

The Bridge August 20, 2021

WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY

IN OUR NEWLY RENOVATED SANCTUARY
10 AM





Christians and Masks

With the rise of COVID again, we're back to wearing masks. Ugh, the mask. I hate the mask. It's something I have to think about every time I go out. It's hot and sweaty. And, oh, the foggy glasses! But here we are.

Today in the paper there was a story about people that came to the Hilton Head City Council meeting and were

yelling at council for even discussing resuming a mask mandate. It seemed kind of out of control and needlessly rude to the town council. But this has been kind of the way things have been since the beginning of the pandemic. People who don't want to wear masks acting pretty irrationally and sometimes violently in stores and restaurants, in airplanes (yikes), and in UBER cars. When I was in the Atlanta airport last week, police were gently escorting a guy out who was yelling wildly about wearing a mask (he wasn't wearing a mask.) They all seem a little childish to me.

We wear a mask to prevent ourselves from getting sick. But we also wear a mask to keep others from getting sick and to stop the disease from spreading more. With COVID there are a lot of people who are carrying the virus who don't know they're sick. (And I'm guessing this is even more the case with vaccinated people.) Basically, we can still be spreading it around without even knowing we have it, which has always been the case. So we're asked to wear a mask for ourselves, and to keep it from other people. It's a way to serve our friends, acquaintances, classmates, workmates, and people we don't even know. We all know this. We've heard it repeatedly over the last year and a half.

Now, considering this, it would seem to me that people of faith would be eager to wear a mask. We should always be looking for opportunities to serve and this is a relatively easy way to serve other people. We can go about our day as usual and care for others at the same time. What a bargain! And our only sacrifice is foggy glasses and a little discomfort! It seems like people of faith would be clamoring to do this. But that is not the case at all. A lot of the most angry people seem to be Christians. There's even a church in Nashville that has banned masks. The pastor said anyone who wears a mask will be escorted out of the church, which is more than a little theologically ridiculous to me.

A lot of people like to say that their protecting their "freedom" by not resisting wearing masks. In Galatians, Paul begins chapter 5 with the line "For freedom, Christ has set us free." That's occasionally used by Christians to support their right to do whatever they want to do. But they are ignoring the rest of the chapter which says:

"For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters; only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love become slaves to one another. For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

Love your neighbor as your self. In Matthew 22, Jesus said, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."

All the law and the prophets. Everything. It's so simple and so hard at the same time.

As Christians, our rights and freedoms are not license to do whatever we want and to serve ourselves. We are here to serve others. We follow Jesus example and we sacrifice our wants and comforts to protect the lives of other people. This is what we do. So yeah, it's a drag to keep having to wear the mask, but think of it also as an opportunity and a joy to serve our neighbors!

Pr. June Pastor's email: pastorjune@clchhi.com Church Office: 843-785-5560 Pastor June's Sermon Blog:

http://revjunewilkinssermons.blogspot.com/

We are Worshipping Together in the Sanctuary SUNDAYS at 10am

Masks are recommended for all people, regardless of vaccination status.

Please distance yourself from those not in your family as you sit in the sanctuary.

The pastor and assistants will be serving communion. They will be masked. If you would rather use the pre-packaged communion, they are available as you come in.

Due to the electrical issues in the sanctuary, we will NOT be able to provide live ZOOM this Sunday for those at home. We will record the worship and have it posted on our web site by Monday. We hope to have live video worship available in the next couple of weeks.

Go to our website: www.clchhi.org to view recordings of

each Sunday's worship services.

CLICK HERE for today's Bulletin

To read Pr. June's Sermon from last Sunday, Click Here http://revjunewilkinssermons.blogspot.com/

Stewardship for all seasons...

During the month of July your Stewardship Team highlighted the many service and outreach opportunities here at CLC – to include on-going programs such as Thursday Lunch Break, Little Free Pantry, Deep Well, Backpack Buddies, Habitat for Humanity, and Family Promise.

Now, in August, we want to turn your attention to our Faith Formation Ministries. In our last Bridge article, we shared how our CLC Preschool provides these young children with a weekly chapel along with other faith based learning experiences. Nancy Conder, the Preschool Director, happily noted in this article how well the children can recall their bible stories, songs, and prayers from these activities.

This week's article highlights two of the three ways that adults have, to participate in CLC's Faith Formation Ministries. Next week's article will focus on the third way – CONNECTED. Each of these three ways offers a different type of opportunity for each of us to grow in our faith. So, each of us adults could easily participate in more than one of them or even all three!

Adult Bible Study – Wednesday Mornings at 11 am.

Kathy Mork leads a Bible Study that meets each Wednesday morning at 11:00 am over Zoom. The theme for the current 13-week lesson series is called "Confident Hope." Threads of faith and hope in God's promises are woven throughout the scriptures. Each week's lesson addresses a different question or topic that is related to this current series theme. The participants begin by exploring a biblical text related to that week's central question or topic and then the group interactively discusses what the biblical text is telling each of us. In this way the group jointly explores ways in which the lessons and insights that they have just uncovered are still relevant today in each of their lives.

