



MAY 2020

The Little Chapel with the Big Heart

Dear Little Chapel on the Boardwalk family,

In years past, the month of May was a time of celebration - whether it be a wedding, graduation, or the beginning of a long-awaited vacation. May was a time that many people looked forward to with eager anticipation.

This year, things are different. Weddings have been pushed back to later dates, and many graduations, if they happen at all, will be online.

In the past, for us at Little Chapel, the month of May meant the beginning of our beach service and the opening of our parking lot over Memorial Day weekend.



As of this writing, no one knows for sure when any those things will happen. But one thing that I do know will happen is that on May 10th, in some way, shape, or form; Mother's Day will be celebrated. It's probably not going to be like any Mother's Day

anyone has ever experienced, but it will still happen. I found the following story in some old files, but its message is as fresh as tomorrow. Enjoy....

Angels on Earth

Once upon a time there was a child ready to be born. So, one day he asked God:

"They tell me that you are sending me to Earth tomorrow, but how am I going to live there, being so small and helpless?" And God answered, "I chose an angel for you. She will be waiting for you and will take care of you."

"But here, in Heaven, all I ever do is sing and smile and laugh. That's enough for me to be happy." God responded, "Your angel will sing for you and will smile for you every day, and feel your angel's love and be happy."

"And how am I going to be able to understand when people talk to me if I don't know the language that men speak?" asked the child.

"Your angel will speak to you using the sweetest, most beautiful words you will ever hear; and with much patience and care, your angel will teach you how to speak."

"And what am I going to do when I want to talk to You?"

"Your angel will place your hands together and will teach you how to pray."

"But I will be sad because I will not see you anymore."

"Your angel will talk to you about Me and will teach you the way for you to come back to Me, though I will always be beside you."

At that moment there was much peace in Heaven. Voices from Earth could already be heard, and the child softly asks, "God, if I am about to leave now, would you please tell me my angel's name?"

"You will call your angel, Mommy!"

Blessings,

Pastor Pat



Session Notes

By Jean Schild, Clerk of Session

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the session has not met since March 16. This does not mean that the session is not actively working to support the church and pastor during this difficult time. Several email votes have occurred, most of them dealing with the suspension of worship services and activities at the church.

The online communion which was part of Pastor Pat's Palm Sunday Service was approved by the session. The session has also approved an Alternative Christmas Market to benefit WARM (Wilmington Area Rebuilding Ministry) for December 2020, which came as a recommendation from our Mission Committee. And the Property Committee has been overseeing replacement of an HVAC unit.

Work for some continues even during the shutdown. Dan Holt, our custodian, comes in once a week to provide cleaning services for the church building. Pastor Pat continues to shepherd the congregation, while maintaining the social distancing requirement. Joan Denney comes in once a week to deposit our funds and handle financial transactions. Our thanks to all these who continue to fulfill their responsibilities and enable the church to fulfill its obligations.

The session is currently considering recommendations from our Presbytery which relate to the continued suspension of worship services and possible reopening in the future weeks. Definite recommendations concerning a reopening date will be forwarded to us by the Presbytery at a later date in May.

In the meantime, while we are all so anxious to see each other again and to be able to enjoy corporate worship, we are so thankful to Pastor Pat for his loving and encouraging messages to us each day. And our online worship services have been such a blessing to each of us. Thanks to Gary Kohunsky for his many hours of labor in accomplishing this

electronic feat for us. And David Heinzman has presented the beautiful and inspiring music of Easter and the Easter season to warm and inspire our hearts. What a dynamic trio they have proven to be! It is amazing how God enables us to improvise in difficult times.

Please continue to pray daily for our church, our staff, our lay leaders and our members and friends as we look to God for guidance and direction while we navigate this latest health and economic crisis. I pray that we will all explore ways to serve God in the midst of social distancing and spiritual soul-searching.

FOOD AND FELLOWSHIP

We are so sorry we were unable to do breakfast and a few other planned meals we had on the calendar recently. But we are looking forward to being back at church and worshipping with our friends; and hopefully being able to plan a breakfast or some sort of meal depending on how and when the restrictions are lifted in the near future.

We hope everyone is doing well. Love and prayers for all.

Karen Windham



A pew in the narthex was recently filled with donated food and supplies which was taken to the Good Shepherd Center. Thanks to everyone who helped by donating.



Typically, there's nothing out of the ordinary or noteworthy when a restaurant prepares meals, but John and Elaine Andrews and their staff at South Beach Grill didn't do 'ordinary' for Easter this year. They heard and answered a higher call.

Half of the Easter Sunday receipts were earmarked for the four Wrightsville Beach churches. The South Beach Grill staff worked late into Saturday night putting together meals, and then they showed up again at day break to work on Easter morning. Some 350 generous neighbors enjoyed the meals South Beach Grill prepared; and they helped fill our churches' collection plates.



Pastor Pat holds the check generously donated by South Beach Grill

In a letter addressed to the clergy of the four beach churches, John and Elaine wrote, *"It gives me great joy and profound appreciation to enclose a check for each of your houses of worship in the amount of \$1049. As you may be aware, this money comes to you from the community you serve."*

They continued, *"We were all so grateful and felt empowered for the first time for an opportunity to give back to the community which has supported us during these incredibly challenging times."*

"I hope each of you will pray for my staff, my family, and me as we endeavor to keep our business from failing."

These are not ordinary times but John and Elaine and their staff found a way to be extraordinary during Easter this year. Their efforts and donation to our church and the other churches on Wrightsville Beach are greatly appreciated.

Quoting Pastor Pat, with some liberty:

"Bless this gift and these givers."

Keep John, Elaine, and the staff at South Beach Grill in your prayers along with all the others who work through these difficult and challenging times. Bless them all.

South Beach Grill is open 7 days a week from noon until 8 pm (longer on weekends according to their website). They specialize in coastal North Carolina cuisine. It's Southern inspired, local sourced. They are located at:

100 South Lumina Avenue
Wrightsville Beach, NC 28480
Tel: 910-256-4646

<https://www.southbeachgrillwb.com>

Property Committee



We commit to being generous stewards of our gifts – time, talents, resources and, indeed our lives.

