



First United Presbyterian Church of Dale City

Chronicles

September 2020



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

<https://fupcdc.org>
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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

“Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith . . .”

~ Hebrews 12:1-2



Perseverance. This word calls to mind other words like strength, courage, resilience, good old-fashioned stick-to-itiveness. It means that we “keep on keeping on” to borrow a phrase from the 1960’s. Many of you are people who have persevered throughout your lives. You have made it through cancer and chemotherapy. You have made it through the loss of parents and partners and even children. You have seen wars. You have persevered through depressions and recessions. You remember quarantines and the fear that ran through your veins when a neighborhood child got polio or measles. And you persevered.

Some of us don’t have as much experience in this persevering as others. But this pandemic is demanding that we persevere. We persevere in self-isolation and social-distancing. We persevere in staying home when we’d rather go to a dinner party.

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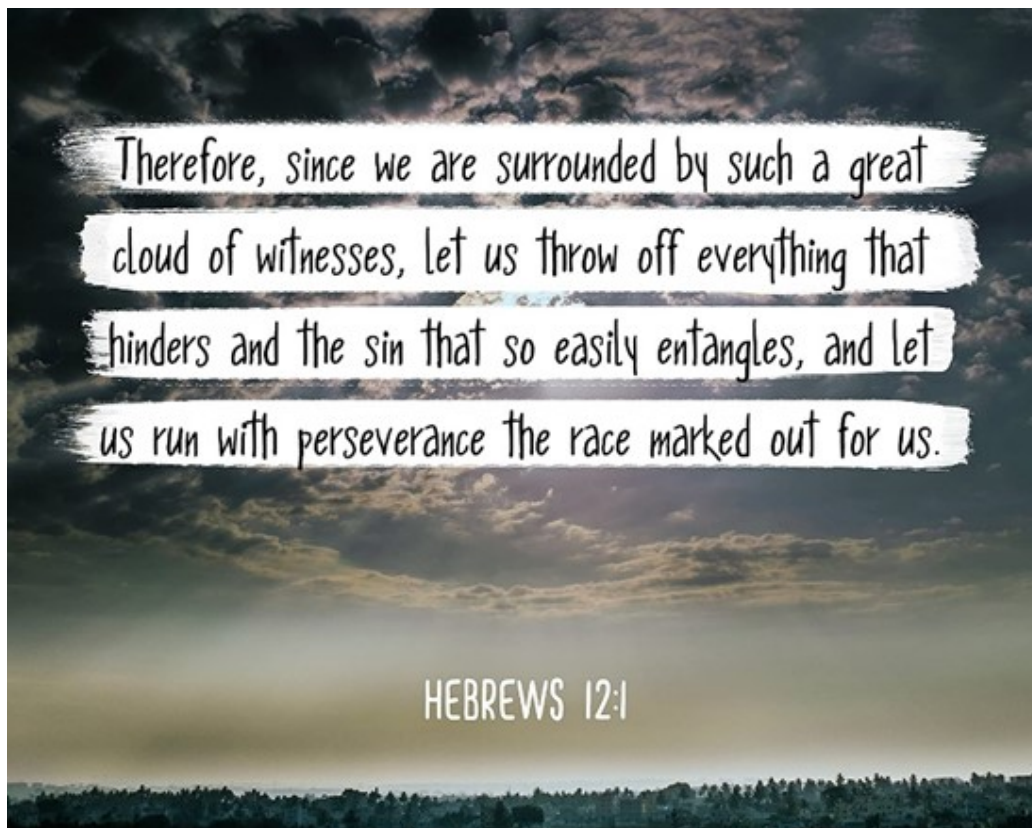
This pandemic is also scary. It's o.k. to be scared. Even scared we are encouraged to persevere. Not only persevere, **but run the race that is set before us with perseverance.** *We are reminded that Christ walks with us through this difficult time.* The race before us says we stay in our homes and get a little cranky with our partners if we are lucky enough to have one. It means that our children drive us up the wall and yet we are grateful we can all be together. It means that we learn how to FaceTime or use Zoom so we can still see people's faces. It means that we live-stream worship and we're grateful to hear the word of God, separately, but united.

