

September
2020

Jefferson⁺town *United Methodist Church*

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THE PASTOR PONDERERS
And Ponders and Ponders, Poor Guy!

Remember those commercials long ago for Tootsie Pops? The wise old owl was asked if he knew how many licks it took to get to the center of the candy.



Proposing an experiment, the owl made it

to three licks before biting into the Tootsie Pop. The commercial concluded that the world may never know how many licks it takes to get to the center. I would like to briefly address two aspects from this commercial.

First, patience not only isn't an easy quality to put into practice, it's one many just don't value. That "wise old owl" had no feelings of remorse over biting into the candy. In fact, I propose that it was never his intention to take the time required to find an answer to the question put to him, but rather accepted the Tootsie Pop with the sole purpose of eating it!

Fact is, patience can be hard to find when we look deep within for personal qualities for which we aspire. Who wants to be patient? We don't have time for things like patience in today's hectic lifestyle. And this COVID-19 pandemic we are forced to endure proves my point.

Being restricted from many "normal activities" we all used to engage in, has not made us a more patient people. More so, we are likely to be less patient than ever! We are annoyed to no end by these days we are living through. Two things we are not, however, is more appreciative or more patient. You can see it in the faces of the people (when they remove their masks!).

Secondly, there are many things in life for which we will never have an answer. Now, as mentally deficient as I am, I'm sure you'll have no trouble believing that I am easily stumped by life's mysteries. I am a cross between Homer Simpson and Ziggy (metaphorically speaking), in that I am constantly dumbfounded by life.

In addition to patience (mentioned above), persistence is also a missing attribute in demonstrable personal traits. It is too easy to just drop anything that perplexes us for other pursuits that are more manageable. Patience and persistence are two sides of the same coin. They are interconnected when it comes to accomplishing a goal. Both are in short supply.

Paul writes to Timothy, "Study to show yourself approved" (2 Timothy 2:15). That implies the necessity of both patience and persistence. Additionally, Paul expresses pleasure in having, "finished the race, and kept the faith" (2 Timothy 4:7). If we decide upon a project, patience and persistence will be tested somewhere along the way. I am going to work on these things in my life, and would encourage you to join me in these efforts. We may even become a beacon to others to improve ourselves in these areas (Matthew 5:14).

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

P.S. If you're interested, various studies show a range between 125 and 150, with 142 being determined the average number of licks it would take to get to the center of a Tootsie Pop. Now that's patience and persistence!

“In-Person” Worship Resumes September 6th, 10 AM

After suspending worship for the month of August in light of the upsurge in COVID-19 cases earlier this summer, **we will resume worshipping in the sanctuary on September 6th** (one service, at 10 AM). We are delighted to be able to enjoy hearing the organ played (by Patsy) again this Sunday, after many years of inactivity. We will be taking temperatures, social distancing, and we request that everyone wear a mask. A video recording of our worship service will be released late Sunday evening for those who cannot yet attend (go to YouTube, and search for Jeffersonstown Worship, or go to our website, and click on worship in the top right hand corner of the main page).

“Wednesday Wanderings”



Our first “Wednesday Wanderings” (outdoor monthly worship), was held August 19th on the side lawn.



Twenty-seven people were in attendance. Special music was shared by Dayron and Dayren Reyes. Liliana Reyes had taken her Citizenship test earlier that same day, and



passed. We celebrated with them by providing red, white and blue frosted cupcakes!

Our next outdoor worship will be held Wednesday, September 16th, at 6:30 PM on the side lawn (where the stone sign is located). We will follow the CDC guidelines (asking everyone to stay 6 feet apart, and bring a mask and their own lawn chair). This will give us an opportunity to see each other (from a distance). Everyone is welcome to attend. If you have questions, please contact Bro. Bob or call the church office.

JUMC 2020 Virtual VBS-“Get On The Jesus Train”

We had 23 children (that we know of) participate in our online, virtual Vacation Bible School. However, the video was sent out to everyone on our e-mail list, and we’ve heard reports that others are sharing it with family and friends!



Packets were made available to each child who was registered, which included lessons, crafts, activity sheets, a

conductor’s hat and a train whistle! The videos are posted on YouTube at: 2020 Vacation Bible School Jeffersonstown United Methodist Church, or on our website: Jtownumc.org (top right hand side of the main page). We’ve included photos of some of our kids enjoying the video & crafts.