By Barry Lindholm

What a *Strange*, “*Disconnected*,” and *Challenging* time since the last newsletter. Who really knew early on how the Coronavirus/Covid-19 would affect us. When I first heard the issue with the Coronavirus, it initially struck me that my favorite Corona beer for hot and sunny days suddenly had some sort of bug and was going to be taken off the market. Well obviously, I must come from a slower part of the country as the problem was much greater than that and much more serious and threatening to our way of life.

That’s the *Strange*!

Based upon the NC Governor’s *stay at home* and *social distancing* proclamations, our regular Sunday worship sessions were canceled along with our traditional Easter celebrations. Also, few if any meetings at the church were able to be held. That was -- and is -- a big impact for our congregation and staff.

That’s the “*Disconnected*” part!

So, what has this meant to Little Chapel and our Property Committee? Well, we needed to enable new ways to communicate and connect. We now had additional requirements to keep our properties safe, clean, including the added touch of “sanitizing;” and then, with the stay at home requirement, the decision was made on March 30th at high noon to have our staff work from home and to be available on site, as needed. As such, we now had to determine what level of support and maintenance was required and what changes could be made to better utilize our systems and perhaps reduce costs.

That’s the *Challenge*!

This leads me to *how* our Property Committee needs to be more than just maintaining and repairing our property. Just as important are the operational needs to ensure all “systems” are good to go!

These systems include both the operations (HVAC), technology (computer systems), and management processes (servicing needs and invoice oversight) that supports an on-going stable environment.

The Key Is: “Plan ahead –
It wasn’t raining when Noah built the ark.”



The following key activities are just some of the areas we have addressed during the last, it seems, long month.

Key Activities since April Newsletter edition

1. Artwork / Sub-Committee

Due to the recent meeting restrictions and common sense social distancing, our Artwork team met by conference call on March 27th and the key actions items were:

- Since we discovered we have protective hard plastic window panes in front of our stained-glass windows in the church, we have decided to defer pursuing an appraisal of the stained-glass windows at this time.



- We have a candidate, Jan Hessling, that could act as an initial art inspector of our Claude Howell paintings that may need some repair work. If the repair work needs to move forward, Jan has connections in her art community for conservators that might be able to perform any required repair work. We also have friends of our team members that may be able to inspect our paintings and provide an opinion. We are waiting on stay at home to be lifted in order to move forward on having an on-site inspection.



- The team has also reviewed the Storm Plan team options to protect the paintings (and other important assets within the church). We are hoping to use our artwork contacts that have expertise in this area to advise both the Artwork and Storm

Plan teams of the best way to protect our art during a major storm and on-going.

NOTE: *You might want to pick up the latest April issue of the SALT magazine – it has a featured article called “Searching for Claude”, pages 70 – 73. It includes Claude Howell’s paintings above the entry to OUR sanctuary! But don’t worry, we are hoping to send out this article at a more appropriate time.*

2. Planning, Safety & Security, Technology Sub-Committee

Once again, Hugh Armstrong has played a big role in both assessing and implementing a number of our key technology initiatives:

- After the initial “Pastor Pat” Friday phone broadcasts with our new DialMyCalls system (formerly Phone Tree) we met with Pat Rabun , Hugh, Barry Lindholm, and Delores Dyer to review the results and feedback from the call. It was very successful with very few issues to review. We also discussed how on-going responsibilities would work if/when a stay at home order was given.
- Another major achievement was Hugh putting in place a remote access capability for Delores when working at home to allow her to access key information and respond to questions from members. In addition, Hugh now has remote access that would allow him to take over someone’s computer in order to either resolve an issue or provide assistance navigating the system.

3. Buildings Sub-Committee

We have made a change to our HVAC service provider in order to improve the maintenance evaluation and documentation process and deliverables. This change was done at the end of March and was very timely as we realized that the system that provided air conditioning to the first-floor staff area was not functioning.

We needed to replace this system very quickly as it was needed to provide a comfortable environment for Pastor Pat while he holds down the fort. It is also required to provide the needed climate controls for our computer and copier systems!

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As such, our Little Chapel team along with the Airmax representative sat in the sanctuary and discussed the known issues and problems in the current environment.



The requirements and solutions group: Barry Lindholm, Pat Rabun, Heins Meeks, Solution and Sales Mgr. for Airmax, and John Moore.

We then came away with a plan to install what we all agreed was the right solution and approach.

One of the key observations was that in addition to the staff non-functioning system we also had a problem with the Parlor Room air handler system which was 36 years old! So, we decided that we would also replace the Parlor System and as a result save \$ 500 for the dual replacement use of the required crane.



Up it goes to the other side of the roof for hopefully a safe landing.

The following are the key points of our HVAC environment:

- The staff first floor system was replaced, which interestingly, resides on the second floor. The thermostat was also located on the second floor, so we now moved the thermostat to Pat's office. It is a smart thermostat that he can now change the temperatures on his phone – even when he is at home!
- We were also able to remove 2 of the very old mercury thermostats by changing around exiting thermostats to better monitor temperatures in the Parlor and Room 117.
- With the smart thermostat provided with the new Parlor system we decided to use that thermostat in the Narthex because it monitors humidity on the main screen to help safe guard our paintings.
- We want to send a special shout out to Pastor Pat for all his help and guidance through this HVAC challenge! Also, John Moore for his experienced input and for partnering to install LED lights in the sanctuary which were provided by Brett Blizzard!
- One of the key objectives with the change-over to a new service provider, Airmax, was to provide better documentation of our current HVAC environment. This documentation will include a “map” by location, labeling, and pictures, as needed, of our air handlers, thermostats, and compressors. It also has a listing of sizes, model names/numbers, and ages.

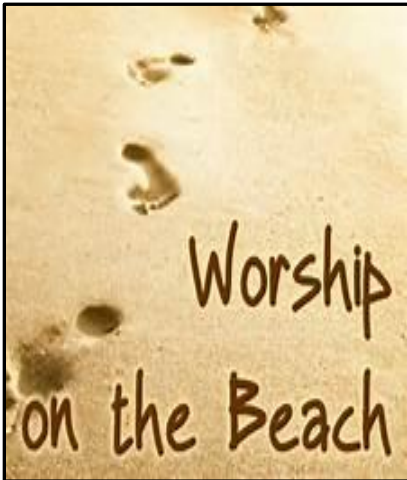
NOTE: *Learn from yesterday, live for today and have hope for tomorrow.*



Removing some of the old equipment.

