

Staying Connected During Isolation

A Note From Our Moderator

Happy spring everyone. This is a brief message from your Moderator about some of the good things that are happening in our congregation during these uncertain times. First, I want to thank Rev. Baines, our staff, and our volunteers for the fantastic work they are doing to keep our ministries going while our building is closed.

Second, the boards of both the Foundation and the Congregation have approved Rev. Baines for a new position as Interim Executive Pastor for the Foundation and the Congregation. This new position will enable Rev. Baines to better facilitate coordination and communication between the Congregation, the Foundation, and our broader community.

Third, you should know that we are a distribution point for the Capital Area Food Bank and our food pantry continues to operate on Wednesdays from 10 am to 1 pm. The number of people coming to the food pantry has not increased, but we are able to serve more and will let you know if there are particular items that are needed.

Fourth, I wanted to let you know that our online services have been well received and have had more views than our in-person attendance recently. The services we have done are still available online and I encourage you to view them if you have not already done so. I also encourage you to continue sending in your tithes and offerings along with my family, which you can do through the mail or through Tithely.

Finally, I wanted to let you know that I am looking at scheduling an online congregational update meeting to allow us to spend some time together and to answer questions that surely have come up in the last few weeks. Please continue with social distancing and follow your state and local guidelines.

Stay safe and healthy everyone.

With Christ's love,
Alan S. Williams

Church Facilities to Stay Closed Until Pentecost Sunday

As you are reading this newsletter, many CDC and local officials believe the DMV region will be entering the height of community spread and infection requiring massive hospitalization. We must do our part as stewards of the community good in partnership with other community organizations and businesses, so we will be closing our Sanctuary and facilities until Sunday, May 31. We are in this together, and together, with God's help and provision, we are God's children even in anticipation of Easter morning!

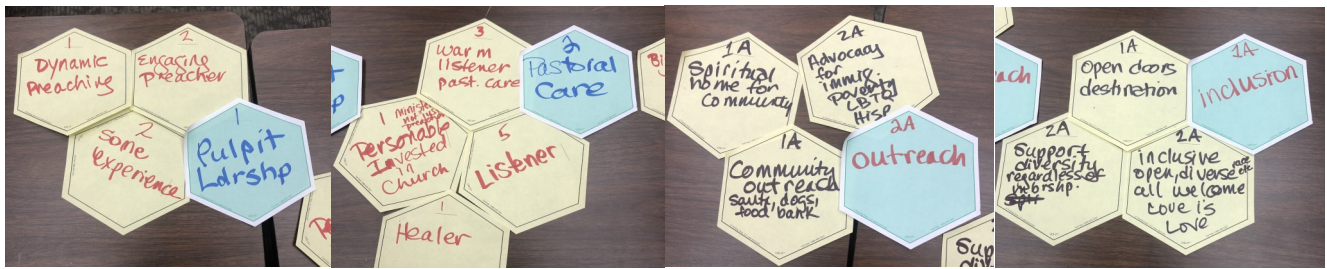
Worship with National City Christian Church! (Spread the word; Share the link; Stay at home)

We might have to restrict our physical movements and practice social distancing, but we can still worship our God. That's right, thanks to modern technology and wonderful worship leaders, National City Christian Church is continuing our worship by streaming the

services each Sunday at 10 a.m. by visiting our church's website at www.nationalcitycc.org or linking directly via **Facebook Live**, and **Friends of National City YouTube**. The services will be recorded and available to view anytime during the week on any of the social media platforms.

With a simple click on your computer, laptop, or smart phone, you can worship with your National City family right at your kitchen table or living room and bring new meaning to the welcoming phrase, "Come as you are!" Yes, until we can meet in person, feel free to join in your most comfortable stay-at-home attire. We will not judge, and more importantly, God will not judge. Worship will last between 45 minutes to an hour, and you are welcome to join in Holy Communion by gathering around a table with bread and juice as together we remember our Lord's death until Christ comes again.

- Steven Baines



Update from the Search Committee

These photos show the work of the Search Committee to set up the parameters of the search for our interim minister. In one of the last in-person church meetings before the coronavirus lockdown, we met and discussed the two key questions: What do we want in an interim minister, and Who are we now as a congregation and what do we aspire to be?

Using a strategic planning tool designed to bring out the ideas from each participant, we came up with short answers to these questions. We then shared our work with the executive committee of the National City Christian Church Foundation – by Zoom in one of the first Zoom church meetings.

Here is what we agreed to use:

We are a diverse congregation committed to include people of many races, backgrounds, political opinions, sexual orientations, gender identities, ages, and family compositions. We seek to grow in our faith, in the number of people participating, and to be

challenged to put our faith into action and engage more fully with our community while providing a spiritual home supportive to members and guests alike, especially children. We are proud to be the national gathering place for our denomination, the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

We are looking for a dynamic preacher to serve as Interim Senior Minister to lead us in our engagement with the broader community by providing strong pulpit leadership, warm pastoral care, and imaginative community outreach while ensuring that the organizational management of National City Christian Church is strong.

Our work is now posted on the Disciples website for pastors looking at job opportunities. So far we have about 6 applicants. We will be reviewing those folks in the coming weeks.

Be safe.

