



# The Good News

## May 2020

### In This Issue...

<i>From the Desk...</i>	<u>1</u>
<i>Youth News</i>	<u>2</u>
<i>Holy Week &amp; Easter 2020</i>	<u>3</u>
<i>May Birthdays</i>	<u>4</u>
<i>Treasures News</i>	<u>5</u>
<i>Upcoming Sermons</i>	<u>6</u>
<i>Nothing Can Separate Us</i>	<u>7</u>

### From the desk of...Pastor Nancy Pearson

Happy Spring! The sun is shining and I hope that you've found some moments to step outside and enjoy the springtime warmth. And I pray that you are keeping healthy and safe and are staying home as much as you can.

As we continue with social distancing and ponder what it might look like to begin to get back into social activities, we are feeling many different emotions. Perhaps you are excited to finally get together with a few friends for lunch in a restaurant. Maybe you're thrilled to be able to get your hair cut at a barber shop or salon. But maybe you are feeling anxious: is it safe to go out and about? Maybe you're afraid, of how many will gather and how many will be exposed to this invisible enemy, the coronavirus. The uncertainty of this whole situation is making things difficult for all of us. There is so much that we don't know, especially when this crisis will be over.

Our church family is connecting with each other during these days. Friends are calling friends and I'm hopeful that no one is feeling unloved. It's hard not to be able to meet together, but I hope that you know that we are making decisions based on what we feel is best for our whole community of faith. The fact is that more than half of our congregation is older than 60 years, and so the dangers in meeting together in a large group is magnified. We know that you're anxious for church to re-open. I am too. But we want to make sure we do so in a responsible way.

In the meantime, I am so thankful for all the people that are making our online worship services possible. Great thanks is due to Stephen Fish for hours and hours filming and splicing and editing, making everything fit together. And thanks to Marty Shurtleff for coordinating the sound for all the elements as well as creating the power point slides. Our services are creative and interesting thanks to the talents of these people. My thanks also to Pastor Robyn for coordinating so many of the elements of these services, as well as making sure the Praise Team can meet safely and record our worship music. Thank you to Beth Gaines and Jolene Heit for piano accompaniment. And our thanks to Dana Covey for keeping us connected with Zoom worship on Sundays, Zoom Bible and Brew on Tuesdays and with meetings and email needs. I am grateful to God for the technology that allows us to be together even when we are apart.

We'll meet for worship in person again one day,(hopefully soon!) and when we do, we will praise God for who he is and all he has done for us! Remember to give thanks every day for Jesus and his love!

Blessings to you all,

*Pastor Nancy*

Community Presbyterian Church  
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Cedar City, UT 84721  
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## Community Presbyterian Church Youth

**Children's Ministry Online!** We've been enjoying online Sunday School using a series called "Empowering Courageous Kids," which includes hands-on activities and discussions for families to participate in together at home. Pr Robyn will gladly include you in the weekly email link if you'd like to get this Sunday School resource. Also, CPC Moms will have a Mom's Zoom night on Thursday, May 7 at 9:00pm. Again, Pr Robyn will email the Z link if you'd like to join us!

**Zoom Youth Group is going to evening sessions, Sunday nights at 7:30pm.** We will experiment with this time for a few weeks and see if it works better for everyone. We will continue having Zoom Youth Group over the summer, since it's something we can participate in even while travelling.

*Getting Creative with Worship:* We've had fun seeing what technology will let us do in worship, from our Palm Sunday Hosanna children's procession montage and Easter's cooking-show children's message, to Zoom interview sermons and our graduation blessing gift bags. It's been wonderful to have so many people help lead worship by recording themselves reading scriptures, praying, or playing music at home. Thanks to all who've stepped up to help, and especially to our Audio-Visual Tech Team, Marty and Steve! Thanks also to Dana for setting up our Zoom coffee hour opportunities before and after worship!

**Congratulations Graduating Class of 2020!** Join us in praying for Amanda Lundberg and Michael Wolfe as they graduate from Cedar High School. Great job seniors! We love you and look forward to seeing where God leads you in the years ahead!



**WORSHIP MUSIC FROM A DISTANCE:** If you have some special music you'd like to video record at home and submit to include in worship, please contact Pr Nancy or Pr Robyn. Please note that songs that are included in our YouTube videos must be our own original music or songs in the public domain, which limits our choices, but also lets us get creative with new arrangements of lots of oldie-but-goody classics! Can you tell that the worship band members are all standing 10 feet apart? We also wear face coverings while rehearsing and only remove them when actually recording.



