



# The Clifton Messenger

Clifton Presbyterian Church

<https://www.cliftonpresbyterianchurch.com>

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June 2020

## Back to Campus



Clifton is trying to return to some form of normal worship at the present. On Pentecost Sunday the church returned to the Sanctuary for the first time since back in March. While worship services were conducted in the church during the Covid-19 period, it was not with a church full of people. Due to the directions of the Health Department and the Governor's office the church went to a virtual worship service. (*See the COVID-19 Team story on Page 4*). We did not miss a step during that period, we just changed some of what we did.

Now that we are back in the Sanctuary, we are still changing some of what we do as we worship. It is hard to do things differently, but we are trying. There is no congregational singing at the moment; we are wearing face masks; the pulpit area has a plexiglass shield now; and we are not using acolytes or ushers for offerings or such (*See the Session Report of Page 3*). But the truth of the matter is we are adapting and continuing to worship.

As per Session vote there will not be worship in the Park on Sunday mornings this summer, but rather we shall remain at the church. There will not be Sunday School or Children's Church or Nursery and such, but we shall have an abbreviated worship service. There will also not be the monthly picnics scheduled in the Park at the moment. There is the possibility of a special event in the cool of the one of our Summer Sunday Evenings for an event at the Gazebo. More about that later as it is in being developed.

The Session is evaluating each day of the events for the church. They will be meeting on June 7 to determine what changes will be taking place in order to continue to adapt a "normal" for what we do in worship and fellowship and study. **For now it is a wait and see.**



We are a Matthew 25 people.....

## Office Ramblings

I was uncertain what to expect on Pentecost when we came back to worship at the church. Would people wear the masks? Would we be able to worship with no singing? How would we enter and exit the building? How would the celebration of Communion work? While it was not a perfect experience that day, it was heart-warming to see the eyes of folks who were able to attend church. It has been a hard Easter/Spring Season for all of us. Now we venture into a so called “new normal”. We will adapt and flourish because we trust God to lead us.



Cindy and I have lived at the farm for over 30 years now, and we believe that this had been the longest period of time we have not had folks eating dinner with us (family or friends) until Memorial Day Weekend. On Memorial Day we had some family up to the house for a picnic/dinner.

Everyone sit at their own table, and we maintained our distances. Cindy and I served everyone without anyone touching common utensils. While it seemed like an odd way to have a dinner, it was simply good to get together. Nobody minded. That is the way it is with the Church. While it may not be the way we have worshipped in the past, and it may feel different, it is still good to be able to get together. It is also good to have the opportunity to worship from the safety of home too. We hope to continue to provide that for all.



It will be the first time in many years that we shall not be worshipping in the park for the Summer. The Session felt that after so many weeks it would be better to stay in the Sanctuary. It would be very difficult to space ourselves apart at the Park, and it would be much too warm to sit outside. So for now we stay in the Sanctuary.



Now the big questions ahead for the community relate to whether or not there is a State Fair or Public Schools in the Fall. We shall see soon enough. For now let us enjoy the sunshine-Ron



June 19, 26-27  
224 General Assembly Convention  
Presbyterian Church, (U.S.A.)

The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is in unprecedented times. Within a few short months, an unknown and unseen virus has ravaged nearly every corner of the planet. Loved ones who were healthy have been struck down. Families have had to grieve without having an opportunity to personally say goodbye.

Our churches are facing difficult times as pastors and staff find new, innovative ways to minister from a distance as the future of their churches remain in question.

For the first time in our denomination's history, we are preparing for a General Assembly that will be totally online. The Committee on the Office of the General Assembly has had to make some difficult decisions as we looked at numerous options ranging from a full assembly agenda to our final decision to shorten the assembly and to focus solely on critical business issues.

In making these decisions we recognize that these unusual times prevent us from living into the fullness of who we are. Part of the grief COVID-19 has invited into our lives is the inability to be fully ourselves within the parameters of what we can do with what we have in a particular time frame. In other words, the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is much more than standing rules, budgets, and elections. As our Stated Clerk recently said, “We are not divorcing ourselves from the work of social justice.” We are about justice. We are advocacy. We are theological and we are prophetic. But in these times of a pandemic, this is the necessary response

in considering the health and well-being of the hosting community, commissioners, advisory delegates, observers, and staff.

We ask the church to join us as we step into these uncertain times with the faith and certainty that God will sustain and embolden us into the future.

**SUMMARY OF MAY 24, 2020 SESSION MEETING**

**PURPOSE:** *To prepare for the return of Clifton Presbyterian Church to the church campus.*

**WORSHIP**

- ❖ Clifton will worship at 11:00 am in the church’s sanctuary this summer.
- ❖ The people who would like to worship on campus will be invited to do so starting on May 31, 2020?
- ❖ Those who choose to worship in the sanctuary will sit in **designate pews** and wear **masks** (masks shall be provided if needed).
- ❖ Those who choose to worship in the sanctuary are to enter the main door only and exit as directed (½ by main door and ½ by back door)
- ❖ The maximum capacity of the sanctuary will be considered 50 people.
- ❖ Bulletins will be in each pew and your offering will be left in the pew.
- ❖ The worship service will include music and at times a soloist from behind a “spit shield”, however, the congregation will not sing.
- ❖ For this summer, we will not offer a children’s sermon, acolytes, a nursery, Sunday school, or after worship fellowship.
- ❖ Clifton will continue to **broadcast** our worship service and we invite all who prefer to be worshipping at home during this time to join us by broadcast.
- ❖ The session approved any needed changes to the order of worship and sanctuary decorations to improve the broadcast or to make people in the sanctuary safer.
- ❖ We will celebrate Pentecost with the Sacrament of the Lord’ Supper on May 31. Those worshipping in the sanctuary will come to the front to pick up the elements and return to their seats to share together. Those worshipping at home are invited to prepare the elements in advance and share in the Sacrament.

