

Virginia Beach Christian Church (DoC)

The Fishnet



April
2020



Volume 52
Issue 4

FROM THE MINISTER

Talk about things that we didn't learn in seminary (a field of study that has led to more published works that one can truly count). This week -I am writing on the deadline- has been full of milestones. I am learning all kinds of new to me technologies. We have recorded a worship service, which can be found at the church's website, and we are rolling out; Sunday School via the website, Bible Study (live on Mondays), as well as other wonderful opportunities to be a community of faith together even while we are physically apart. Even in the midst of all that is scary and unsettling with the world around us, there are wonders to amaze. There are ways to intentionally be a love building church. That *I did* learn in seminary.

So, continue to reach out to each other. Embrace the gifts and the struggles of this time. Find ways to use the myriad communication technologies available to truly connect with God, others, and yourself, while avoiding the echo chambers and socially isolating temptations of those same technologies. Perhaps we will even recall some of the ways of those who have gone before. God will continue to bless and keep, and may we find ways to bless and keep each other.

Peace,
Rev. David Kays



FAITH POEM

"When you walk to the edge of all the light you have and take that first step into the darkness of the unknown, you must believe that one of two things will happen. There will be something solid for you to stand upon or you will be taught to fly."

~ Patrick Overton



Virginia Beach Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)

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Office Hours:
Mon—Fri, 9:00AM—3:00PM

Please note:
Office hours may change during the
COVID-19 Pandemic.
It is always a good practice to call first.

**Sunday Worship Services
and Sunday School**

**Please review our website for
weekly uploaded
Sunday School and
Sunday Services.**

TO PONDER

To Ponder:

On Sunday, I did not go to church. For the first time ever, I watched my two co-pastors host an Instagram Live sermon. It was surreal, clutching my phone, listening to them talk about the Sermon on the Mount as they sat six feet away from each other in an empty sanctuary. Little hearts floated up the side of the screen as friends and fellow congregants typed reactions and comments in real time. I took deep breaths for the first time in days. I smiled. I was surprised by how much it felt like church, sitting in my living room and clutching my small piece of technology.

Our community did not want to conduct services in this way, for myriad reasons. But in the end they are choosing to walk into this new path forward (including a steep learning curve of livestreams and appearing on camera and meeting spiritual and relational needs long-distance) because it makes ethical, moral, and spiritual sense. They are modeling to us how to love each other from a distance because in the long run, this will protect our neighbors.



‘American Individualism Vs. Loving Your Neighbor’ By D.L. Mayfield
<https://sojo.net/articles/american-individualism-vs-loving-your-neighbor> [March 20, 2020]

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CHURCH NEWS

From the Regional Church (ccinva.org)

Registration for Camp is now open. Look for forms online.
Save the Date: Oct. 16-18, Women’s Retreat. Rev. Amy Gopp will keynote.

From the District 8 Churches (www.thradisciples.weebly.com)

April 23: CMF Meeting. Hampton Christian Church, Hampton @ 630pm.

From the General Church (www.disciples.org)

Dear Church –

No doubt there are those who have concerns and anxiety about the coronavirus as it continues to spread. We may not yet know the extent to which the disease will affect the United States and Canada but with prevention efforts and timely responses, the impact on our congregations and communities can be reduced.

We are grateful for Disciples congregations that are being proactive in planning how to care for their members and communities. Resources for congregational preparedness are available [here](#). We will continue to update this page with additional resources and information about the Church’s response.

Information is our greatest resource as we make our plans and preparations. [Accurate information](#) about the virus can help calm anxieties and correct misinformation. Prevention information can help protect people and limit the transmission of the virus. Even when an outbreak begins, sharing information enables more timely and effective responses.

Week of Compassion and the General Ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) are here to assist and support congregations in the event of an outbreak affecting your community. As this situation is highly dynamic, we are assessing what resources are available across the Church, working closely with our governmental and ecumenical partners, and developing emergency plans to help congregations respond...

We continue in prayer with you, for our neighbors affected by this virus, and for all who are working to provide care. Together, our wider Church can serve as a resource to our local communities and serve our neighbors in need during this time.

