

The News of National City

September 2020 Issue XX Vol. 9

Inside This Issue

Our Extended Church Family	2-4
Upcoming Events	5-6
Congregational News	6-7



September in worship begins with a focus on Labor Day, thinking about how our work and our faith are tied together. We'll hear from several in the NCCC community about how they see their work and their faith intersecting. And Pastor Amy will preach a sermon called, "Jesus, Jobs, and Justice: How is Labor Holy?" The last three Sundays are all about EXODUS, as we study the grand story of God's deliverance of the Hebrew people from the land of Egypt. Please be sure to tune in, post links to the services on your social media accounts, and invite friends to join us virtually for worship!

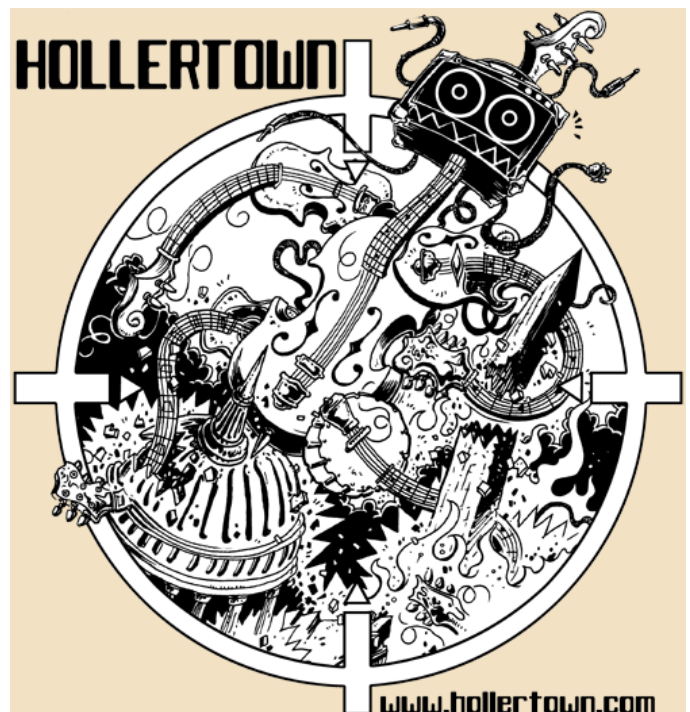
Bluegrass Concert on the Steps - September 26

As you may have heard, early Saturday evening, September 26, the DC bluegrass band **Hollertown** will be on our front steps playing an appropriately socially distanced concert for the congregation and the neighborhood.

Our hope is to invite our neighbors to pull out their lawn chairs, sit on their roof decks, spread blankets on Thomas Circle...in short, find a safe, distanced spot to enjoy an evening of music.

COVID has asked a lot of us, and our following safety protocols is still very important. But we've also missed being together, enjoying live music, and remembering how the church calls us into community.

Mark your calendars now to join us! If you'd like to volunteer that evening (handing out masks, water, marking social distance listening spots, etc.) please contact Colleen Walsh at cwalsh@nationalcitycc.org.



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

Catching Up with “Our” Children

It’s been six months. We miss each other and “our” children. There have been births and birthdays...growth spurts...and outdoor fun.

We called many of our families and have photos to share. Enjoy!



Evan Selde will be 16 months at the beginning of September. His parents Jennifer and Steve Selde report he started walking just after his birthday in May, and now he is RUNNING all over the house.

In addition to sharing their photo of Evan, Jennifer shared the good news of the positive update on Steve’s health. “He recently had a follow-up scan that showed that the chemo treatment last fall was very effective. The tumor is dead, and his body is continuing to eat the dead tissue, with no sign of new growth. Thank you to everyone in the church who prayed for Steve and for the family. Not only is God healing Steve, he also prepared us for the current reality we are now facing, as our social distancing started last fall.”



Grace Swihart’s summer adventures included a trip to Yellowstone. Grace is the daughter of Teresa Swihart and granddaughter of Kathleen Swihart.



Sage and Jude Williams had a packed summer—scavenger hunting, cooking, enjoying the outdoors, tackling a picture puzzle of The Books of the Bible.



Logan & Lucas Sanchez (sons of Chuck and Suzy Sanchez) wearing their silly shirts which say (Logan) Big Brothers Rule and (Lucas) Littler brother’s drool. Logan turned 3 at the beginning of July. Lucas enjoys playing in the pool.



Adam, son of Rick Oettinger and Stephen Jordan, celebrated his second birthday August 14.



Dot Zasoski, daughter of Evan and Laura Zasoski, celebrated her second birthday early in August.



Agnes, daughter of Aixa Diaz and Anthony Mague, was one year old August 19.



Layla, daughter of Ben Moore and Sarah, celebrated her first birthday on August 9.



Angelina Ramirez and her brother learn to tie-dye and enjoy the beach.



Sana Kifafi-Watson's daughters Yesmene and Leyla were joined by Chris, who was four months old when this photo was taken this summer.





Barbara and Tom Kelley's grandchildren Arthur and Loretta Hinman. They are the children of Beth Kelley and Rich Hinman.



