



Words from Woodforest June /July 2020

WORSHIP IN THESE CHAOTIC TIMES

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues its relentless spread across the world and our neighborhoods it is more imperative than ever that the Church of Jesus Christ reflect God's love for all people by our worship practices. Like you, I have missed the joy of gathering with a community to worship even as I recognize the importance of staying apart. Being called to preach for you is a real joy for me because it connects me to you. And yet, we remain in these extraordinary chaotic times that cause us to reflect on how to be the Body of Christ on earth without spreading disease and death to each other.

The Holy Spirit is at work at Woodforest Presbyterian Church. I see it in the Session which is creatively figuring out how to offer worship for the foreseeable future. The Session directs us to online for now. As the audio/visual systems in the sanctuary are upgraded, and as we work out the kinks in the broadcast, worship on the Woodforest Facebook page will continue.

At present, there are just a handful of us here on Sundays. We encourage you to be faithful in your worship with us at home. If you cannot join us at 10 a.m. worship with us at a convenient time for you. If the Spirit moves you to join us in the sanctuary for worship you will be welcomed but there are some conditions that all of us must meet to be there. As you walk in the front door there is a table on your immediate left with masks and hand sanitizer. Everyone must use both while here. We ask that you sit a minimum of three chairs between you and your fellow worshippers. We also ask that we not touch one another while there.

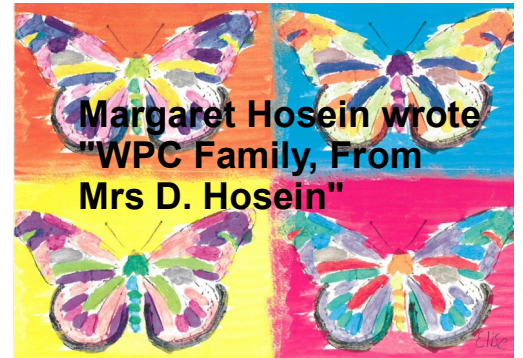
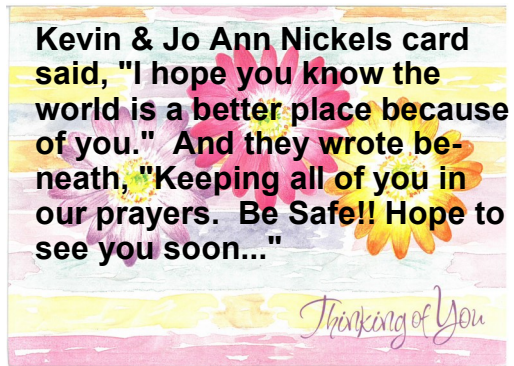
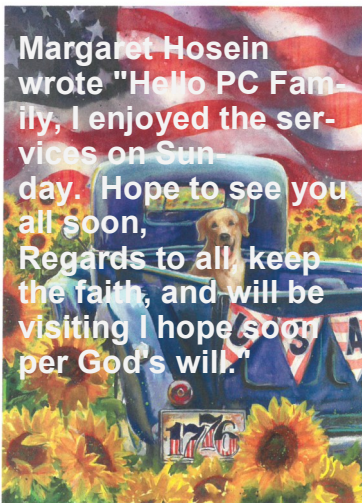
Finally, I want to address the issue of me wearing protective gear during worship. This past Sunday the liturgist and I wore face shields, although I did remove mine to read Scripture and preach. I am not going to wear one again. I found it difficult to see what I was doing as it generally hampered my ability to do my best. Leading worship is a sacred calling and I want to be fully present to you as I do that. I will maintain proper distancing from everyone while doing so and will wear protective gear before and after worship.

Helen Rose Moore

Congregational Meeting - June 7, 2020

It was great to have over 40 votes for the Interim Pastor Nominating Committee. It felt like old times with everyone working together to get things done. The Committee consists of Susan Maxwell, Ollie Garret, Courtney Shockey, Bob Bartel, and Alice Drennon. Keep these people in your prayers. As they search for an Interim Pastor.

Notes to WPC



**Now is a great time to give a church member a call.
We can keep in touch even during this time of social distancing .**

Hey all you cool cats and kittens! Usually we'd be gearing up for our awesome Vacation Bible School right about now, but times are different this year. We're sad to say there will not be a gathering this year due to the health and safety of our church and community. This decision wasn't made lightly, but it's for the best. BUT that will give us more time to make our VBS 2021 the best it can be! We miss you all dearly and have you in our hearts and prayers. Keep in touch and look forward to seeing you soon.
Courtney Shockey

New Broadcast System!

We are so excited to be back in our own sanctuary, as we continue broadcasting our worship services! But the move from Cassandra's back porch has not been as simple as you might think. The previous system – using Ryan's iPhone over a WiFi connection – just did not work inside the sanctuary.

The first step was to bump up our internet capabilities. We now have the fastest service available in our area. Many thanks to Johnny Gaskill, who further improved our signal strength by hardwiring the service straight into the sanctuary. Since these upgrades, we have never had a broadcast dropped or interrupted. Progress!

Step Two was to buy a digital webcam, which shoots a high-definition video through a wide-angle lens. We are still tinkering with lighting, but overall, the new camera has improved our video quality immensely. Progress again!

The webcam came with two internal mics, but it was immediately apparent that they were not strong enough for our purposes. The church sanctuary is big, "loud" room with lots of hard surfaces. Step Three was therefore to boost the speaking voices by integrating our existing mics and speakers into the video feed. Which means mastering all sorts of new software that comes with the new tech equipment. Right now, this Step is still a Work in Progress!

News from the Treasurer...

The short story is - we are fine.

About Our Income:

- Many, many thanks to all our loyal members who continue to send their offerings to the church by mail! And thanks again to Johnny Gaskill, who installed a locking mailbox to keep those offerings secure.

Woodforest Presbyterian Church has been granted a Paycheck Protection Program loan, which is helping to tide us over in these challenging times.

About Our Expenses:

- Many of our expenses are down right now. For example, we are using less electricity because we are not in-and-out of the building as often.
- To improve our broadcasting ability, we are currently in the process of upgrading our internet service and purchasing a webcam. It is possible that a grant from Presbytery could be used to offset these new costs.
- There is one area of extreme sticker-shock right now - our property insurance renewal went up by a whopping 75% this year. Ouch! Ouch! Ouch! Johnny Gaskill has managed to roll that price back to about 2017-levels. Thank you, Johnny!

About Our Budgets - Budgets are a complete fiction right now, because absolutely nothing is comparable to last year. Next month, I will do a more comprehensive mid-year review for us all and try to sort it all out.

But the short answer is - we are fine!



Prayer Concerns

For all of the people on the front line of the pandemic crisis, both in this country and around the world.....

For people and places in conflict, that they might know peace.....

For the hungry that they may be fed.....

For the homeless that they may find shelter.....

For the sick that they may have healing.....

We pray for Linda Norris who has undergone heart surgery

We pray for Glenda Leggett, as she undergoes cancer treatment

For the caregivers...

For the grieving that they may be comforted.....

We pray for the Prasco family for the loss of Philip'

For those in chronic pain.....

We pray for Krista Bartel and Sandra Horton

For all those who have lost their jobs in the midst of the pandemic.....

For those suffering abuse, oppression, or fear.....

For our church in the midst of transition.....

For those whom we lift up in our hearts.....

Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayers...

Last Word

Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them,
does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness
and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? Luke 15:4