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[www.warrenwilsonchurch.org](http://www.warrenwilsonchurch.org)

Volume 27 Issue 3

April 2020

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*Steve's Slant*

## **PALM SUNDAY**

This Sunday is not only Palm Sunday, it's a Communion Sunday. And I wanted to assure you that we will share in that sacrament together.

To make that possible -- and I recommend you do this before you tune into the service -- let me invite you to have some bread and a cup, already filled, close at hand.

Because I do not want to put anyone's health at risk, there is no need to rush out to the store to buy bread or juice specifically for this purpose.

You should feel free to use whatever you have on hand. This may be bread, but it may be brownies or tortillas. And it may be grape juice, or it may be milk, or orange juice or actual wine.

Because, as I said in an email to Session about this, I'm quite certain that this is what Jesus would do:

He would use whatever is available to share in this meal because **the holiness of the Lord's Super is not in the elements themselves; the holiness is in the act of blessing them, and breaking them, and receiving them all together, as a strong reminder of the presence of the living Christ in our midst.**

So, when the time comes I will lead us through our Communion liturgy and we will receive those elements together.

## **MAUNDY THURSDAY**

We will offer a very brief Maundy Thursday service -- a song or two, a reading of the story of that night, and some ritual to help prepare us for our entrance into the final three days of our Lenten journey: Good Friday, Holy Saturday and Easter.

## **EASTER**

If you have a smart phone, I would love for you to record a short video -- and by short I mean perhaps thirty seconds or less -- about where you're seeing the truth of Easter play out in your life and in our world at large in these trying times:

(Continued on page 2)

**Where are you seeing signs of hope?**

**Where are you seeing signs of new life?**

**Where are you seeing or experiencing the presence of the risen Christ?**

If you'll email those to me -- and that's why they have to be short, so that they can be sent via email -- if you'll send those to me, we will compile them into a video that we will play at the close of our service, after what I believe is going to be a very special postlude.

It's a way for us to feel a sense of connection with one another even though we are apart, and to celebrate and testify to the joy of this most holy day.

Please stay safe and stay healthy. And, as always, may God's peace fill you today and in the days to come.

Love and blessings,

Steve

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**During this **STAY SAFE STAY HOME** period, the church office phone will be checked remotely several times per day. Feel free to call 298-9092 and leave a message.**

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**April Birthdays!**

Eloise Murchison

April 4

Molly Hamilton

April 10

Claudia Nix

April 21

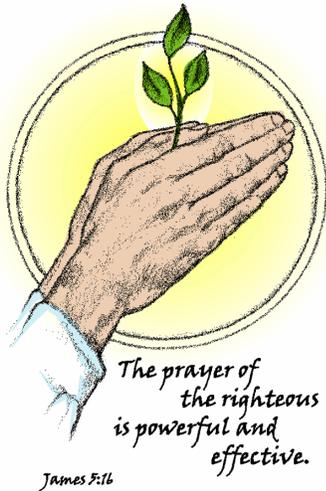
Ken Murchison

April 24



Due to the Corona Virus, the Warren Wilson Book Group will be not be meeting in April. Take care of yourselves!

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**PLEASE KEEP THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE IN YOUR PRAYERS:** Jon Hettrick and his family; Kim Reece, daughter of Nancy and Rick Garrison; Sandy & Paul, dear friends of Carolyn Cole, and Pat Crumpler.

**PLEASE KEEP THE FOLLOWING HEALTH CARE WORKERS, AND PEOPLE WORKING AT MEDICAL FACILITIES, IN YOUR PRAYERS:** Carolyn Cole; Grace Boyer; Jack Ballard; Joel P. Rogers; Richard Riddle; Kristin Williams; Blake Joslin; Lisa Mallory and all those working to provide medical care to others in this time when both need and risk are great.

