



The Clifton Messenger

Clifton Presbyterian Church

<https://www.cliftonpresbyterianchurch.com>

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April 2020



The Headline in this month's newsletter was started way back in February. Along with the joy of the Easter Event was the schedule of the many activities at the church from Palm Sunday to Resurrection Sunday. Now the world has changed and the schedule has changed. The times and events are changing rapidly. Who would have thought when this picture was placed in the April newsletter that we would find ourselves in a "Shelter-in-Place" order.

The truth is still the same though, *The first Easter was the one day that changed the World.* While we will not have the crowds in worship or for an Easter Breakfast or a Sunrise Celebration, we will still be able to worship. While we may not be here in our wonderful building, we will still be able to worship together via our Facebook Live page. We can still be the church in knowing that our Lord is Risen, and we can worship that Lord wherever we may find ourselves or in whatever group we are located. The church is not the pews or the steeple or the ritual. The church is the people. **WE ARE THE CHURCH**, the people of the Risen Lord of Easter.



The Task remains as a Matthew 25 Church. While we may not be doing our Matthew 25 studies and our Matthew 25 directions in formal Mission Planning and Education and Outreach, we are doing all of this in other ways. When you check on your neighbor or a member of the church or

send a card or go get groceries for someone in need, you are acting as a Matthew 25 Church. We will get through this period, and we shall be stronger as a Matthew 25 Church.

Office Ramblings

Are you ready? That is this question that I usually ask as we prepare for the great Easter Festival in our churches. Are you ready? Now the words have a



different meaning to us. Are we ready to get through these unprecedented days ahead. Are we ready for what is cancelled? Are we ready for the influx of the illness among family and friends? Are we ready to do ministry in this changed world? Are you ready?

I am reminded of the hymn from my childhood written by Earl Bowman, a Methodist Pastor. It is a hymn that ask the question about being ready. The fourth verse says it so wonderfully:

*Are ye able? Still the Master
Whispers down eternity,
And heroic spirits answer,
Now as then in Galilee.*

*Lord, we are able. Our spirits are Thine.
Remold them, make us, like Thee, divine.
Thy guiding radiance above us shall be
a beacon to God, to love, and loyalty.*

Talking about getting ready, I will tell you that this down time from all of my activities has allowed me the opportunity to try and get ready for the planting season ahead. I am getting my garden beds prepared; I have started some seeds in my basement; and I have eaten the first of the new Asparagus from my garden. I look forward to getting ready to plant and to harvest and to freeze and can and dehydrate all of the bounty that a garden provides. Maybe we all should plant a bit of a garden for our uses.

I miss seeing everyone on Sunday mornings. I really appreciate Julie, Keresemeh, Victor and Houston coming to help put our services out there for you to worship. Every Sunday is an experience

for me. Preaching to an empty room is a bit of a challenge (more convinced that electronic preachers are actors more than anything else), but I am trying to get through the new normal. I will though be glad when I can see you “sitting in your pews” when we get back to normalcy. For now I pretend that I am looking out there and seeing you in place. You do look good in my mind.



I end my ramblings this day saying that I am sorry that we find ourselves in this situation as a community and a nation and a world. But as Stephen Baldwin reminded us on Palm Sunday, this is God’s world. God is in charge, not us. Have faith my friends.. -Ron

APRIL SCHEDULE

DUE TO COVID-19 No Events are Scheduled at Church (all are on-line)

On-Line Services

April 5-Palm Sunday on Facebook Live @11:00am
Session Mtg at 1:00 pm on Conference Call

April 10-Good Friday Dev. on Facebook @6:00 pm

April 12-EASTER SUNDAY

-Sunrise Service on Facebook Live-@6:45 am

-Easter Service on Facebook Live-@11:00 am

All April Worship Services

Found on Facebook Live-@11:00 am

Also can be found on You Tube, and we are working on a Phone Connection.

Please watch you emails as any committee meetings that get scheduled will be done by Teleconference.

