

Vance Memorial Presbyterian Church
905 National Road, Wheeling, WV
office@vancechurch.org (e-mail)
vancechurch.org (website)

Rev. Erica L. Harley, Senior Pastor
1-608-322-2522 (mobile)
revericaharley@gmail.com (NEW email)
1-304-232-0980 (office)

Church Office Hours: Mon-Thur. 9am-3pm and Fridays 9am-12pm



ADVANCE NEWS 2020



Dear Friends,

Obviously the Coronavirus has turned our world upside down and the world of the church is no different. Houses of worship have had to shut down and/or seriously alter many regular operations. Here at Vance Memorial Presbyterian Church we now distribute bulletins differently, take up an offering differently, and pass the peace differently but the question we have been wrestling with for several months now is how do we celebrate the Lord's Supper differently if at all.

After much soul searching the Worship and Music Commission of this congregation along with me, the pastor, have decided several things are helpful in answering this quandary: the first of which is the May sermon series I have been preaching here at Vance has been all about the Lord's Supper. While these may not have been the best homiletical pieces in all of Christendom, I do think they have been serious educational aids as we seek to be both practical and theologically upright.

In *Dining with Jesus: Community* we considered the assertion that in Reformed theological tradition sacraments must be done in community and we examined the question of whether or not a virtual community is indeed a community. Having answered in the affirmative, we then turned our attention to the different modes and meanings communion has in various religious traditions landing ourselves in the Reformed understanding that in the Sacrament Jesus is really but spiritually present to the church.

We then focused on the meaning of the meal attentive to the common understanding that the sacrament is a memorial meal in which we remember the gracious acts of our Lord. However Holy Communion is far more than just a remembrance; it is also a celebration of the coming together of God's people in sacrifice and praise and it does so in anticipation of a joyful feast in glory with Jesus as the Host. So that brings us to the final week of the sermon series as we prepare to receive the Sacrament on the first Sunday of the month.

First we must understand that preparation has always been stressed in the Reformed theological understanding of the Lord's Supper. Worshippers are continually reminded that BEFORE we approach the table we are to prepare our hearts by examining our relationship with Jesus and with others as we consider the need for the forgiveness of sins. Now in the midst of a pandemic we simply must prepare more than spiritually but also physically and practically.

Before worship on June 7th (and beyond) take the time to not only prepare your hearts but also your homes for the Sacrament. Do so with the attention to detail that says "Jesus is coming to my home." Set your table. Consider the elements you will use and also the dishware that will hold them. And join with the community in person, on the radio, or via video in celebrating the Lord's presence in our midst. In this way together we will uphold the theological integrity of the Sacrament while remaining practical.

Blessings,
E.



Sundays at 10am
Communion Service
First Sunday of the
Month at 10am



Note these Dates:

7th—Head Custodian,
Russ Brown's Birthday

7th—Trinity Sunday
Communion Service

14th—2nd Sunday after
Pentecost

21st—3rd Sunday after
Pentecost

21st—Father's Day

28th—4 Sunday after
Pentecost

**June Worship
Schedule**

Worship at Vance Church: Connected by Media... ...Communing in the Holy Spirit



We appreciate the hard work and dedication of Director of Music Debbie Brieding and song leader Alan Cline. With social distancing guidelines in mind, a full choir is not singing during our worship services, however, the quality of music has not faltered at all. Debbie has continued to choose beautiful pieces of music to enhance our worship. Alan Cline, choir and church member has brought these pieces to life with great talent and deep emotion that has touched those worshipping in person and all those worshipping virtually. We are all looking forward to being able to worship all together with a full choir but we are thankful to Debbie and Alan for serving as our worship leaders during the past weeks.



Keith Wilson: The man behind the Media Magic. While virtual community has been our lifeline during the Stay at Home orders, our Print and Social Media Coordinator has been hard at work updating our website and Facebook page with posts. He also launched our new Facebook Live worship on Sundays at 10am. Go to

Vance's Facebook page and look for the "live" feed or you can type **[facebook.com/Vance-Presbyterian-Church-163039622493](https://www.facebook.com/Vance-Presbyterian-Church-163039622493)** into your URL.



Our own "Hometown Heroes," Russ Brown and Jay Carenbauer, have been hard at work keeping our building clean and sanitized during weekly office hours and before and after Sunday worship. We thank them for all their sacrifice in making your health and safety their number one priority.