In the name of Jesus Christ, the Great Healer,

Terri Hord Owens, General Minister and
President Vy Nguyen, Executive Director, Week of Compassion

VBCC HAPPENINGS



Please watch your email, Facebook and VBCC's Website for Pandemic Scheduling Announcements!

| | |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| Canceled | Annual Easter Egg Hunt & Hotdog Lunch |
| Apr 5 | Palm Sunday |
| Canceled | Easter Cantata during Worship Service |
| Apr 7 | Foot Washing Service @ VBCC |
| Apr 9 | Maundy Thursday @ Wycliffe PC |
| Apr 10 | Good Friday Service @ VBCC |
| Apr 12 | Easter Sunrise Service |
| Canceled | Men's Breakfast @ VBCC |
| Apr 12 | Easter Sunday Single (1) Service |
| Canceled | Elder's Meeting |
| TBD | VBCC Office Closed |
| Canceled | CMF Retreat |
| Postponed | VBCC's Annual Spring Tea |
| Mondays, 1:00PM via Facebook Live | Bible Study |
| Thursdays, Suspended | Choir Practice |
| Sundays, 9:45AM | Spiritual Roundtable |
| *Food Pantry Hrs | Tues & Wed 10:00 - 11:45AM |
| <i>*Food Pantry is Closed Mon, Thurs and Fri</i> | |

Your photo could be here next month!

office@vbchristianchurch.com



BIBLE STUDY

Revelation

Mondays
1:00PM

We are continuing our study of Revelation. The fellowship is sweet even if the scriptures trouble the soul. We expect to complete the book of Revelation by Easter and look forward to something 'more grounded' for April and May. Look for Bible Study (Live on [FaceBook](#)) on Mondays at 1pm, or you can watch later.

Serving Elders for

April 2020

| | |
|--------|------------------|
| Apr 5 | Mark Farley |
| Apr 12 | Kay Hase |
| Apr 19 | Jack Mallery |
| Apr 26 | Jimmy Iman |
| May 3 | Phyllis Marshall |

Sunday Worship

Scripture Readings:

"World Crucified"

March 15 - April 19

"This Is Us"

April 26 - May 31

| | |
|------------------|------------------------------|
| April 5: | Mark 11: 1 - 11 |
| | Mark 14: 3 - 9 |
| April 12: | Mark 15: 42 - 47 |
| | Mark 16: 1 - 8 |
| April 19: | Acts 1: 1 - 5 |
| | Acts 1: 6 - 14 |
| April 26: | Psalms 24 |
| | Acts 3: 1 - 10 |
| May 3: | Acts 17: 1 - 9 |
| | 1 Thessalonians 1: 1 - 10 |

Spiritual Roundtable

Due to the COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic, the Spiritual Roundtable has opted to follow the guidelines outlined by the CDC and our local government officials. *While pandemic restrictions are in place, we will meet via Zoom.* If you have any concerns, please do not hesitate reaching out to Rev. Kays through VBCC's office, (757) 481-3494.

Until we meet again

The Spiritual Roundtable is discussing *The Aquarian Gospel of Jesus the Christ: (A Timeless Classic)* by Levi H. Dowling.



We are finishing our brief study of prayer practices and disciplines on April 12. Lessons are available online for now, should you want to watch the current video and download the guiding document.

If you should want the YouTube links for the sermons, please contact Pastor Kays for a copy of the Word document.



VBCC TEA

Spring Tea Pos tponed

We are sad to postpone the VBCC annual spring tea in light of the corona virus. We'll provide an update when we sort out new details. In the meantime, take care.

Maggie & the Tea Team

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

VBS Registration

The Knights of North Castle are gathering this summer at Wycliffe PCUSA for The Great VBS. Registration is open online

<https://2020.cokesburyvbs.com/TheGreatVBS/>, with a link at the VBCC(DoC) website.



BOOK CLUB

The Book Club meets monthly (2nd Monday) at 1:00PM to discuss a Pulitzer Prize winning novel. In nice weather, we meet under the shelter, in cold weather we meet indoors. All are welcome to join us.

