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Pullen Weekly News

April 27- May 3

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May a Song Remain Among Us



The first Pullen Staff planning retreat for 2020 was this past February. At that time, we worked on goal-setting for our ministries. **As I dreamed of methods to continue expressing the uniqueness of Music Ministry at Pullen, I decided I would like to explore additional ways that**

audio-visual technology and applications would enhance my work – with ideas such as making use of video presentations on liberal church music

philosophy, filming choirs and orchestra members to promote welcome and participation in our Music Ministry Groups, and using video calling in rehearsals to connect singers and instrumentalists with composers, hymn writers and other church musicians.

Little did I know in February that by March I would be suddenly thrust into a world where digital audio-visual platforms would become the *only* way to communicate, educate, and worship together! Technology I had considered as an enhancement was now the primary means of congregational life. (What is that saying: “Be careful what you ask/pray for!?” or perhaps, “Be careful what goals you set!”)

I am looking forward to the day when technology can once again intersect with the communal in more balanced ways. Until then, Music Ministry Group participants are learning new ways of collaboration. You may have noticed in recent livestreamed services that our church’s isolated musicians are finding ways to connect. This process involves my sending a prepared digital file to singers/instrumentalists who record their part. They send it from person to person until all the individual parts are transformed into a collective whole. Although it is time-consuming, the learning curve is high, and it cannot involve large groups, it offers individuals meaningful experiences. Music is soothing to the soul in isolation, but when voices or instruments combine with the harmonies of others, it is healing.

Listen to several of our first efforts at this mode of collaboration, and offer gratitude for technology that can be used to connect individuals and lift our spirits:

[Deo Dicamus Gratias](#) (a choral anthem offered in worship on April 26)

[Bring Many Names](#) (a hymn led for interfaith worship on April 26)

[Shalom, My Friends](#) (a congregational round led in worship on April 26)

[Keep God’s Light](#) (an anthem with congregational response for worship on April 19)

Whether near or far apart, may a song remain!

-Larry E. Schultz, Minister of Music

Music Ministry at Pullen

An Opportunity for Connection

We still have groups gathering via Zoom each week. Please take note of our updated schedule below. Some groups meet just to chat and others spend some of the time engaging in a contemplative practice. It’s a good opportunity to see other members of the community, some that we may not know as well as others. To join one of these small groups, simply

click the link for the day and time you want. If prompted, the password is **1801** .

To join the video chat, simply click on your preferred time.

- **Monday, 7 pm** (conversational)
- **Tuesday, 10 am** (contemplative)
- **Wednesday, 7 pm** (conversational)
- **Friday, 12 pm** (contemplative)



To call in, dial 646-876-9923, and enter the Meeting ID.

- Monday, 7 pm 4250627700
- Tuesday, 10 am 4250627700
- Wednesday, 7 pm 148081022
- Friday, 12 pm 834356985

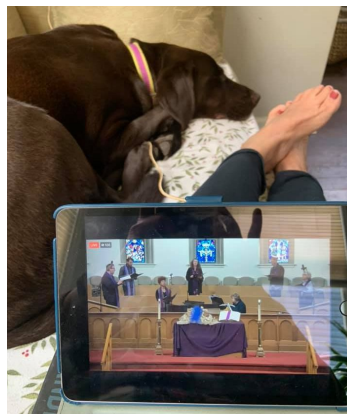
-Chalice Overy

A Message about Livestream Videos

We hope that in the coming weeks you will join for worship each Sunday by watching the [livestream](#) . The recordings of the services are then archived on our webpage, so you can watch any time.

A note from Nathan about technical difficulties and the April 26 Livestream Service:

We have been streaming successfully for many weeks without the congregation in the sanctuary. While there have been some issues with a few folks logging on to the stream, today was the first time we had a complete failure of the equipment. The stream computer is tested thoroughly each Saturday prior to the service, it worked perfectly this past Saturday. In fact we were able to add functionality and embed the stream on the church website. Rest assured we will have a better backup plan for future weeks. I will provide any technical assistance needed until different decisions are made.



Now a little less technical and a little more spiritual. I know our worship is not about 1801 Hillsborough however it is important that a few continue to gather in this space and the entire congregation continue to gather live to worship together. Yes there was a disruption to worship this morning however we were able to hear live from the Imam and receive words of encouragement from the Rabbi as a community. As a baptist, worship for me has always been about spontaneity and potential disruption. The act of worshipping live, with presence in our sanctuary, goes beyond folks watching a video.

I have participated in worship almost every Sunday for 48 years and there have been many disruptions in the live services and sometimes these are the best services. One I was involved in but do not remember was at age 2 and I got away from my mother and crawled under the pews visiting with each family as I moved forward. Eventually I got to the front pew, stuck my head out and said to my father, "Hi Daddy". He promptly stopped the service, picked me up and took me out. I would guess my expectation and the expectation of others, at that time, was that I would be punished. In fact the deacon at the back door commented to my father as we exited the sanctuary "you better not whip that boy". I was not punished just asked not to do it again. This may seem like just a funny story however I am reminded of the grace of my father each time I remember this story and am feeling that grace as I recount now.

For me, it is worth the stress and potential flub to be present (even while distant) with the energy of our congregation. There is more than just physical presence that connects this congregation and that happens weekly during live worship.

Nathan Powers

Each week we monitor the the livestream service on Vimeo and Facebook in order to communicate any issues to our technicians in the sanctuary. If you have comments or concerns about the livestream, or if you need help accessing it, please email Dana at news@pullen.org . *Note: please refrain from texting Nathan, Henry, or Bryan during the livestream service.*

Video Archive

Story Time with Pullen Friends



Hey families, the Pullen Ministerial Staff would like read to your children! Our staff are now online, via video, reading one of their favorite children's books. Go to the link below to listen. Feel free to share with family and friends, or anyone that might need good story!
-Tommy Cook

Story Time With Pullen

Search Committee hard at work

The Church Administrator Search Committee is still accepting applications for Pullen's full-time Church Administrator.

The position is posted on the Pullen website at pullen.org/jobs .

-Kyle Hampton, Chair of Church Administrator Search Committee

-Catherine Corbett, Chair of Personnel Committee

We're Here for You

We recognize that those in vulnerable populations will want to remain as isolated as possible, but may still need medications, groceries, etc. If you have needs, but do not feel comfortable going out, please **contact Chalice Overy at covery@pullen.org or 919-828-0887 ext. 214** . -Chalice Overy

Stay Connected to Pullen Church during Covid-19

There is a [page](#) on the Pullen Website to help you stay connected during the pandemic. Visit it for all of the links to our emails, videos, and Zoom meetings.



Please reach out if you have questions or suggestions about our communications channels. Email Communications Specialist Dana Deaton at news@pullen.org .

Note about the Weekly Email: You may have noticed that you are receiving this weekly email on Tuesday morning! We will publish the Weekly News on Tuesday morning from now on. It works better for the staff schedule.

-Dana Deaton

Staying Connected

Please share this email with your friends!



Pullen Memorial Baptist Church

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