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Earth Care Congregation News  
Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church  
April, 2020

We got word in late March that our application for renewal of our Earth Care Congregation status with the PC (USA) was approved again for this year. A certificate was received which I will get framed and make available if it is decided to display it. This makes the third consecutive year Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church has been approved for this designation. In North Carolina, there are a total of 23 Earth Care Presbyterian congregations with about a third of those in western North Carolina.

The application consists of more than a hundred questions about specific actions Presbyterian churches can do related to earth care in the areas of worship, education, our facilities and operations, and outreach. Points are given for each question a church can answer in the affirmative.

While we have received a satisfactory score for three years now, there are many areas where we could improve to be a better earth care congregation. If you are interested in receiving a copy of our 2020 application, interested in learning more about this program, or interested in joining the team this year for maintaining and improving our earth care congregation efforts, please contact Bob Gambrell. There is so much more we could be doing.

For the last two years the team members have been Steve Runholt, Grace Boyer, Donna Eagle Joslin, Kristin Williams, Lisa Mallory, and Bob Gambrell.

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The following Teams have moved their meetings to the “Zoom” format: AMT, and Communications.

## Helpful information on ordering groceries:

Although Asheville does not have all the options of larger cities, one can order groceries and other household necessities for curbside pickup. Delivery is also available if you live close to the store. The process can be frustrating, but it is possible to order groceries safely. The description below summarizes the experience of a couple of WWPC seniors who have successfully negotiated the process, albeit with a few bumps along the way.

1. AMAZON. If you already have an Amazon account, or even better, a Prime account, you already know how to order a wide variety of nonperishable goods. Amazon sells food items, paper products, hand sanitizer, etc. Of course, some items are unavailable at the moment, but many are available. Watch the prices for gouging. So far, Amazon is doing an incredible job in shipping quickly or updating, and even refunding, for late items. Amazon is also an excellent source for games, books, puzzles, etc. to send to your housebound grandchildren. Another option if you have an Amazon Prime account is to shop at Whole Foods. If you live in Asheville (unfortunately, not Black Mountain), you can arrange delivery. The website also says the store offers curbside pickup, although neither of us has used it yet.

2. WALMART. Like Amazon, you can order a wide variety of nonperishable goods at Walmart.com. You do have to establish an account if you do not already have one. You can get cases or bundles of staple items such as canned goods, but you can't get paper products delivered. The store in east Asheville is currently promising delivery of all (non-paper) items in the next ten days. They do have dog food. Walmart also offers a curbside pickup option but neither of us have used it.

3. HARRIS TEETER. Harris Teeter apparently uses its own employees to operate a curbside pickup and delivery service. Unfortunately for those of us in Black Mountain, the delivery service is limited to a five-mile radius of the store. To use the curbside pickup, you create an online account, fill your cart, and select a pickup time. Once you have submitted an order, you can call the store to make up to five changes in your cart. The Harris Teeter folks are very pleasant in changing and filling your order. When your order is ready, you drive to a pickup location at the front of the store. The biggest problem is the limited number of time slots. The store schedules them six days out and releases a new day each night at midnight; by the next morning, all of the slots have generally been taken. The store does reserve Thursday pickups from 9 – 2:30 for seniors (over 60); seniors also get a 5% discount on that day. (Continued on next page)

4. PUBLIX. Publix uses Insta-cart, a third party shopping company for its curbside pickup. The process is similar to Harris Teeter. You open an account, choose a pickup time, and fill your cart. Two aspects of the Publix approach make it easier to use. First, it has been easier to get a pickup time. As demand grows, it is likely to be more difficult to get pick up windows, but keep trying. Second, it is easier to change your order with Insa-cart. You can update your order any time before the shopping begins, and the shopper will call or text you with alternatives for items that are not available. This communication is easier if you use the telephone app. When your order is ready, you park in a designated parking slot, and someone brings the groceries out.

5. OTHER STORES. Unfortunately for those of us in Black Mountain and Swannanoa, Ingles does not yet have curbside pickup or delivery. Other stores probably do, but we have not used them. If anyone wants to expand this list, please do so.

