Sedgefield Presbyterian Church

Responding gratefully through service in our community, worshipping our Creator and working to alleviate hunger in our neighborhood.

October Grapevine

"I am the true vine and my Father is the gardener." ~John 15:1

Greetings,

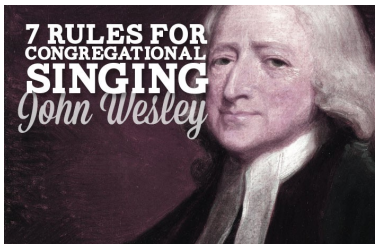
I hope that you have been able to join us for worship through Facebook live, on our website, or in person from the backyard of our church. We have been blessed with amazing weather and a beautiful outdoor space with plenty of room for social distancing. And, you also have the opportunity to listen to worship in your car. It is our hope to keep everyone safe and continue to worship God together.

From the Pastor

The way we worship today looks and feels different than how we worshiped before March. One of the greatest challenges during this pandemic is that we cannot sing our favorite hymns together. We have experienced the gifts of communal singing and know that it feeds our spirit. Since coronavirus clusters have been traced back to worship services, and epidemiologists say singing together in the Covid-19 era is especially dangerous, we have avoided singing and communal liturgy.

But, when we get back to singing, I have some directions for us. If you are from the Methodist tradition, these may look familiar. Lyn Koonce shared with me that in the front of their hymnals are John Wesley's seven rules for singing. Wesley's directions for singing are meant to offer practical ways to worship together. He believed singing as part of Divine Worship would be more acceptable to God, as well as more profitable to yourself and others, if these directions were observed. Here they are:

Directions for Singing



I. Learn these Tunes before you learn any others; afterwards learn as many as you please.

II. Sing them exactly as they are printed here, without altering or mending them at all; and if you have learned to sing them otherwise, unlearn it as soon as you can.

III. Sing All. See that you join with the congregation as frequently as you can. Let not a slight degree of weakness or weariness hinder you. If it is a cross to you, take it up and you will find a blessing.

IV. Sing lustily and with good courage. Beware of singing as if you were half dead, or half asleep; but lift up your voice with strength. Be no more afraid of your voice now, nor more ashamed of its being heard, than when you sung the songs of Satan.

V. Sing modestly. Do not bawl, so as to be heard above or distinct from the rest of the congregation, that you may not destroy the harmony; but strive to unite your voices together, so as to make one clear melodious sound.

VI. Sing in Time: whatever time is sung, be sure to keep with it. Do not run before nor stay behind it; but attend closely to the leading voices, and move therewith as exactly as you can. And take care you sing not too slow. This drawling way naturally steals on all who are lazy; and it is high time to drive it out from among us, and sing all our tunes just as quick as we did at first.

VII. Above all sing spiritually. Have an eye to God in every word you sing. Aim at pleasing him more than yourself, or any other creature. In order to this attend strictly to the sense of what you sing, and see that your Heart is not carried away with the sound, but offered to God continually; so shall your singing be such as the Lord will approve of here, and reward when he cometh in the clouds of heaven.

The directions make me giggle because singing has always been a challenge for me. I cannot carry a tune. But, I appreciate these directions because they remind us that the words we sing have deep theological meaning. Hymns are the affirmations of what we believe about God. The words are our songs of praise to the One who created us and loves us. Let me encourage you to take time to look up your favorite hymn and use it during October for prayer and meditation.

We still have some old hymnals if you would like one- just call the church office and let us know.

