

Connecting with God, One Another and the World
First Presbyterian Church of Yorktown

April 2020

DATES TO NOTE:

April 3 & 4
Drive-Thru Palm &
Communion Pick-Up

April 5
Palm Sunday

April 5-10
Holy Week Bible Study

April 9
Maundy Thursday
7:30pm

April 10
Good Friday 7:30pm

April 11
Easter Sunday
6:15am and 10:45am



Tami and I were interviewed by a Presbyterian News Service reporter recently because he saw the picture of our sanctuary and the pictures on the pews of many of you. We'd love to have more pictures. We can't promise that you'll be placed in "your pew," but we'll add you to the room. We love seeing you there. That's what we told the reporter. The church is made up of people, we said, and there is a certain spirit in our church, especially when we are together, that we greatly appreciate and deeply miss right now as we practice physical distancing.

We also told the reporter that the pictures speak about a hope we have. We hope to be together soon. "Don't neglect the gathering," the author of The Book of Hebrews wrote. I'm sure he would have added, "unless there is a coronavirus, and it is healthier and safer to stay home for a time." But, people of faith are meant to gather. We are made for community. Growing in faith is meant to be done together, and can't be fully realized without the experience, the mentoring, the nurturing of other Christian people gathered together.

Even still, Tami and I are grateful for how much you have adapted to ministry online. It is heart-warming to hear how you are sharing our worship services with family and friends whose own churches aren't open or online. We are thankful for a staff who are working to make sure that you stay informed about our ministry and thinking about ways to connect and grow and do ministry. It's fun to see people doing online Bible studies, especially those who thought they couldn't do so. It's a blessing to be able to share our ministry with many in need, be it prayer, food, or phone calls.

All of this tells me that "cancelled" and "closed" are not in our vocabulary. Instead, we have adapted to the situation with online community to maintain and live our core values of love and grace, hope and faith and our commitment to be connected and a community for one another and this world. This adaptation has not come without loss. The situation in our world right now is a constant reminder of that. Jobs. Income. Closeness. Health. Even, life itself. This virus is truly disrupting life and even seems to be defining it.

It is very appropriate that we enter Holy Week in the midst of all of this. We journey with Jesus into his suffering and death, experiences that by all accounts defined and ended his ministry and life. But, the good news is that death wasn't the final word on him, any more than COVID-19 is the final word on us. It is in the midst of suffering and death that God raised Jesus to new life. That good news defines us more than this moment. It shapes who we are and how we live as people of faith. It's why we have gathered before this moment and, by faith, can live through this moment. Our lives are not our own. We, like Jesus, trust in God, even when, especially when we do not know what the future holds or how life will turn out.

That good news is why we are a church today and why we have a ministry during this time of disruption, confusion and fear. We are called to point beyond ourselves to the good news and hope of our faith, Jesus Christ, the one who suffered, died and was raised to new life.

We hope you will join us for the study, *Entering the Passion*, starting Sunday at 6pm and happening each day to aid our journey through

(Continued on page 2)

The Disciple

Holy Week. We also hope you will join us for worship online, Palm Sunday (10:45am), Maundy Thursday (7:30pm), Good Friday (7:30pm), and Easter Sunday (6:15 & 10:45am). We continue to worship, we continue to serve, we continue to be community, not by our own efforts, but because we are called and empowered by God with good news to share.

Sharing Good News Together,
Chip



Worship:
The Heartbeat of Faith

Lent 2020

HOLY WEEK @ FPCY

All services online only

Palm Sunday, April 5
Worship Service @ 10:45 am

Maundy Thursday, April 9
Worship Service @ 7:30 pm

Good Friday, April 10
Worship Service @ 7:30 pm

Easter Sunday, April 12
Sunrise Service @ 6:15 am
Worship Service @ 10:45 am

Staying Connected — While We're Apart

- ⇒ **EMAIL** — Make sure you're getting our weekly emails and daily "Checking Our Pulse" devotionals. Sign up here if you're not on the list: <http://tinyurl.com/FPCYemail>

