

April
2020

Jefferson⁺town *United Methodist Church*

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THE PASTOR PONDERERS
And Ponders and Ponders, Poor Guy!

Not every specific situation we encounter is mentioned in scripture. Can't be – too many things are a part of any given generation. For instance, 9/11 was a horrendous event that the Bible doesn't speak of because of the difference in times. That doesn't mean, however, we can't find verses that speak to the healing and assurance we needed to get through those anxious days.

In fact, I am amazed at how many passages I can find that speak to just about any situation we can face. It's as if God knew what we would be facing long before we faced it! The same is true about our trying times in dealing with this Coronavirus. It isn't mentioned by name in the scriptures, but we can find passages that speak to our challenge.

One particular verse, James 4:8, seems to be tailor-made for dealing with this pandemic. It speaks of washing our hands and clearing our minds. It actually says that (in context with what translation you use). "Wash your hands ... clear your minds" Wow! Words to live by for sure.

This verse reminds me of going on a cruise (and you know how much I love to cruise!). When you get on the ship (Royal Caribbean, anyway) and turn on the television, one animated commercial* runs almost constantly – "Wash your hands, wash your hands." I can hear the tune in my head now as I write these words. It is a catchy jingle that holds an important reminder.

We can't be reminded enough to wash our hands. Along with safe distancing, this act of basic hygiene can literally save one's life. The one time we are tempted to be a little lax is the time we could catch this virus. Please do what is necessary to keep well.

Additionally, clearing our minds is vital to maintaining our health. Many of us are tired of the safety precautions that have interrupted our normal way of living. It is easy to grow frustrated, angry, or afraid with all that is happening. To clear our minds of the irritation is essential, and an active prayer life is one way to help accomplish just that.

Other things that help us clear our minds include: short walk outdoors, completing a task, reading a good book, taking up a hobby, etc. And don't forget to find ways to allow humor to be a part of your daily routine. There is certainly time to watch a funny movie (not the best time for tear jerkers!). If we find ways to laugh, we release endorphins into our body that act to make us feel better.

It is so difficult not being able to be together for fellowship and worship as we would like. Know that God is with us even as we are apart. As scripture states in various places, "it shall come to pass." We will get through this. It won't be soon, but it will happen. My prayer for you is to stay safe, be well, and remain close to the Lord.

Blessings!

Bro. Bob

*search "Royal Caribbean Wash Your Hands" song.



Caring Ministry Delivery

Kay and Julia Eskridge loaded up the back of their car with items to help others in our church family during a time of need. We are grateful for the generosity of everyone who made this possible. We are looking after others who may need a helping hand as we go through this together. If you have a need (perhaps to have someone help with groceries etc.), or know of someone who would benefit from some assistance, please contact the church office.

Congratulations!

We have a new great grandson, Landon William Bader. Born to Ana Russell Bader, March 4th. Grandmother June Jarrett Russell, known as JuJu. Great Grandparents, KJ & Shara, known as “old people.” Due to the virus, we've only seen him once, but we do FaceTime him alot. Hello to all. –Ken Jarret

Congratulations to Jerry & Norma Littlefield. New great-granddaughter, Taye Smith Haydon, was born Friday, March 27th, around 10 PM, weighing just under 7.5 pounds. Proud parents are Jessica and Jerrod, and big sister is Kaia Rose. Everyone is home and doing well

2020 Church Directory Correction

The zip code for Jim Gatewood (at The Springs at Stony Brook) should be 40220 (NOT 40299).

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.

Memorial Fund Donations

In Memory of Roy “Freddie” Smith, Jr.

(Sallie Smith’s son)

by an anonymous donor

Christian Love and Sympathy to . . .

. . . Sandra Heaton in the death of her sister-in-law, Janet Shrum on March 22nd.

. . . Bobby and Darla Hill in the very unexpected death of Bobby’s father (James Hill) on Friday, March 27th.

