



Rick's Reflections

Wait! What? Ordinary Time! Are you kidding me?

But that is the time we are in... according to the Church Calendar. Where in the world did we get that kind of calendar?

Well, it all started, more or less, with the Hebrews keeping track of their festivals. Now they did follow some form of either solar calendar (based on the relative position between the sun and earth), lunar calendar (corresponding to the cycles of the moon), or a combination of both, a lunisolar one. That way, the Hebrews could keep their obligation to present themselves before God three times a year: 1) at the Festival of Pesach (Passover), 2) at the Festival of Weeks (Harvest Festival, traditionally 7 weeks from the start of harvest), and 3) at the Festival of Sukkot (celebrating the wandering in the desert with only their tents and God for protection). There were other festivals, but these were the three called the Pilgrimage Festivals in which they would travel to the Temple in Jerusalem as commanded in the Torah. After the destruction of the Second Temple (70 CE), the trip was not obligatory.

Fast forward (really?) to the 3rd and 4th centuries. Sometime before year 380, the practice of commemorating the birth of Christ was done on December 25th. An early Church Father named John Chrysostom announced this to his congregation in 386, but it did not really catch on until the fifth century. From the Nativity season, Epiphany, Lent, Triduum (Tenebrae), Easter, Pentecost were tracked in sequence in an early Church or Liturgical Calendar, until these Christian "Festival" were overlaid on the Gregorian calendar (1582).

So now we are into the Ordinary Time. The name comes from the same root as 'ordinal' which refers to things in 'numbered order'. In a sense, Ordinary Time means 'the counted weeks' between our Christian Festivals. Our times we are living in now are anything but ordinary or usual. From the COVID-19 pandemic, to the racial unrest, from economic catastrophe and political tension, we are experiencing a time of turmoil to say the least.

Here is an idea: let's make this time 'extraordinary'. Rather than a way of just marking the time between festivals, why not actively look for ways the Church can demonstrate the presence of God in the Liturgical Ordinary Time. This can be an opportunity to clarify God's presence in everyday life. To quote Theologian Paul Fiddes, "Wherever there is the movement of a measure of music, or a stroke of a brush, or a blow of a chisel, or a sequence of thought in the arts or science, which reflects God's truth and beauty, this too shares in the dynamic flow of the life of God." This is not just looking at the world through rose colored glasses, it is changing our perspective to be more God focused. We are allowed to look for the activity of God in the world, and in our attempts at understanding what is opened up by God, we can shape our actions and prayers to guide the ordinary on the road to extraordinary.

Shalom

Rick

Rev. Johnson

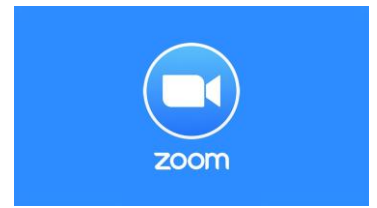
*Is currently on sabbatical
June-August 2020*

*He will return to the pulpit
On September 6, 2020*



*Please welcome
Commissioned Ruling Elder
Rick Purcell
Serving Bethany as Pastor
June-August 2020*

UPDATED INSTRUCTIONS!



The past month or so has had us gathering to worship “virtually” using the Zoom video conferencing platform. It has been gratifying to see more and more of you joining us on Sunday mornings, but there were others who had some issues connecting. Hopefully these instructions can help get more of us together this Sunday.

If you are using a laptop or desktop computer, you can connect to a Zoom meeting on your web browser (Chrome, Safari, etc.). If you connect on a smartphone or tablet, you can also connect via a web browser, but it is easier to download the Zoom app from your App Store (it is free).

When your weekly e-newsletter is sent on Thursday or Friday morning, it will include a link to this Sunday’s service. **DON’T CLICK ON THE LINK UNTIL YOU ARE READY TO CONNECT ON SUNDAY MORNING!**

When you click on the link, it will send you either to your web browser or the Zoom app. If you get a pop-up question about permission to connect, just say yes.

You will first be sent to a “waiting room” for a brief time, until one of the hosts of the meeting will let you in. This is a security feature that we have added to help protect us from having folks that are up to no good getting in the meeting.

Once you are in the meeting, make sure that your video is on. Go to the bottom left corner of your screen (on a computer; tap the screen on a tablet or phone) and make sure there’s not a red line through the video camera icon.

If you are on a laptop or desktop, it’s better if you enter full screen mode.

You can also connect from a cell phone or land line. The phone-in number with the meeting ID number will be included in the email with the link.

