



Arlington Reformed Church
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THE ARLINGTON POST

Newsletter and Order of Worship for 6.14.2020

Lions, and Tigers, and Bears, Oh My!



The line, "Lions, and tigers, and bears, oh my!" Came from the 1939 classic movie, The Wizard of Oz.

If you haven't seen or don't know The Wizard of Oz story, it is about a journey in a strange land, that is difficult and fraught with obstacles, making new friends along the way, facing some scary situations, confronting the wicked (witch), and discovering that you had the power within all along. Oh my – it is perfect!

On their journey along the yellow brick road to find the Wizard of Oz, while walking through the dark, creepy forest, Dorothy, the Tin Man, and the Scarecrow get scared when they start hearing noises coming from the foliage around them. The Scarecrow wonders if there are any animals out there who might be interested in eating things (like straw), and the Tin Man's says, yes, there are probably lions and tigers and bears out there.

Naturally, this causes the Scarecrow to anxiously repeat, "Lions and tigers and bears," and Dorothy throws in the good old "oh my" for dramatic effect. They are scared and don't know what to expect... will there be lions, and tigers and bears that will devour them?

The Wizard of Oz (1939)

Dorothy: *Do – do you suppose we'll meet any wild animals?*

Tin Man: *We might.*

Dorothy: *Oh!*

Scarecrow: *Animals that – that eat straw?*

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REGATHERING SOON

[New York States Executive Order](#) now allows worship services of 25% of capacity in Dutchess County.

As we in joy and with serious care plan and prepare for our reopening date, we as a church are still connecting by:

Phone	Facebook
Weekly Newsletter	Email
Zoom Meetings	YouTube

Website

There is regularly updated information on our website: arlingtonreformedchurch.org including a prayer page, worship videos and messages, community resources. You can leave prayer requests there.

Sunday Worship 10-10:45AM

An online livestream worship service of music, prayers and a message through our Facebook or website.

Wednesday Phone Chat 7-8PM

There is a weekly phone chat scheduled each Wednesday. Here is how **anyone** can access the call to check in, discuss a scripture, pray together:

Dial: 1-929-436-2866
 Meeting ID#:616-565-565
 Meeting Password: 972760

Contacts

Elders Phone or Email:

Cynthia Canaday: 845-546-1634
 Ann Veeder: 845-546-3286
 Dawn Kostenko: 845-546-6093

Join Our Facebook Page:

www.facebook.com/arlingtonreformed/

Tin Man: *Uh, some. But mostly lions and tigers and bears.*

Dorothy: *Lions?*

Scarecrow: *And tigers?*

Tin Man: *[nodding] And bears.*

Dorothy: *Oh! **Lions and tigers and bears. Oh my!***

Pretty soon, the three are linking arms and skipping through the forest chanting, "Lions and tigers and bears, oh my!"

A lot how I (and I imagine many of you) feel in the face of our own journey in the strange creepy forest of coronavirus, shut-downs, economic plummets, violence, protests and riots, political unrest and upheaval. We don't know what to expect, what is coming, what is out there lurking that could devour us.

Like Dorothy in this movie says to her dog, "Toto, I've a feeling, we are not in Kansas anymore."

In the context of the film, Dorothy could understand her experiences in many ways: She learned that anything truly important is worth overcoming obstacles to achieve. She learned that while some people delight in wickedness, very many more don't. She learned that small, apparently weak, and seemingly helpless people can defeat evil, if they work together. She learned that the servants of wicked people are happy to throw off their oppressor. She learned that our limitations are often of our own making: Scarecrow, Lion, and Tin Man each already possessed what they sought.

And this is similar to us as a church. We have the power within us, God's Holy Spirit, to lead us "into all truth." Scripture tells us that we each have already been given "everything we need for life and godliness" and to help us overcome obstacles. We are called to be instruments of change in a wicked world...in peace times and war and times of calamity. We are always to bring the message of reconciliation and God's saving grace. We are told to fix our eyes firmly on Jesus(not toward the forest). We can take deep prayerful breaths and remember God will be with us, no matter what, "even to the ends of this age." So like Dorothy, Tin Man and Scare Crow, we link arms. We move forward. We are not alone.

C Canaday

THANK YOU!

How can we thank God enough for you all! Your calls to each other, prayers, services, and faithfulness to mail in or drop off your offerings is keeping the church going during this time when we cannot gather. You are all amazing-you re the church!

Thank you SO MUCH church family!

What Blessings Bestowed!

You as a church family know that we have had some difficult years with financial instability. The church experienced some painful conflicts and discouragements and loss. There were even times that closing the doors to the Arlington Reformed Church (ARC) was considered by loving, caring church leaders seeking God's will and best. Always and ever the prayer has been, "show us, save us...your will be done."

But this church has good "bones." In its building structure, in its history of faith... but mostly in its people. The legacy of the years of God's people at ARC being His presence in the Arlington community has persisted, even in the face of severe difficulties. But through the years the church listened to God's Word: "Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you."

