

# Eastminster Eagle

Volume 37, Issue 8

August, 2020



## *Reviews are in! Drive-Thru Communion a Hit!*

Both those who passed through and those who served gave a thumbs-up for the Drive-Thru Communion on July 12. In this time of Covid-19, it was a safe way to connect with EPC members and

several new visitors through greetings, prayers, communion, a reminder of our baptisms and a blessing from Pastor Sherry.

A team of elders and congregation members served participants on Sunday, July 12 between 1 – 2 p.m. The line was steady, giving everyone time to share (at a distance), receive the elements (pre-packaged wafer and juice), and give encouragement (with a masked smile and a wave) to one another.

How many attended? Pastor Sherry counted 38 members and 10 visitors. That's a fine turn-out! Visitors learned of the event via A-Frame street-side signs placed on both Samuell and Gallion streets.

Responses from the visitors were overwhelmingly positive: "This is just what I have been missing!" "Thank you for feeding me!" "I work as a counselor at Baylor Hospital. My soul needed this!" "Will you do this again? I'll be back!"

We've also received responses from folks you'll recognize:

*"The Communion Service was beautiful and the Drive thru Communion was special! Thank you for all you do for your Church Family! We love you and God bless you."*—Shirley and Harry Karlen

*"Hey! just wanted to let you know how great the drive through communion was. I love the idea, and I hope y'all do a lot more. This morning a coworker who goes to FUMC-The Woodlands told me his church of 5000 members has been trying to figure out a way to do communion, so I shared our method and where y'all got the communion cups. He loved it too, and I wouldn't be surprised if they ended up doing that, too!"*—Laura Bennett



*"Sunday's communion was so nice! A good way to safely connect with our church family. I was glad to see a good turn-out. Others have told me they appreciated it, too."*—Stella Post





*I spy with my little eye...*



*Dirty work! Somebody's got to do it!*

*Learning from Papa Lew*



## *A DIFFERENT KIND OF CAMPING EXPERIENCE*

We are grateful for the efforts of Gilmont, Ferncliff, and many of our Christian educators in Grace Presbytery for the opportunity for elementary-age kids to still experience summer camp! At Eastminster, we distributed “Camp in a Box” packages to Vivienne and Ian Kelleher, Evie Knox, Michael and Victoria Veloz, Hannah Hensley, AbbyGayle Flores, and Caydence and Caylee Hernandez. The activities were screen-free and encouraged enjoying nature. They explored, played, sang, memorized, and experimented!

In their weeklong experience, campers discovered that God is always doing a new thing through scripture and a curriculum entitled, Deep Roots, New Leaves. While God offers stability and safety, like a tree’s deep roots, God is also working for good in each new moment, like a tree sprouting new leaves.

Thank you, parents and grandparents, for the time you spent helping and instilling a greater love of the Lord and a “camper’s heart” in these precious, growing little leaves we call God’s children!



*Bubbles*



*Being “crafty”*

*Camp in a Box cuties*



*Precision-crafted by the Master*

All around us, miracles happen and God empowers life, thanks to exacting conditions. We know of caterpillars and butterflies, but did you know about these details shared by Gayle Boss in *Wild Hope* (Paraclete)?

“For about a month each female [monarch butterfly] plants four hundred or so eggs. ... Ninety-nine in a hundred ... perish. But on the third day, from the one remaining, a caterpillar the size of a rice grain breaks.

“She devours the egg casing, then the milkweed leaves beneath her feet. In those leaves is a steroid that makes her body brightly striped — and toxic to her predators. Ravenous, she eats milkweed unceasingly for twelve days, bulging her skin to splitting. Five skins later, two thousand times her birthweight, she stops. ...

“Crawling to a suitable twig or ledge, she hangs head down, shaping herself into a question mark. One last time her skin falls away. This new one is not a soft, stripy, caterpillar skin but a polished, jade-green shell studded with a gold tiara.

“Because she is enclosed and still, changes that had already begun within her wormlike body erupt outward. Wings! Long, delicate legs! After twelve days in the chrysalis she is a new creature.” Praise God!

# Puzzle!

After looking up each Bible passage, find and circle the location in the word search. (If a verse lists more than one place, figure out which one is hidden.) Answers can be found horizontally, vertically and diagonally.

