

The News of National City

June 2020 Issue XX Vol. 6

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A Message From Our Moderator

Dear Friends of National City,

I wanted to take a moment and update you on what your Congregational Board and staff currently know regarding reopening our church campus, and when we might be able to once again gather for in-person worship. Mayor Bowser and the CDC have respectively released reopening guidelines for the city and the country. The Congregational Board and I share your eagerness to reopen and gather in-person again; but we also know the responsibility that carries with it, especially our responsibility for the most at-risk individuals in our congregation.

Accordingly, National City will monitor and adhere to Mayor Bowser's orders and guidance carefully and with respect for all the medical personnel, civil servants, and first responders who have sacrificed so much for our communities in recent weeks. In-person worship services of more than 50 people can begin in Phase Three of DC's four-phase reopening plan. If all recent trends continue this week, Mayor Bowser has indicated Phase 1 can begin on Friday, May 29.

While I cannot give you a definitive date for National City's reopening, we know that it may take many weeks, if not months, from the beginning of Phase One. We also know how difficult it is to continue waiting; as I am the father of two restless children, believe me I know this feeling all too well. Thankfully, we are blessed with a talented and dedicated ministerial and administrative team working to keep things running smoothly in the transition.

If you are interested in additional reading on some of the issues congregations are considering when deciding when and how to reopen, Slate.com has a good article on the subject. (<https://slate.com/human-interest/2020/05/how-churches-are-thinking-through-their-reopening-plans.html>)

Please let me or any member of the board know if you have questions or concerns during the weeks ahead. I also call to your attention in this newsletter the exciting report from our chair of the Pastor Search Committee, Jane Campbell.

God continues to work powerfully in these unprecedented times. Stay faithful, safe, and healthy.

In service,
Alan S. Williams, Moderator



Missing getting to honor your favorite grads this season? Mark your calendars now to join in celebrating the accomplishments of our amazing NCCC grads on Pentecost Sunday, May 31st, at 11 am! In worship at 10 am, join in a litany of Spirit Blessings for each one!

Immediately following the service, we invite you to “come into the Zoom room” at 11 a.m. for a festive and casual time to celebrate and share in congratulations and heartfelt wishes for the commencements (despite all challenges this season!) for: Lauren He, Dominic Neal, Erin Stewart, Kathryn Farley, and Katie Campbell-Morrison. Since it will be Pentecost Sunday, everyone is invited to bring some red, orange, or yellow streamers—or anything ELSE red!—that can be shaken in the party to celebrate our graduates, and demonstrate the Spirit blessings we offer for each graduate!!

Contact Sharon at: ssstanley@dhm.disciples.org or 202-957-7826 (text or call) if you want to help host and plan the event, and RSVP at: <https://bit.ly/NCCCGrads> if you still need to receive the dial in info for the party!

All the Best Wishes to Our Graduates



Catherine Campbell-Morrison (also known as Katie) graduated May 18th from Yale Divinity School (YDS) with a Master's of Divinity in a Zoom ceremony. At her time at YDS she wrote a senior thesis about the National Council of Churches of Christ and the Cuban Council of Churches in the 1999-2000 Elian Gonzalez saga. This summer she will be returning to New Haven, Connecticut, to serve as the Director of Programming and Outreach at the Sex Workers and Allies Network (SWAN). SWAN is a grassroots harm reduction organization that works with people working in survival sex work in the New Haven area. SWAN's work is primarily engaged in advocacy, providing programming for people in survival sex work and street-based outreach such as providing harm reduction supplies. Katie is a candidate for ordination in the Capitol Region. Her ordination will occur at a future date depending on the COVID crisis. She is the daughter of Jane Campbell.



Kathryn Farley has completed her Master of International Policy and Practice with a specialization in gender, health, and development from The George Washington University's Elliott School of International Affairs. As part of this degree, Kathryn traveled to Benin, where she led a scoping study to explore the possibility of implementing a project there that seeks to mitigate the effects of climate change on child marriage. Kathryn also holds a BA from the University of Richmond in Leadership Studies with minors in Rhetoric and Communication Studies and Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies.

