



First United Presbyterian Church of Dale City

Chronicles

July 2020



14391 Minnieville Road
Woodbridge, Virginia 22193
703-670-7834

<https://fupcdc.org>
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Find us on Instagram
@fupcdc

People of the Church, Ministers
Rev. Adam C. Bowling, Pastor
Dana Van Slyke, Chancel Choir Director
Justin Streletz, Pianist/Organist
Rebecca and Chris Anderson, Contemporary Worship Directors
Ike Evans, Jubilation Handbell Director
Joann Paige, Nursery Supervisor
Tiffany Ramsey, Little Hands Preschool Director
Homer Detrich, Sexton
Kim Parker, Office Manager

From Pastor Adam



I know many of you are wondering, **“When are we gathering together again in person?”** That’s a really great question. I know that you want to know that. Everyone who bumps into me at the gas station or around town wants to know that. Even my own family wants to know that.

The Safety and Security Committee and our Session are trying to make the very best decision we can during this difficult season. We appreciate those of you who took the time to fill out the COVID-19 survey, and we want you to know that your feedback was helpful. I want you to know that we have been in contact with people from the local, state, and federal government, people who are associated with the school system, local businesses, and our Presbytery for guidance. **We want to make sure, first and foremost, that we keep our church family safe.**

We also want to make our worship experience meaningful and transformative. We don’t want you to come to church in person and have it to be weird. I say that because I have talked to other pastors and churches, who have opened their buildings maybe just a bit prematurely. Their feedback to me is that it has been really weird. During this pandemic, churches won’t be able to sing together in person (science says this is super dangerous), pass the peace or hug. Folks will need to wear masks and sit six feet apart. It will be unsafe to say things, like the Lord’s prayer or the prayer of confession, in unison. When we return to in person worship, we will not be able to go back to the worship experience that we know and love—at least not until there is a vaccine for COVID-19—so we are in no rush.

One of the things that God has laid on my heart, as I have been working with the Session and praying about this, is that we have always been a church for everyone. Our desire at FUPCDC is to be an inclusive church. We want you to bring your friends and then bring their friends. Bring your enemies, and maybe they will become your friends.

What we do know for sure right now is that **we will not be doing in person worship gatherings and the church building will remain closed through August 16, 2020.** We will continue to reassess this, as we receive more information. If something changes, we will let you know as soon as possible.

We will continue to have online worship (with virtual communion the first Sunday of each month) each Sunday at 10:00 AM until further notice. We hope that you will invite folks to join us via their computer, smart phone, or tablet for worship at www.fupcdc.org.

I thank you for your continued support, prayers, and your willingness to try new things as we navigate what it means to be the church “for such a time as this.” Please don’t hesitate to email, call, or text me if you have any prayer needs or concerns.

On the journey with you,
Pastor Adam

**THE BUILDING IS CLOSED
BUT THE CHURCH IS OPEN**

Session Notes

June Session Report

At its June Meeting the Session approved a Safety and Security committee recommendation that the church doors will remain closed and on-line worship continue through August 16, 2020. The building will remain closed to all groups through this time. The committee will review any requests outside these parameters and also reassess the August date as we draw closer.

At the request of the music staff and the Worship committee, the Session approved a praise and worship outdoor concert scheduled for June 27 at 7:30 PM. This will be a drive-in event, with cars leaving a space between them and the next car. The building will still be closed, and people attending must remain in their cars. There will be no lawn seating. In case of rain, the event will be canceled.

The contract for Little Hands Preschool director, Tiffany Ramsey, was approved. She is working on plans for the Little Hands 2020-2021 school year, working with Safety and Security and awaiting decisions from the Prince William County Public Schools as LHP follows their calendar and many of their decisions will impact LHP. As always, tell your friends and neighbors with preschool age children about our wonderful preschool.

Drama Camp and Bible Camp are combining this year for a Staycation virtual camp with the theme of "Sharing God's Gifts and Talents." Check the church's web site and Facebook page for registration and more information. Best of all, it is free! Members of the congregation are invited to share their gifts with the campers. Contact Ruth Washburg or Pastor Adam if you are willing to help. And spread the word—since it is on-line, children do not have to be here in Woodbridge to participate. The camp is for rising first-graders through rising ninth-graders.

Lastly, Session approved an amendment to the church's operating procedures to allow for electronic congregational meetings and voting.

Submitted by Sara Porter, Clerk of Session

Stewardship Committee

As we enter the summer of 2020 we all see that our world has changed. But, while our church building may be closed, **our church is still open**. During these changing times, FUPCDC continues to be blessed with a generous and giving congregation. Throughout this new and different environment, your pledges and giving continue to support His work at FUPCDC, in our community, and across the world.

