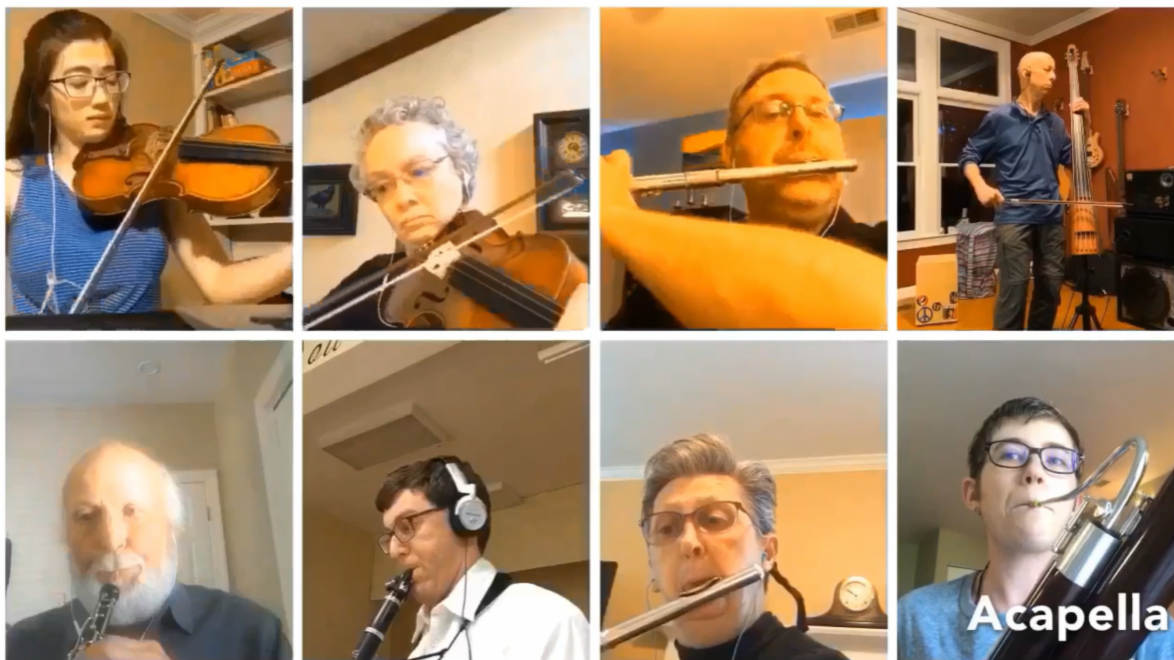


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Pullen Weekly News

May 4-10

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May a Song Remain Among Us

We are grateful to the voices and instruments of the Pullen Youth Choir, Chancel Choir, Pullen Orchestra, Peace Cathedral, Tbilisi, Georgia, First Baptist, Matanzas, Cuba, Laurel Harris and Rob Marnell for leading us in worship this past Sunday, May 10. The offerings of music were all created and shared as labors of love. Participants in the Pullen Music Ministry Groups collaborated through the remote recording process described in last week's column (found archived at www.pullen/music.org). There you will also find some of the music videos from last week's service.

The recording process involves a music collaboration app for **iPad, iPhone or iPod Touch (iOS 11 or later)**. The Music Ministry would like to make these devices available to loan to choir or orchestra participants who do not own one. **If you have one of these devices you no longer use and would like to provide it for this purpose, please contact me at the email below.** Not only would you be assisting in providing music for worship, but in helping Pullen friends connect and communicate during this time of separation and loneliness.

Whether near or far apart, may a song remain!

-Larry E. Schultz, Minister of Music
lschultz@pullen.org

May 10 Pullen Service

Music Ministry at Pullen

Update from the Pullen Coronavirus Response Team



On May 6, the Pullen Coronavirus Response Team – a special advisory committee appointed by Nancy to help guide the church through the pandemic as it unfolds – reconvened (online) for the first time since early March. Our purpose was to further advise Nancy, to assess where things stand right now for the church, and to help begin to chart a path going forward.

Here are the results of what turned out to be a very productive 90 minute discussion:

#1 – The group agreed unanimously that the church and staff should be guided by the official directives issued by Gov. Cooper and local government officials. While we all acknowledged that there could be future scenarios in which Pullen might choose an even more cautious and safety-conscious path than such guidelines might specify, we agreed that Pullen will and should not attempt to challenge such directives or sanction gatherings that violate them.

