

May 2020

Jefferson⁺town *United Methodist Church*

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“Let the peace of Christ rule your hearts ... and be thankful.”
Colossians 3:15



THE PASTOR PONDERS
And Ponders and Ponders, Poor Guy!

“Hey, thanks a million!” We’ve all heard, and perhaps uttered that phrase. It seems a little disingenuous though, doesn’t it? So how does one genuinely say, thank you? Or maybe more to the point, when is a sincere, heartfelt “thank

you” appropriate?

I find myself like the Apostle Paul found himself, “indebted” to many people (Romans 1:14). Of course, not all acts of kindness are of equal value. Sometimes I’ve been the recipient of some simple act like holding open a store door as I approached. No biggie, but nice. Sometimes I am the recipient of no small token of kindness, but an act or gift that came with somewhat significant sacrifice and thought.

“Thanks a million,” seems the kind of expression of appreciation that is offered after a rather minor kindness. But how do we show our gratitude when one has gone out of their way to be nice to us? When we are well beyond having someone say “Good to see you,” but are trying to respond to a most gracious act – how do we show our appreciation?

If you are like me, you have been the recipient of both types of kind acts on countless occasions. In fact, there’s a challenge for you for the coming week – keep a count of all the times you have occasion to say “thanks” to anyone. Why I am mentioning this is because we are in a situation today where it is easy to be down a bit and not respond as we should when someone offers kindness.

I believe the least we can do is state a sincere “thank you”. Don’t allow this temporary reality we are having to endure steal your joy. Better yet, find your own ways in which you can pay it forward. Genesis 12:2 is, as you know, a favorite of mine. Abraham is instructed, “...you shall be a blessing.” I love the thought we are blessed to be a blessing!

Normally, we focus on this kind of theme in late fall (Thanksgiving). I feel this verse Paul writes to the Christians living in Colossae has great relevance for helping us make it through these anxious days. “Let the peace of Christ rule your hearts ... and be thankful.” True thankfulness comes out of an oneness with the Lord. Trying times like these threaten to rob us of our relationship with Christ Jesus. When that happens, we lose our ability to appreciate even the littlest of kindnesses. Let’s not let our daily irritations from Coronavirus restrictions harden our heart.

Remember, God is good even when times are not!

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



The monthly newsletter, weekly JUMC updates and worship videos also now appear on the church website. To see it there:

1. Go to jtownumc.org
2. On the homepage, find **BLOGS** on the **right** menu panel.
3. Click on **Newsletters, JUMC updates, or Worship.**
4. All uploaded newsletters, weekly updates and worship videos will appear on a list, with the most recent on top.
5. Click on the **Play** link under the post you would like to view.

If any questions/problems, email them to Paul Burczyk (webmaster@jtownumc.org). The **FEEDBACK** link on the bottom of every page will send email there as well.

Worship and Music Ministry

Did you ever think our little church would be prohibited from nearly all activities, including worship? How is that affecting you? Yes, we have attempted to give you at least a little taste of worship with our online services, but we all know that isn't quite the same. We are limited in what we can do, and still trying to practice safe distancing. At least we *hope* that you are encouraged and that your faith remains strong. I really like the following comments from a pastor in India:

By Julian Panga, India

Worshipping God is easy to do when everything is going well. However, when things get tough, we can feel as if God is far away, or that He doesn't care. During those times, it can be hard to worship God—to love Him, honor Him, and acknowledge Him for who He is, what He has done, and what He is able to do.

Our emotions are easily influenced by our circumstances. If we base our worship of God on our emotions, it could become a painful drudgery on the inside and a deceptive facade on the outside. While our emotions might fluctuate, God is unchanging—His mercy, love, and grace remain with us through difficult times. When we focus on that, we can worship Him whatever our circumstances. I have realized that the one sure way I can break the shackles of discouragement, disappointment, and disillusion, is to worship God wholeheartedly.

Here are three ways that I consciously remind myself to worship God, especially in hard times. These actions help draw me closer to God and prepare my heart for worship:

1. Remember God's Past Actions

I remember times where God has helped me in the past. Those memories of God's faithfulness and protection remind and encourage me that God is my tower, my refuge, and my fortress in times of trouble (Psalm 31:3, 62:6, 91:2). I can run to Him and find safety, security, and comfort.

2. Draw Encouragement from the Holy Spirit

God assures us in the Bible that His presence is always with us. So when worshipping God in hard times, I take comfort in the fact that the Holy Spirit lives in me, leads me, and guides me. The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of truth—He helps me understand God's Word, and I can respond to God through the Holy Spirit (John 16:13; Romans 8:26-27) (Proverbs 3:5-6, Philippians 2:13).

3. Assure Yourself of God's Everlasting Love

Ultimately, while life's hardships are difficult to deal with, they are still temporary. Paul says in 2 Corinthians 4:16-17 that while we waste away on the outside, inwardly we are being renewed every day. Our momentary afflictions are preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, and so let us not to lose heart! When we honor God through worship that He alone deserves, our inner selves are being renewed.

Our troubles may last for a while, sometimes even for a lifetime, but worship is for eternity. Worship ushers us into God's presence, where there is peace, assurance and calmness of heart. And that is what we especially need in those hard times. Worship helps tide us over those difficult times of life, and gives us hope for an eternity—where there will be no more tears, death, suffering, crying or pain (Revelation 21:4). Come, let us worship our God!

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

The Upper Room

May/June issues of *The Upper Room*, and March/April/May issues of *Our Daily Bread* devotional booklets are available in the Gathering Area. If you are unable to stop by and pick up a copy, just let us know, and we will be glad to mail or deliver one to you.

