

Pastor

John Johnson
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Johnjohnson1010@icloud.com

Session Members

Clerk of the Session

Nancy Blank (Ex-Officio)
520-233-1563

Treasurer

Anita Van Wagener (Ex-Officio)
520-709-2771

Assistant Treasurer

Tom Harmon
317-289-7067

Finance/Personnel

Tom Harmon
317-289-7067

Property /Buildings

Ed Pentilla
406-291-7386

Congregational Care

Katrina Guy
623-334-0402

Evangelism/Newsletter/Website

Heidi Lowe
520-221-5676

Mission

ShaRon Liedl (Local)
520-431-0883

Mary Palmer (General)
928-580-2030

Worship

BJ Tyree
602-500-2520
Mary Palmer
928-580-2030

Christian Education

Margie Lewis
818-261-6824

Stewardship

John Guy
520-858-3322

Admin & Personnel

Ray Hyyppa
303-941-4893
John Guy
520-858-2945

Fellowship

Laura Hofmann
520-858-2945

Bookkeeper

Jane Whitaker
50-252-5270

Church Secretary

Beth Harmon (Ex-Officio)
317-289-7067

Prayer Chain

Patty Hyyppa
303-941-4893 – Cell
520-251-5588 – Home

Memorial Garden & Columbarium

Robert & Joan Phillips
520-868-0507
jkcoop@gmail.com

Church Hours

Tuesday & Thursday
8:30 – 1:00 pm

newsletter225@yahoo.com

Deadline is 25th of month



July 2020 Issue 6

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. Prayers, Birthdays & Anniversaries
5. Christian empathetic worship practice rules
Prayer of Saint Francis Assisi
6. Navajo Assistance/Virtual Fellowship
7. Lincoln's Proclamation of 1863
8. Mission Moments
9. Calendar

From the Pastor

There may be someone out there who will disagree, yet I have not actually met anyone who was not sick – no pun intended – of COVID-19 and the way that it has affected our lives, and by “our” I am intending those of us who have neither contracted it nor lost a love one to it nor has or have had a loved one hospitalized by it, I have not met anyone who says he or she is enjoying the impact, is happy about the impact, of COVI-19 on his or her life. (One member of the Florence congregation, Linda Ernst, who now lives in Denver, had it but has recovered, and Grace Gorman of Community has told me that there are some members in her family who have experience it.) Not having encountered the disease does not mean that we are happy!

And yet if we do not learn something from this experience, and I am not talking about disease control or vaccines or anything like that, if we do not learn something we are wasting the experience, and one thing I hope we have learned is , no, *two things* I hope we have learned are at their core based on our Christian faith, or should arise from our Christian faith.

In particular, we can safely say, I believe, that a major factor in the re-outburst of the disease in Arizona is from, first, peoples’ not following the “rules,” and, related to this, peoples’ failure to wear simple facemasks when they are within ten feet (that may be overkill, I know, so “six” feet) from the non-immediate-family-member persons they encounter.

Religion?

Why in the past did some Jews consider themselves, or what did they mean by, “the chosen people”? Well, it was that God had chosen them *to receive Torah, to receive God’s Law!* “Chosen” did not have a “we are better than you” meaning, but rather a “we have been blessed!”

And *why* did God give the Law? Because of the way most of the Ten Commandments are phrased in the negative, “Thou shalt not,” the standard joke is that God is a killjoy, but what do the “shalt not’s” result in if followed? Six of them in the Protestant version (seven in the Catholic version) have the objective of avoiding injury to another person! They are meant for the well-being of people! They are not restrictions on behavior for the purpose of restricting behavior, they are restrictions on behavior so that *all might have the opportunity of enjoying life without fear of harm from a fellow member of the community.*

God’s Law is meant to allow humans to live together in happiness without being injured by another! God gave the Law not to be a killjoy, but, in fact, to be a liberator, a liberator from fear.

Obviously, social-distancing rules that have been put forth are not on a par with God’s Law and commandments, yet they are for the same purpose – avoiding injury (really, to both parties in an encounter) while allowing at least some aspects, *most aspects*, of daily life.

And facemasks? A rule to wear a facemask could be phrased, “Thou shalt not take the chance of spreading your nose droplets to another. . . just in case!” It’s both those same six or seven of the Ten Commandments and their summary: *Love your neighbor!*

I no longer contribute to the seminary I attended (there are too many Presbyterian seminaries for the number of clergy positions that will be available to their graduates; I think anyone who seeks to enter a seminary needs to think long and hard as to what he or she expects to gain from the experience), but I still receive mail and email, and this week I received an email blast from the president of the school with a prayer I had never heard before by a man who wrote one prayer most of us know and love, “The Serenity Prayer” (“God grant me the Serenity to accept the things I cannot change. *Etc.*),

Reinhold Niebuhr, the great early-mid twentieth century theologian and ethicist. The president thought this particularly appropriate to how Christians should behave during this pandemic, and I agree, so allow me to share it with you:

"O God, who hast bound us together in this bundle of life, give us grace to understand how our lives depend upon the courage, industry, honesty, and integrity of our fellow humans that we may be faithful in our responsibilities to them." Reinhold Niebuhr

Blessings, and keep yourself and others safe,

John

I know everyone is wondering when we will return to some level of church normalcy beyond the cautious and somewhat abbreviated worship being done at 10:30 am in the Florence sanctuary, where we wear masks and sit wide apart, do not touch each other nor pass a plate nor sing. I have no crystal ball, but your Session is being highly responsible. We shall not go beyond this in July, and unless something surprisingly wonderful happens, it could be as late as October before we have a semblance of normalcy – but we shall continue to be Christ's church throughout it, and the Session shall review its decision monthly.