GIVING TO CHURCH: You may mail your giving to the Clifton Presbyterian Church; PO Box 200, Maxwelton, WV 24957; or you may wish to give go on-line on the web page. find the giving app. Address for web page is: <https://www.cliftonpresbyterianchurch.com/>

You may also drop an offering in the offering plate in the Sanctuary, and it will be collected later. (It is best not to place cash in that plate.)

Special Offerings this month beside giving to the church are the **Cents-ability Offering** and the **One Great Hour of Sharing**. Both of these offerings go to make differences in our world, nation and community.

Many of you are unable to give money at this time due to loss of jobs. Please, best of all, give your prayers.

SESSION NEWS and NOTES

By R. Houston Arbuckle, Clerk of Session

Session Report for March 1, 2020 by Houston Arbuckle, Clerk of Session

The Session of Clifton Presbyterian Church, Maxwelton, WV, met for the stated March meeting on Sunday, March 1, 2020 at 12: 24 p.m. in the Conference Room of the church. Those in attendance were moderator, Susan Sharp Campbell; temporary pastor, Ron Miller; session members: Venetta Wright, Jim Miller, Suzy Meadows, Carol Hoover, Larry Davis, Teresa Bostic, Kereshmeh Kashefian, and Houston Arbuckle, Clerk of Session. Lynne Bostic was excused.

Moderator, **Susan Sharp Campbell**, opened the meeting with prayer and declared a quorum. The minutes of the February 2, 2019 stated session meeting were approved.

The financial report for January 2020 was received: The General fund showed an excess income of \$459.10 The Memorial fund received \$20.00 from donations for use of the Fellowship Hall. Cents-Ability offering for January was \$181.15. Helping Hands received \$751. Peace and Global Witness offering was \$279. Of this 75% went to the Presbytery. Houston Arbuckle moved to authorize the Mission Committee to distribute the \$69.75 local part of this offering. Motion was seconded and passed. Stone Soup has a balance \$3,569.13

The Clerk reported the average worship attendance for February 2020 was **51**. There will be two celebration of the Lord's Supper in Holy Week—April 9, 2020—Maundy Thursday and April 12, 2020—Easter. The Presbytery of WV will hold its **Festival of Faith on March 28** at the First Presbyterian Church of Charleston. The Keynote Speaker will be Jill Duffield, Presbyterian Outlook Editor. She will consider "*What people beyond our walls are saying about us*". There will be a "Listening Event" on **April 1 at Edgewood Presbyterian Church**, 6:30. At this event there will be a review of session minutes, a **treasurer's talk**, and a sharing of concerns. The next presbytery meeting will be **May 21, 2020 at Ronceverte** Presbyterian Church. **Larry Davis was elected Clifton Commissioner**. Although Larry will vote for Clifton at this meeting, **all members are invited to attend**. The session approved the 2019 Statistical Report to the PCUSA.

Larry Davis reported on business conducted at the February 15, 2020 Presbytery Meeting.

Lynne Bostic, Chair of the Congregational Care Committee submitted a written report stating **Alice Roth, Jean King** and **Heather Blake** are now members of the Congregational Care Committee. The Congregation Care Committee plans to work on: the Shepherd's List; a New Church Directory and sending notes about Rev. Miller becoming our temporarily pastor to those who formerly attended our church.

Venetta Wright, Chair of the Worship Committee reported Rev. Ben Gurley would preside at the celebration of communion for Maundy Thursday, April 12, 2020.

Larry Davis, Chair of the Mission Committee presented the minutes of the February 23rd Mission Committee with the following present: **Larry Davis, Teresa Bostic, Houston Arbuckle, Ron Miller** and Ed Thompson. At this meeting the Committee approved a \$500 donation to the Shepherd's Center of the Greenbrier Valley and a \$500 donation to Bluestone Camp and Retreat from the budget. The Mission Committee also approved to donate money from Souper Bowl to the Communities in Schools Greenbrier County and money from the Stone Soup Fund to a person with a catastrophic medical condition. The Mission Committee voted to inform the Presbytery of WV that Clifton would like to be one of the churches to host the visitors from Kenya.

