

Monthly Newsletter from Your Nurturing Family

RIPPLES



April, 2020

On the Journey...

This is not the Lent that was planned this year.

Most of us had things planned. Our calendars were color-coded and were organized meticulously. Now they are wide open with activities and trips cancelled. Those with children who were trying to find more time with their family are now trying to find a closet to hide in to get a minute of peace. We felt safe in our community and with our circles of connection, now we are sheltering in our homes, washing hands till they are cracked and talking to neighbors from at least 6 feet away.



In my worship book I had picked scriptures, themes and had begun reading and studying for where worship was going. I had not planned on learning an online video conferencing app to be used as Pond's vehicle for worship. I was not ready to homeschool the girls and provide daycare for a 15 month old with Melissa while we totally reorganized the way we worked full time careers from home. I am struggling. I sit down to read and sometimes read the same page over as I am having trouble focusing. I check my news app too much just hoping that the numbers of those sick or dying will go down. I am afraid that the next number that is shared by the governor will include someone that I love.

This is a time that we need the church more than ever and we now must experience it in a way that we never have before. We need to gather together and breathe in God's spirit of peace, we need to lift up our joys and concerns to join our voices together in prayer, and we need to be a community of faith that seeks out and supports each and every life and voice so that they know that they are valued and loved. White Oak Pond Christian Church has done this before, just not away from our sacred space that has been through things like this for 230 years.

I don't know what the future holds, still I am working with our leadership to make the best decisions for this community each and everyday. There are a few things I do know though.

Our congregation will worship.

Our congregation will provide care to those who need it.

Our congregation will continue to preach the gospel of love, compassion and mercy while affirming all God's children.

These are the principles that will guide us in these times of crisis. Our congregation must be flexible and solid at the same time, and we can only be this by drawing upon the gifts and strengths that got us here.

Worship: Some of my colleagues were laughing the other day that we always joked about televangelists... and over night we found ourselves ones. It is not ideal, but I must admit that when I saw the faces that first Sunday on my computer screen, I got misty eyed. The fact that we gathered 45-50 people from 4 states to worship God and name the faith that moves us each and every day to see with new eyes was amazing. I don't want to celebrate Easter on a screen rather than in our historic sanctuary, still we are an Easter people and I know that when we do gather again in those familiar pews that it will be a celebration to rival any Easter Sunday.

Care for Others: Our leadership made the decision to change that way we gathered because we loved our neighbors and did not want to risk spreading this virus to others. This has guided our decisions to meet virtually. We are also trying to care for the others that care for us. Our support staff here at Pond works with passion and humility as they care for our community through their different roles. Our financial leadership has discussed that Pond will continue to support these workers as they clean, make music and support the ministries of this church. We are cutting back financially where we can, but our commitment must be to caring for this part of our community as we can.

Preaching the Gospel: This is not a time to change our message. We will not let fear and anxiousness take control. Our faith rests in God and we know that God is an ever present God who is with us. always. Pond is a community where everyone has worth and we will not abandon that. We must embrace kindness and love for all humanity. Our worship will continue to celebrate all the different voices, young, old, female, male... everyone! This is why we chose to go interactive rather than an experience you just watch. Pond has always been participatory, and we will continue to be so.

These next few months will not be easy, still I have seen what God can do through this congregation and I am not afraid. May we continue to find the courage we need, be intentional about our faith, and live lives of abundance and connection. This is not the Lent that was planned this year, still Lent is a time of preparation. May it prepare us for the church this world needs moving forward.

Agape,
Rev. Chad



This Month's Birthdays

Adrian Hosler	April 2
Louise Evans	April 8
Cindy Franks	April 9
Kasey Eidson	April 10
Jesse McCollum	April 13
Margaret Bingham	April 16
Nikki Adams	April 23
Jerry Ann Dimitrov	April 23
Sharon Meadors	April 23
Margery Baldwin	April 28
Alexa Curra	April 29
Katie Milde	April 30

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!!

LOGOS & LAGERS GOES VIRTUAL

EVERY Wednesday, @ 7:00pm

Faith and a Frosty Beverage

You are invited to join us on ZOOM meetings to participate in Logos and Lagers. Log in on your desktop, laptop or through the app on your smart phone.
<https://zoom.us> Meeting ID: 380 677 512

This Month's anniversaries



Pavel & Jerry Ann Dimitrov	April 14, 1973
John Lackey & Delinda Dent	April 18, 2013



Prayer Request

Family and friends of Jerry Perry, who passed away on Tuesday, March 24, 2020 in Bradenton, Florida.

**A CLEAN
AND**



ORGANIZED



ART ROOM!



HOW TO GIVE YOUR OFFERING



YOU CAN MAIL A CHECK TO THE CHURCH



SET UP AN AUTO PAYMENT FROM YOUR BANK TO THE CHURCH



OR JUST CLICK THE ONLINE GIVING LINK IN THE CHAT BOX AT ANY TIME

Supporting the church financially is as important now as it has ever been.

Pond's Four Values

We value **ACCEPTANCE.**

We value **DIVERSITY.**

We value **RELEVANCE**
(In the Current World).

We value **FUN & ENJOYMENT.**



Images from our February Celebrating Creativity



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Church Staff and Board

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Pianist

Ms. Denise Schneider
Church Secretary
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Ms. Suzy Edmister
Custodian

Ms. Elizabeth Tapley
Nursery Attendant

Ms. Marcy Gagnon
Board Chair

Church Office
office@pondchurch.org
(859) 623-6515
Hours: Tu-F 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Worship, Sundays at 10:30am

April Upcoming Events

EVERY Wednesday at 7pm - Virtual Logos & Lagers - Zoom Meeting ID: 380 677 512

Sunday Morning Worship during COVID-19

Zoom Meeting ID: 475 475 310

10:00am - Virtual Room Opens

10:30am - Worship Begins*

***Order of worship can be found in weekly email or on the WOPC Website**



Pond Mission Statement

**“Accept One Person at a Time
to Christ’s Never-Ending Forgiving Love!”**