- Jane Campbell, Chair
Search Committee

A Note of Thanks

Thanks for the many cards and calls I received while I was recovering and healing from the broken ribs. Appreciate the many prayers which we received.

- Wes Strotman

Don't Forget Your Tithes and Offerings!

The work of your church continues. You can be sure of this. One of the most inspiring moments of times of crisis like the coronavirus pandemic is to see the resilience of the human spirit - and further multiplied by God's faithful people.

In the last month, our maintenance staff were on the ready to greet the postal service each afternoon to receive our daily mail and packages - including your offering checks! They have cleaned the building and sanitized common areas like the atrium, meeting rooms, kitchens, bathrooms, classrooms, and the Sanctuary.

Your ministerial staff has been on call responding to members' needs, leading worship services and Bible studies, and representing your church within our denomination and in city meetings with the mayor and CDC officials.

Members and guests alike have stepped up volunteering to keep our Food Pantry operating, telephoning our members to simply check-in, bringing

food to our homebound, sending "thinking of you" cards and emails, and gathering for weekly prayer for all on Saturday morning prayer calls. National City Christian Church is truly God's "House of Prayer for All People!"

As God has continued to prove God's faithfulness to all, may we prove our faithfulness to God by continuing our tithes and offerings. All of the above activities and acts of ministry and worship require money, and during crises like this, sometimes lots of money. We are receiving and depositing your checks via postal mail, but we encourage you to simply donate online at tithe.ly.

We are making it as simple as possible for you to remember your church and her vital ministries, We ask that you help us by staying in continual contact via telephone and emails so that the church staff knows of members' needs and concerns. Stay safe, stay healthy and practice good social distancing.

Faithfully with you,
Steven C. Baines

Call-In Prayer Time on Saturdays

If you would like to join our weekly prayer, you are invited to call in on Saturdays at 8 a.m. for community prayer. Call 712-775-7031 and use code 371015. If you have questions regarding the prayer line, contact Loretta Tate.

Music at Midday Goes Virtual

Because of the COVID-19 outbreak, all live performances of Music at Midday have been canceled through the end of May.

In place of our regular Friday recitals, we are now presenting a twice-weekly series of virtual concerts each Tuesday and Friday through the end of May (longer if necessary). You may access these performances by visiting nationalcitycc.org/friday-music-at-mid-day. Notifications for each virtual recital are also being posted on the series Facebook page, "Music at Midday at National City Christian Church."

If you would like to receive an email notification of each concert, please send your name and email address to Rev. J. Michael McMahon at mmcmahon@nationalcitycc.org.

Our first virtual concert on March 24 featured organist **John Nothaft** from Vienna, Virginia, and includes music that he performed at National City Christian Church last year. You may view the complete schedule of upcoming virtual concerts by visiting nationalcitycc.org/friday-music-at-mid-day, then clicking on the schedule of performances for February through June.

We hope that these concerts will bring some light and beauty to this time of darkness and fear.

- J. Michael McMahon

Christian Pathways Class Via Zoom

While National City is closed in compliance with Mayor Browner and the CDC guidelines, we invite you to join us for our usual Christian Pathways Study every Sunday at 9 a.m.

To get info on how to join the Zoom class, contact Rev. Baines, Loretta Tate, or Sara Ann Ketchum.

Easter Special Offering To Be April 5 and April 12

This special offering will be collected on April 5 and April 12, 2020. The Easter Offering goes to the support of the General Ministries of the Church. Some examples of these ministries include the Central Pastoral Office for Hispanic Ministries, Council on Christian Unity, Disciples Women, Division of Overseas Ministries/Global Ministries along with many other Ministries which can be found on the disciples.org website. The website more fully describes each of the General Ministries of the Church.

National City is receiving and depositing your checks via postal mail, but we encourage you to simply donate at tithe.ly, and mark that your offering is for the denomination's DHM Easter offering.

**The News of National City is a monthly publication.
Please submit articles for the May Newsletter by April 15
to Diana Morse at morsediana@comcast.net**

April Birthdays

- 1 Jane Strotman
- 2 Kathy Burger Gerada
- 4 Bill Brown
- 6 Gary Lewis
- 7 Chieko Cook
Charles Hickman
- 8 Kent Woods
- 9 Judy Lotz
- 11 Will Dickerson
- 16 Charles Ndode
- 17 Bill Norton
- 18 Tristan Nowicki
- 21 John D. Arterberry
- 22 Amanda Denison
Jude Williams*
- 23 Darrell Ertzberger
- 27 Harold Magnussen
- 28 Verdia Haywood
Glen Kruse
- 30 Eric Hedlund

May Birthdays

- 2 Wayne Sharp
Marie Temple
Kevin Wilson
- 5 Brody Bacon*
- 8 Charlie Daniel
- 9 Courtney Aklin
Emma King
Kristen Walling
- 11 Kristin Cambell
Tawanna Lloyd
- 12 Steve Jordan
- 13 Jordan Asmon
Justin Hedlund
Joe Reef
- 17 Byron Cotton
James Kelley
- 18 Katie Blaisdell
Sara McCue
- 19 Jane Campbell
- 24 Janet Hopkins
Tom Kelley
- 26 Diana Morse
- 27 Sushila Maru

**Indicates a child or student*
For changes or additions,
contact Kathleen Swihart at
kswihart62@gmail.com