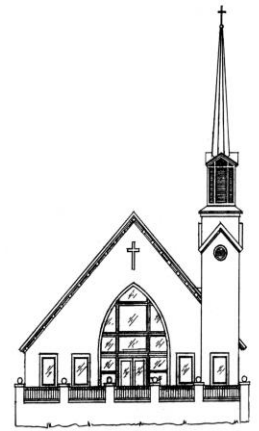


Jefferson⁺town *United Methodist Church*

February, 2021

10219 Taylorsville Road, Louisville, KY 40299 Ph: 502-267-1437

Prayer Team: 502-245-2203; Website: jtownumc.org



THE PASTOR PONDERERS
And Ponders and Ponders, Poor Guy!

For we are God's workmanship created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God has prepared in advance for us to do.
(Ephesians 2:10)

I don't know if many of you are familiar with the television sitcom, *The Good Place*. Ted Dansen was the most notable actor in this show that had 53 episodes, airing from September of 2016 until January of 2020. I watched some of it on Netflix as a rerun.

The gist of the show was that the characters had died and found themselves in an outer-office, sort of waiting room, to be debriefed. Not to worry, they made it to the good place! (I won't do spoilers here, but there are obvious twists) Season one was pretty good if you're interested.

Anyway, the premise of the show is that entry to the "Good Place," was determined on a point basis. While living, each person received points for good deeds and lost them for questionable or bad behavior (or missing an opportunity to do good deeds). It makes for a funny premise for the show as the characters look back at various situations from their past.

Let me say first (and foremost) salvation comes only through faith in Jesus Christ, whom God sent into the world to be the atonement for our sins. It is described in Ephesians 2:8-9, by the Apostle Paul as a gift, freely given by God, rather than being earned (see also Romans 8:32). Obviously, the show's premise is flawed from a truth standard, and as such is just a comedy scenario.

With that said, let's look at this notion of doing good works, as found in Ephesians 2:10. One of the reasons we were created is to do good works (God's work) in the world in which we were placed. How could one not want to respond to this great gift of salvation by honoring God in the use of our time and talents? It is in James' Epistle that we find the warning, "faith without works is dead." (2:14)

I was created to do good works. Loving God and loving others is of great importance, and God will help facilitate my purpose. This is not a task wherein I am on my own. In predetermining that I am to do good works in Christ, God has blessed me with talents and interests. It is, after all, God's desire that we do good deeds.

More than that, Ephesians 2:10 points out that God prepared this in advance for each of us. Now that is an awesome thought – before I was born, I had a purpose! As Gandalf told Frodo in *Lord of the Rings* (for the Tolkien fans out there!), "All we have to decide is what to do with the time given to us." I wonder what God has 'prepared in advance' for me to do today – and tomorrow – I can't wait!

Working to Build the Kingdom with you until Jesus returns! *Bro. Bob*

Video Highlights of Weekly Worship

Our worship videos are being edited to only include the highlights of each worship service. We are trying to keep them between 30 and 35 minutes long. A link to the weekly worship highlight video is sent out early each week after editing. You may find the worship highlight videos on our website (jtownumc.org), or on YouTube at: Jeffersontown Worship Week.

Welcome to Our Newest Church Member

Kailyn Mattingly joined JUMC by profession of faith on Sunday, December 27, 2020. She is the daughter of Jacob and Kara Mattingly. We welcome her as the newest member of JUMC.

Worshipful Wednesdays

We invite those who can't worship with us in larger gatherings (40-50 people), to call the church office (502-267-1437) and reserve a time slot (Noon, 12:30PM, 1PM, 1:30PM, 2PM, 2:30PM, 3PM) for the **February 3rd**, Worshipful Wednesday devotional held in the JUMC sanctuary. **Looking Ahead: The March Worshipful Wednesday will be the second Wednesday, March 10th.**



End of 2020 "Mission Possible" Report

The Finance Committee would like to let the congregation know that our "Mission Possible" Campaign really was Possible and was a Huge Success.