- ⇒ **SHARING INSPIRATION** — Think about where you turn in trying times for comfort, hope, strength and support. Pick a scripture passage, share a favorite hymn or piece of music, write a brief reflection on why this is meaningful to you, and end with a short prayer. Email submissions for the "Daily Pulse Checks" to tami@fpcyorktown.com

- ⇒ **VIRTUAL MEET-UPS** — See familiar faces yet again via an "FPCY Connects" zoom call with Chip. While there have been many Bible Studies and church meetings happening across zoom, these "FPCY Connects" are casual virtual gatherings where we can say hello, see each others faces and just check in with one another. If you haven't used zoom yet, there are some quick tutorials on the company's website: <https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/206618765-Zoom-Video-Tutorials>



zoom
Video Conferencing

Choose from either date or both:

- Wednesdays at 3:00pm
- Thursdays at 7:00pm

**Join us for
Online Worship**

Live @ 10:45 on Sundays
Watch Any Time

www.FPCYorktown.org



- ⇒ **ONLINE WORSHIP** — Join us online for the worship service at 10:45am. Find the livestream (and services you missed) on our Facebook page (https://www.facebook.com/fpcyorktown/live_videos/).

⇒ Email a photo of you or your family that we can add to the Sanctuary collection of faces that Tami and Chip can see while preaching on Sunday mornings. Live Streaming lets you see them, but they can't see you! Won't you add "yourself" to our Sanctuary? Email photos to lisa@fpcyorktown.org



⇒ **SUNDAY SCHOOL AT HOME** — Each week we will send you a simple lesson and some activities to do together as a family (see page 8 for more ideas).



⇒ **YOUTH GROUP ZOOM MEETINGS** — Join Stephanie and your youth group friends each Wednesday via Zoom.

Middle School Youth - 5 pm

High School Youth - 7 pm

If you're not getting Stephanie's emails, please contact her at Stephanie@fpcyorktown.org

⇒ **CONTINUE YOUR FINANCIAL SUPPORT** — During these trying times filled with so much uncertainty, OUR church is taking creative measures to stay connected and care for its congregants, friends, and neighbors. While we cannot physically pass the plate on Sundays, we can continue our financial support by giving on-line (<https://tinyurl.com/FPCYgive>) or by mailing pledge commitments or offerings directly to the church office. If you need any technology assistance, please contact Chip, Tami or Lisa.

⇒ **SUPPORT THE SILENT SAMARITAN FUND** — This special giving opportunity allows us assist those in need with such things as groceries, a tank of gas or a utility bill. Anyone interested in donating to this fund, can select this option in the dropdown of the online giving page or send a check to the church marked "Silent Samaritan".

Together, let us continue to share God's love and grace.



Deacons & Pantry – How We are Helping Those in Need

Around the world, all eyes are on the spread of COVID-19 coronavirus. The pandemic is challenging families, communities, health care systems, and governments. There is no doubting the severity of the public health crisis we are facing. One of my colleagues sent me the following, which made me realize all the things I took for granted and now yearn for each day. I hope that once things get back to normal, we start appreciating all the beautiful things in life that we once took for granted.

~Debbie Farrell for the Deacons

*When this is over, may we never again take for granted
A handshake with a stranger
Full shelves at the store
Conversations with neighbors
A crowded theatre
Friday night out
The taste of communion
The school rush each morning
Coffee with a friend
The stadium roaring
A boring Tuesday
Life itself.*

*When this ends, may we find we have become more like the people
we wanted to be
we were called to be
we hoped to be
and may we stay that way – better for each other
because of the worst*



**Emergency Blood Drive
in Fellowship Hall
Thursday April 16th, 12-5pm**

The need for blood is constant - patients need our help. With thousands of blood drives cancelled during the COVID-19 pandemic, we've decided to open our Fellowship Hall to the Red Cross for an emergency blood drive. The Red Cross is instituting additional safety protocols including: enhanced disinfecting of equipment, providing hand sanitizer for use before entering and throughout the donation appointment, temperature checks before presenting donors enter the blood drive or donation center, spacing beds, where possible, to follow social distancing practices between donors. Blankets typically used by platelet, Power Red and AB Elite donors will be laundered after each use, which may limit the availability. Donors are encouraged to bring their own blankets, but electric blankets and heating pads are not permitted. More information can be found here: <https://www.redcrossblood.org/donate-blood/dlp/coronavirus--covid-19--and-blood-donation.html> If you are healthy and comfortable coming to the church to donate, please sign up at the above link and enter zip code 10598 into the "find a blood drive" box at the top of the page.



