

June 2020

Jefferson+town *United Methodist Church*

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THE PASTOR PONDERERS
And Ponders and Ponders, Poor Guy!

I pray this brief devotional finds you in good health, safe and well from this viral pandemic. For two months we have braved unprecedented danger, and now we are coming to a point in which some of the restrictions are lifting. What I am noticing early in this time of easing of

constraints is a far too cavalier attitude.

News reports show that as stores and restaurants have opened (allowing for reduced occupancy), people have largely forged out with somewhat of a reckless abandon. Some places have witnessed a lack of regard for the commonsensical restraints of social distancing. I can't imagine we've so quickly forgotten the threat that still hovers about, so I must assume it is a simple disregard of concern.

I would like to point out a Biblical example of a more prudent approach as found in Genesis 6-9 and the account of Noah during the flood. Chapter 7 describes the waters coming forth and the devastation felt throughout the land. Now, to be sure, our problem isn't with worldwide flooding (though we know regions are often faced with this tragedy). We face an unseen foe in the form of a coronavirus. Point is, we both had to deal with something beyond our control, something for which a warning was given.

In Genesis 8, the rains came to an end. The waters began to recede. But an "all clear" was not given for Noah's family to get off the boat (was it a boat or a ship? I'm never sure!). This is a good illustration for us today. Scripture indicates that the waters receded over time (a longer process). For us, a time has come that we see an easing of the virus. Doesn't mean it is gone. Like the waters about the ark, this will be a process (undoubtedly a long one).

What comes next for Noah was a time of cautious approach. So it should be for us. Be very careful when venturing out. Don't be too afraid to move about some – just don't ignore the dangers that linger. Pray for those who have suffered during this ordeal. Likely there will be a spike coming in the late fall. Use wisdom and we will come thru this ordeal – like Noah and his family in the flood!

Working together with you to build the Kingdom of God until Jesus returns *Bro. Bob*

**In-Person Worship will resume in the sanctuary
on Sunday, June 14th, with one service at 10:00 AM**



JUMC Video Worship Experience & Updates

We are sending our weekly worship videos and updates on Saturday nights to everyone we have email addresses for. You can also find them on our website (jtownumc.org).

Christian Love and Sympathy to . . .

. . . John & Linda Schoene and family in the recent death of John's sister,
Mary Beth Cooper, in Ocala, Florida.

Memorials Received In Memory of Darrell Hicks

Dallas & Carol Bennett, Albin Hayes, Kevin & Julie Leet, Bart & JoAnn Magill,
Don & Karen Mason, Ken & Rhoda Peters, Rogers & Marilyn Queen, Lewis & Kitty Sharber,
Harrell & Marian Tweedy, Beverly Zwicker

Worship and Music Ministry

We hope you have enjoyed the variety of songs and videos we have used for the last 10 weeks in our online worship videos. Like Pastor Bob said to me, if there is something someone prefers not to watch or view, they can skip forward and that's ok! Can't do that in live worship, but I much prefer live worship with all of its uniqueness, people participation and feedback, and even the "mistakes" we/I make.

The many folks who have helped contribute to these has been MUCH appreciated and gives us a chance to see their many talents as well as their love for God and worship. We look forward to our planned (at this time) return to in-person worship on June 14th and hope you will attend as you deem comfortable for you.

We are beginning the season of **Pentecost** this Sunday and I think that is so fitting as we venture back some sense of normalcy – but I hope with much INSPIRATION from the Holy Spirit. May we all attempt to make our new normal, whatever that is for you and for our church, be one that is more energized, more creative, more committed, and more willing to do whatever God asks of us and our ministries.

Email me a note or comment about what elements you have liked best in the online videos. I would love to get your feedback and share it with the **Jeffersontown Worship Team**.

Blessings ~ Michael Bleau, Music Director musicianmichael@bellsouth.net

Congratulations on the New Arrival!

Congratulations to Tony and Nancy Johnson on the safe arrival of their grandson-Theodore Craig Pheiffer, born May 24th, at 5:25 pm, weighing 8lbs.



