

Saint Giles Presbyterian Church
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April 20, 2020

Friends,

After we recorded the podcast this past week, Eddie Adams mentioned the following poem by Wendell Berry (b. 1934) as one that is meaningful to him, especially in challenging times like these. I invite you to read it, paying special attention to the emotions that are expressed.

The Peace of Wild Things

*When despair for the world grows in me
and I wake in the night at the least sound
in fear of what my life and my children's lives may be,
I go and lie down where the wood drake
rests in his beauty on the water, and the great heron feeds.
I come into the peace of wild things
who do not tax their lives with forethought
of grief. I come into the presence of still water.
And I feel above me the day-blind stars
waiting with their light. For a time
I rest in the grace of the world, and am free.*



Despair, sleeplessness and fear spark movement.

These emotions propel the poet to nature,
to the places where ducks rest and birds feed,
to be among those who do not worry about the future.

These emotions propel the poet to water,
to the place of stillness where stars wait to be seen,
to a moment of rest and freedom.

As I reflect on Berry's poem, I hear echoes of another:

The Twenty-Third Psalm

*The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.
He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still
waters.
He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's
sake.
Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil:
for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.
Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies:
thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life:
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.*

Shadow, death and fear are relieved.

Relieved through the comfort of God's presence,
through guiding rod and staff
in a table spread with God's bounty.

Relieved through pastoral places,
green pastures and still waters,
paths of restoration and righteousness.

In this season of dis-ease,

I invite you to notice and identify your emotions:
notice what movement they spark,
where might they propel you to go?

I encourage you to consider and reflect
on the Shepherd's Way:
where are your green pastures and still waters?
how is God anointing you and filling your cup?

Peace to you and yours,
Katherine



Links to a few of Eddie and my favorite settings of *The Peace of Wild Things* and *The Twenty-Third Psalm*:

Psalm 23
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iDnbrZAXpA8>

Psalm 23
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o9fzWq-d8jU>

The Peace of Wild Things:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YykPYoZiU2g>

Photos by Robson Hatsukami Morgan and Song Cui on Unsplash

If you need assistance with shopping or other errands, please contact Emmie (office@saintgiles.org) or Katherine (katherine@saintgiles.org).

If you are able to offer assistance with shopping or other errands, please contact Emmie (office@saintgiles.org) or Katherine (katherine@saintgiles.org).

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please Pray for these Members, Relatives and Friends

Pat Lindsay, Rachel Williams, Sandra Richbourg, **Charolette Brown**, Libby Morton, Dan Grassi, Dick Grassi, **Paula Hagler**, Dave Smith, Carol Pope, Aleta Wheeler, Marie Minani, Inez Ruchte, Andrew Scharfe, **Peggie Bell**, **Jeane Nagel**, **Peggy McNeill**

- **Sallie Taylor's sister, Janet**
- Jan Morgan's daughter, Anna
- Betty Fetvedt's sister, Peggy
- Marti Ranney's friend Sherrill
- Teresa Johnson's cousin, Kaitlyn
- Charolette Brown's friend, Jaqueline
- Janet Wherry's sons David & Stephen, & her sister Fran
- Rachel & Rodney Williams' daughter, Rene
- Pat & Bob Lindsay's granddaughter Rebecca, niece Stephanie & family, & friend Ann Weber
- Chris Zaineddin's friend Peggy, nieces **Colleen**, & Sourour Dehnadi, **brother Ken**, & friend Paul Hutter & family
- Dave & Rita Hart's friends Max, Terry, neighbor Mary & her family
- Roberta Dibble's friend Margaret Rothman
- Carmen Rosa, along with Tania Valentine & Maurice Kersey
- Friends of Hess & Hart families, Max & Leatha Carey & family, & Allen Lee & Family
- Jo Lourens' father Flip Viviers
- Kimberly & Chad Craven's friend & her family
- Lisa, coworker of Koreen Thomasson, & Lisa's husband Ed
- Sara Monazah's grandmother Zary
- Carol Pope's brother, David
- Kathy & Bob Wolinski's daughter, Amy
- John Lavender's brother Don Allen Lavender, & John & Susie's niece's husband Ben Cooper
- Joe Moody's sister Mary Lynn
- Cindy Hemminger & family following her 5 year old cousin Hazel's diagnosis with Leukemia
- Donald and Nancy Ross' friend Terri McIrvine, and her husband and daughters
- Mary Ellen Jackson's cousin Betty Turner
- Frank Boyd, following a second surgery for a detached retina
- The Tatum-Carter family, following the death of their friend Matthew
- Chris Maxwell's sister Cecile
- John, Carin and Elizabeth Iager following the death of John's sister Cindy, who died on Saturday, March 28 following a fight with COVID-19
- Family and friends of Ray Kressman, following his death on Friday, March, 27th
- Don & Shirley Sprinkle's family member Whitney Huskey, following COVID-19 diagnosis, and Whitney's daughter as her mother undergoes treatment
- **Nicole Goolsby's mother Lyn's friend Bob Albert**

*requests in bold have been recently added or are in need of special prayer.

