

Pastor
John Johnson
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Clerk of the Session

John Guy
520-858-3322

Treasurer

Anita Van Wagoner
520-868-4671 Cell 520-709-2771

Finance/Administration

Art Colley
209-840-1359

Property /Building

Pat Reed
520-868-4658

Congregational Care

Donna Studer
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Evangelism/Newsletter

Heidi Lowe
520-221-5676

Mission

ShaRon Liedl
520-430-0883
Mary Palmer
480-299-1372 or 928-580-2030
Margie Lewis
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Worship

Katrina Guy
623-334-0402
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480-299-1372 or 928-580-2030

Christian Education

Margie Lewis

Stewardship

John Guy
520-858-3322

Personnel

Ray Hyypa
303-941-4893 – Cell
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Fellowship

Laura Hofmann
520-858-2945

Bookkeeper

Jane Whitaker

Church Secretary

Beth Harmon

Prayer Chain

Patty Hyypa
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Memorial Garden & Columbarium

Robert or Joan Philips
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Church Hours

Tuesday & Thursday
8:30 – 1:00 pm



May 2020 Issue 4

The Mission of the First Presbyterian Church of Florence
Is to share Jesus Christ through word and action
With all whose lives we can touch.



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Website: www.florenceazchurch.org

Sunday Church Service

10:30 am

2. From the Pastor
4. Church Information
4. Prayers, Birthdays & Anniversaries
5. Book Review
6. In a Different Voice
6. Announcement for Ladies
7. May Events in History
8. Mission Moments
10. The Cry for Help
11. Notes from John
13. Calendar

From the Pastor

Surely, I speak for everyone when I say we have seen nothing like this before: churches not meeting together for worship. Yet, I hope we are doing a reasonable job of keeping together and being Christ's Church even under these circumstances.

For those who are not otherwise aware, we are relying heavily on use of the Internet in our efforts: my sermons (with at least one Scripture reading as well as a pastoral prayer and the Lord's Prayer and a benediction) can be found at www.florenceazchurch.org, or on www.Youtube.com (the search of First Presbyterian Church Florence Arizona); we are having "ZOOM" Bible study; and I am sending out at least one email per week. It is not the same as actual face-to-face contact, but we are trying. (I should add, at the outset of this "stay-at-home" we considered the possibility of doing worship *via* streaming or *via* ZOOM meeting but concluded that this would not likely serve the comfort of most of our church family.)

If you do not have the ability – which is to say, a computer or iPad or equivalent with an Internet connection – to access these, I am more than happy to mail to you hard copies of sermons.

But oh, it is interesting. I am not able to make visits, at least to assisted living residents, and though you can tell me if you prefer otherwise, I am reluctant to make visits on anyone else; though I am reasonably confident that I am not an asymptomatic carrier of COVID-19, I simply do not want to take the chance that I might be unless any of you would want me to visit – and if you do, please feel free to call me!

You have probably heard about ZOOM meetings, at least in television news. Twice a week, which is one more time than I participate, some of the ministers in Presbytery de Cristo and Grand Canyon Presbytery meet in ZOOM meeting convened by our presbytery pastor, Bard Munroe. This coming week (May 4), I am sure we shall be continuing our discussion of requirements by the presbytery for churches to be able to reopen worship; I think the Governor of Arizona may allow that by the end of May, but I simply am not certain, nor am I certain either your Session or yourselves will yet be ready to re-engage in community worship. Discussions so far about how we need to wear masks and maintain social distancing (a minimum of six feet between worshippers, which in June and July should not be difficult), "sanitize" (a far greater challenge), avoid physical contact such as in the Sharing of the Joy and Peace of the Lord, and avoid touching common objects – which will mean no passing of a collection plate (we'll put one near the door[s]) and no passing out of bulletins, which is not really that important since we can use our video screens.

Another recommended change is no congregational singing, the reason being that when people are singing away, they may be spreading infectious droplets; I am not sure from what I am reading that this is even possible, but we shall go along with the guidelines given us.

However different community worship will be, it will certainly be different from what we have done in the past, but the Church of Jesus Christ has endured worse trials than COVID-19 (as I mentioned in my sermon for the 2nd Sunday of Easter), which is *not* to ignore the challenge this virus represents.

The impact on the larger churches is and probably will be less; larger churches often already have the ability to "stream" their worship services and to accept donations online (we should have that on our website by the time you receive this newsletter; the church does continue to need your support), and just generally have more technical and other resources available to them.

