

Stanford Presbyterian Church

Pentecost Newsletter May 31, 2020

Psalm 126

When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream.

Then our mouth was filled with laughter,

and our tongue with shouts of joy;

then they said among the nations,

“The LORD has done great things for them.”

The LORD has done great things for us;

we are glad.

Restore our fortunes O LORD,

like streams in the Negeb!

Those who sow in tears

shall reap with shouts of joy!

He who goes out weeping,

bearing the seed for sowing,

shall come home with shouts of joy,

bringing His sheaves with him.

When the exiles of Judah returned to Jerusalem, it was like a beautiful dream. Homecoming, a never-imagined return to Jerusalem, their own nation. And even though the land was barren and the city in ruins, they had a vision for rebuilding the Temple, making new homes, and planting the fields. They trusted God to restore their fortunes after the long years of living in isolation from Israel.

Our return is to our church building, and for awhile at least, it will be a new normal. All the fellowship we took for granted before the virus, it will come back slowly and in stages, through painstakingly re-planting and re-growing our worship, our Sunday School, our programs, and our fellowship.

Like the exiles, we must trust God for the vision, the vision of reuniting in joy, but also in love, the love that protects neighbors and ourselves, being patient with God’s timing and God’s process. In the end, when we see the great things God has done for us, we will say: The LORD has done great things for us, WE ARE GLAD!!!!

In the service of Christ our King,

Pastor Beth Stone

Stanford Presbyterian Church is reopening for on-site in person worship! Your elders, with much prayer and consideration of your requests, government recommendations, presbytery recommendations, and the data about the corona virus, have decided to open for worship starting this coming Sunday, May 31, 2020 which is Pentecost! How appropriate! We are planning a “soft opening” with the following restrictions, and we ask your cooperation.

1. Most important, if you are sick, if you are vulnerable because of age or other health conditions, or if you are just uncomfortable: DON'T COME! Please don't put yourself at risk too soon.

2. No handshakes, no hugs, observe social distancing.
3. We are requesting that everyone wear masks, which we will provide to all who need them.
4. Surfaces will be sanitized, every other pew will be cordoned off, and we ask that you follow the directions to sit together only with family units, sit only in available pews, and sit to the right or the left as the ribbons indicate: Pentecost red to the right; Easter white to the left! Once inside, stay in your pew.
5. We will enter by one door, keep the flow of traffic in one direction, and exit by another door. Kindly people will be there to help you find a place and know what to do.
6. We will have music, but singing will be limited.
7. Online worship will still be available for those who are unable to join us in person. All of the services we have done so far, and all of our future services will be up on our website: www.stanfordpresbyterian.org and on our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/stanfordpresbyterianchurch/ It's **Pentecost on May 31st**, and our tradition is to wear red to celebrate the birthday of the church, so wear it if you have it! Even if it's red jammies at home while you join us virtually!

Church News: During this isolation, so many people have stepped up and helped us keep connected for worship. It has been a sharp learning curve for all of us, and every Sunday brings new challenges. We are committed as your session to get the Word of God out to you, to pray for you, and to keep you in touch with your church family.

For the present, we will continue to do online Sunday School with zoom. If you would like to have online Bible Studies, Women's circles, or other events, please contact Pastor Stone who will set you up with a virtual room. Our PNC continues to work behind the scenes to move us forward in hiring a full-time pastor. Barley Basket has been making weekly distributions, but in June our distributions will continue on our usual monthly schedules. Fort Logan Ministries is closed for the time being. Choir is taking their usual summer hiatus.

Unfortunately, our mission trip to Harlan has had to be cancelled. We will scout out some local options for our mission projects, and will recruit people to help in our community.

Calendar: Zoom Sunday School every week at 9:30 a.m., let the pastor know your email if you want to be included. Worship every Sunday at 11:00 in person and online.

Barley Basket resumes normal schedule in June.

Deacons (2nd Sunday) and Session (4th Sunday) are meeting with social distancing as per our schedule.

We are waiting on word from the governor's office about our yard sale and auction at Mary Jo's house. Right now the yard sale is scheduled for July 10th & 11th.

All events will be announced via newsletter, One Call, email, and on our Facebook page. Keep us updated with your contact information and the best way to reach you. If you need a phone call, let us know. Update us on prayer requests by contacting your elders or the pastor; out of respect for privacy, these will not be published online, but only on One Call and in printed newsletters with permission.

If anyone in the congregation is in need of a visit, or support of any kind, let us know by calling the pastor or one of the elders. We are praying for you!