



FIRESTONE PARK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

"To grow in spirit and make Christ known..."

The Messenger

News from "The Friendly Church in the Heart of the Park"

May 2020

Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. (1 Corinthians 13:4-7)

These words from the "Love" chapter of Paul's first letter to the Corinthians are well known, but they take on new meaning as we deal with the effects of the coronavirus. I think all of us can find ways in which we are challenged to "bear all things, believe all things, hope all things, endure all things" right now as we follow the "Stay at Home" order and as we do things to protect ourselves and others from the virus. We're dealing with a long-term situation, one in which we must "endure," in a variety of ways, for a long time.

A marathon brings different challenges than a sprint. The Bible is full of examples of believers who had to endure through extended periods of difficulty and struggle. In some ways, our current limitations are more of an inconvenience than a sacrifice. However, as human beings we are designed to need human relationships, and it's hard on all of us to be physically distanced from each other for a prolonged period of time. We are being called upon to "endure," and it's good that we have each other to help us.

We will keep you updated about our plans for returning to our church building for worship. We have lots to consider to make sure that we keep everyone safe when we return.

One thing we know for sure: when we return to the building, we will continue to make it possible to join our worship service by computer or phone. It's wonderful to have homebound people joining us for worship, and we want it to continue after we're back in the building! We also understand that after we return to the building, some people may need to continue to "stay at home" to stay safe, and we want them to be able to join us for worship from their homes.

During this pandemic, our congregation has found innovative ways to stay connected through Zoom worship services and mailed worship materials. We have kept in touch with each other through phone calls and sending cards. We're turning to the scriptures for encouragement, including these verses that some of you have shared with me:

"I lift up my eyes to the hills, from whence shall my hope come? My help comes from the Lord who made heaven and earth." Psalm 121:1-2 (shared by Karen B.)

"Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 (shared by Karen B.)

"They that hope in the Lord will renew their strength, they will soar as with eagles' wings; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not grow faint." Isaiah 40:31 (shared by Kari P.)

May the words of scripture encourage you and give you the gift of endurance.

Blessings,
Francie

FPPC FINANCIAL REPORT

As of March 31, 2020

January income is inflated because Presbytery pre-paid their rent for the entire year. Our General Fund Income and Expense for the first quarter are as follows:

	Total Income	Total Expense
Jan 31	\$10,810	\$6966
Feb 29	\$8573	\$6167
Mar 31	\$5017	\$8860
QTD	\$24,400	\$21,993

We have applied for the SBA CARES Act loan/grant to cover our payroll and utilities for the next two months or so. We are hopeful that our application will be approved, but there are no guarantees. We are also looking into applying for other grants. We will not be receiving rent of \$1500 per month in April, May, or June from our Day Care, which will cause us to be short of cash.

We have \$48,442 in the bank, of which \$29,292 is available in the General Fund.

Sherry Priest, Treasurer

Receiving Our Tithes and Offerings

Even though we aren't able to meet together physically at our church building, the ongoing expenses of our church are continuing. It will be very helpful if you will mail your church offerings to:

Elaine Izzi (FPPC Fin. Sec'y)
4316 Greenwood Dr.
Uniontown OH 44685

You can contribute to special offerings (One Great Hour of Sharing, Refugee Schools in Lebanon, etc.) by noting that on the memo line on your check.

Words of Hope and Encouragement

Here are responses I received from you about words of hope and encouragement that are helping you during this challenging time. I hope these words can be helpful for all of us.

From Chris T:

This is my command, Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or discouraged---for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go. Joshua 1:9

Go forward in Hope. Every rainstorm eventually runs out of rain!

From Kari P:

They that hope in the Lord will renew their strength, they will soar as with eagles wings; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not grow faint. Isaiah 40:31

Life is a mixture of sunshine and rain, good things and bad things, pleasure and pain. We can't have all sunshine but it's certainly true, there's never a cloud the sun doesn't shine through!

(From a poem by Helen Steiner Rice)

A brave heart is a strong weapon.