Children, Youth and Scouts

During this critical time of need it is imperative that we as Christians do not lose touch with God. In fact, we should take this time to work on our faith and strengthen our relationships that we have with God. This holds true even for our most precious gift from God and, that is our children. We do not want our children to lose their relationships with God nor do we want their relationships to weaken. During this most difficult time we will be mailing activity sheets to the children within our church. We are working out the details to ensure that our children still receive goody bags for Easter. We would like to wish a Happy Birthday to our precious gifts that graced us with their presence in the month of March and April: Tristian, Kailyn.



Homebound Spotlight

Yes, it's Tony and Nancy Johnson! But, more than that, it is ALL of us. Whoever could have predicted this? We are all, in many ways now, homebound. And while this pandemic in which we find ourselves must be taken seriously, a little humor may go a long way in helping as a coping mechanism.

Whereas this is such an unprecedented event, we encourage everyone to hunker down at home and maintain safety. We have individuals who can go out and do shopping for any who have pre-existing health conditions that make it too risky to adventure out even for necessities like groceries, etc. If you could use a little help, please inform the church office (or call Bro. Bob on his cell at 502-819-1160) so we can be of assistance. There are some who have already benefited from such kindness, so don't be hesitant or shy to ask.

WORSHIP AND MUSIC MINISTRY

These are strange times aren't they! No "spring chicken" myself – I've never experienced anything like it. Please stay safe and healthy and continue to make the best of your situation! Having typed that, I decided to look that up:

"The phrase 'No **Spring Chicken**' is usually used in a negative way to describe **someone** who is no longer young, probably past his young adulthood, and sometimes doesn't realize it and tries to look and act younger than his age. Example of use: 'I don't know how old Mike is, but obviously he is no **spring chicken**.'"

Wow! They even used my name in there! Sounds like a little vanity involved also!? How many of us need haircuts or in some cases, hair coloring? I really think that part is funny. Are you still showering or shaving every day? Probably not seeing anybody but your family, and they have certainly seen you at your best – and at your worst! Funny again!

I think of my relationship with God that way. My God has certainly seen the best (maybe not?) and the worst (probably?) in me. What can I be doing during these strangely socially disconnected times to connect more deeply with God? He has always been there and is waiting on you, me. We may not be able to meet formally for worship for a few more weeks, but we certainly do not have to forsake worship. We hope our worship videos are giving you at least something to think and pray about and help you offer up your own worship.

By now I'm sure you have figured out we made the difficult, but smart, choice to cancel special worship services for Palm Sunday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday. Never did we think during our planning that a global pandemic response would be the cause. It was a really tough email to send to my musicians (and our own choir and bell choir) who were so excited and looking forward to presenting extra special services for us. Pastor Bob and I are hoping to put together a special service maybe for fall, or in the very least we look ahead to special presentations for Thanksgiving, Advent and Christmas! Pray for the best for our church, country and the world. Blessings ~ Michael Bleau, Music Director musicianmichael@bellsouth.net

Statistical Report

Total General Offering for March: \$27,307.02
Amount needed in a 5 week month to meet the
budget=\$28,880.00 (deficit=\$1,572.98)

Special Offerings:

Have a Heart for Seniors (Wesley Manor)=\$100

U.M.C.O.R.=\$100

5th Sunday (Methodist Homes)=\$183

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 these donations.

Charitable Donations-Jeffersontown United Methodist Church will not distribute or endorse requests for donations to charities outside The United Methodist connection. *-JUMC Ad Council*

Pre-Paying Your Pledge-There are tax advantages for those 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 to you 502-267-8066 (work); 502-254-1682 (home).

Mountain Mission

On Monday, March 30th, two trucks arrived from the Kentucky United Methodist Mountain Mission. It was a good thing they brought two trucks, because we probably filled both of them with just what our members donated. There were boxes, bags, and furniture galore! We appreciate your generosity, as does the UMMM, I'm sure. The next pickup is scheduled for August, and we will let you know when we will start accepting donations this summer for that pickup.



