

The Belltower

April 2020

A Monthly Publication of Dunnellon Presbyterian Church

Declaring and Demonstrating the Promises of Christ



For the past twenty-two years, this space on the front page of the Belltower was dedicated to our schedule for Holy Week. It featured blurbs about Cantatas, Concerts, children processing on Palm Sunday, and our Maundy Thursday Meal and Worship Service. The highlight of the page announced our marvelous Easter Worship Celebration. This year, the reality of the COVID-19 Virus has created a period of uncertainty. It has forced the question if having a worship service together may bring more harm to folks than good. So in lieu of those announcements, below is a poignant prayer. May each of us commit to pray the prayer each day of Holy Week. May we be connected in the mystery of the Holy Spirit, bound together in faith, hope, and love trusting in God's providential care:

Prayer for a Pandemic

May we who are merely inconvenienced

Remember those whose lives are at stake.

May we who have no risk factors

Remember those most vulnerable.

May we who have the luxury of working from home

Remember those who must choose between preserving their health or making their rent.

May we who have the flexibility to care for our children when their schools close

Remember those who have no options.

May we who have to cancel our trips

Remember those that have no safe place to go.

May we who are losing our margin money in the tumult of the economic market

Remember those who have no margin at all.

May we who settle in for a quarantine at home

Remember those who have no home.

As fear grips our country,

let us choose love.

During this time when we cannot physically wrap our arms around each other,

Let us yet find ways to be the loving embrace of God to our neighbors.

Amen.

by Cameron Bellm

Dear Members and other Friends:

The other day I saw a wonderful meme on Facebook:

I know this is Lent,
but I never expected
I would have to
give this much up!

By the time you read this, you will probably have given up more for Lent than you ever expected. The Coronavirus Pandemic has literally forced us to give up some things that are precious to us.

- Some have had to go without eating out in restaurants.
- Others have had vacations and other travel cancelled.
- Children have been forced to give up their daily school lessons taught by a teacher who was right there and available to them to answer questions.
- Some have been forced to give up hobbies.
- Others have had to give up meeting with groups that are essential to their emotional health and well-being, even if some might just describe it as just an exercise class or just a card group.
- Many have had to give up church activities and probably most difficult of all corporate worship on Sunday mornings.
- People have had to give up personally being with loved ones who are in Nursing Homes, Rehab Centers and maybe most challenging, not visiting loved ones in the hospital.

One of the most poignant passages of Scripture that points to how we are called to live out the calling to live a life in Christ is Philippians 2. It speaks directly about that which we are asked to give up in the new life in Christ following after the example of Christ himself:

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, ² make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³ Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. ⁴ Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. ⁵ Let the same mind be in you that was^[a] in Christ Jesus,

*⁶ who, though he was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be exploited,*

⁷ *but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
being born in human likeness.
And being found in human form,*
⁸ *he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death—
even death on a cross.*
⁹ *Therefore God also highly exalted him
and gave him the name
that is above every name,
¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
¹¹ and every tongue should confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.*

That which we can “give up” is nothing compared to that which Christ has given up for us. As the Apostle Paul wrote Jesus “emptied himself.” It does not mean that he somehow was no longer one of the three persons of the Trinity, but that he became fully human as well, becoming a slave to those for whom he came to save, taking on voluntarily all of the limitations of human existence. He felt the deepest of human emotions, the depths of human pain and immeasurable vulnerability. Paul sums this “giving” with the phrase, “He humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death- even death on a cross.”

As we begin our journey to Jerusalem during Holy Week, let each us be mindful of that which Christ gave up for us so that we may have life eternal- abundant life now and into God’s future. That which we may need to give up now will be inconsequential in light of eternity. Jesus gave his life so that we may be reconciled to him and have the honored place in his life as “friends.” Thanks be to God as we may experience giving up some things for a season, but receive the rewards of eternal life.

Feeling very loved by God even in the midst of a crisis,

Jeff

**Many Changes & Cancellations
at DPC
due to the Coronavirus-19**

PRESBYTERIAN MEN

The Men's Breakfast is cancelled for April.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

A Message from the Moderator

As we move through this season of Lent, a period of self-reflection and preparation, our eyes are on the cross and the coming celebration of the Glory of Easter. While a global pandemic has required some changes in our daily lives, still we know that God is with us always.

As we finish out this year of Presbyterian Women, the Coordinating Team will be working to put together plans for Mission and activities for the Fall. We would really like to have your thoughts and suggestions. Please contact me or any member of the Coordinating Team with your ideas. We will, once again, be giving Easter dinner grocery gift cards to fifteen needy families so please don't forget your donation for this mission. Wishing each of you a blessed and healthy Easter.

Joh L.
Moderator

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The **Presbyterian Women's activities** that have been cancelled for the month of April are PW Circles, PW Coordinating Team Meeting, and Quilt Circle.

## MUSIC

### CHANCEL CHOIR

The Chancel Choir will not rehearse on Sunday mornings in April.

### DPC CONCERT SERIES

The 2 concerts originally advertised for April 19<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> have been cancelled.

## MEMORIAL GARDEN

The volunteers are getting the garden ready for the Easter season. Thank you, it looks great! Any questions about the Memorial Garden, contact Jean K. at 352-489-2682.

## TREASURER'S REPORT

The February and March Treasurer's Report will be presented in the April Belltower due to computer problems.

## GIVING OPTIONS

- 1) MAIL one of your personal checks by USPS mail to: Dunnellon Presbyterian Church, PO BOX 1069, Dunnellon FL 34430-1069
- 2) BANK CHECK through the BILL-PAY option at your bank. The bank will send one of their checks by USPS mail to Dunnellon Presbyterian Church, usually at no cost to you. Use the PO BOX in item #1 above.
- 3) ONLINE GIVING option which is subscribed to by the Dunnellon Presbyterian Church called: **myEoffering** See the insert here.

## CHURCH CONTACT INFORMATION

**Church Office Phone: 352-489-2682**

### Office Phone Hours:

9:00 am-1:00 pm, Mon – Fri

Please leave a message if you receive the voicemail, we are either on the line or out of the office. The Voicemail will be retrieved hourly, and we will return your call as soon as possible. There will be no face-to-face office visits at the church office, for the safety of all, until further notice due to the COVID-19.

Email: [dunnpreschurch@gmail.com](mailto:dunnpreschurch@gmail.com)

Website: [www.dunnellonpcusa.org](http://www.dunnellonpcusa.org)  
[www.facebook.com/DunnellonPresbyterian](https://www.facebook.com/DunnellonPresbyterian)

## Thank You & Greetings from our Northern Friends

February 29, 2020

Dear Friends,

Another year flying by reminds me to write and thank you again for mailing us the monthly Belltower which we look forward to reading over and over until the next one arrives.

We aren't capable of spending our winters in Dunnellon any more which heightens our feelings of loss.

We do truly miss it, the folks, and the church.

God's Blessings Upon All You Do!  
Fran and George McM.

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STAMP

REV. JEFFREY W. WELCH, PASTOR

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



*Easter*

CELEBRATE THE RISEN SAVIOR!

*The Lord has risen indeed. Luke 24:34*