

The Carillon Newsletter

May 2020



Dear Church,

Today I write this as we are still under the “stay at home” order. We do not know what life will look like exactly in the weeks and months ahead with this pandemic. All the unknown can be a lot to handle right now. There is so much we feel like we cannot do because we are required to stay home. It can be frustrating. We might be angry and mad about these orders. But listen to this please.

You are protecting your neighbor. You are living right now in a strange way a good Christian life. I as a pastor never thought I would say staying home is living out your faith as a Christian. But it is! Right now, by staying home you are helping your neighbor and keeping them safe from the uncontrollable virus. We are helping to stop the spread. This takes a lot of courage for some of you to stay home and be “bored” and lonely. Honestly, if you are bored please email or call me and set up a time to talk with me as your pastor, because I got plenty of ideas of ways you can keep occupied at your home. Really, I do. I will help you find a hobby and a way to give back to our community right now. 😊

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*Our Vision:
Welcoming all to a
faith community of
service and love.*

Church Staff

Rev. Michelle de Beauchamp
Senior Pastor

Jeani Shofner
Lay Associate Pastor

Teri Julian
**Administrative
Assistant/Bookkeeper**

Kari Hasbrouck
Music/Worship Director

Troy George
Choir Director

Lillian Matheson
Coffee Hour Minister

Council Members

Sue Varland
Howard Morris
Eric Shofner
Tony Enzler
Ingrid Larson
Nola Bell
Sharal Whitecliff

But let us get back to helping your neighbor. Sometimes being still in life allows us to be still with God. And this stillness can bring us into a deeper relationship with Jesus and hear how God is calling us in our lives. Also, this time is a gift for reflection and how the Spirit is pulling us to live differently. So be still and hear the voice of God like the psalmist wrote in 46:10-11,

*“Be still, and know that I am God;
I will be exalted among the nations,
I will be exalted in the earth.
The LORD Almighty is with us;
the God of Jacob is our fortress.”*

God is our fortress—God provides us comfort for our souls. Know God. Know that God is everywhere and with us on this earth during this pandemic. And right now, we need to be praising God and giving thanks to God for our blessings. So in the words of the great Bing Crosby in “White Christmas” it is time we count our blessings instead of sheep. It is time we give thanks for the blessings we have and think about ways we can share them even as we are locked away from each other.

The blessings I see every day right now are this: shelter, food, love, community, connection via the internet and phone, the essential workers, the sun, the flowers blooming, the rain falling, and the stars shining.

Thank you God, for all this.

Thank you God, for blessing all of us with our basic needs.

Thank you God, for blessing us and allowing us to stay at home to help our neighbor stay healthy.

Thank you God, for blessing us and walking alongside us in this weird dark valley of pandemic.

Thank you for your Word that restores our souls and provides us with peace.

Amen.

Peace be with you all, Pastor Michelle

Council News Update

The church council members, along with Pastor Michelle and Pastor Jeani, held a Zoom meeting on April 19.

Unfinished business included the status of the Presbyterian building kitchen remodel and the heat pump installation at the church. While both projects are coming along, the work has slowed somewhat due to the virus shut down. At the Presbyterian building, new flooring has been installed in the kitchen and the appliances are arriving. As far as the new heat pump goes at Saron/First, all the paperwork is complete. We are just waiting for Actionaire to show up to do the work.

Pastor Michelle shared her plan for continuing our weekly church services online and well as adding a daily devotion and music posts. In addition, Pastor Michelle is working on grant proposals for our hunger ministry and providing pastoral care for those who are ill or have family ill during this time. She is making calls to every church household (hopefully completed by the end of the month) to check to see how our membership is coping during this crisis and to determine if anyone has special needs. She also has volunteers who will continue to make weekly or biweekly calls to maintain personal contact with our membership.

During the two weeks prior to our April 19 meeting, the council members considered the possibility of applying for funds from the Payroll Protection Program under the CARES Act. In addition to small businesses across the nation, the severe economic downturn has touched non-profits, including churches. Saron/First was no exception. Consensus was reached to go ahead. An application was made and approved. We received \$20,800. This money (which must be used solely for salary/pay and/or utilities) allowed us to bring staff, whose hours were reduced during this crisis, back to working their regular hours.

Finally, Pastor Michelle is reconsidering her plans for sabbatical this fall because of the uncertainty regarding virus resurgence and its effect on the travel involved during her sabbatical. She is working with the Christian Theological Seminary, the organization that provided the grant money for the sabbatical, to determine whether to postpone for a year.