Blessings of love and peace,
Pastor Kim

October

Birthdays

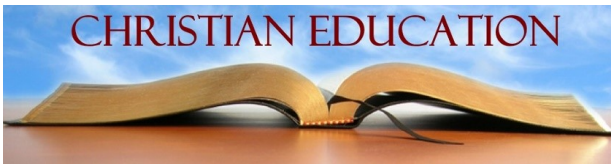
4 Ana Atwater
Andrew Bucior, III
Geraldine Burch
Pajě Jernigan
7 Holly Weeks Harding
10 Eleanor Wilson
12 Samuel Lester
16 Andrew Gehling
17 Susan Rikert
18 Jackson Bilbro
16 Daron Huddleston
17 Katie Atwater
18 Jane Wray
19 John Matto
24 Arley Mitchell
25 Jim Gehling
Barbara Bucior
27 Emma Millard
Seth Millard
30 Gin Reid Hall

& Anniversaries

9 Jessica & Arley Mitchell
10 Lindsey & Trent Griffin
19 Geraldine & Chip Burch

The name October has been derived from the Latin “Octo” which means eight because October was the eighth month of the year, according to the Roman calendar. It was called Winterfylleth, meaning the “fullness of winter”, by the Anglo-Saxons because it had the first full moon of the winter season.

Please consider contacting the church via letter, email, or phone and let us know how you are!

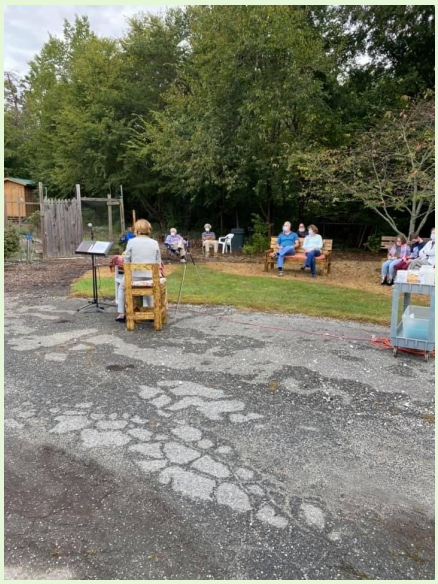


The preschool is up and running! It is good to have our children in the building. I love hearing their laughter. Please hold our teachers and children in prayer.

We did not take up a collection as we usually do for school supplies for our preschool. Please donate any of the listed items if you can—colored copy paper in colors like red, orange and green; $5-10 gift cards to Michael's or Hobby Lobby so teachers can purchase craft items for their classrooms.
Thank you!

happy halloween

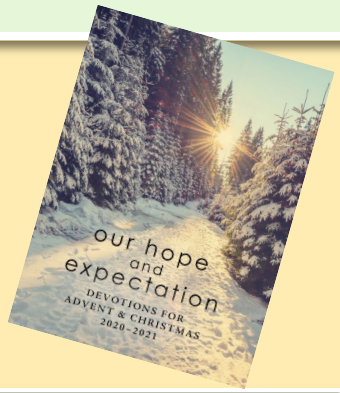
We hope the children will enjoy the buckets full of goodies that are being delivered to them!



We will continue to worship outside as long as the weather is agreeable. Join us on Sundays at 9:30am. We are observing social distancing. Please wear a mask . We have several benches, but you may want to bring your own lawn chair. You can even hear the sermon from your car radio if you would like to stay in your car.

OUR HOPE AND EXPECTATION—Devotions for Advent & Christmas 2020-2021 *w*ill be available soon.

Please call the office at 336.299.4061 or email us at office@sedgefieldpresbyterian.org to request a copy to be mailed to you, or you can pick up your copy at the church office. Please call us first, to be sure someone will be in the office to help you.



In Our Thoughts & Prayers

Please continue your prayers for our country and our world while we struggle with this COVID-10 virus; for strength and wisdom from our leaders and special protection for those who may be more susceptible to illness; for relief for those who find these times to be particularly stressful financially.

Remember Russell Gray in your prayers after his surgery on September 23. Russell is Allen Gray's and Jenny Gray's father, and Noelle, Riley, and Dean's grandfather.

Note: Prayer requests should be sent to the church office at ofice@sedgefieldpresbyterian.org.