Children and Youth



Happy June to everyone. I greatly miss the faces of our children and youth. They always brighten up my day. We have continued to send out small lessons and worksheets for our children to complete each week. I know it is not the same as being in church and having the lessons there, but it is needed as we navigate this time of uncertainty. The month of May we celebrated all the mothers or mother-like figures we have in our lives. I sent out cards that our children could make for their mothers for Mother's Day. We can always turn to our Lord for guidance as he knows the way and will see us through this time together. We look forward to being able to be back together as one big church family. In June we want to wish a Happy Father's Day to all of our fathers or father-like figures in our lives.

Finance Team Meeting—Tuesday, June 16th, 6:30 PM

All members of this Ministry Team are urged to attend. Please wear a face mask. We will be social distancing. Meet in the CAYA classroom at the church.

Thinking of You Card Ministry

Homebound members receive a card every Monday, Wednesday and Friday, from a different person each day from now until the end of June. Nancy Brumbach has set up a schedule, and would like to have 23 people to participate (she currently needs 6 more). If you ARE one of our homebound members, you can participate as a card sender as well! If you would like to help, please contact Nancy (phone: 502-267-6041; email: rbrumbac@bellsouth.net). She has also purchase packages of Thinking of You cards, which are available for sale in the church office.

The Upper Room-Free Download Copies

Available at: <https://upperroom.org/devotionals>. Also, May/June issues of *The Upper Room*, and June/July/August issues of *Our Daily Bread* booklets are available in the Gathering Area. If you are unable to pick up a copy, we will be glad to mail or deliver one to you.

Fifth Sunday Offering

The KY U.M. Homes for Children and Youth have postponed the Fifth Sunday special offering that was to be observed on May 31st. They have now designated June 28th for receiving this special offering (we did receive some donations in May). The Homes rely heavily on these 5th Sunday offerings, so if you'd like to give on June 28th, they would be most appreciative. Please make your check payable to the church, marked "5th Sunday" or "Methodist Home."

Trivia Contest Winner-Bart Magill

Answers to Trivia Questions: 1) Seven; 2) Faith Knight; 3) Louie; 4) Choir/orchestra; 5) Spoon/Fork; 6) Romans 5:1-5; 7) Nine

Groups Meeting In The Church Building

Any groups wishing to meet in the JUMC church building (other than church Ministry groups) **must first request permission** (groups who have met in the building in the past, or new groups). Groups no larger than 10 may meet (once given permission & after submitting a written plan), as long as members wear masks, use social distancing (including Cub Scout Leaders, Boy Scout Leaders, Girl Scout Leaders [not troops or packs], and TOPS), and disinfect all surfaces after each meeting, before they leave.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

(Anniversaries marked with an asterisk)

6/2-*Gary & Loretta White
6/4-Faye Ridenour
6/5-James Gatewood
6/7-Natan Edwards
6/8-*Ken & Rhoda Peters
 *Morgan & Gigi Nutt
6/13-Kay Hart
6/13-*Bill & Lorinda Shewmaker
6/15-Tyler Price, Rogers Queen
 *Dave & Cooky Thomas
6/17-Ken Peters
6/22-Opal Huston
6/23-Grace Knight
6/24-Rhoda Peters
6/26-Elijah Mattingly,
 *David & Faye Ridenour
6/29-Bill Howard
6/29-*Bob & Doris Duncan

Statistical Report

Total General Offering (through 5/24): \$18,323.00

Special Offerings:

Red Bird=\$50.00

Easter Offering=\$25.00

COVID-19 Fund=\$1,365.00

5th Sunday (Methodist Homes)=\$85.00

As a Member of Jeffersontown United Methodist Church, you pledged to faithfully participate in its ministries by your prayers, your presence, your gifts, your service, and your witness. (*The U.M. Hymnal*, pg 38)

Donations other than tithe-The Tellers request that you please write a separate check for donations to the church other than your tithe (such as: COVID-19, Holiday offerings, etc.), made payable to the church.