Your support has sustained programs such as our partnership with ACTS to provide help to those in need, to provide personal care items and groceries for Lake Ridge Fellowship House (an apartment community for seniors with limited income), Spread the Bread that helps to feed our local homeless community, and support to Project Lifesaver with a donation towards additional equipment. Our church Family stepped up to support ACTS programs in need. FUPCDC provided COVID-19 tests at the GPW Health Center for residents of our community who are uninsured and face financial barriers to access good healthcare. Your support will ensure our youth can take a "Staycation" at our Virtual Bible and Drama Camp July 6-17, and all of us can enjoy a virtual performance on July 18.

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During this time when we are gathering virtually, you are reminded that you can continue to support the ministries, staff and programs of FUPCDC.



You can mail your gift to:
FUPCDC
14391 Minnieville Road
Woodbridge, VA 22193

You can give online at:
<https://FUPCDC.org/give-online>

As we see in this year’s Stewardship theme, **“God is the artist and He is weaving the fabric of our lives”**, we also see that while the ways we do things may be new or different, together we will make 2020 a special year in our lives and the life of our church.

Blessings and Joy,
Your Stewardship Committee

“That their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love, to reach all the riches of full assurance of understanding and the knowledge of God’s mystery, which is Christ.”-Colossians 2:2 ESV

Finance and Administration Committee

We continue to be financially healthy. As of the end of May, our revenues are ahead of what was anticipated. Some of our usual expenses like copier and supplies were down contributing to a surplus for the month. Our best estimate is that we will see it level out in the next few months.

We appreciate your continued support of FUPCDC and our ministries, and are most grateful for your generosity.

Report on Offering May 2020

| | <u>May 2020 Actual</u> | <u>May 2020 Budget</u> | <u>Year to Date Actual</u> | <u>Year to Date Budget</u> |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Offering Pledged | 36,515 | 35,056 | 176,920 | 165,212 |
| Offering Unpledged | <u>2,959</u> | <u>3,818</u> | <u>21,818</u> | <u>17,564</u> |
| Total Offering | 39,474 | 38,874 | 198,738 | 182.776 |

Mission and Outreach Committee

Like it says on our website *“The church **building** is closed but the **church** is open”.*

Through your special donations to help fill the needs of ACTS Hunger Prevention Center we were able to send \$3,495. This was in place of the non perishable food and household items we donate on a regular basis by dropping them in the cabinet in the Narthex Welcome Center. In addition, a \$1,000 was sent to support ACTS programs. ACTS programs include the Hunger Prevention Center, services for victims of Domestic Violence, emergency assistance with utility bills, a crisis helpline, and calls to check in with seniors. If you, or someone you know, is in need of any of these services call ACTS at 703-441-8606.



Mask making continues. . .

About 100 masks that were made by members of our congregation were donated to Potomac Place Assisted Living in June for use by their residents and non-medical staff. Thank you to all who used their time and talents to assist in containing the spread of COVID-19.

The GPW Health Center was awarded \$500 to help with supplies such as PPE, sanitizer, etc. The health center provides quality health care regardless of insurance status. To reach their services simply call 703-680-7950.



GPW Health Center
Dedicated to Your Health

Last year we established a relationship with Lake Ridge Fellowship House, an apartment community for low income seniors and those with disabilities. We continue to provide support through donations of groceries and personal care items for the residents to have in their closet. The closet is on the honor system and residents are free to take what they need.



FUPCDC Contemplative Yoga Classes Continue Online This Summer!

Join us for a time to prayerfully focus on God's presence in the present moment. Releasing your cares to Him while gently stretching and strengthening yourself physically and spiritually will leave you feeling relaxed and renewed. We are meeting on Zoom (for the time being) on Saturdays from 8:30-9:10 AM on the following dates: 7/11, 7/25, 8/22, 8/29, 9/5, and 9/12.

Classes are always free, we just ask that you sign up in advance for the classes you want to attend: [CLICK HERE TO VIEW THE SIGNUP](#). Classes are led by Nancy Hummer (YA-RYT 200). Call or text with any questions: 571-330-8091.

Virtual Staycation Bible and Drama Camp

CONGREGATIONAL GIFTS AND TALENTS (CALL TO ACTION): Have you ever dreamed of doing a TED talk? Do you have a talent that you want to share? Are you knowledgeable on a subject that more people should know about? Well, Staycation Bible and Drama Camp is looking for you! We are putting together a collection of Congregational Gifts and Talents, helping the youth of tomorrow keep busy and learn a little something during this quarantine! Anything from weaving to bird watching, from gardening to woodworking, from card games to sewing! Film a little video, up to 10 minutes, of you showcasing or teaching your gift or talent, and submit it to staycation.camp@fupcdc.org! If you don't want to film yourself, or you need a bit of help, we have a few helpers that would be willing to walk you through it or come over and help you film it (from a 6-foot distance, of course! Safety first!). If you have any questions or if you're not sure what you should showcase, we're here to answer and bounce ideas off of! Please consider helping out and educating our campers.