HOLYWORK at VANCE CHURCH

For the past two months, our church has had to be socially distanced for the health of the church family. However, we were never spiritually distanced! We have been able to stay close as a church through prayer and technology, bridging the generations and sharing Christ's love with each other. The families of young children were challenged to do "Holywork" assignments as part of their Christian Education and they participated with godly enthusiasm! We were able to share with each other in a group text, and Miss Jane sent many of the pics to church members to bring them cheer. The following pages are a Special Edition gallery with captions of what was happening spiritually in the lives of our church families when we were physically apart, but spiritually bound! We hope they warm your heart, stoke your hope and bring a smile to your face!



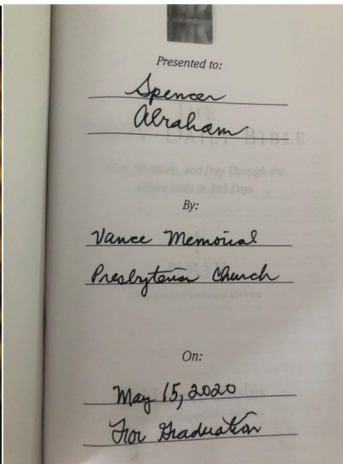
Because our church was separated for safety, the children sent self-portraits to Vance friends to bring them cheer and the love of God! The recipients LOVED them!

Vance hid over 40 bears in the Christian Education Buildings windows so people could "go on a bear hunt" and spot furry friends!

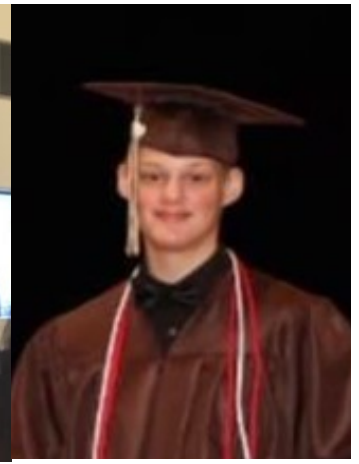


Bibles for Graduates

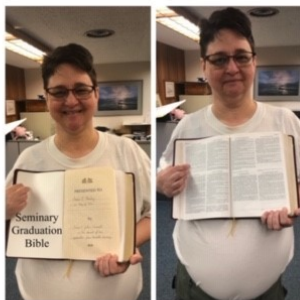
While graduation for our seniors has been anything but traditional, one tradition that we continue to carry on in our Christian Education at Vance is gifting all our graduates with young adult Bibles to take with them as they continue into the next chapter of their lives. As we were unable to present them in worship for the church to share in this milestone, please see the pictures below as our way of celebrating our Vance Youth.



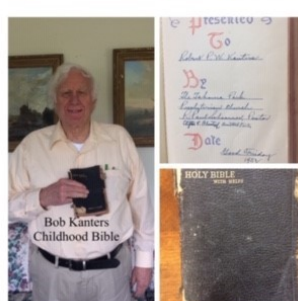
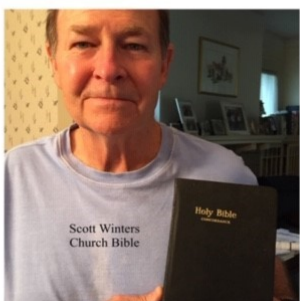
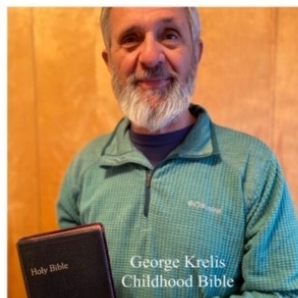
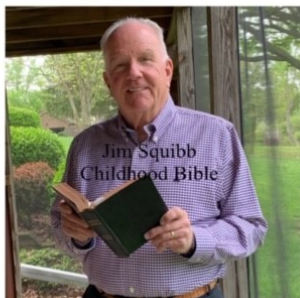
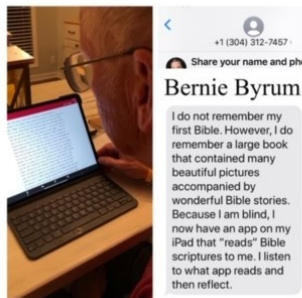
Spencer Abraham, Class of 2020, Wheeling Park