The FPCY Pantry is still helping our neighbors. A huge thank you to the volunteers who came on March 27 to pre-pack 191 bags of food (including the Beaver Ridge/Wynwood Oaks deliveries) and a ton (literally) of produce. Special care was taken while packing to have only two people per room, and face masks and gloves were available for all. And many, many thanks to the volunteers who stood outside on a windy morning on March 28 to help our hungry neighbors.

We are delivering food to our clients with a drive-by model, which worked well. The clients were thankful that we were open and appreciated the hands-off model for them.

Contributions of shelf-stable milk, 1-lb frozen meat, breakfast cereal and canned fruit would be particularly welcome. There is a bin outside the back door of the church school building (by the parking lot) for pantry contributions, should you be so inclined.

Are you (or are you aware of a congregation member) in need of help getting groceries?

Contact Katharine Frase via email: kfrase98@gmail.com

Item-of-the-Month: CEREAL

The majority of the food we offer at our Pantry comes to us from Feeding Westchester. Some items we like to distribute are in short supply. Your contribution of the item-of-the-month can help fill the gap! A donation bin is by the back doors.

DIAPERS NEEDED—with new quantity limits, Pat can't buy enough diapers for the Pantry. If you shop at BJs, would you please consider picking up and donating a box of the BJ's brand diapers (size 4, 5, or 6) to the pantry?

Next Pantry Dates:
April 11 & 25, 9 to 11am

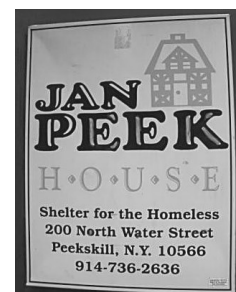
FPCY PANTRY MATCHING GRANT—With the start of the new year, the FPCY Pantry grant matching program begins anew. Throughout the year, every dollar is matched up to at least \$10,000. Please consider supporting our FPCY Pantry, an outreach that provides food to over 200 clients twice a month throughout the year. Gifts can be given via mail, in the collection plate or online. Make sure to mark gifts "FPCY Pantry" when submitting a check or cash.



Noon Time Meal

While we aren't gathering to help prepare a noontime meal for April 8th, we are having it catered much like we do in the slower summer months. Nino's Pizza will deliver grilled chicken, lettuce, and tomato wedges to the Salvation Army in Peekskill where the sandwiches will be handed out in the parking lot. A decision about May will be made when we know more about the state of COVID-19 in our area.

Jan Peek Meal — Thanks to the Wanamaker, Chin and Vald Families for safely preparing and delivering the Jan Peek Meal on March 28th. Special care was taken so that social distancing could be maintained. They were able to call ahead to arrange a time to drop-off the meal at the door and as they returned to their car they could see someone from Jan peek open the door and receive the delivery! We are grateful to continue feeding the hungry at this most challenging time.



**Drive by FPCY and pick up your palms and communion-to-go.
Friday, April 3 from 3-5 pm & Saturday, April 4 from 9 -11 am**