Children and Youth

I hope everyone had a good Easter despite the current pandemic we are going through. We are looking forward to the day we can resume our normal church activities. I miss our families and kids. One weekend in April Aleah and I took plastic eggs filled with candy and we “Egged” each of our children’s yards with a dozen eggs. They also received a small goodie bag. Hopefully our children enjoyed having their own egg hunt in their own yard since we have to social distance. The children’s ministry is still sending out weekly activity sheets to 14 children within our church family. Going forward until we are able to be back together as one church family, we will continue to distribute these activity sheets and they will be themed with Bro. Bob’s church message for us. We are looking forward to celebrating our children’s mothers in May. If there is something you would like us to do differently with our children and their activity sheets please reach out to me. Also I would love to have some pictures of your children completing their activity sheets to put up on our bulletin board.

--Kara Mattingly, Children’s Ministry Coordinator

Upcoming Meetings

Until Governor Beshear or the Center for Disease Control gives the “all clear,” no meetings will be held at the church. This includes the following groups: Men & More Breakfast, United Methodist Women, Monthly Men’s Dinner Fellowship, Cub Scout Troop 75, BSA Troop 875, Girl Scout Troop 90, Al-Anon, Alateen, and TOPS.

Christian Love and Sympathy to . . .

. . . family and friends of Evelyn Poulsen who died April 16.

. . . Betty Hicks and family in the death of Darrell on April 24th.

Memorials Received In Memory of Darrell Hicks

Neil & Debbie Bennett

Lee & Kay Hart (to the Endowment Fund)

Ed & Judy Walton

Welcome New Arrival

We welcome baby Abigail, who arrived March 4, 2020. Proud mom is Naomi Toako, and sisters are Courage and Mary. Abigail and Naomi are doing well, as you can see in this photo!



Thank You

Dear friends of Jeffersontown UMC--Thank you for all the cards, notes, calls and prayers on my behalf. I am well on my way to recovery. It will take several weeks yet before full recovery. Let us continue to pray for one another for physical, emotional and spiritual healing in this time of physical separation and stay at home orders. --*Sincerely, Linda Penrod Million*

It was a blessing to receive your “Have a Heart for Seniors” gift in the amount of \$507.00. One hundred percent of your contribution will be used to provide financial aid to our residents who are nearing life’s end and who need our help in order to remain in their “homes” here at Wesley Manor. In the last fiscal year, Wesley Manor provided more than \$1.5 million in charitable and subsidized care to seventy-six residents who had outlived their assets and life savings. Your generosity and partnership brightens lives because YOU make it possible for us to serve the needs of all of our older adults every day of the year!

--Sending our heartfelt thanks, Jerry L. Hoganson
President/Administrator, Wesley Manor Retirement Community

Birthdays & Anniversaries

(Anniversaries marked with an asterisk)

5/1-Ansul Curry
5/3-Ed Walton, *Dallas & Carol Bennett
5/6-Tiffany (Sharber) Collins
5/8-Kathy Pressler, Horace Thompson
5/11-Michael Bleau
5/14-Debbie Howell
5/15-Paul Gholson, Faith Knight,
*Bobby & Darla Hill
5/16-Albin Hayes, Jr.
5/18-Lori Burczyk
5/22-Latney Ramsey
5/25-Rosanne Broome
5/29-Hunter Boss

Statistical Report

Total General Offering for April: \$24,206.40

Special Offerings:

U.M.C.O.R.=\$185.00

5th Sunday (Methodist Homes)=\$200.00

Easter Offering-\$378.00

COVID-19 Fund-\$1,195.00

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)

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).

Continuing Ministries

- **Harvest Food Program** (in partnership with KFC)-Twice a week pick ups of chicken and biscuits, which are being distributed to our homebound and a few others.
- **Mask Ministry**-A few 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. Please call before you come (502-267-1437), to make sure someone is at the church.
- **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.

Hello From Florida! Dear J-town—Hi to all & thanks for keeping in touch. I miss all my JUMC family. I am fine. It is so hard to not get out and about, but we have time to be with our Lord. I truly believe more and more people are in the Bible & praying for our nation and the world. --*Blessings & love, Bev "Z" (Zwicker)*

Church Staff

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JUMC Video Worship Experience & Updates



We are so thankful for all those who have participated in our weekly video worship experiences. As of the first of May, we have prepared six videos for online worship experiences, as well as three video updates. We are glad so many have taken the time and effort to watch. This is not how any of us imagined our spring church schedule would evolve. But evolve we have! We are working to make every service (and update) better than the ones before. Thank you for the encouragement so many have expressed regarding our work. Please feel free to share these with friends, and remember we do have DVD copies of many of the services if you cannot watch via internet. Once again, the way to view our online videos is by going to YouTube and searching for “Jeffersontown Worship Week” (for our church services) or JUMC Update (for our midweek informational videos), or Paul Burczyk is posting them on the church website (jtownumc.org).

Announcing a Trivia Contest

Be the first to win a \$30 gift card! All you have to do is go back online to our first 6 worship videos (“Jeffersontown Worship Week” on YouTube) and answer a question from each one. We’ll even make it easy and tell you which question is from each week. The first person to call in the correct answers will win the card (you choose store/restaurant). Everyone else who correctly answers the questions will be listed in next month’s newsletter (church staff and their families are ineligible). Here we go

Week One Video (March 22nd)-How many people participated in our first worship video?

Week Two Video (March 29th)-Who lit the Lenten Candle from their home?

Week Three Video (April 5th)-What did Michael Bleau say was the name of his dog?

Week Four Video (April 12th)-Who did we use for our opening hymn on Easter Sunday?

Week Five Video (April 19th)-What modification did Bro. Bob make to his chop sticks?

Week Six Video (April 26th)-What New Testament scripture verse did Loretta read?

Bonus Question: How many people sing special music in these 6 videos? (not counting choir!)