



## From Our Senior Pastor. . .

*“On that day, when evening had come, he said to them, ‘Let us go across to the other side.’ And leaving the crowd behind, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. Other boats were with him. A great gale arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that the boat was already being swamped. But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion; and they woke him up and said to him, ‘Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?’ He woke up and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, ‘Peace! Be still!’ Then the wind ceased, and there was a dead calm. He said to them, ‘Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?’ And they were filled with great awe and said to one another, ‘Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?’”*

—The Gospel According to Mark, 4:35-41

When the storm comes water rushes over the sides, and I assume this is pre-bilge aquatic engineering, because it is quickly swamped. The terrified fishermen have probably either been in this situation before or have lost friends to similar tragedies. Along it all, their spiritual guide is curled up in the stern in the bliss of a siesta. When awoken, Jesus instantly stills all things, including their fears. The miracle for me is not the stilling, or the ‘fixing the problem’ we so often look for, but the gentle reminder he offers at the end, that he was with them the whole time. God has been with us in other storms, personally as well as a whole community. God has been with us, God is with us still. The storm rages on, but we are never alone, never apart from the loving presence of the divine. Jesus is in the boat with us!

I’d like to share ways in which your church leaders have begun to work over the past weeks to make this truth more easily seen in our church community. Over the past two weeks our church has gone from monitoring this pandemic closely to canceling all in-person gatherings, to closing the building to the public and enabling our staff to work remotely. In this same time we have had the opportunity to begin using web-based platforms of communication for everyday life; we have revamped the way we worship together, the way we connect, and now we are emerging with a host of new offerings. I want to thank our entire staff for bending over backwards to help launch the new offerings and have two

**In this Issue:**

- Page 2  
Senior Pastor  
Director of Music
- Page 3  
Stewardship  
AgapeFest
- Page 4  
Faith Formation  
AGAPE Update
- Page 5  
Zambia Mission
- Page 6  
Happy Birthday  
Hospital Mask  
Making
- Page 7  
Coloring Page

## From our Senior Pastor, continued

special people to thank as well: Mike Canavan for getting Facebook Live up and running for us; and Linnette for moonlighting in her former communications role to revamp our website for more interactive programming. Thank you! Your work is helping make God's presence more easily felt in these difficult days.

Over the coming weeks we will continue to watch the news for updates and signs that we may be able to have a return to in-person gatherings, but, realistically, we are preparing for a long period of being connected in other ways. For this reason we have a daily devotion that is made available via email, along with opportunities to engage with each other in small groups, to learn and grow as families, and to even continue serving. All of this is being housed in our website and brought to you through our regular emails. If for some reason you have not been receiving these and would like help to make a change, please contact the office and we will do what we can to help you; you can contact us by phone at (908) 233-0301 (you may need to leave a message, but it will be received) or via email at [bborn@westfieldpc.org](mailto:bborn@westfieldpc.org). The same is true if you would like help getting involved with our work in developing these programs.

We will continue to share ways of staying connected, but don't forget to simply "pass the peace" to your neighbors by reaching out with a call or text. These are all ways in which we demonstrate that the Holy Spirit is always at work holding us together.

Peace be with you,

Jeremy

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## From our Director of Music

Hello Everyone,

I hope this finds you well and finding some elements of gladness while you are at home and trying to stay there. While we have reason to hope that the current best practice of "sheltering in place" will be for a finite amount of time, we also acknowledge that we still possibly have many weeks to go in this situation. As the days go by and our remote technology knowledge base and platform capability grows, we'll be able to connect to each other more and more frequently, in various groupings, or other shared experiences.

On Sunday March 22, you saw one of those shared experiences -- Spotify playlists from Kevin Wilkin and me. Each week we'll be creating new lists, which you will receive on Sundays, alongside the notice and information about our worship opportunities for that day. In the absence of seeing each other in person, through our playlists you'll get to know each of us a little bit better. The playlists represent a slice of our music-listening lives. If you're interested in knowing anything more about some of the music we've selected, or what about the music made it "make the list," we would be glad to share our thoughts.