Through **this** race we are surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses. People who have run their own challenging races. People who know what we are facing and they are cheering for us. Can you hear them? It doesn't matter whether we come in first or last in this race – it only matters that we persevere. By God's grace, we can and we will do just that.

Perseverance. Strength. Courage. Resilience. Thanks be to God!

On the journey with you,
Pastor Adam

“So we do not lose heart. Even though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day. For this slight momentary affliction is preparing us for an eternal weight of glory beyond all measure, because we look not at what can be seen but at what cannot be seen; for what can be seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is eternal.” ~ 2 Corinthians 4:16-18



Session Notes

August Session Report

At the August 18 meeting, the Session approved the recommendation of the Safety and Security committee that the church building remain closed to church and outside groups meeting until October 31, 2020. They also approved a motion that anyone planning to use the outside property for their groups must submit a detailed plan to Safety and Security that follows the committee guidelines. These guidelines include wearing of appropriate masks, social distancing, length of the event (3.5 hours or less including setup and tear-down) and no overnight events. This applies to both church and outside groups. The application is available from the church office.

The baptism of Sadie Schick, daughter of Emily and Robert Schick and granddaughter of Ellen and Robert Nuernberger was approved for Sunday, September 20. It will take place during an outdoor drive-in worship service. Only the family and Pastor Adam will be on the lawn for the baptism. This service is a part of new opportunities for worship approved by the Worship committee and Session. The worship for September 6 will be live-stream only and will include virtual communion.

On Sunday, September 13 and Sunday, September 20, there will be a drive-in worship at the church parking lot with appropriate distancing and sound via AM radio. You will need to be within 150 feet of the church to receive the AM radio broadcast. The live-stream via YOU Tube will be available as usual from the web site links. Sunday, September 27 will be live-stream from the web site as usual. Of course, in case of inclement weather on September 13 and 20, the drive-in worship portions will be canceled and there will be notification through social media.

At the recommendation of the Finance and Administration committee, Session approved changes in the Congregational Connections and Adult Christian Education committees to reflect changes in their ministry plans.

Submitted by Sara Porter, Clerk of Session

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

Ellen Nuernberger, Co-Moderator 703-878-0009
Carol Schwalm, Co-Moderator..... 703-680-7673

Stewardship Committee



Your steadfast generosity is making a world of difference in FUPCDC's ability to continue ministry and outreach to show God's love.

We are thankful, grateful, and truly blessed to have each one of you as part of our faith community.

During the upcoming Stewardship Campaign we plan to share stories of how ministry at FUPCDC has impacted or is impacting lives. Has a ministry at FUPCDC impacted your life or helped you to impact someone else's life? Would you be willing to share your story with others? It can be done via video or email. Here's how you can participate:

- By video – Create a short video telling us your story. Please tell us what ministry and how it had an impact on you or how you had an impact on someone else as a result of that ministry. Videos should be sent to Tori Guest at victoria.l.guest@gmail.com.
If you would like to do a video and need someone to help please contact Tori and she will arrange to do your video.
- By email – Send an email to pmanalio@comcast.net telling us your story. Please tell us what ministry and how it had an impact on you or how you had an impact on someone else as a result of that ministry. Be sure to use "FUPCDC Impact" in the subject.

"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms." ~ 1 Peter 4:10 NIV



Adult Education

Men's Virtual Retreat:

Save the Date for The Men's Virtual Retreat on **Saturday, September 26** from 10 AM to Noon. Our Keynote Speaker is Reverend Dr. William (Bill) Neely. Our theme is ***Called to Lead, Called to Speak and Called to Follow***. Men of our congregation will participate, via Zoom, live stream, in worship, song and discussion. Go to www.fupcdc.org to register for this FREE event!



The Rev. Dr. William K. Neely

Bill is the spouse of The Rev. Dr. Wanda S. Neely who recently preached one of our live-stream sermons. In their retirement they are currently serving as Co-Transitional Pastors at First Presbyterian, Marion, NC where they previously worked with Pastor Adam. Bill served congregations in Tennessee and South Carolina and retired after serving 14 years as Senior Pastor, First Presbyterian, Greenville NC.