The Nominating Committee will soon begin their work to prayerfully discern the leadership of our church. Committee members are: Karen Younts, Leisa Huddleston, and Chip Burch. Please review the information below about Ruling Elder Class of 2023 and Nominating Committee, and prayerfully begin to collect thoughts and names to nominate for elder and nominating committee members.

According to the Book of Order - G-2.0301 Ruling Elder Defined

As there were in Old Testament times elders for the government of the people, so the New Testament church provided persons with particular gifts to share in discernment of God's Spirit and governance of God's people. Accordingly, congregations should elect *persons of wisdom and maturity of faith*, *having demonstrated skills in leadership and being compassionate in spirit*. Ruling elders are so named not because they "lord it over" the congregation (Matt. 20:25), but because they are chosen by the congregation to discern and measure its fidelity to the Word of God, and to strengthen and nurture its faith and life. Ruling elders, together with teaching elders, exercise leadership, government, spiritual discernment, and discipline and have responsibilities for the life of a congregation as well as the whole church, including ecumenical relationships.

Prospective Elder:

- They reflect the love of Christ in their lives.
- They have already shown their commitment by investing themselves actively and regularly in the church's life through worship, stewardship of talent and resources, fellowship, and service (teaching, caregiving, work with children and youth, music ministry, outreach, committee work, etc.)
- They are able to commit to a three-year term. The Session meets monthly, at 8:00 a.m. on the first Sunday of the month, with occasional called meetings at other times. Each elder serves on a ministry team which meets as needed. Elders will communicate regularly to the congregation about the work of their committee through The Grapevine or "minutes for mission"; serve communion monthly and for special services during the year; extend a welcome to visitors and new members; attend at least one meeting of Presbytery during their term.
- They will pledge to pray for the church and for God's will.
- They are cooperative in spirit, open to new ideas, willing to learn from others, dependable.

Nominating Committee:

Each year, the congregation elects a Nominating Committee to make recommendations for the upcoming class of Elders and for other needs during the year. According to The Book of Order (G-14.0202b), *nominations shall be made by a representative committee of active members of the church, which shall include both women and men, giving fair representation to persons of all age groups and of all racial-ethnic members and persons with disabilities who are members of that congregation. At least 2 members shall be elders designated by the session, one of whom shall be currently on the session and serve as moderator of the committee. … Other members of the committee, in sufficient number to constitute a majority thereof (exclusive of the pastor), shall be chosen by the congregation or by such organizations within the church as the congregation may designate…. The pastor shall be a member of this committee, serving ex officio and without vote. The nominating committee shall be chosen annually and no member of the committee shall serve more than 3 years consecutively."*

HOW YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE BENEVOLENCE FUND MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Unexpected car repairs, injuries on the job, food insecurity, evictions, and reduced work hours are just some of the reasons that this year has been especially difficult for so many in our community who struggle to pay monthly bills. For many years our church has had a special Benevolence Fund that helps people stay in their home or keep their utilities from being disconnected. These special requests for assistance come from Greensboro Urban Ministry and Greensboro Congregational Assistance Network (GCAN). Because their funds are very limited, additional help from partner congregations is needed. Each person who seeks assistance is completely vetted by these agencies.

Emergency Financial assistance and non-emergency assistance given through August 20, 2020……..

$ 3,334.24 16 families provided rental, temporary hotel stay, Duke Energy, Piedmont Natural Gas assistance. An additional 10+ families given food or gift cards for food assistance

567.69 Non-emergency assistance: FaithAction ID drive, FaithAction back packs, and Sedgefield Elementary School

$3,901.93 Total assistance given Jan-Aug 2020

WHERE DOES THE BENEVOLENCE FUND STAND AS OF AUG. 20, 2020

$ 3,542.22 Beginning balance Jan. 1, 2020

+ 3,157.12 Congregational Contributions through Aug. 2020

- 3,901.93 Total assistance given Jan-Aug 2020

$ 2,797.41 Current Balance

The Benevolence Basket is regularly passed during worship on the 4th Sunday of each month. During our outdoor worship, the Basket will be available at the pulpit. Donations are accepted in the office at ANY TIME. Please mark checks for "Benevolence Fund". There are so many needs in our community ! **THANK YOU TO ALL WHO CONTRIBUTE TO THIS SPECIAL FUND. THE NEEDS WILL CONTINUE TO BE GREAT, ESPECIALLY DURING THE PANDEMIC.**