We hope you enjoy the music. See you in virtual church and remote gatherings! Happy Spring.



# From Stewardship

Our church has done a tremendous job responding to the needs of our members and the larger community as the COVID-19 health crisis unfolds. In his letter, Pastor Jeremy laid out much of what has taken place thus far and continues to develop in this month's issue of The Spire. Toward these goals, the staff continues to work diligently to bring the best worship, learning, and opportunities for connection and service. Much more is to come. The short story is that our church is doing a great deal to make sure that our members and the larger community are being cared for. There are many ways you can help. You can connect with friends on the phone, worship with your family at home, and offer prayers for the nation and those impacted as your own personal ministry. If during the course of these discussions you discover a person in need, please let us know.

You can also help by continuing to support our church financially. If your regular giving to the church has been disrupted over the past few weeks, we have ways to make it easier for you. For one, checks can be mailed to the church, where we have worked out ways to ensure that they are acknowledged for you. We also have a way to give online through Zelle. This allows you to give directly from your normal bank without you or the church being hit with fees, as with credit cards and other methods. You can also checkout our new webpage at <https://www.westfieldpc.org/give/>.

Together we will weather this storm, and together we will come to the other side a stronger community, with an even clearer sense of purpose and faith.

God has been with us in the past; in God we will weather any tempest that comes. Thank you for being a part of it now, and thank you for helping to ensure we can continue.

*Giving Is Easy!*

## **WAYS TO GIVE TO PCW**

### **Online Bill Pay**

*EasyTithe*

**Givelify**

**Zelle** (*designate fund*)

**Cash**

**Check**

**On the PCW website:**

***westfieldpc.org-click on "Give" tab and follow the directions.***



## **Agape-Fest Postponed Until Fall**

The amount of planning involved makes it necessary to postpone this exciting 20th Anniversary but we look forward to celebrating together in the fall.

Stay tuned. We will be re-scheduling.

# Faith Formation Is Still Open for Business!



Although worship and activities on our church campus are on pause for a while, Faith Formation continues to provide opportunities for families and adults to participate in education opportunities. Each week we will have materials for people to use at home. For the children, we will have a link on the website where you can find Sunday School lessons that include a Bible story, crafts and activities and we will also be providing mid-week stories, projects and activities that you can do at home (we would tell you, but that would ruin the surprise!). We will be asking for the kids to share their projects online so that everyone can be inspired by what they are doing at home.

For adults, we are posting a brief review and questions for those who participate in Questers to work on at home. If you were participating in Winter Prayer, questions and outlines were already sent out and we encourage you to review those and talk to others who were in the class about what you learned and how can apply it to your faith and your life.

We are continuing to develop new ideas during this time, so if you have any thoughts or ideas for children or adult programs, please contact Lisa Black, [imb.blacklaw@gmail.com](mailto:imb.blacklaw@gmail.com). We are socially distant, but spiritually united!.

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## Beloved Agape Volunteers,

I'm sure you may have intuited that this was coming. It is not safe for us to operate a community kitchen with vulnerable populations right now. This is a very difficult decision because we know our guests need the meal we provide, and we all know that good nutrition is part of having a strong immune system. Even acknowledging the immense need, we simply cannot risk anyone getting the coronavirus, particularly when so many of our guests do not have easy access to adequate health care.

We decided to give our guests a \$20 gift card to Wendy's, anticipating that this may purchase them several meals. Roger Dumont, William Robinson, and I distributed the gift cards last night at our regularly scheduled Agape hour. We did this very safely, outside and from behind the fence, and wore gloves. Every guest was extremely appreciative to have the gift card. I hope that we can be back at Agape quickly, but if it is more than a month or so, our leadership team will work on another strategy to make sure our guests know they are loved and cared for at Agape, even if we can't prepare them dinner ourselves.

