



*Our Vision is to be Christ to each other
and our community— doing
justice, loving mercy and
walking humbly with our God.*

CHURCH CONFERENCE VOTING DEADLINES

New Member Affirmation Voting Information

Please follow the link and indicate your decision. This ballot of affirmation will be open until **August 18**. Thank you for your quick response.

[Voting Form https://forms.gle/bmZHBbWBHneYHPLn9](https://forms.gle/bmZHBbWBHneYHPLn9)

Constitution & Church Procedures Officers and Teachers for 2020-2021

Please follow the link and indicate your decision. This ballot to affirm these changes will be open until **August 20**.

[Ballot https://forms.gle/PA7jqaq1n2DWiZpo6](https://forms.gle/PA7jqaq1n2DWiZpo6)

The Choral Corner

Last week, we heard a stunning performance of a selection written by Eric Whitaker and presented via a virtual choir from well over 100 countries. This unique way of performing choral music has become almost a norm today in our pandemic way of life. It is, however, not a practice used on just newly composed works...it has been utilized as a means of presenting some of the most well-known and revered music ever written.

The composer Johann Sebastian Bach, considered by many historians to be the greatest classical composer of all time, put the finishing touches on his monumental choral work known as the B Minor Mass in August of 1749. At that time, Bach was the Music Director for the St. Thomas Lutheran Church in Leipzig, Germany, and he was also responsible for maintaining the music programs of all the Lutheran churches in the city. Bach notated in his score (as he did with many of his manuscripts) the Latin phrase "Soli Deo Gloria," which means For the Glory of God Alone. This declaration is especially poignant in the final movement of the B Minor Mass, which is called Dona Nobis Pacem (Grant Us Peace). This prayer is particularly fitting during our time of social distancing, and the Bach Choir of Ottawa, Canada chose to share it with us in a virtual performance recorded this past spring, at the height of our quarantine.

A special thanks is due to Lonnie Myers for sharing this with me, and I am thrilled to be able to pass it on to you...Soli Deo Gloria!

[Link https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vTAq_vaovuc&app=desktop](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vTAq_vaovuc&app=desktop)

Stafford Turner



It's hard to believe that Fall is almost here. That usually means the arrival of cooler weather and football season. Cooler weather may arrive but it's looking like college football isn't happening this year. Another of COVID's victims. At church, the fall usually means a ramping up of our activities, but with an indefinite suspension of Fernwood's in-person activities, we need to reimagine what this fall will look like. Through the first few months of the pandemic, we

simply put things on hold. During the summer, our church calendar is normally fairly light, anyway. But now that we are about to get back into the full swing of "normal" church life, how do we do that in the most abnormal time most of us have ever lived through?

I think the first thing we should do is recognize all the things we are doing already. Worship continues online. The number of people viewing our services each week is in the hundreds, well above what we would normally expect in the "before" time. Seven people have joined the church since going to online only worship, some who don't live in Spartanburg. With an online worship service, distance is less of an issue.

We also continue our missions involvement in various ways. Meals are being served, first to Mobile Meals and now through Hope Center for Children. We were a blood donation site, and it's about time to schedule them again. Much needed PPE has been donated to area nursing homes. We continued Wednesday night programming through the summer, and even added a Tuesday night book group via Zoom. We elected new deacons and are currently in the process of electing church officers and voting on changes to our church procedures (if you haven't done so already, please vote online).

One thing that has not kept up during our physically-distanced worship is giving. Many of you are giving faithfully, but our receipts are running behind budget. I know this time is filled with many kinds of uncertainty, but if you are able to give something extra to help make up our shortfall, it would be greatly appreciated.

The fall brings new challenges and questions. How do we engage and empower our new deacons, committees, and teams as new people join? Can we think creatively to find safe ways to replace staple fall activities like our Fall Festival? We are beginning the process of upgrading our audio visual equipment to offer a true live stream service that will help us both during this time and once we are able come back together safely for worship. These questions are being asked now, and I have every confidence they will be answered by the creative and faithful people of this church.

