**Ewing-Covenant Presbyterian Church**

**Pastor Log 6/17/20**

*Goodness is stronger than evil; love is stronger than hate….*

These days, walks on the canal near my house are a bit more crowded than in past months. This is due to the summer weather, but also attributable to a collective sense that our work of “flattening the curve” has had the desired effect. Yet the pandemic is still here! Unfortunately, there are those who cannot seem to estimate the span of 6 feet of distance; they come too close, sometimes even brushing my shoulder. And so wearing a mask remains not only necessary for me, but it is the Christian thing to do. What I am really doing is loving my neighbors as I love myself: God forbid that I am a asymptomatic carrier of Covid19, I would not want to share it. I also am one of the “vulnerable ones” and stand in solidarity with others who are vulnerable to the virus. I appreciate that Pastor Paul has been wearing his mask at the opening of our Sunday morning worship services. The Gospel we proclaim reveals strength in weakness. We know God’s peace when we acknowledge our vulnerability and accept our humanness.

The experience of being human is often painful and yet transcendent. So has followed my life’s work, beginning with seeking to resolve labor disputes, and later answering the call to ministry in hospital and hospice chaplaincy. Now as a transitional pastor with Pastor Paul, I am seeing the beauty which has emerged from the difficult work of blending together two churches into one. In all my work, I have been a keen student of human suffering and human dignity, human discord and yes, human hatred. Through it all, I remain a believer in redemption, finding over and over again that God always invites us into a new future, just about to be revealed to us.

It seems that God’s invitation in this moment for this country and around the world is “change”. Many, hearing this invitation, have responded by demonstrating for justice, and for the end of police brutality towards Black people. Many, hearing this invitation, have for years already been working to change the societal structures—both subtle and blatant-- which perpetuate racism and violence. As for me, now confined to my home, I have been listening and reading, watching the news, and choosing programs which speak to the African American experience now and in times past. I am seeking to change…. I know that change must start first with me, personally. I am confronting the reality of my white privilege, and exposing my own impulses of racism. I am becoming “woke” and it is painful. Are any of you undergoing a similar experience?

There are ways to share our stories of change as the church. Our own PCUSA denomination is embracing this sacred invitation to change, providing resources and ways to become involved in discussion groups and other efforts. And I am committed to fostering honest discussion in safe spaces, and encourage any of you to reach out to me if you need conversation, and seek listening. And of course, there is always prayer.

God’s peace,

Pastor Ann

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**For your calendars**

The Session of the Covenant Presbyterian Church of Trenton has called for a meeting of the corporation and congregation at 11:00 AM on Sunday, June 28th, for the purpose of taking all actions needed to dissolve the corporation, and to take all actions necessary to form the Ewing-Covenant Presbyterian Church, including the transfer of the congregation to the Ewing-Covenant Presbyterian Church.

The Session of the Ewing Presbyterian Church has called for a meeting of the corporation and congregation for 11:00 AM Sunday, June 28th, for the purpose of changing the name of the corporation from the Ewing Presbyterian Church, also known as the First Presbyterian Church of Ewing, to the corporation of the Ewing-Covenant Presbyterian Church; and to take all actions necessary to form the Ewing-Covenant Presbyterian Church, including the transfer the membership of the congregation to the Ewing-Covenant Presbyterian Church.

Please remember that June 19th is Juneteenth, or Emancipation Day.  It is the celebration of the end of slavery in the United States.  We encourage you to explore the meaning of the day, and perhaps to wonder if the history of slavery in this country continues to enslave all of us today.