I am very proud to be part of a community that puts the human dignity of our guests ahead of more pedestrian concerns like money. Budgets are important, but our team quickly put our mission into action and reallocated funding in our budget to make sure that our guests would be treated with the utmost respect. This is why we are Agape. "Agape" is a word that means radical, God-like love. We mobilized radical love this week and I know we will continue to find creative ways to continue to put love into action.

Thank you all for your support of Agape. Many have asked what they can do. Please pray. Pray for our guests and for vulnerable people everywhere. We will be communicating other ways you can help, including organizations you may want to donate to, but for tonight please pray.

I love you all,

Amy

# ZAMBIA Mission Update

The Zambian Mission Team has been in communication with Jane, Justina, Boston and Robert about CCAP Livingstone's mission priorities. Home based care has been a mission for many years. PCW has been contributing to this mission for the past 12 years and are continuing to do so. These donations were unanimously approved by the Mission Commission and sent to Session for their review on March 10th.

During the past year the laws have changed concerning private chicken coops. This has made it unprofitable for our partners to continue to grow and sell chickens and expect to earn income. Before the laws had been changed PCW had raised and sent money to them to build a second chicken coop. The building was started and then redesigned to be used as a boarding house.

As Elder and Session member Justina wrote us, "The proposed boarding house is well located within the church premises, situated along Botswana/Namibia route which is an international route close to the international bus station and the airport. The location of the boarding house is ideal and attractive because it is surrounded by the trade institute, teacher training college and nursing school which are our target markets. The Session feels this project should be prioritized because Livingstone is a tourist capital of Zambia. The major challenge we have is accommodations. Once the boarding house is done it will add income to our church and value to the community at large."

Justina and Boston, the project leaders, told us that \$5000 would complete phase one. This would include 4 bunk rooms for a total of 16 boarders, a kitchen and bathroom. There was a few thousand dollars left from the July 2019 Zambia mission trip and over the years individuals have made donations to this mission that have been held in a restricted account. The team decided to use these funds to help our partners complete this phase and begin to earn income.

The Team also voted to contribute \$800 this year, distributed quarterly, to help the preschool with its daily expenses. The Synod asked the church to start this school for children whose parents cannot afford to send them to public school but provided no funding.

An individual made a generous donation a number of years ago which the Team decided to use to fund public schooling for two orphan brothers being cared for in the Home Based Care mission. Moses is in 5th grade and Kaponda is in 6th grade now. We will cover them until they complete 8th grade. We are sending \$200 yearly to be administered by Jane, the leader of the Home Based Care Mission.

As reported in the March Spire, PCW will continue to support the Home Based Care mission with quarterly donations of \$425.

Boston writes: "We write to thank you and the entire Westfield Congregation for the money you sent to us for completion of our existing Boarding House amounting to US\$5000.00. We are so happy and we promise to do our level best to ensure that the money is put to good use. Our Parish Minister and the entire Livingstone CCAP Congregation are also delighted for this new development. May the Lord our God Almighty richly bless you all."

From Clerk of Session, Robert, "I write to acknowledge receipt of US\$ 5825 received from your Congregation. Here at Livingstone CCAP in Zambia, Central Africa, we are so happy to have received this money from you our brothers and sisters in the Lord. On Sunday when we announced to the Congregation, every one of us was so excited, danced and gave thanks to the Lord God Almighty. Indeed it was a joyous moment for us."



# Happy Birthday!



## APRIL 1

O'Neill, Beth  
Pastro, Al  
Luce, Bob

## APRIL 2

Buttermore, Glenn  
Marhefka, Edward  
Dembiac, Chad

## APRIL 4

Bennett, John  
Parker, Steve  
Beauchamp, Matthew  
Stockwell, Caroline

## APRIL 5

Miller, Craig  
Pollack, Rebecca

## APRIL 8

Vanderbilt, Barbara  
Sturr, Beverly  
Doyle, Daniel  
Guevara Carlucci, Veronica  
Seward, Cat  
Koch, Zachary