Capital Fund-Please write a separate check (payable to the church) for donations to the Capital Fund.

Charitable Donations-By vote of the Administrative Council, Jeffersontown UMC will not distribute or endorse requests for donations to charities outside The United Methodist connection.

Pre-Paying Your Pledge-There are tax advantages for persons age 70 & ½ and older who are required to make annual withdrawals from their IRA (if you donate money from that account to the church). Several church members have done that in the past. If you'd like more information, call Lee Hart so he can explain the process & tax advantages 502-267-8066 (wk); 502-254-1682 (home).

Thank You

My family and I are still overwhelmed with your outpouring of love through prayers, meals, gifts and cards with touching messages. I feel blessed to be a part of such a caring church family. –*Betty Hicks*

I would like to thank everyone for their prayers and for the cards I received during this time of my brother-in-law's death. --*Cheryl Boss*

Continuing Ministries

Thinking of You Card Ministry-(to Homebound members)-See Nancy Brumback.

Coca Cola Codes for Red Bird-Codes can be found on the inside of Coca Cola bottle caps, and the inside of cardboard carton multi-pack end flaps. Place in the Campbells Soup tin in the Gathering Area by the restrooms.

Harvest Food Program (in partnership with KFC)-Twice weekly pick ups of chicken and biscuits, which are being distributed to our homebound and a few others.

Mask Ministry-Some of our church members are making masks. If you wish to contribute material or finished masks, you may drop these items off at the church office.

Water Step-Drop off new or gently used shoes. Proceeds from the sale of these shoes go to purchase equipment to provide clean water worldwide.

Children's Activity Pages-The children are receiving weekly Bible story activity pages.

Laundromat Ministry-We are carrying over our Lenten quarter drive until we're back together again. Feel free to drop off your quarters at the church, or save them until our next in-person worship service and place them on the altar rail in the sanctuary.

PHONES IN CHURCH?????

A man in Topeka, Kansas, decided to write a book about churches around the country. He started by flying to San Francisco and working east from there.

Going to a very large church, he began taking photographs and making notes. He spotted a golden telephone on the vestibule wall and was intrigued with a sign, which read, "Calls: \$10,000 a minute." Seeking out the pastor he asked about the phone and the sign. The pastor answered that this golden phone is, in fact, a direct line to heaven and if he pays the price he can talk directly to GOD. The man thanked the pastor and continued on his way. As he continued to visit churches in Seattle, Dallas, St Louis, Chicago, Milwaukee, and many cities and towns all around the United States, he found more phones, with the same sign, and the same answer from each pastor.

Finally, he arrived in Kentucky. Upon entering a church in the beautiful Bluegrass region of Kentucky, behold, he saw the usual golden telephone. But THIS time, the sign read, "Calls: 35 cents." Fascinated, he asked to talk to the pastor. "Reverend, I have been in cities all across the country and in each church I have found this golden telephone and have been told it is a direct line to Heaven and that I could talk to GOD, but in the other churches the cost was \$10,000 a minute. Your sign reads only 35 cents a call. Why?"

I love this part ...

The pastor, smiling broadly, replied, "Son, you're in Louisville, Kentucky now. You're in God's Country. It's a local call."

American by Birth - Kentuckian by the Grace of God.

And why do Kentuckians go barefoot? When you're in Kentucky you're on Holy ground!

Church Staff

Pastor-Rev. Bob Howell-cell#502-819-1160; Email: ukyhowell@gmail.com;

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Music Director-Michael Bleau-cell# 502-341-8222; Email: musicianmichael@bellsouth.net

Children's Ministry Coordinator-Kara Mattingly-cell# 270-505-9519;

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Pianist-Patsy O'Neal-cell#502-930-5357; Email: sing.peagreen@hotmail.com

Secretary-Teresa Allen-Office Phone#502-267-1437; Email: churchoffice@jtownumc.org