Staycation!

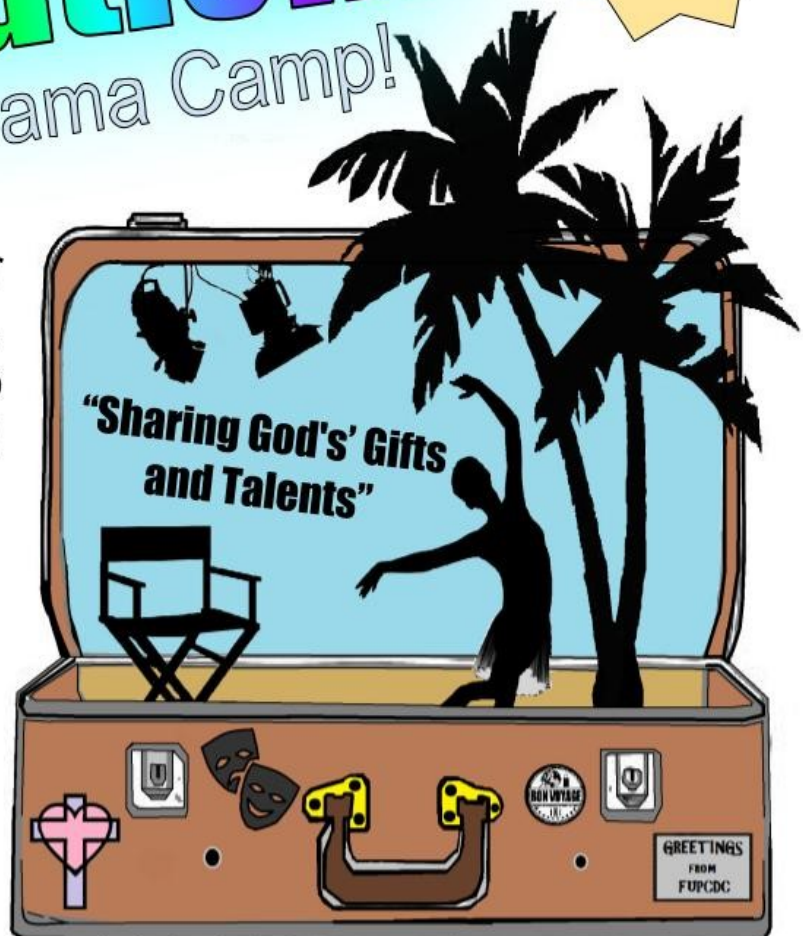
Bible and Drama Camp!

July
6th-17th!

Join FUPCDC for our
first ever, virtual camp,
combining the two
camps you love into one!

Daily Sessions, Live and
Pre-recorded Activities, and Lessons
Guest Speakers and Congregation
Members! Showcase on the 18th!
Everything from comedy to art, from
theater to magic! No charge, no cost!
Rising 1st through 9th Graders!

Contact us at:
staycation.camp@fupcdc.org
Register at:
<https://forms.gle/vVjrWKbARLwD4NEQA..>



DEACONS: THE MINISTRY OF COMPASSION AND SERVICE

The ministry of deacon as set forth in Scripture is one of compassion, witness, and service, sharing in the redeeming love of Jesus Christ for the poor, the hungry, the sick, the lost, the friendless, the oppressed, those burdened by unjust policies or structures, or anyone in distress. Persons of spiritual character, honest repute, exemplary lives, brotherly and sisterly love, sincere compassion, and sound judgment should be chosen for this ministry.

2020 BOARD OF DEACONS

A Ministry of Compassion and Service

Class of 2020

Agnes Fokwa
Debbie Folly
Lisa Fortner
Kathy McNeely
Carol Schwalm
Celine Sonkwa

Class of 2021

Amy Bean
Karen Elliott
Liz Goolgasian
Peggy Heins
Therese Same
Charlotte Stultz

Class of 2022

Bob Albrecht
Sandy Chamberlin
Claudia Cunningham
Pam Emert
Ellen Nuemberger
Tracy Stevens

Carol Schwalm, Co-Moderator..... 703-680-7673

*We love to hear from you. **If you need to be connected with your Deacon**, please contact Carol Schwalm by calling the number listed above or the church office (703-670-7834).*



The weather may be warm, but we are preparing for winter by making warm hats and scarves for our friends in need.

These are the items we have so far toward our November delivery, so as you can see we need more HATS!

If you would like to help with this worthwhile project, please contact Elizabeth Glycer at lizglyer@gmail.com