Genesis 2:15	S	I	D	O	N	G	N	I	L	E	S	O
Genesis 11:9	J	J	O	R	D	A	N	R	I	V	E	R
Genesis 35:1	E	S	G	A	A	R	C	A	N	A	A	M
Exodus 13:18	R	A	E	T	B	D	C	D	B	E	O	O
Ruth 1:1	U	M	T	H	B	E	T	H	E	L	F	U
1 Kings 18:19	S	A	H	E	T	N	E	A	T	N	G	N
1 Chronicles 11:4	A	R	S	N	Y	O	M	N	H	I	A	T
Isaiah 23:1	L	I	E	S	R	F	M	T	L	E	N	L
Isaiah 23:2	E	A	M	D	E	E	A	I	E	E	I	A
Isaiah 23:3	M	F	A	R	S	D	U	O	H	V	E	L
Jonah 1:2	G	H	N	O	A	E	S	C	E	E	E	M
Matthew 3:6	I	J	E	M	B	N	A	H	M	H	E	E
Matthew 4:18	T	O	W	E	R	O	F	B	A	B	E	L
Matthew 26:36												
Luke 24:13												
John 2:1												
Acts 8:5												
Acts 11:22												
Acts 17:16												
Romans 1:15												



Last month I wrote about *Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me* and I said it would probably be at the top

of our Congregation's list of favorite hymns/songs. Most likely the hymn that would be number 1 would be *Amazing Grace* (GTG 649). It is listed in more 1200 hymnals. Compare that to *Silent Night* (GTG 122) 536 hymnals and *Holy, Holy, Holy* (GTG 1) 1400 hymnals. Some people have trouble in the first verse singing "such a wretch as me" and some hymnal editors/committees have changed to "soul" and some other choices. I am glad our GTG committee left it original.

It was written by John Newton about whom there has been a lot of misstatement concerning when he wrote the hymn. A quick look at his life is necessary. As a late teen he was pressed into the Royal Navy Service, he wrote poems making fun of the Captain as well as "off color ones" all of which got him in trouble and he deserted but was returned and finally released. He became a sailor on slave ships working his way to Captain. On one of these trips his ship encountered a large storm. Newton and a sailor tied themselves to the ship's pumps and kept pumping for hours and asking for God to save them. They and the ship survived, and Newton began his salvation journey, but continued his profession for another 4-5 years. Finally leaving it and studying theology, he became an abolitionist, and ordained as an Anglican Priest. On January 1, 1773 Newton's text for his sermon was based on 1 Chronicles 17:16-17 where King David is thanking God for his kindness in spite of David's sins. Newton wrote the

hymn (the text not the music) to go with his sermon. Yet as he writes at the bottom of the sermon "I preached this Forenoon from 1 Chron. 17.16.17. Hope I was enabled to speak with some liberty but found my own heart sadly unaffected." Harold Hawn in his article writes, "Might it be that, upon reflection, the captain of ships that transported countless enslaved Africans to a life of servitude and misery was still wrestling with the miracle of "amazing grace"? It is as Hawn points out tempting, to find connections between Newton's dramatic life story and his most famous hymn. Carl Daw, Jr. in the "Glory to God A Companion (to our GTG hymnal) counsels us: "Although modern readers and singers are more likely to look at this hymn for points of connection with Newton's own eventful history as a former sailor and slave trader turned Anglican priest and abolitionist, the author himself probably thought of what he had written as an outline of the typical journey from utter despair (1.2, "a wretch like me") to confident faith (3.4, "grace will lead me home"). That assumption of speaking to a general human condition accounts, at least partly, for the widespread use of this hymn...(Daw, 617).

The hymn, like many others, has been sung to many different tunes in England and the United States. It appears to have been published to a version of the current tune here in America in 1829 and later in the version most known presently worldwide arranged by Edwin O Excell in 1900. *Amazing Grace* was popularized

*Continued on Page 5*

Notes, Continued on Page 4

in the South during spiritual revivals in late 1700s-early 1800s and even more so with the Columbia tune in late 1800s-1900s. It was very popular with African American slaves. In Harriet Beecher Stowe's immensely influential 1852 anti-slavery novel *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, three verses were emblematically sung by Tom in his hour of deepest crisis. Our 5th verse is sung by him and comes from a 50-70 versed hymn *Jerusalem My Happy Home* (1790) Verse 5 was officially added to the hymn by Edwin Excell and published in 1910. Newton wrote verses 1-4.

Yes, it was written by a man who transported slaves for a living and found God's grace through Jesus.