WILL BEACH SERVICES START AGAIN IN MAY?

WHAT ABOUT THE MAY 23, 24, & 25 (Memorial Day) PARKING LOT?



BEACH SERVICES: During more normal times, we would be anticipating and planning for worshipping on the beach beginning with the first Sunday in May and continuing throughout the summer. But we are all living under the 'new normal' conditions of social distancing and group size limits. Wrightsville Beach also plays a key role regulating what is, and what isn't permitted on the beaches as well as their parking lots; and we will continue to respect and observe their guidance and policies. We will continue to provide video of Sunday 9 am worship services on our Facebook page and website – www.littlechapel.org; and Pat will continue to provide news and announcements via his daily emails.

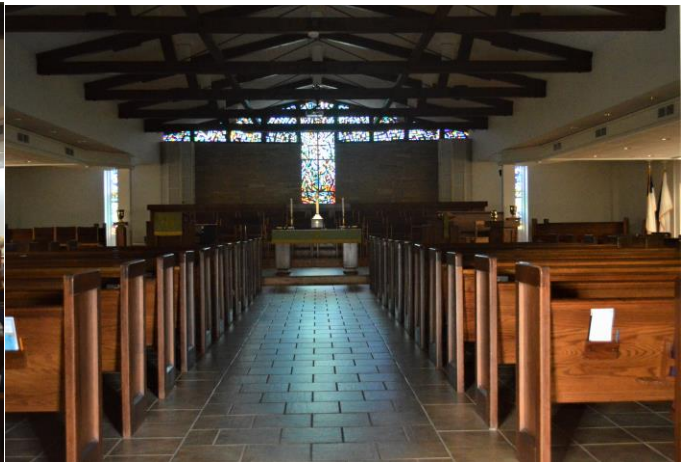
PARKING LOT: It seems unlikely that we will soon get back to some sense of normalcy, particularly in view of the governor's recent announcements. If we are able to open our parking lot on Memorial Day weekend to receive donations for various mission projects, we need help to staff the event. The committee is now seeking volunteers for the parking lot on Saturday, Sunday and Monday of Memorial Day weekend - May 23, 24 & 25. The time slots to be filled each of the 3 days are: **8:30-11:30, 11:00-2:00, 1:30-4:30.** If you are available to work during one or more of these days, please contact Beckey Smith at 724-344-0061 or email her at rbayard60@gmail.com; or contact Mary Jo Kohunsky at 910-524-1181 or email her at mkohunsky@yahoo.com.

WORSHIP

THE 'WHERE, WHEN, AND HOW' HAVE CHANGED
BUT THE 'WHY' HASN'T
IT'S THE CONSTANT THAT KEEPS US CONNECTED



Remember when this is what Little Chapel's sanctuary looked like on a typical Sunday morning?



This is what Sunday looks like now

Sunday, March 8. That was the last Sunday we worshipped together at Little Chapel. We meditated, sang, and prayed together as we sat side-by-side in our pews. We lingered in the narthex - chatting with friends, hugging one another, and shaking hands as we left church that Sunday.

On Fridays, Pastor Pat, David Heinzman, Marcia and/or Mary Jo, and I gather - at a safe distance, of course - in the sanctuary to do a video recording of the coming Sunday's worship service.



That was almost two months ago. Little did we know that we'd be unable to congregate and worship together again until...well, we still don't know. We haven't changed WHY we worship, but since that Sunday in March, out of necessity, we have changed WHERE, WHEN, and HOW we worship God.



We don't actually turn the sanctuary into a video production studio. It amounts to nothing more than turning on the lights, moving a few pews around, lighting the candles, and setting up a tripod which supports and keeps the video camera steady (sometimes).

There's a stand to hold the lyrics to our hymns (Mary Jo has been providing those in advance when she finds out which hymns have been planned). And that's it. No director's chair and no 'lights, camera, action!' has been shouted out.

We also haven't needed any 'retakes' to-date! This has been a new and unique experience for me; and I wondered what Pastor Pat, Marcia, and David thought about all of it.



Q. The faces you usually see on Sunday mornings in the sanctuary are absent; instead you speak directly into the camera lens. What's that like?

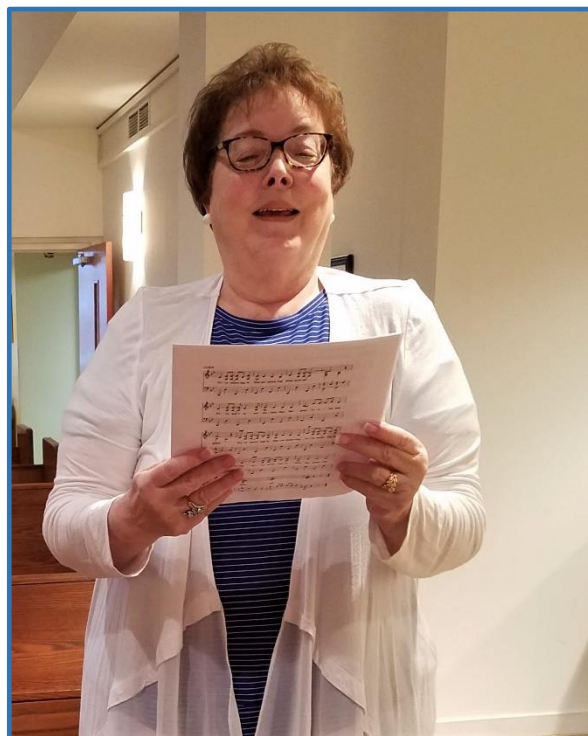
PAT: It is very hard for me to preach to an empty sanctuary, because I tend to feed off the congregation. It is difficult for me to get my adrenaline going when the sanctuary is empty. I really don't like looking at just the camera. That's why I appreciate Marcia coming just about every week; I at least can look at her from time to time. When you preach into a camera you don't get a sense of community.

Q. Marcia, you've been either our 'congregation' or part of the worship service (or both) since we began the videos back early in March. Is it important that if people can't come to worship, worship should be brought to them?

MARCIA: For years, people have had an opportunity to worship in their homes by watching a pastor they have no relationship with. The difference for me is our congregation is staying connected with their own pastor in a style of worship that is familiar. In these days where it

seems that everything has changed and anxieties are running high; it is my prayer that when they hear David chime the hour and then see and hear Pat bring words of encouragement that God has laid upon his heart, they will indeed know God is with them.

