



SUNDAY'S SERMON

Pastor Ginn will be posting a recorded service on Sunday at 8:15 a.m. It will be posted on Facebook and on our website www.crossandcrown.org/sermon. In addition a link will be emailed at 9 a.m.

ZOOMING WITH YOUR PASTORS!

Porch Time with Pastor Brook

One of my favorite things is sitting down with folks and just chatting- talking about current events, faith topics, or just whatever is going on in people's lives. So I'm inviting you-- virtually, course! -to join me on my front porch for a chat! So every **Monday** from **2:00-3:30 p.m.** I'll be available via Zoom for good, old-fashioned conversation- whatever's on your mind. Just click on this link <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89063013419?pwd=ZXVrY2dEUGFjTHBpeXF5UzVhRU13dz09> and enter the password **042228**. See you soon! **Pastor Brook**



Table Talk with PG

Got a burning question you think about a lot? Zoom in to share the conversation. I'm offering a Table Talk during dinner time every Wednesday, with a different topic each week. Bring a plate or a beverage if you want, and let's chat over the virtual table. This week's Table Talk: **Wednesday, June 10th, 5:30 p.m.** Topic: Prayer—when/how we do it, ideas for new ways to pray, and the big question: does God answer? Our nation's heightened concerns about racial justice and violence present new challenges for prayer. How are you praying these days? Shoot me an email or text to sign up, or just show up on Zoom, using this link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84438415331>. I can't wait to 'see' you! **Pastor Ginn**



The "Be Still & Know" Centering Prayer group will meet virtually **Sunday from 1:00 p.m. until 2:15 p.m. in the Zoom Room**. This is an opportunity to learn and experience Contemplative Prayer and join in a silent meditation time wherever we live. This June will mark 2 years since this meditation/prayer group started meeting each month. To join the call go to: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87131944399>

Regathering for Worship

Our Cross & Crown Regathering Task Force is hard at work developing a list of congregation regathering procedures and safety guidelines we will follow when we return to our church campus for worship. This group, led by Council Vice President Elizabeth McCollom, is dedicated to making faithful decisions that both honor the values we share regarding worship and keep us all safe.

Thanks for your response to the recent online survey regarding outside worship. We value your feedback and will share results soon.

As you know, our state has entered Phase 2 of the Governor's 3-phase plan for lifting restrictions on public gatherings. The Cross & Crown Council's vote to suspend in-house gatherings of more than 10 also expired May 31. At the May Council meeting, held last week, Council agreed not to hold any *in person* gatherings until the Governor moves us into Phase 3. Similarly, our NC Synod Council voted on May 30 to recommend strongly that ELCA congregations in NC not gather in groups larger than 10 inside or 25 outside until the governor moves us into Phase 3 (4-6 weeks after May 22, likely taking us until end of June).

We will keep you posted on any further decisions made by our own Congregation Council regarding in-person worship services. For the next month, continue to join us on Sundays for online worship. Many have said they enjoy the flexibility online worship offers--so come in your jammies or sweats, with coffee or breakfast, and sing like nobody's listening!

Pentecost Sunday reminded us of the Holy Spirit's power, but for many the events of this week and the emotions they trigger feel overwhelming. Two C&C folks worked together to capture their emotions in this poem, which they gave us permission to share with you. May it put you in touch with God's call in your own life....

I Can't Breathe!

Today is Pentecost Sunday, when we are celebrating the gift of the Holy Spirit; when we were given Holy breath.

This Spirit continues to breathe in us, constantly giving us life, and movement, and being. But tonight, I can't breathe! I'm struggling to feel the Holy Spirit, the third part of the Trinity, working through me.

I feel as though the Holy breath has been sucked out of me. I'm called to pursue justice because I love God.

But, I'm overwhelmed. The problems of racism are too ingrained for me to tempt to placate, eradicate, bandage again and again like a small child's brush-burned knee. I don't know where to start, to move ahead, to end.

Only the Spirit, God's very own Being, can blow across the face of the earth transforming hearts and minds, voices and actions of all of His humanity.

Yet I sit in this valley of dry bones. Waiting. Come Holy Spirit. I long and wait for You to give me breath. But for now, I can't breathe.

(by Joan Gauker and Criss Uzman)



A Note of Thanksgiving



Maybe you are back to shopping in person, back to an occasional dinner out, back to seeing friends. You'd love to be back at church. Me, too! Though our doors are still closed for in-person worship, online worship has opened exciting possibilities! We're worshipping with you on YouTube, catching you on Facebook and Zoom, and through your efforts connecting with our Matthews community in lots of ways. Ministry continues, God working through us to help, heal, and stir new faith.

This weekend we celebrate the gift of our new Music Director, Larry Stratemeyer! Blessings abound! Your prayers are needed as his ministry takes hold among us. For this and all that we can do together as church, our financial support is still needed. Please remember to give!

Thank you for BEING the church!

Pastor Ginn

MAY COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

- Council learned the time allowed to use Payroll Protection Program (PPP) funding will likely be extended. At least 75% of these funds must be used for payroll and the remaining 25% for interest on the mortgage and utilities. Council anticipates the entire PPP loan to be used should the time be extended. The amount of the "loan" is \$65,500.
- Unanimously agreed to extend the period of no in-person gatherings, including worship, through the end of Phase 2.
- Unanimously approved to allocate funds as a "give back to the community" with the blessings that the church has been given in this manner: \$1,275 to Emmaus Ministry in west Charlotte; \$2,000 to the NC Synod to be directed to new mission starts (one in Durham and one in Winston-Salem focusing on those in need and the homeless); and \$3,275 to Community Care committee for community programs it identifies to support.
- Reviewed a list of property and maintenance needs.
- Unanimously agreed to extend an offer of employment for director of music ministries to a candidate recommended by the search team.
- Learned Pastor Ginn and Pastor Brook will be starting a new "virtual" conversations with the pastors.