Americus Cooper, Class of 2020, John Marshall



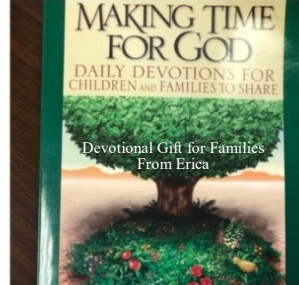
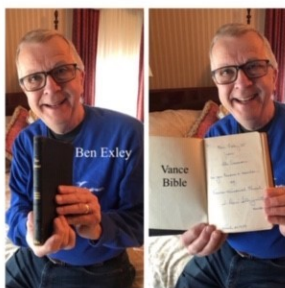
B I B L E



In May, Vance Christian Education usually gives Bibles to 3rd graders and High School graduates. The Christian Education Director planned to have a church-wide worship emphasis on "bringing your Bible to church" where adults would have their childhood or gift bibles for the children to see as a way to share in this milestone. We decided to do it virtually and that is how "Bible Selfies" became a Vance Church Christian Education project. Here are the Bible selfies of all those who shared. These pics were all sent to the children to show them that the Bible is for all ages, to encourage them to read the Bible, and to show them that their church family values the Word of God.

"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path." Psalm 119:105

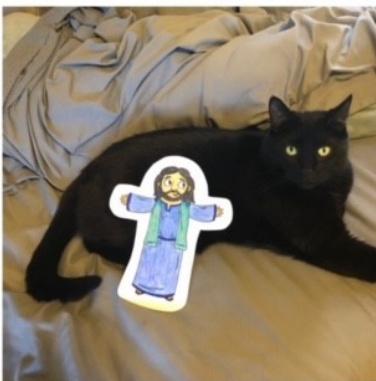
S E L F I E S



The Adventures of Flat Jesus!

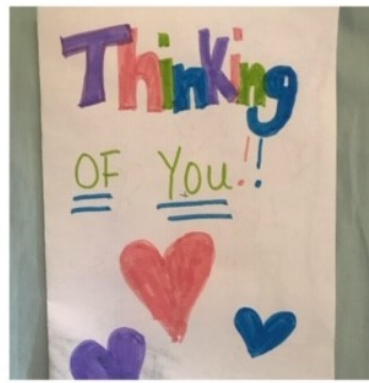


Sometimes children think that Jesus is only at church so part of their Homeworship and Holywork assignments has been The Adventures of Flat Jesus. This was to help the Vance children understand that Jesus is everywhere at the same time, no matter where they travel, because He is God. Children were mailed cardstock sheets of Flat Jesus and they colored them the way they wanted. Then, they took Flat Jesus on all the adventures they experienced during the Stay at Home order. As you can see the Olivers loved playing with Jesus in their backyard playground. The Greens bounced on the trampoline with Jesus. Jesus helped the Cains do yard work and he got to go to a big kid school. The Abrahams celebrated Easter with Flat Jesus. Finally, Flat Jesus loved to pet Miss Jane's cat, Vicar.



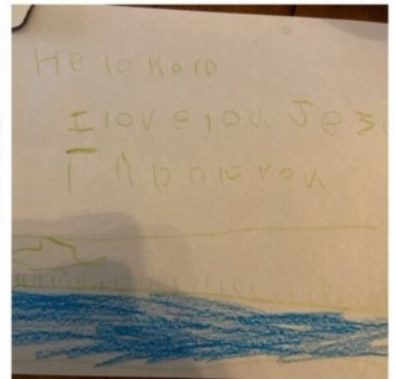
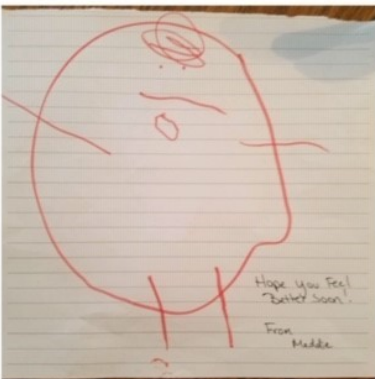
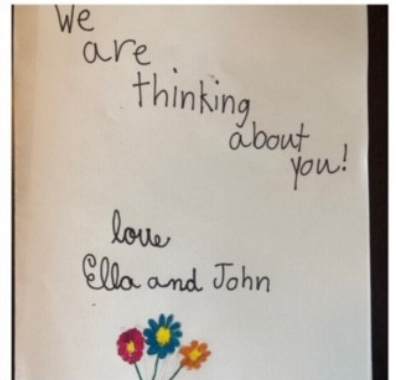
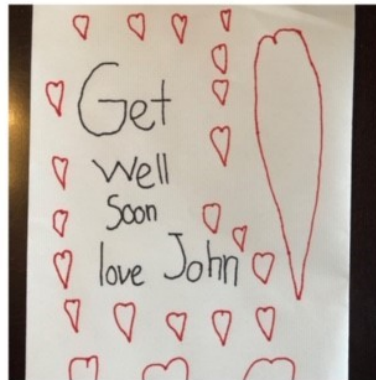
They're so excited
She's coloring Flat
Jesus right now





The Vance Youth (Abrahams) send Deb Cox encouragement during her hospitalizations! We sent this to Deb and telling her: "You are in the palm of God's hands." to which she responded "They are wonderful!"