From Dan E:

Because you have made the Lord, who is my refuge, even the Most High, your dwelling place, no evil shall befall you, nor shall any plague come near your dwelling. For He shall give His angels charge over you, To keep you in all your ways. Psalm 91:9-11

From Kitty J:

NOT EVERYTHING IS CANCELLED

Sunshine is not cancelled

Spring is not cancelled

Love is not cancelled

Relationships are not cancelled

Reading is not cancelled

Naps are not cancelled

Devotion is not cancelled

Music is not cancelled

Dancing is not cancelled

Imagination is not cancelled

Kindness is not cancelled

Conversations are not cancelled

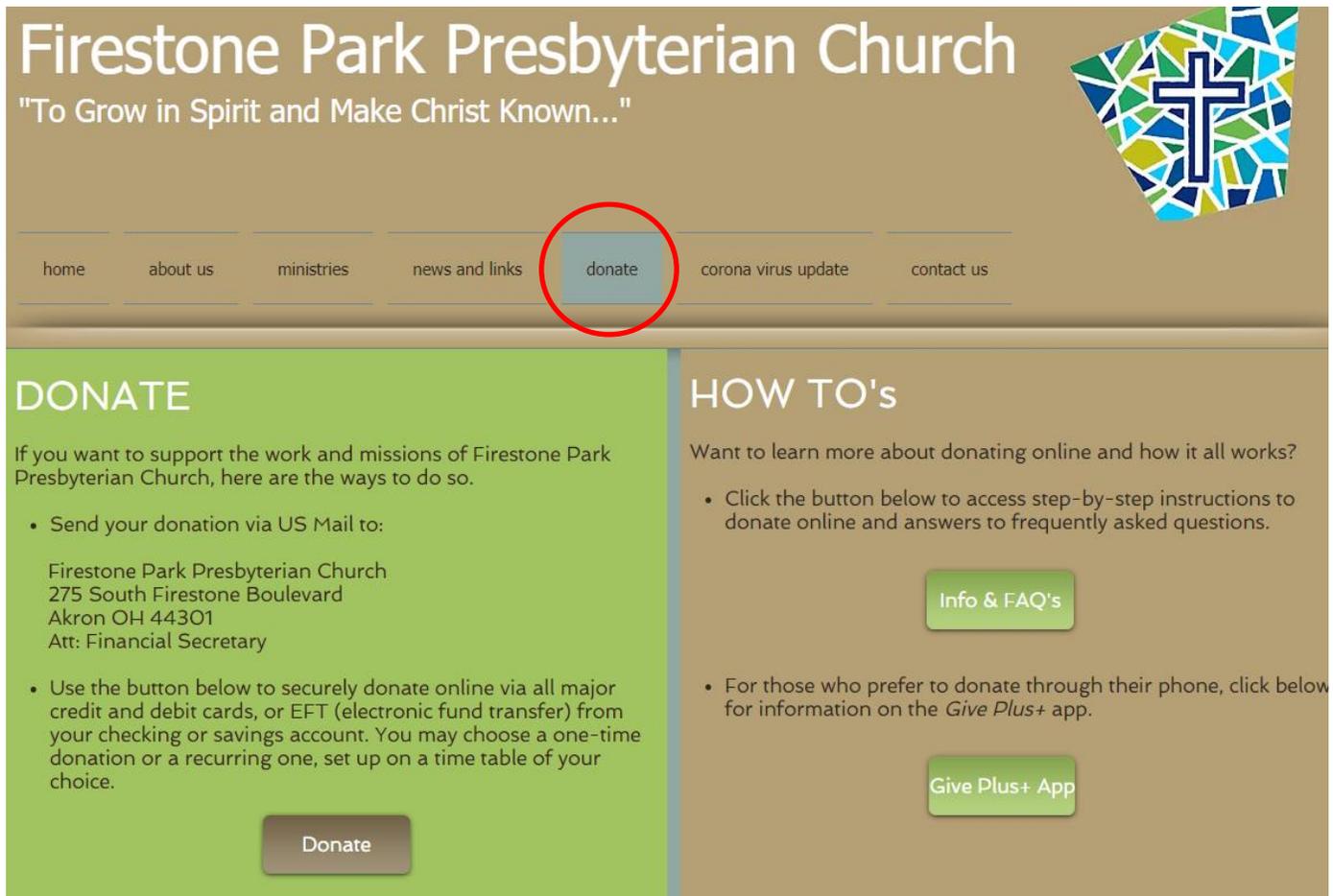
HOPE is not cancelled.

Donate Online Through Our Web Page

We now have a new way of donating to our church. If you go to our web page (fppchurchakorn.org), you'll see that in the navigation bar there is now a new choice called "donate." When you click on "donate," you will be taken to a page where you can make a donation using a credit/debit card or do an electronic fund transfer from your checking or savings account.

There is a service fee (approximately 2%) that is deducted from the donations, so it's still financially best to make your donations by writing a check. However, for people who like to do things online, the online donation option provides a way to make a donation that is quick and easy for them to do. After you make your first online donation, your information can be saved by the system so that future donations can be completed with just a few keystrokes.

This service was provided to us by the Presbyterian Foundation, which is the financial management service of our denomination. This provides a lower service fee than if we attempted to do this through a commercial online payment provider.