Each week's discussions stand alone. So, if you can't join this Adult Bible Study every week, please consider joining when you can. For more information, please contact Kathy Mork at klmork@yahoo.com.

Progressive Religion Study - Sunday Mornings (time TBD).

David Kuhlmann leads a discussion on progressive religious topics such as universal salvation, gender identity, the reality of hell, etc. Typically, a video series is utilized in which portions are viewed and then paused for discussion and reflection. The next series will use the video titled: "ProFuture Faith: The Prodigal Species Comes Home". There is no need to come to every session as the discussions each week can stand on their own. All are welcome to come and engage in challenging discussions that will

push your comfort level and hopefully broaden our understanding of creation and your role within it. This Study group will resume after the decision has been made to expand our Sunday morning in-person gathering to include Faith Formation Classes. Look for that announcement in a Future CLC Bridge. For more information about this Faith Formation opportunity, please contact David Kuhlmann at buckeye81@me.com.



Flower Sign-up in the Sanctuary

The flower chart will be posted on the bulletin board outside the sanctuary beginning in September.

The cost will be \$45.

You can give them in honor or memory of anyone you wish.

Also, you can choose to take them with you or
let us distribute them elsewhere.

Please sign up for September 5th! The memorial/honorarium will be posted in the Sunday bulletin weekly.

COVID UPDATE

It would be so great to be able to say that the COVID numbers are decreasing here on Hilton Head and in Beaufort County but that is not the case. Our risk level is now severe and the number of people hospitalized with COVID and needing ICU care is slowly rising. The percentage of people who are fully vaccinated is 45% while the percentage of people who have had at least one vaccination is 54.5%. We will continue to follow the CDC Guidelines which recommend all people, regardless of their vaccination status, wear a mask whenever they are indoors in public. Please also consider practicing social distancing (except for your immediate family) when you attend in-person worship. Communion will continue to be offered with the traditional bread and wine, but you do have the option to use a self-contained communion packet.

As always, if you are experiencing any COVID symptoms, please stay home to keep your fellow congregation members safe. If you are not vaccinated, please consider it. You can find locations to get the vaccine by going to

https://vaxlocator.dhec.sc.gov/.

Thank you.

Lynn Baglyos

Ladies Book Club will be held in Heinrich's Hall

We are meeting on Saturday, August 22 at 1:30pm to discuss **A Good Neighborhood** by Therese Anne Fowler.

We will also Zoom our meeting for those who are unable to attend in person or who are out of town. All women of the church are invited, even if you have never participated in the book club before! We'd love for you to come. Please contact Chris Wilcox if you plan either to attend in person or to Zoom! (843-384-1667 or

christineewilcox@aol.com

"A Good Neighborhood" asks big questions about life in America today---what does it mean to be a good neighbor? How do we live alongside each other when we don't see eye to eye?---as it explores the effects of class, race, and heartrending love in a story that's as provocative as it is powerful." This is a provocative read.



Here is a picture from the gathering on Sunday, August 15th at Kay Kern's lovely home

CLC Neighborhood Gatherings

The neighborhood gatherings have been suspended due to COVID. They will be rescheduled as the situation allows.



MEN OF CHRIST

Join Bob & Ray (Abdou & Makalous) for our

Men's Breakfast, last Wednesday in August (the 25th) at 7:30 am

at the Plantation Cafe North, 95 Matthews Drive

No agenda, just a time to eat pancakes and eggs together!

Come to the Men's Breakfast and take a spin in Bob Abdou's nifty 1957 Metropolitan Nash! (Weather permitting)





The Kuhlmanns and the Pranges helped out at the Habitat House this past Saturday, August 14.

To make a contribution to Habitat:

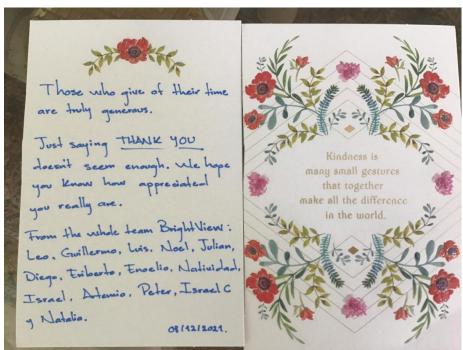
For those who make monetary contributions on-line, you now have another option for donations to the Habitat for Humanity house we are helping to build. There is now a link directly to a 2021 Faith Build Fundraising Page. To access this page, look under "Ministry" on the CLC home page, and scroll to Service Ministry where you can find the link. Thank you all for your support to help a local family find safe, affordable housing. We have donated over \$2,000. so far, and our goal is \$3,500!

Putting our faith into action is awesome!

