



THE BUCKHORN BUGLE

SUMMER EDITION
JUNE – AUGUST 2020

BUCKHORN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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COVID -19 ADVISORY

The church, manse and grounds are closed due to the Covid-19 pandemic at least through the end of August. All worship services and events onsite are cancelled. We witness to the love of Christ mostly through technological means during this time. See below for details of worship, fellowship and mission opportunities in the next few months, as we stay home to stay safe during these difficult times.

FROM THE PASTOR

God is doing something new, yet consistent with the character of God throughout all time. God is in the midst of the chaos, and anger, grief, fear – all human responses to life. **And God will bring a new yet consistent reality from the chaos.** God is in control, despite all other appearances.

We have handled hard times before, saints of Buckhorn. Whether younger or older, we have gotten through challenges. We have stayed home when we wanted to go out – just think back to many a Colorado winter severe snow and wind storm. We have found our routines altered, not of our choosing (think chronic illness, divorce, family stress, job insecurity, etc.).

We have survived, and learned new ways. It just hasn't – since polio – been something the whole world was dealing with at one time.

How can I be so confident of that, when the whole world is dealing with a novel virus, individual pains and illnesses and problems, and yet another reason to look at our systemic

racial bias, all at one time? How can I say with conviction that I do believe God did NOT send the coronavirus as punishment for any person or country or age or life situation, and further that the virus is NOT simply a political ploy (although some may indeed attempt to use it as such)? **Because I believe that God is, and God is love, both in character and in action.**

The Bible is full of stories about the people of God facing trouble at the hands of one another – based on skin color, based on perceived worth or ability to add to the political or religious coffers, based on reasons that are not at all clear in what is recorded of the events. The Psalms in particular are full of times when God's people were mistreated by others, and felt they had been abandoned by the God they still loved.

And God came through, again and again, often in ways that were surprising. I believe God is going to surprise us again, and that it will be good. I don't know when and I don't know how, and I am not at all sure it will be in a way that takes us back to the ways we were comfortable.

God is creating, renewing, saving, caring, supporting, encouraging, comforting, grieving with us and for us. It will be what God works through humans – from around the world – to bring about.

So I am prepared to be surprised by God! And I am working on being "OK" with God's timing for that revelation. I'm not one who is crazy about waiting, normally, but for now – resting in God's timing and looking for God's next new thing – I am mostly OK.

We've all had days when it seems like everything has changed, and nothing will ever be again the way it was. That makes many of us more than a little grumpy. Days when whatever the state of the clouds in the sky, or the latest tightening or loosening of the rules of being together face to face, the state of our soul is content. **We get surprised by grace, overwhelmed by mercy, stand knee deep in gratitude that we are alive now.**

Even as people who have been developing a relationship with Jesus Christ, folks who know that God was, and is, and ever shall be. **We are wired to be together, and we miss it.** We long for it, even as we know it is not wise, or kind, or safe. **Yet.**

Please reach out to check on one another – perhaps even someone you don't yet know well. **Reach out just to say hello, to give them the opportunity for a conversation.** Ask questions about how they are managing, what is bringing them comfort, what they look forward to doing in a new or old way. Spend time together, by phone or e-mail or social media, or at a distance outside. Maybe do a "quarantine blessing" for someone, dropping off a pie or a simple note. Be the hands and feet and voice of Christ for someone else. The odds are, you will discover that they in turn are Christ for you, offering affirmation and support.

Until we can all be together safely – and **at this point, only God knows when that will be – until we can ALL be together safely, please be safe apart.** Be connected in other ways, and reach out for help when you need it. You will be gifting someone else the opportunity to be of service, to add meaning to their life by helping you.

You belong to Jesus. And nothing will ever change that, so rejoice! *Pastor Vickie*

FROM YOUR SESSION

Buckhorn Church is a faith community of people that care deeply for each other.

We would all love to have life as it was, with our hugs and closeness in the sanctuary on Sunday mornings. However, the Elders on Session have a responsibility to keep all of us safe and healthy. Coronavirus is sneaky as well as highly infectious and potentially fatal – it can be transmitted even before people show symptoms. We must do everything we can to prevent transmitting it to our congregation, 2/3^{rds} of whom are over the age of 60.

Indoor services in our 110-year old sanctuary are especially problematic. Space in our entrances, stairways, hallways and restrooms is tight; our pews – even with cushions removed – are hard to sanitize and move for social distancing; air circulation/exchange is minimal; singing would be out of the question. Over time, we can possibly address each of these issues, but not in the next few months.

