Cross & Crown Weekly News 7-19-20

SUNDAY'S WORSHIP

Pastor Brook will be posting a recorded service on Sunday at 8:15 a.m. It will be posted on Facebook, YouTube, and on our website www.crossandcrown.org/sermon. In addition a link will be emailed at 9 a.m.

We want YOU to help with online worship!

The Worship Team is looking for folks who can help film, assemble, and edit online worship each week. Familiarity with simple video editing software (Movavi, Hitfilm, iMovie, etc) is helpful, as well as Powerpoint. Maybe you're a student who needs service hours for school, or maybe you're an adult who likes to play around with computers and video. Let us know if you're willing to help! Contact Pastor Brook if interested. Thanks!

Holy Communion Returns!

Our first two mornings of Holy Communion 'open-air style' went beautifully! Thanks to the nearly 50 people who signed up for this first time outdoor Communion. Christ was present in the bread and wine, in the Word and in Confession and Forgiveness. And those who received Communion left filled with God's promises and strength. There are a few spaces left for this Sunday 5-7 p.m. (in half-hour slots) Sign up for a time. Or watch your email for another set of Holy Communion opportunities in a couple of weeks. We are blessed to offer this gift!

Pastor Ginn and Pastor Brook

Dear Church Book Study Update

The virtual Zoom book study of Dear Church had its first session on July 15. The discussion among 25 participants was facilitated by Felicia Eybl and included some time in break out rooms for smaller group discussion. We exchanged some interesting and inspiring thoughts and ideas.

Additional participants are welcome to join the next session - Wednesday July 22nd at 7:00 pm. This session, focusing on chapters 2 & 3 will be led by Tom Dorsey. Books are still available from Robert & Judy Hughes.

To join the Zoom meeting go to https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7083664106?pwd=OWNlbjlBNHJSbnlGQlBNQlNmRnpPZz09Meeting ID: 708 366 4106Password: Books

Join the Racial Justice Network of the NC Synod and walk with others in our synod who are learning to be anti-racist. Online courses and regular emails with ideas for stretching and growing in this journey will keep us energized. **The first class in the network is Tuesday, July 21st, with Dr. Shanitria Cuthbertson leading.** The course will be live every Tuesday for 6 weeks, from **noon to 1:15 p.m.** And then posted for viewing when you are able. You'll remember Dr. Cuthbertson works with Emmaus Church in West Charlotte, a ministry to which Cross & Crown has given financial support. She preached for us a couple of years ago as well. To join the network, see the NC Synod FB page or website (www.nclutheran.org). You must join the network to be part of the courses. Your $25 participant fee will be matched by our synod, and 50% of the funds collected will be reinvested into our worshiping communities of color to strengthen their witness. If you'd like to join but need help with the cost, speak to one of the pastors.

Through faithful giving among our members, a few unexpected gifts, and a PPP loan that will assist us with payroll and utility obligations, we are able to maintain financial stability in this time of uncertainty. Being thankful for our many blessings, Council unanimously voted to approve the allocation of monies to the Community Care Committee. The committee has distributed financial donations totaling $3275 to the following organizations: COS Kids, Turning Point, Bright Blessings & Common Heart.

COVID-19 UPDATE

Our Covid-19/Regathering Task Force continues to closely monitor the current conditions in terms of the coronavirus and is actively developing strategies for us to safely gather in person as a congregation. Our Council voted to follow the Synod Guidelines and refrain from gathering in person (indoor and outdoor) until NC officially moves into Phase III. Once we are officially in Phase III, the Task Force is recommending to Council an outdoor service, including Holy Communion, to take place 1 week after the official date of Phase III. This will be voted on at the next council meeting, which is currently scheduled for July 23. We are working on specific guidelines for this gathering, which will be formalized once we receive specifics from the Governor. These are undoubtedly strange times, and the current spike in cases is only complicating our decisions. But as Christians, we commit to protecting the entire body of Christ, so we will be as cautious and diligent as possible so that all are kept safe and healthy. Stay tuned for details!

Porch Time with Pastor Brook

Porch Time with Pastor Brook has a new time slot!
Wanna chat? Zoom on in!
Join him on Mondays at 5 p.m. for another chat!
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89063013419?pwd=ZXVrY2dEUGFjTHBpeXF5UzVhRU13dz09

Table Talk with PG

Pull up a chair for Wednesday evening conversation with PG and others around the virtual table. Bring a plate or a beverage if you want. Show up to talk or just to listen.

Table Talk topic for Wednesday, July 22nd, 5:30 p.m.: Has it been harder in these Covid-19 days to find something fun to do? How have you managed to be present with friends and family? What activities have given you joy? How have you been helped by or helped someone during this time? Let's chat about how we've found 'community' during these months of isolation.

Send PG an email or text to sign up, or just show up on Zoom, using this link: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82677455853

A NOTE FROM OUR MUSIC DIRECTOR

Greetings! I am grateful to be among you at Cross and Crown as Director of Music.

Your warm welcome during this time of social distancing is appreciated. I am enjoying getting to know each of you as time and opportunity allow. The Pastors, members of the church council, church staff, choir and parishioners have made the transition easy for me. It is hard to believe that a month has already passed.

Among my first impressions is the enthusiasm that you have expressed for the music ministry, as an integral part of the worship life of Cross and Crown. I hope to encourage people as they participate in the music ministry. As we have prepared for online services, people have generously shared their gifts.

I look forward to getting to know all of the people in the music ministry, and to call upon their talents placed at the service of God and others. I look forward to exploring together the richness of musical traditions within the church's liturgy.

As online worship continues this summer, may our musical offerings allow us to grow in a prayerful dialogue with our gracious God.

Peace,
Larry Stratemeyer

VIRTUAL VBS THIS WEEK!

Calling all Superheroes at Cross and Crown!

Everyday Superheroes Virtual Vacation Bible School is underway! Every Wednesday a link to a video interview with a local hero will be posted on social media, along with a weekly craft that you can do with your family, a weekly Bible verse, and a weekly challenge! Please share pictures with your family making crafts or doing the challenges.

This week's theme is: "Be A Caregiver." The interview will be with Heidi Rhyne, a nurse at Union County Hospice.

A New link will be sent out each Wednesday morning.