

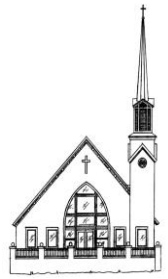
May
2021

Jefferson⁺town *United Methodist Church*

10219 Taylorsville Road, Louisville, KY 40299

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“Be A Conductor for Christ!”



THE PASTOR PONDERS
And Ponders and Ponders, Poor Guy!

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. Acts 1:8

A man who drove a train for a living, fell asleep one day at the controls and ran over a crew that were working to repair the tracks. Confessing to his responsibility in the accident, he was tried for murder. With no defense as to his falling asleep at the controls, he was found guilty and sentenced to death in the electric chair. He was strapped in and they threw the switch. Nothing happened. Taking this as a sign of divine intervention, the self-admitted killer was released.

A year later, working in the same position driving trains for a different company, he again fell asleep at the control, killing another crew working on the tracks. There could be nothing to do except to have a trial, in which, once again, he accepted all responsibility for the deaths.

He was strapped in for electrocution a second time, and for a second time, when the switch was thrown, nothing happened. As in the first case, the judge determined this to be a sign of divine intervention and he was pardoned as before. To which an observer remarked, “I don’t think it is divine intervention. I think he’s just a bad conductor!”

We are nearing the end of Eastertide, (the period of time when Jesus was making post-resurrection appearances) and heading towards Jesus’ ascension into heaven and then Pentecost (the coming of the Holy Spirit). These are important moments for the church as we are now empowered to go out and share Christ to the world. In other words, we’re to be good conductors – for Christ!

In science (electricity), conductors are materials that permit electrons to flow freely from particle to particle. An object made of a conducting material will permit charge to be transferred across the entire surface of the object. In big dummy terms (for others like myself), it is something that allows for transfer of a charge to something else.

Spiritually, this is what Jesus’ ascension and the sending of the Holy Spirit is all about. A divine spark is passed along to us that we share (transfer along) to others. Shocking, isn’t it? We don’t just stand back and receive God’s blessings through the work of the Holy Spirit, we send them along as conductors for Christ!

At J-town UMC, we’ve been through the most tumultuous times this church has ever faced. Over a year of this pandemic which has in many ways altered our way of living. We closed the sanctuary and worship was experienced online. Social distancing created frustration, isolation and depression. But the light of God’s loving rays are beginning to shine through. We see hope and are eager to be close again.

Re-read Acts 1:8, as printed above. This time, insert your name at the three spots where the word “you” appears. It is such a privilege and joy to be here along with you, working to bring the love of Christ to those who are hurting and overwhelmed. As restrictions begin to loosen, let’s be prepared to pick up the slack and be a good conductor for the Lord.

Eagerly working alongside of you to Build the Kingdom until Christ Returns! --Bro. Bob

Have A Heart for Seniors

Special Offering-May 9th

This offering helps pay for residents who have outlived their financial resources. No one is ever asked to leave Wesley Manor because they have ran out of funds. Please plan now to give generously to this special offering on May 9th.

Upcoming Sermons

(Sundays, 10:00 AM in the JUMC sanctuary)

5/2—Fifth Sunday of Easter

"Of One Mind" *1 Peter 3:8*

5/9—Sixth Sunday of Easter (Mother's Day)

"Hey Siri" *Proverbs 31:28*

5/16—Seventh Sunday of Easter

"Eagerly Excited!" *Romans 8:19*

5/23—Day of Pentecost

"A Free-for-All from Heaven" *Acts 2:17*

5/30—Trinity Sunday (Memorial Day Weekend)

"13 Folds" (A Memorial Day Tribute) *Psalms 82:3-4*

Outdoor Fellowship Event

Wednesday, May 19th, 6:30 PM on the side lawn. Bring a lawn chair/blanket and "brown bag" or picnic meal for you and your family. This is not a worship service, just a fun time together!

