



The Anchor

Morton Grove Community Church

anchored in Christ, reaching out in love

8944 N. Austin, Morton Grove, IL 60053

847.965.2982

www.mgccpresbyterian.org

May 2020

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...now you are God's people...

now you
have received
mercy.

1 Peter 2:10, NRSV



Worship in March

As we continue to shelter in place (as the Governor has ordered) and practice physical distancing (as the medical experts recommend) there will be no meetings or worship services in the church building through the month of May 2020. However, **we will continue to worship** in our homes and via video, to meet using Zoom, and to touch base using email and phone calls.



The Threefold Cord Churches are committed to creating meaningful worship videos for each Sunday in May. A link to these worship services will be sent to you through Constant Contact and posted on our website. Here at MGCC we are also planning a midweek prayer service to be published and sent out as a way of including those who do not have the technology to see our worship video.

Schedule for May as we continue in Eastertide celebrating the new life we have in Christ:

May 3	Good Shepherd	Psalm 23, John 10:1-10 (communion)
May 10	Mother's Day	1 Peter 2:2-10
May 17	7 th Sunday of Easter	1 Peter 3:13-22
May 24	Ascension Sunday	Acts 1:1-14
May 31	Pentecost	Acts 2:1-21

Wednesday, 3pm Zoom Meeting for Check in and Prayer

We are gathering every Wednesday afternoon at 3pm to check in and pray. If you would like to be included in this gathering, please email me, Pastor Debbie at dlpaton@yahoo.com. I will send you an invitation with a link for the meeting. If you cannot be with us but have concerns or joys to share, please call the church office or use the link on our website.

Pastoral Care Needs

If you are finding it difficult, feeling fearful, needing to talk, wanting to share good news, wanting someone to pray with and for you, if you need help, please call me at 630-886-6785 (cell phone) or email me at dlpaton@yahoo.com to arrange a time. I am here for you. Even if I cannot be with you physically, I am in the Spirit.

Bible Study: Ecclesiastes

We had planned to start our Bible Study of Ecclesiastes on May 7th; but that was before COVID-19. I am wondering if those interested are open to doing our bible study by Zoom or phone conference. We will use much of the same format as before; reading the text, sharing background/context, raising questions and offering insights so we might discover its meaning for us today. Please contact Debbie by phone or email if you are interested. The starting day and time will be determined by those interested.

Threefold Cord Meeting

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

*"I am the Lord. I have called you in righteousness;
I have taken you by the hand and kept you."* Isaiah 42:6

At our recent meetings, I invited our Session and the Sessions of Carter- Westminster and Niles to hear again the words of the prophet Isaiah, chapter 42:1-9. The prophet was speaking for God to the people in exile calling them to remember their relationship with their God, to be encouraged in this time of uncertainty, discomfort, and change. The prophet is reminding the people they are a servant people, calling them to trust the God who created them, who calls them into a covenantal relationship with God and each other, who has done great things for them in the past, and now calls them into a new future. Of course, the verse/image that our Session latched onto is of a God who holds our hand and will keep us in all times.

The Sessions of the Threefold Cord churches met last Sunday to share where each church is in their thinking and feeling about possible merger and to discuss a proposal for moving forward. The Sessions of all three churches **approved** the following proposal:

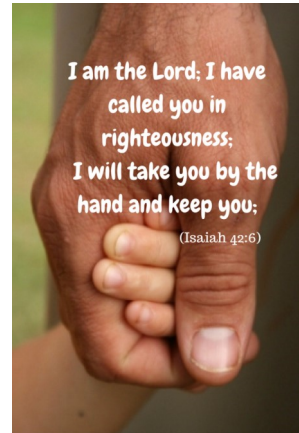
- To create a task force/team, made up of three persons from each church (two elders and one member-at-large), each Session to determine their representatives by May 3, 2020.
- To enlist a consultant (with the churches sharing the cost equally) to provide unbiased leadership to the task force/team through the exploration and planning process. The Rev. Elizabeth Wagner, a member of the Presbytery Committee on Ministry, a skilled transitional pastor and trainer, having experience with mergers was identified as available and willing.
- For the team/task force to report back in one month as to its process and progress.

It was made clear that the team/task force would be open to all possibilities of shared mission, shared leadership, shared space. The team/task force would be committed to transparency with the congregations and the guidance of the Holy Spirit. The goal is not survival but faithfulness to God's vision and purpose and our commitment is to be the body of Jesus Christ in this time and place. We are asking for your prayers for our team/task force in this time of exploration and planning.

It is Christ who invites us and Christ who connects us.

Be encouraged, God is holding our hand and will keep us.

Peace, Debbie





Hygiene Kit Assembly Postponed

Originally scheduled for May, the Mission Outreach Committee has postponed assembly until further notice. Kindly hold on to your items until the church re-opens.

Travel-sized items needed are: toothpaste, tooth brushes, shampoo, conditioner, mouthwash, lip balm, body lotion, shaving cream, disposable shavers, deodorant, moist towelettes, combs and small brushes.

As you travel in the next few months please keep these needs in mind. Thank you.



The Mission Outreach Team would like to extend it's heartfelt appreciation to everyone who gave so generously to our One Great Hour of Sharing campaign this year. Thank you for answering God's call to be repairers of the breach.

Donations to One Great Hour of Sharing will continue to be collected until the end of May. You may send your donation to the church office.



A prayer for Memorial Day

We remember, O Lord, all those people throughout the years who have made the supreme sacrifice for our country, for liberty, for us. Whenever we breathe the air of freedom or claim the right to justice or enjoy the privilege of worship, fill us with gratitude for those who selflessly gave the last full measure of devotion — their very lives — for our benefit.

