

# First Church in Pembroke

## April 2020 Newsletter

### NOTICES.....

Please remember First Church in Pembroke is closed as of now. We will keep you posted on when we will reopen. There is no calendar of events posted as of now for the month of April. As soon as we have more information, a calendar will be released. The phones at First Church have been forwarded to me and I will return your calls. I am working from home as of now. Hope you are all well.

Kristen

### Community Pancake Breakfast Postponed

Pancake Breakfast for April has been postponed. We will let you know when we will resume our Pancake Breakfast. Thank you all and we look forward to seeing you all again!!

### Search

At this time of uncertainty, the Search Committee will still be going forward. If you have any questions, please feel to reach out to the committee. Blessings to all please take care of yourself.

### Pastor's Corner

By the time you get this newsletter, Easter will be less than two weeks away. Because of what's going on in the world today, you will have some unique choices as to where to worship. You can choose between the kitchen, the living room or even the basement if you have Wi-Fi access.

Yes, it is a strange world that we're living in and yet in some ways it's not that different. We certainly have unique challenges that face all of us. But whatever those challenges are, our faith can guide us through the days ahead.

After evacuating from Katrina in 2005, I was off my game for a day or two. But then I realized I have a job to do. When I got in touch with my call for ministry, my outlook changed significantly. And as some of you know I was a chaplain in a shelter for 200 people for three months. Not an easy job. It was during that time that I realized that *all we have control over is our next decision*. So, knowing God's Call on your life is vitally important in the days ahead.

My hope for each of us in our church is that we don't worry necessarily about some of the long-term issues that we are being faced with. Rather let's continue to make positive and safe choices in the days and weeks ahead of us. But that doesn't mean we won't have moments of darkness including fear.

One thing I know about fear is that it interferes with our relationship to God. So perhaps if you're feeling fearful or anxious you simply need to lift that up to God in prayer until you get an answer. It certainly helped me get through the trials following Katrina.

Someday we will look back at this time and remember the year you worshiped in your living room. You might even ask the question "Now what was that Pastor's name? Well my name is Rev. Fred. And I am praying for everyone in the church, every day.

Blessings,

Rev. Fred

## Missions

Our March 8<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> meetings were cancelled. Unfortunately, our church, the functions and meetings held there have been cancelled because of this terrible virus that is going around. We do hope that Missions can continue helping the people of our community and the surrounding areas. With the monies we receive from our faithful congregation we are able to send support to the food pantries (Pembroke Pantry, Firehouse Pantry), like we have done in the past with no disruption. At this time of year, we are collecting for the Hygiene/ Survival kits. We thank all who have donated, and our collection box is getting full. We would like to have these kits ready for our Pembroke residents just in case we get to that point in time where we would have need for them. Hopefully we would never get to that point, but if we do and the Hygiene Kits can help, Missions would like to be ready. Money that people donated for postage to have them sent to other places (Church World Services) will be given back their donations if kits are used in Pembroke.

We were disappointed that our St. Patrick's Day Dinner was cancelled. We all look forward to this Irish Dinner of "Dinty Moore" corned beef and cabbage. Aye that it is! The Palmer children and Missions made 128 candy favors for the dinner, but we hope that we can use them for Easter or May Day Basket.

"One Great Hour of Sharing" will resume when we are able to all come together in church and Fellowship Hall. We will be able to set our table up for donation to help people in disasters, floods, tornadoes and hurricanes.

It's that time of year to see if we have any High School Seniors who qualify and would like to apply for our Morris Scholarship. Reverend Robert G. Morris served First Church from 1969 – 1982. The Morris Scholarship Fund was established in his memory. One of the things noted by our parishioners was that Rev. Morris liked to talk on the Sunday after our Old Home Days which was also Hymn Sunday about who composed hymns and why they were written. One of his favorites was "Oh Master Let Me Walk with Thee". This was a fun enjoyable Sunday. We are looking forward to Mother's Day/Blanket Sunday, May 10<sup>th</sup>.

Praise God and a Thank you to Rev. Fred Meade and leaders of the church for putting together Sunday Church service so all can tune in and hear Christian music and God's Word.

I will look with favor on the faithful in the land, that they may dwell with me; he who walks in the way that is blameless shall minister to me. Psalm 101: 6 Rev

## Greetings and Best Wishes from the Diaconate

This is a strange time for our church as we have been unable to worship together in person.

Reverend Fred and Mary Beth have been presenting an abbreviated service online each Sunday at our regular time of 10 am. You can watch live from our website: [firstchurchinpembroke.org](http://firstchurchinpembroke.org) or watch later after the video is edited and posted along with a brief introduction from Jane Hodge. Many thanks to both Fred and Mary Beth for helping us to worship and to everyone who is taping and posting the service.

While our Ash Wednesday service went well as First Church started the Lenten period, at the time of this writing, it is difficult to make plans for the upcoming Holy Week. The Diaconate had discussed, at our last Deacons meeting, a Tenebrae Service for Maundy Thursday, a Saturday overnight vigil and Easter Sunday service (with an Easter egg hunt!). These events will undoubtedly change as we all "flatten the curve" and endure & prevail through the coronavirus social and economic dilemma. Please keep ears, eyes and heart open as we approach Holy Week for updated information. Also, please email your suggestions for a celebration of Holy Week in a time of social distancing!

Rev. Bob Naylor will be providing an initial report based on his one on one interviews and on the surveys he received. This report will provide us with some data and recommendations to help us work together more effectively. Our Teaming and Dreaming will continue with a rescheduled meeting at an appropriate time during which we will come up with specific and concrete ideas to build a new future with new dreams.

## Stewardship

Blessings to everyone from the Stewardship Team. This is a strange time for our country and the world. While all of us travel through this time of uncertainty please keep First Church in your prayers and in your thoughts.

When the Coronavirus becomes a memory, First Church will need your support. Our church will need our attendance, our time, and our offerings.

If you are able, we ask you to keep current with your pledges. The needs of our church and our community continue.

May God bless everyone with good health. We hope to join with you in worship very soon.