



The Scribe

May 2020

All Quiet at the Corners



OR

Still Waters Run Deep

Writing these words on Wednesday, April 22nd, it is forty days since we made the call to cancel worship services and put a halt to all church gatherings. I don't think it is a stretch to say that in these forty days we have had less total traffic at church than we see in one normal day. Which leads to the first part of the title for this article, "All Quiet at the Corners." But just because people have not been gathering at the church does not mean things have been quiet with our community of faith at Dunn's Corners, hence the second part of my title, "Still Waters Run Deep." On the surface you could look at our parking lot and pews and say, "all quiet." Below the surface, at our numerous substations known as our homes, the Dunn's Corners Community Church, Presbyterian, has been doing some amazing ministry in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. To name a few...

- We have mask makers.
- We have cookie, brownie, and bread bakers.
- We have blessing shakers (think of all the blessings that have shaken out with letters, calls, prayers, and packages).
- And we have risk takers (the friends who are on the front lines at hospitals, nursing homes, grocery stores, and other essential services)—the longer the crisis carries on, the more we realize how truly essential these services are.

Yes, it has been "Quiet at the Corners", but for several weeks a crew has appeared on Friday or Saturday afternoon to film sermons and songs which are then added as links to our weekly bulletins, and by the time Sunday rolls around, we are able to follow the order of service in the bulletin and maintain our experience of worship. Kyle Dodimead has done the filming, editing, and producing of our videos. Kyle's dad, Mark Dodimead, is serving on our Session with Buildings and Grounds. When Mark heard about our desire to film the sermons and music, he suggested we check with Kyle, who has quite a bit of experience in this area through his work with shows at Foxwoods. Kyle immediately said yes and has been of invaluable help. Bill McCauley has handled the sound, Andy Wallace and Kathy Koziol have provided the inspirational music, Andy has used your pictures to craft a slide show to accompany our prelude, Barb Paradise, Luba Preble and Rachel Pierson have worked to get the material onto our website and Facebook, and all of them have served with a glad heart and a willing spirit. Thank you to all!

(*Quiet*, continued on page 2)

(Quiet, continued from page 1)

I have found great joy in writing a daily devotional during the crisis. Writing has been a good outlet for me. I hope you are discovering an outlet that helps you process and make sense of this very confusing time in our lives. Music, reading, sewing, taking a walk, working in the garden, cooking or baking, I hope you take time to step away from the news and maintain activities that keep your life grounded in the goodness of our Lord.

NOTE: The church website (dunnscornerschurch.org) is the place to turn to if you miss any emails, articles, online services, or updates about ways to help with needs in the church family or the community. We have made a move to a mail-server for our emails, and we lost some folks during that transition. All the devotions are on the website, and if you are not currently receiving our daily devotionals contact Luba at the church office and we will add you to our list (dunnchurch@gmail.com).

Regarding those who have financial needs during the Coronavirus Crisis, our Mission Committee is working closely with our Deacons to give strong financial support to area partners like Jonnycake and WARM Centers. Not only do we give them financial support, but they know to call us when they have families facing needs with their rent or mortgage. By working through these trusted partners, we know they have vetted the people with needs, and we also have the chance to work with the larger community of faith and coordinate our efforts.

As a church family, we have a Pastor's Discretion Fund that is available to help church members and friends who face challenges. We have used the fund to help with rental and mortgage needs of members, with car repairs, heating oil, and groceries. If you have a need, or know someone with needs, please let me know. All of this is handled confidentially. Knowing we can help dear friends through difficult times is a very meaningful part of being a church family.

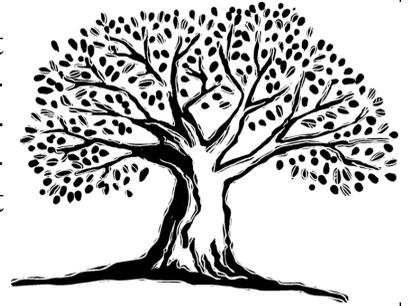
When you drive by the church, you will see an empty parking lot for now. "All quiet at the Corners." But I hope this little update serves to say that below the surface a great deal is being done in terms of ministry. Thank you for all you are doing during this time. Your kindness, concern, compassion, love, and prayers are the very things that I am referring to when I say, "Still waters run deep."