May these brave men and women now know the joy of eternity and your presence. And may the families of the fallen receive comfort and peace amid their grief. Help us as we minister to their needs. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

We hope that sometime in June we can resume in-person worship services and the other activities from which you take enrichment such as Women's Circle, Book Club, Prayer Group and breakfasts.

Please stay tuned to Constant Contact emails and the church website www.mgccpresbyterian.org for updates and information. Please contact the office or Pastor Debbie with any questions or requests.




Morton Grove Community Church
General Fund
2020 1st Quarter Financial Summary

	<u>Jan - March '20</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Difference</u>	<u>Jan-Mar '19</u>
Income				
Pledges	33,011	25,000	8,011	24,187
Facility Use	13,900	14,400	-500	14,300
All Other	<u>6,082</u>	<u>6,500</u>	<u>-418</u>	<u>6,451</u>
	\$52,993	\$45,900	\$7,093	\$44,938
Expenses				
Ministry Teams	4,091	4,100	-9	4,150
Session	747	1,000	-253	14
Personnel	38,747	38,160	587	35,866
Property	9,489	10,400	-911	10,280
Office Expenses	<u>572</u>	<u>450</u>	<u>122</u>	<u>801</u>
	\$53,646	\$54,110	(\$464)	\$51,111
Net Income	<u>(\$653)</u>	<u>(\$8,210)</u>	<u>\$7,557</u>	<u>(\$6,173)</u>

Treasurer's Comments:

First quarter income was higher than expected after receiving a generous gift from a member. Rent was received from CBB even though they suspended operations part way through the month.

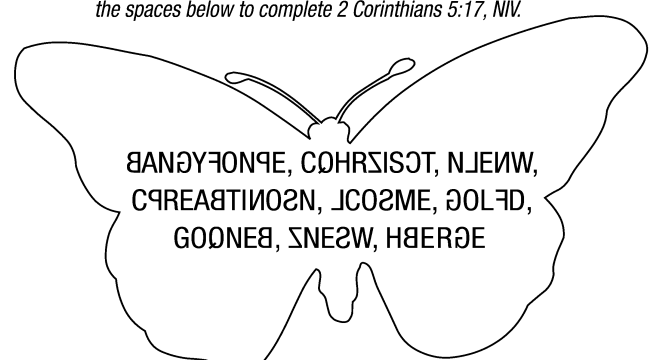
Second quarter will be more challenging. CBB's April rent was waived and future waivers will be examined monthly. Until the Stay-at-Home order is removed, we are unlikely to receive any Facility Use Income. Your continued support of the church through tithes and offerings is encouraging and received gratefully. With a judicious use of our invested funds, we will see our way through these challenging times.



Transformation**POWER**

Just as the caterpillar becomes a butterfly,
God transforms us from old to new.

Directions: Cross out the backward letters. Write the remaining letters in order in the spaces below to complete 2 Corinthians 5:17, NIV.



Therefore, if _____ is in _____,
the _____ has _____:
The _____ has _____,
the _____ is _____!

2 CORINTHIANS 5:17, NIV

Answer: anyone, Christ, new, creation, come, old, gone, new, here

+Christian Symbol+



Violet


The violet, a symbol of humility, is used most often to refer to the Virgin Mary, whom St. Bernard (1090-1153) described as “the violet of humility.” The purple flower also is sometimes used to express Christ’s humility in assuming human form.



Bible Quiz

While 70 Israelite men were commissioned as prophets at the tent of meeting, two others, Eldad and Medad, were reported to have prophesied in the camp — not following “proper” protocols. Who defended them?

- A. Moses
- B. Joshua
- C. Jethro
- D. The Lord



Answer: A (See Numbers 11:24-29.)

Elaine Matsushige	12
Olivia Priban	14
June Kuhn	16
Patrick Lynch	17
Steven Vinson	23
Deanna Montgomery	25
Sarah Kim	30
Paul Donovan	30



Special dates

- National Day of Prayer, *May 7, 2020*
- Mother's Day, *May 10, 2020*
- Armed Forces Day, *May 16, 2020*
- Victoria Day (Canada), *May 18, 2020*
- Ascension Day, *May 21, 2020*
- Memorial Day, *May 25, 2020*
- Pentecost, *May 31, 2020*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 Threefold Cord Sessions Meeting via Zoom	4	5	6 10:30 AM Property Team Meeting via Zoom 4:15 PM Living Faith Mission Group Serving Opportunity	7	8	9
10 11:30 AM Session Meeting via Zoom	11	12 1:30 PM Women's Circle via Zoom	13 2:00 PM Book Club via Zoom	14	15	16
17	18 Newsletter Deadline 7:30 PM Finance Team Meeting via conference call	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

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Community Church
8944 N. Austin Avenue
Morton Grove, IL 60053

We are on the Web!

www.mgccpresbyterian.org



**During May of 2020 we will
not hold in-person meetings
or other gatherings.**

**Please check our website
for updates.**

THE ANCHOR is published monthly by the

Morton Grove Community Church

8944 Austin Avenue, Morton Grove, IL 60053

Website: www.mgccpresbyterian.org

E-mail: mgcc@mgccpresbyterian.org

847-965-2982

Rev. Deborah Paton, Pastor

Jason Nelson, Minister of Music

John Frake, Administrative Assistant and
Church Custodian

Church Office Hours	Monday through Friday	9 am-2 pm
Jason Nelson's Hours	Wednesday Thursday	9 am-Noon Evening-Choir Practices

Articles for the May issue are due May18

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email . You will receive it
faster, save paper and
postage, and be able to view
it in color.

Call the office at 847-965-2982
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mgcc@mgccpresbyterian.org.

Thank you!