Firestone Park Presbyterian Church
"To Grow in Spirit and Make Christ Known..."

home about us ministries news and links **donate** corona virus update contact us

DONATE

If you want to support the work and missions of Firestone Park Presbyterian Church, here are the ways to do so.

- Send your donation via US Mail to:
Firestone Park Presbyterian Church
275 South Firestone Boulevard
Akron OH 44301
Att: Financial Secretary
- Use the button below to securely donate online via all major credit and debit cards, or EFT (electronic fund transfer) from your checking or savings account. You may choose a one-time donation or a recurring one, set up on a time table of your choice.

[Donate](#)

HOW TO's

Want to learn more about donating online and how it all works?

- Click the button below to access step-by-step instructions to donate online and answers to frequently asked questions.

[Info & FAQ's](#)

- For those who prefer to donate through their phone, click below for information on the *Give Plus+* app.

[Give Plus+ App](#)

PENTECOST OFFERING

Submitted by Kitty Johnson

A foundation of faith established during childhood through young adulthood helps to ensure lifelong faith and service. When you give to the Pentecost Offering, you are helping to provide opportunities for young people to grow and share in their faith in Christ.

The second of our special offerings is the only one that focuses solely on youth and enables the Presbyterian Church (USA) to “encourage, develop, and support its young people as well as to provide assistance to at-risk children” both here and around the world.

60% of our donations will be distributed through the Presbyterian Mission Agency, with 50% to ministries with youth and young adults and 10% to child advocacy/children at risk.

We are blessed that the other **40% will remain with us to support youth in our own community. This year our commitment is to South Street Ministries/Front Porch Cafe.**

Their latest newsletter states, “In under a month South Street Ministries went from full programming and ministry to full stop. This has been a challenging season for the ministry - - with changes, loss, and uncertainty. For South Street, this is a time to assess how the next few months and coming years will look as a ministry and organization.”

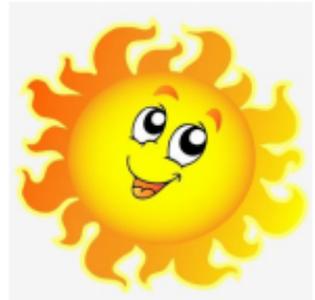
It is obvious that our contribution will be welcomed. We will specify that it go toward youth programs as South Street and The Front Porch Café determine what is next for the youth that have been out of school and distanced from one another. The offering is a way we can support and help.

Please give, as you are able, by sending a check issued to Firestone Park Presbyterian Church c/o Elaine Izzi, 4316 Greenwood Drive, Uniontown, OH 44685. Please write “Pentecost Offering” on the memo line of your check.

Thank you from the Mission Committee.



~ Tentative ~
2020 Summer Worship



This summer, all Sunday worship services will be held jointly between Firestone Park Presbyterian and Allenside Presbyterian Churches. All will start at 10:30 AM.

Below is the schedule, listing the location and special events of the day!

June 7th	Allenside	Enjoy coffee hour before worship in the downstairs Fellowship Hall.
June 14th	Firestone Park	Bring a brown bag lunch to enjoy after worship.
June 21st	Allenside	Hymn sing and farewell reception for Olivia Roberts, Allenside Choir Director, following worship.
June 28th	Firestone Park	Final week to sign up for Prayer Partners.
July 5th	Allenside	Red, white and blue Sunday. Dress patriotically. Communion will be served.
July 12th	Firestone Park	Worship in Action Sunday. A combination worship service – mission project.
July 19th	Allenside	Frozen Treat Sunday. Enjoy a frozen treat after worship!
July 26th	Firestone Park	Pet Blessing Outdoor Service. Bring your pet or a picture of your pet to be blessed!
August 2nd	Allenside	“Fireside” chat with Francie at 9:30 AM, joint choir sings and Communion will be served.
Aug 9th	Firestone Park	Hawaiian Sunday. Wear your Aloha clothes! Joint choir sings.
Aug 16th	Allenside	Worship in Action Sunday. A combination worship service – mission project.
Aug 23rd	Firestone Park	Hymn sing and Prayer Partners wrap up.
Aug 30th	Tadmor Pavilion	Joint Outdoor Worship Service with North Springfield and New Covenant Community Churches. Communion will be served.
Sept 6th		Back to regular worship schedule at our respective churches.

****Please note: This schedule is tentative and depends on the governor's guidelines which are in force as of June 7th.**

Nathan, for whom we have been praying regularly, sent us this thank-you note and picture. On February 25, 2020, Nathan received the "Student of the Month" award at Culver Elementary School. I'm sure his grandparents, Lou and Ruth Narotski, are very proud of him, and so are we!

