

The *Vo*ice



of LOCUST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

From the Pastor's Pen

APRIL 2020

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Well, here we are in April.



So very different than any other month in our lives. We want hope, and resolutions that this trial will soon be over, we want life to go back to how it was just a couple of months ago. But even with all the fear and anxiety, there are many, many blessings all around us. We need to refocus. Spring has still come, the dogwoods are beautiful, the azaleas are magnificent and throw in a few mid to high days of eighty-degree temperature and you have something to celebrate. We are reaching three times the families we normally reach by having our service on Facebook. Palm Sunday, Holy week, and Easter will still come. We will wave our palms from our homes and put them on our doors. We will mourn together on Maundy Thursday, that it took the death of Jesus to bring us life. Good Friday we will have a special devotion at 3 p.m. on Zoom for anyone who wishes to join. We will rise on Easter Sunday with the assurance that what ever happens in our lives, we are forgiven and free because of that empty tomb, and we will share life in eternity with our Savior.

When life changes as it has, we begin to take stock of the heroes among us. The healthcare workers; putting their lives on the line for us, the truck drivers, grocery store employees, pharmacy employees, our law enforcement, all those that would rather self-quarantine with their families but go out so that we can stay at home with only mild disruptions in our lives. And a shout out to the parents, with their kids, at home, every moment, every day. You all are in our prayers.

When the kingdoms of Israel were taken into captivity, they prayed for their trial to be over. When it finally was, life wasn't the same. Some were so used to their new normal they didn't want to go back. Others adjusted to a new life. When this virus and trial passes, and it will, will we be better for it? At least for a while we will not take for granted certain items, or the conveniences that we were without. But we have an opportunity to be better, to stay more intentional with our prayer life, to be a little nicer, to say thank you more often, to check on our neighbors and to reach out and give a hug of friendship without fear.

After Jesus death, the disciples were in great fear for their lives. But after the resurrection, they became emboldened, they knew this life was temporary and that Jesus had gone ahead and prepared a place for them. As He has for us. We will celebrate the resurrection, just not in this physical space. God is on the throne; Jesus is alive and the Holy Spirit lives in us. Stay strong, be safe and know you are blessed and loved.

Your Shepherd,
Rev. Ardy

Our Mission:

Locust Presbyterian glorifies God and grows in faith by serving and meeting needs of all, through love, hope and compassion.

WEBSITE:

<http://www.locustpresbyterian.org>,
[Facebook.com/](https://www.facebook.com/LocustPresbyterianChurchUSA)
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BEGINNING THE CONVERSATION...



Locust Presbyterian Church (USA)

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Locust, NC 28097

Phone: 704-888-4339

Rev. Ardy Skidmore	Temp Pastor
Bob Remsburg	Music Leader
Kay Howell	Organist
Cindy Fish	Treasurer
Michael Longhurst	Clerk of Session
Amy Ennis	Admin

Vocation connects us to tribe, God, and self in a way that makes worry unnecessary. Vocation shelters. Vocation tells us we matter even if we aren't pulling down "big bucks" or don't yet have an office with a corner window. Vocation is pulling work from its extrinsic work side into its intrinsic, do-it-for-itself side. Vocation is labor for the labor; work is work for the money, the esteem, the salary, the servicing of the anxiety.

Taken from "Shelter for the Spiritually Homeless," Donna Schaper, Pg 63



Pastor's reading corner

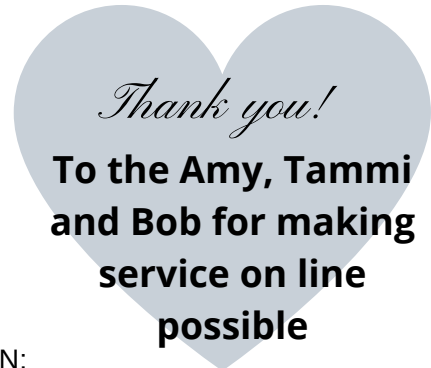
"Shelter for the Spiritually Homeless," Donna Schaper, Chalice Press, St. Louis Missouri



SUNDAY SCHEDULE

Worship 11 a.m.

Please let the church office know of any changes in your contact information such as; phone number, cell phone number, address or e-mail. Thank you.



Thank you!

To the Amy, Tammi and Bob for making service on line possible

BREAD IN A BAG

INGREDIENTS

Cooking spray, for mini loaf pans
 3 c. all-purpose flour, divided
 1/4 c. sugar
 1 .25-package active dry yeast—(rapid rise works better)
 1 c. warm water
 3 tbsp. extra-virgin olive oil
 2 tsp. kosher salt

DIRECTIONS

Preheat oven to 375° and spray mini loaf pans with cooking spray. In a resealable plastic bag, place 1 cup flour, sugar, and yeast and add warm water.

Seal bag and squish together with your hands to mix. Let rest 10 minutes at room temperature. (Yeast should activate.) Add 1 cup flour, oil, and salt to the bag, then seal and squish together.

Add remaining cup of flour and mix until combined. Remove from bag and knead 5 minutes until smooth. Halve dough and place in two loaf pans. Cover with a kitchen towel and let rise 30 minutes.

Brush top of bread with olive oil or melted butter and bake until golden, about 30 minutes.

SESSION:

Class of 2020: Nancy Bartlett, Jane Blackman, Michael Longhurst

Class of 2021: Leah Joyner

Class of 2022: Tammi Remsburg

COMMITTEE CHAIRS:

Admin & Finance: Tammi Remsburg

Christian Ed: Nancy Bartlett

Building & Grounds: Michael Joyner

Worship & Music: Leah Joyner

Congregational Life & Mission: Jane Blackman

"They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in, they did not find the body" Luke 24:2-3





**Wonderful Wednesday dinners!
postponed for now**



April Birthdays:

- 2 – Cameron (CJ) Pressley
Ray Bradford
- 6 – Samantha Hughey
- 11 – Michael Spencer
- 12 - Tiffany Haggerty
- 13 – Alexander Remsburg
- 15 – Beth McClure Hill
- 17 – Lon Hughey
- 20 - Joel Spencer
- 22 - Ben Pressley
Steve Mallette
- 27 - Logan Campbell
- 28 – Jane Blackman
- Mary Ann Smith
- 29 - Thomas Litman
- 30 – Matt Salyer



CONNECT

**We need volunteers to sign up
for Children's Connect as teacher
and as a second when we resume
our in person services.**

RECIPE TO HELP STAY HEALTHY



Wash your hands regularly!

Use soap and water (doesn't have to be hot water) and lather up for at least 20 seconds. That would be singing the Doxology! This is one of the best ways to stop the spread of flu and viruses.



Troop 1061

girl scouts

Our Girl Scouts sold over 11,000 boxes of cookies!! They got creative and put together quarantine care kits with different cookies. One of the girl's father was deployed to Afghanistan in November, so they sent cookies to him and another soldier from Oakboro. The ladies of this troop continue to be a blessing to our church and to our neighbors.

Beginning next Wednesday, they will collect can goods for the food pantry in Albemarle that is in low supply. You can drop off the goods in the grocery cart parked by their room.

**DON'T FORGET - Pick up Palms Saturday the
4th at noon - drive up**

Pastor's evening hours:
Monday 5 until 7. Please call office to schedule.
Thursday noon until Monday morning - Pastor's phone is for
emergencies only

