just taking your money.

Many other scammers are using emails and texts as ways to pretend to be other people. I have been told several times of people who are pretending to be me. They hack my email or use similar appearing emails to request money or gift cards. They typically say that I am in trouble and need it right away. Please know that this is something I would never do. It is important that we investigate all calls for financial help.

What kind of man was Boaz before he married Ruth?

He was Ruthless!



How to Protect Yourself from Scams

1. Never give out your information over the phone. This includes: credit card or bank information, social security numbers, pins or passwords. It also includes information that reputable sources use to check your identity. Like your mother's maiden name, the street you grew up on, your address, the last bank transaction, or any information you have put into those security questions that websites often have.
2. Only give your information or finances through official sources known to you. For instance, if your bank calls you and asks for information. You can call them back on the customer support number printed on your bank card. Or if the Red Cross calls you and inspires you to give. Look up their official website or phone number and donate that way. Instead of on the phone with the person that called you.
3. Delete unsolicited emails that come with attachments. These attachments are usually viruses; even if the attachment seems legit upon opening it.

4. Be weary of anyone claiming to be a victim, that offers you a reward or who tells you that something is an emergency. It is almost always better to donate to organizations you know, then to individuals. These organizations have the time, wisdom and experience to sort out when individuals have a serious need and who is trying to take advantage.

Ways You Can Help



Presbyterian Disaster Assistance always uses the word GAP as a way of guiding us in times of trouble. G: Give your financial resources to

help those in need or have been effected by a disaster. A: Act, get involved in recovery or assistance efforts. P: Pray for all of those effected and for those who are helping.

We can use this as a way of guiding our response. We can give a portion of our resources to those in need. I suggest that this happens mostly through organizations or directly to those only you know. We can act in ways that help others. Remember that each of us can help. We might not all be doctors, or even be able to leave our house. Yet, each of us can make a real difference with our actions. We can all pray.



Give: Places You Can Donate

1. The Licking County United Way has set up an emergency response fund to COVID-19. This fund is set up to meet the Coronavirus outbreak needs of Licking County. Unitedwaylc.org 740.345.6685

2. Presbyterian Disaster Assistance is our denomination's response to all natural and man-made disasters. They work to bring aid and repair to

disasters around the world.pda.pcusa.org/ (502) 569-5000

3. There are many local or international agencies that help people every day. These groups are continuing to help. The Licking County Food Pantry is remaining open as long as it is allowed to. They need your donations now more than ever. The Look Up Center is a place many families rely on. They are in need of supplies and hygiene items. The Salvation Army offers so many programs, including the homeless shelter and meals every day of the week.

Where was Solomon's temple located?

On the side of his head. 😂

Act: Places You Can Get Involved

The main way we can get involved right now is by checking in on our friends, family and neighbors. Are you thinking about someone? That might mean that it is a good idea to contact them. Loneliness and isolation are going to be big issues for many people. Our emails, phone calls, text messages, Skype conversations, Facebook chats, cards all help battle loneliness, isolation and boredom. Initiating contact with others is also a good way to fight our own isolation and loneliness.

This also helps us catch needs other people might have. The church can be a network that helps meet needs. As a church, we can work to meet the needs of those around us. If you find out that someone has a need, then you can act. If you can't meet the need, maybe the church or someone in the church can. Even if we can't, we can probably figure out who can.

Also, keep an ear out for community needs the church might be able to meet. Our building might be the best place for a distribution or storage sight. Our resources could be just what the community needs.



Pray: Things We Can Pray For

I could probably put anything in the world here right now. The key is that we pray for what is on our hearts and minds. That way we cover the world in prayer.

I would ask that you pray specifically for the church. This is a situation, no one has been through. The church needs to change how it works in the world. We need to make sure that we just don't close shop for the pandemic and then open back up when this is all over. We always say that the church is more than the building, it is more than Sunday mornings. Well, if nothing else, this forces us to trust that that is true.



Questions You Might Have About How the Church is Functioning Right Now

-Worship- Every Sunday I will be putting out a sermon video on YouTube and Facebook. I will be adding music to these videos. We are looking at other options.

If you would like a live service, you can watch the live-stream of many churches on Facebook. Including, 1st Presbyterian of Granville Broad Street Presbyterian or Central College Presbyterian.

-Bible Studies – We are looking at ways to have Bible studies together. There are options that will

allow us to use technology to have Bible study over the phone or on the internet.

