

Wisdom has built her house...she has also set her table
Proverbs 9:1a, 2b

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A note from the pastor



Hello, beloved community of Wisdom's Table. I am writing to let you know that I have returned to duty as your co-pastor. On March 9th I left Lancaster to spend a week in Maine, and I returned to Lancaster on March 16th to find a totally different landscape...it seemed (seems) a bit surreal.

I am grateful for Jeremy's message of hope and comfort on Facebook and encourage any of you who weren't part of the livestream to check it out on our Facebook page. I enjoyed seeing the little chat bubbles representing the various members who were on the livestream (virtual community is better than no community, that's for sure)!

Our consistory will be meeting using ZOOM technology this Thursday evening. Though I am not a "digital native," I am so grateful for the technologies that allow us to meet in spite of our social distancing. The staff is also meeting using Zoom, as we continue to figure out what "church" looks like in this unprecedented situation.

I have spoken to some of you by phone, and I encourage all of us to reach out to one another by phone or text or email. I have been surprised at how uplifting a brief phone call from a friend or colleague is amidst the quiet of my home.

Sometimes at church we sing the song, "I Need You to Survive" and it is taking on new meaning for me in this time of separation:

I need you, you need me.

We're all a part of God's body.

Stand with me, agree with me.

We're all a part of God's body.

It is (God's) will, that every need be supplied.

You are important to me, I need you to survive.

You are important to me, I need you to survive.

"We're all a part of God's body" is a reminder that we are never truly alone. We are encompassed by God's presence. And we can help manifest that to one another by reaching out with words of encouragement and offers of help, where it is needed. (I have already experienced this as, after a conversation with a member in which I mentioned that upon my return to Lancaster there was no toilet paper to be found in stores, she responded with the gift of some rolls of toilet paper that she would leave on my porch!) It may sound mundane, but it reminds me that we are all a part of God's body.

May the peace of God, which passes all understanding, be with you as we all weather this storm.

Peace and blessings,

Pastor Anabel

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I confess I had a restless night with my mind struggling to accept reality and the growing grief in this world. Coffee in hand, I slumped down at my computer along with my heavy heart and a feeling of inadequacy. Today is my day to share a post with my beloved community. What to say?

today?

I was reminded too another gift of beauty from yesterday, a reflection, Grace in the Time of Corona Virus, by Dillon Cruz (Tattooed-theologian.com). He closes with this:

May this time of fear and trembling remind us that we as human beings on a finite planet are all in this together. May it remind us that life is both short and precious. May it bring people together in a way that is unprecedented so that we respond to other calamities with grace and humility from the outset, such as global climate change and poverty. May we learn to see the humanity in every person we meet, and those whom we don't, regardless of their religion, skin color, nation of origin, ethnicity, sexuality, or language they speak. Like a forest after a fire, may we regrow, regenerate, and reinvigorate humanity to love our neighbors as ourselves as this public health crisis continues and long after it ceases.

God in your mercy, hear our prayers.

These words, "Like a forest after the fire...", brought this experience to mind. Four years ago while exploring Yosemite National Park, Doug and I came upon an area which had been ravaged by forest fire years earlier. Acres upon acres of barren land littered with charred stumps as far as the eye could see. Suddenly, rounding a curve, we encountered this breathtaking sight! Lupines, wild and glorious, proclaiming God's Yes! to this world.

Peace be with you, Pastor Diane



This Sunday, March 29th join Pastor Diane Brandt on our Facebook page for Worship.

Pastor Diane will be posting a live worship service at 11am on Sunday. Just go to the Wisdom's Table Facebook page and watch her lead a worship service.



All people who hold meetings in our church building have been notified that the building is not to be used for meetings or gatherings or used in any way until after April 6th .

If you have a key to the building, please do not use it at this time. Pam and Tommy are periodically checking the building and trying to sanitize the surfaces. If you enter the building you risk leaving germs behind.



Please hold the following people and situations in prayer:

If you have prayer requests that you want to share in the newsletter, please email it to Pam office@wisdomstableucc.org

Prayers for our home bound members; Prayers for all the police, fire, EMT, doctors, nurses, and hospitals that are our helping our country deal with this pandemic. Prayers for all the churches all across the country trying to shine a light of hope and strength to their congregations and to the world; Prayers for all the businesses forced to close and the employees who are trying to make ends meet during this difficult time. Prayers for the children and the school districts across the country.

Angie asks for prayers for Bill DiNino - He is in at home now with no visitation and he is confused so the social separation is extra hard on him And others in that situation (like my grandma.); Also please pray for my two friends with the virus- Brian and Joe.(I haven't had any contact with them) Please pray that they recover and for their families (they both have young children that they can't be around while quarantined).

George asks for prayers for Safety in the streets of Lancaster; Prayers of thanks for feeling better & successful Heart tests

Felicia asks for prayers - God, watch over the nurses in my family so that they may continue to provide care to the public and keep their families safe and healthy as well.

Please keep all those who have been infected with the virus in your prayers. Keep the medical personnel and first responders safe and healthy.



Thank you to all the pastors who reach out to the congregation to continue to give all of us strength during this difficult time.



Don't forget to send Rich a note!

At this time all State Prisons have suspended any visitation. Please keep Rich in your prayers and send him a note.

Due to new state regulations all mail is processed through Florida. Rich has not moved, he is still in Huntingdon.

Smart Communications/PA DOC
Richard Buckwalter NK-7086
SCI Huntingdon
PO Box 33028
St. Petersburg, Florida 33733

Please remember to surround Brenda with love from Wisdom's Table!

Brenda Buckwalter
Keystone Villa
100 N. State St.
Ephrata PA 17522



JANE ADDAMS FUND

What is the Jane Addams Fund?

Wisdom's Table is a diverse congregation in many ways and one of those is socio-economic. We have seen an increasing amount of need among our members and friends who live on the economic edge. We believe that as a congregation that is focused on Social and Environmental Justice, we should respond to those among us who are facing financial need in part because of social justice issues. As such we are collecting funds on a quarterly basis that will be disbursed to those members and friends in need.

As a member or Friend of Wisdom's Table you are eligible to apply for the Jane Addams Fund.

Applications for funds are available in the bin above the mailboxes outside the office or from a pastor. Please return the completed application to Parish Administrator, Pam Kilgore's mailbox or to a pastor. The Professional Leadership Team (Pastor Anabel, Pastor Leah, Rev. Karin and Pam) will review and make decisions about each application received based on need and funds available.



During this time please remember the church!

The church still needs your financial giving during these uncertain times.

Here are some ways you can continue to give to Wisdom's Table.:

1. Mail your contribution to: Wisdom's Table at St. Peter's UCC, 816 Buchanan Ave., Lancaster PA 17603 (Pam and Tommy will be making sure the mail is collected)
2. Visit Wisdom's Table's website. Page to the bottom and press the donate button. This will take you to PayPal. Continue as directed.
3. Most banks have bill pay. Visit your bank's website and make a donation through bill pay.
4. Please consider making a donation to the Jane Addams Fund. Many of our members will be experiencing difficult times in the near future.

Thank you for remembering the church!

Election Day is April 28th

It has come to our attention that some may be concerned about voting in person at the PA primary on April 28. It is possible to request a ballot that will allow you to vote by mail. This is different from an absentee ballot and there are no conditions one must meet ~ such as being out of town on primary day. Here is the link: <https://www.pa.gov/guides/voting-and-elections/>. Then look for the section called "Voting by mail-in ballot" for instructions.



<https://www.facebook.com/wisdomstablechurch>

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