Outdoor services seem less challenging physically, except for the lack of restrooms. However, given the current social climate, Session cannot take responsibility – indoors or out – for enforcing social distance, face covering use and restricted attendance to protect those who wish to attend. The insurance liability implications alone for both indoor and outdoor worship gatherings are daunting for a small congregation.

Session is working on providing online Sunday worship services for our congregation as soon as possible. In the meantime, there are many online and TV worship services to keep your faith nourished, including those featuring local Presbyterian services and local pastors:

- First Presbyterian Church Fort Collins (Sunday 9am, [firstpresfc.org/worship/live-streaming/](https://www.firstpresfc.org/worship/live-streaming/))
- First Presbyterian Church Berthoud (Sunday 10am, [firstpresberthoud.org/this-weeks-worship-service](https://www.firstpresberthoud.org/this-weeks-worship-service))
- First Presbyterian Church Loveland (Sunday 10am, [facebook.com/FirstonFourth/live_videos/](https://www.facebook.com/FirstonFourth/live_videos/))

NEWS

BUCKHORN WORSHIP IN THE MEANTIME

For now, a short “worship at home” document is being sent out weekly. Some have told us they are using them at home; others call a friend or family member to take turns reading and then talking about the scripture. There are many ways we are giving God glory.

On May 24, BPC had 18 on our first Zoom worship service. We made our way through the worship at home sheet for the day. It was SO GOOD to see and hear from members, and the laughter and sharing, and especially the PRAYING TOGETHER fed our souls.

It is possible to telephone-in to take part in the Zoom fellowship. Although you won't see faces, the sharing and familiar voices still comes through. Chat with Deacon Daphene Nolde (970-667-3756) about her experience – she has taken part in worship and session meetings this way. And, we were blessed to have her organ music as we sang. (We will do it a bit differently in the future, but it was still great!)

We have a Zoom link up for Fellowship on Sundays at our “usual worship time” on Sundays at 10:30am. For the next weeks, we will stick to that way for those who want to drop in/drop out similar to talking with one person and then someone else in fellowship time after worship.

The link and password to our Sunday fellowship Zoom gatherings will be sent out with the weekly worship letter, and you can check with Sue Weber (970-225-1830, sueweber47@gmail.com) or Mike Wilkinson (970-667-8788, mikewilkinson24@gmail.com) for instructions for use by phone. While it is fine for you to share with a friend, to protect everyone we are not posting it on the Facebook or the website at this time.

PC(USA) GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN LATE JUNE

Pastor Kintzel was selected to attend this summer's General Assembly (nation-wide gathering for worship, prayer, and decision

- On DirecTV: Pensacola Christian Campus Church with Rev. Dr. Jeff Redlin, former pastor at Front Range Baptist Church in Fort Collins (Sunday 10am Ch 378; 6pm Ch 369)

It is important for everyone to understand that the PC(USA) *Book of Order* charges the Session with all decisions related to the church. Your Session has worked via Zoom for many hours to follow the advice of Presbytery and best practice recommendations for church gatherings.

Your Session unanimously agrees that even though our congregation is small, gathering in a group – indoors or out – is a risk we should not take until medical research shows that it would be safe with the realistic precautions we could take.

Be assured that your Session is continually monitoring the evolving guidelines and new research findings; we will schedule in-person worship as soon as it is safe to do so in our facilities. Any comments or questions you have about these decisions should be directed to an Elder currently serving on Session, or to Pastor Vickie.

BUCKHORN CHURCH SESSION, 2020

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NEXT SESSION MEETING: Sunday July 12, 2pm.

making) in Baltimore MD. The coronavirus situation meant that PC(USA), like other denominations with similar plans, will meet via Zoom, and PC-BIZ.

There would normally be a stack of papers to print and read in preparation for the committee work to be done while the group was gathered. There will be no committee work doing it this way – anything that could be postponed, is being postponed. But there are still several dozen overtures to be read, researched, and prayed over before the meeting. It will consume much of the month of June to get ready for the conference.

Afterward, such actions as may impact us directly will be shared here first! How other churches get a report is yet another aspect of shared life that will be revised in the situation. Formerly, one of the three commissioners (teaching elder, ruling elder, and youth) would attempt to visit each of the churches in the Presbytery following their experience.

You are invited to pray for Pastor Kintzel and all commissioners, as well as those in leadership and those providing technical assistance so we can actually BE the church gathered while separated by miles. God is working out a new thing, and it is an exciting time to be a Presbyterian!