But I would not trade the closeness of our relations – even with social distancing restricting physical closeness -- with one another for a full-time Internet assistant; there is something quite special about us smaller churches. . . and it is because of each of you. Take care of yourselves during this challenging period, remembering that you are never alone when you are part of a church family, and, more importantly, you always have someone to turn to when you have accepted Jesus as your Lord and Savior.

Stay safe, and may, as Billy Graham used to say, the Lord bless you “real good”!

Blessings

John

ATTENTION PLEASE!!

**IF YOU WISH TO HAVE
SOMETHING PUT IN THE
NEWSLETTER, PLEASE SEND IT
TO newsletter225@yahoo.com**

DISCLAIMER

Articles shared or written by individuals are not necessarily the views or opinions of the church. If you have something you would like to share or something you have written, I would be happy to include them in the newsletter. All shared or written articles will be attributed to the person who sent them in.

Please be careful of copyrighted material.

*Church
Information:*

Church Website:

Please use our new website: www.florenceazchurch.org



Pray for: Diane Wilde on loss of son, Diane's daughter-in-law, John Guy, Ed Demar, Jonathan, Art and Shirley Colley, Dave Baier, Kurt Brummage, Pastor Michael Whitaker, Ray Hyyppa, Lew and Delores Moon's Granddaughter Libby, Peggy and Neil Rathke, Bob Sherman, Allen Saunders, Gary Liedl, Ethel, David, Ira Cohen, Mindy and Kaylie, Phyllis Carlson's niece, Virginia, Neil and Peggy Rathke, Maria, Ann Schneider, BJ, John Buttram, Connie & Mark Stephens, Pat Reid, Miriam Reid, Verna Boyle, Barb Newman, Hilde Major, Pat Ron Vucso's grandson, Linda Ernst, Bonnie Brunner, Myrna Leef, Muriel Marsteller, Lois Kuder, Joann and JL Hooper, Denise and Larry Kollert, Tracy Grubb, Taren, Don Balsley (Suzan Forrest), Peggy Lowe, Carolina and family.

General:

California/ Australia

Methodists

All our Military, Law Enforcement, Fire Fighters, First Responders, and Veteran's around the world.



1. Chris Lewis
 7. Steve Alberg
 9. Marge Thompson
 10. Mark Stephens
 13. Priscilla Brink
 16. Mariam Reed
 18. Phyllis Carlson
 20. Cliff McGinnis
 30. Tyler Foster
-
16. Betty & Jeff Hamilton

**Please let me know if I missed your Birthday or Anniversary or have the wrong date. Thanks

Book Review

You're Only Old Once!

A Book for Obsolete Children

by Dr. Seuss (1986)

(Dr. Seuss was 82 years old this year.)

If Dr. Seuss (Theodor Seuss Geisel) were still alive, he would be 116 years old. Yet his hilariously wacky and complicated illustrations and imaginative rhyming (how many of you can rhyme something with “geographic”?) still evoke hearty laughter, so needed at this time in world history. **

A senior male patient, unable to access the doctor-less land of Fotta-fa-Zee where “everybody feels fine,” arrives at the Golden Years Clinic. Here his body is assaulted with overwhelming and time-consuming tests, paperwork, prescriptions, and endless numbers of specialists.

Only Dr. Seuss could make hilarious a situation which parallels present-day medical practices for many senior citizens.

Judith Johnston

**As of this writing, March 17,2020, the covid-19 virus (corona virus) is causing severe illness and death world-wide.

Judith Johnston

In a Different Voice

(A monthly column written and submitted by Judith Johnson)

Strange, interesting, weird, charming scary – as America becomes increasingly diverse, we are confronted by more & more people whose ways are not our ways. Yet, God seems to have spoken to His children in many different places at very different times.

Some of these diverse views will be featured each month to encourage a healthy curiosity about other spiritual writings and to open us up to possibilities for a larger spiritual awareness.

Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you. **Exodus 20:12**

You shall stand up before the gray head and honor the face of an old man, and you shall fear your God: I am the Lord. **Leviticus 19:32**

But if a widow has children or grandchildren, let them first learn to show godliness to their own household and to make some return to their parents, for this is pleasing in the sight of God. **1 Timothy 5:4**

When we correctly look at aged people, we look at minds that have been developed year after year after year. We look at souls that have matured because of their sojourn on Earth... We look upon their situation as wonderful and enlightening, their wisdom as useful and worthy to make part of our lives... Age is not an obstacle; it is a legacy. **From "Aging Gracefully" by Hindu writer Satguru Sivaya Subramuniyaswami**

India passed The Maintenance And Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act in 2007. The act... legally requires children and grandchildren (but not minors) to maintain the health and wellness of an aging family member. "Maintenance" is defined as *the provision for food, residence and medical attendance and treatment*; and "senior citizen" as *any person age sixty or older*.