2020 GUM Honor Card will be Available Soon

We have all experienced a year of unique and challenging times. The need for food, utility and rent assistance, and shelter are increasing as the pandemic continues to affect our community. Many of our neighbors have experienced lost wages and permanent job losses, all the while receiving bills and expenses that are bringing new challenges for their households daily.

At Greensboro Urban Ministry (GUM), our neighbors experiencing crisis can receive food, shelter, and solutions; and they will also receive hope. Each year, funds donated from Honor Cards support all our programs. Thanks to the generous support of the Wells Fargo Foundation, Artist William Mangum, and an anonymous donor, all costs associated in the production of the Honor Card is fully underwritten. The entire amount of each donation given for an Honor Card helps individuals and families in our community experiencing the challenges of these difficult times. The Honor Card also provides a special way to honor our friends, family, and business associates, while providing hope to our neighbors who need us most.

This year, we introduce the 33rd Annual Honor Card, *"You're Gonna Be Ok".* This year's card is an opportunity to give hope to our neighbors in the community experiencing crisis. We realize this year is very different for everyone, especially our Honor Card Coordinators, with many congregations having limited or no in-person services, businesses limiting hours and occupancy, and the limited gatherings and socialization with our friends and families. You will be informed this month how and when you can

"You're Gonna be Ok"
by Artist William Mangum

Cooking Matters Recipe of the Month

COOKING MATTERS®

Pumpkin Muffins

Serving Size

Serves 12, 1 muffin per serving

Ingredients

½ cup whole wheat flour

¾ cups all-purpose flour

½ cup light brown sugar, packed

¼ cup white sugar

½ teaspoon baking powder

¼ teaspoon baking soda

1 teaspoon ground cinnamon

¼ teaspoon ground nutmeg

¼ teaspoon salt

2 large eggs

½ (15-ounce) can pure pumpkin puree

½ cup nonfat plain yogurt

¼ cup canola oil

½ teaspoon vanilla extract

Non-stick cooking spray

Optional Ingredients:

½ cup chocolate chips (or ½ cup raisins or chopped nuts)

Instructions

1. Preheat oven to 350°F.
2. In a large bowl, mix flours, brown sugar, white sugar, baking powder, baking soda, cinnamon, nutmeg, and salt.
3. In a medium bowl, combine eggs, canned pumpkin, yogurt, oil, and vanilla. Mix well.
4. Add wet ingredients to dry ingredients. Stir until just combined. Do not overmix.
5. If using chocolate chips, raisins, or chopped nuts, stir in now.
6. Spray muffin pan with non-stick cooking spray. Fill each muffin cup about ¾ full with batter. Bake on middle rack of oven until muffin tops are golden brown and a toothpick inserted comes out clean, about 25–30 minutes. Cool in pan about 5 minutes. Tap muffins out of pan. Cool completely before serving.

Chef's Notes

Make a double batch to use the whole can of pumpkin puree. Muffins freeze well for up to 2 weeks. They make a great grab-and-go breakfast. Pull one out each morning. Reheat in microwave for 1 minute or toaster oven for 5 minutes.

To make pumpkin bread instead of muffins, coat a 9-inch loaf pan with non-stick cooking spray. Pour batter into pan. Bake until top is golden brown and a toothpick inserted comes out clean, about 55–60 minutes.

Try making banana muffins instead of pumpkin muffins. Use ¾ cup mashed, ripe banana instead of canned pumpkin.

Instead of using cooking spray, line muffin pan with paper muffin cups if you like.

Substitute 1/2 cup nonfat vanilla yogurt for plain yogurt if you like.

Sedgefield Presbyterian Church

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