- As of December 31, 2020, we received \$1,300 more money pledged for the 2021 budget than was pledged last year for the 2020 budget.
- These pledges indicate we will have more funds than expenses for 2021.
- Additionally, we ended 2020 with an income of \$16,000.00 over expenses.

This really shows the level of commitment our members have to support the ministry of JUMC. When 2020 is remembered for all the bad news of Covid-19, jobs lost, civil unrest, masks, and restricted attendance being mandated, our members ended the year with some great news. The Finance Committee is very grateful for your continued faithfulness and hope that 2021 is a good year.

Lenten and Easter Worship Opportunities

The following reflects the current plans which are subject to change.

Ash Wednesday: February 17th, worship at 6:30 PM in the JUMC sanctuary, with special music and imposition of ashes/annointing of oil (using disposable applicators).

Good Friday Communion: April 2nd, from 1-3 PM, Holy Communion will be offered in the JUMC sanctuary. Scripture will be read, and music played as a few people at a time will be directed to the altar rail; as you stand, communion will be served to you. After you receive the elements, you are free to leave.

Easter Worship-Sunday, April 4th. We will offer three opportunities for worship: 9am, 10am and 11am (three opportunities, if all slots are filled. If not, one or more opportunities may be eliminated.). Worship will include special music and celebration of Easter. No communion served at these services (communion offered on Good Friday, between 1 PM & 3 PM). Reservations required (limit of 50 persons per service). Please call the church office (502-267-1437) to make a reservation. You will only be allowed to attend the time slot you have chosen.

COVID-19 Update

We are keeping a list of all who have received the COVID-19 vaccination. If you have received the first (or the first and second) vaccination, please call or email the church office and let us know. This will determine when we can open more space in the sanctuary for worship on Sunday mornings.

Thank You

Thank you everyone for the cards, comments and gifts for my retirement Sunday! The book Pastor Bob put together will be cherished and I am keeping your cards and letters with it. Sunday was difficult with all the social distancing and masks but I think we made the best of it. Thanks for listening to my "Musical Journey" read by Renee. I even thought about a couple of other details left out - but as they say - 'nuf said! Best blessings to all. *—from Michael Bleau*

I would like to thank everyone for the cards and prayers after the death of my Dad. I know this past year has been hard on everyone, but losing 3 close family members in 8 months has really been overwhelming at times. Thanks again for your concern. You have shown your kindness after all 3 deaths. *—from Cheryl Boss*

Children and Scouting Ministries

We are excited about being able to offer our nursery during Sunday morning worship services as well as a children's lesson for our older children. Even though things still look slightly different, we are hopeful for a better year. We are looking forward to Valentine's Day coming up. I have a special small party planned. I look forward to hopefully being able to have more activities this year. *--Kara*

Cub Scouts

Bro. Bob met with the Tiger Den and Webelos to achieve their "God and Duty" badge. The Cub Scouts are working hard at home on their other achievements. One special scout has completed his yearly achievements early to earn his Webelo, and that scout is David Turner, Jr.

Date	General Offering	Attendance
12/27/2020	\$3,443.00	35
1/03/2021	\$11,367.66	41
1/10/2021	\$2,533.00	40
1/17/2021	\$4,915.00	42
1/24/2021	\$3,489.00	37

Statistical Report

General Offering for January to Date:

\$22,304.66

Designated Offering: Human Relations Day-\$130

Total December General Offering: \$22,762.67

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).

Red Bird Mission News

Ron Million is planning a Mission Trip to Red Bird this year. If you are interested in going, please call Ron (cell #502-210-9738) or call or email the church office so Ron can set a date for the trip. Below is our most recent communication from the Work Camp Manager at Red Bird.

Greetings,

In *The Message*, John 10:10 tells us "I came so they can have real and eternal life, more and better life than they ever dreamed of." As we enter 2021 we are praying for God's promise of A Better Year and A Better Life for each of you and those we serve at Red Bird Mission.

