



Ashland Church News March 2021



Ashland Presbyterian Church
116 Ashland Road
Cockeysville, MD 21030
Phone: 410-527-1844

The Rev. Shannon Weston, Pastor
On the web at: www.ashlandpc.org



Pulpitshenanigans

Staying Together, Apart

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it." — Mark 10:14-

We've been in lockdown for a year this month. It's hard to believe I know. It's been a long year of ups and downs, and now we are asked to continue to wait. So we will. There is hope not just in the science but also in the community we have sustained.

In Advent, I put together kits to help us stay connected in such a sacred and holy time of year. I know we all missed singing carols together and a decorated church. In that packet were a few coloring pages. I know many of you rediscovered the joy of the childhood pastime, and I loved hearing your stories.

One story, though, significantly warmed my heart.

Every few years, when we have Confirmation Class, each young person chooses a mentor. They meet with the mentor over the year and grow together in friendship and faith. A few years ago, one of those duos was Ms. Debbie Berlin and Joanna Shang. Ms. Debbie was a beloved Sunday School Teacher before her "retirement" and is often chosen as a mentor. Her faith radiates from her, and her love of children has never faltered.

Although Joanna was confirmed in May 2019 and joined the church, the relationship didn't end. This pandemic has been hard on us all, but it has particularly hard on children whose entire lives have been uprooted sometimes without full understanding.

Clerk of Session
Bob Williams

Church Treasurer
Pamela Caras

Financial Secretary
Cathy Griffiths

Session Members
2020

Debbie Berlin
Bonnie Clarke
Rene Florendo
Tom Griffiths
Will Nassau
JoAnn Ruther
Betsy Segelken
Fred Wagner

Pre-school Director
Anne Auwil

Organist & Music Director
Sheila Slade-Lee

Office Manager
Cecil Weber



Ashland Presbyterian Church
@AshlandPresbyterianChurch

Pulpitshenanigans (continued)



So, when Ms. Debbie received her Advent kit, she had an idea! She took the coloring sheet that said "Love" and colored half of it in. Ms. Debbie then mailed it to her mentee Joanna and asked her to color it as she saw fit. She also included a return envelope to send it back.

Joanna colored some more in and mailed the paper back for Ms. Debbie to finish. When it was done, Ms. Debbie framed it and gave it to her as a special Valentine's Day gift.

Friends, there are many ways to stay together during this time apart. The kingdom of God belongs to us. Let us spread the joy where we can, in the ways we can.

With gratitude,
Pastor Shannon

Easter Lilies

If you would like an Easter Lily or would like to sponsor one to be given to someone in need of some brightness this Easter, please let us know. The cost is \$25.00 You can send an email to office@ashlandpc.org or call the church office at 410-527-1844 and leave a message. You can send a check to the church; just make sure you note the check for "Easter Lily". Or you can go online at www.ashlandpc.org/donate but again make sure you designate it for "Easter Lily". Thank you!



News From Our Friends in Cuba

From elder/deacon and long-time office manager Cedralia Lorenzo (aka "Aya") at our sister church in Cabaiguan in Cuba:

January 28, 2021

Good evening! This is the third year I have shared my birthday with a group of you. You (JoAnn Ruther from Ashland and Carol Eshelman and Carole Norris-Shortle from Light Street Church), in 2006, 2019 and today - in a virtual way as we say now - through email. Despite my fears and concerns about COVID, God has accompanied me at all times. I will tell you that I am in the process of moving to (Santi) Spiritus (a larger city and provincial capital near Cabaiguan) - because of the current transportation difficulties here. (Also) my cousin, who is like a son, lives there and he could help me more easily living there than here, but mostly because if there were difficulties (*NOTE: not sure if this means in relation to COVID or just travel in general*) it would be easier for you (my "brothers and sisters") to come to me there than in Cabaiguan. However, my church is still the one in Cabaiguan. May God help the problems of the pandemic to improve throughout the world, as well as the relations between countries, so we can live in harmony. "The brothers ate (together)", says Psalm 133. We pray for all the families of our churches, and especially for you and yours. Love and a big hug for everyone. May the Lord bless you. de Aya



-Prepared by JoAnn Ruther

News From Our Friends in Malawi

For God so loved the (WHOLE) world ... news from our friends in Malawi
(Message has been edited and condensed for clarity and space.)