#2 – We also agreed that while many in our community have an understandable desire to gather in person again as soon as possible – both as a full congregation and in various church groups and committees – it's simply too early to do so or even to set a firm date for such action. In particular:

- While state guidelines do allow for outdoor worship services, it was agreed that this would not work for Pullen – especially given that we currently lack the technical capability of livestreaming such events.
- We also agreed that, for now, any meetings of church groups (councils, committees, Sunday groups) should continue to be held online only. We agreed that the Pullen Outdoor Weekend event scheduled for Memorial Day weekend must be postponed.
- We also discussed the possibility of limited-attendance services in which a small number of worshipers would be spaced at safe, social distances within the sanctuary, but agreed once again, that this is not a realistic possibility in the near-term.

#3 – We agreed that starting May 17 the church staff can – on a completely voluntary basis and in compliance with the state directive limiting gathering to no more than 10 persons – begin to gather again in person for purposes of leading Sunday online services and worship

planning, provided social distancing and other protective protocols are followed. In this vein, we also endorsed Nancy's decision to preside over a handful of very small (less than 10 people present) outdoor funerals and weddings.

#4 – Finally, we all agreed that this is a constantly evolving situation that will require regular monitoring. For instance, while the state loosened some rules on May 8 and has tentatively set May 22 as a potential date for additional action, even the Governor acknowledges that this is an estimate that will be subject to constant monitoring and possible amendment.

What this all means as a practical matter is that our committee will be meeting regularly in the coming weeks and months to closely monitor the situation and will do our best to keep the church community informed. If you have any questions or comments, feel free to reach out to any of us. You can email Deacon Council Chairperson Rob Schofield at rschofield@nc.rr.com.

And lastly, our group wants the Pullen community to know that, thanks in no small measure to the extraordinary work of our remarkable and dedicated staff, our church remains strong, financially sound and fully engaged in pursuit of its prophetic mission. While the current extraordinary circumstances are likely to test us in many unforeseen ways for months to come, we remain confident that Pullen will emerge from this difficult period fully intact and, indeed, stronger than ever.

Stay safe and stay in touch!

Shane Barham, Lisa Grabarek, Bob Harris, Carol Hobbs, Mark Nance, Shannon Neiley and Rob Schofield.

Open Hearts and Open Arms

Pastor Nancy Petty was featured on ABC 11 this past Sunday with a message:

<https://abc11.com/religion/church-service-canceled-heres-a-sunday-message/6164089/>



Join ICCT friends on May 21:

“The Cry of the Earth, the Cry of the People”

A Conversation about Pope Francis' Laudato si' in the context

of COVID-19
May 21st, 7-8:30pm



In honor of the 5th anniversary of the publication of Pope Francis' landmark teaching document Laudato si', we are celebrating “Laudato si’

Week” May 16-24, 2020. This invites an opportunity to revisit the document’s main themes that challenges us to deepen our shared responsibility to care for our common home, address climate change, and live into a new spirituality in this technocratic age. So too, Pope Francis has challenged us to consider this current Coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic as a timely opportunity to pause our lives and consider the kind of world we are living in and what we want the world to become in the future. With our hearts open, we might hear in a new and fresh way the cry of the earth and the cry of humanity.

This evening conversation will be facilitated by Trevor Thompson, Director of Justice and Peace at St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church, in conjunction with Interfaith Creation Care of the Triangle (ICCT).

After a short overview of the Pope’s teaching, we will have an extended opportunity to have a virtual small group discussions that invite a reflective space for sitting with deeper questions related to *Laudato si’* about how we are experiencing this moment. We look forward to being with you and hearing how God is moving in your depths during these uncertain days.

We will be using Zoom online conferencing and you will be sent a link to join after you register at <https://bit.ly/laudatosiweek2020>

Questions? Email Trevor.Thompson@stfrancisraleigh.org

A Message about Livestream Videos

We hope that you will join for worship each Sunday by watching the [livestream](#) . The recordings of the services are then archived on our webpage, so you can watch any time.

If you have comments or concerns about the livestream, or if you need help accessing it, please email Dana at news@pullen.org .



Video Archive

We're Here for You

We recognize that those in vulnerable populations will want to remain as isolated as possible, but may still need medications, groceries, etc. If you have needs, but do not feel comfortable going out, please **contact Chalice Overy at covey@pullen.org or 919-828-0887 ext. 214** . -*Chalice Overy*

Stay Connected to Pullen Church during Covid-19

There is a [page](#) on the Pullen Website to help you stay connected during the pandemic.



Visit it for all of the links to our emails, videos, and Zoom meetings.

Please reach out if you have questions or suggestions about our communications channels. Email Communications Specialist Dana Deaton at news@pullen.org .

Note about the Weekly Email: You may have noticed that you are receiving this weekly email on Tuesday! We will publish the Weekly News on Tuesday morning from now on. It works better for the staff schedule.

-Dana Deaton

Staying Connected

Please share this email with your friends!



Pullen Memorial Baptist Church

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