#### A FEW GENERAL COMMENTS

1. Experts recommend leaving cardboard deliveries for at least 24 hours. Leave deliveries on your porch and wait a few days to open. If you are willing to go to extra trouble, here is a video from a doctor explaining how to make your food even safer (<https://www.youtube.com/watch? =sjDuwc9KBps>).

2. For pickup groceries, re-bag and refrigerate perishable items in a particular place for a few days. Non-perishable items can remain in your vehicle for several days, or you can pick them up with gloves and place them in the garage or on the porch. The virus is supposed to have the shortest life on paper, cardboard, etc. It lives longer on plastic, and survives longest on most metals.

3. It is nice to leave a gratuity for the person who brings the items to your car – and for your shopper, if there is a means to do so. Some sites let you leave a tip for the shopper. You can also put a tip in an envelope and remind the person who delivers to your car, to pick it up.

(Submitted by Ken Murchison)

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Until further notice, Warren Wilson College has closed its campus to all visitors. Only employees and a few students are allowed on the campus grounds.

we are the church, together

## Participating in OGHS Amidst a Pandemic



### One Great Hour of Sharing

During this time of crisis, with the COVID-19 pandemic threatening, we are reminded that the most vulnerable in our midst suffer first, most and longest. One Great Hour of Sharing has, for over 70 years, supported the most vulnerable among us. Because of your support, the Church is able to deepen its commitment to serve.

Please consider donating generously to this Special Offering which is so needed at this time.

Join with Presbyterians worldwide in sharing God's love with our neighbors-in-need around the world by providing relief from natural disasters, food for the hungry, and support for the poor and oppressed.

You may make your check payable to Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church, with OGHS on the memo line. Checks can be mailed to:

Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church  
101 Chapel Lane  
Swannanoa, NC  
28778

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### Nickel A Meal

Palm Sunday (April 5) is the first Sunday of the month when we collect our Nickel a Meal Offering. Although we won't be gathering at the church, please consider donating to this important cause. Mail checks to the address listed above, with Nickel A Meal on the memo line.

# COVID-19 Ministry Plan

## Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church

March 27, 2020

On Wednesday, County Commission Chair, Brownie Newman, announced the details of a new “Stay Home-Stay Safe” declaration for Buncombe County. Taking that directive into account, below is a bullet point outline of the plan we have developed to provide, support and sustain our ministries for the duration of the COVID-19 outbreak.

### **Three general points to make about what follows:**

1. The new county guidelines initially apply for two weeks; however, it is likely that these measures will remain in place for several weeks beyond that time.
2. We should be prepared (and staff is preparing for this) not to be able gather in the sanctuary for worship during Holy Week and on Easter Sunday. This is obviously deeply disappointing. But if these measures remain in place, I believe you will agree that this the right thing to do, socially and medically.
3. We will reevaluate this plan weekly and make updates as necessary.

### **Buildings, Grounds and Staff**

- The Chapel building and the church office will be closed to visitors until we are assured by qualified experts that it is safe to reopen them.
- The Chapel and Fellowship Hall will be locked 24/7, with a brief exception made for worship staff to be in the sanctuary on Sunday mornings to record our weekly worship service.
- Church staff will generally work from home during this period.
- Members of our AMT will use the church office for essential financial functions, as needed, maintaining appropriate social distancing protocols.

### **Worship**

- Chairman Newman has given churches explicit permission to record and stream their worship services from their sanctuaries, provided that no more than 10 people are involved in doing so, and that everyone practice safe social distance measures.
- The staff will continue to plan (via Zoom), and Steve and Joel will continue to provide, a weekly online worship experience via our YouTube channel.
- Grace will continue to provide by video (directly to families with children) short weekly children’s messages related to the scripture used for the adult service.
- Steve will also provide periodic online devotional and reflection pieces during the week.

### **Pastoral/Congregational Care**

- We will be employing a “Caring Tree” to check on the health and well-being of every member of our congregation, every two weeks. Any acute pastoral concerns will be shared with Steve and Grace, as appropriate.
- Retirement communities, hospitals and health care centers are now under stringent protective orders, effectively preventing all visits by outsiders.