Houston Arbuckle, Chair of the Crossroads Committee reported Rev. Cardot was finding it hard to set a date to speak for the Crossroads Committee due to major health issues of his father. Therefore, if possible the Crossroads will get another speaker for now and postpone the meeting with Rev. Cardot.

Pastor Ron Miller reported he would like to invite Maureen Wright, Stated Clerk, and Associate for Congregational Support for our Presbytery to lead worship at Clifton. He is also considering the possibility of a "Children's Choir". He recommended forming a "Mathew 25" committee to coordinate Clifton's efforts as related to the "Mathew 25" objectives. This committee would consist of the chairs of the Worship, Christian Education, and Mission committees. These Chairs agreed and the Session Moderator appointed this committee.

In **Other BUSINESS** session approved Clifton's Manual of Operations with a minor change in wording. The April Stated Session Meeting will be April 5, 2020.

Pastoral concerns of the church were discussed and
Ron Miller adjourned the meeting with the prayer.

It's time to update our church directory!

Please email Lynne Bostic (lbostic@k12.wv.us) the following information or place it in the "Congregational Care" mailbox at church.

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____
Address: _____

Mailing Address if different than above: _____

Phone Number(s): Home: _____ Cell: _____

Email Address: _____

Birthday: _____ Anniversary: _____

Other members in your family: (same address and home numbers - if different, please complete the form)

Name(s)	Birth Date
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

You may also drop this in the mail to the church at Clifton Presbyterian; PO Box 200; Maxwelton, WV 24957

After this project has collected the information Lynne and her committee will be making an updated mailing list, and they will start the project for a church directory. This is badly needed, and we look forward to your participation.



APRIL CHURCH CALENDAR

ALL ACTIVITIES AND SERVICE OF THE CHURCH HAVE BEEN CANCELLED IN-PERSON UNTIL FURTHER NOTICES.

Each Sunday we will continue to broadcast a Facebook Live Worship Service. Please pay attention to the times when we may get back to church.

--Any church committee meetings will be done by Teleconferencing or any other method where we do not need to be in groups.

Some News From WV Presbytery

(Article is written for churches and operations, but applies to many others too.)

by Rocky Poole

On Friday, March 27, the President signed into law the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Stability (CARES) Act. To lessen the economic impact of the coronavirus crisis, the CARES Act has \$2.1 trillion of aid, some of it direct, for businesses, nonprofits, state and local governments, and individuals.

The provision of most interest to churches is the \$349 billion Payroll Protection loan fund, to be administered by the Small Business Administration (SBA), to help small employers, 500 employees or less, to maintain their

current payroll. The SBA will distribute the funds through local SBA lenders. While the experts continue to research the almost 900-page law document and we await the SBA to issue specifics (guidelines and process), here is, as of this writing, general information:

- Small employers eligible for loans include nonprofits and religious entities.
- Loans will be based on 2.5 times average monthly payroll costs from 03/01/2019 – 02/29/2020. (Ex. Average monthly payroll over the above period is \$10,000. Employer is eligible for a loan of \$25,000.)
- There will be no payments required on the loan until 2021.
- Up to the full amount of the loan may be forgiven based on employees during 02/15/2019 – 06/30/2019 compared to employees during the same period of 2020. (Ex. If the employer had 10 employees for the period in 2019 and 10 employees for the period in 2020, 100% of the loan is forgiven. If the employer had 10 employees for the period in 2019 and 9 employees for the period in 2020, 90% of the loan is forgiven and 10% must be repaid.)
- If there is an amount to be repaid, it will be a 10-year loan with an interest rate of not more than 4% with payments beginning in 2021.
- No collateral or personal guarantees will be required.
- No fees will be charged.

- There will a good faith certification required to certify that funds were used only for payroll, mortgage, lease, and utility payments.

The US Chamber of Commerce has developed an emergency loan guide and checklist for small business and nonprofits.



Coming May 2020

May 3

Cents-ability Offering

May 10

Mother's Day

May 12

~~Election Day~~-Postponed until June 9

May 31

Pentecost Sunday

Worship at Facebook live:

<https://www.facebook.com/pg/cliftonpc/posts/>



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16512 Seneca Trail North
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