April 13

Interpreter of Maladies by Jhumpa Lahiri

May 11

The Amazing Adventure of Kavalier and Clay
by Michael Chabon

*While pandemic restrictions are in place,
we will meet via Zoom or under the shelter.*

MEN'S RETREAT

*To all of the men of
Virginia Beach Christian Church
(DoC)*

Due to the unknown of what the Corona Virus will bring about, I am erring on the side of caution and cancelling this year's retreat. I will be in contact with the Hampton Inn in Corolla later in the year to make arrangements for next year's retreat.

God Bless us one and all.

Mark Farley



JCOC DINNER

VBCC was scheduled to create and serve dinner at JCOC on Wednesday, March 18th. In the past, we have always served BBQ, coleslaw, baked beans and hushpuppies. Last year, we changed it up a bit, by adding rolls instead of hushpuppies, potato salad and a dessert to the original menu. This year, we decided to change it again. Instead of having the previous menu, we decided to serve meatball subs, potato salad, chips and cookies for dessert. This turned out to be a great decision, because of the shutdown for the coronavirus.



We were told by JCOC that we needed to prepare to-go dinners and that no one would be allowed into the facility to eat. We also had a restriction of only 10 people being allowed in the building, which included JCOC staff.

Many thanks to Bill Ivory, Kit and Bill Hayden and Phyllis Marshall for an AMAZING "assembly line"! We created 50-52 to-go dinners (including bottled water) and these were handed out, at the exterior dining room door, in shopping bags by an employee of JCOC.

I would also like to thank others who have also been involved with our JCOC dinners in the past and who volunteered to help this time, but couldn't because of the restrictions. We will continue this outreach to the community and our next dinner at JCOC will be in September.

Blessings,
Debbie Ivory

DEPARTMENT NEWS



Claire Carbone
Chairperson



Em Davis
Chairperson

OUTREACH

The VBCC Food Pantry is open on our regular days with a no choice, no contact option. We have prepared bags of food to distribute to up to 12 families each day. We will be doing a drive through on the left side of the church. We will give out the food until our shelves are empty. We are still accepting food donations, if you are already out and wish to pick up a few basic items. We do not want anyone to risk exposure by shopping. Place your items in the white box, outside the overhang of the side door.

Stay safe and healthy!

Claire

EDUCATION

Vacation Bible School planning is underway and will be held at Wycliff Church July 13 - 17. Volunteers are needed to assist with classes and registration. Our church will need to provide dinner one night during the week either Tuesday or Thursday. Suggestions welcomed.

We have three candidates for Craig Springs summer camp with a possibility for three more if Rev Kays can persuade them.

David & Em



Nancy Nelson
Patti Watters

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What might it look like to celebrate Easter without gathering in person? How can my congregation survive the loss of Sunday offerings for so many weeks? What kind of pastoral support can we give to those members whose only social interactions happen at church? How can we keep feeding our hungry neighbors when our soup kitchen is shut down?

These questions are painful. Christianity is, at its heart, an incarnational faith. Worship embodies the belief that God's grace comes through physical contact: water trickling down a forehead, bread dissolving on a tongue, wine tickling the back of a throat, one person's hand squeezing another's. While the closing of public worship and church-based outreach don't mean separation from God, there is real grief around the suspension of these tangible forms of connection to Christ, to others, and to the world.

It remains the church's work to nurture human connections with God and with others—even in times of physical separation. As the editors put it in 1918, "It will be a mistake to accept this as a vacation time for religion."

'Staying Connected During The COVID-19 Pandemic.' From the Editors of *The Christian Century*.

<https://www.christiancentury.org/article/editors/staying-connected-during-covid-19-pandemic> [March 20, 2020]

WORSHIP



HOLY WEEK

During Holy Week [April 5-April 12] be sure to visit the church's website regularly for online daily devotionals and special services offered by Rev. Kim Hodges (Lynnhaven Colony Congregational UCC), Rev. Garrett Bugg (Wycliffe PCUSA), and Rev. David Kays.

*Nancy and Patti
and the Worship team*



Jeff Bodenhamer



PROPERTY



In March, we completed another long awaited renovation project at VBCC (DoC)! The exterior entryway of the Fellowship Hall is now wheelchair accessible! We must thank the Great Neck Preschool staff and all of their parents and children for their patience during this improvement. We are so excited to have this project behind us and look forward to the next!