With the love of Christ,

Wayne

News from the Session

The Session met online for the first time and it went well. Thanks to Laurie Chipperfield for setting this up. All Elders called in along with Kevin Lowther, Chair of Trustees. The meeting focused on how to deal with the Coronavirus shut down.



Our Trustees applied for and have now been approved for a pay protection grant to cover two months of staff salaries. As long as we maintain our staff size, the loan will be forgiven.

Rachel Pierson reported that the church has roughly four months worth of cash on hand, and hopefully we won't need to tap into the investments. The congregation is encouraged to send in their pledges to help the cash flow.

The Session voted to fulfill the commitments already made toward completion of the Meeting House, currently nearing completion. The repair of the sound system is on hold for now.

We all expressed our appreciation to Kyle Dodimead, son of Mark, who has videoed our Sunday worship. We also want to thank Kathy Koziol, Andy Wallace, and Grace Urrico for their talent and creativity in production of the video worship. Luba Preble, Rachel Pierson, and Pastor Wayne Eberly continue to hold "down the fort" during this unprecedented time.

The meeting concluded with checking in on each member to see how he or she was coping.

Although everyone is staying at home, please take time to take a walk or a bike ride to look around to see God's many blessings of Spring.

—Art Ganz, clerk

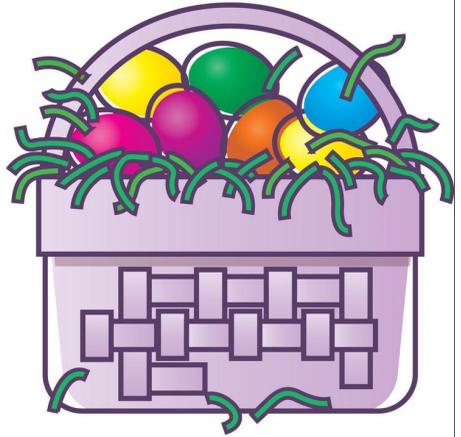
Easter Drop Off

Because our annual Easter Egg Hunt was canceled, the Christian Education committee decided to put together Easter Egg Hunt bags for the children.

We were able to do this by each of us working together, but not coming into contact with each other! On one day gift bags and books were dropped off in the teen room by Susan Brand. The next day chocolate crosses and boxes of crayons were dropped off by Bridgette Deniger, and the following day the bags were filled with Easter eggs, a variety of crafts, crayons and chocolate crosses. The last thing to be put in the bags were Bibles donated by Group Publishing!

On the Saturday before Easter Sunday early in the morning Mary Slatery, Marilyn Brandyberry, Nancy Fortin and Larry Fortin set out to deliver the bags and placed on doorsteps! We all had so much fun and the children were excited to receive them!

—Nancy Fortin, Children Ministry Coordinator



Mission—Serving the Community

We understand those who are struggling, and these are hard times for many.

We gave \$7,500 to the Deacon's Fund for financial aid to those who are struggling.

If you are struggling with payments for heating oil, electricity, phone, insurance, etc., contact the church at (401) 322-0655.

If you wish to donate money, you can earmark it for the Pastor's Discretionary Fund or the Deacons Fund, and mark "Food only."

God bless you all,
Bruce Loeckler, Mission Chair



In the new era of Covid 19 and social distancing, the members of our church family came through again with donations for our monthly WARM dinner on April 4th. It was the first time we have deviated from the very popular Swiss Chicken we normally serve.

Under the circumstances, the WARM Center requested we provide the makings for box lunches as they are also maintaining social distancing. We came through with your help donating cold cuts, rolls, cookies fruit and snacks, all in abundance. Many orders were placed with Dunns Corners Market, and we were able to pick up and deliver a pickup-sized load! The staff and people at the WARM Center could not stop thanking us.

Thanks to all of you for your continued caring and generosity. We will be reaching out to the WARM Center as to how to best serve them in May. Stay tuned!

Church members Cindy Shetler and Sandy Santy are volunteering at the Jonnycake Food Pantry. Cindy took a break to send this report:



Like everywhere, things have changed at the Jonnycake food pantry. We are running with a very small staff and are focused on safety for our clients and ourselves. Only our staff is allowed in the food pantry. We wear gloves, face masks, and sanitize everything regularly. Boxes of food are made up ahead of time and are handed out from a table outdoors. This minimizes contact for everyone involved.