It is out of reverence to Allah to respect the white-headed [aged].

AND

Your Lord has commanded that you worship none but Him, and that you be kind to your parents. If one or both of them reach old age with you, do not say to them a word of disrespect, or scold them, but say a generous word to them. And act humbly to them in mercy, and say, "My Lord, have mercy on them, since they cared for me when I was small." **From the Koran**

"Moral conduct serves one well till old age."

AND

"It is a failure in life not to be true to the best one knows...try and stick to right livelihood, right effort, right mindfulness, right concentration, as aging is stressful." Buddhist Teachings

In **Native American tradition**, within each tribe elders (persons who have accumulated a great deal of wisdom and knowledge throughout their lifetimes) are repositories of cultural and philosophical knowledge and are the transmitters of such information, including, basic beliefs and teachings, encouraging...faith in the Great Spirit, the Creator.

Ladies,

When we are able to meet up again, the ladies meet on the second Friday of the month to enjoy a meal and lively conversation. There has been some discussion about adding another get together possibly on the 4th Friday of the month, but meeting at the church in Hannah Hall. This way we could we could all get to know each other a little better. And besides, the men meet twice a month so why shouldn't we?

Some suggestions have been:

- Bring a sack lunch
- Have some type of devotion or Bible study
- Work on a mission project (to be determined later)
- Enjoy each other's company

If you would be interested in pursuing this activity and/or have any other suggestions, please let Jesse Laing or Beth Harmon know. We are open to other ideas as far as meeting dates, activities, or whatever.

May Events in History

1 May	1707	<u>The Union</u> between England and Scotland is proclaimed.
2 May.	1611	The Authorized Version of the Bible (<u>King James Version</u>) was first published, and became the standard English language Bible.
3 May.	1841	New Zealand was declared a British colony.
4 May.	1471	The <u>Battle of Tewkesbury</u> , the last battle in the Wars of the Roses, took place; Edward IV's Yorkists defeated the Lancastrians.
5 May.	1821	<u>Napoleon Bonaparte</u> "the Little Corporal", died in exile on the remote British island of St. Helena. He was 51.
6 May.	1954	Roger Bannister was the first man to run a mile in under 4 minutes, at the Iffley Road Sports Ground, <u>Oxford</u> , England.
7 May.	1945	Nazi Germany surrendered to the Allies at Rheims and the war in Europe ended. <u>VE Day</u> is celebrated across Europe and North America on the following day.
8 May.	1429	The French warrior maiden, Joan of Arc, led the Dauphin's troops to victory over the English laying siege to Orleans.
9 May.	1887	Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show opens in London.
10 May.	1940	Promising his people nothing but "blood, toil, tears and sweat", Winston Churchill replaces Neville Chamberlain as <u>British Prime Minister</u> . Churchill is to form an all-party war government as German troops storm Europe.
11 May.	973	Edgar the Peaceful was crowned at Bath as <u>King of all England</u> ; he then went to <u>Chester</u> , where eight Scottish Kings and <u>Welsh princes</u> rowed him on the River Dee.
12 May.	1926	Britain's Trades Union Congress called off the General Strike that had brought the nation to a standstill for nine days. Workers across the country had downed tools in support of miners, protesting a wage cut.
13 May.	1607	Riots took place in <u>Northamptonshire</u> and other Midland counties of England in protest at widespread enclosure of common land.
14 May.	1080	Walcher, Bishop of Durham and Earl of Northumberland was murdered; William (the Conqueror) consequently ravaged the area; he also invaded Scotland and built the castle at <u>Newcastle-upon-Tyne</u> .
15 May.	1567	<u>Mary Queen of Scots</u> married Bothwell in <u>Edinburgh</u> .
16 May.	1943	RAF Lancaster bombers caused chaos to Nazi German industry by destroying two huge dams. Dr Barnes Wallis's bouncing bombs skimmed the surface of the water to reach their targets.
17 May.	1900	The siege of the British garrison at Mafeking by Boer forces was broken. Commander of the garrison, Colonel Robert Baden-Powell and his forces had held firm for 217 days.
18 May.	1803	Bored with nobody to fight for almost a year, Britain abandons the Treaty of Amiens and declares war on France, again!
19 May.	1536	Anne Boleyn, <u>King Henry VIII's</u> second wife, was beheaded in London. She was 29. The charges brought against her included incest with her brother and no less than four counts of adultery.
20 May.	1191	English <u>King Richard I</u> 'the Lion Heart' conquered Cyprus on his way to join the Crusaders at Acre in north west Israel.
21 May.	1894	The official opening of the <u>Manchester Ship Canal</u> by <u>Queen Victoria</u> .

