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The Panhandle Presbyterian

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From General Presbyter Roy Martin

In this article, I wish to share with you the Presbyterian perspective on worship as it is presented in our Book of Order. When we think of worship, we tend to focus our thinking upon the gathered community in a sanctuary with pulpit and pews, preacher and choir, sermon and hymn. That, for us, is our primary experience of worship.

But the Reformed Faith of which we are a part has a much broader view of worship, and that broader view is reflected in the Directory for Worship section of our Book of Order. There, in addition to details about how we are to worship together, there is a chapter entitled "Worship and Christian Life". The chapter begins with a section called "Worship and Personal Life".

That section begins with this statement: "We respond to God's grace both in public worship and service and in personal acts of devotion and discipleship." W-5.0101

In a later section, there is this statement: "We respond to God's

grace in the context of personal relationships, particularly when Christians who live together worship together. Opportunities for household or family worship include: Sabbath-keeping and rhythms of daily prayer; Bible reading, study, or memorization; prayers before meals; singing hymns, psalms, and other spiritual songs; and expressions of giving, sharing, and service to others. Congregations are encouraged to nurture and equip households and families for these practices." W-5.0105

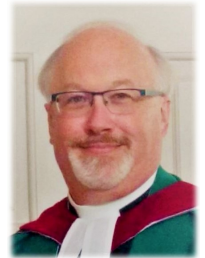
Now don't get me wrong. The Reformed Faith always has and always will encourage worship in the gathered community of faith. But, in these days of isolating ourselves as much as possible to stay well, isn't it wonderful to know that worship is not limited to the gathered community but is encouraged at home?

I have had the joy of participating in worship in the sanctuaries of our presbytery and now online through video. And, although the latter is nowhere near as engaging as the former, I still

experience the love of God through sermon and song and I know through faith that God hears our collective prayer and praise even though I can only hear my own.

Even as we pray for the day when this pandemic will end and we can return to worship in the sanctuary, I am grateful that we Presbyterians know that worship is not limited to that setting. I hope you are, too.

Roy



**The Rev. Dr.
Roy Martin**

**View the Presbytery's
June 16 Presbytery
Meeting live online at
1 p.m. CDT/2 p.m. EDT**

Facebook:

[www.facebook.com/
Presbytery-of-Florida-
491384967591522/](http://www.facebook.com/Presbytery-of-Florida-491384967591522/)

YouTube:

[www.youtube.com/channel/
UCCuBkqyXce8O9LH-
SkVHFioA](http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCCuBkqyXce8O9LH-SkVHFioA)

Our Connectional Church

Delegates prepare for historic virtual 224th GA

Presbytery Stated Clerk Jeannie Dixon has been working with our General Assembly commissioners and Young Adult Advisory Delegate (YAAD) to provide training and support for their participation in first-ever online General Assembly at the end of June. The first plenary will be Friday, June 19, beginning at 6 p.m. CDT/7 p.m. EDT and concluding with co-moderator elections.

The assembly will recess until the next Friday (June 26) when it will meet from 10 a.m. — 5 p.m. CDT/11 a.m. — 6 p.m. EDT. The meeting will then conclude on Saturday, June 27, with the final plenary meetings from 10 a.m. — 5:30 p.m. CDT/11 a.m. — 6:30 p.m. EDT. The meetings are all livestreamed from the GA web page (<https://ga-pcusa.org/>) and from the GA Facebook page.

Everyone is encouraged to participate via the live streams. Please keep Rev. Brad Clayton,

Elder Joanne Kublik, and YAAD Ryan Obray in your prayers.

All commissioners and alternates took part in training earlier this year. Shown from left, seated, are YAAD Ryan Obray (Trinity, Pensacola), Elder Commissioner Joanne Kublik (1st, Crestview), and Minister Commissioner Rev. Brad Clayton (Faith, Tallahassee). Standing are Rev. Dr. Martin, Elder Commissioner Alternate Linda Lovins (Christ, Tallahassee), Jeannie Dixon (Fellowship, Tallahassee) and Minister Commissioner Alternate Rev. Sharon Schuler (1st, Fort Walton Beach).



MASS POOR PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY & MORAL MARCH ON WASHINGTON IS GOING DIGITAL! JUNE 20, 2020

www.June2020.org



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Poor People's Campaign

A NATIONAL CALL for MORAL REVIVAL

KAIROS
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AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

RSVP at <https://actionnetwork.org/forms/rsvp-for-june-20-2020-mass-poor-peoples-assembly-moral-march-on-washington>

Committee on Ministry Myth-Busting, Part 3

This is the third article in a series hoping to share information on the work of the Committee on Ministry and to dispel myths that are typically heard.