Currently, we provide the following to families, typically every 30 days:

- 1 bag of dry goods plus milk, eggs, cheese
- 1 bag of frozen meat, broccoli, and a loaf of bread (when we have it)
- 1 bag of produce, fruit (when we have it)

Each week, we also provide a bag of food for school-age children with orange juice and fruit when we have it.

We distribute bags of paper goods, detergent, cleaners and toiletries conjunction with the Christ Church pantry.

We are seeing quite a few people we have not seen before because they are no longer receiving paychecks. Two in particular really touched my heart. One, a single mother of two girls has never had to ask for help before, and was embarrassed to come to us. I am grateful that we are able to help people like her and she was very appreciative. She didn't know where else to turn.

The second was a man who became homeless because he lost his job and is living in his car. He didn't have anyone to talk to and was crying. We gave him some food, listened, and told him about the WARM Center. I'm hopeful they will also be able to help him.

Jonnycake cannot accept any food donations right now because of the virus. Monetary donations are greatly appreciated. Right now through June 30th, any donation received will be matched, up to \$30,000, by a private family. They can be made online at <https://jonnycake.org/donate-2/>.

Jonnycake Center can also use cat and dog food. If we can collect it at church, either Cindy can pick it up or the Jonnycake truck can pick it up on Fridays. Drop-offs may be made at the Church Office Tuesday through Friday from 8 a.m. to noon.

DCCCP BEAR MINISTRY

The bears at DCCCP work! They've been around for years, waiting patiently in the pews until someone picks up a lucky bear and takes it to someone who has run into tough times. No matter if it's physical, emotional or spiritual challenges, the bear tells the recipient they are not alone. Each bear comes with a prayer tag. There are lots and lots of folks from DCCCP who are with them, thinking of them, caring about them, praying for them.

Bears work. The church has given away more than a thousand over the years. They have literally been all over the world. I sent one to a friend whose battle with cancer has gone on so long that she's become the editor of the Sloane Kettering cancer patient newsletter in New York City. Her bear sits in her apartment's office in a bookcase right across from her desk keeping watch as she spreads hope to fellow patients. Another bear made its way to a US Navy ICU nurse serving wounded warriors at a base on Diego Garcia in the middle of the Indian Ocean!

The pandemic is not going to keep the bears from their mission of bringing comfort and joy to those who need it. While you can't come to church to pick up a bear, there is a way to get one to your loved one, family member or work colleague. Contact me with the person's name and mailing address. I'll box it up, include a short note telling them we're thinking of and praying for them and post it. Tell me if you would like the recipient to know you gave me their name or if you want it to just "come from the church."

Bears...another way to spread the "good news".



—Ivan Owen

ivangowen@gmail.com; 401-474-7765

Teen leader Michael Walton reports...



I am having online meetings with the Teen group on a weekly basis with a flexible schedule depending on the teens' schedules. To date, we have had a mental health meeting with one of **Susan Brand's** colleagues (*see below*) and a Bible Study hosted by my mother, **Wardine Walton**, who is an ordained minister. We have also had general get-togethers to check in with each other. I also call to touch base with many of the youth individually from time to time.

It is great to hear that people are still giving for the Ghana mission trip. Thank you to everyone who turned in the decorated Ghana envelopes for their Easter offering. I'm in touch with the Ghana planning team, but don't have an update yet. We are due to reconvene early May to make some decisions about re-scheduling.

More from Church Elder Susan Brand:

The teen group held a meeting on Thursday evening, April 16th, using Google Hangouts.

Julianna Golas, a lecturer in Human Development and Family Studies and a URI colleague of Susan Brand, presented a 90-minute talk to eight members of the youth group plus Michael and Susan. Her topic was "Mental Health Awareness in Trying Times."

Julianna discussed anxiety and depression and how to recognize symptoms and help others who are experiencing them. She discussed alcohol and drug use and suicide awareness and prevention. She relayed a touching story of a dejected man who jumped from the Golden Gate Bridge, and after regretting his decision and praying to live after he jumped, was saved by several sea lions who swam around him and kept him afloat.

Next, the group shared ideas about how to stay mentally, physically, and spiritually healthy in these times of physical isolation. Julianna stressed that physical isolation does not need to mean social isolation. The group's ideas for socializing included running, hiking, exercising, reading, cooking, meditating, chatting online with friends and relatives, and playing board games with family members.



On March 13th, 2020, all Rhode Island day care centers and preschools were closed to reduce the spread of the coronavirus, including our Early Learning Center and Kid Kare programs.

