



MARPLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Quarterly News

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April - June 2021

Topics

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Welcome to Our First Quarterly Newsletter

Hello dear friends,

I am hoping this finds you all well and if not, I hope it can help to lift your spirits. The deacons have recently decided to try a new way of communicating with our members and friends - [A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER!](#)

We've sent bulletins by mail in the past and we are hopeful a newsletter will provide you with a little more information and context to what is happening at Marple Presbyterian Church. This past year has been such a challenging time for many of us, so we are hopeful staying in touch in another way can help, even as the pandemic begins to recede (*Thank the Good Lord!!*).

As you may have noticed while watching church remotely or reading the weekly bulletin, Marple has been finding ways to fellowship together from a safe distance throughout the winter and spring. We are excited that the summer looks to have even more opportunities as we can begin offering more safe, in-person activities. Keep watching the bulletins for more information.

This is a wonderful time to think about asking friends, family, and neighbors to join us for worship and upcoming fellowship events. Inviting someone to join you for worship and ice cream social, or to help at one of the mission opportunities, or to learn a new craft, could be a great way to catch up after a long year of limited social interaction. Our church is a lovely collection of people with a lot to offer our community so let's remember to extend an invitation to others who may be looking for Christ, fellowship and love.

According to Dr. Thom Rainer, the President and CEO of

LifeWay Christian Resources, "82% of the unchurched are at least somewhat likely to attend church if invited, but only 2 percent of church members invite an unchurched person to church." This statistic is from a 2013 article, but it is still significant because it means that there are still likely many people in our community who may be looking for some much-needed spiritual and emotional connection and healing, especially in the aftermath of the pandemic. The best way to open our doors to those in need of love and community is to welcome them in, so please go ahead and invite someone today.

As more and more of us return to worshipping together at the church, we look forward to seeing you again once you feel comfortable. Please know that we have safety protocols in place such as roped off pews for social distancing and hand sanitizer as your enter.

We hope to see your face again soon in and amongst some new faces too. Have a great summer everyone and thanks for reading our **FIRST** quarterly newsletter!

Peace in Christ,
Lesa Tanner

P.S. The deacons would love for this little newsletter to serve as another way for you to stay connected to us and we are open to hearing any ideas or suggestions of information you might like to see included as the format begins to take shape. If you'd like to offer feedback or even contribute to the newsletter, please let us know! You can reach out to us by email at marplepresdeacons@gmail.com or call Lesa Tanner at 302-853-0174.



Prayers

One of the ways deacons help to care for the congregation is by praying. We pay special attention each week to the Prayers of the People during the service and pray

continually for the church. We also encourage you to reach out to us if you have any additional praises and concerns that we can be lifting up in prayer. Feel free to email marplepresdeacons@gmail.com or even reach out to Pastor Karen and she will pass along your request.

Devotional

As you take time to deepen your relationship with God and continue your spiritual journey, we want to share some thoughtful devotionals that we appreciate and have found encouraging. Below is an excerpt from the Our Daily Bread devotional online.

He Hears Us

Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. Jeremiah 29:12

Scripture & Insight: Jeremiah 29:10-14

United States President Franklin D. Roosevelt often endured long receiving lines at the White House.

As the story is told, he complained that no one paid attention to what was said. So, he decided to experiment at a reception. To everyone who passed down the line and shook his hand, he said, "I murdered my grandmother this morning." The guests responded with phrases like, "Marvelous! Keep up the good work. God bless you, Sir." It wasn't until the end of the line, greeting the ambassador from Bolivia, that his words were actually heard. Nonplussed, the ambassador whispered, "I'm sure she had it coming."

Do you ever wonder if people are really listening? Or worse, do you fear that God isn't listening? We can tell if people are listening based on their responses or eye contact. But how do we know if God is listening? Should we rely on feelings? Or see if God answers our prayers?

After seventy years of exile in Babylon, God promised to bring His people back to Jerusalem and secure their future (*Jeremiah 29:10-11*). When they called upon Him, He heard them (v. 12). They knew that God heard their prayers because He promised to listen. And the same is true for us (*1 John 5:14*). We don't need to rely on feelings or wait for a sign to know that God listens to us. He's promised to listen, and He always keeps His promises (*2 Corinthians 1:20*).

By: Con Campbell

Fellowship Activities and Events

COMMUNION SUNDAYS ALL SUMMER

Ice Cream Social 11:30am

July 8: Fellowship Event

Trip to Rose Tree Park to see Rose Tree Pops perform with guest soloist Susan Greene. Concert begins at 7:30; meeting at the church at 6:30

July 11: Adult "Youth Group"

Courtyard 4-6pm

July 25: Youth Group & Family Picnic

Courtyard 1-4pm

August 8: Adult "Youth Group"

Courtyard 4-6pm

August 16: Mission Opportunity

Cooking for the Homeless – Kitchen 3:30pm

August 16-20: VBS - Knights of North Castle

6:30-8:30pm (preregistration is required).

Here's a QR code to register:



September 26:

Adult "Youth Group"

Courtyard 4-6pm

**There may be additional activities coming to the calendar this summer so stay tuned for more. Also, we anticipate more activities to be announced in the fall like Adult Bible Study, Paint Nights, Yoga, Potlucks, and Crafting Tutorials.*