Q. You've also had a voice - a very good one - every Sunday - singing. You are the choir and the congregation when hymns are played. Is it your thought that if those at home hear you singing, they too might sing?



MARCIA: While I sit in the sanctuary each week, I am worshiping and that includes singing. It never occurred to me I would be heard on the recording. If it encourages people at home to sing, that's wonderful! I also know it's hard for Pat to sing alone.

Q. From the very start, you were very receptive to providing video of our worship services. Initially, what were your thoughts about the upside and downside of doing them?

PAT: I have to admit this is the first time I have ever done a worship service by video. I

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have experienced a few times where the worship service in which I was a participant was videoed, but it was a regular service in which the sanctuary was filled with people.

I am not sure there is a downside to doing this, other than the fact we are having to do it because of social distancing and the fact that large groups can't congregate. The upside to doing worship in this manner is that it gives us a chance to stay connected if only in a small way.



Q. What's changed - if anything - about your sermons and how you deliver them? Are they harder to prepare?

PAT: I don't think the sermon is any harder to prepare but it is more difficult to preach to basically a camera.



Q. David, music is an integral part of our worship experience, whether we are together in church or watching videos in our homes on Sundays.

What message do you hope is received through music?

DAVID: The message I hope to convey through music is one of confidence in the Lord and His mercy.

Q. You haven't missed a beat in providing meaningful music and hymns for the last 7 or 8 weeks. What are your thoughts about how effective the music and the videos have been?

DAVID: Thankfully, our Pastor and Session have given us the opportunity to explore this new Worship venue! I am so glad to be a part of this, as music has a way of connecting us together and it certainly enhances Worship. Furthermore, it is vital that our congregation continue to come together and feel a sense of a "normal" Worship. I can only respond to "how effective is the music?" by saying "thank-you" to everyone who has given such positive feedback!

Q. Many of the comments I've read mention the music and how appreciated it is by those who worship at home. What are your objectives as you prepare yourself and your selections each week for the virtual worship experience?

DAVID: Honestly, my main objectives for music selection/preparation have not changed, except for the fact that some organ registrations (e.g. sounds) are more successful than others on the video. Also, I keep in mind that I have to play music as perfect as possible on the video, because we usually record the service straight through and there is no editing.

Q. What feedback have you received from our Little Chapel family about the services and their worshipping remotely from home?

PAT: The feedback I have received from members of Little Chapel has been very positive. I receive on average 25 emails a week from church members expressing their appreciation for

the online services since we can't be together for worship. The most common saying has to do with the online service helping all of us to be connected. I have had a few people ask if this is something that we can do every Sunday even after we are allowed to move back into the sanctuary.

Q. Our services now run a little shorter than normal, but for the most part, keeping the core elements of worship remain intact week-to-week. Do you think we can or should do more, or do things differently?

MARCIA: Our worship service is a constant right now for our congregation and I believe our order and style is of comfort when they tune in. So why change what doesn't need to change.

Q. Other than the delivering the message of the sermon along with the entire worship service, what are your objectives in doing the videos?

PAT: I hope that it allows for members of Little Chapel to feel a little connected with one another during this time of social distancing.

Q. None of us knows for sure when we can resume Sunday worship at Little Chapel. If the 'stay home - worship at home' directive continues for an indefinite amount of time, will you continue the videos?



PAT: We will continue videotaping the service as long as the "stay at home" directive is in place,

no matter how long that may be. I have even thought about the possibility of videotaping the first few services we have back in the sanctuary, just in case some people still are not too sure about going out. They can continue to see the service on line. I am committed (with the help of Gary Kohunsky and David Heinzman) to keeping these services going as long as needed.

Q. You play now to an empty church - there are no bells or choir, and the congregation isn't there to fill the sanctuary with voices. Has that changed you in any way?



DAVID: Certainly! I miss our congregation, their fellowship, and participation in Worship; and I really miss the camaraderie of our wonderful volunteer musicians. On the other hand, I have come to realize the truth in scripture that says, "Where two or three are gathered, God is there." I feel the Spirit when we record each service and I cherish that!

Q. There are churches in our area that livestream services regularly. Now that we've

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done almost 2 months of video recordings, do you think livestreaming Sunday worship services is a logical next step and perhaps a possibility for Little Chapel in the future?

PAT: That all depends on the congregation and whether or not members of Little Chapel would be interested in seeing livestreaming. It will certainly be something we will look into if it can be beneficial to our congregation.

Q. Do you think providing worship via video has taught you anything?

PAT: I will never take worship for granted. For some people maybe worship has always been a habit, something one does because they have always done it; but now, having gone for more than a month not being together, it has made me realize just how important it is to be together. Also, it has taught me about being flexible. I never thought I would ever worship in this manner.

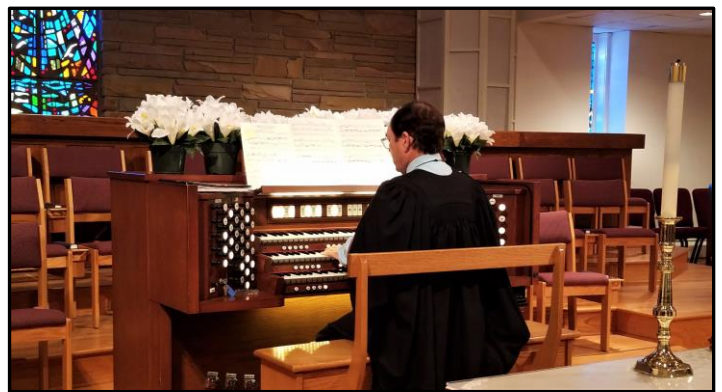


Q. How are both you and Pat coping with the 'stay home' directive?

MARCIA: Being at home is only difficult because I can't see my church family. There are only so many closets to straighten and pantries to organize, AGAIN. So right now, my time is spent helping Miss Shelby, she needs and wants a lot of attention (she is our little princess) and I believe I could fix many home problems by all the HGTV I watch. And then if I Need A Little Christmas Now, I can watch a Christmas movie on Hallmark.

PAT: How I deal with the "stay home" directive depends on the day. I have ventured out to the grocery store a time or two. I cheat a little in that I go over to the church every Monday - Friday from 9:00 or so till noon. The hardest day for me is Sunday. Even though Marcia and I watch the video together on Sunday mornings, I want to be at church.