- ✓ The main way you have been doing this is through your great love: love of God, love of each other, love of your community. The church pulled together and found peace and unity of purpose. Serving God, participating in regular worship and study. Serving one another in ministry and prayer-above and beyond! Serving our community with donations and time-above and beyond! We have seen growth
- ✓ And another, beautiful way you have done this is with your faithful offerings. Whether given out of your need or out of your abundance, you have been committed to seeing this church endure. Regular offerings, special offerings, outreach offerings.
- ✓ Additionally, families and individuals from other churches came to help and stabilize. Pastors gave of their time weekly without remuneration. Everyone pulling together to honor God.

But... when the pandemic hit, it felt like, "the last straw." No congregational meetings, no building users or dance group donations!? How could we continue? The media and experts was telling us we would dwindle in size, businesses and churches would be forced to close and never recover.

But amazing things started to happen: we started to meet on Zoom calls. We called and text and send cards to one another. We had online services. And equally amazing: your offerings kept coming in! Mailed in, dropped off. Barely-paying-my-own-bills offerings. Regular offerings. Special above and beyond offerings. And it was motivating, empowering to the consistory. The ARC family wanted to exist! And God saw these good deeds and God multiplied your generosity and faithfulness in unexpected and blessed ways:

- ♥ **In March:** The RCA Church Growth Fund gave loan modifications to all the churches because of the pandemic. We are now current on this loan with our next payment due at the end of this month.
- ♥ **In April:** We applied for and received a small grant from the Small Business Association (SBA) that helped supplement our March and April financial need.
- ♥ **In May:** We received an SBA Economic Injury Loan (possibly grant that will not have to be repaid) that we had applied for. This is helping us get current on past financial obligations. Also, the New Beginnings CMA Church that we had been weekly praying for who had had a devastating fire in their building right before the pandemic reached out to us: could they rent space in our building for a year to a year and a half? Their insurance would cover it. Our hearts were moved by their plight. The consistory met and dialoged with the New Beginnings Church leadership, praying how renting space to them would line up with our need for financial health, impact our church ministries and fulfill our vision statement which reads, "We are a caring community of believers in Jesus Christ, reaching out to our local community for the purpose of sharing God's love and making an impact for good in people's lives." Consistory talked and prayed. It would be good for us, good for them, good for the community.
- ♥ **In June:** New Beginnings CMA Church started to rent space and will cover their own utility costs. This together with your continued offering and the campus building user income will take some pressure off our financial obligations while fulfilling our mission statement to help and bless the New Beginning CMA church.

God is faithful, full of mercy and grace. We are his children by faith- He can make a way where we see none. About our faith in action he tells us in James chapter 2: "What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them? Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead. But someone will say, "You have faith; I have deeds. "Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by my deeds."

**You have shown your faith through your deeds, thank you for your love and generosity.
What an amazing church family you are!**

Prayer & Praise Report

- Jerry Canaday is recovering well from the infection in his thumb that put him in the hospital for 4 nights and 5 days...he is off IV antibiotics and on oral antibiotics now, and is back to work, following up with the surgeon and physician. Thank you so very much for your prayers.
- Carol Barnes is recovering well from the repeat surgery on her wrist a couple of weeks ago. Bone marrow was added to help aid in the healing...thank God for his goodness!
- Please continue your prayers for MaryAnn Sorci regarding the loss of her husband, our brother, Carmine. Maryann thanks everyone for their prayers.
- Eleanor MacIsaac is in nursing care. Dawn had a "visit through the glass" with Eleanor this weekend. Eleanor recognized Dawn and attempted to blow a kiss. It is heartbreaking for Dawn not to be with her mother, please pray for Eleanor, Dawn and the entire family.
- Please continue your prayers for Dorothy Northrup who had surgery on a heart valve repair. She is home recovering and appreciates continued prayers.
- Alison Maloney asks for continued prayer regarding an eye injury sustained on May 10th. Alison appreciates the prayers and says her vision is slightly improved but is still problematic. She sees a specialist this week.
- Our brothers and sisters with ongoing health concerns Chet and MaryLou Graves, Dottie Hanlon, Nettie Farrier, Agnes Asaram, Wendy Bohlinger, Marcia and John Morse, Cissy Kenyon, Edith Tomlins, Karen Rugar, Mary Post, Jean Patchin.
- Pastor LeFevre, Rev Eric Titus and Pastor Derick Duncan with ongoing serious health issues
- Lexi Johnson who traveled back from Florida where she has been spending time with her grandparents on or about July 6th. Safe travels Lexi!
- Kara Lu, our Vassar College student who returns this August but might be isolated to campus for a semester. She misses us, as we do her.

