



At Pentecost, we look especially to the children, youth and young adults with whom God has called us to live. The psalmist reminds us of the importance of faith being established during our earliest years, saying, "God from my youth you have taught me, and I still proclaim your wondrous deeds." God's youngest family members need support to build their full potential in both faith and life, and all of us have a role to play.

The Pentecost Offering lets us support the development of children, youth and young adults in our community and throughout the country.

Please give generously to this special offering of the PCUSA. Mail to TPC, PO Box 983, Tappahannock, VA 22560.

Many of us jumped in the car on Easter Sunday, April 12th, to come to church. Waiting outside the front doors was the wire cross on which we have placed our garden flowers each Easter. Separately across the day, our loving members and friends added blooms and greenery so that our flowered cross sang out "Christ is risen! Alleluia!"

Before



After



Wee Kirk Gazette

Tappahannock Presbyterian Church

The Most Welcoming Presbyterian Church in Essex County

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Forced into Solitude

Solitude, said Henri Nouwen, is the "furnace of transformation." A good spiritual director, Nouwen advised us that the place of retreat is the place of struggle, where we fight demons, or, to put it less shockingly, where we can no longer use our compulsions to escape our littleness, our selfishness, or our deaths. The monastic cell is, ultimately, a place of freedom. It is, initially, a place of terror.



It is to this place that we have been called. Some of us to a sort of hermitage, if we live alone; some of us to a kind of monastery, if we live with others. But all of us, usually distracted and pulled by the struggle to make a life, are being implored to go into our home-cells and, for the love of all that is holy, stay there. We now know isolation is no vacation. Unintentional monastics, we are urged into the desert of retreat, and we are afraid.

Our desert involves our collapsing routines and communities, the constellations by which we navigate our lives. We are, thus, less equipped and more bereft than our predecessors. Leader of the Desert Fathers of the 3rd and 4th centuries AD, St. Anthony gave all that he had; our wages are taken from us. St. Anthony arranged for his sister's well-being; our dependents go into the desert with us. And these communities of dependence can be as much a source of grief as comfort. We have no readily available spiritual director to guide our journey. We have no established communal rule to form us. We have no communities who have experienced this desert to instruct us.

We are not alone. God is where we are, not in the ideal where we aren't. But in order to seek God here, with us, we need to know where we are. We need to recognize ourselves with Peter, being led where we don't want to go.

So, what can we do in this time? Whatever you do, don't harden your heart. Stay still as the anguish whirls. Do not act from desolation. Lament. You cannot muster your own consolation. But God stoops to pick up the child who calls for Mommy and holds her and won't let go. Reach out your arms.

And, when you are able, make good on whatever very small, very simple freedoms you have. It won't make you good or justify your existence. But that's OK. Your creating, redeeming God has already said over you, "It is very good." Lean on that. And see what God does next.

(taken from an article by Lucila Crena, UVA doctoral student in theology, ethics, and culture)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We continue to follow VA Executive Order 55: "a temporary stay-at-home order, prohibits all public and private in-person gatherings of more than 10 individuals through June 10. These restrictions apply to religious services, so churches should plan to continue holding worship remotely." The session of TPC is considering how we might move toward re-opening in the days ahead.

Please pray for people across the globe who face this global pandemic. We are reminded to turn our hearts to God, as we follow the safety recommendations of our leaders.

Pray that the racial injustices still present in our country will be recognized and addressed so that everyone is treated with fairness and compassion at all times.

Please pray for these loved ones of our church: Deb, healing from a procedure; Jo Love, healing from hip replacements; John and Diane Moody, as he gets strength back for walking; Angie Long and her family, on the death of her husband Ben; Mandy, LeighAnn and Bryce on the loss of the children's father; Stacey and Wendel; 4 year old Brady and his family which includes Robbie and Dave; 13 year old Luke and his family and friends, including Susan and Virginia; Virginia and Susan, Ellen and John, Pat, Phyllis and Laura Jo, Bob Stanford (Robbie's dad), Roland and Betty and Tom, Joey, Jill and Hunter, Cindy and Ron and Cindy's mom, Rebecca and her family.

We pray for those affected by natural disasters, families involved in violent events, and refugee families. (Let us know if you have names to add or delete)

A Prayer for Peace in the Face of Injustice

We pray for those leaders of our communities, our church, our country and our world, that they may make decisions that are in accord with God's commandments that bring life, justice and peace.

For those who have died by actions of violence, that they may be raised with Christ who died for them and that they may know the unending life and glory of the kingdom of peace and light.

For those who have survived violence, that they will be sheltered in the compassion of God and our community and that, feeling the compassion of Jesus, they may find healing and hope.

For those who commit acts of violence against others, that their hearts may be moved by Christ's grace, and that they may be transformed by the Spirit of love.

For ourselves, that we will work together to end violence and bring life, peace and security to our world. Amen.

Pax Christi UK, <https://www.coc.org/>

A church friend gave Skip a book recently called *Old Jokes for Old Folks*. Since we are not gathering just now, you might need a bit of his silliness!

George Burns: "When I was a boy the Dead Sea was only sick."

"Inflation is when you pay \$15 for the \$10 haircut you used to get for \$5 when you had hair."
(Sam Ewing)

Milton Berle: "He's so old that when he orders a 3-minute egg, they ask for the money up front."

A joyful story: <https://1funny.com/man-dog-hummingbird/>



June Birthdays

Em Hughes 2
Jasper Adam Davis 15
Doug Roye 18

July Birthdays

Penny Geiger 4
Susan Hillyer 7
Janice Canby 12
Virginia Hillyer 19
Jamie Davis 23
Sally Reger 24
Deb Booze 27
John Hardy 28
Marie Minor 28