Kathryn will use her MA in her role as Director of Programs at Solar Sister, an NGO that recruits, trains, and supports female clean energy entrepreneurs in Tanzania and Nigeria. Before joining Solar Sister, she spent eight years at the International Center for Research on Women, where she conducted research on women's reproductive health, HIV and AIDS, stigma and discrimination, child marriage, and women's economic empowerment, with an emphasis on clean energy and entrepreneurship.

Lauren He's graduation is to be held virtually on May 28, where she is to give a speech as Salutatorian. Lauren has gone to BASIS DC, a public charter school, starting there as a fifth grader in 2012. Though it was challenging, she grew to love it. She was recently named as a U.S. Presidential Scholar. She was admitted to Harvard, Yale, Princeton, and MIT. She has chosen to attend Harvard University. She was originally thinking about double majoring in biology and music, but she might decide to choose something else. She's been playing the violin in the DC Youth Orchestra for 12 years, so she loves music and may join Harvard's orchestra. She may also resume ballet practice and try out martial arts. She is the daughter of Polly He.



Dominic Neal graduates from Howard High School in Howard County, Maryland, on June 9th. He has enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserves and will be attending Towson University in January 2021 to major in Criminal Law. He is the son of John and Lolita Neal.

Erin Stewart graduated from Fairmont State University in Fairmont, West Virginia, with an Associates of Science in Nursing. She is scheduled to take the NCLEX (nursing boards) in June. She will be continuing her education at Fairmont State with two more years of study to receive her Bachelors of Science in Nursing. She has accepted a position with WVU Medicine at Ruby Memorial Hospital on the surgical-oncology unit and will be starting in July. Erin is the daughter of Bill and Deborah Stewart.



Report from the Pastoral Search Committee

My friends –

How I long to see you in church and share the moments of fellowship and sisterhood that keep us close, to hear the choir and our amazing soloists, and to see our beautiful sanctuary. For now, we wait and stay safe by staying home.

Even from home your pastoral search committee has been busy evaluating candidates for the Interim Minister. In our weekly meetings, we are becoming quite proficient at Zoom conversations – we know that Sara has a cuckoo clock that will tell us if we are going overtime and we have been able to see dear Grace, Sage, Jude and Agnes who make occasional appearances to remind us that we are building a future for our church.

We had over 20 candidates from all over at various stages of their ministry express interest. I am extremely grateful for the prayerful guidance that our Regional Minister Rev. Allen Harris provided in our initial evaluation.

Based on the written materials submitted, the committee selected a handful of candidates for further review. Subcommittees of 3-4 listened to the sermons online, reviewed the documents publicly available, and in some cases talked with the candidates. The subcommittees reported back to the full group and we selected a smaller group to interview remotely.

We are very close to making a recommendation to the Board and I am confident that we will have a unanimous choice. The call to serve comes from the Board on behalf of the congregation. We anticipate that the interim will serve for 18 months to 2 years. We have excellent candidates. Our selection will be the person we believe is best for such a time as this.

Once we have an interim minister in place we will begin the search for a settled pastor. That process will include more participation by the broader congregation, using some of the tools we learned in the current search.

Thank you for your patience.

- Jane Campbell, Chair
Search Committee

Greetings from Washington State

Miriam and I have arrived safely - driving across the continent - and settled into our new home. This week marks the second month of Miriam's ministry at Northwest United Protestant Church. She has not conducted an "in person" worship service yet, due to the COVID-19 virus. She has become quite proficient, however, with leading online worship services through Facebook and conducting ZOOM Bible study meetings. What strange and awkward times we are living in. All in all, we are doing well in these unusual times and I pray everyone at National City Christian Church is doing fine. We continue to remember each of you and uphold you in our prayers.

Thank you for the generous financial gift. It fills our hearts with gladness to be remembered in such a loving way. For all the words of encouragement and support that we have received, I am so grateful. We miss all of you and look forward to a time when we can join you in worship at National City Christian Church.

May the peace of Christ that passes all understanding be with you!

- Stephen Gentle

Update on the former Campbell Building

Akleius, the new owner of 1401 Massachusetts Avenue, informed Rev. Baines that construction is scheduled to begin on June 15. This is obviously contingent on the D.C. government's orders regarding business closures and social distancing guidelines. The construction will require heavy construction of another story and a half during the summer months and into the fall. Construction is most likely to last a year to 18 months with occupancy expected in early 2022.