Sincerely,

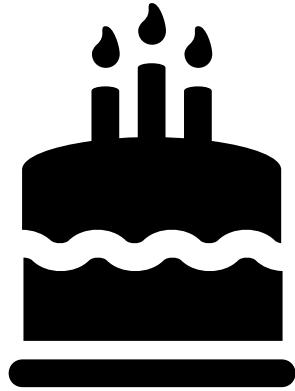
Sue Varland

MAY @ Home with Saron First

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>All in-person activities and Worship is cancelled. Please see schedule below for online services. They can be accessed on our Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/Saron1st/ as well as on our YouTube channel (except for live Worship): https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCZNdVOZECCOpZ0ZZQBvU2Zg</p> <p><i>The office will remain closed during the Stay Home Stay Healthy Mandate currently in effect until May 31st. Please keep in mind that any reopening date is tentative.</i></p>					1	2
					8a Music w/David 5p DWP	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10a O/L Worship	8a Music w/David 5p DWP	1p Kids Corner 5p DWP	8a Music w/Kari 5p DWP	8a Music w/Kari 5p DWP	8a Music w/David 5p DWP	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
10a O/L Worship	8a Music w/David 5p DWP	1p Kids Corner 5p DWP	8a Music w/Kari 5p DWP	8a Music w/Kari 5p DWP	8a Music w/David 5p DWP	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
10a O/L Worship	<i>UGM Team 3</i> 8a Music w/David 5p DWP	1p Kids Corner 5p DWP	8a Music w/Kari 5p DWP	8a Music w/Kari 5p DWP	8a Music w/David 5p DWP	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
10a O/L Worship	MEMORIAL DAY 8a Music w/David 5p DWP	1p Kids Corner 5p DWP	8a Music w/Kari 5p DWP	8a Music w/Kari 5p DWP	8a Music w/David 5p DWP	
31						
10a O/L Worship						

May Birthdays

3-May - Lunabelle Julian
4-May - Roger Borth
8-May - Gabriel Nessa
10-May - Hank Bilderback
13-May - Diana McCallister
16-May - Doris Ellingson
17-May - Hannah Hasbrouck
18-May - Carrie Larson
28-May - Nola Bell
29-May - Emilee Pelan
29-May - John Sullivan
30-May - Jade Sandstrom



Council Meeting

Next Council Meeting will
be May 17th.



Assisting Minister Schedule

Please stay home and stay healthy! We will be together again!

Saron First Ministries, Groups and Education

This following pages of in-person activities are still considered tentative until we are released from our current Government mandates.

Coffee Hour

Starting again on June 3rd - Come for coffee, goodies and fellowship every *Wednesday at 10am* in the Fireside Room.

Drop-in Grief Group

June 3rd - Please join us on Wednesdays at 12:30pm for Grief Group. This ministry is for anyone who has lost a loved one and would like fellowship and support.

Saron/First Choir

June 3rd - Choir practice is every *Wednesday at 6:30pm* in the Choir room at Saron. Contact Troy or Kari if you are interested in singing with the Choir this season, or just show up. All abilities are welcome. Come make joyful noise!

Games Galore!

June 9th from 2-4pm GAMES GALORE! There will be assorted board games, dice and domino games, or you may bring your favorite game. There will be snacks and refreshments, feel free to bring more (no sticky stuff, please).

Bloodworks NW

Donate some life-saving blood on *Monday, June 29th from 9:00am-3:00pm* in the ***Fellowship Hall***. You can sign up online at: www.bloodworksnw.org/drives or call 1-800-398-7888 (sponsor code: 5442)

Finding God in...Pop Culture

June 16th @ 5-6:30pm Finding God in... ***The Avengers and other Marvel comics***. It will be potluck. Sign up via email on the Big Board in Anderson Hall.

L^3+P=(RIOT)

Lutheran Literary Ladies plus Presbyterians equals Reading Is Our Thing book club meets every third Thursday at 2:00pm. Next meeting is *June 18th* in the Fireside Room.

Martha Circle

Our next meeting is scheduled on Thursday, September 3rd at noon with a potluck.

Quilters

Quilters meet again in September. More information will be published at later in the summer.

Any questions, call JoAnn Ray at 360-532-6746.



Family Outreach Night!

Free Community Meal!

Our wonderful Lutheran & Presbyterian cooks are prepared to serve our neighbors at the next Community Meal that will take place on ***Wednesday, June 24th from 5:00pm-6:30pm.***

Bring your neighbor and your appetite...the food is free!

Any help is appreciated with serving and clean-up. Please sign up via email to the office or on the Big Board in Anderson Hall.

Every 4th Wednesday of the month, (except November and December meals) we welcome you to our Free Community Meal from 5-6:30pm!

Union Gospel Mission Dinner

May 18th

Team 3 will be organizing the *May* meal for the Union Gospel Mission Dinner.

Collecting Hygiene Items

We are still collecting socks & hand/feet warmers. We would also like to be able to provide soap, shampoo, feminine products, toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant and pet food (we split up bags into baggies, feel free to donate a large bag). Protein bars, granola bars, instant coffee and hot chocolate are a nice touch as well. Please bring your items to the donation box outside of the office in Moller Hall. Thank you for your generous hearts!

Property Committee

Task List – what can you help with? Please let the Office know!

Adjust the fit of the door from the courtyard into the office?
(a warmer weather project)

Do you know someone with a 50'+ man lift who would be willing to help us investigate the condition of the steeple and adjacent roof?

Can you help repair the damaged accordion wall that gets rolled out monthly for community dinners?

Updates

The heat pump at Saron is currently being installed. Waiting for some parts to finish the job.

The First Pres kitchen remodel is almost finished! We are all so excited to be able to check out this new space!

April Finance Recap

Gen Fund Income: \$13,733
Normal Expenses: \$ 13,556
Difference: \$177

April Tithing

\$13,733

Thank you for mailing in and dropping off your contributions! We are all in this together.

Office Hours

The office is currently closed. Please contact the office if you need access.

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