One important note: if you phone in on a land line, there is no way to mute you, so all audio from your connection will be heard by everyone. Keep that in mind!

If you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to either email or text me. (Call the church if you don't have my number - I don’t want to put my phone # out for scammers to grab it!)

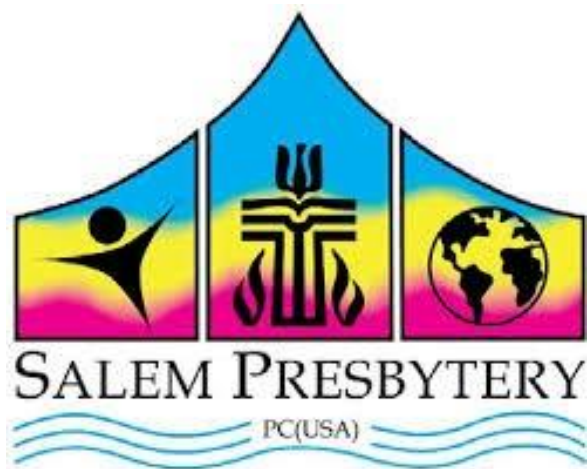
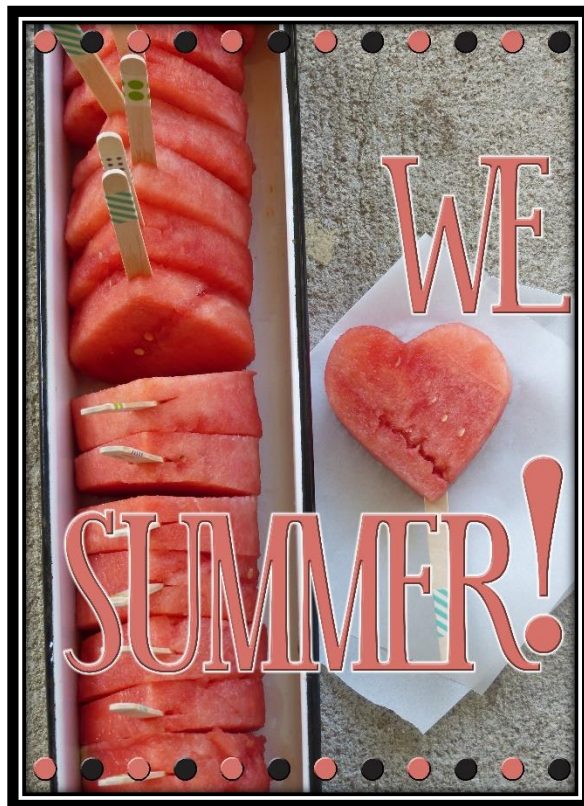
Another option for joining the service will be on Facebook Live - hopefully! There is a feature of Zoom which allows direct streaming from Zoom to Facebook live. We actually got this to work on April 26th, so hopefully the bugs have been ironed out and there will be this option as well.

If you want to learn more about Zoom, you can go to their website (www.zoom.us) where there are lots of tutorials, or just go to YouTube and search for Zoom tutorials.

And we remember that the church is not closed. The building is, but the people are the church and we will continue to gather in this way. It is such a wonderful thing to see everyone’s faces appear on my screen every Sunday. Join us!

JWJ

July 



The transition to a new structure for Salem Presbytery continues, although with some adjustments and changes. The financial challenges of the presbytery have made it necessary to alter the timetable for hiring new staff and to revise the Dream Team's plan for the new structure.

Instead of proceeding to hire three presbyters on the staff, the plans now are to progress to hire the Administrative Presbyter with an adjusted job description to reflect the new realities that have arisen.

Other staff will also be hired over the next few months, including financial, communications, stewardship, and parish pastors.

Continue to pray for our presbytery during this transition.

Your Church Staff:

Pastor: Rev. John W. Johnson
Director of Music: Christopher Bagley
Office Administrator: Joy Saleeby
Bookkeeper: Pam Hurt

Elders:

Bill Abplanalp
Chip Allen
Helen Brown
Randy Cousins
Karen Maxwell (Clerk of Session)
Tina Patterson
Nancy Purcell
Ben Russell
Tracey Troxler
Glenn Patterson (Treasurer)



The Session met for its regular monthly stated meeting on June 9th via Zoom. Here are some highlights:

- Heard a devotion from Helen Brown
- Heard joys and concerns of the congregation
- Received a treasurer’s report from Glenn Patterson
- Received information about the Payroll Protection Plan that the government is offering for small businesses to receive financial help / approved the plan to apply
- Received information about insurance payments regarding the automobile accident on the front lawn
- Discussed landscaping of Church properties.
- Discussed our current worship realities and the positive responses we’ve had.