KFC Ministry Begins

Over the past 4 weeks, we have entered into a venture with the KFC restaurant across the street from our church to distribute chicken & biscuits to persons in need of a little help to provide for their families. Twice a week church members (Bart Magill & Neil Bennett) pick up food that has been frozen, having not been sold in a timely manner. The chicken & biscuits are kept in one of our freezers at church until someone is identified that needs help. Dayron Reyes is our coordinator for this ministry, and assists in distributing some of the food within the Hispanic community here in J-town. Families in our scouting program and our homebound & seniors are also eligible.



Birthdays & Anniversaries

(Anniversaries marked with an asterisk)

4/6-*Chip & Shannon Bland
4/8-*Steve & Sherry Mattingly
4/12-Dana Bennett Gardner
4/13-Roger Brumback, Billie Chapman
4/15-Kailyn Mattingly
4/16-Jacob Parker, *Perry & Sandra Heaton
4/18-*Neil & Debbie Bennett
4/20-Barry Bennett
4/23-Linda Denissen
4/25-Louise Hale, *David & Donica Parker
4/26-Rhonda Windhorst
4/27-Stella Gholson

Mask Ministry



We have a few of our church members working together to make masks for Stony Brook Atria Senior Living Facility. Shannon Bland (a JUMC member) is a director at that facility, and requested masks for her co-workers. 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. For more information about materials needed or patterns, you can call Loretta White (502-239-1615) coordinating this ministry, Debbie Howell, Nancy Johnson, or the church office.

Trustees Complete Major Renovation Project

Isn't it uplifting to have some really great news from church in these days! We are pleased to report the work has been completed for renovating the Gathering Area. This project was approved by the Administrative Council months ago, but is just now accomplished (in large part due to funds available from the recent back lot sale).



And the timing couldn't have been better to need to do work without people about. Since so few were here our Trustees chairperson, David Westfall (to whom much thanks is due!), rolled up his sleeves and brought in a worker or two to tackle the work at hand. And though I am certain no choices could be made to please the individual tastes of everyone, the job was nicely done and much to be proud of.



Included in the renovation

Gathering Area - painting of downstairs and upstairs walls, new baseboards and carpeting. The carpet is dark to make coffee stains less noticeable and are replaceable.

Restrooms (just off Gathering Area) – painted walls, new baseboards and flooring, as well as bringing in new fixtures that seat a little higher.

Hello to all!

Hi to all! Spring is here and I am thinking of everyone at JUMC and pray all is well with each and every one of you. –*Blessings & Love, Bev “Z” (Zwicker)*

I have qualified to start the new cystic fibrosis drug Trikafta. I am the oldest patient to start the new medication, so my reaction could make differences for patients as they age, which with these new meds will be a very real thing! My life expectancy was 10 years and I have shown that I have a habit of beating the odds. I just want my friends/church family to know I am thinking of them all but have been advised to stay home and out of crowds, especially while looking for adverse reactions to the Trikafta. It is a mix of three very strong antibiotics. I miss being there. Be careful, be safe, be well. --*Karen Speer*

The 23rd Psalm

(submitted by Amy Bickett)

The Lord is my Shepherd *(That's Relationship!)*

I shall not want *(That's Supply!)*

He maketh me to lie down in green pastures *(That's Rest!)*

He leadeth me beside the still waters *(That's Refreshment!)*

He restoreth my soul *(That's Healing!)*

He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness *(That's Guidance)*

For His name's sake *(That's Purpose!)*

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death *(That's Testing!)*

I will fear no evil *(That's Protection!)*

For thou art with me *(That's Faithfulness!)*

Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me *(That's Discipline!)*

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies *(That's Hope!)*

Thou annointest my head with oil *(That's Consecration!)*

My cup runneth over *(That's Abundance!)*

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life *(That's Blessing!)*

And I will dwell in the house of the Lord *(That's security!)*

Forever *(That's eternity!)*

Lyrics from a new song by “The Afters”

“Even though I am in the storm, the storm is not in me.

I will trust you, Lord. I will fear no more.”

Church Staff

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