



# The Breezeway

The monthly newsletter of Northwood Presbyterian Church

June 2020

## Constant Change

Several of you have asked, when will we re-open Northwood Pres? I'm glad to report that our Safe Church Team, headed up by Tommy Moreno, is looking carefully at that. We would love to open up today, but we also want to provide the safest possible setting for everyone. It's a matter of balancing our spiritual needs with our physical health.

Meanwhile there are tons of new guidelines, regulations, standards and suggestions from all kinds of sources and agencies that need to be taken into consideration. Many of these are changing or being updated day by day, as we learn more about Mr. Corona, who has upset our days and is responsible for, as they say, a "new normal."

I will say how excited and blessed I was by the Pentecost Service yesterday evening. How good to see 50-60 of you gathered on the church lawn, at the appropriate distance of course. It was a sea of red. While I know that you have been watching and commenting about Sunday services (streamed on Facebook), I was so glad to see your (masked) faces and twinkling eyes and hear your responses in worship.

So here's somethings I have heard. The Safe Church Team is recommending (to the Session) that we reopen in phases. We effectively (unofficially) are in Phase 1 of the reopening. Beginning June 1 the Day School will be reopening (Monday through Friday, 7 AM - 5 PM) for summer sessions with their new guidelines and procedures. The Session has agreed to have the Church deep-cleaned and treated with an anti-microbial electrostatic spray prior to reopening. Sunday Services will continue to be streamed via Facebook, both during the reopening and hopefully after. Church groups may begin meeting at the church outside, but masks as well as social distancing (6+ feet) is required. Some of you have expressed the desire to have another evening or morning lawn service like for Pentecost.

Good News regarding the Pastor Search Process. Last Monday the Session received copies of the Mission Study Report. The team is receiving comments and updating the report. In my humble opinion the team did a super job. With Session's approval, expected this week, the report should be in the hands of Mission Presbytery Commission on Ministry this month. The next step will be to elect a Pastor Nominating Committee. So things are moving ahead on that front too.

In this season of constant change, three criteria have been given for re-opening communities and churches: (1) declining cases of Covid-19 for at least 14 days; (2) hospitals able to treat all Covid patients in crisis; and (3) a robust testing program in place for all at-risk health care workers. As we begin to reopen, we will carefully watch the impact on those numbers.

As your pastor, I am most concerned for your Spiritual and Physical Health. If you are in the at-risk group (65 or over or with a pre-existing health condition), please consider staying at home and staying safe. We will continue to stream worship services for you. If you need help receiving those services, please call me or your Congregational Care person. In addition, the Session and many other church groups are now meeting via Zoom. You may join one of these with a smart phone. Plus, your Congregational Care Person is only a phone call away.

If you do need to go out, please practice social distancing, whenever possible, and wear a mask. Betty and I do. Above all, let's all keep praying for each other, for our church, and for our community.

Blessings,  
Pastor Dick

### By Special Request

#### 5, 4, 3, 2, 1 Senses

Jennifer Rivera presented this simple mindfulness exercise for Children's Time.

Here is a great mindfulness exercise to practice in any setting. It is called 5,4,3,2,1 Senses. You focus on seeing 5 different images, hearing 4 different sounds, touching/feeling 3 different things, smelling 2 different scents, and tasting 1 taste. Start out simple, such as seeing 5 different living things. As you practice, you may want to be more specific, such as trying to see 5 different shades of blue.

Enjoy being mindful,  
Jennifer Rivera M.A.

On behalf of the Christian Education Committee and Northwood Presbyterian Church:

# Congratulations, Graduates!

*Nicki Roberson*

There's a Chinese proverb, "May you live in Interesting Times." We all know these are "interesting times" as we are reminded of these things constantly. Let's just talk about our two high school graduates of 2020.

We've watched them both grow up right here in the Sanctuary. We saw them join this church and lead worship, but the most interesting thing about the two of them is how different they are from each other. They both have dreams, and goals, and ambitions; they have been taught high moral standards; they are respectful, courteous, well groomed and a lot of other nice things. Here are some things about them you may not know.

**Katharina Rose Herrick** was born Jan, 4, 2002 and was soon dubbed Katy. She attended Castle Hills Elementary, Montgomery Elementary, Ed White Middle School and will graduate from Mac Arthur High School.

Katy's mother died when she was seven. She has been raised by her father Jason and both sets of grandparents.

Katy plans to pursue a career in law enforcement, such as criminal psychology or wildlife officer. At Mac she has taken criminal justice classes throughout high school. She was the first female in the history of the Mac Arthur Law Enforcement Department to earn the rank of Chief. Eventually she would like to enroll at Sam Houston State University in Huntsville in its outstanding Law Enforcement Program. She's looking forward to enrolling in the fall at Alamo Area Community College, but for now will continue living in New Braunfels with her grandmother,.