Fair Share Community Speaker Series is back! Despite the necessity of social distancing as our current norm, we will meet again, well virtually! **On Saturday, September 19, 2020 at 7 PM**, our guest speaker will be Dr. Mark Eakin, Coordinator of NOAA Coral Reef Watch and Chief Science Advisor of the film *Chasing Coral*. To get the most out of the presentation, be sure to watch the film *Chasing Coral* in advance. You can watch *Chasing Coral* on Netflix or the Netflix YouTube channel (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aGGBGcjdjXA>) and you can learn more about the film at <http://chasingcoral.com/>.

Mark will answer questions – virtually.

This is the sensational award-winning documentary about the wonder of coral reefs and also the danger they face due to the changing climate. *Chasing Coral* taps into the collective will and wisdom of an ad man, a self-proclaimed coral nerd, top-notch camera designers, and renowned marine biologists as they invent the first time-lapse camera to record bleaching events as they happen. Among its many awards, it won the Audience Award at the 2017 Sundance Film Festival and received the 2018 Emmy for Outstanding Nature Documentary. An added benefit by participating with Mark Eakin, our congregation will receive points towards our Earth Care goals.

Fall Classes:

Pastor's Wednesday Evening Bible Study:

Pastor Adam's Bible Study will start on **Wednesday, September 9 at 7 PM** via Zoom. We will resume our study of the Gospel of Mathew. All are welcome.

Small Group Study: The study of **Isaiah the Prophet** will be taught by Larry Greenslit and Bob Porter via Google Meet. This class is a continuation of the study that had to be paused due to COVID-19. It will resume on **Sunday, September 13, 8:30 to 9:30 AM**. It will begin with Class #9 - Review and catch-up (e.g. recalling what happened in 740 BCE!).

Adult Education

Fall Classes – Continued

Women’s Monday Bible Study also known as Bible Buddies:

Are you feeling anxious? **Calm My Anxious Heart** by Linda Dillow is the 12 week Bible Study beginning **Monday, September 14, 2020 at 7:00 PM** via Zoom for any Ladies or friends of FUPCDC. This study will help you discover what the Bible says about contentment and ways to apply this message to your daily life. This book may be purchased online from christianbook.com, Amazon or e-bay. Please contact Betty Matthews, bettysmatthews1@verizon.net, or 703-618-9127 for more information and to be added the Zoom group.

Horizons Monthly Bible Study:

"Into the Light: Finding Hope Through Prayers of Lament" is the title of the 2020-2021 Horizons Bible Study. The study will begin on **Monday, September 14**. The group will still meet on the **second Monday of the month, September through June**, at **9:30 AM**, via Zoom for discussion and viewing of the video. The emphasis is on the hope we can find in the scriptures even as we lament circumstances. And we won't have to wear masks to participate! If you would like to join this study, please contact Sara Porter, saraporter@comcast.net or 703-670-8737.

Finance and Administration Committee

Our financial position continues to be strong. Revenues during July recouped the lag we experienced in June as well as exceeding expectations for the month. We remain ahead of expectations for the January – July timeframe. Some of our usual expenses like copier, utilities, and supplies are down contributing to a surplus.

Your collective generosity in support of FUPCDC and our ministries sets us apart as a congregation that can continue to be the church and spread God’s love to the community during these difficult times. Be sure to look through this newsletter and the weekly bulletins for the exciting things our ministry teams have planned.

	July 2020 Actual	July 2020 Budget	Year to Date Actual	Year to Date Budget
Offering Pledged	36,570	30,022	244,078	225,256
Offering Unpledged	6,614	3,055	30,249	23,674
Total Offering	43,184	33,077	274,327	248,930

Report on Offering July 2020

Mission and Outreach Committee



Many of our brothers and sisters in the path of Hurricane Laura have experienced devastating losses. If you are in a financial position to do so, we encourage you to help FUPCDC support the disaster relief by making a special donation for this ministry. If you donate by mailing a check to FUPCDC or through your bank bill pay please write *Disaster Relief* in the memo line of the check; if you give online please enter *Disaster Relief* in the notes section. **Thank you** for your generous support of FUPCDC ministries.