**CHURCH GATHERINGS**

- ❖ There will be no “picnic in the park” during June.
- ❖ Funerals in the sanctuary are considered worship services and we ask the planners to follow the guidelines for other worship services.
- ❖ We will allow our committees and other small church groups to meet on campus. They may also want to meet by phone.

- ❖ We hope the sessional committees will continue to plan appropriate activities and programs.

**USE AND CARE OF OUR FACILITIES**

- ❖ We decided it is too soon to open the restrooms and the shelter at the park.
- ❖ The Session approved the use of the fellowship hall and kitchen for use of small Clifton groups, for preparation of Gwinn’s Meals and as a Voting Precinct.
- ❖ The restrooms in the main church building will be used by one person (or family) at a time. Others will wait in the hall keeping at an appropriate distance. People are asked to close the door when in use and open it when not in use.
- ❖ The financial limit on paid church maintenance was temporarily suspended. The Property Committee will determine the amount needed.

**THE UNEXPECTED**

- ❖ As stated in the Manual of Operations: “The emergency decisions due to extraordinary circumstance will be made by Clifton’s pastor, property chair and clerk of session.
- ❖ Clifton will make every effort to follow the recommendations of the DHHR.
- ❖ There will be an effort to record those who attend worship in the sanctuary **only in order to trace contacts**, if there were a positive test of a worshiper.

**The next Session meeting is June 7<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 pm.**

**Prayer Concerns**

**Brownie Dunn, Margaret Hedrick, Sue Wyman, Buddy Baker, Marie Reynolds, Max Gibson, Becky Godby, Jennifer Skaggs, Sue Larson, Doug Arbuckle, The Crossroads Committee, the return to new normal, and the Matthew 25 Church emphasis**



## Matthew 25 Church in Action



*Suzy Meadows, Ann Davis and Carol Hoover preparing Gwen's Meals. Clifton was able to continue the mission as needed by the community for the Shepherd's Center. We also have provided a kitchen for the Shepherd's Center to use during this isolation period.*



*Helping to feed the hungry needs of a community, Clifton provided this masked crew. Uncertain of all who participated in the event, but can you guess who the masked crew is in this picture?*

The Church never stopped being the Church even when we were not in the Sanctuary on Sunday Morning. Thanks for the mission all of you have done.

## Covid-19 Worship Team

While we were trying to maintain social isolation and distancing during this Covid-19 period, the church continued to provide worship through our Facebook Live and a You-Tube page. The worship team during this period was very diligent in seeing that we maintained a presence in your homes and lives. The team consisted of various persons with tasks. **Julie Gillilan** provided the needed music each Sunday; **Houston Arbuckle** maintained the entrance of the church as an usher and making sure that the entrance was safe; **Jim Miller** as Property chair was there for many of the tasks associated with the use of the building; **Larry Davis** helped maintain the Zoom outreach and meeting contacts; **Paul Jacoby** set the Sunrise Service Set; **Suzy Meadows** saw that everyone on the email list got a bulletin; **Nima and Victor Shamir** provided wonderful camera work; and **Kereshmeh** not only developed the Facebook and You-Tube page, but she served as a great Liturgist throughout the whole time. There were others who provided help at the church, but this was our C-19 Team. Give them thanks.

## MAY 30 Graduation at GEHS



**Kyle King**



**Ashton Gillilan**

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# A NO CALENDAR PAGE

(No Calendar this Month again)

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Here is the month is some pictures. While we are waiting for activities to start at the Church, there are lots of things taking place in the month of June. Happy June.



**June 7**  
Trinity Sunday



**June 19**  
Juneteenth



**June 20**  
West Virginia Day



**June 20**  
Summer Solstice



**June 21**  
Father's Day



**June 26-27 (Also June 19)**  
224<sup>th</sup> General Assembly PCUSA  
(See Article on Page 2)



## Meetings Scheduled at Church

**June 7**-Regular Session Meeting  
**Church Office Hours** each **Thursday 9:00am -1:00pm**

**June 28**-July/August Newsletter Deadline



Hopefully we can use the Gazebo this Summer at some time this summer for a "Socially Distancing Fellowship"

## Contributors and Help on June Newsletter

**Larry Davis**-Mission Committee Pictures

**Houston Arbuckle**-Clerk's Report

**Alice Roth**-Once again prepared our church mailing labels to be used for this Newsletter.

Summer

Coming July-August 2020

**(Most of the Summer Schedule is Uncertain due to Covid-19)**

July 3

Cents-ability Offering

July 4

Nations Birthday

August 2

Cents-ability Offering



**Clifton Presbyterian Church  
PO Box 200  
16512 Seneca Trail North  
Maxwelton, WV 24957**