The CLC Cookie Ministry works in the community. Please read the article below to gain a glimpse of how our ministry serves others in our Hilton Head community. Join us as we spread God's love and grace through food! Contact Chris Wilcox at christineewilcox@aol.com or 843-384-1667 (leave a message on my cell phone).

From Jane Phillips: Look what greeted me today as I delivered sandwiches and baked goods at noontime from Christ Lutheran Church!!





The ten person Hispanic group - including a woman - were so excited to present the flowers and card.

One landscaper speaks English and I spoke of all involved in producing the lunches.

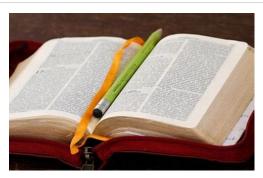
The bakers, the sandwich makers, all the volunteers at CLC, all deserve the kudos and the card and flowers here.

How sweet for the group to remind us of how grateful they feel towards the lunch program.

Peter, the manager, has told us of the group's life - working at Brightview in Sea Pines till 3:00, home to Bluffton, shower and then out to work in Blufftons local restaurants.

Most of the employees here send their money home to their Columbian and Venezuelan families.





Wednesday Bible Study 11 a.m. via Zoom

Wednesday Bible Study "Confident Hope"

Paul wrote in his letter to the Romans, "Such things were written in the Scriptures long ago to teach us. And the

Scriptures give us hope and encouragement as we wait patiently for God's promises to be fulfilled."

Threads of faith and hope in God's promises are woven throughout the scriptures. Join us via Zoom for about an hour on Wednesday mornings beginning 11am. We will be discussing "Confident Hope" over the next 13 weeks. The weekly discussions stand alone, so if you can't join us every week, no problem. Join when you can. If you are new to this group, please contact Kathy Mork at klmork@yahoo.com to be added to the email reminder list or if you would like more information. Study guides are available in the office.

Join Zoom Meeting https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6729108287?
pwd=UU1qK2pjR21vZnd1WVNOWXRsSTJ4Zz09

Meeting ID: 672 910 8287 Passcode: 247876

Early Response Team (ERT) Training

St. Andrew-by-the Sea Methodist Church is offering ERT training.

An Early Response Team (ERT) is a self-contained team that enters a disaster area by invitation. ERTs provide emergency repairs and/or assistance to help people be safe, sanitary and secure until insurance and other help is available.

Teams fill a specific need in the early days after a disaster to clean out flood-damaged homes, remove debris, place tarps on homes, and otherwise help to prevent further damage, while providing a caring Christian presence. They are trained to provide various types of physical, emotional and spiritual assistance to disaster survivors. Training includes the basics of disaster response, how to work effectively with survivors and the response team, and skills to help survivors get back into their homes and begin the recovery process.

The training is Wednesday, October 20, 2021 9:00 am - 4:30 pm and it's \$35 per person which includes: lunch, T-shirt, credentials, background check, manual, and training.

Click Here for the ERT Training Flyer

Reminder:

If you are using the church facilities for any reason, upon leaving please remember to:

- Make sure all the lights are turned off.
- Make sure anything you use is turned off (for example, anything in the kitchen!)
- Make sure the doors are locked behind you.
- Remember to adjust the thermostat if you have changed the thermostat.

Thanks for your help with this!

Prayers--

(Most recent are put at the top of the list)
Please advise the office if situations have changed.
Thank You!



Judy Barrett

Pre-School Teacher, Meredith, whose whole family has tested positive for COVID.

Herm and Marilyn Kuhlmann (David's parents) who are in a nursing home in Missouri.

Layne Carver (from Ray M. 8/2)

Carla Collins broke her ankle.

Mike Conklin's sister, Cindy, and her congregation, who has COVID.

Deanna Coyne is requesting prayer for her brother, Jim Donaldson, who is very ill.

David Gendlsen, cancerous brain tumor, friend of Robin and Fran Baselice

Dana Dapolito, relative of Robin and Fran Baselice, reoccurring cancer.

Alex Kasten

Connie Simon

Bill Putrino

Gary Gregory (Lois Gregory's son) for ongoing health issues

Any prayer requests for Christ Lutheran members or friends can be shared with Linda in the church office at **info@clchhi.com** or with Pr. June at **pastorjune@clchhi.com**. Please include the person's address that you wish us to pray for. If you'd like to call the office, you can do so between 8:00 am and 4:00 pm Monday- Thursday at (843)785-5560.



Sunday, August 22 10:00 am IN PERSON Worship with Pastor June in our new Sanctuary with Communion

Tuesday, August 24 10:00 am Staff Meeting, Craft Room

Wednesday, August 25
11:00 am Bible Study on Zoom (Kathy Mork)
4:00 pm Bell Practice, Sanctuary

Thursday, August 26
11:00 am Lunch Break Program

Friday, August 27 Church Office Closed

Church Office Hours: Monday - Thursday: 8:00 am - 4:00 pm 843-785-5560