

October 2020

Main Street Presbyterian Church

The Main Thing

Activity Updates for MSPC

Recently the elders agreed to offer an 8:30 am service starting this Sunday, **October 4th**. We realize some members of our church want to come back for in-person worship if a safe worship environment is provided. In the 8:30 service masks will be required, and social distancing rules will be applied.

The service will be identical to the 11:40 service. We will follow the same order of service, and I will preach the same sermon.

This will be a temporary arrangement until Covid19 precautions are no longer needed.

We hope this additional service will allow all members of MSPC to return to in-person services in a safe environment.

Pastor Matocha

WIC at Night will begin meeting for Bible Study on the first and third Wednesdays of each month on **October 7, 2020**.

A Men's study group will begin meeting on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month on **October 28, 2020**.



All scripture is inspired by God
and is useful for teaching, for
reproof, for correction, and
for training in righteousness...

2 Timothy 3:16, NRSV



We are so blessed to be back in school! It is so hard to believe it is October! We are looking forward to cooler weather and beautiful fall colors.

In our class we work a lot on learning to listen, sharing, sitting still for a few minutes, and being kind with our words and hands. They are learning so quickly! They love music and painting! Snacks and outside play are also favorites. We will be learning about fire safety this month. Stop, Drop, and Roll...turns into a game quickly. 😊

It has been a great start to a new year. Thank you to all the parents that have helped make this unusual year go so smoothly. It's hard to believe how fast this semester is going! Teachers and students alike will enjoy a couple of days off for fall break. Take time to remember God's beautiful creation with all its colors.

We hope everyone is staying well. Thank you all for sharing your precious children with us! Please continue to pray with us for this year to get even better and bring beautiful blessings!

Love and prayers,
Mrs. Judy



SCAMMERS AMONG US

by Ron Simpson

As reformed Christians, we are all familiar with the concept of the total depravity of man. None of us would ever doubt the validity of this teaching. Therefore, the plethora of phone, mail, and internet scams and the reality of internet viruses and the ever-present danger of having our financial information exploited should come as no surprise. Most of us are accustomed to using our phones, pads, and laptops to do everything from buying fast food to securing loans. The power to do such transactions in a moment is an incredible convenience. Unfortunately, the modern highwaymen, the scammers, the hackers, information brokers, and other predators lay in wait to take advantage of you. Recently, scammers targeted members of our church. Thankfully, to my knowledge, no harm was done. The targeted members recognized a scam in progress and were able to protect themselves. I am not qualified to take you through all the possible cons you should be aware of, and even if I were, there is not enough room in our newsletter for such a complete treatment of the subject. However, I would like to give you a few suggestions for recognizing and some tools for responding to a few of the technology-based scams currently happening in our area.

Phone Scams

Phone scammers are becoming more theatrical and more resourceful. Scammers gleaned phone numbers and names from our church bulletins, allowing them to call individuals and identify themselves as Pastor Todd in need of their financial assistance. Thankfully, those individuals knew Todd well enough to know it was not him. In a similar con, my mother was targeted by a scammer pretending to be my son. The scammer pretended to be her grandson calling on a line with a lot of background noise (to help disguise his voice), asking her to send bail money. While it upset and confused her, thankfully, she immediately called me, rather than respond directly to the scammer. I used some of the tools listed later in this article to report the con. There were no repeat attempts.

Email Scams

You probably have had your fill of email scams and recognize most of them, like the email from the foreign

person or means needing you to help him transfer money into the United States by using your financial information. Really? I have often wondered how many people fall for that one. Maybe you received a notification you had won a prize, but they need your credit card to bill you for the shipping costs. Recently the church office received an email that looked like a bill from Microsoft. The email stated that our account had been charged the annual fee for a particular software we use. If we felt the need to dispute the charge, there were instructions to call a specific phone number. There were several immediate giveaways about this scam. First, the software we were being charged for is free and part of the Windows 10 operating system. Second, although the email stated it was from Microsoft, the actual email was a personal Gmail account. Third, the phone number had periods between each digit to make it harder for scanning software to find it in the email. The goal of this ingenious email was to get someone to call and dispute the non-existent charge. Through such a conversation, the scammer hoped to fish for more useful information.

