



Beyond the Columns April 2021

194 YEARS OF
“KNOWING CHRIST AND MAKING HIM KNOWN”

MULTISENSORY WORSHIP: Bringing Worship to Life

As we have moved through our Lenten worship series, I hope that you have noticed that our worship has been a more multisensory experience. This has been accomplished with dramatic readings, visual display on the communion table, and a style of conversation that reminds us that worship is participatory – that we don’t just listen to the story but find ourselves in the picture.

While this can seem to be a more contemporary way of worship, in fact, it is as old as our earliest memories of being in God’s presence. We find Adam and Eve in a garden full of sights and sounds and the immediate presence of God before sin would drive them out. From that moment on, believers would seek to experience God’s presence in a tangible way.

For generations of Presbyterians, that multisensory experience largely found expression in Word, Sacrament, and live worship music that sought to lift our souls to heaven. But, at times it hasn’t always been participatory or necessarily engaging of all our senses. For example, the magnificent oratorios and anthems that once filled our classic worship spaces are out of reach for the small choirs and ensembles of today. In the same way, much of contemporary worship is written in such a way that makes a lead worship team the center of worship while rendering it nearly unsingable to a congregation.

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The question then is not is it good worship music but does it engage and draw the congregation into singing – that God given gift of vibration that is actually healing. If you wonder why the words to music stick when all else is gone, that's why. The memory banks remember the pattern of sound.

Few teachers relied on the power of multisensory teaching any more than Jesus. What we are seeing today in terms of multisensory teaching is not so much a *revolution* as it is a *revival*. Jesus used vines, branches, coins, water, wheat, wheat fields, children, and all sorts of visual aids to graphically communicate divine truth. Teachers today do well to learn from Jesus' teaching by stimulating and motivating their students, varying their methods, encouraging learners to participate, and visualizing what they verbalize.

Jesus, himself, taught in a way that drew people in through their senses – eating meals together, telling us to remember the extravagant outpouring of the rich nard, the sights and sounds of the parade, the waving palm branches and fallen cloaks, the act of pouring water for the foot washing of the disciples, the prayer of anguish, the shedding of tears, the harsh reality of the arrest, the trial, crucifixion, resurrection, the Ascension.

But it really all began with the Incarnation when Christ himself took on bodily form to live among us. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, we can once again be drawn directly into God's presence through prayer and image rich worship that engages the heart, soul, mind and strength – not just singing and hearing about God but feeling and experiencing God in a more holistic worship experience.

Contrary to some thought, multi-sensory worship is not an attempt to make a worship space more contemporary or as a reflection of modern culture with its split-second focus that seeks to keep people engaged. Rather, multi-sensory worship is an attempt to draw the worshipper into God's presence and to make it possible to slow the pace of our rapid thought processes – to create a pause moment – an aha! Moment where the sacred transcends the ordinary.

As our life together seeks to find new expressions, our hope is that the media enhancement system along with visuals and yes, the ability to bring a variety of worship music into our sanctuary will help us enjoy the many expressions of God given creativity. What is essential will remain the same: the focus of worship is always to bring glory to God.

Guest Column

Bed Posts Along the Way

No, this isn't about General / President Washington's tours and the numerous "Washington Slept Here" signs and legends. Every time I drive down to visit my son, Jeremy in Yanceyville via U.S.#86 (there are other ways, but this one's closest to "The way the crow flies"), I always try to see something new which might strike my attention, extrapolative powers, and imagination; although the object may have already been in existence there for many years before being noticed by me. My attention to a certain couple of unusual objects (unusual in their outside setting) was drawn by the form of a multi-colored electric Christmas Star on a hill just past and above them. The owner is leaving his outside Christmas decoration lit long, long past the historic return of the Magi to their home countries in order to honor medical workers' devotion to their important jobs during the Pandemic (and well, for that matter, important jobs even in the absence of a pandemic). Some people have ground-level reflectors to light up the entrances to their driveways (so they don't wind up in a ditch); but this family has two, actual, tall, white bedposts with little electric white lights attached to their finials. I scratched my head when I first saw this (of course, while keeping my other hand firmly affixed to the steering wheel).



I initially had almost the same reaction of embarrassment as if I'd accidentally wandered into the family's main bedroom boudoir! (I also wondered if there were something resembling a bed's footboard at the backyard, far end of the drive). Despite the driveway bed posts, it is within the walls of the home where this family makes their bed, not something like the reverse, outdoor nightclub in "A Night at the Roxbury"(1998). In my apartment is a nailed in, foot square wall decoration from a previous resident which says: "Home is Where You hang Your Heart!" By the placing of those drive-marker bedposts, this family is saying: "Home is Where You Lay Your Body Down and Sleep A-Night." So, now, whenever I pass those pale bedposts in the night, I imagine they're saying to me: "Stop in, take a load off your feet, and have a lie down...ah.....er.....sit down!"

J. Mack Williams

Young Disciples

Youth

Meeting for Sunday School at 10 a.m. in the upstairs Youth room each Sunday morning.

Reminder if you are able, please join us April 24th at 10 a.m. to help with Lunch Ministry.



Children

Easter Egg hunt will take place on April 4th in the Courtyard at 10:30 a.m. Please bring a basket to collect eggs.



If you are graduating high school or reapplying to college, please stop by the office and get your scholarship application. Turn in your application by April 30th.
Get your application today!



APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|----|-------------------|
| 3 | Joyce Jobe |
| 3 | Linda Copeland |
| 4 | Benjamin Kassa |
| | Anne Mason |
| 5 | Philip Baughman |
| | Will Brown |
| 19 | Charlotte Lowther |
| 20 | Luis Abreu |
| | Ina Ingram |
| | James Cannon |
| 21 | Dave Zook |
| 22 | Gwen Baucom |
| 25 | Alice Saunders |
| 28 | Heather Perryman |
| 30 | Melva Sweeney |
| | Bracken Erwin |
| | Karan Johnson |

Anniversaries

- | | |
|----------|-----------------------|
| April 5 | Ray and Harriet Beale |
| April 16 | Pastor Beth and Jerry |

Let us know if we've missed your special day!

Ellie Honea



Ellie (as most of you know) is a product of First Presbyterian Church and ministers with the Community Arts Missionary in Japan. As you can imagine, living overseas, single, during a year-long global pandemic that forced much life and ministry to remain socially distant and online, Ellie's year has been a real challenge. After quarantining a year ago upon her arrival back in Japan, she also fought illness and had to be quarantined in early September. She is healthy now. She is happy to report that she will finally have a roommate at the end of April, a college senior at Japanese University. Like Ellie, she is a talented musician and a member of the same church.

In spite of the challenges, Ellie had a busy year. While quarantined, she experimented with more online ministry. Almost daily, she recorded a song from original worship songs to classical pieces and posted them to social media with short Japanese meditations on how they point her to Christ. After she was well, she resumed her missionary work by using music to help bring the word of our Lord to people wanting to become Christians. In November, she zoomed a meeting with the whole Community Arts Tokyo team providing an update of the ministry.

The 2021 year promises to bring more changes for the Community Arts Tokyo team. Among the new initiatives planned are new members getting to focus back on language study, team leaders going to the US for the summer for a season of support raising, and possibly the Tokyo Summer Olympics.

In late February, Ellie had the opportunity to spend time with missionaries in Seto, Japan. They have an art gallery space filled with yards upon yards of colorful, locally-made scarfs, shawls, and bags. She had the opportunity to speak at length with one of the artisans from the local church who shared some of her story. She was raised by a Christian mother and baptized as a teen before falling away from church life. She was experiencing some incredible hardships when she stumbled upon a church 5 minutes from her home. At this church, she came to understand for the first time the wonderful news that her heart needed a Savior. Jesus had not just died on the cross – *he had died for her!* The woman continues attending that church while praying that her husband, one of her daughters, and her grandchildren come to understand that they too need the Savior in their lives.

It struck me that her prayers are like so many of our prayers. Ellie asks that we join her in praying for this woman and her family – and Ellie's other friends in her ministry – for the Holy Spirit to work to help many in Japan come to know their need for a Savior.

Submitted by Jackie Rochford from the Missions Committee



Prayer and Praise

PASTORAL CONCERNS— Chuck Ayuso (Gail & Doug Jones son-in-law), Chuck Bolt, Amy Bracey, Gretchen Campbell (Pat A.), Roger Clifton (K. Clifton), Judy Cox (Kristen Cox's sister-in-law), Kathy Cropp, Lib Cuttle, Janet Cutright (Barry Cutright's mother), Matthew Dolianitis, Bill & Betty Fitzgerald, Lois Hayes, Ina Ingram, Peggy Lackey, Bob Lowther, Charlotte Lowther, Larry Mann, Ruth Meadors, Alexander Miller, Anderson Miller, Alice N. Saunders, Diane Shelton, Judy Small, (J. Rochford's sister), Mary Lou Snead, Debra Bolt Thompson, Easton Zunker (K. Meadows)

Condolences to Michael Shelton and family in the loss of his mother, Mary Ann Shelton 3/25/2021.

Condolences to Lois L. Paalman and family in the loss of her husband, Tom 3/29/2021.

ON THE MEND--(Praise & Gratitude for improved condition) Mrs. Helen Harris

OUR VIPs—Chuck Bolt, Alice Bradshaw, Lib Cuttle, Bill & Betty Fitzgerald, Lois Hayes, Charlotte Lowther, Grace Litzenberg, Fae Smith, Jean White

CAREGIVERS

THOSE SERVING IN THE MILITARY



Sunday Flowers

April 4 —The Lily cross is given to the glory of God, and in memory of our loved ones, by the Temple and Wilson families.

The Day Circle will be in charge for the month of April.

If you would like to place flowers in the sanctuary, please contact Rebecca Moore at 434.203.1666 or rebeccaatkinson@comcast.net, for more information. After the service, flowers are distributed to those persons on our prayer list or as directed by the sponsor.

VIP OF THE WEEK

Please remember our VIPs in prayer each week and drop them a card or note to let them know how much they are loved.

April 5th

Lois Hayes
Roman Eagle Nursing Home
2526 N. Main St.
Danville, VA 24540

April 12

Grace Litzenburg
954 Main St.
Danville, VA 24541

April 19

Alice Bradshaw
Colonial Suite
Commonwealth Senior Living
1111 Main St.
Danville, VA 24541

If you feel visiting the elderly is your gift, please consider joining our VIP Committee. Talk to one of the following members: Pat Argyrakakis, Joan Reynolds, Bernadine Hayes, Nancy Wilson, Susie Crews, or Kent Shelton.



Good Friday Service

This service includes time of introspection, sermon, special music and communion at 7 p.m. on Friday, April 2.



Easter Service

At 11 a.m. on Easter Sunday we will gather to lift our voices in the traditional Easter hymn: Jesus Christ is Risen Today. Masks and social distancing policies will remain in effect.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH - DANVILLE

Founded in 1826, we were the first organized congregation in Danville.

Our sanctuary and offices are located at 937 Main St, next door to the Sutherlin Mansion and Museum and a few blocks west of downtown.

You can reach us at
(434) 792-7822 or
vickie@fpcdanville.com



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