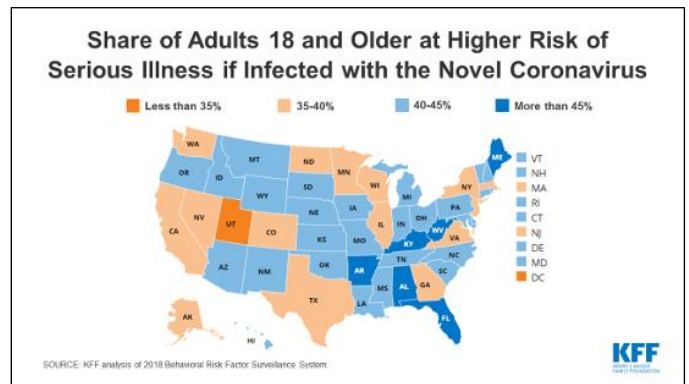
-The Church Building – Gary, Sheri, & I are all still going to church on a regular basis. There are no office hours, but the building is being maintained and taken care of.

-The Church Office - Phone messages are checked at least once a day, mail is being collected several times a week, and the church email is checked regularly. Earlier in the year, we installed a locked mailbox.

-Offering – If you would like to maintain your church offering, you can do so. There are several ways you can do this. You could mail a check to the church. Or you can set up a direct debit by calling and speaking to your bank or through online banking. There are several online options that Budget & Finance are checking out.

Ohio Has a Great Website for Accurate Information

Ohio's Coronavirus Information: This website has an amazing amount of information. It also has recourses, ideas and guides for people in all sorts of different situations. <https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/>



40-45% of Ohioans are at a Higher Risk of Serious Illness if Infected

I see this as something we all need to remember. For many Ohioans this illness carries with it very little risk. But for 40-45% of Ohioans, the risk is much greater. I hope we all do what we can to keep this group safe. Whether or not we are in that 40-45% of the population.

Soup Contest Winner - Zuppa Toscana



1lb Bulk Italian Sausage
4 Slices of Bacon, Cut to small pieces
1 Large Onion, Diced
1 Tablespoon Garlic
6 Potatoes, Thinly Sliced
1 Cup, Heavy Cream
6 Cups Chicken Broth
1 Bunch of Kale, Stems/Tough Parts Removed

Step 1

Cook the Italian sausage over medium-high heat until crumbly, browned, and no longer pink, 10 to 15 minutes. Drain and set aside.

Step 2

Cook Bacon, then set aside.

Step 3

Use oil or the bacon grease to cook the onions and garlic until soft and translucent.

Step 4

Add Chicken Broth, and potatoes to the garlic/onion mixture. Bring to boil until the potatoes are fork tender. Add bacon. Salt and pepper to taste.

Step 5

Add cream and kale. Then continue to cook (without boiling) for 10 minutes and serve.

I made it the day before by doing steps 1-4. That day, I added the kale and cream. I put everything in a crockpot for about 3 hours.

I think it tastes better with spicy sausage. If you don't like kale, you can use spinach.



Prayer Requests

-Ashley (Sarah Bowl's Friend) she has been battling cancer. She is in ICU and is not expected to make it.

-Lois Spangler –took a fall and broke 2 bones in her face and has a cut inside and out above her lip. Please pray for the pain and complete healing.

-Gaye Gibson – having fluctuating BP and had stress test this past week.

-Carol Floyd –had hip surgery and is recovering at home.

-Kay Kittel – upcoming knee surgery on March 23. She is hoping this does not get canceled.

-Ann Howard – had an operation for breast cancer but is at home now. Please pray for a quick recovery.

-Ann (Priscilla's friend) has two forms of breast cancer, please pray for healing and peace.

-Diane Higgins- continue to pray for healing after foot surgery.

-John Denison -his hip replacement was canceled.

~Long Term Prayer Needs~

Gary Deweese, Shirley (Barb Jobes' Mom), Lovona Parkhill, Carol & John Denison, David Baughman.

~Our Members in need of Special Care~

Dee Barber, Tracee Barr, Jean Nichols, Barb Ryan, Lena Mae Weekly & Travis Edwards

Action Steps

-Send the church an email with:

1. Your favorite church memory.
2. A good joke.
3. Any needs you might have, or needs of others you are aware of.
4. Prayer requests.

-Think about ways you can help fill in the GAP.

Give, Act, Pray.

“FOR THE SPIRIT GOD GAVE US DOES NOT MAKE US TIMID, BUT GIVES US POWER, LOVE AND SELF-DISCIPLINE.”

– 2 TIMOTHY 1:7