Software Invasion

There are many viruses, data-miners, trackers, ransomware, and other malicious and invasive software out there. Some of them are delivered by email, a link on a text or social media, or may ride piggy-back when you download free software. These range in severity from annoying adware to full-fledged ransomware. Your virus protection will shield you from most of these, but some will attempt to trick you into clicking on “OK,” thus circumventing your virus protection.

The Huh? Factor

I think one of the keys to protecting yourself from all of these scams is to be suspicious and develop what I call “The Huh? Factor.” If the phone call, text, email, or promise of clicking here sounds a little odd, stop, and say to yourself, “Huh?” Ask yourself, “Why would your pastor be calling to ask for financial help from you?” Why would your grandson call you from prison on a phone number that is half a continent from where he lives? Why would Microsoft charge me for free software? If you can make yourself stop and think instead of responding, you will probably realize things don’t add up. I don’t happen to know any wealthy

princes who would need my credit information to help him move his fortune to America. Maybe you do.

Click-Not

Stop clicking! The email promising more information if you click “HERE” may be delivering a package you don’t want. When the free software (that may well be an authentic bit of software) has the option for custom or recommended installation, look at the custom selection. It may allow you to de-select an additional piece of software or an add-on you don’t want. (Even respectable software companies are guilty of this. Anyone else tired of Bing adding itself to your toolbar?)

GOOGLE IT!

One of the great benefits of the internet (besides the incredible ability to pass along pictures of cats) is access to the total sum of all human knowledge. OK, that may be an exaggeration. However, you can find out almost anything you want to by typing it into a search engine. If you are not sure Windows Defender is free or not, then ask the internet. Type that number that called you into a search window. Maybe someone else has had a call from that number.

Report It!

There is help. The Federal Trade Commission website has a link for researching possible scams and for reporting them.

Go to <https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/features/scam-alerts>. Todd searched there and found an article there about the Pastor Scam, which is very common. You can also go to AARP.ORG for scam information. If you get unwanted or scam calls on your phone, you should download the MS No Call app from your app store. The app lets you quickly report scams and unwanted calls. Using that app significantly reduced the number of unwanted calls I was getting after I started using it.

Nothing New Under the Sun

In Ecclesiastes, the writer declared there was nothing new under the sun. We may think the technological predators discussed above are something new, but they are not. There have always been liars, thieves, conmen, and scammers. They have always been there. There is nothing new about any of this. Don’t throw away your phone or computer or give up using the benefits of technology. As in all other things, we must be smart, keep our eyes open, and use a little healthy suspicion.



Women in the Church

Hello Ladies,

I hope you are enjoying this cooler weather. Isn’t it good to return to doing things we enjoyed prior to the pandemic? Our WIC ladies’ night has returned! We will be going out for dinner on 10/13/20. This fellowship time is open to all the ladies of MSPC. Please call the church so we can get a number for the reservation. The place is “To be Announced” when reservations are secured.

We are doing a great book Let Me Be a Woman by Elizabeth Elliott. We did agree to meet on the first and third Wednesdays of each month. By meeting on these dates, it allows the men to have a study on the other Wednesdays. So, note the dates in October of the 7th and 21st for Bible study and the 13th for dinner out.

Many thanks to Lynda Meharg for organizing and writing the new instructions for communion. I know this will help, as we are doing something different from what we did before.

In his service,
Janie



JESUS STRONG AND KIND

Colleen Meek

A tender and simple hymn *Jesus, Strong and Kind*, written by Colin Buchanan, is a beautiful song for the children of God to sing together. It reminds us of our Savior's love for us. As soon as I heard it, I was thinking about how to share it and use it with my own children and the children here at Main Street. At our reopening of Sunday School on September 13, our Preschool through 6th Grade children began learning it.

It is a wonderfully simple song-simple enough for a 4-year-old to sing and remember. But it is not just a song for children. It is a song for God's children of all ages. It is a stirring reminder of the riches available to us in Jesus, as seen in the words.