Loretta and Eddie Franklin's granddaughter Avery Franklin enjoys being outside and swimming at her home in Texas.



Norm and Shirley Kruse's granddaughters Lauren (left) is 9, and sister Leah is 8. Doug, his wife Maureen, and family recently moved to New York.



Terri Malone and granddaughter Riley Frye. Riley with parents Caitlin (Malone) and Cale Frye. Fox, who was born July 23, is the son of Kelly (Malone) and Levi Davis.



Wes and Jane Strotman have six nearby great-grandchildren. Emily's Savannah was born this summer. She joins Wesley, 7, who this summer made a net to catch butterflies. Amanda's four children – are Vivian, 2, Cameron, 6, Kai, 10, and CJ, 16.

September Birthdays

- 2 Ben Moore
- 4 Noemi Mena
Peggy Washington
- 5 Marcella Hill
- 6 Cyril Jones
- 8 Megan Dirickson
- 10 Sterling Washington
- 11 Katie Campbell-Morrison
- 13 Caitlin Malone Frye
Casey Underwood
Sadye Sanders
- 14 Moe Jackson
- 16 Deloris Ruddock
- 17 Betty Crudup
- 18 Beth Kelley
Marc Reber
- 19 Woodie Rea
- 21 Ellen Crowder
Polly He
- 22 Roy Hatton
John Sparkman
- 27 Rick Bahr
- 29 Faye Goodman

October Birthdays

- 5 Barbara Boward
Jennifer Selde
- 6 Carson Talbott*
- 11 Taylor Tate
- 16 Mona Corneiro
- 21 Teresa Swihart
- 24 Fredrickia Lloyd
Bill Ryan
- 25 Betty Jones
Angelina Ramirez
C.J. Rodriguez
Beverly Schacht
Wes Strotman
- 27 Jessica Kelley
Marshall May*
- 31 Miriam Gentle
Claudine Nichols

*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.

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.

Christian Pathways To Focus on Psalms During September

Christian Pathways will resume on Zoom in September at 9 a.m.. Contact Steven Baines at sbaines@nationalcitycc.org for the Zoom link.

Sara Ketchum will lead discussions focusing on the Psalms as comfort and as a bulwark against fear. Sara encourages sending her Psalms that have comforted us, Psalms that we have found particularly meaningful in our lives.

Music at Midday To Resume on Friday, September 18

A new season of Music at Midday concerts is set to begin on **Friday, September 18**, and continue with weekly performances every Friday at 12:15 p.m. through December 18, with the exception of November 27 (Thanksgiving weekend). These concerts are free and open to the public, although we are happy to receive your donations in support of the series.

As of today, we are planning for live, in-person, socially distanced concerts. We will have positions roped off where audience members may sit, and masks will be required to enter the building. We will have masks available for those who need them.

We are also making plans to broadcast our weekly concerts on the NCCC YouTube channel, so that if you don't feel comfortable attending in person, or in the event that restrictions in the District of Columbia prevent us from opening the church, you will be able to enjoy Music at Midday concerts from wherever you are. We are hoping to hold our concerts each week, but in the event that a performer is unable to travel to Washington, we may be forced to cancel one or more of our scheduled concerts. We will send email notifications of upcoming concerts and of any changes in our schedule. Check for the latest news about concerts on the church's website and on the Facebook page for Music at Midday at National City Christian Church.

Plan now to join us for these exciting concerts that have been planned for September:

September 18: Organist Tyler Canonico (Harrisburg, Pennsylvania) will launch a new season of Music at Midday with three selections from *Star Wars* along with works of J.S. Bach, Louis Vierne, Herbert Howells, and Max Reger.

September 25: Organist David K. Houston (College Park, Maryland) will perform a "spirited" program of organ music based on the Latin hymn *Veni Creator Spiritus* by Nicolas de Grigny (1699), Maurice Duruflé (1929-1930), and Jeanne Demessieux (1947).

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

CCCA Regional Assembly 2020 To Be Virtual on October 3

What is the CCCA? It is the **Christian Church Capital Area** (Disciples of Christ), a regional ministry of the Christian Church, serving 40 congregations in Maryland, Delaware, District of Columbia, Northern Virginia, and West Virginia, three Social Justice organizations, and two region-wide Social Service agencies. The Region offers resources and services to help our congregations live out their witness and ministry in their communities. Diversity is a hallmark of the Capital Area Region, working together to build up the Body of Christ.

Every two years a Regional Assembly is held. This year's will be a *virtual gathering* on **Saturday, October 3**. The theme, from the book of Esther, is "*Called for a Time Such As This*." Sound familiar? Three segments are planned: welcome and keynote in the morning; a late morning regional business meeting; and an early afternoon worship and sermon.

Our keynote speakers and preachers will be **Rev. Daphne Gascot Arias** and **Rev. Dr. Jose Francisco Morales**. This married couple will offer their presentations in a unique bilingual fashion in both English and Spanish. Additionally, there will be the Regional Assembly's *first virtual congregation choir*, including seven participants representing National City Christian Church!