The Early Learning Center is maintaining a connection with their young students with online learning on Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 10:00 am. Teachers **Shara Bousquet** and **Judi Boyle**, have been enjoying the challenge of creating projects and lessons to share online with their 3 and 4-year-old students. The online learning keeps teachers, students and families connected during this difficult time and the students enjoy seeing their teachers and classmates.

Recently, a parent texted Preschool Director, **Christine Fish**, to say how much his daughter is enjoying the preschool Zoom classes. He said she wakes up and looks forward to seeing her teachers and friends.



Are You Masked?

Lois Gardner and her daughter, Brett Gardner, have been making face masks. Lois gave us this update:

Rhode Island citizens have been asked to wear masks when out in public and when in small groups of people. Around the country those who know how to sew are making all kinds of masks. There are more patterns and options than we need. There is a shortage of elastic around the country. Masks are now being made with fabric ties, some ties are made of cotton and some out of T-shirts. I know of several women in our church sewing masks for family, friends, neighbors, nursing homes, rehab centers and hospitals including **Julie Eberly, Jane Larkin, Yvette Drurey, and Nancy Lewis** plus my daughter, **Brett**, and myself. There are probably more of our congregation who are sewing masks that we don't even know about. If you have a mask, be sure to wash it daily. Some say to spray your mask with peroxide first and then wash in hot soapy water. If you are in need of a mask, just reach out to any of the women mentioned. The only delay in getting the mask is if the elastic is no longer available. If you have ¼" elastic at home and are not using it, please drop off your elastic at church and it will be put to good use.



To date, Yvette Drurey has sewn over 100 masks.

More about mask making from Julie Eberly...

Tikkun Olam: Working for many years at Interfaith Ministries for Greater Houston, I learned much from the Jewish community. One of the concepts has stuck with me and conjures up a beautiful picture in my mind to illustrate it—Tikkun Olam. It literally means to partner with God to reconcile a broken world.

I'm sure you, like me, have many examples of heroes that are rising from the coronavirus pandemic. Perhaps you've seen what **Bob Rieger** is doing with his 3D printer. In addition to the prosthetic hands, he's now utilizing its capacity to produce two types of PPE (personal protective equipment). First, are unique face shields which are certified by the NIH (National Institutes of Health) and will be donated to the Yale New Haven Health Network. Secondly, are face masks that are currently in a national testing phase and are being created for a Medivac helicopter crew in Rochester, NY, along with several medical assistants.



Another young hero in our midst has created her own organization, **Taylor'd Masks**, to fabricate masks for healthcare providers on the frontline who are fighting the COVID-19 pandemic in our state of Rhode Island. **Taylor Hurrell**, daughter of Mark and Jen Hurrell, granddaughter of **Ted and Ellen Truslow**, is currently a junior at South Kingstown HS, studying in the biomedical pathway program. She plans to work in the field of medicine as a healthcare provider, and in the past month has provided custom face masks at no charge for 100% of the patients at the Elderwood of Scallop Shell in Wakefield, the Elms Retirement Residence and the Gastroenterology and Digestive Wellness Center here in Westerly.

These are just a few of our members who are using their time and talents to make a difference. I look forward to hearing the stories in the future, as we once again open our church doors and gather together. May each of us ask God how we can partner to help repair a broken and hurting world.

God has given us all many gifts.

As Christians we are called to give of our time and share our talents daily. We have grown up learning this, and the church encourages this from us. Ephesians 2:10 states, “For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Bob Reiger with the help of his wife Sue, heard the call and acted. Bob contacted me a few weeks ago to see if the hospital could use face shields. He obtained an approved design by the NIH for hobbyists to 3D print face shields. I am grateful to people like Bob and Sue who share their talents and are always listening to hear the call.

Over the years I have made many wonderful friends at the church. The caring cultivated through these friendships is always growing and developing. The hymn, *Blest Be the Tie That Binds* states it best: ‘Blest be the tie that binds our heart in Christian love. The fellowship our spirit finds is like to that above.’”

Gretchen Young and Barbara Sullivan live this hymn. I have been friends with them for many years, and they have taught me so much about life and my faith. I have greatly appreciated their support. For years I thought I was helping them and today I realize it is just the opposite.

—Christine Sylvia

Recently received:

Dear Friends:

Thank you for “the Scribe” message in February, “From Dust We Are...”—a wonderful message for Lent. I sent it back to N.E. to my sister and husband, D & L Chapell, both staying in Beechwood rehab in new London, CT for Ash Wednesday. It was a great message!

