

News from Hunter

May 2020



Reading and Prayer

Thank God for the wonderful Creation with which we live. I am also thankful for stories of Earth getting rest while so many people are doing less during this time. The decreased impact has been noted, and I am hopeful we can continue being better stewards of God's earth. I often pray for the state of the Creation.

The daily devotional and prayer cards this week all are based on stories from Creation. They are all found in a book designed for family spirituality or prayer life. The book is Celtic Treasure daily scripture and prayer by J. Philip Newell, William B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., Grand Rapids, MI. The scriptures you are guided to read for daily prayer were written differently in the book than you will find them in your Bible. Newell re-wrote them to be "...in no sense a replacement for actually reading the Bible itself. It is however, an attempt to enable us, both as individuals and as families, to draw regularly from the great treasure-trove of scripture." So some of the keywords or phrases on the cards come from this perspective.

What sorts of conclusions do you draw when you add your own perspective? Are you able to reflect on readings from the Bible and try to think creatively? Try asking yourself questions about words that are used, words that aren't used, how you might tell the story yourself. Take some time to breathe deeply, to pray as you breathe and allow for the breath of God, the Spirit, to transform your reading.

This is a basic introduction to a specific type of prayer described as "hesychastic prayer." It involves deep and deliberate breathing sustained over a period of time. Often a word is spoken with the slow intake of breath, like the name "Jesus." Some like to breathe in the first syllable of the word, and gradually exhale the second syllable. This can be a truly relaxing form of prayer, that you may want to try.

Thinking about prayer and reading together can really open up your personal spirituality. I hope this suggestion might be of some interest to you. However you pray, I hope you are finding time to pray when you need it, or when a family or neighbors need it, or the world needs it. Sometimes, it is good to pray when you don't even perceive a need at all. Please remember that you are being held in prayer as well!

J.T. Silence

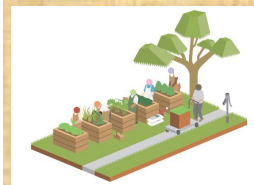


Attention 2020 Graduates!

This year especially we want to honor graduates...high school, college, graduate school! This includes a recognition of all graduates who are connected to the Hunter Church community in the June/July Horn. Please submit names and details to the church office as soon as possible. We don't want to leave anyone out! Be sure to include high school or college, future plans, activities, special interests...this includes grandchildren, too. We are interested in future majors, jobs, scholarships, anything that pertains to our special young people as we wish them well in these challenging times.



Unity Garden Update



The Unity Garden is doing well. The gardeners are adding plants as the weather keeps warming up. Hopefully next month there will be a few videos to see online from what is growing in the garden to keep everyone up-to-date.

B.U.I.L.D.

BUILD created an 11 minute YouTube video instead of having their Nehemiah Action Assembly April 27th. The video explains what BUILD has been working on over the last year or so. You can find the video at www.youtube.com. Type in: BUILD Presents: Night in Unity.

Eastern Kentucky University recently featured Jacob Abbott on their website. Jacob is the son of Ken and Joyce Abbott. We thought you all might enjoy seeing the story.

Jacob Abbott has Contributed All Over the Diamond in his ECU Baseball Career

When Jacob Abbott took the mound on a cool, February night in Baton Rouge, the ECU baseball team led 11th-ranked LSU, 2-0, in the bottom of the ninth. There were two outs. And two runners on. Cade Doughty, LSU's highly-touted leadoff hitter, stepped to the plate. He represented the winning run for the Tigers. The atmosphere was tense.

Abbott fell behind early – two balls, one strike. He caught Doughty looking on the outside corner to even the count. Then he turned to his punch-out pitch – the curveball. Abbott snapped a sweeping hook across the plate. Doughty swung and missed. The Colonels had pulled off the upset. And Abbott had earned the save.

It was a gratifying moment for an in-state senior who came to ECU as a third-baseman, and played eight different positions over his career just to stay on the field.

The term 'Renaissance man' is commonly used to describe a person who is proficient in a wide-range of fields. In baseball, these people are simply called 'utility players'. Jacob Abbott is a classic utility player – a gritty, throwback, team-first competitor who will take on any role to help the Colonels win.

Following a stand-out career at nearby Lafayette High School in Lexington, Abbott came to ECU as a rocket-armed recruit who could man either position on the left-side of the infield. As his freshman season progressed, he also dabbled at second base.

In practices and scrimmages, Abbott played both corner outfield spots. "This was more a way of me trying to figure out how I could help the team," he said. "I have never been one that has liked to sit back and watch the action. I like to be a part of the game, as I think any athlete does."

When Abbott returned to campus as a sophomore, the coaching staff approached him about a move behind the plate. That fall, he played catcher, third base, shortstop and second base. He also began to toss some bullpens! Whatever was required to be a good teammate ... Abbott obliged.



"It's been tough because I've never really been able to solely focus on one position," Abbott said. "But in the end, it's all worth it, because I love being out there on the field and competing. Especially around this group of guys."

"There really isn't much I wouldn't do for my teammates," he added. "I have always tried to be the guy that will help out. Whether it be stepping in and throwing someone BP so they can get some extra cuts in, or strapping the gear back on to catch a bullpen ... I just like being someone that they know has their back. I'll do anything to help out."