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.

Please use our 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

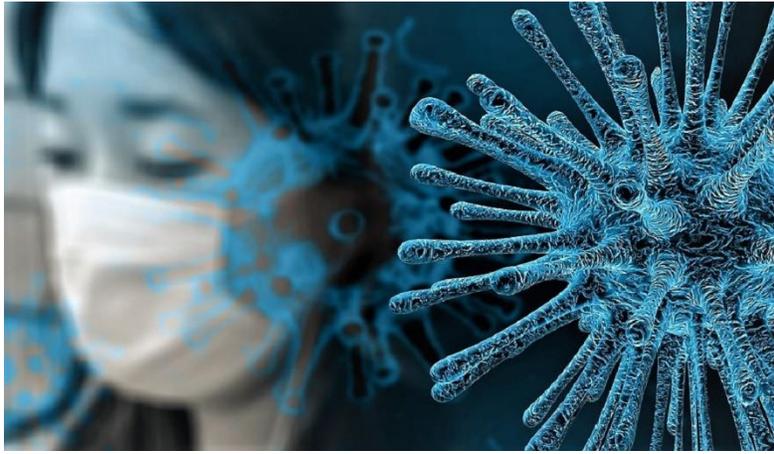
All our Military, Law Enforcement, Fire Fighters, First Responders, and Veteran's around the world.



5. Judy Nelson
9. Susan Landis
11. Barb Dressel
11. JL Hooper
12. ShaRon Liedl
13. Shirley Alberg
14. Patty Hyyppa
14. Lew Moon
15. Farley Grainger
15. Robin Iverson
18. Lisa Kelly
19. Ronnie Brown-Woodhall
19. Anita Van Wagoner
23. Bill Johnston
25. Larry Jordan
26. Beth Harmon
26. Sue Webster
30. Carolyn Gilbert
30. Gary Baker

2. Ray & Patty Hyyppa

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



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Christian-empathetic worship practice rules:

- 1. Everyone wears a mask going to one's seat. Recommend that everyone wear mask during worship or sit 20 feet away from anyone else. Masks are to show respect and consideration for others – even Sean Hannity recommends them.**
- 2. Everyone enters from side door and enter sanctuary from east door into sanctuary.**
- 3. No physical contact with other worshippers, ushers, or worship leaders.**
- 4. Sit *not closer than* in alternate (every other) pew; no more than two family groups in one pew and seek for groups to be ten feet apart.**
- 5. No hymnals, no bulletins, no collection plate passed; collection plates will be placed in front pews.**
- 6. No singing of hymns, no “Sharing the peace and joy” by physical contact.**
- 7. Exit from sanctuary will be by rows from the front and first from the east pews. East pews exit toward outside aisle, west pews exit toward center aisle.**

Prayer of Saint Francis Assisi

*Lord, make me a channel of thy peace;
that where there is hatred, I may bring love;
that where there is wrong, I may bring the spirit of forgiveness;
that where there is discord, I may bring harmony;
that where there is error, I may bring truth;
that where there is doubt, I may bring faith;
that where there is despair, I may bring hope;
that where there are shadows, I may bring light;
that where there is sadness, I may bring joy.
Lord, grant that I may seek rather to comfort than to be comforted;
To understand, then to be understood; too love, than to be loved.
For it is by self-forgetting that one is forgiving. It is by dying that one awakens to eternal life.
AMEN*

Navajo Assistance

Thanks to the generosity of the congregations in both Florence and Coolidge, Community Presbyterian and First Presbyterian (Florence) have been *significant* contributors to help our Navajo brothers and sisters living on their reservation endure the severe way in which the Navajo Nation has been hit by this disease. First has contributed about \$2000 in Basha's food cards and cash to Kayenta Presbyterian, a Navajo church, which in turn has distributed to smaller churches and to families in need. If you wish to contribute further, you can do so at the church website, www.florenceazchurch.org, or by sending a check specifying that use.

Virtual Fellowship?

Katrina and John Guy have made what I think is a fascinating suggestion: ZOOM fellowship!

OK, people. Here's the plan...

On Saturday night 7/11 at 6 pm Arizona time, we will be hosting a Fellowship Half-Hour on Zoom. We will open with a prayer, end with a prayer and everything in-between is up to you.

BYOB, have dinner while chatting, smoke a cigar in your study-nobody cares. This is OUR congregation enjoying the company that we have missed after Church these many Sundays. Wear a hat, wear a jacket, wear whatever-just wear clothes.