Julia Eskridge



Dayren Reyes

Human Relations Day (United Methodist Special Sunday offerings)

We will receive this special offering on Sept. 20th. Donations strengthens community outreach and empowers at-risk youth. An insert (with envelope attached) will be included in the bulletins Sept. 20th. Please prayerfully consider a generous offering.

Special Thanks

We’d like to thank Roger and Nancy Brumback for the many years of filling up the Coke machine in the Fellowship Hall, and recycling the empty cans!

Worship and Music Ministry

In thinking about what we have been doing for worship since March, I wondered: Do any of us, me included, grow weary of worship? Maybe we are just weary in general, with all of the stresses and pressures of the current situation. Getting in the mood to take time for worship may seem just another thing to do. That's when we know we are in a danger zone of losing our closeness to God, our trust in God, our fear of God and love of God. I searched for some comments online and really liked this blog excerpt below. Maybe her well thought out words will encourage and inspire you as it did me, to stay the course, stay strong, and most of all - not neglect worship. Worship in our weariness!

This is from Anna Schaeffer, an administrative assistant at [Southeastern Seminary](#). She is an MA graduate of SEBTS, and she's the author of [All of This](#), a Young Adult Christian novel. A few weeks ago, I hit a rough patch. Lots of things went wrong all at the same time. I wasn't walking through tragedy – just the heaviness of life. Yet I still felt so run-down by everything that was happening, it all made me want to stay home and take a lot of naps.

One night, I admitted my weariness to God: “I’m going to need you to help me through this because I’m just so tired.” In the past, my prayers have ended there. But this time, I truly wanted more out of my circumstances – I wanted to walk through them trusting that God is very intentional in everything He does and allows in my life. So I prayed, “God, please show me your character in this. Use these things to bow my heart toward You and Your purpose for my life.”

My prayers didn't make everything snap into place. Nothing about my circumstances changed overnight. But, God began to help me see the wonder of who He is as He walked with me through those challenging days and continues to walk with me now.

Here are five ways I'm learning to worship, even – and especially – when I'm weary:

1. **Remember.** Call to mind times God has shown Himself faithful before—those times He led you through something you couldn't imagine yourself enduring. Read in His Word about how He walked with His people through difficult days in generations past.
2. **Praise.** Praise God for His faithfulness. Praise Him that, even if you can't necessarily feel His presence, He's with you in the middle of your mess. Why? Because He promised.
3. **Look.** Whenever I'm overwhelmed by life, I zoom in on the small things. I look for evidence of God's character in the everyday moments of life, like the beautiful sunset reminding me of His creativity, the warm smile of a friend reminding me of His gift of community, or the smell of dinner in the oven, reminding me that God provides for my daily needs.
4. **Record.** Write down your struggles in a prayer journal. Pour out your heart to God. Keep up this practice as you walk through your challenges. Then, the next time you face hardship, you'll have a reminder – a memorial stone – of God's steadfast love.
5. **Share.** Tell of God's faithfulness to others. When someone asks how you're doing, be honest about your challenges, but also be quick to share those God-designed details you've been collecting. Not only can this encourage another struggler, but sometimes hearing ourselves say something out loud bolsters our own resolve, too.

I'm not a master of weathering difficult days. Far from it. At the end of the day, though, Christ is my reward. Knowing that, I am able to worship in my weariness.

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

Children and Youth

Happy September to everyone. I hope everyone is adjusting well to our new normal. Our kids are hopefully doing well just starting school. Thank you to those who sent in pictures of your kids doing our virtual VBS this year. While I would have loved to be together in person, I am glad you enjoyed it at home. We are in the process of getting some kind of fall/Halloween event planned given we had to cancel our yearly fall FunFest. If anyone has any ideas, I would greatly appreciate them. If anyone has other suggestions for weekly activities you would like our children to do please let me know. These are different times we are going through, but these too shall pass. A special "Thank You" to everyone who helped us with virtual VBS.

- **Cub Scouts**-The leaders are excited to start back into scouts in a couple of weeks.
- **Troop 875**-They had their first camp out of the year in late August. It was nice to get out into nature and just relax camping by a waterfall.

Congratulations

Congratulations to Kara Mattingly, who just completed her Bachelor of Science in Healthcare Administration from Grand Canyon University. Her graduation is scheduled for October 17th.