I hope/pray that "cancel culture" doesn't take the time to study Newton's background and wish to tear it out of the hymnals, but that they and all will see the power of God's message for redemption from Jesus to all of us, regardless of our ethnicity or station in life. Newton's life shows us regardless of our continual falling short of God's desire for us as his people, we (all) are forgiven through God's Amazing Grace!

## REASONS TO CELEBRATE!

What do you get when you add:  $24 + 10 + 25 + 22 + 39 + 11$ ?

Your Staff at Eastminster Presbyterian Church!

We may not be able to gather and party in 2020, but we can certainly give a shout of thanksgiving to the staff via email, text, phone, Facebook, mail or any other creative way you wish!

For 24 years, Betty has been tending to and building relationships with our little ones. We believe she has helped raise a great bunch of young adults! Thank you, Betty!

It's been 10 years since Chandra joined the staff, and she has worked hard to keep us all informed, prepared and excited about the ministries at Eastminster! Chandra, thank you!

With great joy, for 25 years, all who gather in the sanctuary or fellowship hall have been blessed by music as Melody makes holy the gift she shares. Thank you, Melody!

For 22 years, the smiling face, the caring hands, and the hard work of Minerva have helped bring joy and life to all who meet her. For the way your work is more than a job—it is ministry—thank you, Minerva!

39 going on 40! There has been no wandering in the wilderness for Fred. He has dedicated himself fully to the ministries of music and teaching and so much more. We are blessed to have you call Eastminster home, Fred. Thank you!

And believe it or not, July starts my 11th year with the good folk at Eastminster! You have taught me much about being a pastor and I pray that together we have all taught one another how to be the best God has created us to be! Thank you, my Eastminster family and friends!

With love and laughter, grace and gratitude,

Pastor Sherry

## WELCOME ALL TO SYNOD YOUTH WORKSHOP 2020 FINDING YOU

This July is the 63rd anniversary of Synod Youth Workshop, the senior high conference that gathers youth and adults from across four states...Oklahoma, Arkansas, Louisiana and Texas this year. Thanks be to God, to 38 staff members and 146 youth and adult sponsors, this year SYW 2020 went virtual! Youth and adults are rejoicing, energizing, playing, hearing scripture, discussing the lessons of scripture, praying and serving...all via Zoom. This year, you are invited to be a “mini part” of the conference as we share the link to the SYW Facebook page.

<https://www.facebook.com/Synod-Youth-Workshop-389400864972/>

A big thank you to Eastminster leaders who played an important role making this year reality: Gary Holloman, Sherry Holloman, Jordan and Katie Holloman, Kayla Kreger Dixon, Daniel Pappas and Tammy and Dennis Crouse. And extra thanks to Drew Travis, pastor of FPC, Granbury and keynote speaker, and the youth planning team. The scripture and theme this year, chosen by the youth, was: Psalm 139 and Finding You. Below is a synopsis of each days keynote. By the time you see the videos, the conference will have ended, but like the participants throughout all the many years, the experience stays with some for a lifetime. Enjoy your time at SYW!

**Day 1: We're All in the Same Boat:** Reminder of God's creative imagination in each of us

**Day 2: I Am Not Alone:** There is no where we can go where the Spirit is not already present

**Day 3: I Was Called by Name:** Called by God through baptism

**Day 4: It's Going to be Okay:** In the changing world around us, God is our hope

**Day 5: FRIDAY NIGHT COMMUNION AND WORSHIP:** How Psalm 139 weaves our lives and God's presence within us together

## Patient Attention, Valuable Discoveries

For many people, the coronavirus pandemic has been a test of patience — or worse. Medically vulnerable people face an anxious time of hypervigilance. Furloughed workers wait on hold or in lines for assistance. Special events have been canceled or rescheduled.

Those not impacted directly deal with assorted frustrations and inconveniences. Many people are learning the benefit of slowing down, being present (even virtually) to others and practicing patient attention.

Interestingly, scientist Isaac Newton did some of his best work when the plague forced Cambridge University to close. At home, the inquisitive student invented calculus and developed groundbreaking theories of gravity and optics. Later Newton called 1666 his *annus mirabilis* (“year of wonders”) and reportedly said, “If I have made any valuable discoveries, it [owes] more to patient attention than to any other talent.”

What have you discovered during the Covid-19 crisis? What appreciations have you developed for aspects of life you may have previously taken for granted? What has social distancing taught you about the value of neighbors, church, community volunteering?

During the pandemic, what have you learned about persistence and God's presence? What empathy do you now feel for writers of words such as “I wait for the LORD, my whole being waits, and in his word I put my hope” (Psalm 130:5, NIV)?