## APRIL 10

Bachtell, Anna Lee  
Babrisky, Ashley

## APRIL 11

Cummings, Elaine  
Fischer, Matt  
Singleton, Quincy

## APRIL 12

Fallo, Suzanne  
Janusz, Kelly  
Canavan, Amanda  
Sugrue, Julia

## APRIL 13

Heber, Sherrie  
Mulzoff, Chip  
DeBenedette, Alison  
Doyle, Matthew

## APRIL 14

Bredlau, Janet  
Davidson, Jennifer  
Flynn, Hannah  
Kelly, Chris

## APRIL 15

Fico, Martha

## APRIL 16

Van Alen, Janice  
Boff, Randy  
Peterson, Annie  
Fleschler, Benjamin

## APRIL 17

Leiz, David  
Bennett, Alexander

## APRIL 18

Cowell, Dave  
Stierhoff, Drew

## APRIL 19

Priscoe, Sue

## APRIL 20

Dackow, Kevin  
Swartz, William  
Stewart, Ashleigh

## APRIL 21

Heinbokel, Anne  
Bailey, Debbie  
Park, David  
Davidson, Kenneth  
Heinbokel, Leigh

## APRIL 22

Lapham, Steve  
Burslem, Dylan  
Elizes, Eric

## APRIL 24

Dunning, Karen  
Pote, Steve  
Wetlesen, Christopher  
Magee, Lindsey

## APRIL 25

Faltermayer, Fran  
Vasel, Diana  
Benz, Emily

## APRIL 26

Lorenzetti, Deborah  
Serra, Katharine

## APRIL 27

Harris, Gordana

## APRIL 28

Canavan, Michael  
Cerino, Jessica  
Loffredo, Leo  
McCauley, Maggie

## APRIL 29

DuMont, Jack  
Bracco, Jonathan

## APRIL 30

Stec, April  
Walker, Joanna

## HOW TO MAKE A HOSPITAL FACE MASK

Due to the Coronavirus, hospital masks are in short supply. This simple pattern is preferred by the area hospitals in the following dimensions: 6"x9" model for adults, 7.5" X 5" for children. The fabric used needs to be 100% cotton so the masks can be sanitized repeatedly.

What you will need:

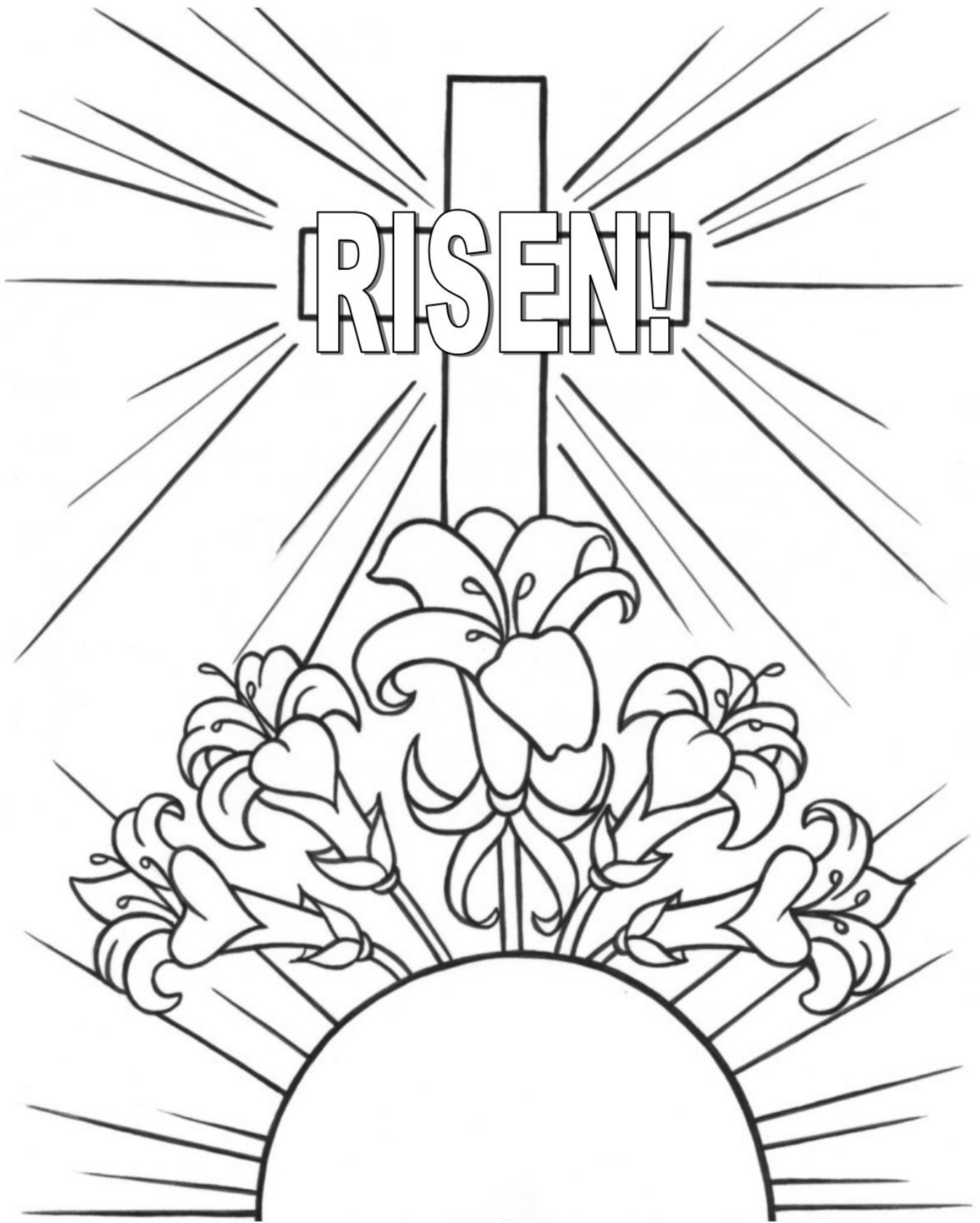
- 100% Cotton fabric, a pretty print is best. You will use two pieces to make one mask
- Elastic rope, beading cord elastic will work, 1/8" flat elastic will work
- Cut the elastic 7" long and tie a knot at each end. DO NOT knot the end of the flat.
- You can make two sizes: adult or child

Getting started

Put right sides of cotton fabric together. Starting at the center of the bottom edge, sew to the first corner, stop. Sew the elastic with the edge out into the corner. A few stitches forward and back will hold this. Sew to the next corner, stop, and bring the other end of the same elastic to the corner and sew a few stitches forward and back. Now sew across the top of the mask to the next corner. Again put an elastic with the edge out. Sew to the next corner and sew in the other end of the same elastic. Sew across the bottom leaving about 1/5" to 2" OPEN. Stop, cut the thread. Turn inside out. Pin 3 tucks on each side of the mask. Make sure the tucks are the same direction. Sew around the edge of the mask twice. It is so easy to make this.

You may also visit <https://www.deaconess.com/How-to-make-a-Face-Mask> or <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VgHrnS6n4iA>







140 Mountain Avenue, Westfield, NJ 07090

**Sunday Worship Schedule**

8am Traditional  
Chapel

10am Traditional  
Sanctuary

10am Contemporary  
Westminster Hall



**Sunday School & Childcare**

**10am Children's Sunday School**  
**September 2019—June 2020**  
3yrs - 5th grade  
Lower Level, Christian Education Building

**9am-11am Childcare**  
Infants - 3 years old  
Room 104, Lower Level, Christian Education Building

***Do you have news to share?***  
If you have great news to share with PCW such as, an engagement, anniversary, adoption, baptism, birth, etc., please email a picture and a short paragraph to [spire@westfieldpc.org](mailto:spire@westfieldpc.org) to be featured!  
***We'd love to celebrate with you!***

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