As his sophomore season opened, Abbott assumed his traditional third base/shortstop role. However, in early April, ECU's star first baseman, Tyler Romanik, went down with an injury ... and Abbott stepped up. He started at first base for the Colonels' pivotal conference series against Austin Peay. Add another position to the list!

At the midway point of his college career, Abbott seemed to accept that he may never become an elite Division-I hitter. But he still possessed a very valuable skill: versatility. And he was still determined to contribute any way he could.

"My dad made sure that from a young age I was able to play all over the field," Abbott said. "It definitely added value to know all the positions, as it meant I could always be put on the field wherever there was an open spot."

Going into his junior year, Abbott saw an open spot in the Colonels' bullpen. This time, he approached the coaching staff about a move.

"I felt like I had enough arm strength and enough feel for the game to be able to pitch," Abbott said. "It was another position I had always played growing up. I stopped my senior year of high school because I thought I was going to trend towards being a much better hitter than I ended up being."

The transition to the mound was gradual. Abbott was still expected to practice at other positions while also trying to become a mid-career Division-I pitcher. "I can remember having to catch four or five bullpens and then getting all the gear off and getting loose to throw my own bullpen after." Slowly, though, he carved out a consistent role as a reliever.

As a junior, Abbott went 2-1 with a 3.51 ERA. He struck out 36 batters in 25 and two-thirds innings. Opponents hit just .245 against him. In the OVC Tournament, Abbott tossed two scoreless innings of relief to earn the win over rival and No. 3 seed Morehead State.

"My junior year, I felt like I played a huge part towards the end of the year coming out in relief on the mound."



Abbott carried that confidence into his senior year. He pitched a 1-2-3 ninth inning to earn the save in ECU's season opener at Presbyterian.

Then came the Colonels' stunning win over LSU. Abbott described it as "an amazing feeling." "It was definitely one of the top-five games I have ever been a part of."

Abbott and the Colonels continued to roll. They were 12-2 when the season was abruptly canceled because of the COVID-19 outbreak. A silver lining in the heartbreak was the NCAA's ruling that spring student-athletes could return for another year of eligibility in 2021. Abbott plans to be back.

In the meantime, he is shifting his focus to a remarkable academic pursuit. If you thought eight different positions on a baseball field was impressive, try three different majors! Abbott has maintained a flawless 4.0 GPA while being a *triple* major in accounting, finance and risk management/insurance.

He plans to graduate next spring and then take the Certified Public Accountant (CPA) exams. But ...

"That's as far as I have gotten with my post-college plans," Abbott said. "For now, I am just excited that I am going to be able to have one more year of going out, competing with my teammates and chasing after a ring."

Article and pictures reprinted from www.ekusports.com

May



Birthdays

1 Tery Ackerman
5 Jacob Kenneth Abbott
14 Debra Hardin
15 Virginia "Ginny" Hoge
22 Betsy Taylor
26 Dick Covert
28 Polly Martin
30 Cody Ackerman

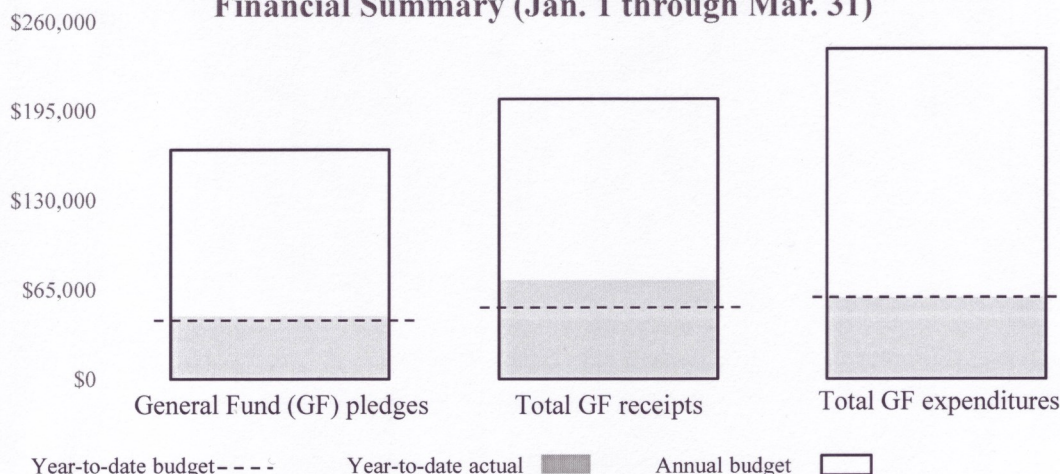


Online giving is still available through the Presbytery. If you would like to contribute to the mission and ministry of Hunter Presbyterian Church, you can go to: <https://transypby.org/paypal/>.

From there you will be asked to enter your name and email, then choose "one time" donation. Next check the box designated "other." A new box will then open allowing you to describe your Other Designation. Type "Hunter Presbyterian Church" in that box.

Thank you for your continued support of our congregation's ministry.

Financial Summary (Jan. 1 through Mar. 31)





109 Rosemont Garden
Lexington KY 40503
(859) 277-5126
www.hunterlex.org



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