

Dear Friends,

This Friday is our “week-iversary.” Hard to believe all that has happened in one week since I officially started work on May 1st. I am still buoyed up from the joy and celebration of last Sunday’s parade - and we still have some balloons and signs around the house that our son, Elijah talks about daily. You showed up in droves - in person and online - and you poured out extravagant love and hospitality, which is especially welcome in these days of quarantine and isolation. Thank you, again, from the bottom of my heart.

My family and I are remaining at home, despite restrictions being eased. I will be slowly starting to move boxes of books into my office at the church over the next days and weeks, primarily to free up space in our garage, but also to feel a little more “at home” in my new office, despite not yet working there. Our church building, of course, remains closed - but know there are a handful of your staff in and out (practicing appropriate physical distance if they happen to overlap) to handle necessary operations and maintenance.

Our Executive Presbyter Aisha Brooks-Lytle has told all pastors, “This is a marathon, *not* a sprint!”, and that sentiment was echoed later in a meeting with the PHPC Transition Team. I clearly needed to hear this message twice in succession, and am grateful for God’s grace showing up in the words of others. There’s a song from Mr. Roger’s Neighborhood that goes, “Sometimes it’s very, very, very hard to wait...especially when you’re waiting for something very nice!” Kevin and I sing it with Elijah to help grow his patience, and I find myself singing it for me, these days. As much as I want to dive in headfirst, learn everything I can learn and start working on as many exciting new projects as folks can dream up.

I am here with you, privileged to serve as your Pastor, for the marathon, not the 100m dash. And so I look forward to the weekend, to rest and worship and play, and my undone tasks and unmoved boxes will wait for another day. Be well, folks. Stay home if you can. Keep washing your hands, keep checking in with loved ones, and trust that our God is the God of the marathon, as well - God is with us for the duration, and will not abandon us. Thanks be to God.

Peace,
Katie

****Virtual New Member Class Offered****
Why should we allow a virus to prevent new members from joining our church body? Since we have not met in person since mid-March, Rev. Jody Andrade is exploring the idea of a virtual New Member class. Thanks to Zoom we can get to know one another, learn about our church and the PC(USA), ask questions and enjoy discussion about faith and church life. Dates are to be determined depending on participant’s schedules. If you know someone interested in joining the church, please ask them to contact Jody:  jody@pleasanthillpc.org or (404) 229-9695.

****Calling all graduates!****
If you or someone in your family are graduating from a degree program or a professional training of any kind, we want to know! Please submit a photo of you in your robe, or with your diploma, or celebrating however you choose, along with the graduate’s name, institution, and program completed (or soon to be completed). We will show the photos on Pentecost, May 31, to highlight what the Holy Spirit is doing in our midst. Email your photo to claire@pleasanthillpc.org by Tuesday, May 26.

****A Note from our Mission and Outreach Committee:****
****Volunteers Needed at Duluth Co-op****
Pleasant Hill members and friends staff the Duluth Co-op every year in the month of June. The Co-op is practicing ‘Social Distancing’ as far as humanly possible. It may be that by the time June arrives, current safety practices will not be needed. You can sign up to volunteer for PHPC Month at Duluth Co-op using this link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080E4AAAAD29A6FD0-phpc>

**Schedule of events and connection opportunities through the week**:

****SUNDAY at 11:00 am: Virtual Worship Service****
All are welcome to participate in our **worship service at 11 am**.
Join us virtually via the PHPC live page: <https://www.pleasanthillpc.org/phpc-live/>

****SUNDAY at 12:30 pm: Dining and Digging Deeper****
After listening to the sermon Sunday, what observations do you have? What questions bubbled up? What is the personal takeaway for you and your life after Sunday’s service? Join our pastors as you eat your lunch for a time of dining and digging deeper.

Join Zoom Meeting: [https://us04web.zoom.us/j/745904490](https://pleasanthillpc.us5.list-manage.com/track/click?u=639ecaea44c66650e01fe03d3&id=1a9cf9a462&e=fd7189c9d6)
One tap mobile +19292056099,,745904490#
 Or Dial  1 929 205 6099 and enter Meeting ID: 703 029 280

****TUESDAY at 5 pm: Happy Hour****
Join Rev. Jody Andrade on Facebook Live at <https://www.facebook.com/Pleasanthillpc/><<https://pleasanthillpc.us5.list-manage.com/track/click?u=639ecaea44c66650e01fe03d3&id=0ff538bd13&e=dccdd6023d>>

Share the expressions of joy you’ve found, you want to share, shared photos and cartoons, or quick stories.

(You do not have to have a Facebook account to watch. Follow the link and find the post on the page. Please note you may need to refresh the page until the post shows up.)

****THURSDAY at 12 pm: Lunch Bunch****

Join us for a casual chat about what is happening in each of our lives, where we see God present, what is challenging us.

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/703029280> <<https://pleasanthillpc.us5.list-manage.com/track/click?u=639ecaea44c66650e01fe03d3&id=48efdc3db1&e=dccdd6023d>>

One tap mobile +19292056099,,703029280
Or Dial 1 929 205 6099 and enter Meeting ID: 703 029 280

****THURSDAY from 1-3 pm: Pastoral Care Time****
Rev. Jody Andrade will be available to chat for an individual check in. If you would like to talk one-on-one with Jody, please text 404-229-9695 with your name and how you would like to chat with her. Options are Phone, FaceTime, or Google Duo and Jody will call you sometime between 1-3 pm.