



# The BELL TOWER

A Newsletter of The Church at Litchfield Park

Summer 2020

## Contagious Worship



I don't think anyone in their wildest dreams could have ever predicted what we are currently experiencing due to COVID-19. On Friday, March 13 (not that Friday the 13th is necessarily bad luck) our community and nation began shuttering. By Sunday,

March 15, The Church at Litchfield Park offered its very first Livestream worship service through Facebook. Along with my husband Mike, who was using his cellphone to record the message, I offered a simple message and prayer. Each week since then, we have added more to the service. We have also learned more about our technological capabilities and your desire to stay connected in worship to God and each other. Your enthusiasm for worship is contagious, as each week we have seen more and more people joining us in worship on Sunday and throughout the week.

None of what is happening would occur without a dedicated team of people using their time and gifts to lead worship. I cannot begin to tell you how much I appreciate Jill Tabata, Amy Burns, Kathy Drake and Marilyn Chandler for sharing their gifts with us in worship each week. We have also been blessed by the musical gifts of the Rev. Jud Souers, Sue Kujawski, Ramon Ocano, Greg Herzner, Deb Riley, Pam Justice, Bill Trejbal, Emily Williams, Deb Campbell, Tamara Fromm, Sophie Fromm, Ellie Fromm, Myra Curtis, David Drake, Samantha Watson, Nikka del Rosario, Karla Cornell, Lisa Hegarty, Pattie Bumann, Cliff Hymel, Andrea Frederick, Donald Harvey, Gordon Williford, and A.C. Williford. We have also been blessed by individuals with technological gifts including Baker Gilbert, Chris Burns, Alberto Hernandez, Eric Jameson, George Merriman and Mike Kammeraad. Everyone has worked hard to improve the worship experience and continue to look for ways to improve it as we look forward to resuming in-person worship gatherings. Thank you all for your patience and encouragement!

God bless you,

*Pastor Lynne*

## REOPENING UPDATE

We hope to announce the reopening of the campus in a limited capacity in the near future and appreciate your continued patience. This partial reopening includes having a number of safe practices and physical distancing measures in place such as: using both the sanctuary and Souers Hall to spread people out, requiring masks, using hand sanitizer, avoiding physical contact, a shortened format to allow for sanitizing if multiple services are offered, projecting all lyrics and liturgy, and no coffee fellowship. More information will be provided in the near future, as this list is not exhaustive. We will also be

developing some short videos to help people navigate this transitional period. For those who do not feel ready or comfortable to return to the campus for Sunday worship services, we will continue the live stream feed and the ability to participate later as options. Please note, we will not be opening the nursery for a while, but will have activities available for families with young children. Our Sunday school and youth ministries will continue to meet virtually until things have stabilized. Again, we appreciate your patience and look forward to regathering soon.

## Annual Women's Ministry Gathering

Women's Christian Service Fellowship invites you and your sister friends to their annual retreat on Saturday, October 24, 2020, in Souers Hall at the Church at Litchfield Park. This one day gathering begins at 8:30 am and ends by 4 pm. Women Kind Ministry will present a Spiritual Makeover Retreat featuring 'The Supreme Makeover & Fashion Show.' The total cost is \$25 and includes snacks, lunch, beverages, and retreat materials. Please mark your calendars and look for registration dates, and more coming soon.

## Easter Service 2020



For many, this was the first major church holiday that was celebrated without going to church or entering our sanctuary. While very different, our online Easter celebration was a beautiful event observed outside in the warm morning sun, featuring live musicians.

To date, the service has been viewed online by more than 1,400 people! A small group of volunteers were also able to present the flowered cross in front of the church so that our community could still enjoy this wonderful tradition. While we did not gather as we normally do, we still raised our voices together in joyous praise: He is Risen!

## Youth Group Update

After not being able to meet for several weeks during the first part of the lockdown period, Pulse and Ignite youth groups began meeting online via Zoom. A one day per week meeting evolved into meeting Tuesday and Thursdays. Tuesdays were a more formal youth group gathering with a lesson and scripture or prayer, and Thursdays were more 'fun' meetups to chat and play games. With the start of the summer season, the youth are now meeting via combined groups on Sunday morning Zoom meetings. Sadly, and after much discussion on options to try to host a summer mission camp as a group, it was determined there were too many obstacles to meet safely together. The team is working on a plan for a virtual mission camp.



## Stewardship Committee

The Stewardship Committee was established and has met three times via Zoom. The committee is comprised of seven people throughout the congregation with varying skill sets from budgeting and finance to fellowship. Our main focus in the initial meeting was introductions and review of the initial Stewardship action plan submitted to the Admin Revision Task Force.

### Since the initial meetings the following has been accomplished:

- The campaign banner for 2020 and 2021 has been approved and is being printed.
- The initial Revision task listing has had all tasks assigned and many are in progress.
- A Stewardship trifold to be used for new member orientation and distribution to the congregation is to be completed the week ending June 26, 2020.
- It has been decided that the official Stewardship pledge campaign will begin in October.
- It has also been decided that campaign will be year-long and focused on time, talent and treasure.
- A time and talent coordinator has been assigned.
- A layperson coordinator for stewardship has been assigned.