LIFE PLANNING

We had talked earlier – “BV” as some are calling it, for “before virus” – about hosting conversations about the decisions that face each of us at the end of our lifetime. Those plans were put on hold, obviously.

Enclosed with this newsletter are forms for the Colorado MOST form – Medical Orders for Scope of Treatment. This is a standard form that tells your health providers what you want if you get extremely ill.

It's important to speak with your family members about your choices for the MOST form. Also, call and check with your doctor's office regarding the procedure for getting your physician's signature on the form.

In the current situation, we are giving you the forms so you can think about it, if you have not and are ready to do so. It can also be found online at: <https://www.civhc.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/MOST-Form-2018.pdf>

From experience, we know that having such information both talked about and recorded, has been of incredible help and support to families when faced with making decisions for someone they love. **You are not in any way required to do this, nor is it offered as legal advice.** Rather, it is offered as a tool that **you may choose to use as a gift to your family, BEFORE** they need to know.

MISSION ACTIVITIES

The Covid-19 pandemic has caused many of our Larimer County neighbors economic as well as medical and emotional stress. Buckhorn Church has reached out in these ways over the past two months:

- Donations of \$1,000 each to the Larimer County Food Bank to support food distribution throughout the county; the House of Neighborly Service to support a wide range of social services in Loveland; and Kids Pak in Loveland to support food distribution to children in the Big Thompson School District.
- Purchased and distributed a meal for all three shifts of the medical staff at McKee Hospital in Loveland. This was a win-win for the hospital and our congregation, since the meals came from the Silver Mine Sub Shop, owned by our own dear Stephanie Hancock.
- A group of 9-13-year-olds from Buckhorn Church participated in a Zoom meeting in mid-April with two members of the staff at the Brookdale Mariana Butte Assisted Living Community. The kids heard how grandparents were being protected from the coronavirus. They also created “thank you” cards that were delivered to the staff after the event. [See last page for

Celebrations & Birthdays!]

CELEBRATIONS!

We have three graduating seniors, of whom we couldn't be more proud!

- **Landon Jacquinot** graduated Magna Cum Laude from the University of Colorado with a double major in Mathematics and Political Science. His folks, Chuck and Chris Jacquinot, organized a vehicle parade around their neighborhood instead of a traditional graduation party. Landon is off to law school in the fall.
- **Dalton and Braden Johnson** are sons of Laura and Bryan and grandsons of Sylvia

and Chuck Clausen. **Dalton** graduated from the University of Nebraska at Lincoln with a BS in Agronomy. He is currently managing test plots in the panhandle of Nebraska and in eastern Colorado for the Winfield United seed company. **Braden** graduated from Bayard High School in Nebraska, and will attend the Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture to study Diversified Agriculture. He plans to go on after 2 years there to a certified welding school.



Chuck, Landon and Chris Jacquinot



Dalton Johnson

Braden Johnson

BUCKHORN SUMMER BIRTHDAYS*

JUNE

2 Brett Gann
6 Sandy Morgenstern
8 Kody Mullet
9 Andrew Mullet
11 Pete McAninch
12 Ali Hancock
Clayton McCall
13 Sarah Pflieger
17 Patsy New
20 Judy Benson
23 Sylvia Clausen
26 Austin Hancock
27 Gene Benson
28 Dalton Johnson
Avery Pflieger

JULY

5 Dee Richardson
7 Jeff Bassler
Chuck Clausen
8 Rene Perry
9 Helen Hay
Kim Oglesby
11 Lynette Johnson
16 Craig Keeton
20 Jodi Morse
21 Lita Lindsey
29 Michael Montana
30 Ashley Mulch

AUGUST

1 Stephanie Hancock
3 Madeleine Kroiss
4 Carmen Hawkins
6 Emma Bassler
Justin Mogus (Nolde)
11 Braden Johnson
18 Cody Mogus (Nolde)
Fern Wolaver
23 Beth Gann
31 Bob Lindsey

SEPTEMBER

2 Timothy Meehan
6 Lehman Hay
8 Heather Crackel
16 Earl Benson
Jamie Montana
17 Laura Johnson
20 Bruce Hawkins
24 Morgan Appelmann
28 Ashley McCall
30 Ashley Nielson

*If we missed anyone or got anything wrong, please let us know!



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SUMMER 2020 NEWSLETTER



THE LITTLE STONE CHURCH ON THE HILL
WITH THE BIGGEST HEART IN THE ROCKIES