Re-Entry Team Report

The Re-Entry team met in April and came up with the following:

Steps Already Taken

- **Release Sanitizing Teams** (CDC guidelines have dropped this from requirements—a week between worship services is enough)
- **Reconfigure Sanctuary Pew Spacing** (CDC recommends every-other pew separation)
- **Allow Small Group Meetings Inside Church** (follow pre-existing precautions as set by CDC)
- **Sunday School Classes May Resume** (either at 9 AM or at 11 AM on Sundays)

Continue

- **Bulletin**-Continue using large bulletin
- **Weekly Worship**-One Sunday service at 10:00 AM
- **YouTube Videos**-continue to post weekly worship highlights

Next Steps

- **Social Distancing** (reduced to 3 feet instead of 6 feet)
- **Outdoor Church Events** (monthly, on the side lawn—bring your own food)
- **Trunk or Treat** (to be held in the Fall, safely)

We are trying to keep everyone's safety in mind and be sensitive to feelings about all of the above. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the pastor, or call the church office.

Meetings This Month

Administrative Council- Tuesday, May 11th, 6:30 PM.
(held in the CAYA classroom). Please bring a mask.

United Methodist Women-Monday, May 24th, 1:30 PM
in the sanctuary (social distancing). Please wear a mask.

Memorial Donations

In Memory of Dallas Bennett
by Betty Hicks

In Memory of McCall Griffin Gardner
by Betty Hicks

Please Remember Our Homebound

Even though we still cannot visit some of our homebound and persons in care facilities, they LOVE to receive cards. If you'd like the names and addresses of those persons, contact the church office and we'd be glad to provide you with a list.

Children's Home Offering

This year we celebrate the incredible milestone of 150 years of a very special and dear ministry. On March 18, 1871, The Kentucky General Assembly approved the Act of Incorporation for the Methodist Episcopal Church South Widows and Orphan's Home. The Kentucky soldiers who died in the Civil War left their wives and children without the means of providing for themselves. Methodists realized the need, and thus our ministry was born. We started as a single building on Fifth Street in Louisville, which housed a few dozen children.

Today we are blessed to serve 800-1,000 youth annually! ***May is a five Sunday month, and thus we will have a 5th Sunday Offering.*** This historic opportunity to support such a wonderful ministry has continued over the years, even in difficult times. In the Great Depression, Methodists selflessly gave food to make sure our children had enough to eat. During the Covid pandemic, we have been faithfully contributing to this most worthy cause. ***Please prayerfully consider your gift to be given on May 30th, and mark it for the Kentucky Children's Homes.***

Thank You

Dear friends, Thank you for your many kindnesses and concern while I was going through a hard time! Your cards, texts, emails, calls, presence, and helping me move forward, have meant so much to me, above all, your prayers. I give thanks and praise to God for our church family

—Jean Micklewright

I wanted to thank everyone for the prayers for my mother, Faye Ridenour. She is doing much better. --Blessings, *Darla Hill*

Children's and Scouting Ministries

Children's Ministries:

During the month of April we started using the room in the front foyer across from the nursery as Children's Church for our school-aged children. They have a lesson each Sunday that goes along with the sermon topic. This seems to be going well. Coming up, we will have several volunteers taking turns teaching our children's lessons during Children's Church (the volunteers only need to serve once every 8 weeks). If you'd like to volunteer to help with Children's Church, please call the church office.



The Saturday before Easter we "egged" our active children's yards with Easter eggs to hunt. The children really enjoyed this. Hopefully next year we can potentially get back to our normal community egg hunt.



Scouting Ministries:

- Our kids are working to finish up achievements so they can advance at the end of May.
- They went on their first camp out in what seemed like a really long time the last weekend in April.

Christian Love and Sympathy to . . .

. . . Jessica & Derek McNeill in the recent death of Derek's grandmother.

. . . Jeanette and David Westerfield in the recent death of David's mother.