Want to thank those who sent me greetings on my January 100th birthday. It was a grand celebration put on by my daughter-in-law, Sandy Sisson and my two grands at this facility where I’ve been since 2002!

I’m thankful “our” DCCCP church has grown since I left in October 1977. I recall marching as an elder with pastor leading the congregation to our new building from DC to our new place of worship. Thank God!

They have made such progress and this makes me happy. My grandchildren took pictures of my former church when they were in RI to honor their Dad into the “Hall of Fame” ceremony of “Westerly High School Basketball” in September 2018 at the Haversham Inn.

May y’al continue to grow in members.

God’s blessings.

Fondly,
Helen Sisson Seagrave

Hello all!

At the time of this printing, my hope is you all are healthy and happy. I miss everyone!

There is always some good that comes from the bad. I think God had to slow us down to get our attention back on the important things. My heart goes out to all who are hurting, and I pray for their healing and comfort.

Staying home with AJ and doing socially distancing has been my first priority every day. Some days are better than others, but my focus these days is to stay positive, help someone when the opportunity arises and be grateful for all the good things in life.

These are a few of the things I am grateful for:

- I am lucky enough to be healthy and still have my job.
- Playing with our six cats and taking care of our 16 chickens.
- Walking to the church on Sundays to pick up the sermon and bulletin and maybe a chocolate treat.
- Baking almond bread.
- Going down to the shore to breath in the ocean air.
- Watching old movies.
- Friends that handmade wonderful facemasks.
- Having the extra time to do yard work and long overdue projects for the house is a God-send!
- Still need to get started inside with the Spring cleaning and purge... Glad I have a house to clean!

(Holly, continued on page 14)

(Holly, continued from page 13)

I feel like I am talking more to my neighbors and strangers than I was before the pandemic started. My neighbor of 20 years, that I had never met, came down my driveway for a walk. She saw the chicken coup and we asked if she would like some eggs. She has been back three times already and we are planning to go hiking soon.



Pets can pull me out of any mood in a nano second. I am always giving my doggy friends treats. I finally bought a big bag of dog biscuits and leave it in my car. Almost every time I see someone walking their dog, I stop to say hi, and dog-willing, I get a pet hello and the puppy gets a biscuit. There are lots of smiles and I feel my blood pressure go down. They make my whole day!

So, that's a little snap shot into my life. I look forward to seeing everyone soon, and if I can help, don't hesitate to ask.

Keep the good energy going! We are getting through this one day at a time.

Love you all!

Peace and blessings,
Holly Karnes (proud and honored to be a DCCCP Deacon)

NEW DATES FOR THE PHOTO DIRECTORY:

Tuesday/Wednesday, August 11-12

Thursday, Friday, Saturday, September 17, 18, 19

After seeing some of you in the “doorway” photos recently during online worship, it made us appreciate how much we need a new photo directory, and we have welcomed a number of new members who need to be represented.

Please mark down these new dates, and we will let you know how to make appointments. Keep sending your photos of life in our community. It will be wonderful to see everyone in person—eventually.



Photo
DIRECTORY

—Linda Griffin, Laurie Chipperfield
Membership and Evangelism

Dunn's Corners Community Church,
Presbyterian
221 Post Road
Westerly, Rhode Island 02891

Non-Profit Organization
US Postage Paid Westerly, RI 02891
Permit No. 145

Return Service Requested



The Scribe

May 2020

Diamonds Among Us!

We extend our belated birthday wishes to:

- 🕯 Barbara Ritchie on April 3rd;
- 🕯 Beth Rickman on April 4th;
- 🕯 Hope Benn on April 6th;
- 🕯 Gretchen Young on April 10th;
- 🕯 Jane Frink on April 10th;
- 🕯 Bob Lohmann on April 10th;
- 🕯 Sheri Loeckler on April 11th;
- 🕯 Ted Glasson on April 14th;
- 🕯 Linda Chaffee on April 15th;
- 🕯 Andrea Barrus on April 19th;
- 🕯 David Maine on April 19th;
- 🕯 Barbara Green on April 20th;
- 🕯 Caryl Scharfenberg on April 21st;
- 🕯 Ted Truslow on April 26th.

Happy Birthday!



- 🕯 We wish Diana Clark a happy birthday on May 18th.