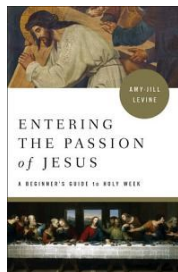
Holy Week: A Little Different This Year

Palm Drive-Through Instructions

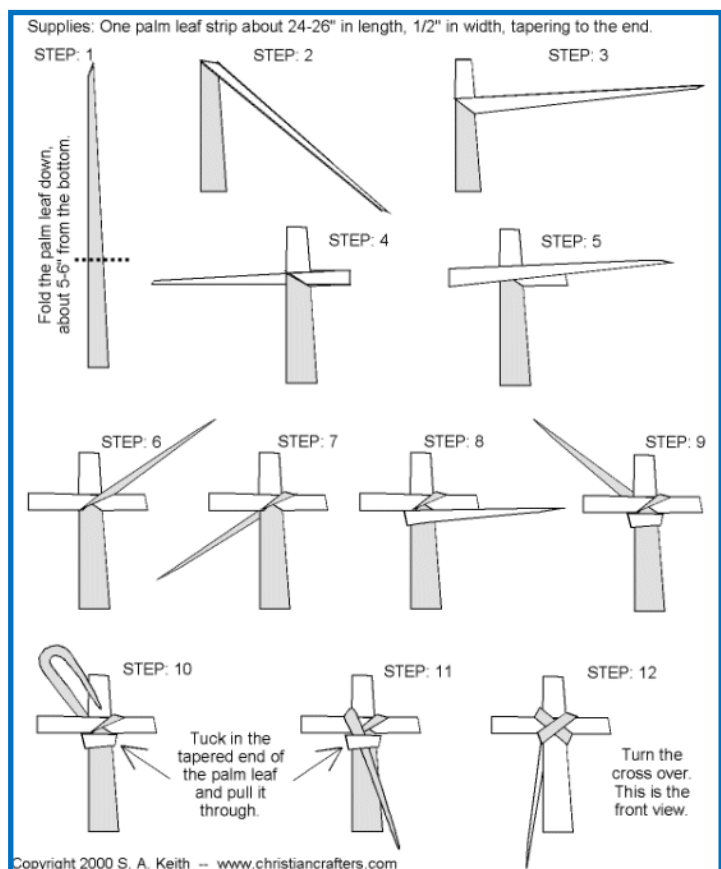
Enter from 202 into the circle drive using the entrance closer to the Sanctuary to pick up palms and communion sets for your family so that we may celebrate Palm Sunday and Communion together during the April 5 online service. If you are unable to come at these times, contact Chip or Tami, or prepare your own palms and bread and grape juice/wine for the service.

Holy Week Daily Bible Study

Join us for a fascinating journey through Holy Week with New Testament professor Amy-Jill Levine. Faith4Life is offering two opportunities for you to read and discuss *Entering the Passion of Jesus* with us - daily at 12:00 noon or 6:00 pm. You can order the book online and start reading. We will send out a sign-up so you can let us know which times work best for you.



**Maundy Thursday
and
Good Friday Services
will be streamed live on
Facebook LIVE
at 7:30pm**



Easter

Sunday Services – Online Only

Live-streaming Worship Services:
Please join us at
www.fpcyorktown.org

Easter Sunrise Service
April 12 @ 6:15am

Easter Service
April 12 @ 10:45am





Daily Check-In with Faith5

Faith5 is a simple daily exercise that encourages families to connect with one another, to read the Bible together and to see God at work in their lives. Faith5 was developed by Faith Inkubators (www.faithink.com) which is dedicated to helping families and church nurture faith across all ages.

They have put together a wonderful family devotional guide called "Pandemic Hope: A Family Devotional for Life During Covid-19" which includes everything you need to try Faith5 with your family. You can do Faith5 around the dinner table, before bedtime, or whenever works for your family. The point is to talk about and practice faith together. Just follow these 5 simple steps:

STEP 1: SHARE your highs and lows.

What was the best part of your day? What did you feel good about?
What was the worst part of your day? What was hard?
Help everyone else just listen without judgment.
The point is for everyone to feel safe and share.

STEP 2: READ a Bible verse or story.

Any scripture passage works.
You can use the passages from Sunday's worship service or the Checking Our Pulse daily devotion, pick a gospel and read your way through it, pick a psalm, or use the guide above.

STEP 3: TALK about how the Bible reading relates to your highs and lows.

What does the Bible passage mean to you? How does it make you feel?
How does this Bible passage connect with what is going on in your lives or our world today?
What do you think God might be teaching us through these words?

STEP 4: PRAY for each other and our world.