Q. Many were disappointed when the announcement came that the Easter cantata was cancelled. Is likely to be rescheduled or planned for next year?



DAVID: I am hopeful we will be able to share the Easter Cantata, either later this Summer or perhaps as a kick-off in the Fall. Our Chancel Choir has worked so hard on the cantata and its message of trial and resurrection is certainly appropriate and timely.

(Thanks to Marcia, Mary Jo, David & Pat for their help in preparing this story and for their ongoing efforts to help keep our church family connected.)



There will come a time when it will be safe for us to venture out during the week to resume normal activities. We also hope and pray that on Sundays, our church family will be reunited and we will again be able to worship together in Little Chapel's sanctuary.

As we shelter in place, we are finding ways to pass the time. At times, however, it seems like each day is just like the one before. That's true for me too; however, Fridays are different.



I have the good fortune of working with Pastor Pat, Marcia, David, and Mary Jo at Little Chapel

each Friday capturing video of the worship service that we post on our Facebook page and website.

The first service was posted on March 22 and we all wondered what the reaction would be and just how many people would view it. As it turns out, that first videoed worship service has been watched 310 times! The Palm Sunday service had 334 views and Easter Sunday was watched 295 times. In a word, 'WOW!'

The videos are first uploaded to YouTube, then posted to our website and Facebook. I don't delete the website videos, so they can be watched again and again – kind of like watching reruns, I guess.

But the number of viewers isn't really important. True, it's impressive, but I think what matters more are the reactions and feedback from those who watch on Sunday mornings.

The collection of comments we have received inspire us and give purpose to what we do once a week. It makes what we do, matter.

These are just some of the reactions we've received to-date:

"The Sunday worship service is very meaningful. It is the result of great effort and dedication put forth by the team of Pat, David and Gary, each one of whom makes the service possible. The conduct of the service and sermon, the music and camera work are exceptional. The only thing is it makes me miss all the more the worship in the sanctuary!"

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"One additional thing that is amazing to me is that this service is visible not just to Little Chapel church members but to viewers all over the internet. What an expanded witness!"

"EXCELLENT job you ALL!! (It) Flowed smoothly: Perfectly synchronized!"

"Thanks be to God - and to YOU!"

"Our Sunday habit is to "be ready for church" at 11am. My iPad at full screen and perched on the edge of the coffee table. We sit next to each other on the couch. To sing the hymns we both lean a little closer to the screen to read the words."

"We have watched every Sunday service and read every daily devotion and felt blessed by every one of them. Our thanks to Pat and all who made them possible. Very meaningful to us in this difficult time. Thank you." 🙏

"Thank you for all you do to keep us connected."

"The services are great. I look forward to them every Sunday. I miss everyone, and will be so happy when we can be together again; but in the meantime, this helps us get through this pandemic. Wishing you blessings and good health."

"Thank you for all you have done to ensure we receive these services. I just wish all of our congregation could share in this ministry. Thanks again." 🙏

"The worship services are perfect!"

"From worshipping in the parking lot after a hurricane damaged the sanctuary to sitting at home worshipping in front of our computers, the Little Chapel has come and will come

through it all with God's help and the wonderful members who go the extra mile. Thank you!"

"Looking forward to the Sunday service. Thank you for your service to all of us in that way!"

Article by Gary Kohunsky

The videos of Sunday's worship services will continue until further notice. They are posted on Little Chapel's website, Facebook page, and YouTube.

www.littlechapel.org

<https://www.facebook.com/pg/Little-Chapel-On-The-Boardwalk-Presbyterian-Church-USA-114008951962871/posts/>

The videos are also uploaded to YouTube @

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC9dlzRfgwIMPmC6_E6GI5xQ/featured?view_as=subscriber

*In
Loving
Memory
of*

WILLIAM RAGLAND

Ms. Michelle Ragland Dilworth

Ms. Marie Ragland Werbel

NANCY HERRING

Mr. Bryan McIntyre

MARY WILSON

Mr. Roger Carlton Wilson



ANGELS in the CLOUDS



How often do we pause to look up at the sky and appreciate the beauty of nature? When was the last time we took time to look for shapes in the clouds? Clouds sometimes take on shapes and forms of all matter of things, some obscure and others quite clear. Look to the heavens, you might just see angels in the clouds.

By Dr. Christa Metzger

In one of his early daily emails during our “sheltered-at-home” time, Pastor Pat asked what we were doing to stay focused/busy/productive.

I painted a series of “cloud angels.” Here’s a photo of one I had taken months ago while sitting on our balcony.



I thought I could paint that one and then look for more. The more I looked up into the skies, especially in evenings or mornings, the more I saw.

A month later, by Easter, I had 14 watercolor paintings of cloud angels. All but the last one, my “Easter Angel” were painted on small paper - about five to seven inches.

First, a disclaimer: I am not a professional artist. YOU can do this too if you have any kind of painting or craft supplies in your home! Pick a theme and a medium and enjoy!

The product is not what’s most important. When you spend time with it, it becomes your meditation. I have a friend who wrote a book called “Zen and the Art of Knitting.”

Each of my cloud angels was done on a different day - sometimes finishing the next day. So each reflects a particular state of my mind and heart - as well as a development of my own skill.

I got better at shaping wispy clouds, though with some I failed miserably. But, as most of you know, progress is never linear. They’re still angels - and they blessed me.

May they bless you as well! Enjoy the little story describing each one! They are shown in the order I painted them.



This was the first – trying to reflect the photo I had taken.



An angel without a head? Maybe that day I felt as though I was going to crash right into that unformed water.



Still trying to find an answer from up above.



Just blue and white for this one! Wings spread wide - almost covered the whole sky.



One of my favorites - lit up by a setting, or rising, sun!



Reaching toward the heavens - a messy earth below!