Jeff

Here are some pictures of the house we are apart from; it is a building that is imbued with prayer and the sounds of lament and celebration. Even though we are physically distant, we are still spiritually one in God.



The building awaits a return to regular use, the church continues ever on!
AMEN.



Recipe Corner

Send me your recipe and I'll feature it in one of the upcoming newsletters, but definitely in the newest version of a VBCC Cookbook!

Leslie Kelly
office@vbchristianchurch.com

Appetizer

Almond Porcini Pate



Servings: 6
 2 tablespoons margarine
 1 small onion, chopped (1/4 cup)
 1 clove garlic, minced
 1 1/2 cups sliced mushrooms (4 oz)
 1/2 teaspoon tarragon
 1 cup blanched whole almonds (6 oz)
 1 tablespoon lemon juice
 2 teaspoons soy sauce
 dash of white pepper
 2 tablespoons cream cheese (optional), or kefir cheese, or Neufchatel cheese
GARNISH:
 slivered or finely chopped almonds
 fresh parsley sprigs
 pimiento strips or sweet red pepper strips (optional)

In a large skillet, melt margarine. Add onion, garlic, and mushrooms. Saute until tender but not browned. Add tarragon, stir until it is softened.

Pour mixture into a bowl of food processor. Add remaining ingredients. Process until mixture is smooth. Add cheese if you prefer a more spreadable consistency. Spoon into a serving bowl. Top with garnish of your choice.

VARIATIONS: ~ Substitute other vegetables for the mushrooms (maybe broccoli.) ~ Substitute 1/2 teaspoon fennel for the tarragon and 1 cup whole pecans for the almonds ~ vary the flavor by using other seasonings such as basil, oregano, dillweed, curry powder, or nutmeg.

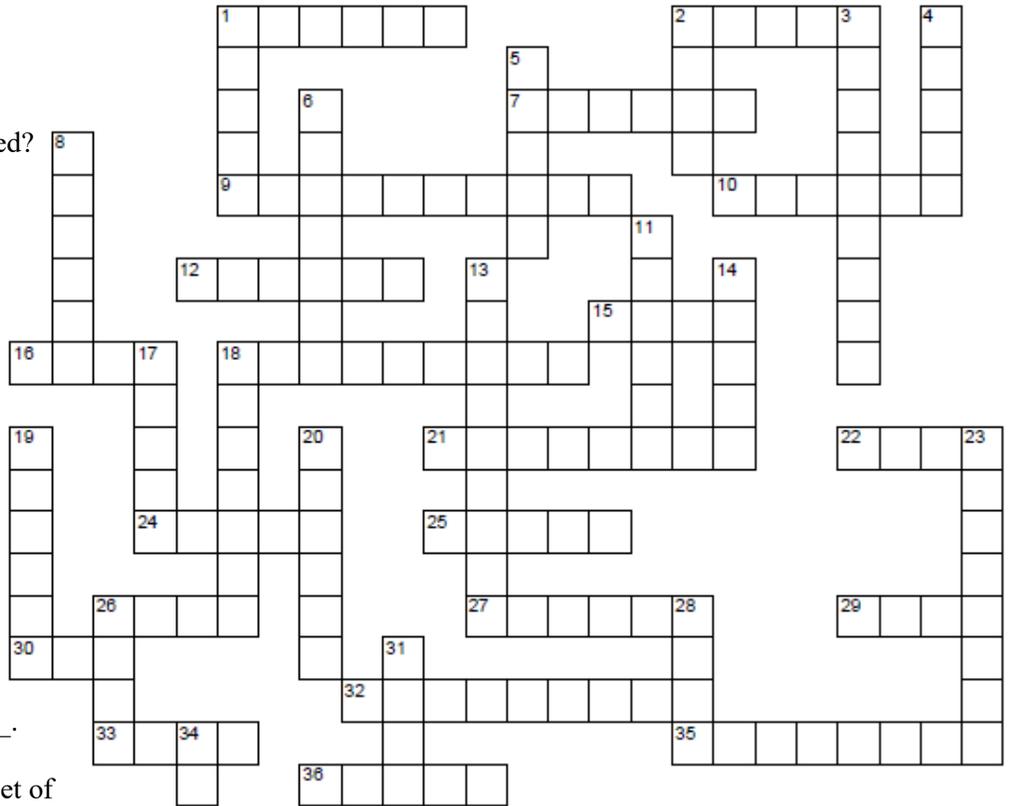
People who do not like ordinary pate seem to love this one. Vary the herbs and substitute the vegetables as you wish. Serve with water crackers, thick slices of crusty French bread, thin slices of whole wheat bread, or unsalted whole wheat crackers. May be frozen.