Myth Buster 6. (Partially Busted) “The Committee on Ministry won’t let us do what we want.” This may be true, but in very few instances. The reason being is some things congregations may want to do are contrary to our denomination’s constitution.

For example, temporary pastoral leadership. There are times when congregations need Interims, Stated Supplies, or Commissioned Lay Pastors. These are called Temporary positions.

This means a pastor/leader has a contract with the Session, as compared to an installed pastor who has an agreement with the congregation and the Presbytery.

There are restrictions placed on COM and Presbyteries as to who may serve our congregations, such as they need to be PCUSA pastors, or part of a denomination “in correspondence” with the PCUSA, or have specific approval by COM. These restrictions are to safeguard congregations by making sure they remain within the

theological spectrum of our denomination, as well as follow proper Presbyterian polity. Other denominations do not necessarily hold fast to our traditions, therefore a pastor/leader from other denominations may not be qualified to serve one of our congregations.

A person may be a great preacher, may have a great personality, etc. But COM must take into account denominational requirements and use its collective wisdom and judgment on who will serve our congregations.

From the Committee on Ministry



By
Rev. Mark Broadhead, Chair, and 1st, Crestview/Laurel Hill Pastor



Join us online this summer:

We've got something for everyone!

**Classes, Concerts, "Montreat Moments,"
Worship, Bible Study, and much more!**

- **Live Worship Services in the evening**

working people & families can join us

- **All sessions will be recorded - watch anytime!**

- **Classes for Children and Youth:**

Music, Photography, Bible Study, and more!

- **Choral Masterclasses**

- **Handbell Masterclasses**

- **"Art in the Liturgical Arc"**

- **Routley Lectures** with Mel Bringle

- **Interactive Worship Reflections**

- **Hymn Festival and Organ Recital**

Visit www.presbysmusic.org/2020conference to learn more.

LIVE DATES: June 21– 26, 2020 or watch the recordings anytime afterward!

From the Committee on Congregational Revitalization



*By Rev. Lisa Martin,
Chair, and 1st,
Lynn Haven Pastor*

Re-opening plans linked to congregational revitalization

Since Florida has been allowed to re-open bit by bit, there has been much discussion about

- HOW to reopen
- WHEN to reopen
- WHY reopen, and
- IF we reopen at all

For every HOW, WHEN, WHY, and IF question, there are a host of answers! For some congregations, reopening is a hotly contested topic between those who say YES to reopening NOW, and those who say NO to reopening any time soon. What are congregations to do?

CCR to the rescue! Perhaps conversations around these HOW, WHEN, WHY, and IF questions may allow sessions the opportunity to address the reality that reopening is inextricably linked to congregational revitalization.

There is no doubt that most of our congregations will undergo some degree of change as we reopen. Greeters may not stand so close to those who enter the building and may wear gloves, even masks. Ushers may not pass the offering plates. Elders may not serve the communion elements in the way that is familiar. Choirs may not sing from the choir loft, if there is any singing at all. Pastors may not shake hands at the close



of worship. There may be no fellowship hour or in-house luncheon. Sunday School teachers may wear gloves and masks. Nursery toys may be put away – stored for the time being. Congregants may be required to sit six feet apart and wear masks out of respect and love for brothers and sisters who are more physically vulnerable.

Congregational revitalization that works best does so when excellent planning has taken place. The changes that are sure to happen as congregations reopen warrant prayerful, thoughtful, and coherent planning. Think of

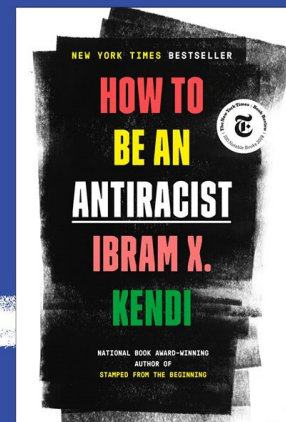
reopening in revitalization terms; our reopening plans surely can bless members and guests, especially when we plan with an understanding that we are seeking God's will, not our own.

If it's true that the church doesn't like change, well, we're in for a very rough ride as we reopen. But if we look to God, who promises to do a "new thing" among us (Isaiah 43), then the changes we are sure to make out of love and concern for members and guests will be a blessing. And we'll get through it, maybe not completely unscathed, but still in one piece.

Blessings to every congregation as you tackle the HOW, WHEN, WHY, and IF of your church's grand reopening!

Presbyterian Peace Fellowship

PPF VIRTUAL BOOK CLUB



REGISTER:

bit.ly/ppf_antiracist_bookclub

Disbursement of Hurricane Michael funds winding down

It has been over a year and a half since Hurricane Michael tore through the middle of our Presbytery and destroyed so much of what we love about our home here. But so many in our Presbytery have responded to support the churches and people in this area. As the Presbytery winds down our disbursement of funds to those impacted by the hurricane, I would like to give you some information on what monies we have received and who we have helped.

