

Jefferson⁺town *United Methodist Church*

January, 2021

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

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



THE PASTOR PONDER'S
And Ponders and Ponders, Poor Guy!

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation.

The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

(11 Corinthians 5:17)

RESOLUTIONS who needs 'em? But they're sorta fun, aren't they? Resolutions give us something to work on during the winter cold of January. Work on breaking them, that is!



The Apostle Paul wasn't much for resolutions (assuming they had them back then!). He was more about action than words. As I look at the end of 2020 and the beginning of 2021, I am reminded of his resoluteness in Philippians 3, "forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead." (vs. 13)

I doubt there has been a year we've all universally wished would be over more than this past one. There was civil unrest, political division, and oh, yeah, a world-wide pandemic. Yuck! There were days when I was afraid to turn on the news.

But a new year is a clarion call to pick up the scattered pieces of our lives and set back out on life's journey with a renewed hope. Ages ago, the prophet Isaiah shared the words he was given from the Lord – words of encouragement – when he penned, "Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth." (Isaiah 43:19)

So what I'd suggest we all do is drop the verbiage and go about doing all we can to be all we were meant to be. The 1985 Superbowl champions, the Chicago Bears, had a motto – "Whatever it takes!" May that attitude be found in us (in me!). Now that's not just words (resolution), but real commitment (resolve).

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

Worshipful Wednesdays

The following responses were received following the December service:

- “We scheduled an appointment shared by another couple seated far apart. It lasts only 15 minutes, so we felt very safe. Beautiful worshipful music was played by Patsy O’Neal, and Bro. Bob had a brief message with scripture readings. Just returning to the church we love so much brought a flood of warm feelings and the presence of God’s love.”
--Lee & Kay Hart
- “We can’t say enough how much we appreciated it. The Service was very meaningful. Enjoyed being back in church again. We needed that.” *--Neil & Debbie Bennett*

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; 12:30 PM; 1 PM; 1:30 PM; 2 PM; 2:30 PM; 3:00 PM) for the **January 6th** Worshipful Wednesday devotional.

Worship Notes

With Christmastide now upon us, and Epiphany only two weeks away, it is a good time to pause and look back with gratitude (yes, there are a few things to be thankful for despite the pandemic), for the effort of those who made sure we had some Christmas décor around the church. Of course, we can start with Rosanne Broome and Mary Lou Falvey for placing some of the chancel décor. Thanks to Bart & JoAnn Magill for the nativity perched so beautifully upon the altar. Then there was Caroline Westfall, who decorated the flower pots at the back entrance, and Debbie Bennett, who placed the wreaths on the front doors of our sanctuary. All this effort added to the enjoyment and beauty of the season.

Of course, much thanks is also due to Michael Bleau, who just retired from nearly eight years of service here as worship and music director (and 46 years overall). His ministry at each of his church positions, has touched so many and he will be greatly missed. Currently plans are to have Dayron Reyes take over duties with the Praise Team, and to postpone the hiring of a choir director until such time as choral rehearsal is possible again (probably end of summer).

COVID-19 Update

The good news, as we all are aware, is the vaccine injections are underway and an end to the fatigue and tragedy of this pandemic is nigh upon us! Of course, this process will take many months to be completed. We would like to be informed as the year progresses, when any of our church members are vaccinated so we can have an adequate picture of what is occurring within our church family. Please remember, precautions must be maintained (and will be here at JUMC) to ensure the safety of everyone until such time as we can put this horrible business behind us. Even after this pandemic is over, we will continue to offer an online version of our worship (probably in a highlight format). We will also continue until the summer (at least) the Worshipful Wednesday services for those who are not able to worship in a group yet. These will be monthly, on the first Wednesdays, from Noon until 3:00 PM (every half hour).

Happy 90th Birthday, John Ingram!

John Ingram turned 90 years “young” on Sunday, December 6th. A birthday cake from the church was presented to him at home that day by Bro. Bob and Debbie Howell. Then they sang “Happy Birthday” to him!



Children and Scouting Ministries

The greatest thing we need in our lives, this and every season, is to know that God the Father is with us. This surely is the message of Christmas and thus the message of our faith. Jesus is with us! This is what our children really need to know. Jesus is not only the Babe of Bethlehem, but He is also the Son who was born to live for our righteousness, and to die for our sins. Christ is the missing piece to life. Without Him our lives are incomplete. With Him our lives, even in their most complex or disappointing parts, make sense.