Malawi, Africa, February 5, 2021 ... On the road between Lilongwe and the Kasupe villages in the ministry's new truck, **Fletcher Padoko** writes:

"Happy New Year once again you lovely people! ... The truck was finally delivered after delays due to COVID related lockdowns of government offices." Fletcher reports he has been travelling through the villages and also visiting colleges all over Malawi and, as the pictures show, ***"the truck is truly made for our treacherous Malawian roads."*** It has already served them well as Fletcher and Kasupe's Field Manager Willie took it on its first road trip to purchase trees and bamboo seedlings from Lilongwe. ***"Kasupe and I are so thankful to all in the Ashland Church family for your timely help in raising the \$16,435 needed to purchase this essential vehicle."***



"The COVID situation here is very bleak" ... cases and deaths in Malawi have surged since January and the new South African strain isn't sparing Kasupe villages. Among others, nine of Kasupe's college students have tested positive. They are in isolation at their various schools or at home, with Kasupe providing support however possible. Schools and colleges throughout Malawi, including the Kasupe schools, are all closed. Although Fletcher has been travelling, taking every precaution and getting tested regularly, his wife Sarah and the girls are working and learning at home in Lilongwe for now.

"Our response to COVID at Kasupe slowed down in September-October when cases in the village were ZERO for weeks ... and we slowly got back to our "normal" routines ... but not anymore." Staff and volunteers are staying home, and reviving COVID programs, especially feeding the kids, is challenging. Kasupe is now planning to release more of their own medical supply reserves to local clinics, rather than waiting for the long-planned Kasupe facility to open.

"There is some movement on the (AstraZeneca) vaccine ... but the politics on (distribution) will be messy in Malawi ... at the rate we are going I know it will be a year or more before people like me get a shot ... we'll take what we can get ... but I will not hesitate to tell the powers that be of (Kasupe's) front line status!"

"Blessings to you all," Fletcher

Prepared by JoAnn Ruther. The full text of Fletcher's letter and additional photos may be requested through the Ashland Church office.



Living

ONE DAY AT A TIME

Over the last year, our daily lives have changed radically. As we look to returning to "normal" we have an opportunity to reprioritize the way we live. Join us this Lenten Season as we use the wisdom of the 12 steps to let go of our former ways and intentionally discern a new future for ourselves.

FEBRUARY 17-APRIL 3, 2021

GO TO: ASHLANDPC.ORG FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Week 1: Powerless with Rev. Carrie Frasier**
- Week 2: Surrender with Rev. Katie Jo Suddaby**
- Week 3: Confession with Rev. David Hansen**
- Week 4: Amends with Rev. Tripp Hudgins**
- Week 5: Awakening with Rene Florendo**

From the Church Office...



Hello All!

Hopefully by now you received your packet containing the budget, directory, and year end statements. If you did not and need a copy of your year end giving statement, I can put one in the mail. Or I can send it electronically by email. Just let me know by sending an email to office@ashlandpc.org or call the office at 410-527-1844 and leave a voice mail.

Thanks! Stay safe & well!
-Cecil Weber

ASHLAND CHURCH FAMILY CELEBRATIONS

Birthdays	Wedding Anniversaries	Deacon/Elder Ordination Anniversaries
3/3 Lil Holland 3/4 Zach Kobokovich 3/9 Harrison Beckwith Tom Griffiths Bill Kobokovich 3/14 Margie Berlin 3/15 Thomas Beckwith 3/29 Jacquie Sasser	3/14 Bill Kobokovich and Carla Ulgen	None this month

Do we have YOUR family's important dates to share and celebrate? Have we made any mistakes? Please contact the Church Office at 410-527-1844, or office@ashlandpc.org with additions and/or corrections for the database.



The Church of the Epiphany—Tuesday Concerts at Home Tuesday, March 2 12:00 pm on YouTube Organist Yeri So performs organ works by Bach, Brahms, Saint-Saëns, & Dupré

Our very own Yeri So (former Music Director/Organist at Ashland) is giving a recital! The recital was recorded and will be released on YouTube at noon on March 2. To listen to the concert, go to YouTube and search for Epiphany Tuesday Concert.

Here is the program she will play:

Fantasia and Fugue in g-minor BWV 542	- Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)
Eleven Chorale Preludes op. 112.	- Johannes Brahms (1883-1897)
No.4 Herzlich tut mich erfreuen	
No.5 Schmücke dich, o liebe Seele	
No.11 O Welt, ich muss dich lassen	
Danse macabre op. 40	- Camille Saint-Saëns (1835-1921)
Soliloquy	- David Conte (b.1955)
Prelude and Fugue in g-minor op. 7, no. 3.	- Marcel Dupre (1886-1971)



All Are Welcome!!



Conversations on Faith

Join in the conversation! This month we will be meeting on Wednesday, March 17 from 4:00-5:00 pm on Zoom.

The topic for this month is: *A New Framing Story*. An email will be sent the day before outlining the topic discussion questions.

To join the conversation, here is the Zoom information:

Join Zoom Meeting from your computer or smartphone, use this link!