Per Serving (excluding unknown items): 190 Calories; 17g Fat (73.8% calories from fat); 6g Protein; 8g Carbohydrate; 2g Dietary Fiber; 0mg Cholesterol; 163mg Sodium. Exchanges: 1/2 Grain(Starch); 1/2 Lean Meat; 1/2 Vegetable; 0 Fruit; 3 Fat.

THE CRUCIFIXION, DEATH, AND BURIAL OF JESUS

Across

- 1 Place where the curtain was torn
(Matthew 27:45)
- 2 Pilate prepared a notice written in this language (John 19:19-20)
- 7 Who gave orders to have the tomb guarded?
Matthew 27:35)
- 9 Miracle on the day Jesus died
(Matthew 27:54)
- 10 The day of the week when Jesus died was _____.
- 12 Who set Barabbas free? (Mark 15:15)
- 15 Jesus was offered a drink of _____ mixed with gall.
(Matthew 27:34)
- 16 The sign on the cross read, "This is the King of the _____."
(Matthew 27:37)
- 18 Who said, "Truly, this man was the Son of God"? (Mark 15:39)
- 21 Jesus said, "It is _____."
(John 19:30)
- 22 Darkness covered the entire _____.
(Matthew 27:45)
- 24 These were placed into the hands and feet of Jesus (John 20:25)



- 25 Pilate used this to wash his hands (Matthew 27:24)
- 26 Who was commended into the care of John? (John 19:26-27)
- 27 Jesus said, "Father, into Thy hands I commit my _____." (Luke 23:46)
- 29 Person who took care of Jesus' mother (John 19:26-27)
- 30 Number of criminals who were crucified with Jesus (Matthew 27:38)
- 32 Holy city where the temple is located
- 33 The sign on the cross read, "Jesus of Nazareth, the _____ of the Jews." (John 19:19)
- 35 Criminal who was set free (Luke 23:15)
- 36 Person who died to forgive us our sins

Down

- 1 Number of hours darkness was over the entire land (Luke 23:44)
- 2 The soldiers cast _____ for Jesus' garments. (Matthew 27:35)
- 3 Who helped Joseph of Arimathea lay the body of Jesus in a tomb? (John 19:39)
- 4 Jesus said, "_____ you will be with me in paradise." (Luke 23:43)
- 5 The soldiers pierced Jesus' side with a _____. (John 19:34)
- 6 What was torn in the temple from top to bottom? (Luke 23:45)
- 8 The man who carried the cross of Jesus was from this place. (Matthew 27:32)
- 11 Some thought this prophet would save Jesus. (Matthew 27:49)
- 13 Those who were crucified with Jesus were called _____. (Luke 23:32)
- 14 Became a friend to Pilate (Luke 23:12)
- 17 Who was forced to carry the cross of Jesus? (Matthew 27:32)
- 18 The people shouted, "_____ Him!" (Mark 15:13)
- 19 Jesus said, "I _____." (John 19:28)
- 20 This man asked for the body of Jesus; he was from Arimathea. (Matthew 27:57)
- 23 Condition of the sky when Jesus died (Luke 23:44)
- 26 The chief priests, teachers of the Law, and the elders did this to Jesus. (Matthew 27:41)
- 28 Joseph of Arimathea laid the body of Jesus in a new _____. (Matthew 27:57-60)
- 31 What did the soldiers break to hasten the death of the two criminals? (John 19:31-32)
- 34 Did the soldiers break the legs of Jesus? (John 19:33)





March

*Virginia Beach
Christian Church (DoC) Newsletter*

PUZZLE

Got something to say?

- Submit all newsletter articles to office@vbchristianchurch.com
- Try to keep articles to 125—150 words
- Photos are always welcome
- Please submit your articles at your earliest convenience
- Monthly deadline will always be on the 20th of each month

Newsletter