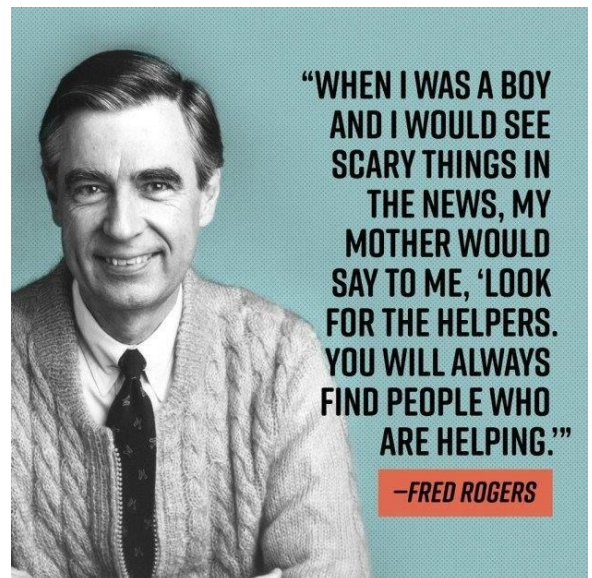
Take some time to thank God for your blessings.
Ask for God's help and guidance.
Pray for specific people or situations.
Remember: there is no right or wrong way to pray.
Create a prayer jar or prayer wall in your house.
Create a prayer walk around your house.
Take turns praying for each other, in silence or aloud.
The possibilities are endless!
Just talk to God together.

STEP 5: BLESS one another.

Offer a simple blessing to each other:
Pass the peace or say "I love you" using sign language.
Trace a cross on each other's forehead.
Say "God loves you and so do I."

We hope you find these resources helpful. In these unsettling times, it's more important than ever to draw on the resources of our faith, to hold firm to our values and priorities as people of faith, to connect our faith to our daily lives, and to teach our children and young people how to do this also.

If you have any questions, please contact Tami, Chip or Stephanie.



"WHEN I WAS A BOY
AND I WOULD SEE
SCARY THINGS IN
THE NEWS, MY
MOTHER WOULD
SAY TO ME, 'LOOK
FOR THE HELPERS.
YOU WILL ALWAYS
FIND PEOPLE WHO
ARE HELPING.'"

—FRED ROGERS

Another project idea: write a note of thanks to one of the helpers. Someone in the medical field, law enforcement, grocery store workers, etc. Those supporting the world around us in this time of crisis. Let them know that you are grateful for the work that they do and that you are keeping them and their families in your prayers.



Garrett Artman

Director of Music Ministry



I love listening to music but listening to it cannot take the place of participating in actually creating music. This past month has my mind circling around in a conversational cul de sac with itself. “What happens now?”, “What happens later?”, and “Are pants crucial to Zoom meetings?”. We’ve lost something crucial to our spiritual health, But our friend Dick Mills shared a musical meditation with me from *The Book of Awakening* by Mark Nepo, and there was a phrase that really stuck with me, and allowed me to meditate on my spiritual health.

“Such a simple secret: by letting things out, we also let things in. So if you’re cut off, in pain, estranged, numb - sing, give voice to anything. It needn’t sound pretty. Simply, bravely, open despite the difficulty, and let what it in out, and what is out in. Sing, and your life will continue”

The communal aspect of making music in the moment is the essence of choral singing, and it’s been taken away for the time being. There’s a moment: our bodies and senses are fully engaged, our ears are saturated with beautiful voices around us, and our hearts are filled with gratitude; It’s as if Heaven stoops to meet us and we are transported to a higher plane - a plane in which too few are fortunate enough to access on earth. These times when all is right with the world and the cares of everyday life are suspended is what I am missing. I’ve had little opportunity to let things in simply by letting out. It is truly a challenging time with many obstacles...I can’t “let out” the way I’m accustomed to.

Greek philosopher Marcus Aurelius writes about how a fire turns everything that is thrown into it into flame. He says that obstacles are actually fuel: “The impediment to action advances action.” He continues, “...what stands in the way becomes the way.” When the chaos of my inner monologue subsided, I found there are challenges to our thinking or to our work that would normally appear as obstacles to progress. These disadvantages force us to adapt and be better prepared against future difficulties. Viewing such challenges as “desirable” is knowing challenges only help to sharpen ideas and bolster the resolve to move ahead. Educators loosely refer to this as “growth mindset”.

