



The Hamilton Beacon June 22, 2020

HAMILTON'S BIRTHDAY!

Back in the mists of history, on June 25, 1901, Hamilton Presbyterian Church was born. We are now 119 years old! The first church was built in a pocket of structures along Harford Road including a fire department, barber shop, pharmacy, Post Office, harness shop with a large wooden horse outside, Mrs. Arnd's Lunchroom, and one telephone.

In 1915, that first small structure was replaced with our present building at Harford Road and Evergreen Avenue. Westminster Hall was added in 1951.

Earlier this year, Session/Trustees decided our birthday should be celebrated. June 21st was selected as "Birthday Sunday." We envisioned honoring our history, honoring our members, and pledging ourselves ready for the next 119 years. And then, Corona-19 intruded into our situation and plans!

Our building is in the core of the Harford Road development, a neighborhood culturally diverse with a strong sense of inclusion and community involvement. This neighborhood revival offers Hamilton Presbyterian Church an opportunity to rebuild. On July 25th, let's join together in prayer you will find in the enclosed Resources and Reflections folder.

WHEN WE Will OPEN FOR WORSHIP?

Of Course, we are all aching for worship. Each of us looks forward to the time when – observing socially distancing to be sure – we are together with each other in worship.

Alas, doing this before it is safe would be a disaster. In the June 17th New York Times, Thomas Friedman writes:

"... this virus is inscrutable. It pops up, it disappears, it reappears, some people are symptomatic, some asymptomatic, some seem to have natural immunities to it that we don't understand, and once it infects people it hits in radically different ways: you never know if you're going to get the mild or the extra-strength version.

"There is so much we know that could make this post-lock-down phase so much less dangerous and so much more economically viable than it is.

"We know that countries where everyone wears a mask outside the home sharply reduces the spread and that people who practice strict social distancing infect fewer people and are infected less often. And we know that people who avoid "superspreading" events — large, prolonged social gatherings, religious services and crammed workplaces, where one highly contagious person can quickly spew the virus to others — are less likely to get infected."

The safety of every member of Hamilton Presbyterian Church is our main concern. While there are openings in the city of Baltimore, so too is the number increasing of those receiving a positive virus test.



So, When Will We Open? The decision will be made by the Session/Trustees. We will make it with *you* in mind. What a disaster it would be if Hamilton Church became a Corona-19 virus “hot spot.” The safety of everyone is our main concern. We’ll keep you posted.



CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE!
WE REFRESHED IT EVERY WEEK
NOW, WE INCLUDE SOME MUSIC

www.hamilton-pres.org

General Assembly News

On Saturday, June 20, the 224th General Assembly overwhelmingly elected Elona Street-Stewart, executive of the Synod of Lakes and Prairies, and the Rev. Gregory Bentley, pastor of Fellowship Presbyterian Church in Huntsville, Alabama, to be co-moderators of the 224th General Assembly Saturday. They will serve for two years.

For the first time in the history of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), General Assembly is being held online. This requires everyone to participate in a digital format.

Spokesperson Julia Henderson said, “Clearly the Baltimore Convention Center and hotels would not be able to meet our contract. We let them know we are canceling because they cannot meet their obligations.” A clause in many contracts called “force majeure” frees both parties from an obligation when extraordinary circumstances beyond the control of the contractual parties prevents services from being performed.