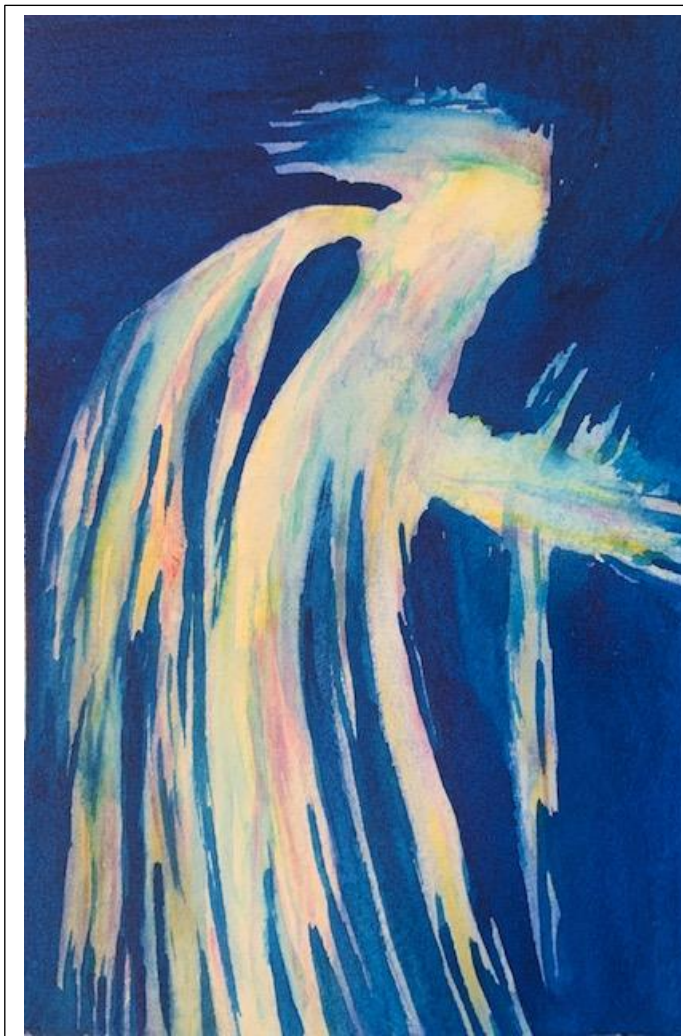
My husband's nephew, Rob, asked for one with a purple sky.



A fire rainbow angel - when light passes through cirrus clouds made of ice crystals. I want to do more of those.



Another, more abstract, rainbow angel - a friend of mine loves this. It will be his gift.



A ruined angel! I was ready to toss it! But my husband liked it, so it stayed. Maybe it's a true "messenger" angel.



I had to try another one, of course!

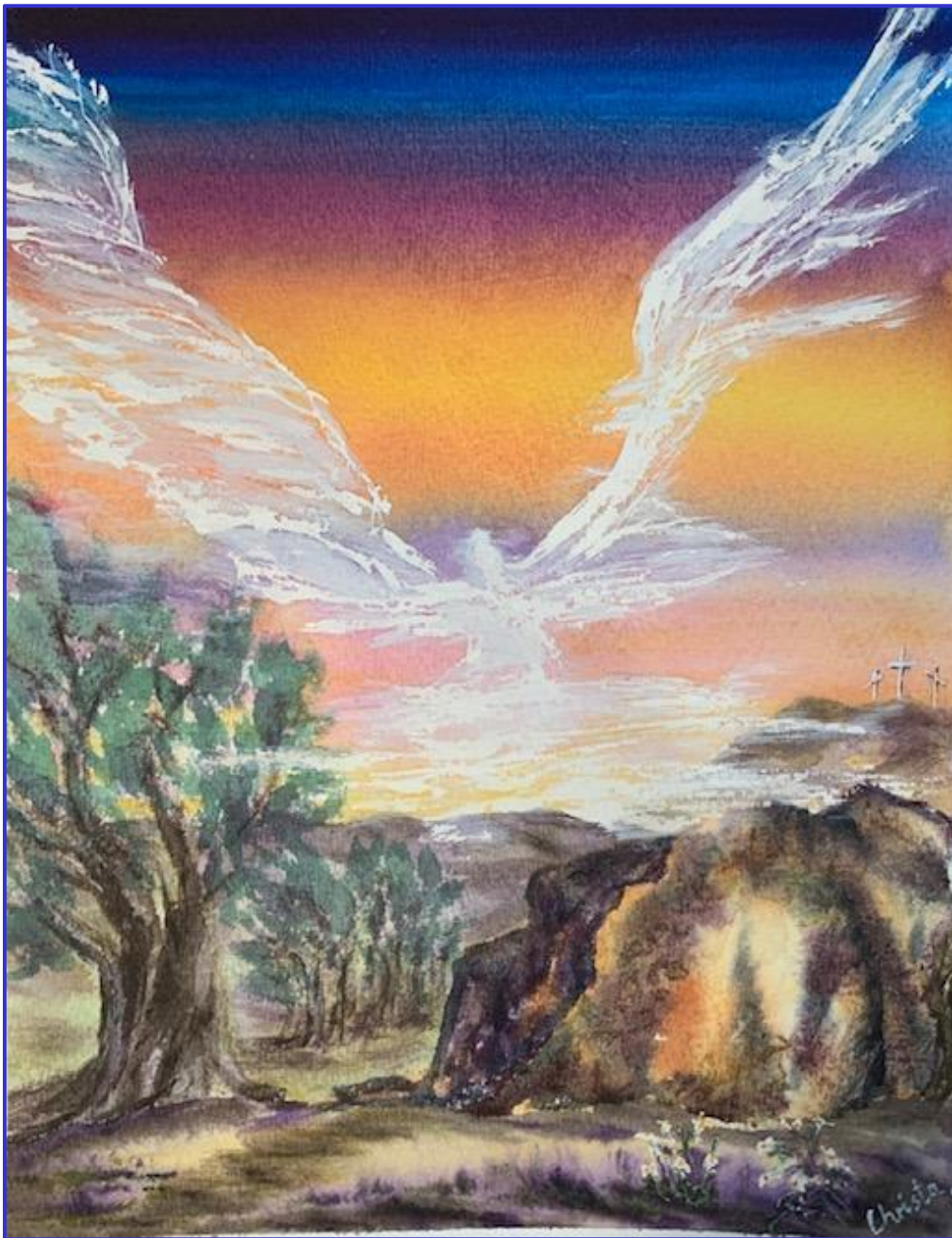


(Left) Why not a buddy for an angel? Only two colors - the accidental Easter hat needs more color, don't you agree?



(Above) These almost didn't make it. I call them "dark angels!" They endured lots of erasing (yes, you can erase watercolors) and repainting to be saved. But I kind of like them now.