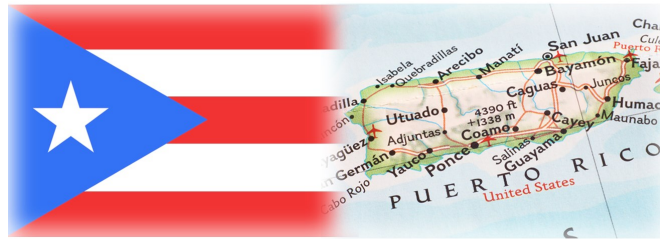
It is a beautiful way to approach the world, and ultimately, the only one suited for a time such as the one we are in now. To avoid difficulty would mean complete retreat, not only from social interaction, but from life. Instead, we can embrace the moment we have and strive to welcome challenge. I now choose to rejoice in the unexpected and work to turn despair into something new by owning it...I’ve never made a virtual choir in my life and never thought I would have to. I’ve never had to teach piano online and never thought I would have to. I have found that tension is my wake-up call to new levels of learning and experience and growth. The Lobster must shed its shell to grow (#Maine).

I long for the day when choirs sing in person again, but in the meantime I hope you all construct something with these obstacles. I hope you become fire.



A word about our summer trips:

In this time of fluidity in our schedules, we continue to live in hope that we will be able to carry out our plans for Transformational Mission and Faith Formation experiences this summer through our trips to Puerto Rico to work with Presbyterian Disaster Assistance in July and to the Montreat Conference Center for the Montreat Youth Conference in August. At this point we would like to ask anyone who had been planning on participating in either of these trips to keep them on their calendar, but also stay tuned as we keep our fingers on pulse on the current conditions of our communities, both here and in our destinations. We are not asking for any additional payments or registration forms to be submitted at this time for either of these trips, but will notify everyone as soon as we are ready to continue collecting information and payments.



**PRESBYTERIAN
DISASTER
ASSISTANCE**
OUT OF CHAOS, HOPE

Puerto Rico – As of a few weeks ago, the leadership of Presbyterian Disaster Assistance has asked that all groups of volunteers suspend their plans for travel through June. We will continue to watch for and follow guidance from both PDA and our mission partners in Puerto Rico over the next few months. As we know, communities in Puerto Rico continue to be in need of assistance with the ongoing recovery from Hurricane Maria which devastated much of the island in September of 2017. Reconstruction and recovery was further complicated by the rapid series of strong earthquakes that hit in January of this year. We want to be a physical presence of love, support, and person-power to be a part of that recovery this summer, but we will proceed with planning for this presence when we are sure that our presence will not be an additional burden on the community.

Montreat – I spoke with our contact at Montreat last week and they wanted to make sure that we know that everyone in New York is being prayed for big time in western North Carolina! As of right now, Montreat is planning on holding their full schedule of programming this summer, including all Youth Conference activities. We understand, however, that plans may need to change based on the most up to date information available for the health and safety of all travelers and participants. Again, we are going to wait on collecting registration fees and forms for the time being, but stay tuned for updates (and feel free to keep practicing energizers!).

Please feel free to reach out to Steph with any questions.



Campaign Project Management Team update for the Congregation

Our Campaign Project Management Team is continuing to meet and plan for the future. Understandably, the various contractors and inspectors are not supporting renovation work while we are all sheltering in place. The next contracted piece of renovation (the refurbishment of Room 7, one of the former preschool rooms, and the completion of the office hallway) is awaiting permits but our application for permits is near the top of the stack when the building department resumes their work.



However, significant progress is still being made! The Operations Commission completed a project in the basement under Rooms 1-2, similar to the work done under the sanctuary to address water and moisture issues. A new electrical service panel has been installed on the west corridor in preparation for the consolidation of food pantry storage and operations to that wing of the building. The Worship Commission was able to complete their selection of new speakers for the Sanctuary, which can be ordered now and installed later. And the kitchen team was able to visit a number of other facilities and create their vision for our kitchen, all before the world changed.