Thank You

Thank You to my church family for all the notes, cards, calls, thoughts, prayers & everything that has been done for me. I appreciate being remembered so often. --*Sincerely, Bev Reeser*

We really appreciated the calls, texts and cards for Emma. She was spared from the worst symptoms of Covid-19, thankfully. She is now fever free and her senses of taste and smell have returned. She was able to move into her dorm on August 13th, which she was so worried about when she got sick. Thanks so much! --*Kay Eskridge and Family*

I would like to thank everyone for all of the cards and prayers. I am staying inside (at Wesley Manor) and keeping healthy and safe. I miss all of my church family! --*Sincerely, Shirley Harmon*

Finance Team Meeting-Tuesday, September 15th, 6:30 PM

All members are urged to attend. We will be social distancing (in the CAYA classroom), and ask that every member wear a mask.

Continuing Ministries

Jeffersontown Area Ministries--*Our JAM wagon is now in its new permanent location* (the foyer off the parking). Place your donations of shelf-stable food, infant care and personal hygiene items there, and we will take them to Jeffersontown Area Ministries for you.

Coca Cola Codes for Red Bird-Codes are located on the inside of Coca Cola bottle caps, and inside cardboard multi-pack end flaps. Place these in the Campbells Soup tin on the cabinet by the mail boxes near the restrooms in the Gathering Area.

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

Mask Ministry-Face masks made by church members. These are placed on the table in the Gathering Area. If you wish to contribute material or finished masks, please drop them off in the church office.

Water Step-New or gently used shoes. Proceeds from the sale of these shoes go to purchase equipment to provide clean water worldwide. Place in collection box in foyer off parking lot.

Laundromat Ministry-Quarters donated this year will be used to pay for client's laundry fees at a local laundromat soon.

Statistical Report

Date	General Offering
7/26/2020	\$4,377.84
8/2/2020	\$8,348.34
8/09/2020	\$1,982.75
8/16/2020	\$4,024.00
8/23/2020	\$4,391.00

August General Offering (8/2-8/23): \$18,746.09

Total General Offering for July=\$22,831.20

Designated Donations in August: COVID-19 Fund=\$100.00;
5th Sunday (Methodist Homes)=\$163.00

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: Capital Fund, COVID-19, Holiday offerings, etc.), made payable to the church.

Charitable Donations-The JUMC Administrative Council voted to 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).

Give for Good Louisville for Lighthouse Academy at Newburg

Donate online, Thursday, September 17th, from 12:00 AM until 11:59 PM (one day of online giving). Donations will be matched! The first \$1,000.00 will be matched 5 times; the next \$1,500.00 will be matched 4 times; the next \$2,500.00 will be matched 3 times, and the next \$5,000.00 will be matched 2 times. So please plan now to give! On September 17th, go to: www.giveforgoodlouisville.org/ and in the search box type Lighthouse. Click on it; then the donate button; make your donation by credit card (minimum \$10). Let all your friends know and ask them to donate!

Birthdays & Anniversaries (Anniversaries marked with an asterisk)

9/3-*Lee & Kay Hart; 9/4-Kelsey Edwards, Claudia Zeckner; 9/5-Melinda Rabuzzi;
9/6-JoAnn Magill, David Westerfield; 9/7-Lee Hart, Joseph Knight, Beverly Reeser;
9/10-*Roger & Nancy Brumback; 9/11-Dona Thacker; 9/13-Carol Bennett, Inez Howard;
9/13-*Darrell & Betty Hicks; 9/14-Morgan Nutt, *Charles & Barbara Fineisen;
9/15-*Paul & Stella Gholson; 9/16-Kara Mattingly; 9/18-Elizabeth Sharber, Emma Eskridge; 9/18-*Chuck & Jean Micklewright; 9/19-Jean Ramsey;
9/24-Mildred Breckenridge; 9/27-Troy Eskridge; 9/30-Gary White; 10/1-*Russ & Claudia Zeckner; 10/2-Susan Knight; 10/3-Lorinda Shewmaker; 10/6-Jean Micklewright

Church Staff

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

Hispanic Ministry Coordinator-Dayron Reyes-cell#786-448-8014; E-mail: dayronreyes17@yahoo.com

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

Children's Ministry Coordinator-Kara Mattingly-cell#270-505-9519;E-mail: kara.mattingly1208@gmail.com

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

Secretary-Teresa Allen* E-mail: churchoffice@jtownumc.org

Nursery Attendant-Jessica McNeill*

Child Development Center Director-Jennifer Webster-Ph# 502-261-2867; E-mail: jumcdc@gmail.com

*Please call the church (502-267-1437) to reach these staff members.