## *A lachrymatory lesson*



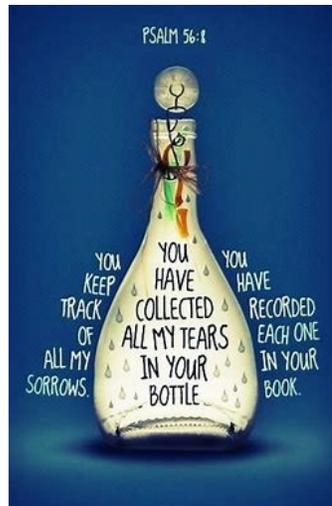
To calm his crying children, Charles Ferrell used to say, “Wait until I get a jar! I want to catch and save your tears.”

While he pretended to search for a vessel, his kids usually quieted down.

Tear jars were actually common in biblical times. Called lachrymatories, they’re still sold in Old Jerusalem. Bible

characters had a variety of uses for these jars.

The woman who cried at Jesus’ feet may have felt such sorrow about her wayward lifestyle that she brought a jar of her tears and added to them. In Psalm 23:5 (KJV), the cup that “runneth over” may have referred to a lachrymatory filled with tears of joy due to God’s goodness.



## *The rhythm of rest*

Does God indeed need to rest? Of course not! But did God choose to rest? Yes. Why? Because God subjected creation to a rhythm of rest and work that he revealed by observing the rhythm himself, as a precedent for everyone else. In this way, he showed us a key to order in our private worlds.

—Gordon McDonald

## *Usher duty*

It’s human nature to sometimes slip into judgmentalism and arrogance: “I’d never do what she did!” we think or say. Or “People who [fill in the blank] shouldn’t call themselves Christians. They don’t belong in the church.” Jesus clearly said, “Judge not, that you be not judged” (Matthew 7:1, ESV) and, memorably, made his point with the image of a speck in someone else’s eye and a log in one’s own.

In *Love Does* (Thomas Nelson), Bob Goff reflects further on what Jesus’ response would be when we put ourselves in positions of authority over others: “[Jesus] said people who followed him should think of themselves more like ushers rather than the bouncers, and it would be God who decides who gets in. We’re the ones who simply show people to their seats that someone else paid for.”

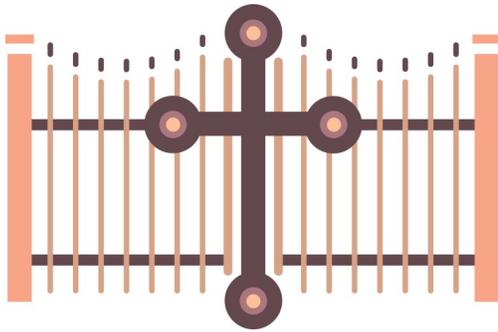
## **Pleasant Grove Food Pantry Report: June 2020**

1,051 Families  
5,198 Individuals  
63,522 pounds  
distributed



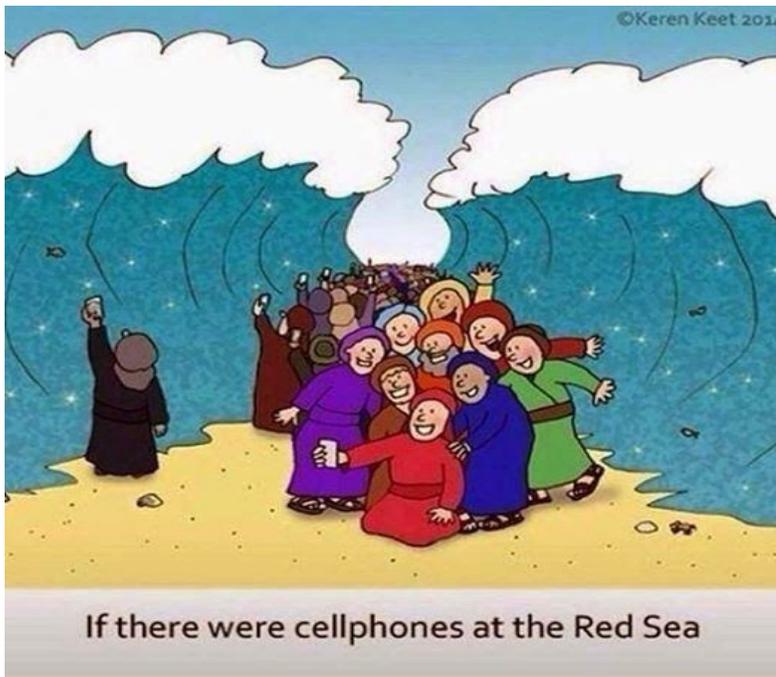
Please continue saving plastic bags for the pantry.