The buildings are closed to meetings and outside groups, but there are small tasks that one or two people can do safely in the interim, for example demolishing the closets in Room 5, ordering shelving for the future pantry storage room, and freshening up Room 1 in anticipation of its use as a new youth room “soon”. We have also moved the replacement of the boilers higher on our list, based on a recent visit by a repairman who alerted us that replacement parts for our model are no longer available. We hope to install the replacement over the summer. Receiving and evaluating bids for that project can be done remotely, and puts us in a good position to hit the ground running when prudent.

It is wonderful to have the financial resources to be able to do these projects and to plan with confidence for our future. If you haven't yet made a commitment, please prayerfully consider participating in this campaign for the present (and future) of our Ministries of Faith. Pledges can be made via myFPCY.org. If you have made a pledge, but haven't yet made a gift, or if you wish to make a one-time gift, you can do so at your convenience here: <http://tinyurl.com/FPCYCapital>

Personnel Update

While Chip and Tami continue to provide leadership during this most difficult time, the rest of our staff continues to work safely from home or at the office as needed.

- ⇒ Jim & John continue looking after/maintaining the building while it is empty, bringing the mail and packages.
- ⇒ Lisa is working from home, monitoring/returning calls, supporting all commissions, coming into the office sporadically for things she can't do from home.
- ⇒ Stephanie is working from home, hosting zoom meetings with confirmation & youth, continuing crucial bookkeeping functions and coordinating with our treasurers.
- ⇒ Garrett is working from home, communicating with the choir, coordinating solo musical offerings and coming on Sundays for the livestreaming of worship.

The Disciple

April 2020

www.FPCYorktown.org

914-245-2186

office@fpcyorktown.org

Office Hours:

Monday-Friday, 9:00-5:00

Co-Pastors

Rev. Chip Low

Rev. Tami Seidel



Facebook.com/fpcyorktown



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Permit No. 20

April

**All meetings and services will be held
online until further notice.**

<div>April</div> <div>All meetings and services will be held online until further notice.</div>			1 10:30 Women's Circle 3:00pm FPCY Connects 5:00pm MS Youth 7:00pm HS Youth Disciple I 7:30pm Disciple FT	2 10:00am F4L Study 7:00pm FPCY Connects 8:00pm Choir	3 3-5pm Palm & Communion Pickup	4 9-11am Palm & Communion Pickup
5 Palm Sunday 9:30am Confirmation, New Members 10:45am Worship 12:00pm Budget & Finance 6pm Holy Week Bible Study	6	7 10:00am F4L Study 7:30pm Session	8 3:00pm FPCY Connects 5:00pm MS Youth 7:00pm HS Youth	9 Maundy Thursday 10:00am F4L Study 7:30pm Worship Service	10 Good Friday 3:00pm Food Pantry Set-Up 7:30pm Worship Service	11 9am Food Pantry
Holy Week Bible Study Daily at Noon or 6:00pm. See page 6.						
12 Easter Sunday 6:15am Sunrise Service 10:45am Worship	13	14 10:00am F4L Study 7:30pm Worship Design	15 9am Stewardship 3:00pm FPCY Connects 5:00pm MS Youth 7:00pm HS Youth Disciple I 7:30pm Disciple FT	16 10:00am F4L Study 7:00pm FPCY Connects 8:00pm Choir	17	18
19 9:30am Confirmation 10:45am Worship 12:00pm Deacons	20	21 10:00am F4L Study 7:30pm Mission & Operations	22 3:00pm FPCY Connects 5:00pm MS Youth 7:00pm HS Youth Disciple I 7:30pm Disciple FT	23 10:00am F4L Study 7:00pm FPCY Connects 8:00pm Choir	24 3:00pm Food Pantry Set-Up	25 9am Food Pantry 6pm Jan Peek Meal Served
26 9:30am Confirmation 10:45am Worship 12:00pm Faith Formation	27	28 10:00am F4L Study 7:30pm Communications	29 3:00pm FPCY Connects 5:00pm MS Youth 7:00pm HS Youth Disciple I 7:30pm Disciple FT	30 10:00am F4L Study 7:00pm FPCY Connects 8:00pm Choir		