### Several actions are in progress including:

- Development of a routine stewardship report
- Development of the initial campaign letter
- Development of the revised pledge card

Progress has been hampered due to the current pandemic, but the members remain optimistic and the goal is to begin the campaign, in earnest, as soon as possible.

## Prayer Gathering Experience

Daily prayer is a big part of my life, but I must say that being in a corporate prayer setting (praying together as a group) is powerful. What a blessing to be able to gather in person or through modern technology to be in prayer for all of God's family. It has been an incredibly special gift as we have all been in lockdown due to COVID-19. I wasn't sure what to expect. Do you know when a person or a situation comes to your mind? I believe it's God's way of telling us to reach out and lift them up in prayer or to reach out to them in some manner. It has been a very spiritual and emotional experience for me and the highlight of my week. Anyone that wishes to participate signs on at noon each Tuesday and we get to see familiar faces and new ones too. It is so awesome! And then our amazing God speaks through each of us as we lift up you, our church, our community, our government, our healthcare workers, our first responders, our teachers, our military, those teaching at home, the graduates that didn't have their 'real' graduations, the people that have lost jobs, those with health issues and so many more. The needs and praises are plentiful, and it is so beautiful to lift them up to our Heavenly Father. He listens and He answers. Wow! I have so much gratitude for each person that participates and especially for our Heavenly Father. Hope to see you there!

Your sister in Christ, *Marcy Clement*

# High School Senior Baccalaureate Service

Normally, the church hosts an annual Baccalaureate service for graduating high school seniors and their families. Because we were unable to gather this year, the Youth Leaders decided to have the seniors meet for socially-distanced service with just the seniors and a few staff members. The service was recorded and edited by our wonderful Kristin McNamara so that family members could watch together later online. We were gifted with the very special appearance of Pastor Kerri, who shared her memories and best wishes with each senior. It was very special to see and we are so glad we were able to honor our seniors this way. Each youth received a small gift and cupcake from the church. We also celebrated them with a special congratulatory banner outside the church.



**Congratulations To Our Graduating Seniors!**

*Class of 2020*

Jordan Armijo  
Catherine Broski  
Alexis Charles

Jane Hill  
Madison Hinojos  
Reagan Jordan

Maranda Jordan  
Alexander Kerfoot  
Logan Levandowski

Cole Lozon  
Margaret Moran  
Hannah Ocano

Andrew Smith  
Megan Starnes  
Ashley Vandling

Corrine Vasiloff  
Nate Vasiloff

**May Your Futures Be Blessed and Bright!**



This summer our kiddos went on an adventure with God on a **"Trek with Faith,"** June 1-5, as part of our Virtual Vacation Bible School. Families were able to pick up their supplies "drive thru style" the weekend before, surrounded by wild animals, a sparkling waterfall and themed camp signs. Each day they watched a DVD where "Australian" Ms. Kristin led them through a bible story, Ms. Karen instructed them on a craft, Ms. Allison took them on an adventure and Mr. Ramon led them in song. As the week progressed children were allowed the option of uploading a video of their music performance which was combined with others to create a virtual choir of "Peace Like River." If you would like to view it you can see it on the church's Facebook page. Friday was our Drive Thru Family Celebration. Families could swing by the church for curbside pick-up of "The World's Greatest Hot Dogs," chips and water. They also got a package of 300 self-tying water balloons to have water fun with their families at home. We had 72 kids participate in our week of adventure.

## Virtual Vacation Bible School!



**Virtual Sunday School this Summer:** Our children's Sunday school has not skipped a beat but has moved to a virtual format. Each week families receive an eNewsletter or link through the church Facebook page. There they will find a video with a Bible lesson, craft and prayers for Pre-K, K-2nd and 3rd-5th grades. We just recently switched to the Summer Sunday School format which is a little more casual and for all age groups. Each week the kids enjoy a Bible lesson, an object lesson, prayers and can download additional activities online.

## MEN'S AND WOMEN'S Fellowship

**WCSF UPDATE:** The WCSF met in May via Zoom. The circles have been unable to meet in person due to the virus and the Mother's Day Tea also was canceled. WCSF is busy working on the upcoming women's retreat which will be held at the church October 24. If you would like to help with this event, please email Jane Holdcroft, [jkh2125@aol.com](mailto:jkh2125@aol.com).

**MCSF UPDATE:** No meeting was held in April, but MCSF met via Zoom in May and June. Although the group size has been about a half dozen per session, the reach has now extended from the Valley to the Coconino and White Mountains of Arizona, and all the way to the metro Minneapolis area! Thanks to Pastor Lynne for scheduling and launching the meetings. A number of members here in the Valley hope to meet in Souers Hall in July (following prudent distancing measures). We are planning to set up a group web cam from the Hall so that those not physically present are able to participate.



## Campus Refresh

We've completed a few projects around the church grounds. When you return, you will see that all walkways and benches have been repainted and sealed. Additionally, the rest of the leather straps on our historic pot lights in the sanctuary have been replaced. We hope that when we are able to meet again you will be pleased with these improvements.

## Families Enjoyed Prayer and Meditation Time

As a modification of our usual **Family Wednesday Activities** we started our **Family Prayer and Meditation** event. Each Wednesday, families received video instruction, then listened to a meditation activity. At the end of the activity they prayed together as a family for the things that came up during the meditation. These activities ended May 13th when our in-person **Wednesday Night Activities** normally take a break.