Verses 1 to 3 speak of different experiences, showing how Jesus meets those needs: feeling thirsty but Jesus being our satisfaction; feeling weak but Jesus being our strength; feeling afraid and Jesus being our shield. In these verses we sing about how we should come to Jesus. The repeated chorus at the end of each verse builds on that reason, inviting us to take Jesus at His word, *For the Lord is good and faithful, He will keep us day and night, Jesus, strong and kind ...* For these reasons, come to Jesus.

For 3/4s of the song, the lyrics center around coming to Jesus. The fourth and final verse flips that around though and speaks of being lost but instead of coming to Him, this verse states that "He will come to me."

What makes a song like this such a blessing and source of hope on life's journey? It is because it simply but meaningfully points us to Jesus. It is a song of encouragement to us, the weak and broken, that Jesus came to seek and save the lost.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kYMH8Vn9JgY>

**Jesus said that if I thirst
I should come to Him
No one else can satisfy
I should come to Him**

**Jesus said, if I am weak
I should come to Him
No one else can be my strength
I should come to Him**

**Jesus said that if I fear
I should come to Him
No one else can be my shield
I should come to Him**

**Jesus said, if I am lost
He will come to me
And He showed me on that cross
He will come to me**

Chorus:

**For the Lord is good and faithful
He will keep us day and night
We can always run to Jesus
Jesus, strong and kind**

Below is the testimony of how God has already used this song in the life of Weston, grandson of Alice Talley:

"My daughter-in-law shared with me that one afternoon a few of my grandkids were playing with several children who had recently moved into their neighborhood. Kieran (10) offered to play "Christian music" on a phone. Weston (8) requested "Jesus, Strong and Kind," which he had heard in Sunday School. While the song played, Weston sang along. All of the children stopped playing and listened. One of the new boys said, "That was pretty. Can we hear it again?" Once again, the children listened quietly. These new children were introduced to Jesus through an 8 year-old singing a song he had just learned in Sunday School here at Main Street."

alice

The nursery at Main Street welcomed children back on August 23. If you wish to be added to the list of volunteers, please contact the church office at 662-328-2523 or by e-mail at mainstreetpres@gmail.com.



October Volunteers

- Oct. 4 Kathyryn Matocha, Margo Allgood, Laurie Flora
- Oct. 11 Jelaine Fondren, Jennifer White, Alice Talley
- Oct. 18 Shirley Swoope, Emily Krohn, Meryl Fisackerly
- Oct. 25 Frances Glenn, Jay & Hannah Nail, Pat Russell

Budget Report

September Offerings

\$ 34,951



Praise:

Henry Patrick Shipp – born September 7, 2020

Prayer:

MSPC Elders and Deacons

Our Shut-Ins:

Louise Armstrong

Betty Weaver

Tommy Glenn, Robby Glenn's father

Phillip Goodwin

Jane Rogowski

John Mark Russell

Billy Swedenburg

Faith Whitlock

President Donald Trump

Officials in Washington

Governor Tate Reeves

Mayor Robert Smith

Police Chief Fred Shelton

Sheriff Eddie Hawkins

State, City, and County Officials

Helping Hands

Life Choices Pregnancy Center

Palmer Home

All Churches and Pastors in Columbus

Coronavirus

The financial pressures of small business owners, our congregation, and local businesses

The financial needs of the Church



October



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3 Jerry Franks Lauren Zarandona
4 <i>Communion</i>	5	6	7 WIC 7p.m.	8	9	10 Callum Matocha
11	12	13 Betty Weaver	14	15 Charles Russell Berry	16 Nathanael Singletary	17 Todd Matocha
18	19	20 Kelly & Katie Weber	21 WIC 7p.m. Melissa Duncan	22	23	24
25 Janie Williams	26 Emiline Allgood David Field Whitt Harris	27	28 Men's Bible Study	29	30 Ben Chilcutt	31



**“And let us not grow weary of doing good,
for in due season we will reap,
if we do not give up.”
Galatians 6:9**

Main Street Presbyterian Church

701 Main Street
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Main Street Presbyterian Church
(A Presbyterian Church in America Congregation)

Sunday Schedule
9:30 a.m. Sunday School
10:40 a.m. Morning Worship