We are still navigating these difficult times with Covid-19. For the month of November and December we sent out a craft packet for our children to complete for the coming Holiday's. These included advent activities and Christmas activities. These were meant for our children to complete with their families. While we did not get to celebrate our Annual "Jesus Birthday Party" I am hopeful that we can celebrate in 2021. We are working towards getting our children's church back up and running hopefully in January. We are excited to get our children back together permitting we are able to depending on the future course of Covid. I want everyone to know we are going to take the best interest of our children, families and church family into consideration when moving forward with beginning activities.

Cub Scouts-We just finished selling popcorn. We have been doing meetings virtually as we cannot be together as a large group. Our Scout family would like to wish our Fearless leader Allison Hoffman a very Happy 40th Birthday (December)

BSA Troop- They have continued to meet in person as they have a very small group.

Finance Team Meeting

Tuesday, January 19th, 6:30 PM at the church (CAYA classroom). We will be social distancing. Please bring a mask.

2020 Stewardship Campaign Update

The Finance Team is scheduled to meet in January. They will have an update on the church budget and Stewardship Campaign in the February church newsletter. It's not too late to turn in a pledge form for 2021. If you haven't done so, and planned to, please do so soon. If you need a pledge form, please call the church office and one will be emailed or mailed to you.



JUMC Child Development Center LIVE NATIVITY!

Since they couldn't have a Christmas pageant this year, the teachers in our Child Development Center brought the older students to the sanctuary and dressed them up as characters at the birth of Christ. They talked to them about the Christmas story, and as you can see by the smiles on their faces, the children had a good time!

Christian Love and Sympathy to . . .

- . . . Gary & Loretta White and Patsy O'Neal in the death of Loretta & Patsy's cousin in Kansas, and Gary's aunt in Chicago.
- . . . Ed & Judy Watlton in the death of Judy's sister, Diane.
- . . . Lewis & Kitty Sharber & family in the death of Lewis' uncle.
- . . . Jerry & Norma Littlefield in the death of Norma's cousin.

Memorial Donations Received

In memory of Margie Davis

by Dallas and Carol Bennett

In memory of Jim Gatewood

by Dallas and Carol Bennett, Perry & Sandra Heaton

In memory of Darrell Hicks

by Richard Moody

Thank You

David and I would like to say thank you to those responsible for the very appreciated card ministry that has brightened many of our days during this unusual time.

--from David and Jeanette Westerfield

Thank you to everyone for your prayers and many expressions of love given to us in 2020.

--God Bless You All, from Bill & Inez Howard

The Waltons would like to thank you for the cards, prayers and concern when Judy lost her sister. We are grateful to be a part of this special church family. *--from Ed & Judy Walton*

Thank you to all of the people who sent me Christmas cards. I appreciate them and miss seeing and talking to each and every one of you. *--from Shirley Harmon*

Thanks goes to Ron Million for always being available to help out with “handyman” projects at the church AND parsonage. We appreciate you, Ron!

The JUMC staff members would like to thank everyone for the many Christmas cards, gifts and gift cards given to them. They were *ALL* very much appreciated.

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 & Starbucks, making 2 pick ups each week at both restaurants and deliver it to our homebound *members* and 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-Dayron Reyes has used the quarters donated this year during Lent to pay for client's laundry fees at the Fresh Air laundromat on Wednesday afternoons.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

(Anniversaries marked with an asterisk)

1/6-Norma Littlefield, Rhett Westfall; 1/7-David Ridenour, Caroline Westfall; 1/9-Brian Bennett; 1/16-Amy Bickett, Gigi Nutt; 1/22-Jennifer Henry; 1/25-Trudy Coomer; 1/26-Mary Lou Falvey; 1/28-Jessica McNeill; 1/29-Helen Akridge, Bob Breeden; 1/31-*Ed & Judy Walton, Jeanette Westerfield; 2/3-Sherry Mattingly; 2/4-Bill Simpson

Statistical Report

Date	General Offering	Attendance
12/6/2020	\$9,676.84	Online worship
12/13/2020	\$4,318.00	Online worship
12/20/2020	\$3,205.00	45

General Offering for December to Date:
\$17,199.84

Total November General Offering: \$27,600.67

November Designated Offerings:

U.M.C.O.R. (United Methodist Committee on Relief)-\$100
5th Sunday U.M. Homes for Children & Youth=\$156

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).

Church Staff (Office Hours: Mon.-Fri., 8AM-2PM)

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-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