



# THE Ken Mawr CHRONICLE

The newsletter of Ken Mawr United Presbyterian Church

*“Declaring God’s grace & Demonstrating God’s love”*

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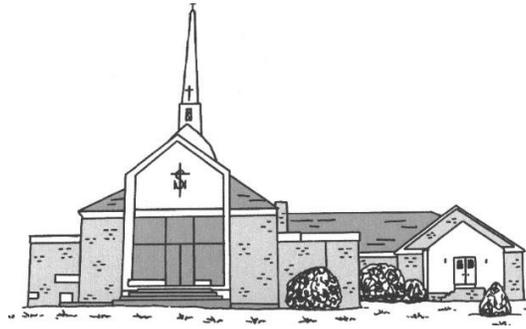
Greetings brothers and sisters of the Ken Mawr family of faith!

While I don’t have a lot to say that is “new” I’m sending another Congregational Update as KMUPC’s CRO (Chief Reminding Officer), not CEO. What I mean is that I’m writing to remind us all of our purpose and our priorities because we find ourselves in a season of anxiety and uncertainty. I have tried to step up my communication with you in these last days. In “normal” times, if there is such a thing, our church newsletter is usually a listing of upcoming events with an inspirational or thought-provoking message thrown in. But this is certainly not a normal time, and the church calendar is effectively blank. Therefore, the standard newsletter message from me doesn’t seem to fit today’s needs. I want to share:

1. What I know: I’m thinking that most of you have not been thinking about all the complexities involved in reopening our church for worship services, but it is never far from my waking thoughts. Our church leaders and I don’t have all our plans worked out yet, but I can restate what I do know. Earlier this month our Session (the Elders and I) determined that we would not reopen until Allegheny County moves to the Green Phase of the governor’s plan, barring an adjustment in the Yellow Phase numbers. I can also say that we intend to follow the guidance of governmental and medical experts when we do reopen. This is the set of criteria that will guide our decisions going forward.
2. What I don’t know: I can’t claim to give you a “no later than” date for in-person worship services. I can tell you that preaching to electronic devices is much harder (and stranger) than preaching to living human beings. Nor can I say with certainty what protocols we will follow when we are able to gather in-person for worship, but we will take all necessary precautions to keep those we love safe. So, we don’t know exactly when we will gather again for worship, but it appears that it won’t be on Sunday, May 31<sup>st</sup> as we had earlier planned.
3. Hopeful glimpses: I continue to hear encouraging stories about the personal ministry of our members. Our folks are calling, praying, giving, serving and “zooming” as the church alive and at work in the world in large ways and small ways. It is truly inspiring. God’s work through our church has not shut down.
4. Our Core Message: When everything is changing, how do we decide what to do or not do, what is important and what isn’t? Our church’s mission remains the guiding light through which all decisions are filtered. I shared this document with you earlier this month, but it’s worth repeating, so you’ll find a copy of our Core Message attached to this letter.

Hoping and praying for the day we will be together again,

*Pastor Karl*



## KMUPC's Core Message | May 2020

We reaffirm that our congregation's core mission is to Declare God's grace. Therefore, as we face the coronavirus pandemic together, as always, we proclaim that our Lord Jesus has done for us what we could not do for ourselves, and in all that we say and do we strive to live by faith in Christ. (1)

We reaffirm that our congregation's core mission is to Demonstrate God's love. Therefore, we remain committed to our vital ministry during this pandemic, as always, to reveal the everlasting love of our heavenly Father and to reflect the love of his son Jesus Christ to the world as we love one another. (2)

We reaffirm that our congregation's core mission is to be Directed by God's word. Therefore, we will navigate these uncertain times, as always, by turning to and relying on the witness of Scripture through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. (3)

- 1) *For it is by **grace** you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast. (Ephesians 2:8-9)*
- 2) *This is how God showed his **love** among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. (1 John 4:9-11)*
- 3) *Your **word** is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. (Psalm 119:105)*