If you don't have Zoom installed on your computer, you can just phone in. Peoria Presbyterian did this last Saturday and had about 12 people on Zoom and another 8 or 9 on their phones chiming in. For many of us it was a chance (without a mask or hug) to visit with our friends from church.

You will either bring

up <https://thestablesnetwork.zoom.us>

[/j/3693841389](https://thestablesnetwork.zoom.us/j/3693841389) on your computer or call in at 602-

753-0140 then keypad

3693841389# and you'll be in.

John, Katrina and Their Cats

Hello All,

This attachment was read on the radio this 4th of July and seems appropriate at this time of concern and anxiety in our country. The highlighting is mine. Lincoln's words are lengthy but to the point and thought-provoking.

Judith Johnston

**Washington, D.C.
March 30, 1863**

Senator James Harlan of Iowa, whose daughter later married President Lincoln's son Robert, introduced this Resolution in the Senate on March 2, 1863. The Resolution asked President Lincoln to proclaim a National Day of Prayer and fasting. The Resolution was adopted on March 3, and signed by Lincoln on March 30, one month before the fast day was observed.

By the President of the United States of America.

A Proclamation.

Whereas, the Senate of the United States, devoutly recognizing the Supreme Authority and just Government of Almighty God, in all the affairs of men and of nations, has, by a resolution, requested the President to designate and set apart a day for National prayer and humiliation.

And whereas it is the duty of nations as well as of men, to own their dependence upon the overruling power of God, to confess their sins and transgressions, in humble sorrow, yet with assured hope that genuine repentance will lead to mercy and pardon; and to recognize the sublime truth, announced in the Holy Scriptures and proven by all history, that those nations only are blessed whose God is the Lord.

And, insomuch as we know that, by His divine law, nations like individuals are subjected to punishments and chastisements in this world, may we not justly fear that the awful calamity of civil war, which now desolates the land, may be but a punishment, inflicted upon us, for our presumptuous sins, to the needful end of our national reformation as a whole People? We have been the recipients of the choicest bounties of Heaven. We have been preserved, these many years, in peace and prosperity. We have grown in numbers, wealth and power, as no other nation has ever grown. But we have forgotten God. We have forgotten the gracious hand which preserved us in peace, and multiplied and enriched and strengthened us; and we have vainly imagined, in the deceitfulness of our hearts, that all these blessings were produced by some superior wisdom and virtue of our own. Intoxicated with unbroken success, we have become too self-sufficient to feel the necessity of redeeming and preserving grace, too proud to pray to the God that made us!

It behooves us then, to humble ourselves before the offended Power, to confess our national sins, and to pray for clemency and forgiveness.

Now, therefore, in compliance with the request, and fully concurring in the views of the Senate, I do, by this my proclamation, designate and set apart Thursday, the 30th. day of April, 1863, as a day of national humiliation, fasting and prayer. And I do hereby request all the People to abstain, on that day, from their ordinary secular pursuits, and to unite, at their several places of public worship and their respective homes, in keeping the day holy to the Lord, and devoted to the humble discharge of the religious duties proper to that solemn occasion.

All this being done, in sincerity and truth, let us then rest humbly in the hope authorized by the Divine teachings, that the united cry of the Nation will be heard on high, and answered with blessings, no less than the pardon of our national sins, and the restoration of our now divided and suffering Country, to its former happy condition of unity and peace.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed.

Done at the City of Washington, this thirtieth day of March, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-three, and of the Independence of the United States the eighty seventh.

**By the President: Abraham Lincoln
William H. Seward, Secretary of State.**

Source: [Collected Works of Abraham Lincoln](#), edited by Roy P. Basler et al.

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.



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

The Hygiene bank is temporarily closed. We will reopen in the future. Donations are needed to buy more supplies.



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*Donate through our website
Your gift makes a difference!!*

July

Subject to change

Attending (Worship) requires use of face masks and your own discretion.

Sermons will be available on both the church web site (florenceazchurch.com) and youtube (First Presbyterian Church of Florence).

2020

1st Presbyterian Church of Florence, Arizona

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 Ray & Patty Hyyppa - Anniversary	3	4 Independence Day
5 5th Sunday after Pentecost Judy Nelson B/D	6	7	8	9 Susan Landis B/D	10	11 Barb Dressel B/D JL Hooper B/D
12 6th Sunday after Pentecost Sharon Liedl B/D	13 Shirley Alberg B/D	14 Patty Hyyppa B/D Lew Moon B/D	15 Farley Grainger B/D Robin Iverson B/D	16	17	18 Lisa Kelley B/D
19 7th Sunday after Pentecost Ronnie Brown-Woodhall B/D Anita Van Wagoner B/D	20	21	22	23 Bill Johnston B/D	24	25 Larry Jordan B/D
26 8th Sunday after Pentecost Beth Harmon B/D Sue Webster B/D	27	28	29	30 Gary Baker B/D Carolyn Gilbert B/D	31	

Activities marked with TBD may or may not occur due to the corona virus. Please check with the church office at 480-868-5634 on Tues or Thurs from 8:30 – 12:30 before attending.

First Presbyterian Church
P.O. Box 950
225 East Butte
Florence, AZ 85132

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