



# News in a Nutshell

Week of April 22, 2020 Check our website for current [Prayer Concerns](#)

## ALL programs, meetings, music rehearsals, and worship services have been suspended through April 30.

On-campus support groups (AA, Al-anon, etc.) have suspended their meetings indefinitely.

**See additional information below for virtual meetings!**

*Though public gatherings have changed, WE are still the church, regardless of our locations.*

**Live Stream Worship is available through our website: [www.oapc.net](http://www.oapc.net), at 11 a.m. Sundays.**

Archived messages are available [here](#).

Our website will be updated regularly regarding resources, community needs, and schedule changes.

You may also call 803-327-2006 for worship and office information.

### **OAPC OFFICE CLOSED -- the OAPC office is officially closed until further notice.**

- **Lisa Whisenant**, our Business Administrator, will come into the office as she feels safe, from 9 a.m. – 12 noon, Monday to Friday, to check the mail, answer telephones and voicemails, and interact with OAPC's various contractors and vendors. Items may be picked up or delivered to the Welcome Center during this time.
- **Frank Price**, Interim Facility Maintenance Technician, will continue to come into the building as he feels safe, to check on the utilities, maintenance, and security of the building.
- **Jeff Bryan, Landon Dillard, Jane Summey-Mullennix, and Ed West**, will continue their work remotely. We've found, that in the unpredictable time of coronavirus, we are connecting with church members, improvising, and working (even though virtually) more than previously.
- **Part-time Staff** are working remotely as needed.

### **Missions and Congregational Life:**

- This global pandemic shows us how interconnected we all are. It also gives us a tiny glimpse of what life is like on a constant basis for so many of God's children on our planet—fear of getting sick with no medicine that cures, wondering where and when to get food, lack of employment, and feeling isolated from the rest of the world. Our gifts to **One Great Hour of Sharing** have never been more desperately needed. **To learn more, enjoy this [video](#)**. Please donate to this annual offering, if you haven't already. You may mail a check to the church, give at [www.oapc.net](http://www.oapc.net), or text OAPC to 73256. Thank you for your generous hearts!
- Thanks to your generosity, OAPC is providing over **200 meals per week** for our neighbors at Pathways Community Center, Mondays-Wednesdays.
- We also are supporting Project HOPE by providing **face masks, pasta, rice, cereal, soap, and Lysol wipes**. Please drop off donations in the Welcome Center.
- Thank you to all of you who are making **face masks for our Mission Partners** and the people they serve. Fabric is available in the Welcome Center, and we are still waiting for elastic to arrive. Drop off completed face masks in the Welcome Center. Thank you!
- A note of **gratitude from Project HOPE**: "Project HOPE is using every mask made with loving care by OAPC members. On just one day, we served 33 families, with a total of 118 members. **Please keep the masks coming.**"
- In addition to making face masks for our Mission Partners, our sewists (artists who sew) are offering to make **face masks for OAPC disciples**. As our state reopens, face masks are even more imperative for protection. If you, or someone you know, could use a face mask (even homebound disciples may have to have a worker, etc., come into their home), please contact Barb Penny. Leave a message or text on her telephone (803-322-5702) or email her at [bpenny@comporium.net](mailto:bpenny@comporium.net).

- **If you used to sew**, would you please check and see if you have any elastic or bias tape that you don't need? If so, please contact Barb Penny as indicated above.
- Deacons continue to reach out to their **DeaconCare groups**, checking in on folks and assessing needs. We have also created a **Telephone Tree** to touch base with people who are older, live alone, or are more vulnerable during this pandemic. Ten OAPC disciples are calling other OAPC disciples, offering a friendly voice, sometimes a prayer, and various kinds of assistance from the congregation. **If you know of someone** who would enjoy a regular telephone call (weekly, or more often, if desired), please email [Care@oapc.us](mailto:Care@oapc.us), and we will add them to our list. (*Note corrected email address*).
- In this time of isolation and self-quarantine, we want to know if you have a need! More than 40 OAPC disciples responded to the call to serve. Using careful health precautions, we have folks willing and ready to **deliver groceries, take meals, run errands, help with yard work, do small household chores and/or repairs, and even set up computers for watching worship and communicating**. If you or someone you know could use a helping hand, please email [Care@oapc.us](mailto:Care@oapc.us). (*Note corrected email address*).
- **NAMI Free Support Groups** are now online: Click [here](#) to access registration information through their website. You may also keep up with NAMI's [Facebook](#) page to be reminded of meeting ID's and telephone numbers (these do not change from week to week). Groups offered include:
  - **Connection Support Groups**—every Thursday at 6:30 p.m. (for adults diagnosed with a mental illness);
  - **Family Support Group**—Every Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. (for families/friends and caregivers for an adult over 22 with a mental health condition);
  - **Parent/Caregivers Support Group**—Third Monday of every month at 6:30 p.m. (for family members and caregivers of children and adolescents who are experiencing emotional or behavioral challenges or who are diagnosed with a mental illness).
- NAMI National is offering an “Ask the Expert” webinar on Thurs. April 23, at 4 p.m. This call will address “**Supporting the Emotional Needs of Children and Youth During the COVID-19 Pandemic.**” To register, click [here](#).
- If you are looking for ways to worship during this time when we cannot gather as a body, read this [article](#) on sacred time and family worship.
- **PC(USA) Resources for Congregations and Members**. Along with our brothers and sisters all around the world, we're coming to terms with the “new normal” brought about by the coronavirus pandemic. It is our hope and goal to equip churches and worshipers with useful information and resources during these trying times. Click [here](#). **NEW RESOURCES ARE IN RED**. If you have ideas or resources that might be of interest to the wider church, we invite you to email them to us at [connected@pcusa.com](mailto:connected@pcusa.com).
- If you are going stir crazy and looking for a **safe place to walk**, Winthrop University campus is almost completely free of people.
- **Just Coffee**: You may continue to purchase coffee in the Welcome Center, Mon.– Fri., 9 a.m.-noon; payment envelopes are available in the coffee basket – please leave your payment in the Registration drawer, just inside the office door under the mailboxes.
- Every Disciple Has A Call: This would be a great time to fill out your EDHAC form [online](#), or you may print a form [here](#), complete it and mail to the office.