22 May.	1455	In the <u>first battle of the Wars of the Roses</u> , Richard of York and the Nevilles attacked the court at St Albans, capturing Henry VI and killing Edmund Beaufort, Duke of Somerset.
23 May.	878	The Saxon <u>King Alfred</u> defeated the <u>Danes</u> at Edington, <u>Wiltshire</u> ; as part of the peace agreement, the Danish King, Guthrum, accepted Christianity.
24 May.	1809	Dartmoor Prison in <u>Devon</u> is opened to house French prisoners of war.
25 May.	1659	Richard Cromwell resigns as Lord Protector of England.
26 May.	735	The Venerable Bede, English monk, scholar, historian and writer, died having just completed his translation of St. John into Anglo-Saxon.
27 May.	1657	Lord Protector <u>Oliver Cromwell</u> refuses parliament's offer of the title King of England.
28 May.	1759	Birthday of William Pitt (the Younger), English statesman who became the youngest ever British Prime Minister at the age of 24.
29 May.	1660	Charles Stuart entered London to become King Charles II, restoring England's monarchy following Oliver Cromwell's commonwealth.
30 May.	1536	Eleven days after he had his wife Anne Boleyn beheaded, King Henry VIII marries Jane Seymour, former lady-in-waiting to Anne.
31 May.	1902	The Peace of Vereeniging ended the Boer War, in which 450,000 British troops had fought against 80,000 Boers.

Mission Moments



Box tops for Menaul School

We are collecting box tops to send to Menaul School as part of our mission's projects. Please cut and save them and bring to the church. They can be found on hundreds of products from pencils, cereals, frozen foods, and many others.



Upcoming Mission Offerings

Pentecost Offering is May 31st.

Donations to these can be made at any time, just make a note on the memo part of your check.

The Cry for Help from the Navajo Nation

Submitted by Beth Harmon

What can one person do? Remember the story of the widow and the mite? (Luke 21:1-4) The members of our session read the following article quoted from Brad Munroe, Presbyterian Pastor for the **Presbyteries de Cristo and Grand Canyon**:

“Our brothers and sisters on the Navajo Nation need help. The Covid-19 pandemic has hit the Nation particularly hard, according to the Rev. Norma McCabe, our Native American consultant among the Navajo churches. One of our church members lives in Dennehotso, AZ. She and her elderly mother have health problems. They came to Bashes and were told not to come in unless they had a mask and gloves on. She asked a person who had gloves and a mask on to buy them their items. Bashes only had half of what they needed in stock. They eventually came over to the church, and I gave them masks my daughter Milinda had made. Some of our congregants live away from town so they don't have running water nor electricity and have to come to the church to cook and shower. Others have to drive up to 60 miles round trip to grocery shop.

In addition to the supply shortages and long drives to get to a grocery, the hospitals and clinics cannot handle Covid-19 treatments and patients are being transported to Flagstaff or Albuquerque. There is a 5:00 curfew on the Nation. As I listened to Norma and others describe the situation, the notion occurred to me that they need a Marshall Plan. Unfortunately, I do not have access to the full weight of the U.S. government to enact such a plan; however, I know some Presbyterians.”

Our session decided “one little church” COULD do something and voted to be that “widow and her mite” along with your help. Calls went out to members and friends of the congregation, but with short notice, unfortunately not everyone received a call. Many of those who did, responded with excitement and willingness to reach out to the Navajo Nation who is experiencing a much more difficult situation than most of us. After only 3 days of collecting food and monetary donations, we certainly did help. The First Presbyterian Church of Florence responded generously — a car full of groceries, health products, cleaning aids and water along with hygiene supplies from our inventory from our hygiene bank plus \$1,180 of Bashes and Safeway food cards (purchased from the money received and from the mission monies. (If you would like to help, please send a check to the church and indicate “Navajo Nation” and we will see the Navajo Nation receives any donations sent.)

Tom and Beth Harmon drove the donated supplies up to Valley Presbyterian Church, where there was a beehive of activity. Cars and pick-up trucks were arriving in a constant stream unloading all types of needed supplies. We were told that 14 churches and many other individual people had donated to the Navajo Nation. At last report over \$40,000 had been collected along with all the supplies. Their goal is to feed/help 200 families for 30 days.