Akelius has installed two video cameras on our steeple tower to monitor construction progress and to enhance security. We are hopeful that the increased activity will be a deterrent to those who loiter and misuse our Sanctuary steps and portico. We are meeting on a monthly basis with our new neighbors and will continue to monitor the construction progress and keep the congregation informed.

- Steven Baines

Music at Midday Finishes Its Season With More Virtual Concerts

Great music continues this month in our Music at Midday concert series. Since we're unable to hold live concerts, we will continue to offer twice-weekly online performances to delight, inspire, and uplift you. You can join us each Tuesday and Friday at whatever time you like to enjoy wonderful music in recordings that have been generously provided by outstanding musicians from all over the country and around the world.

If you would like to receive notification of each concert, please send your name and email address to Rev. Dr. Michael McMahon at mmcmahon@nationalcitycc.org. You may also visit www.nationalcitycc.org, where you will find links to our most recent concerts at the bottom of the home page.

Thanks so much!

Christian Pathways Class Via Zoom

We are meeting each Sunday at 9 a.m. During June, the class will be focusing on a book by Erich Law entitled "Fear Not --Living Grace and Truth in a Frightened World." Rev. Law is an Episcopal priest and founder and executive director of the Kaleidoscope Institute, the mission of which is to create diverse and sustainable communities. **To get info on how to join the Zoom class**, contact Rev. Baines or Loretta Tate.

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.

Pentecost Offering on May 31 and June 7

This year's Pentecost Offering will be on May 31 and June 7.

The Pentecost Offering supports Disciples new church development. Planning, nurturing and sustaining new congregation is part of the Disciples' vision. This offering supports the specialized ministry of new church development through both regional and general programs. Gifts for this offering are divided equally between the region in which they're given and the New Church Ministry of Hope Partnership for Missional Transformation.

Food Pantry Needs During Coronavirus

National City Christian Church is continuing our weekly Food Pantry distributions on Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. During this pandemic, we could definitely use donations of bottled water, canned Vienna sausages, canned tuna, cereal boxes, granola/cereal bars, peanut butter crackers, and individually wrapped cookies.

While we are not a clothes ministry, we do solicit donations of large and x-large T-shirts, socks, and x-large sweatpants/sweatshirts. Additionally, the homeless are always in need of soap, shampoo, deodorant, shaving cream and disposable razors, feminine napkins, and washcloths. You may drop off any of these items in the courtyard on Wednesdays during Food Pantry hours. We also urgently need your monetary donations which can be made out to National City Christian Church with Food Pantry on the memo line or designated through our DONATE page at www.nationalcitycc.org.

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

June Birthdays

4	Mike McMahon James Ferguson Barbara Kelley
5	Hedrick Mitchell
8	James Dennison Richard Fogle
9	Sara Ketchum Annice Majette Brenda Thompson
10	Helen Gray
11	Terri Malone Alexis Taylor
13	Evan Zasoski
14	Greshaun Fulgham
15	Jane Baines
16	Stephen Gentle
19	Lauren He
22	Ann Neeriemer Travaughn Lovick
23	Ray Valido
26	Gentry Alexander Kathleen Swihart
29	Ana-Elisa Gentle Gina Ramirez
30	Douglas Cook Elizabeth Ayers

July Birthdays

1	Shirley Kruse Sophia Neal* Arnie Porter Brooke Talbott*
2	Jefferson Beeker Barbara Collins Marian Huish Idia Rodriguez
3	Carla Wilson
5	Challys Gretsinger Kathleen Walker
7	Lauria Carey Natalie Carson Anthony Mague
8	Bill Rowland
10	Andy Ridgeway
11	Paula Engle
12	David Walker
13	Jim Kluckhohn
15	Connie Mausbach
16	Kathleen McCormick
17	Quinn Malone
21	Theresa Beaton Connie Gentle
26	Sarah Hedlund
27	June Chewning
31	Courtney Jones

*Indicates student
For additions or changes, contact Kathleen Swihart at kswhart62@gmail.com