**Rocky Railway VBS has been "derailed" by COVID-19,** meaning our "train" has been delayed until June 2021. We will keep the supplies we ordered or created so far, and hope that all our wonderful volunteers will "get on board" again next year. If you happen to find any train or railway themed items we might borrow, please hang on to them! Thanks! Co-Conductors Robyn, Linda and Nancy.

Pr Robyn will begin her annual summer leave after May 17th. She plans to return approximately August 17. Note that she will continue holding Zoom Youth Group and CPC Mom's gatherings through the summer, and will be available via email, phone, and text.

## Remembering our Loved Ones

We received news that **Gail Roelofs**, long time member of Community Presbyterian Church passed away on April 8. Gail and her husband Hans were a part of the CPC family for many years. Gail was much loved by so many. She moved north to live with her family in 2015. Gail was involved especially in Presbyterian Women and enjoyed worshipping here. Interesting facts about Gail include that she was born in Indonesia, lived in the Netherlands, and served in the Dutch Royal Air Force as a radar operator. In 1959, she and Hans married and immigrated to the United States sponsored by the Christian Reformed Church in Salt Lake City. We have missed Gail's bright smile and we send our prayers and comforting thoughts to her family during this time.



We celebrated the life of **David Price** on March 1. David passed away in the early morning of February 19 at Cedar Medical and Rehabilitation Center. David was also a long time member of Community Presbyterian Church. We miss him. We remember David's smile and warm handshake, and seeing him in worship most Sundays sitting in his same center pew. David also had an interesting life. He served in the U.S. Navy during World War II and was a part of the "Honor Flight" program travelling to Washington DC in 2015. David served on a submarine crew and also on the USS Midway aircraft carrier. David's granddaughters are especially thankful for the love and care that our church family provided for David over the last several years. He is missed.



## Holy Week and Easter 2020

How different our remembrance and celebration of Holy Week and Easter were this year! I hope that you found some quiet moments to reflect on Jesus' last week and on the miracle of the Resurrection. Praise God! The tomb is empty! And Christ is Risen forever more!

Pastor Max Lucado reminded us "our churches will be vacant this Sunday. That is true. But since the tomb of Christ is vacant, Easter cannot be cancelled. Ever."

Many of you enjoyed "Holy Week in a Bag" that we made available to you. Thank you to Pastor Robyn & Pastor Nancy for this creative and meaningful way to remember the events of Holy Week.

And we delighted in our online Palm Sunday and Easter worship services, complete with Palm Sunday greetings from our children and youth, and Easter participation by our CPC families. Many thanks to all who made these special services happen.



## A Time of Celebration

What a joy for us to celebrate the Sacrament of Infant Baptism on March 1, for Derrick Harwood Otto Nelson, son of Michelle and Jerry, grandson of Ruth Betters. It is a blessing for us to welcome Derrick as a member of the family of God! Baptism is an outward sign of God's work inside of us. As we celebrate infant baptism, we are reminded that God reaches to us, way before we ever reach towards him. Praise God for his faithful love!



## Mother's Day 2020

We'll mark Mother's Day this year differently too. Though we won't be physically together, we'll celebrate the ministry of mothers by remembering our own mothers in pictures. We'd love for you to send us (digitally or an actual photo) of you with your mother. We'll put together a slide show of photos to show during the worship experience on May 10. Please make sure we have your photo no later than Wednesday May 6. You can email to Pastor Nancy [pastor@cedarpres.org](mailto:pastor@cedarpres.org), or to Stephen Fish [skifish.n.surf@outlook.com](mailto:skifish.n.surf@outlook.com). Thanks for helping us celebrate mothers.



## MAY Birthdays

Rhonda Vasquez	May 2
Penny Yardley	May 2
Betty Divers	May 5
Johnny Ruhr	May 6
Jeri Coulston	May 7
Steve Fish	May 8
Debbie Vogel	May 9

Mary Shurtleff	May 9
Judy Higbee	May 14
Jasmine Ebersole	May 17
Sharleena Ebersole	May 17
Caylee Ebersole	May 17
Nancy Pearson	May 18
Teresa Scharnberg	May 31

## Treasures to the Rescue

Students were home and many homes lack books. With the library closed, students were unable to complete their teachers' assignments to read, read, and read some more. Well, Treasures came to their rescue. A large number of children's books were donated from Treasures to the students at North and East Elementary Schools. After students picked up their lunch, they were handed a couple of books, if they needed them. The parents were especially thankful to receive books. Some remarked, "You mean we don't have to keep track of them and send them back to school?"