In John of Patmos' vision, what is special about the 12 gates of the New Jerusalem?



- A. They are made of gold and always closed.
- B. They are made of amethyst and onyx.
- C. They are closed by day and open by night.
- D. They are made of pearl and never closed.

Answer: D (See Revelation 21:21, 25.)



If there were cellphones at the Red Sea

## Types of Headaches

**Migraine**



**Hypertension**



**Stress**



**How to Re-Open  
the Church Safely**



## Scripture Readings for August

1	Matt. 28:11–20	11	John 3:22–36	22	John 6:41–51
2	Mark 3:20–30	12	John 4:1–26	23	Mark 6:1–6a
3	John 1:1–18	13	John 4:27–42	24	John 6:52–59
4	John 1:19–28	14	John 4:43–54	25	John 6:60–71
5	John 1:29–42	15	John 5:1–18	26	John 7:1–13
6	John 1:43–51	16	Mark 5:25–34	27	John 7:14–36
7	John 2:1–12	17	John 5:19–29	28	John 7:37–52
8	John 2:13–25	18	John 5:30–47	29	John 8:12–20
9	Mark 4:35–41	19	John 6:1–15	30	Matt. 5:1–12
10	John 3:1–21	20	John 6:16–27	31	John 8:21–32
		21	John 6:27–40		

## *Eastminster's Mailing Address Has Changed*

Please start using  
Eastminster's new  
mailing address:

**P.O. Box 571188  
Dallas, TX 75357**



### *An update from the Nursery Advisory Group*

We've been making progress! The projects that have been in progress or are complete include new LED lighting fixtures, new ceiling tiles and fresh texture and paint on the upper walls. New crown molding is being installed and the vanity in the powder room is being refinished with a new vanity top, sink and faucet all to be installed. Soon we will begin installing tile in the powder room both on the floor and on the walls. An order is being placed for two new windows that will be more energy efficient and secure. Wood blinds have been purchased and will be installed once the new windows have been installed.

These are only a part of what's going on. New furnishings such as cribs, changing tables and storage units are being sourced now. Toys, rugs and activities for babies and toddlers are being looked at so that we have the best for our babies. We hope and pray that all we do in the nursery will be pleasing to God and His will is being done. Amen.

## *House & Property News*

Have you ever noticed the windows on the east wing of the building? Well, it might be time to replace those windows. On July 20th, the session approved the purchase and installation of new windows for the east wing. The Nursery Advisory Group wanted to replace the two windows in the nursery and with the insurance settlement we received from the flood we experienced. There was plenty of money to use for those two windows. The House and Property committee members chose to ask the session to approve the additional ten windows on the east facing side and the suggestion was made by one of the session members to include the two west-facing windows as well. So, the session approved the purchase of 12 windows, all to be paid for out of the capital maintenance fund. Those funds have been accumulating over the years for this type of improvement to the property.

In about 6-8 weeks the windows will be delivered and installed. Hopefully we will be able to see the new windows at about the time we are able to return to worship in person. God's house is a very, very fine house. And thanks be to God for His generosity.



## *A modern-day parable*

In Luke 15, Jesus tells three parables about the precious being lost and, at great lengths, found again. The kingdom of heaven, he says, is like that. But most of us don't shepherd sheep and wouldn't fret over one lost coin. A child, on the other hand ...

In fall 2019, as night fell in northern Minnesota, 6-year-old Ethan and his dog wandered off. Family and police grew frantic because the area consisted of fields, woods and swamps. Authorities requested assistance.

The kingdom of heaven, Jesus might say, is like 600 volunteers searching diligently in the dark for a child they didn't know. It's like Steve Fines who, though also a stranger to the boy, grabbed his company's pricy heat-seeking drone and worked the camera for hours, until it detected Ethan huddling with his dog, safe but cold. Yes, the kingdom of heaven — indeed God — is like people giving their all and refusing to quit until the lost one is found.