Matt

Deacon's Corner

"Finally, brothers and sisters, rejoice!" "...encourage one another, be of one mind, live in peace. And the God of love and peace will be with you." 2 Corinthians 13:11

Notice I stopped short and didn't include verse 12 which says, "Greet one another with a holy kiss." We can't do that at this time. But we can still encourage one another in these times of physical distancing. The Deacons agreed to continue our call list. We have added our new members to the list giving us 97 family units to contact. Thankfully all of our new Deacons have agreed to assist us with our calls and those of us rotating off of the Diaconate plan to continue assisting in this ministry. Many of you have expressed how much this means to you. Your sweet words of encouragement are a blessing right back to us.

Please remember to access the link to our Church ballot to voice your opinion on the changes to our Church Procedures and the approval of our officers and teachers for this coming Church year.

The Ministry Council is working on filling the gaps on committee members and other open positions. As soon as they have this complete we will send out another Church ballot to approve these positions.

We have been blessed to have seven people offer themselves as candidates for membership during our on-line worship. In compliance with our Church Procedures I have sent out a ballot for you to affirm these seven new members. Please take time to show your affirmation by accessing the link sent to you. Those we are affirming are: Ansley Boggs, Kari Mason, Cuba Ford, Pam and Carlos Agudelo, and Randy and Diana Wright. God is truly blessing our Church during these unprecedented times. We are trying to continue to do Church business in creative ways. Thank you for your participation.

The Deacons approved a proposal from the Finance Committee to purchase Live Streaming Audio Visual equipment from Harrison Productions. This equipment will allow us to continue live streaming when we are able to return to in person worship, allowing those who have joined us on-line and those not able to attend in person to continue worshipping with us. It will also make it easier for our staff to prepare live worship while we are still physical distancing.

Thank you for allowing me to serve you as Deacon Chair this last year. It has been an interesting and humbling learning experience. But beginning September first I leave you in capable hands as Gerald Keown takes the reigns as our Deacon Chair. The other Deacon officers elected by the Diaconate are:

Lee Anne Bailie, Vice Chair
Penny Ginn, Secretary

Blessings, Wendy

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

3 - Scarlet Batts
4 - Rock Thornlow
4 - Morgan Beabout
5 - Michael Hendrix
5 - Judy Moyer
13 - Marshall Hendrix
13 - Nancy Easler
14 - Russell Blackburn, Sr.
15 - Nancy Shealey
15 - Debbi Thornlow
18 - Mike Hensley
20 - Mike Plemmons
21 - Angie Quinn
26 - Robert Dalton
29 - Karen League
30 - Harvey Hendley
30 - Marion Lockhart
30 - Evie Patton
31 - Suzy Nicholas

AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

Jack and Joan Todd
August 1, 1981

Bill and Barbara Bagwell
August 5, 1962

Billy and Angie Quinn
August 11, 1984

James and Pat Bell
August 19, 1963

Rock and Debbi Thornlow
August 23, 1970

Bob and Norma Whaley
August 30, 1956

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OFFICE HOURS

Mon – Wed: 9am to 1pm
Please call ahead for availability.
(864) 582-7467

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Stay at Home Order UPDATE
Procedures for Fernwood

CURRENT OFFICE HOURS ARE:

Monday: 9am until 1pm Wednesday: 9am until 1pm

Ways to get information to us:

1. Call the church office and leave a message on the answering machine. We will check on Mondays and Wednesdays when in the office.
2. If it is information which is needed before we return to the office or an emergency, you can email Angie or you can call her cell 864-978-7404.
3. We are also asking that if you are coming to the church to drop off your offering or to pick up something, please know that Angie or Mary Helen will meet you at the door to help you. We are asking that no one enter the building during this time to keep us all healthy and safe. Thanks for understanding in this matter.

Publication Notice

The next bi-weekly e-blast newsletter publication will be **Wednesday, August 26, 2020**. Deadline for all articles is **Tuesday, August 25, 2020 at Noon**.

PLEASE NOTE: You may submit your information via email (angie@fernwoodchurch.org) or through the church office. Please do not submit any information over the phone. Information submitted after the deadline will not be published until the following issue (no exceptions). Thank you for your understanding!