It is marvelous to witness the ferocity with which our church and others have found new and creative ways to protect our most vulnerable populations. It is marvelous to be the Church today—don't ever let someone tell you otherwise.

“What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and love kindness and to walk humbly with your God?” Micah 6:8



From John:

Miriam Reed sent the church an excerpt from the late C.S. Lewis's *Screwtape Letters*; I wish to be careful and dissociate from the idea that Satan has anything to do with the Corona Virus pandemic (and as most of you know, I do not believe in a literal "Satan" but rather that the idea — as the Greek and Hebrew name suggests — is in fact *temptation*, ignoring God's will, but focus not on how our current shutdowns and the like came to be, but rather on the words that Lewis gives to Jesus; I DO believe in those!

Satan: "I will cause anxiety, fear and panic.

"I will shutdown businesses, schools, places of worship and sports events. [Hmm; maybe there is a satan.]

"I will cause economic turmoil."

Jesus: "I will bring together neighbors, restore the family unit,

"I will bring dinner back to the kitchen table.

"I will help people slow down their lives and appreciate what really matters.

"I will teach my children to rely on me and not the world.

"I will teach my children to trust me and not their money and material resources."

Can anyone doubt but that Jesus worked through us in our support of the Navajo Nation?

From John:

"There are three kinds of lies: lies, d***ed lies, and statistics." [\

It is not that statistics lie, however, it is that they can be misleading and/or misused, and during this COVID-19 pandemic, I think it is valuable to have some idea as to some statistics that can be helpful, and I want to draw your attention to two different websites:

The Johns Hopkins University COVID-19 site, of which you most likely have heard: <https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/data>

On that page, there are a number of things to be seen, but the item I most view is under the heading, "Has the curve flattened," which takes you to a graph showing the five day moving average of new cases plotted against time: as one moves to the right, one is moving from the past to the present.

Of perhaps more meaning to us here, in Arizona, is the Arizona Department of Health Services home page on the Corona Virus, <https://www.azdhs.gov/index.php>.

On this page, one of the possible selections is "Data Dashboard," and this is currently the first thing I read in the morning following my Bible reading. On that Data Dashboard there are all sorts of options, but the two to which I pay the most attention are "COVID-19 Deaths" and "Hospitalization"; I also pay attention to "Confirmed COVID-19 Cases by Day, which seems a bit more volatile.

In each of these "Data Dashboard" items, we see not what was *reported* on the previous day as showing up for that day, but rather the data for each category reports the day the observation was made — the day a test was taken, not the results known, the day a person died, not when the Health department reported cause of death, the date a person was admitted to the hospital, not the date the state learned about it.

This data is then presented as bar graphs, which are reasonably easy to understand.

I realize I have not been paying attention to one of the statistics, the percentage of tests taken that come back showing the virus, but that is presented as well.

To the extent one wants to see "good news," it is there. The national numbers from John Hopkins are very heavily weighted by what happens in New York City and the improvement in them does not represent a uniform trend; some states are having better numbers to show than others. The Arizona numbers, however, do show me a real cause for hope; whether it is the positive impact of Social Distancing, the arrival of hot weather, or a combination of the two is beyond my pay grade (nor do I think anyone can say for sure), but these results do suggest that however dubious the legal basis for enforcing such guidelines might be, and without ignoring the costs they impose, it is in our interest to recognize that they certainly are not causing any spread of COVID-19, and that was their goal as best I understood it.

So let's forebear; this, too, shall end.

May

Subject to change

Worship services at the Church have been cancelled until further notice due to the coronavirus.
Sermons will be available on both the church web site (florenceazchurch.org) and YouTube (First Presbyterian Church of Florence).

2020

1st Presbyterian Church of Florence, Arizona

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					Chris Lewis B/D 1	2
4 th Sunday of Easter 3	4	5	6	Steve Alberg B/D 7	8	Marge Thompson B/D 9
5 th Sunday of Easter Mark Stephens B/D 10	11	12	Priscilla Brink B/D 13	14	15	Miriam Reed B/D Betty & Jeff Hamilton ANNIV 16
6 th Sunday of Easter 17	Phyllis Carlson B/D 18	19	Cliff McGinnis B/D 20	21	Phyllis McGinnis B/D 22	23
7 th Sunday of Easter 24	25	26	27	28	29	Tyler Foster B/D 30
Day of Pentecost 31 The CHURCH's B/D						

First Presbyterian Church
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**The Mission of the First Presbyterian Church of Florence
Is to share Jesus Christ through word and action
with all those whose lives we can touch.**