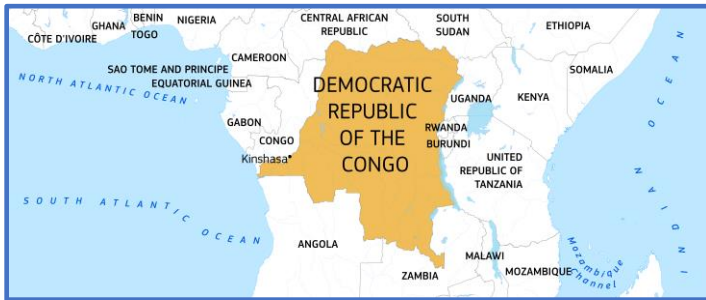
(Left) The Easter Angel descending to roll away the stone! It was painted twice the size of the others - appropriate to celebrate new life!



A sincere 'THANK YOU' to Dr. Christa Metzger for sharing her series of cloud angels paintings and commentary with us. Someday soon, we hope we will be able to see these water color paintings on display at Little Chapel.

Until then, let's turn our eyes to the skies and perhaps we too will see angels in the clouds.

STAYING CONNECTED



Helen Brumbaugh recently received this note from Inge Sthresley. Inge and her husband, Larry are our missionaries in the Congo.

Helen,

It is nice to hear from you and appreciate your reaching out to us. It is a challenging time for everyone. Glad to hear the community is doing well with the restrictions. Sounds like Pastor Pat and all have done well to figure out how to keep everyone connected as best they can in the new COVID context. We are still trying to figure it out also.

I thought we would have more down time, but our work is keeping us plenty busy with various conference calls on Zoom, Skype etc. I haven't left the house for 4 weeks now. Fortunately, we have a big yard and, on the weekends, we are gardening and enjoying fresh avocados, papayas, and bananas that we harvest from our fruit trees.

We have more than 300 COVID cases now in DRC and 25 deaths - mainly in Kinshasa area. However, I'm sure the real figure is much, much higher as there is so little testing. So far, there has not been a government city-wide lock down, just in the Gombe area of the city where people have more means to stay home.

Thanks again for your thoughtful note!

Inge

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

Congregational Life at Little Chapel Is looking forward to having at least some of our exciting and educational activities to actually happen. Hopefully there will be several months to explore some of these.

Joan Page and Rebecca Beachy



The CDC has emphasized that maintaining 6-feet social distancing remains important to slowing the spread of the virus. CDC is additionally advising the use of simple cloth face coverings to slow the spread of the virus and help people who may have the virus and do not know it from transmitting it to others.

Cloth face coverings fashioned from household items or made at home from common materials at low cost can be used as an additional, voluntary public health measure.

If you don't have a mask and need one, Janice Allen will make one for you. To date she has made 34 masks. (Thank you, Janice!)

If you are interested, please contact her by email to make your request at janiceallen@ec.rr.com.

You will need to pick up the mask at Janice's home which she will leave in a bag on her front porch.

People have offered to pay her for them; however, as an alternative, Janice suggests perhaps making a donation to the church.



"Stay safe. Wear your masks."



(The following is from Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia)

A holiday is a day set aside by custom or by law on which normal activities, especially business or work including school, are suspended or reduced. Generally, holidays are intended to allow individuals to celebrate or commemorate an event or tradition of cultural or religious significance.

Holidays may be designated by governments, religious institutions, or other groups or organizations. The degree to which normal activities are reduced by a holiday may depend on local laws, customs, the type of job held or personal choices.

The concept of holidays often originated in connection with religious observances. The intention of a holiday was typically to allow individuals to tend to religious duties associated with important dates on the calendar.

In most modern societies, however, holidays serve as much of a recreational function as any other weekend days or activities.

While May is the month for some obscure holidays like tuba day, hoagie day, dance like a chicken day or no-diet day; the following three May holidays do have more prominence. and observed perhaps by greater numbers.

2020 MAY						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

Thursday, May 7

National Day of Prayer

National Day of Prayer calls on all people of different faiths in the United States to pray for the nation and its leaders. It is held on the first Thursday of May each year.

Through the efforts of the National Day of Prayer Task Force, more than 35,000 prayer gatherings will be conducted by about 40,000 volunteers across the United States. Several million people are expected to participate in this call to prayer. Other events in various communities across the United States may include: choirs and bands performing songs relating to prayer; community prayer breakfasts or luncheons; daytime prayer walks; and evening worship and prayer services or gatherings. National Day of Prayer is a time for people of all faiths to pray together in their own way.

In 1775 the Continental Congress allocated a time for prayer in forming a new nation. Over the years, there have been calls for a day of prayer, including from President Abraham Lincoln in 1863. On April 17, 1952, President Harry Truman signed a bill proclaiming the National Day of Prayer into law in the United States. President Reagan amended the law in 1988, designating the first Thursday of May each year as the National Day of Prayer.

The National Prayer Committee was formed in the United States in 1972. It went on to create the National Day of Prayer Task Force, with the intended purpose of coordinating events for the National Day of Prayer. According to the Legal Information Institute, the President shall issue each year a proclamation designating the first Thursday in May as a National Day of Prayer on which the people of the United States may turn to

God in prayer and meditation at churches, in groups, and as individuals.

(NOTE: DONALD J. TRUMP, President of the United States of America, proclaimed March 15, 2020, as a National Day of Prayer for All Americans Affected by the Coronavirus Pandemic and for our National Response Efforts. He urged Americans of all faiths and religious traditions and backgrounds to offer prayers on that date for all those affected, including people who have suffered harm or lost loved ones.)



Sunday, May 10

Mother's Day

Mother's Day in the United States is annually held on the second Sunday of May. It celebrates motherhood and it is a time to appreciate mothers and mother figures. Many people give gifts, cards, flowers, candy, a meal in a restaurant or other treats to their mother and mother figures, including grandmothers, great-grandmothers, stepmothers, and foster mothers.

The origins of Mother's Day are attributed to different people. Many believe that two women, Julia Ward Howe and Anna Jarvis were important in establishing the tradition of Mother's Day in the United States. Other sources say that Juliet Calhoun Blakely initiated Mother's Day in Albion, Michigan, in the late 1800s. Her sons paid tribute to her each year and urged others to honor their mothers.