Registration is now open! **Regular Registration** (all ages) is **\$10**. You will receive the program book and business docket via e-mail. The **\$15** registration fee includes a printed/mailed program book and business docket. Everyone who registers will be sent information closer to the time of the Assembly on how to virtually attend the Assembly. More details about this Regional Assembly are available online: www.cccadisciples.org/2020regionalassembly

Hope to see you there!

- Valeria Foster



National City Archives Consulted for President James Garfield Biography

Charlie Goodyear, pictured here in our church's Archive Room, has been commissioned by Simon & Schuster Publishing Company, to write a biography of President James A. Garfield, who was a member of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and active at Vermont Avenue Christian Church, when he lived in D.C.

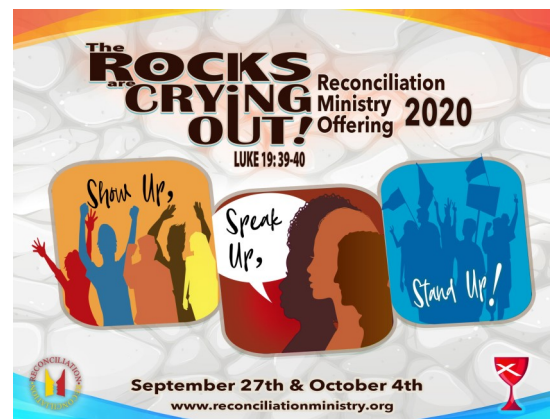
Thanks to the excellent work of Lynne and Peter Morgan in organizing material in the Archives, Charlie has been able to find useful information on President Garfield's life and role in our church.

- Kathleen Burger-Gerada

Reconciliation Ministry Offering

In Luke 19:39 to 40 we read that some of the Pharisees in a crowd said to Jesus, "Teacher rebuke your disciples." "I tell you," he replied "If they keep quiet the stones will cry out." Though we know that God's spirit will cause the stones to cry out if we remain silent, when it comes to being an anti-racist, pro-reconciling church, silence is not an option.

Your gifts to Reconciliation Ministry allow your communities and your congregations to ensure the human dignity of every child, to ensure all have access to Christ's abundance, to fully flourish in education, and financial stability, and friendships across God's human diversity. Won't you join the chorus in shouting out Hosana, Hosana blessed are we who come in the name of the Lord. Thank you for your generosity.



Article by Rev. Dr. Goines Published in Book on Peace

Rev. Dr. Beverly Goines has a new article entitled "Social Justice as Peacebuilding in Black Churches: Where Do We Go From Here?," published in *Building Peace in America*. The book is edited by Emily Sample & Douglas Irvin-Erickson of the Carter School for Peace and Conflict Resolution, George Mason University, and published by Rowman & Littlefield.

The book examines how best to deescalate the destructive public rhetoric, undermine the "us versus them" polarity, and support pro-social voices for positive change. The book shares experiences and perspectives on America's current situation, develops a vision for how we can collectively respond in our communities, campuses, and congregations, and catalyze future partnerships, collaboration, and action.

Over the last year, calls to restore America's greatness are increasingly accompanied by language dehumanizing minority groups, including racial, religious, and ethnic groups as well as immigrant communities. While conditions vary across the country and for different groups, and protests have generally remained peaceful thus far, the possibility of inter-group violence is not the only concern for the peacebuilding community; the violation of the civil and human rights of vulnerable groups, both minority communities as well as the very poor in general, also present serious threats both to American democracy and core conceptions of justice. The primary objective of this volume is to illustrate an architecture for peace in the United States.

Rev. Goines's chapter explores the interconnection of the history of the social justice efforts of black churches in the United States with religious trends that take place from Reconstruction through the early 21st century. Examining these interconnections suggests ways to understand the future of social justice efforts in black churches. The Pentecostal, ecumenical, social gospel, and the modern peace movements are surveyed as well as the impact of industrial development and the World Wars on the social justice efforts of black churches.

Rev. Goines extends her gratitude to Diana Morse for proofreading the first drafts of this essay almost two years ago.

News from Tom Beacham...in Florida

Hi everyone at National City!

We are here in our new Bradenton, Florida, home, and slowly digging out of boxes and more boxes. It still does not feel like we have really moved away from our home of 20 years in Arlington, Virginia. It sort of feels like we are on vacation, but a working vacation.

We are exploring Robertson Preserve, and the Bradenton Botanical Gardens, all within a 5-minute walk from our place. We also have a fantastic farmers market that we can walk to from the house, and with each of these outings, we can include Yogi.

Yogi is making most of the decisions, such as which pool company to contract with and making sure there are small pet steps to get in and get out of the pool...very important when you only have 8-inch legs. :)

We actually have a large yard for Yogi. He loves the wildlife that lands in our yard and the daily ball tossing that he never lets us forget.

Truly missing my church family and friends from our neighborhood.

- Tom

7



Their new home in Bradenton, Florida. Yogi in Tom's favorite chair. The nearby Gulf of Mexico.