**NEXT MEETING: TUESDAY, JULY 14TH
ELDERS OF THE MONTH FOR JULY
BILL ABPLANALP AND CHIP ALLEN**



Missed a Sunday? Check out our sermons online!
There are three ways to listen to audio of our Sunday sermons:

- On our website: www.bethanypreschurch.org
- On our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian
- Or by going to: www.buzzsprout.com/9198



UPDATE:

Protection Plan of the economic stimulus package passed by congress were made available, we did get our application submitted, and received our loan (will be considered a grant as it is used for payroll) soon thereafter. The Session will determine how these funds will be utilized.

Thanks to Glenn Patterson and Pam Hurt for doing the work to get the application submitted.



GIVE+Church

Giving to your church is as easy as 1-2-3

Go to the App Store or Google Play and search for "GivePlus Church" to download for FREE.

Due to an increase in fees, we are transitioning to a new platform for online giving to the church. We believe this option will be easier to use, decrease fees that the church pays, and will increase our giving. This giving platform is sponsored by and run through The Presbyterian Foundation.

For those who are currently using our online giving on our website, you may continue to use that for the next little bit, but it will be disabled soon. Pam will be contacting those who are using it, to notify them of this action. The link to the new website is already on the home page of the website.

One added feature - also free - is the option of using an app on your smartphone. Just to go your app store and search for "GivePlus Church" and download it for free. You can then search for Bethany and follow the instructions.

There are two documents that you will find useful in answering your questions about this new electronic giving portal. They are on our website here: <http://www.bethanypreschurch.org/online-giving-faq.html>

In this time of upheaval in our normal routines, it is important to remember that the work of the church continues as we continue to live up to our commitments. We are confident that this new platform for electronic giving will be a great enhancement to our stewardship efforts at Bethany.

Please make every effort to keep your pledge up-to-date, either giving by check or using this convenient method of giving online - securely and safely.

Financial Reports

FINANCIAL REPORT - END OF May 31, 2020

Year-to-date Actual Income	\$56,670.51
Year-to-date Actual Expenses	\$68,554.72
YEAR-TO-DATE BUDGET SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	-\$11,884.21

Scan this QR code for direct access to our new Online Giving Platform



July Birthdays and Anniversaries!

Happy Anniversary to:

Pat & Henry Flythe

July 1st

Happy Birthday to:

Shelby Smith

July 3rd

Sylvia Hayes

July 5th

Janine Osborne

July 5th

Tina Patterson

July 7th

Xan Wagner

July 8th

Debbie Johnson

July 17th

Sylvia Donley

July 20th



Bethany Presbyterian,

Thank-you so much for the extremely generous scholarship for next school year. No doubt it will help out tremendously. I am so lucky to have a church family who has been so supportive of me for 20 years now. The generosity Katie and Lexie Glenn have shown to so many students in the church is truly insurmountable. I hope everyone is staying well during the craziness of our current situation and once again, thank-you so much.

With Love,

Seth Smith

Children & Youth Ministries

- **Sunday school for Youth and Children** / Meets on second floor of Education Building at 9:45 each Sunday
- During **Worship**, children are invited to sit in designated pews (front rows on north side) / there are activities provided
- Our **Nursery** is staffed by a professional, paid worker, as well as volunteers each Sunday.
- Watch your calendar and inbox for special



Find your place!

ADULT MINISTRIES

Christian Education Opportunities

The Fellowship Class - Bible study class using our denomination's *Present Word* curriculum. The class will resume when we return to our normal schedules.

Bethany Prays

Bill Faucette
Jack Cook
Joan Richardson
Tiffany Tauchren
Jean Berry
Christy Lutterloh
Eleanor Thompson
Nancy Sutton
Norma Proctor
Family of Katherine Bayliff
Randy Thompson
Frederica Beatty
Christopher Bagley

Diane Miller
Peter Slater
Joey Leake
Shannon Russell
Mary Moore
Barbara Cousins
Pat Kennedy
Donna Mitchell-Ayers
Pete Campbell
Ben Johnson
Alex Thomas
Glenn Thompson
Carol Brooks
Lou Crutchfield

John & Ann Sutton
Ruby Martin
Shirley Lane
Ida Whitney
Katherine Turner
Jeremy Harden
Anne McDaniels
Mike Sutton
Stewart Dillard
Shelvia Russell
Richie Fishburne
Janie Holt Clapp
Robert Sykes

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