NEWS and UPDATES

Reopening the building safely and smartly:

As we navigate our way to regathering, we are readying the building. Here are steps we've needed to take to be in compliance with NY and CDC Guidelines:

- Submitted to NY State "Business Affirmation" that we will abide by NY State mandates at this time
- Completed and have on hand a NY Forward Plan regarding signage, cleaning protocols, social distancing, masks, etc.
- Deep cleaned the entire church
- Generated a cleaning log for those that clean weekly or room clean after a group meeting to be kept in a notebook in the office
- Generated a simple "health checklist" for anyone ministering on Sunday
- Purchased hand sanitizer stations, signs, stands, special cleaning supplies

**NEW SUNDAY
MEETING TIME:
11AM!**

Changes to Sunday ministry for when we regather:

- In sharing sanctuary time with New Beginnings CMA Church, we will now meet on Sundays at 11am, and their church family will meet at 9am. Opening date TBA soon!
- Church will be sanitized between services on Sunday, the side parking lot open for ARC by 10:30am
- We have temporarily taken the hymn books and Bibles out of the sanctuary
- We will rope off every other pew so we can sit 6 feet apart
- We have purchased single serve communion cups w/wafer for communion Sundays
- Worship teams will rotate; Lexi, Jerry, Ian and Kara as available, Sheryl Wheeler other Sundays
- Pastors Frank Gallo and Michael Ackerbauer will continue to preach on Sundays



We've made changes to the ground floor for our Snack Fellowship times:

- Completely cleaned the kitchen, wrapped and stored appliances and utensils, and put away pots and pans and all things not needed at this time.
- The lift is in good working order-but is soon being inspected and serviced if needed.
- Cleared out and painted the ground floor big room and installing new bright overhead bulbs: the big room is dry, light, roomy, inviting!
- Moved our tables down for when we start our social gathering and fellowship. We are decorating too!
- We're going green! All food and snack fellowships will use environment friendly biodegradable plates, cups, bowls and napkins (individually pulled from a dispenser). There is now a recyclables container alongside the garbage can outside the kitchen for trash and one for plastics, cardboard, glass.
- We have single serve snack bags of potato chips, pretzels, cheese crackers, granola bars, cookies, etc for snack fellowship. Single serve fresh fruit upon occasion. Single serve coffee creamers. Single serve juice boxes. Single serve water bottles. No open plates of food, no need for food contributions or intensive set up preparation. Easy, clean, sanitary and healthier! A simple light no sugar or less sugary snack with a beverage and fellowship before we head out to lunch. Very easy clean up.



More News:

- ✚ We have received four Memorial Donations, two \$100 and two \$50, in the name of Carmine Sorci. This money will be put toward our outreach program as Carmine was a regular supporter of our missions and outreach ministries. Sincere thanks to the family of Carmine for recommending the church for the donations.
- ✚ If you are able, we have a live streaming worship service each Sunday with Pastors Frank Gallo and Michel Ackerbauer that you can participate in through our Facebook page or watch live on our website at 10am. The videos of these services are archived on the arlingtonreformedchurch.org so you can watch them anytime.
- ✚ The Arlington Farmers' Market is open Thursdays, from 2:00pm to 6:00pm. The market will move to 48 Raymond Avenue (Green space next to Crafted Kup). All state mandated social distancing policies will be adhered to. Many vendors have signed up to sell their produce, handcrafts, baked goods. Be safe, stop by...
- ✚ The Anchor Project consisting of a hotel, residential and commercial uses in seven multi-story buildings being built across the street at the former A S May School will break ground at the end of the year. We continue to pray and ready our building and our ministries for the day residents and merchants will move in. We pray that we might be a church where they would feel welcomed and interested in learning about God and a church family they would want to be a part of. This will be a mission field in walking distance to us...please pray about this.

Online with God's People-Sunday, June 14, 2020

In the great assembly I will bless the LORD." (Psalm 26:12)

CALL TO WORSHIP AND PREPARATION FROM THE PSALMS

(based on Psalm 146)

Pastor: Now that you are here to worship, pause and consider where your faith and hope are really fixed.

ALL: Our faith and hope are fixed on Jesus Christ. He gives us the courage to live for Him.

Pastor: God's kingdom will last forever, beyond all generations. He was and is and is to come.

ALL: I will praise you alone, Lord of my soul! I will praise you as long as I live. I will sing to you as long as my soul has being.

OPENING SONG OF PRAISE

UNISON PRAYER

Let's take some time to pray this prayer together

Who is there like you, God of mercy and grace who loves us as you do?

Who knows and understands our actions as you do?

Who hears the thoughts and words of our heart as you do?

Who knows our joys and sorrows and shares them as you do?

Who feels the pain we endure and comforts us as you do?

Who hears as we confess our sins and forgives as you do?

Who takes a broken heart and makes it whole as you do?

Who finds a life that's lost and welcomes it home as you do?

Who is there like you, God of mercy and grace who loves us as you do?

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

The good news in Christ is that when we face ourselves and God with the awareness of our need, we are given grace to grow, and courage to continue the journey. Believe the good news of the gospel...In Jesus Christ we are forgiven-never be afraid to go to him in prayer and confession.

SINGING

MESSAGE FROM GOD'S WORD

SINGING

CLOSING PRAYERS AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

- Pray for the governments and leaders throughout the world
- Pray for our community, those well off, healthy, safe- those hungry, homeless, lost, in prison
- Pray for the Lord's churches worldwide-and our church family, esp. those on the prayer list
- Pray for our own families and our homes, be glorified there
- We pray that we are instruments for the expansion of your Kingdom in this world

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory forever, AMEN

SENDING CHALLENGE