



Windover Hills Newsletter

September 2020

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Dear Church Family,

These are interesting times, times of frustration, times confusion, of exhaustion, and yet, times of innovation, of renewed focus, times when The Church which has often been at war with herself, has come together - in utter defiance of the division which surrounds us - to share the love and message of Jesus Christ in the world. Reflecting on the oddness of this moment in time, I have often returned to Jeremiah 29.

These are the words of the letter that the prophet Jeremiah sent from Jerusalem to the remaining elders among the exiles, and to the priests, the prophets, and all the people, whom Nebuchadnezzar had taken into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon...⁷ But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the LORD on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare.⁸ For thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: Do not let the prophets and the diviners who are among you deceive you, and do not listen to the dreams that they dream⁹ for it is a lie that they are prophesying to you in my name; I did not send them, says the LORD.

¹⁰ For thus says the LORD: Only when Babylon's seventy years are completed will I visit you, and I will fulfill to you my promise and bring you back to this place.¹¹ For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. – Jeremiah 29:1, 7-11

In this passage, God's message to the exiles, through the prophet Jeremiah, is that the calamity has come, and one day – one day – it will end. Yet, right now, they are to live well where they are, to look forward with hope, but live in the present and see how God is at work right now. This message, written to the exiles but preserved by The Holy Spirit for all people, teaches us something important about this present moment. One day – one day – this crisis will end. Yet, we are to live well where we are, to look forward with hope, but live in the present and see how God is at work right now. We must not be so focused on a future return to normal that we fail to live in the present or see how God is at work today.

God is at work in wondrous ways both in this church and in this world. In the following pages you will see a glimpse of some of the ways God is at work – through a return to worship that is not ideal for anyone, but is safe for and open to everyone, through the expansion of discipleship ministries, and a new mission partnership which cares for the least of these and remembers the forgotten – and still God is at work in countless ways that we do not yet see.

To those of you whom I have not had a chance to meet yet, I look forward to meeting you, whether it is in worship, or in a small group meeting, a chat in the office, or a phone conversation. We are here for *you*, and whatever church participation looks like for you at this time, know that you are part of this church, that you are welcome, and – above all – that God loves you more than you can possibly comprehend.

Sincerely,
Pastor Joshua Demi

Worship

Evening Worship:
Saturdays at
6:30pm

Modern Worship:
Sundays at
9:00am

Traditional
Worship: Sundays
at 11:00am

Evening Worship: Saturdays at 6:30pm at the fire pit

For our casual Saturday Evening service, we gather around the fire pit for a time of song, with, prayer and reflection on scripture. This service creates space for those of you who are avoiding indoor gatherings, have busy Sunday schedules, or just want to worship in a new way.

Modern Worship: Sundays at 9:00am

Our 9:00am service is a time of lively worship, led by our praise band, and thoughtful reflection on scripture. If you are looking for a time of energetic and passionate worship, join us either in person, online or by phone.

Traditional Worship: Sundays at 11:00am

Our 11:00am service is a calm, reverent worship, where we worship God by singing old familiar hymns played on the organ, responsive liturgies, and engagement with scripture. All are welcome to join, either in person, online or by phone.

Covid Safety Measures

Masks are *Required*

- **To come to church right now is to agree to wear a mask while you are indoors, also while you are outdoors and unable to consistently maintain a distance of six feet from people outside your household.**

Temperature Checks

- **If you have a temperature of 100.4 or higher you will not be permitted in the building and we urge you to seek medical attention.**

Maximum Capacity and Overflow Seating

- **25 people will be permitted in the sanctuary, with overflow seating in the fellowship hall.**

Additional Ways to Worship Remotely

- **For those who still feel unsafe coming to church, you can still attend either online or by phone.**
- **As you may know we updated our Facebook page so you do not need a Facebook profile to join us online. Additionally, you are able to attend the service live by phone. Just dial (720) 740-9622 then enter access code 5237651#**

Discipleship Ministries



Children and Youth Sunday School

Sundays at 10:00am, beginning September 13th

Our annual Sunday School classes will be starting back up on Sunday September 13th. We can't wait to see all of our students; we missed seeing you all dearly.

We will be using a new curriculum this year, called Group, Dig In. It is a very simple curriculum that has sermons, discussion questions, along with activities for each sermon. This curriculum also can be transformed to work online as well.

We will be following a Christian guideline with deal with all the new Covid-19 protocol. Which will include a check-in and pick up point, where the children will have a temperature check before entering their classroom, hand sanitizer stations that will be used frequently inside of the classroom, a **MANDATORY** request that mask will have to worn at all times, and a strong **NO FOOD/DRINK** policy in the classrooms.

We are always looking for new volunteers to help teach or aide, if interested please see Jodi Deurbrouck or Christine Baran.

