

Covenant Presbyterian Church in America (PCA) 310 Covenant Lane Harleysville, PA 19438 215.256.1007 information@covpreschurch.org



Covenant Update

August 14, 2020



Providence and Pandemic Pandemonium from Pastor Jim Rich

But you, dear friends, build yourselves up in your most holy faith and pray in the Holy Spirit.

Jude 20

As we find ourselves stuck in our current circumstances longer than we could have imagined, this is the perfect reminder of how the doctrine of providence plays itself out in real life. Whatever our present situation, whatever our "new normal", the truth that God is in control of our little lives is not a theoretical point for theological cogitation, but it provides us with a tangible, practical reality for our edification.

The Precepts Bible Study group has been learning from Jude 20 about the importance of building ourselves up in our most holy faith. One of the many ways we do this is by believing and acting upon the reality of the doctrine of providence: that God, in His absolute sovereignty, by "his most holy, wise, and powerful preserving and governing all his creatures, and all their actions" (WSC Q. 11) is working out this pandemic and its collateral havoc for my good and His glory.

What's important is that we use this truth to develop a steadfast endurance, which allows us to live day-by-day over the long haul in the midst of difficult and trying conditions, all the while supported by the sovereign outworking of God's plan for me, in and by my circumstances. And if, in the midst of your particular situation it seems that God has gifted you with a "heavy providence", remember that inherent in the meaning of divine providence is God's fatherly care for his sons and daughters in Christ. Perhaps Isaac Watt's rendition of the last part of Psalm 40 will also be of encouragement to you:

When I'm afflicted, poor, and low, And light and peace depart, My God beholds my heavy woe And bears me on His heart.

Promotion Sunday



Please join us on September 6 at 9:00 a.m. as we celebrate Promotion Sunday in a different way – on Zoom! Everyone is invited as we encourage both Sunday school teachers and students through this special program. We will be hearing from our dedicated and gifted teachers, and we will Be sure to check future editions of *Covenant Update* for the Zoom link to join the program, and please be in prayer for our teachers and students as they navigate new ways to connect and learn. also get a glimpse into the Heart Hiders' ministry.



Congregation Connection



Picnic Time!

As we continue to navigate our re-opening options, we are happy to announce that our Annual Church Picnic will be held on Sunday, September 13 - with a few changes. Instead of our usual pot-luck buffet lines, this will be a BYOB (Bring Your Own Basket/Blanket) event to enjoy on the lawn or under the pavilion! Mark your calendars and watch for more details in upcoming editions of the *Update*.

A Few Other Things to Note

Sunday School Reminders:

- Parents will receive an invitation to Sunday School Zoom classes:
- 9:00-9:30 am Grade 3-6 with Charlie Colombo
- 9:50-10:10 am Age 3 Grade 2 with Sharon Muhlfeld
- The Essential Building Blocks of the Faith adult Sunday School class, led by Jason Clement and Jim Rich, runs through Sept. 6 and meets from 9:00 9:45 am <u>here</u> on Zoom.
- This week's class will cover Part 2 of What is a Reformed church? (pp. 17-28).
- New Adult Sunday School classes will be starting September 13 on Zoom. Look for more information in future editions of the *Update*.
 - Sermon on the Mount with Jim Rich

- Peace Making for Families with Wayne Shaw
- The next adult membership class with Pastor Muhlfeld will take place Sept 13 Oct 25 during the Sunday School hour. Attending the class does not obligate one to apply for membership, but is a requirement of the membership process and is an excellent way to learn more about what we believe as a congregation and denomination. Please sign up in the narthex or contact the church office for more information. Lord willing, a communicant's class (ages 12+) will be coming this fall as well.
- The Senior Fellowship invites everyone to participate over the next two weeks in a Card Shower of Encouragement for both Herb McCarter and Sally Tomlinson, two of our seniors who have had recent health challenges. Please note that Sally enjoys cards with images of nature scenes or flowers.

This Sunday Pastor Jim Rich will preach from **Colossians 1:3-8**, and his sermon title is **The Gospel: The Word of Truth**. He writes, "As we move into the body of Paul's letter to the Colossian church, we see that the apostle is thankful for their faith, love, and hope, all of which are grounded in the gospel. Paul takes pains at the outset of his letter to make sure his readers (then and now) have a clear understanding of the biblical gospel. We'll explore Paul's points about the centrality of the good news of God's grace in Christ."

Live Stream

Printable Bulletin

We look forward to worshiping with you this week!

Covenant Presbyterian Church

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