These past 17 months, we have received \$608,912.78 in funds to assist people in the affected area. While \$351,586.88 was received from Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the remaining \$257,325.90 was received from individuals, Presbyterian Women groups, and churches, not only in Florida but around the country.

While Hurricane Michael brought so much tragedy, we have been blessed to see how much kindness and support

there is in our community and throughout the larger Christian community. While we are disbursing the final payments that have been collected, on behalf of those affected by this hurricane, I want to thank everyone for their support and encouragement. While the Presbytery is no longer collecting money for the relief effort, if you wish to continue to give to any of these churches, we are always able to provide you the necessary contact information.

From Our Presbytery's Treasurer/Bookkeeper



By Denise Vandiver, Lafayette, Tallahassee, Elder

Congregations remain faithful despite pandemic

In the past several weeks, we have undergone a worldwide event unprecedented in our lifetimes. With the pandemic has come much uncertainty and many questions regarding our health, and in many cases, our jobs and future.

It has been a humbling and inspiring experience to witness the response of the individual congregations to the needs in the Presbytery. There are, at last count, 11 congregations that have pledged more than requested, and most congregations have kept their pledges current.

Thank you for this faithful response during this most trying time. Together, we will continue to serve the ministries of our Presbytery and the needs of the congregations and communities.

Please stay safe.

From the Committee on Presbytery Administration



By W. O. Bell, Chair, and Faith, Tallahassee, Elder

Rejoice in HOPE

Churchwide Gathering of Presbyterian Women

August 5-8, 2021

St. Louis, Missouri

PREBYTERIAN WOMEN



May 30, 2020

Dear parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles, and many "Friends of Dogwood Acres,"

First, I so much appreciate your patience as the Committee on Dogwood Acres (The Board, The Ministry Team, or whatever you choose to call it!) as I navigate through the uncharted waters created by COVID-19. Over the past weeks and months, we have continued to monitor any and all information we can find related to the virus, and try to understand how it might relate to DWA Summer Camp 2020. We have committed to making a firm decision Monday late afternoon, June 1st, and answer the questions before us: Will we hold Summer Camp in a fashion similar to traditional camp with changes to procedures and programming to make it safer considering the virus? Will we modify Summer Camp to a much greater degree? Will we have to make the terribly hard decision that this year simply is not the year to hold Summer Camp?

If we decide a more traditional approach to camp, with safety modifications, is not possible, then know we are discussing alternatives. One alternative that is being talked about is "Family Camp." In general, Family Camp might consist of one family renting a cabin or one of the two rooms in a cabin (each with a private bath) and having the options to use any of the many facilities and attributes of DWA. DWA would provide a limited number of counselors that's main job would be to help ensure safety, to answer questions, and serve as lifeguards. DWA would also staff the kitchen and provide meals.

Please don't take this for more than it is intended. I am merely trying to show we are thinking about this situation from all angles. And some of those angles might rely on more volunteer help than normal.

If you have ideas or comments, please feel free to call or email me. Information about this decision will be shared in the coming week.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ben Powell". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Ben Powell, Director

Our government is endangering our children

“There can be no keener revelation of a society’s soul than the way in which it treats its children....”

Nelson Mandela

We live in scary times – Covid-19, monster hurricanes, gun violence, terrorism, and there is one more thing that largely goes unnoticed, that is putting our children at increasing risk – the reversal by the current administration of rules and programs designed to protect our children’s safety and health. We love our children. We would gladly give up our lives to protect them. We work hard to raise and keep them safe, and we trust that our government is doing the same thing.

Over the past three years, it has been impossible for even the most interested person to keep track of all the regulations and programs that have been eliminated or weakened by our federal government. The Union of Concerned Scientists has documented them and you can see the list at <http://act.ucsusa.org/endangering>.

One change is the current administration overruling the Environmental Protection Agency’s scientists to allow the continued use of chlorpyrifos, an agricultural pesticide derived from nerve agents used in WW II. There is ironclad evidence that even a small amount of exposure to chlorpyrifos can inhibit brain development in children. The EPA banned its use in homes 20 years ago, but this action allows its continued use on our

food – on the food of our children.

Another change is the EPA defying a court order, the law and science to allow the use of perchlorate. The American Academy of Pediatrics, multiple independent scientists, and many states have weighed in, urging EPA to set a strict standard for perchlorate in drinking water. They have been ignored.