We are dreaming of a year filled with service to those in need and the blessing God bestows each of his faithful servants. **Work Camp is open starting March 1st!** We will start this season as we ended last year, with limited group sizes and strict guidelines for staff and volunteers. For the spring we will maintain the following protocols;

- Limit to no more than 40 volunteers per week.
- Our schedule will remain the same, arrive on Sunday, serve Monday through Thursday, and depart on Friday.
- Each group will have their own cabin.
- Face Masks are required in all areas of the mission.
- Limited evening programs, socially distanced.
- Separate tables and socially distanced for all meals.
- Exterior home repair in the community and on campus (unless the campus building is not occupied).
- Port-O-Potties at each community site.

I have attached a full list of our Covid-19 approved protocols for your review.

We have a number of teams signed up for the spring and there is still space available, if you are able to come. With the rollout of the vaccine, we expect to see an ease to some restrictions and an increase in the number of volunteers that can serve at Red Bird Mission. Some staff received the vaccine last week and several of us are on the list to receive it within the next two weeks. There are a number of summer weeks already filled up and the fall is starting to fill up. If you need an application, or other documentation, you can download it from our website (<http://rbmission.org/work-camp/>). We also have a new link to pictures from each week of service on the Work Camp page.

We know this is an ever-changing time and will do our best to keep you updated with the changes and needs of Red Bird Mission. If you are unable to serve at Red Bird but still wish to support the various ministries you can always donate online (<https://host.nxt.blackbaud.com/donor-form/?formId=54029cf6-1076-4ec6-9d7c-57e498ceb27e&envid=p--twuo-OXwEKg7MOIEYgTUA>) or through the mail.

We pray you and your families stay healthy and safe in 2021 and that we have the opportunity to serve together again in the near future.

Have a blessed day!

Bob

*Robert Pohli, Red Bird Mission, Workcamp Manager, 70 Queendale Center, Beverly, Ky 40913
P. (606) 598-5133; C. (606) 316-1721; Email: bpohli@rbmission.org*

"That Thy beloved may be delivered, save with Thy right hand, and answer us!" *Psalms 60:5*

Christian Love and Sympathy to . . .

. . . Cheryl Boss and family in the death of her father, Glenford Wingham,
on Saturday, January 2, 2021.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

(Anniversaries marked with an asterisk)

2/3-Sherry Mattingly; 2/4-Bill Simpson; 2/9-Richard Moody; 2/10-*Jonathan & Rhonda Windhorst; 2/13-*Ron & Linda Million (50th), *Dana & Melinda Rabuzzi;
2/15-Lewis Sharber; 2/17-Paul Burczyk; 2/21-*Dan & Kathy Pressler; 2/23-Clare Wyatt;
2/23-*Danny & Babs Johnson; 2/24-Perry Heaton; 3/2-Tracie Kiefer; 3/10-Patsy O'Neal

2021 JUMC Membership Directory Is Ready!

Directories can be found on several tables in the Gathering Area. If you would like a copy emailed or mailed to you, just contact the church office and we will be glad to do that. **CORRECTION:** Lee Hart was accidentally left off the list of members of the Finance Committee (see the list of 2021 church officers on the back page of your directory). Please add him as an "At-large" member of the Finance Committee.

Continuing Ministries

Jeffersontown Area Ministries--*Our JAM wagon is now in its new permanent location* (foyer off the parking) for donations of shelf-stable food, infant and personal care items.

Coca Cola Codes for Red Bird-On bottle caps, and 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.

Harvest Food Program-We partner with KFC (our partnership with Starbucks has ended), making 2 pick ups each week, and deliver to our homebound members & others.

Mask Ministry-Face masks made by and donated by church members. On the table in the Gathering Area. No cost. If you need a mask, feel free to take one.

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- We pay laundry fees for those in need. For more information, please see Dayron Reyes.

Church Staff

(Office Hours: Monday-Friday, 8:00 AM-2:00 PM)

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

Assistant to the Pastor-Dayron Reyes-Cell#786-448-8014;

E-mail: dayronreyes17@yahoo.com

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-Ph #502-267-1437; E-mail: churchoffice@jtownumc.org

Nursery Coordinator-Jessica McNeill

Child Development Center Director-Jennifer Webster-Ph# 502-261-2867;

E-mail: jumcdc@gmail.com