New Address (Correction)

Andrea Heaton-12039 Parkside Vista Lane, Louisville, KY 40229 (NOT 40299 as listed last month)

Food Ministry Update

In partnership with Harvest Food Program, we are now making weekly pickups from KFC, Pizza Hut and Starbucks. We then distribute this food to our homebound and others. If you or someone you know needs food, please contact the church office. (phone: 502-267-1437; email: churchoffice@jtownumc.org).

Birthdays & Anniversaries(Anniversaries marked with an asterisk)

5/1-Ansul Curry; 5/3-Ed Walton; 5/6-Tiffany (Sharber) Collins; 5/8-Kathy Pressler, Horace Thompson; 5/14-Debbie Howell; 5/15-Paul Gholson, *Bobby & Darla Hill, Faith Knight; 5/16-Albin Hayes, Jr.; 5/18-Lori Burczyk; 5/22-Latney Ramsey; 5/25-Rosanne Broome; 5/29-Hunter Boss; 6/2-*Gary & Loretta White; 6/4-Faye Ridenour; 6/7-Natan Edwards; 6/8-*Morgan & Gigi Nutt, *Ken & Rhoda Peters

Date	General Offering	Attendance
4/04/2021	\$9,662.84	108 (Easter)
4/11/2021	\$3,226.54	55
4/18/2021	\$6,725.00	70
4/25/2021	\$5,744.05	58

Statistical Report

General Offering: \$25,358.43
Designated Offering: U.M.C.O.R.=\$100;
KY Flood Relief=\$75
Endowment Fund (memorial): \$50; Memorial Fund=\$50
Native American Ministries=\$274

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 (i.e. Capital Fund, COVID-19, Holiday offerings, etc.).

Charitable Donations-The JUMC Administrative Council voted to not distribute/endorse requests for donations to charities outside The United Methodist connection.

Pre-Paying Your Pledge-Tax advantages are available 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 this 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

Jeffersontown Area Ministries--Donations of shelf-stable food, infant & personal care items. Place in the JAM wagon located in the foyer off the parking lot.

Red Bird-Coca Cola caps/multi-pack end flaps (*inside the end flap*-not the bar code on the outside). Place in the Campbells Soup tin in the Gathering Area by the restrooms.

KY U.M. Homes for Children & Youth-5th Sunday offerings, or donate online at kyumh.org. You can also send them gift cards for their residents.

Lion's Club-Used eyeglasses (place in church office).

Kroger Points-Community Rewards program--choose JUMC as your charity of choice & the church receives 4% of all your purchases. Quarterly checks average \$200!

Harvest Food Program-We make weekly pickups at KFC, Pizza Hut & Starbucks and distribute the food to our homebound and others. If you or someone you know needs food, please contact the church office.

Mask Ministry-Disposable and homemade face masks are on the table in the Gathering Area. The homemade ones are made and donated by our church members and friends. There is no cost for them. If you need a mask, feel free to take one.

Water Step-New or gently used shoes (free of mold or holes). Athletic shoes preferred, but all styles of shoes are accepted. Proceeds from the sale of these shoes fund safe drinking water projects worldwide (which saves thousands of lives each year). Donated shoes also keeps tons of waste out of landfills. The shoe collection box is in the foyer off the parking lot.

Laundromat Ministry- We pay laundry fees for those in need. Please see Dayron Reyes.

Red Bird Mission Trip 2021



The family we helped is Kennetha Adkins and husband and their four children. Children age range from 18 months to ten years old. Their trailer was destroyed by fire last Christmas.

They have purchased a double wide trailer that needs quite a bit of work. We put metal trailer underpinning on before we built a stoop and then started replacing and insulating the floor.

It was good to be working at Redbird again and having Doug Foster along after not going for two years.

Only one other group of 10 people from just north of Cincinnati, Ohio was there at the same time as we were. Three of them (Tim, Berry and Joan) worked with Doug Foster and myself on Wednesday and Thursday replacing the floor. thanks for your support.

--Ron (Million) and Doug (Foster)





Church Staff

(Office Hours: M-F, 8 AM-2 PM)

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