

The News of National City

July 2020 Issue XX Vol. 7

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Hello National City!

Dear National City Family,

I'm so glad to be writing this newsletter greeting to all of you, and pleased to be walking with you during this interim time. Sometimes we can forget that times of transition are often some of the richest growth experiences in the life of a community, and I'm excited to see where God will take us together. Thank you for your warm welcome; though largely virtual, I can already feel the love and warmth of the NCCC family and I look forward to getting to know you all.

I'm slightly embarrassed to confess how happy I was this past weekend to visit the nail salon for a manicure for the first time since February. As you probably know, the state of Maryland allowed for the opening of certain businesses with very strict guidelines, so I made my way to a newly reopened shop in Bethesda.

Let me tell you what the experience was like. First, I couldn't just walk in; I had to call the salon to make a reservation, as they are only allowing five customers in the shop at a time. When I called, the receptionist gave me a long set of directions in advance of my arrival: *"only arrive five minutes before your appointment; do not bring anyone with you; you must wear a mask at all times; you may only enter through the front door, not the back; when you come into the shop, you will immediately be asked to wash your hands; we will take your temperature and you will not be served if you show signs of fever; you'll need to sign a legal form saying you do not knowingly have the virus and releasing the shop from any liability if you happen to get sick; you must stay at least six feet away from other customers; you must not touch anything in the store; and you must follow all verbal instructions of the staff."* It was clear that the receptionist had been rattling off the same set of directions all day long! When I showed up for my appointment, everything that she'd described on the phone happened. I also noted that all the staff were wearing masks and gloves, and there never was an instance when you'd speak to someone face to face--there were plexiglass barriers at every work table and in front of the reception area.

As I sat there getting my nails done (have I mentioned how happy I was?) I started to think about the process of reopening church. As one of my colleagues reminded me recently, the core of the church

experience is human interaction: bringing people together. At church we're accustomed to passing the peace and hugging our friends, sharing a cup of coffee and holding our church babies. Our best experiences of church involve lavish welcome, so what will happen when we have to turn people away because of limits on space? Even more critical, should a community of healing ever knowingly put its members at risk of infection? We'd never want to do that.

Making these complex decisions about when and how to reopen are of primary importance to the National City staff team and lay leaders of the congregation, and we're watching DC's directives for the reopening process, as well as listening carefully to experts advising on activities like communion and congregational singing. It's my thought that proceeding with utmost caution and best practices is the course of action that we should take, but that will require patience and commitment.

It will also require us to learn some new ways of being community together, which you've already been doing. I hope you've been logging on to Facebook or YouTube to join in worship. On ZOOM we're gathering for Sunday School and trying out virtual coffee hour starting June 28. And who knows what other creative expressions of community will emerge? I'd love to hear any ideas you might have as we work on cultivating relationships during this digital time.

In the meantime I am anxious to get to know you! I'd love to talk on the telephone or Facetime with any of you, so please reach out and let me know if you'd like to chat. Here's my new email address: abutler@nationalcitycc.org. I have so enjoyed meeting some of you already, and I have to say that my new colleagues on your staff have been incredibly welcoming and helpful: you've got some good people caring for this beautiful community! I truly believe: even though the church building is closed, the work of the church continues...building community, proclaiming truth, working for justice.

Please know I am so grateful for you and for this community; your voices and witness are so needed in this moment. I'm glad to be with you!

With God's Peace,

Pastor Amy

Sacred Resistance



National City stood in solidarity with the Black Lives Matter movement by providing hospitality to protestors and by joining with other downtown congregations and churches for an hour of prayer, meditation and bell ringing every Friday night in June. We knelt in prayer and rang our hand bells for 8 minutes and 46 seconds in commemoration of George Floyd who was choked by a police officer in Minneapolis for 8 minutes and 46 which resulted in his death.





National City's presence was even a part of the protest signs stuck into the fence in front of the White House,

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

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.

Congratulations

National City's own maintenance assistant, Roy Hatton, greeted his new grandson, Ashton Hendrix Bush on Friday, June 19. Both Ashton and his mother, Brittany are doing well.

July Birthdays

August Birthdays

1 Shirley Kruse	1 Wesley Gentle
Sophia Neal*	2 Grace Swihart*
Arnie Porter	3 Eddie Franklin
Brooke Talbott*	4 Steven Baines
2 Jefferson Beeker	6 Valeria Foster
Barbara Collins	7 Debbie Stewart
Marian Huish	8 Lolita Neal
Idia Rodriguez	9 Esther Tyson
3 Carla Wilson	10 Monte Hillis
5 Challys Gretsinger	13 Sharon Stanley-Rea
Kathleen Walker	14 Kristi Dane
7 Lauria Carey	Warren Brooks
Natalie Carson	Shana Williams
Anthony Mague	17 Kathryn Farley
8 Bill Rowland	18 Roger Webb
10 Andy Ridgeway	19 Dominic Neal
11 Paula Engle	21 Jessica Max
12 David Walker	22 Tamara Webb
13 Jim Kluckhohn	Janice Glover
15 Connie Mausbach	24 Trevor Dane
16 Kathleen McCormick	Cole Murphy
17 Quinn Malone	25 Lisa Arterberry
21 Theresa Beaton	Sage Williams*
Connie Gentle	26 Anne-Michele Maher
26 Sarah Hedlund	Robin Schacht
27 June Chewning	27 Kelsey Goodman
31 Courtney Jones	28 Addison Bolston *
Laura Zasoski	30 Colleen Walsh
	31 Mia Skelly*

*Indicates child or student

For changes or additions, contact Kathleen Swihart at kswihart62@gmail.com

Virtual Coffee Hour

Sundays at 11 a.m. Bring your coffee and enjoy virtual conversation with your National City family! We will send out a link on Fridays. Subscribe to our email list via our website, if you haven't already, to receive the link. You can also email Colleen Walsh at cwalsh@nationalcitycc.org to be subscribed to our email list.

Christian Pathways Class Via Zoom

We are meeting each Sunday at 9 a.m. During July, 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.

Music at Midday: The Beat Goes On

Our spring season of live Music at Midday concerts, like most public activities in our region, was cut short by the COVID-19 pandemic. Our last in-person recital, by German organist Hans Hielscher, took place on Friday, March 13.

As the song goes, however, "You can't stop the beat" (Thank you, *Hairspray!*). In place of our weekly live concerts, Music at Midday has presented twice-weekly virtual concerts since March 24. When our season or virtual concerts concludes on July 3, we will have presented a total of thirty programs by some of the finest organists and other musicians in the United States, Germany, Switzerland, Austria, France, and Spain.

We are deeply grateful to the wonderful musicians who have provided links to their performances that we have in turn shared with the world through our website and Facebook page, "Music at Midday at National City Christian Church." You may view and listen to any of our virtual concerts on our Facebook page, or by going to the concert archives under Schedule of Performances at www.nationalcitycc.org/friday-music-at-mid-day/

Please join us for the final concert of our spring season on **Friday, July 3**, featuring Arlington organist **Carol Feather Martin**. To view and listen to Carol's program, just log in to the NCCC website, www.nationalcitycc.org, any time after 8:00 a.m. and look for the concert post near the bottom of the home page.

The fall season of in-person Music at Midday concerts is scheduled to begin on Friday, September 4, at 12:15 p.m. We are delighted to be welcoming back Baltimore native **Solomon Eichner** for a dazzling performance. Please plan to join us!

Rev. J. Michael McMahon, Artistic Director, Music at Midday