You think the use of asbestos is a thing of the past, as you see pictures of workers wearing special suits to remove it from older buildings, but under this administration they are failing to ban its import and neglecting to enforce regulations around existing asbestos insulation in buildings like schools. Exposure to asbestos greatly increases the risk of mesothelioma, a cancer that affects the lining of the lungs. I have had two friends die of it.

There is more – PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances) exposure. These are man-made chemicals found in firefighting foam, nonstick cookware and food packaging and can be found in food, drinking water and the environment. Exposure to PFAS can result in damaged kidney function, increased asthma risk and resistance to vaccines in children. It is estimated that 3 million children in the U.S. attend schools or childcare facilities within five miles of a PFAS contamination site.

Children’s safety is also being comprised by failure to enforce key consumer protections such as product

recalls. Public recalls in general have dropped and recalls of products for kids fell by 55% in 2017. In 2018, the Consumer Public Safety Commission dismantled a team that had helped find potentially dangerous defects in children’s products.

Overall, our children are less protected and more in danger than they were just a few years ago. Our government knows how to protect our children, but is siding with industry and ignoring science and even a court order to protect the safety and health of our children. The Union of Concerned Scientists has published a report, “Endangering Generations: How the Trump Administration’s Assault on Science is Harming Children’s Health.” To order a copy go to <http://store.ucsusa.org>.

There are some things you can do. You can read these reports and share what you learn with your congregation. The UCS offers a video reading of its report along with a resource guide (at the above website). You can buy organic food. You can write letters to your elected officials, and perhaps the easiest and most important thing you can do is to *vote for candidates who prioritize the health and safety of our children over increasing the profitability of industry.*

As always if you have any questions or comments, please contact me at pammcvety@hotmail.com.

Caring for Creation Notes



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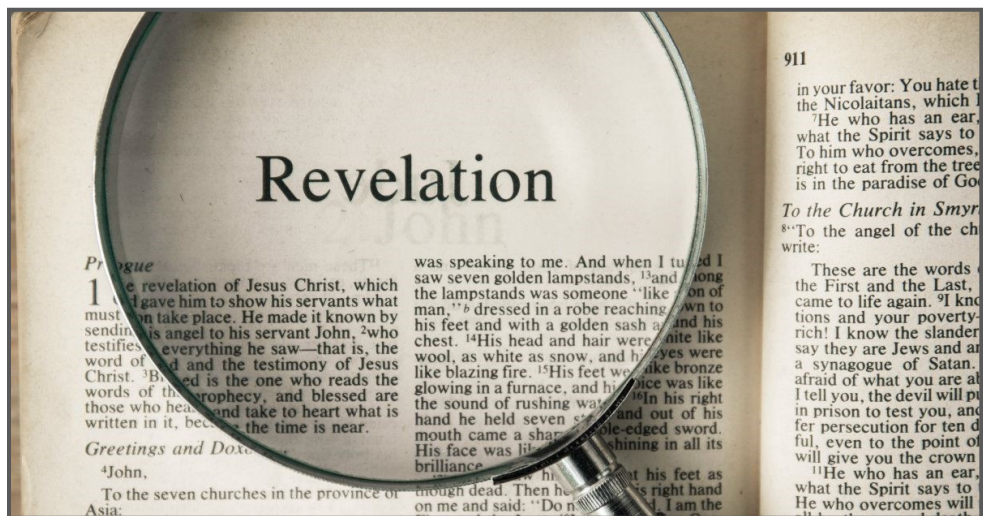
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Making Sense Out of Revelation

The Book of Revelation isn't about calculating when the end times will come. It is about pointing to some of the most engaging outlines of the gospel. Revelation "reveals" the Good News of who Jesus Christ is and what he accomplishes.

This will be an online Zoom study led by our General Presbyter, the Rev. Dr. Roy A. Martin, each Wednesday morning June 10 – Aug. 5 at 9:30 CDT/10:30 EDT. Please register by contacting the Presbytery office at 850-535-2335 or office@presbyteryofflorida.com.



6/10	<i>Introduction to the Book</i>	Ch 1: 1-20
6/17	<i>Seven Actual Churches</i>	Ch 2: 1 – 3:22
6/24	<i>The Control of History</i>	Ch 4: 1 – 5:14
7/1	<i>Seven Seals</i>	Ch 6: 1 – 8: 1
7/8	<i>Seven Trumpets</i>	Ch 8: 2 – 11:19
7/15	<i>Freehand Sketch</i>	Ch 12: 1 – 14:20
7/22	<i>Seven Bowls</i>	Ch 15: 1 – 16:21
7/29	<i>Evens of the End</i>	Ch 17: 1 – 20:15
8/5	<i>The New Heaven & New Earth</i>	Ch 21: 1 – 22:21