Adult Sunday School

Sundays at 10:00am, beginning September 13th

- **Biblical Studies Class:** Led by Brad Sandrock, this class carefully studies through books of the Bible, and creates space for those who want to take a deep dive into the Word of God.
- **Topical Class:** Led by Doug Gyorke, this class use DVD lessons and teachings by nationally known leaders and speakers, and creates space for those who want to explore a variety of topics and learn from some of the great teachers in modern Christianity.
- **Devotional Class:** Led by Cathy Ferrelli and Mary Van Gelder, this class works through devotion books, and creates space for those who just want some time to reflect and talk with their sisters and brothers, about how the Word of God speaks into our lives today.

Weekly Small Groups

- **Mondays**
 - **Women's Group at 6:30pm**
 - The women's group, led by Jackie Lohman is a time for the women of the church to gather for fellowship and, to study Word of the living God. For more information, contact Jackie at everydaystrongerforme@gmail.com.
- **Tuesdays:**
 - **Wisdom's Call Bible Study at 6:30pm**
 - "Does not wisdom call, and does not understanding raise her voice?" – Proverbs 8:1 This group, led by Pastor Josh, provides a space to ask difficult questions, seek difficult answers, and explore how God's eternal truth speaks into our lives. Right now, the group is asking how scripture speaks to the pandemic, through a discussion of *God and the Pandemic* by N.T. Wright.
- **Wednesdays**
 - **Video Conference Devotions: at 12:00pm**
 - A short, half hour, time of reflection, discussion and prayer, where we read a scripture, talk for a few minutes, and pray together. Right now, we are reading through Jesus' Sermon on the Mount.
 - To connect to the devotions visit:
<https://join.freeconferencecall.com/office8327> or dial (720) 740-9622 then enter access code 5237651#
- **Thursdays**
 - **Men's Group at 6:30pm**
 - The men's group, lead by Lay Leader Doug Conroy is a time for the men of the church to gather for fellowship and study of the Word of Truth. The men are just now beginning study entitled 'Behold Your God: Rethinking God Biblically', a thirteen week study that will challenge, inspire, and bring you closer to the Creator of all things.

New Small Groups

- **Special Needs Support Group: Launching September 10th at 6:30pm**
- **Financial Peace Class...coming soon!**

Missional Outreach

Saturday Suppers

The Church has recently begun supporting Saturday Suppers, a mobile soup kitchen that provides meals and basic necessities to the homeless in Pittsburgh. We are currently collecting items, such as small soaps, toothpaste, socks, and other basic necessities to support this important work and care for the least of these. If you have any questions, contact Mary Van Gelder at: 412-818-3162

Operation Christmas Child: A Note from Joann Craze

Dear Friends,

It is once again time to be thinking of our children's shoe boxes that we fill every year for Christmas. The boxes have been ordered and you can fill a box from your closet, just so it is a regular size shoe box. I pray our church family will support this worthy cause. Our gifts are the only presents these children will receive for Christmas. This is our way to show the love of Jesus with these Children. If you have questions, feel free to call me at 412-833-6696. The collection date will be Nov. 16. The size range is boy or girl, 2-4 years, 5-8, or 9-12. The mailing cost is \$9 to be included in your box.

Thank you very much.

God Bless,
Joann Craze

Meals on Wheels

Our church has long partnered with the South Park Meals on Wheels, which provides healthy meals to the homebound elderly and/or disabled in our community. If you volunteer on any given day you will probably see some of your friends from church joyously sharing the love of God through a hot meal and a warm smile. For more information about volunteering, or to enrolling yourself or a loved one in the program, contact Pam Mason at 412-655-2255 or southparkmow@gmail.com.

Meet Pastor Josh and Nosipho Demi

Pastor Joshua Demi was born and raised in Northern Cambria Pennsylvania, where he was homeschooled by his mother through the BCEI diploma program. After high school Joshua received a BA in Humanities at UPJ, before going on to his M.Div. at PTS. Before becoming a pastor, Joshua worked a variety of odd jobs, including construction, tech work in local theatre productions, and an internship at a film marketing company in Florida. He began pastoral ministry as the associate pastor of five small churches in the Johnstown area. He then served as the senior pastor of two small churches the Tarentum area. He has a passion for teaching, discipleship, and both engaging in and cultivating meaningful dialogues across cultural and ideological differences. In 2019, Joshua married the love of his life, Nosipho. He is a geek at heart, with a passion for learning, and great love of comic books, fairytales, and all things weird and wonderful.

Nosipho is from Namibia, on the southwest coast of Africa. She came to the United States to complete her Masters Degree in finance and administration. She originally planned on returning home after receiving her degree, but God had other plans. She met the love of her life, and embarked on a new journey. She loves the simple joys in life and the chance to meet new people.

If we haven't had a chance to meet you in person, please feel free to stop by the office, Tuesday through Friday mornings, or contact the church (office@windoverhillsumc.org or 412-653-6899) to set up an appointment. We would love the chance to sit down and chat with you.

- *Pastor Josh and Nosipho Demi*