Thank you for the ways you are responding to the needs of others and for your continued support of FUPCDC ministries.



Mission and Outreach Committee



Presbyterian Mission
Presbyterian
Disaster Assistance



OUT OF CHAOS, HOPE

July 2020

First United Presbyterian Church Of Dale City
14391 Minnieville Rd.
Woodbridge, VA 22193

Dear Friends,

In the book of Acts, the story of Pentecost tells of the amazing way the Holy Spirit pulled together a fragmented and frightened group of Jesus' followers, resting on them and filling them with fresh ways to speak the good news of God's love. The story is told in a way that reminds believers of the old story of the tower of Babel in Genesis, where the unity and common purpose of humanity was shattered through pride, misunderstanding and confusion. It was a disaster that shattered human community. I am thinking today how those old stories resonate in new ways during this strange season of the COVID-19 pandemic. In the U.S. and across the globe, people have found common purpose and demonstrated nobility in the face of threat, serving others and preserving life, even while others have allowed fear and crisis to diminish their own humanity and harm the common good. It was, as Dickens once penned, *the best of times and the worst of times*.

Yet, I am also filled with gratitude for the ways this *new* moment of Pentecost is also unfolding, as good news is demonstrated, transcending differences of language, culture and race, through the gifts, prayers, and diligent work of so many in the Presbyterian family. Since the middle of March, PDA has been able to put two million dollars into the field to respond to COVID-19, grants made possible by faithful gifts over the last few years to the general fund of Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. In the U.S., congregations receiving small grants from PDA have expanded the operations of existing food banks and opened new ones. Even while not meeting for in person worship, they have reached out a hand to those in their neighborhoods living without shelter, established new relationships with communities living on the margin, refugees, and people whose lack of access to clean water makes sanitation practices challenging, if not impossible. Our international partners are doing much the same, across the globe, and in addition to emergency food, sanitation, water and shelter, are providing awareness and sensitization campaigns in areas too remote for a strong governmental or regional approach and offering spiritual care along with tangible resources. And even as COVID-19 dominates our thoughts, resources and common life, tornados, typhoons, fires and floods still work devastation...and PDA is still showing up and helping. Through all of these communities at work in local response to the pandemic, and in your continued commitment to ongoing disaster response, you have spoken the language of love in a tangible, impactful way, offering a gift that helps to bring renewed hope and joy to those individuals and communities suffering from disaster and its aftermath. On their behalf, thank you.

Please know that your gift of \$1,000 on 6/8/2020 to DR999999 Disaster Relief--International Disasters & Emergencies blesses those who walk the hard road toward recovery, letting them know they are not alone, helping them to find hope in the midst of chaos, and making real the promise of Pentecost--the tangible demonstration of the "mighty acts of God" in healing and restoration...in the language each one needs most to hear.

In Christ's peace,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Laurie A Kraus'.

The Rev. Dr. Laurie A Kraus
Director, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance

pda.pcusa.org

O: (502) 569-5839 | TF: (800) 728-7228 x5839

100 Witherspoon Street | Louisville, KY 40202

SCAMS

Please be aware of Grandparent scams during COVID-19. For more information, visit this link:

<https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/blog/2020/04/grandparent-scams-age-coronavirus>

Also, if you receive an email from Pastor Adam asking you to send him gift cards, please let the church office know. Pastor Adam will never ask folks to buy gift cards for anyone via email.

SEPTEMBER WORSHIP

Please join us to worship our Lord .

Sunday, September 6—online only Live Stream with Communion at 10 AM

(Premiere of the FUPCDC Virtual Choir “Let Us Break Bread Together”)

Sunday, September, 13—online Live Stream at 10 AM **AND** Drive-In Worship at 10 AM

Sunday, September 20—online Live Stream at 10 AM **AND** Drive-In Worship at 10 AM

Sunday, September 27—online only Live Stream at 10 AM

“ Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness; come before him with joyful songs. Know that the Lord is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture. Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name. For the Lord is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations.”

~ Psalm 100:1-5