All of the books that were donated were distributed by the end of March. On April 1, we got another call that more children's books were needed. Luckily, we had more books available to keep children in Iron County reading during the "Stay Safe. Stay Home" conditions.

This is just another example of how diverse our church mission is here in Cedar City. Thank you again for all the useful donations

## Treasures Thrift Store

The Session of CPC made the decision to close Treasures Thrift Store on March 14 and it has remained closed during the pandemic.



But that doesn't mean that nothing's happening! Several of our faithful members have gone in by themselves (being careful to social distance!) and have done some stocking and cleaning and rearranging. You know who you are! And we appreciate your efforts.

Our Treasures management team has met several times to talk about the future of the Thrift Store once we are able to safely open. We will be saying good bye to our manager Jeri Coulston this summer when her Cedar City home sells. Jeri's departure will open the way for new leadership at Treasures, and there will be many opportunities for more volunteers to step up to serve. Consider what your role might be in the ministry of Treasures!

It is our privilege to be able to share the funds generated from the Treasures proceeds with several of our local organizations who provide for those in need in our community. Under the guidance of the mission committee, we sent checks in early March to Iron County Care and Share, Utah Foster Care, Canyon Creek Crisis Center, Children's Justice Center and Family Support Center. All were very thankful for these donations and we received kind personal notes from several. Thank you for shopping at Treasures so that we can support these community organizations.

## February 25 Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper



## Upcoming Sermons

- May 3** "In the Storm...with Jesus"  
Luke 8:22-25
- May 10** "Waiting...with Jesus"  
Isaiah 40:28-31
- May 17** "Watching...for Jesus"  
Psalm 121
- May 24** "Trusting...in Jesus"  
Psalm 125
- May 31** "Filled...with the Spirit"  
Acts 2:1-13



### Please remember in prayer:

**Give thanks** for nurses and doctors and all health professionals: for their tireless care on behalf of others.

**Give thanks** for all frontline workers that are keeping food on our tables: for grocery workers, truck drivers, food stockers and delivery workers.

Pray for safety and protection for our medical professionals. Pray for energy and stamina.

Pray for the families of these who are putting themselves in danger to help others.

Pray for our government leaders; that they would lead with wisdom. We pray for their decisions that affect all people.

Pray for the nations of the world dealing with the pandemic. Pray especially for poor countries who don't have the resources that we have here in the United States.

Pray for those who are out of work, or whose businesses have closed.

Pray for those who are struggling to feed their families and are anxious about how far their money will stretch.

Pray for our church family as we are apart from each other. Pray for patience and stamina to continue to stay safe.

## Nothing Can Separate Us

"I'm convinced that nothing can separate us from God's love in Christ Jesus." Romans 8:38

God of all creation, we know you have not separated from us, but it's difficult to sense your presence in the midst of our distress. While we continue to trust in you, we are afraid. We know that your love never ends, but that is why we wrestle with questions of why this pandemic is present.

We mourn the death of thousands of unknown along with the loss of friends and family. We pray for the brave health care workers who risk their lives to save strangers, and for those families who must wait at a distance to mourn those who have been brought home to you. We pray for those whose employment has unexpectedly ended, and whose futures are unclear. They are frightened and disoriented and need to find hope in your presence and your promise. We trust Paul's words, but the separation from friends and family is causing pain.

In this time of division and disease, we still find reasons to be thankful. We are grateful for those who have been distant from us whom this crisis has moved us to reconnect. We are thankful for the acts of bravery and unselfish giving of resources to help those impacted directly and indirectly by this pandemic. We are blessed by the chance to see acts of care and kindness.

But, Lord, we dare to ask for more. Bring an end to this pandemic and do so in such a way that all the world will know of your love and grace.

We pray in the name of Jesus, the healer of all nations. Amen.

By: Gilbert C. Hanke, General Secretary United Methodist Men

## February Birthdays



## March Birthdays



Community Presbyterian Church  
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Cedar City, UT 84721

Address Service Requested  
Dated Material

We are especially thankful for...



**The Session**

Class of 2021

Dana Covey, Brad Phelps, Linda Stetzenbach

Class of 2022

Rich Bontadelli, Jane McCoy, Jeff McCoy, Jeff Smith

**The Board of Deacons**

Class of 2022

Rita Osborn

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Community Presbyterian Church

**“Reach, Grow, Send”**