## AUGUST Birthdays

Toni Bacon	8 18
Hannah Blair	8 21
Karli Gibbs	8 2
Kale Karlen	8 26
Doris Laporte	8 8
Janet Muller	8 25
Margret Pearce	8 6
Shirlene Watkins	8 1

## AUGUST Anniversaries

Denise & Tony Bennett	8-4
Lana & Jerry Jones	8-12
Kathy & Tim Kreger	8-13
Denise & Oscar Veloz	8-24



## *Learning — and laughing — on the fly*

Faced with the sudden move to livestreamed church services, many pastors and worship leaders had to learn new technology quickly during the pandemic. As they were “winging it,” bloopers and bobbles added levity to the tense time.

For instance, a fake tree fell on a drummer while a worship song was being broadcast from Georgia. After getting too close to a candle, a vicar in England had to pause to extinguish flames from his sweater. And several preachers appeared on screen with cartoon-like features after inadvertently turning on social media filters.

“This wasn’t planned,” wrote the pastor about the falling ficus, which didn’t cause injury but quickly went viral. “But God used it to bring laughter to the hearts of many. For that, we are thankful.”



Did you know that Eastminster sits in a “hard to count” community? The U. S. Census is working hard to have every household counted. First, by every household responding to the requests for everyone to complete the Census. Next, after August 11, workers will knock on doors of those not counted.

If you’re among those not counted, step up and be counted! Your response will help our community! Each Texan counted in the census brings \$2000 in funding to our state each year. Respond today at [2020census.gov](https://2020census.gov).

## Those Who Will Serve in August



### **Eastminster Session**

Janice Bell  
Denise Bennett  
Tony Bennett  
Kayla Dixon  
Ronnie Dixon  
Kathy Kreger  
Paul McLin  
Janet Muller  
Michele Pappas  
Helen Randolph  
Vicki Thiebaud  
Bruce Turner



<b>Pastor</b>	Sherry Holloman
<b>Director of Music</b>	Fred P. Watkins
<b>Organist</b>	Melody S. Davis
<b>Administrative Assistant</b>	Chandra Anderson
<b>Hostess/Housekeeper</b>	Minerva Hernandez
<b>Child Care Provider</b>	Betty Crabtree

## HIGHLIGHTS from the STATED SESSION MEETING

June 28, 2020

- ◆ TREASURER'S REPORT: Motion made and seconded to approve the Treasurer's Report and to include it in the minutes. Prayer of thanksgiving was given for the gifts to the church and the faithfulness of the congregation.

Total Revenues, Year To Date May 2020:	\$147,794.55
Total Expenses, Year To Date May 2020:	\$147,036.21
Total Current Assets, Year To Date May 2020:	\$150,043.59
- ◆ CLERK OF SESSION REPORT: Membership June 28, 2020: 174
- ◆ Report of YouTube Video Viewership for the month of May: Views: 346; Total number of minutes viewed: 5,746 (over 95 hours); Number of subscribers: 2
- ◆ STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS: No Meetings
- ◆ OTHER BUSINESS
- ◆ The new mailing address for Eastminster is: P.O. Box 571188, Dallas, TX 75357.
- ◆ *Re-Entry Task Force Revised Plan Recommendation*: Motion made, seconded and approved to accept the plan presented by the Task Force for Re-entry following any 14-day continuous decline of reported new cases of Covid-19 in Dallas County.
- ◆ *Re-Entry Task Force Product and Equipment Recommendation* : Motion made, seconded and approved to accept the plan presented by the Task Force to purchase products for the purpose of sanitizing the interior of the property with equal funds from four committee budgets: CE, CCC, Outreach and Worship.
- ◆ *Report from Nursery Advisory Group*: New sheetrock, new thermostat, and ceiling have been installed. Flooring and restroom restoration are in progress.
- ◆ *ADA Task Force*: First phase drawings have been received from the architect, with the next phase near completion. With both sets of drawings, supplier/construction bids could be requested sometime in 2020.
- ◆ *Video Equipment Task Force*: An equipment review of cameras, microphones, other necessary items and costs is underway to determine what it will take to continue to provide on-line worship. It has been noted that to live-stream there is the necessity of a dedicated internet line. Research on this aspect will also be conducted by the committee.
- ◆ *Drive-Through Communion and Blessings*: Motion made, seconded and approved to provide a drive-through Communion and Blessings event on Sunday, July 12, 2020, 1-2 p.m. The drive-through will be conducted in the parking lot and driveway facing Gallion Drive and staffed by the pastor, elders and volunteers from the congregation. Communion will be served via pre-packaged wafer and juice packets. In remembrance of our baptisms, water bottles will be given to participants. Hand-outs will cover PCUSA beliefs regarding the open-table communion. Additionally, children's packets will be provided to those cars with children.