Around 1870, Julia Ward Howe called for Mother's Day to be celebrated each year to encourage pacifism and disarmament amongst women. It continued to be held in Boston for about ten years under her sponsorship, but died out after that.

In 1907, Anna Jarvis held a private Mother's Day celebration in memory of her mother, Ann Jarvis, in Grafton, West Virginia. Ann Jarvis had organized "Mother's Day Work Clubs" to improve health and cleanliness in the area where she lived. Anna Jarvis launched a quest for Mother's Day to be more widely recognized. Her campaign was later financially supported by John Wanamaker, a clothing merchant from Philadelphia.

In 1908, she was instrumental in arranging a service in the Andrew's Methodist Episcopal Church in Grafton, West Virginia, which was attended by 407 children and their mothers. The church has now become the International Mother's Day Shrine. It is a tribute to all mothers and has been designated as a National Historic Landmark.

Mother's Day has become a day that focuses on generally recognizing mothers' and mother figures' roles. Mother's Day has also become an increasingly important event for businesses in recent years. This is particularly true of restaurants and businesses manufacturing and selling cards and gift items.



Monday, May 25

Memorial Day

Memorial Day is observed on the last Monday of May. It was formerly known as Decoration Day and commemorates all men and women who have died in military service for the United States. Many people visit cemeteries and memorials on Memorial Day and it is traditionally seen as the start of the summer season.

It is traditional to fly the flag of the United States at half-staff from dawn until noon. Many people visit cemeteries and memorials, particularly to honor those who have died in military service. Many

(continued on next page)

volunteers place an American flag on each grave in national cemeteries. Memorial Day is combined with Jefferson Davis' Birthday in Mississippi.

Memorial Day has become less of an occasion of remembrance. Many people choose to hold picnics, sports events and family gatherings on this weekend. This day is traditionally seen as the start of the summer season for cultural events. For the fashion conscious, it is seen as acceptable to wear white clothing, particularly shoes from Memorial Day until Labor Day. However, fewer and fewer people follow this rule and many wear white clothing throughout the year.

Memorial Day started as an event to honor Union soldiers who had died during the American Civil War. It was inspired by the way people in the Southern states honored their dead. After World War I, it was extended to include all men and women who died in any war or military action.

Memorial Day was originally known as Decoration Day. The current name for this day did not come into use until after World War II. Decoration Day and then Memorial Day used to be held on May 30, regardless of the day of the week, on which it fell.

In 1968, the Uniform Holidays Bill was passed as part of a move to use federal holidays to create three-day weekends. This meant that that, from 1971, Memorial Day holiday has been officially observed on the last Monday in May. However, it took a longer period for all American states to recognize the new date.



Update for the Sister Isaac Center

Because of the coronavirus, the Sister Isaac Center is closed until further notice and no donations can be dropped off at this time. Please wait until the Center reopens to bring your donations to Little Chapel. When they reopen, there will be an announcement in the church bulletin. Thank you.

Birthdays in



1 Gary Gischel
3 Maggie North
3 Janice Willetts
4 Jane Baldwin
4 Dean Cobble
6 Heather Schild
6 Nan Spainhour
10 Sherman Criner
12 Alison Clark
13 Delwood Herren
13 Barry Lindholm
14 Tommy Bancroft
14 Pat Brassfield
15 Brian Ennis
15 Patsy Nelson
16 Larry Daniel
18 Ethan Ennis
18 Emma Ennis
19 Lisa Jordan
19 Christine McKirachan
21 Mary Roche
21 Kristin Skiba
22 Betty Woodard
24 Robert Andrew
25 Marley Hall
25 Margie Smith
26 Faye Hall
27 Mike Leach
27 Marti Shogi
28 David Heinzman, Jr.
28 Nicholas Herren
30 Robert McCarl
30 Emma McLaughlin
30 Doug Vass



Migrant Ministry is an important phase of the Church Women United's outreach. Each year, health kits and duffel bags are assembled by member churches to be used by North Carolina migrant workers.

The health kits are given to the Telamon Corporation in Whiteville for distribution throughout the year.

Due to the coronavirus pandemic, when 'stay at home' requirements are lifted and we move to our 'new normal,' plans will be announced for preparation of migrant worker health kits for 2020.

Our generous support will again be needed. Love and prayers to you as we go through these uncertain times.

Jean Northrop
Little Chapel CWU Representative

A 7-DAY CORONAVIRUS PRAYER GUIDE



PRAY FOR THE SICK

Pray for those who are sick, and their families, that the Lord would heal and comfort them.

PRAY FOR HEALTHCARE WORKERS

Pray for those on the frontlines treating those who are sick, that the Lord would protect and strengthen them.



PRAY FOR THE VULNERABLE

Pray for those who are especially vulnerable to disease, that the sickness would pass over them and that they would rely on others for help.

PRAY FOR THE UNEMPLOYED

Pray for those who have lost work, that God would provide through their families and communities.



PRAY FOR OUR LEADERS

Pray for national and local government leaders, that they would have wisdom to do what is best for all.

PRAY FOR STUDENTS & FAMILIES

Pray for students who are out of school, and their families, that the Lord would give them patience and discipline.



PRAY FOR CHURCHES

Pray for churches and ministry leaders, that they would know how to best show the love of Christ in this time.

"Peace I leave with you. My peace I give to you. I do not give as the world gives.
Don't let your heart be troubled or fearful."

JOHN 14:27

A Message from
Angela McConnell

Director of Children's Ministries

"I pray you are all well and staying safe during this unique time. Please continue to pray for all who are most vulnerable and affected by the coronavirus pandemic. I look forward to seeing you all soon."

Little Chapel on the Boardwalk

Financial Statement January – March 2020

Total Income Received	\$111,188
Total Expenses	\$101,743
	+\$9446

During these difficult times, if it is possible, please continue to send your offerings into the church office.

Joan, our bookkeeper comes in every Tuesday to post the past weeks giving.



Presbyterian Church (USA)
2 W. Fayetteville Street
Wrightsville Beach, NC 28480
Church Office: 910.256-2819
www.littlechapel.org

Early worship service (May – September) 8 am @ Access #4 **CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE**
Sunday School – 9:15 am / Traditional sanctuary worship - 10:30 am **CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE**
SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES at 9 am @ www.littlechapel.org and on facebook

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