- All pastoral care, even for acute pastoral emergencies, must now be provided by phone, Facetime, or other electronic means, or in consultation with resident chaplaincy staff at the relevant care facility.

### **Communications and Fellowship**

- Email sent to staff will be answered as promptly as possible.
- Donna will check voice mail left on the church machine several times daily.
- Mail sent to the church (including checks) will be collected and sorted once a week, on Sunday mornings.
- We will continue to rely primarily on MailChimp to communicate with the congregation at large.
- For members who do not use email, Donna will print out urgent or critical communications at home, and mail those out as needed.
- We will post this plan, and updates to it, to the church's Facebook page and website.
- We will also post links to our online worship services and devotional offerings to the church's Facebook page and website.
- We are exploring the possibility of hosting a weekly online coffee hour following worship on Sundays.
- We encourage Caring Teams to use Zoom — a free, online teleconferencing utility — to connect with one another. Although there can be a slight learning curve in the beginning, Zoom is relatively easy to use and provides a surprisingly satisfying opportunity to see one another “in person”.

### **Education**

- Grace and Steve are exploring the possibility of providing the Adult Sunday School Class online via Zoom.
- We may also explore some online gatherings for youth, or families with children.

### **Community Engagement**

- In response to overwhelming need, we have made special cash donations of \$1000 to Room In The Inn and \$500 to SVCM.
- SVCM has also just announced a COVID-19 relief fund. We will provide more details about this as we learn more.

### **College-related Ministry**

- Warren Wilson College has officially closed for the semester, and the majority of students have gone home, or left campus.
- The Church/College Relations team will continue to assess the needs of the students who remained on campus to determine if particular needs emerge that we can address.

### **Stewardship**

- Your continued financial support will enable us to continue to provide and maintain the ministries outlined in this plan
- If you give to the church regularly on Sunday mornings, or if you mail in your commitment check, we encourage you to mail all ongoing contributions to the church at the following address:

**Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church  
Attn: Receiving Treasurer, 101 Chapel Lane  
Swannanoa NC 28778**



## Sandwiches for the Homeless in Black Mountain

I have been working with Sonny Moore and trying to get food to the homeless in Black Mountain. We did lunches on Tuesday this week and they were a fit, so Sonny asked if I thought it would be possible to continue for a while. I told him I would send a note out and see what happened, and if you anyone would be interested.

Here is an idea. Prepare 12 lunches 3 days a week and either I can pick them up from you or you deliver them to SVCM.

They will be needed by noon on the appointed day at SVCM.

If you are interested, please contact me and let me know the date you could help with sandwiches. If I am to pick them up, I need them by 11 on the date you choose.

Below is the schedule. Dates of choice are **April 6, 8, 10, 13, 15, 17, 20, 22, 24, 27, 29** .

Thanks, I look forward to hearing from you,

Sarah Anne Eller (My phone number and email address are in the directory.)

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**Session Available:** If you have any questions about the operations and ministry of the church, please contact Pastor Steve Runholt or any other member of the session. The elders currently serving on the session are:

Class of 2020: Sandy Brauer, Carolyn Cole, Nancy Garrison

Class of 2021: Susan Daugherty, Bob Gambrell, Fran Roberts

Class of 2022: Sharon Lytle, Ken Murchison (clerk), Tacci Presnell-Smith

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“Instead of worrying about what you cannot control, shift your energy to what you can create.”

**Roy T. Bennett**

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Remember...LOVE ABOVE ALL



At Warren Wilson  
Presbyterian Church we  
are mothers and fathers,  
single and married, gay  
and straight, young and  
old, black and white,  
prosperous and poor,  
uncertain and sure, broken  
and whole - and  
everything in between.  
Together we are the many  
faces of humanity, yet as  
a joyful, caring and loving  
community of faith, we  
are committed in our  
diversity to be one in  
Christ!

Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church  
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# *The Extended Family*