Most of this article was taken from their brief submitted bios. Neither of them was anxious to write that out, but in Samuel's case, he has a younger brother who volunteered to help out. Here's what Ryan had to say about **Samuel Mueller**:

I am the one writing to you about Samuel because his schedule is pretty full these days. He is currently taking an AP exam, because he wants to finish out his high school years strong, which doesn't surprise me. He has distinguished himself in the Academic Decathlon, Cyber-Patriots and was admitted into The Spanish Honor Society and The National Honor Society. Sometimes, I think he may be allergic to 'free-time' because of all of the work he's put into Band, Cross Country, Track, and all of his studies.

Samuel has worked through Scouts. He has served as Senior Patrol Leader and has earned the rank of Eagle Scout. He was even the Alamo Area Council's first Eagle Scout installed over a Zoom meeting.

Our family has moved around a lot and have been a part of many churches. Samuel was always willing to join in -- singing in the kids' Carol Choir and playing in the youth handbell choir. Here at Northwood, Samuel has served as usher, worship leader, and trombonist. (I really enjoyed being able to play with him on those times.)

But we are brothers, and we have our disagreements. Yet Samuel has always been a great person to talk to and play games with at home. I am going to miss playing chess with him while he's away at college, but I know he'll be having a great time, and studying hard.

For as long as I can remember, Samuel has always known he wanted to be in the Air Force. I have no doubt that with his determination and grit, he will have no problem being yelled at for the foreseeable future. I don't know exactly where he'll be after college, but I do know that wherever he goes, he will do great.



Katy Herrick



Samuel Mueller

# Session Highlights

The Session met via Zoom on May 26.

Session examined the 2023 class of elders: Cotton Clark, Anne Detewiler, Anne Little, and Jennifer Rivera.

Financials, Bob Lord: The proportion of donation income being received digitally rather than by check is increasing. The Finance Team and representatives of the Day School are modifying the Day School contribution during the lockdown. Every Session committee is presently under budget.

Congregational Care, Sheron Antczak: The team continues to contact every household regularly. As the need for this contact has lasted longer than expected, additional volunteers will help with making the calls.

Pastoral Search, Elizabeth Hewins: A draft of the Mission Study Report was shared with Session for comments and suggestions which will be incorporated into the report. The revision will go back to the Session for a vote and, when approved, will be sent to the Mission Presbytery Commission on Ministries.

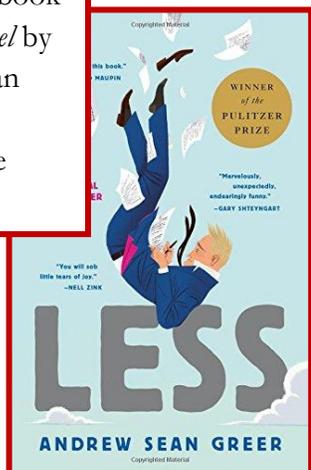
Safe Church Team, Tommy Moreno: The team addressed having the Pentecost service on campus and reopening of the Day School on June 1. No date has been set for reopening of the church. The team is creating a safety protocol manual with guidance for numerous situations.

Building and Grounds, Ryan Grogan: A cleaning and disinfecting plan was presented to address continuing care of the building while it remains closed and after reopening. Regular cleaning of the building begins now to deal with weeks of disuse. In addition to routine cleaning, electrostatic disinfecting will be done regularly. This new contract represents a cost saving.

Worship, Vanessa Mueller: The Pentecost service and return to regular service in the Sanctuary are being carefully planned to be safe and timely. Streaming of the worship service will continue for an undetermined time after the return to in-person worship.

Personnel and Administration, David Middleton: The team has renewed the church's insurance with the same company, and it is pursuing a needed upgrade to the phone system. Northwood has received a PPP loan/grant that will be used to insure the Day School payroll is continued.

The Book Club will gather June 28 at 6:00 PM to discuss the book *Less: A Novel* by Andrew Sean Greer. Judy Harris is the contact.



Pastor Dick joined a dozen Northwood women to offer musical congratulations to our 2020 high school graduates. Coincidentally, the event was held on his birthday, so the women serenaded him too.



# Pentecost



Northwood came together for spirit-filled worship, installation of the 2023 Session class, and of course, lots of music. It was the first time to worship together in person since the Covid lockdown began 10 weeks earlier. Thanks to Tommy Moreno for sharing his photos.