<https://zoom.us/j/8619402634>

Enter the Meeting ID when prompted: 861 940 2634 Password: 268801

To join over Phone Call (301) 715 8592 Enter the Meeting ID when prompted: 861 940 2634 Password: 268801

Or you can go to the Ashland website and click on the link there: <http://www.ashlandpc.org/conversations-on-faith/>



*Well Said Speaker Series Featuring:
Diana Butler Bass, Ph.D.,
March 4, 2021 7:00-8:30 pm via Zoom*

Dianna Butler Bass, Ph.D. is an award-winning author and internationally known public speaker and thought leader on issues of spirituality, religion, culture, and politics. Diana's book, *Grateful: The Transformative Power of Giving Thanks* will be the focus of the evening's presentation. In *Grateful*, Diana Butler Bass untangles our conflicting understandings of gratitude and sets the table for a renewed practice of giving thanks.

We know that gratitude is good, but many of us find it hard to sustain a meaningful life of gratefulness. Four out of five Americans report feeling gratitude on a regular basis, but those private feelings seem disconnected from larger concerns of our public lives. In *Grateful*, cultural observer and theologian Diana Butler Bass takes on this "gratitude gap" and offers up surprising, relevant, and powerful insights to practice gratitude.

The cost for this presentation is \$40.00. To register, go to <https://wellforthejourney.org/an-evening-with-diana-butler-bass/>

These meetings are held using Zoom and most join using a computer, laptop, tablet, or smart phone. If you don't have a computer, ***you can join in by just using your phone.*** Dial (301) 715-8592 and enter the Meeting ID when prompted:

861 940 2634. You can do the ***same thing*** for the weekly bible study.

**Ashland
Mid-Week
Gatherings**

Tuesday Check-in and
Evening Prayer
7:30pm
Thursday
Morning Bible Study
10:00am
Zoom Meeting ID:
861 940 2634
Passcode: 268801

The graphic features a dark blue background with a stylized illustration of a laptop and a hanging lamp. The laptop screen shows a red and blue abstract design. The lamp is a simple, rounded shape with a white shade and a blue cord.



Sunday Worship is held online. A link to the worship video is sent out by email early Sunday mornings.
 The link can also be found at the Ashland website at: www.ashplandpc.org

Weekly Online Gatherings

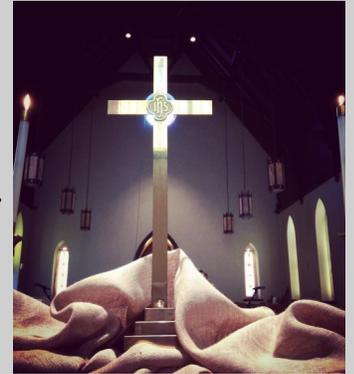
Tuesday Check-In and Evening Prayer 7:30 pm
 Thursday Morning Bible Study
 with Rev. Harry Cahill 10:00 am

These online gatherings are held via Zoom. If you have never used Zoom, Pastor Shannon has a walk-thru video on the Ashland website to get you started.

If you don't have computer access, you can call in on your phone:

Call (301) 715 8592 Enter the Meeting ID when prompted: 861 940 2634

Please join us! All are welcome!



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7 3rd Sunday in Lent Online Worship	8	9 Session 6:30 pm Check-in & Evening Prayer 7:30 pm	10	11 Bible Study 10:00 am	12	13
14 4th Sunday in Lent Online Worship 	15	16 Check-in & Evening Prayer 7:30 pm	17 Conversations on Faith 4-5 pm  let's talk 	18 Bible Study 10:00 am	19	20
21 5th Sunday in Lent Online Worship	22	23 Check-in & Evening Prayer 7:30 pm	24	24 Bible Study 10:00 am	26	27
28 Palm Sunday Online Worship 	29	30	31			

Tithes and Offerings can be mailed to the church at:

**Ashland Church
116 Ashland Road
Hunt Valley, MD 21030**

The mail is delivered to a secure and locked mailbox. The church treasurer checks the mail daily.

**You can also donate online at:
www.ashlandpc.org/donate**

You can make a single donation or set up a recurring donation directly from your bank to the church account or by using a credit card. Electronic giving as a way to give any time and to automate your regular offering as well as a convenient, safe, and simple way to provide much-needed donation consistency for our congregation.



***God grant me the serenity
To accept the things I cannot change;
Courage to change the things I can;
And wisdom to know the difference.
Living one day at a time;
Enjoying one moment at a time;
Accepting hardships as the pathway to peace;
Taking, as He did, this sinful world
As it is, not as I would have it;
Trusting that He will make things right
If I surrender to His Will;
So that I may be reasonably happy in this life
And supremely happy with Him
Forever and ever in the next.
Amen.***