Members of our US House and Senate are debating a range of economic packages designed to support individuals, household and local businesses. One of the items under consideration is means-based financial incentives. If this happens, I urge you to consider how you can best utilize these funds.

- Some in our faith community need these funds to provide basic food, shelter and transportation; **if this is YOU, deposit the funds and use them wisely.**
- Some in our faith community need these funds to provide a safety -net or create an emergency fund; **if this is YOU, deposit the funds and save them.**
- Some in our faith community do not need these funds; **if this is YOU, I ask you to prayerfully consider depositing and donating the funds to an organization supporting our neighbors-in-need.** You might consider Interfaith Food Shuttle or Urban Ministries of North Carolina or the Food Bank of North Carolina. You might also consider the Pastor's Discretionary Fund, which we use to assist neighbors (in zip code 27612) and members with utilities and food (including baby formula).

All gifts come from God who invites us to be good stewards. Being a "good steward" means different things to different households, especially in times such as these

Updating the Saint Giles Directory

It's time for us to update the Saint Giles Directory! The last directory was published in April of 2019. Many of you have moved, or updated email addresses or phone numbers. If you are aware of a change in your contact information and have not yet provided the update to the church office, please do so now!

Also, if you are a new member or friend of Saint Giles, please submit your information. You are welcome to include any or all of the following: mailing address, email address, and/or phone number. You do not need to be an official member of Saint Giles in order to be listed in our directory.

If you would like the office to provide you with a copy of your most recent listing in order to verify your details, please call or email Emmie, the Office Administrator, at (919) 787-4790 or office@saintgiles.org.

During this time, Saint Giles continues to pay our staff and incur expenses like insurance and utilities. Your giving makes a difference. If you would like to continue your payments, here are three ways:

1. Send a check to the Church office. We are checking mail daily and making deposits.
2. If you would like to pay by credit card, call Dave Gospodarek at 919-880-5618 and he will process your payment.
3. If you already have a Venmo account, you can make donations using "@stgiles" as the place to send your donation. If you do not have a Venmo account, you may want to set one up to make no cost transfers to the Church.

Thank you for your support during these times.

Easter at Saint Giles

We give thanks for this beautiful and FUN piece of Easter Art that greets everyone who comes by on Saint Giles Street.



Thank you to Jennifer and Andy Gospodarek who sent these photographs of their children enjoying an Easter Egg Hunt at home this year.



An Update from the Saint Giles Session:

The Saint Giles Session has passed a motion to abide by the orders made by Wake County per campus and meeting closings and safety; and that when such orders are lifted, the Saint Giles Session will revisit decisions related to worship and on-campus activities.

Secondly, in late March, Congress passed the CARES Act. The Act included a provision allowing for churches to obtain a loan through their bank to cover payroll and payroll related costs for two and a half months. If churches continue to employ their personnel, the loan becomes a grant and does not need to be repaid.

On March 31st, the Saint Giles Session approved a motion to have Treasurer Dave Gospodarek, Finance Ministry Elder Liaison Scott Vollmer, and Clerk of Session Elizabeth Abernathy complete a Corporate Resolution, allowing Saint Giles to apply for funding through the act.

This is a significant support, allowing Saint Giles to continue to care for our employees during this time, at no net cost to the church.

THANK YOU



There are many individuals and groups who have been keeping both Saint Giles and our larger community running, and they all deserve our thanks.

Special thanks to:

- Dave Gospodarek, Treasurer, for being up-to-speed and getting us ahead-of-the-curve re the CARES ACT
- Our finance team - everyone involved in counting, depositing, being sure we are receiving checks and memorials, and for supporting our staff team financially
- Our property team for keeping up with the consistent needs of our facility and campus grounds
- Our team of folks making phone calls, responding to needs and ensuring our community stays connected
- Our entire faith community - for words of encouragement and care, for continuing generosity, for saying "yes" when we ask for help
- And thank you to all those who pray for Saint Giles, its members, friends, and staff.