The Oliver Family sends "Thinking of You" cards to Debbie Brieding whose husband had heart issues and Kathy Hannan whose mother passed away. Jane drew this cartoon for Drew Seabright to bring him comfort after his cycling accident.



The Shearer and Cain families send get well wishes to Deb Cox and Drew Seabright. This brought lots of love and hope to their families and their recoveries. It helped everyone remember that God is our faithful provider.

The Green family also sends their get well wishes and sympathy to the Vance folks grieving and recovering from health issues. They are also watching our Facebook Live Worship Children's Sermon! Kendall Cain misses Jesus.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Change of Church Plans

If you are familiar with the annual church calendar, you know that we usually have the Church Picnic, Memorial Sunday, New Member Sunday and Baptism Sunday during the month of June. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we will not be having these events in June.

Also, Out-the-Pike Vacation Bible School which was scheduled for Sun. July 19—Thu. July 23 has been cancelled.



June Birthdays

04—Amber Green
07—Lori Suddath
07—Russ Brown
08—Beth Ann Dague
15—Ruth Keefer
19—Brian Oliver
20—Adlie Abraham
21—Linda Dudash
21—Kathryn Krelis
22—Sue Abraham
24—David Bowman
29—Robert McColloch



DEACONS FOOD PANTRY



The Deacons would like to thank the congregation for their generous donations of non-perishable food items to the food pantry. You can place your donations in the food pantry boxes in the Lower Lobby and the Narthex!

OUR MISSIONARIES

Support our Missionaries!

If you'd like to give financial support to our missionaries, please follow these instructions:

- * Please make checks payable to "Cru"
 - * DO NOT place any other information on the "pay to the order" line.
 - * Also, please do not write on the memo line.
 - * Please attach a note indicating which staff member or ministry the gift is intended for.
- Please also include the seven digit designation number. (Caleb and Claire Bermudez: 0559783)
- * Make sure the check is signed and dated.
 - * Mail to:

Cru
Attn: Contributions
PO Box 628222
Orlando, FL 32862-8222
Or visit www.cru.org using #0559783 and follow directions.

Feel free to contact us at our home in Philadelphia:
Caleb, Claire, Lydia, Elena & Aslan Bermudez
835 Wilder Street, Philadelphia, PA 19147
Caleb.Bermudez@cru.org
Claire.Bermudez@cru.org

Keeping in Touch



Please remember the following members who are in need of special care. They are all going through unique journeys and need your prayers, cards/calls, and visits.

If you would like to inquire about a specific person's needs, please contact an Elder, Deacon or the Pastor.

If *any* information listed is incorrect, or you would like to add someone, please notify the church office *immediately*. 304-232-0980
office@vancechurch.org

Member	Room/Phone #	Address
Marilyn Phillis	740-449-2152	Brookdale Hawthorne Lakes Unit# 440 Vernon Hill, IL 60061
Nina McHenry	304-242-3167	19825 Dear Run Lane Strongsville, OH 44149
Don Hendrickson Liza's Place Rm 158	304-242-1740	308 Mt. St. Joseph Rd. Wheeling, WV 26003
Sally Riley	304-233-9056	89 Bethany Pike Wheeling, WV 26003
Parky Beneke Continuous Care	304-243-3815	236 Bransfield Pl. Rm. 202 Wheeling, WV 26003
Flo Frame	304-242-0099	9 Romney Road Wheeling, WV 26003
Shirley Driehorst	304-242-6833	14 Fairfax Dr. Wheeling, WV 26003
Deb Cox	304-233-6027	361 Merrymount Rd. Wheeling, WV 26003



**Vance Memorial
Presbyterian Church**
905 National Road,
Wheeling, WV 26003
304-232-0980 or
vancechurch.org

Worship Sundays at 10am
Communion Service
First Sunday of the Month
at 10:00am



Join us for Worship
Sundays at 10am

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LIVE

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