#### Christian Education:

- Preschool and Elementary parents- you should be receiving weekly emails from Landon with resources and Bible lessons. If you are not getting them and would like to, please let Landon know- [ldillard@gmail.com](mailto:ldillard@gmail.com).
- Youth Group is still meeting (virtually)! Youth parents, if you have not been getting Landon's emails and would like to, please let her know.

- UKirk (College Ministry) is still meeting (virtually) on Monday nights. If you need the Zoom link, let Landon know.
- What's to come in this week's sermon -- The Road to Emmaus: Just as Jesus isn't recognized by two weary disciples on the Road to Emmaus, we are not always aware that he is present with us. What are some ways that you know that Jesus is always with you? In this season of being unable to gather in person for worship, many of us are becoming weary. But we can be comforted that God is always with us. Scripture is full of this reminder:
  - "For the Lord your God is with you wherever you go." Joshua 1:9
  - "So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand." Isaiah 41:10
  - "And behold, I (Jesus) am with you always, to the end of the age." Matthew 28:20
  - "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid." John 14:27
  - "For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord." Romans 8:38-39
- Earth Day is TODAY! -- William P. Brown, William Marcellus McPheeter Professor of Old Testament at Columbia Theological Seminary, has these words to share with us...
  - "In the beginning," according to Genesis, God created a creating creation. Far from being inert, the "earth" and the "waters" are creative agents enlisted by God in the formation of life: "Let the earth put forth vegetation" (1:11); "Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures" (v. 20); "Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind" (v. 24). In God's eyes, they are partners in creation. In our eyes, they are domains of extraction. There's something of a disconnect here.
  - On this 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Earth Day, we have unwittingly entered what may prove to be Earth Year 2020, a year of hindsight and hope. Thanks to COVID-19, the air is cleaner, skies are bluer, forests are preserved, and wildlife is less threatened . . . for the time being. This virus will be around for at least a year before a vaccine is found. In the meantime, sheltering in place is offering a defining, if fleeting, moment of liberation for creation, freed from the relentless practices of fossil-fuel extraction and consumptive lifestyles.
  - The 50<sup>th</sup> year, biblically speaking, is a Jubilee year, the time when the land is allowed a "sabbath of complete rest" (Lev 25:4, 11). Right now creation is resting. Breathe it, taste it, savor it, and don't forget it. "Let the earth be" may very well be God's new command, not just this year but for many, many years to come.
- Bible Study offering from Brennan Breed, Columbia Theological Seminary, and Chris Holmes, First Presbyterian Church of Atlanta -- teaming up with guest professors including Beverly Gaventa from Baylor University, Eric Barreto from Princeton Theological Seminary, Shively Smith from Boston University, and Janette Ok from Azusa Pacific Seminary -- to offer an in-depth, spontaneous and unrehearsed free five-week study of Paul's letter to the Philippians ([Office Hours: An Online Pop-up Bible Study](#)). All are welcome to this conversation livestreamed to Facebook every **Sundays, from April 19 to May 17, 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. EST**. To join this study, please join the Facebook group, "Office Hours Bible Study" here: <https://bit.ly/CTSoofficehours>. If you are not on Facebook, you can still enjoy the videos on their [youtube channel](#). Videos will be posted after the Facebook livestreams. Sign up for free additional materials at <https://www.ctsnet.edu/connect/alumni/>. OAPC's worship will follow by [livestream at 11 a.m.](#)

*We totally understand that the coronavirus pandemic has had an impact on people's finances. If you are unable to give to the church right now as you normally would, that is totally understandable. At the same time, without in-person Sunday services, the church's finances can be challenging. **So if you can give, please do.***

*Your faithful financial support allows us to immediately minister to others in the midst of this crisis.  
You may give remotely without passing an offering plate.*

**Fast, Simple Online/Mobile Giving to OAPC:** You may make donations or payments through our website: [www.oapc.net](http://www.oapc.net) ([Donate](#)) or through the Church Life app (Give) on your smart phone. Using either location, please indicate the purpose of your funds, (pledge, Conference or VBS registration, One Great Hour of Sharing, Mother's Day offering, etc.) in the comment portion.

**Text Message Giving is Fast and Easy:** Text OAPC to 73256; click the link you receive, then complete the amount, purpose and account information. We appreciate your support of the many ministries through OAPC

**Snail Mail or Online Bill Pay:** You may also mail a check to 421 Oakland Ave., Rock Hill, SC 29730, or contact your bank to make arrangements through Online Bill Pay.