

October
2020

Jefferson⁺town *United Methodist Church*

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

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

“Just Off the Mark”



THE PASTOR PONDERERS
And Ponders and Ponders, Poor Guy!

But the plans of the LORD stand firm forever, the purposes of his heart through all generations. Ps. 33:11

I purchased a world map and spread it out on the wall in the kitchen. Then I gave Debbie a dart and said, “Throw this and whenever it lands—that’s where I’m taking you when this pandemic ends.” Turns out, we’re

spending two weeks behind the fridge!

Ok, so our plans don’t always work out. And that’s a good thing! We can all admit as we look back in life and laugh, some of the things we planned were pretty stupid. Why did we think “that” (whatever it was) might have been a good idea? Disastrous then – humiliating now.

Like the time I decided to try and change the brakes on my car when I was back in college, even though I didn’t have a base for the jack I was using! Or the time I really believed I could both fill a church baptistry (built into the floor of a fellowship hall) AND watch a movie at the same time. I flooded that hall, big time! I could go on, but that’s enough recollecting on my past failed plans.

Take heart, however, knowing that God’s plans are always perfect and fitted for us. Jeremiah writes, “I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not harm you. Plans to give you hope and a future.” This oft cited passage assures us that God is actively working on our behalf. Especially in difficult times – like these.

Don’t let yourself believe for a moment, that God isn’t aware of our challenges today (both as a person and as a church). God is working to bring about strength in our lives for the trying times we are going through. We can have a sense of confidence, maybe not in the particulars of how God is at work in our lives specifically, but in the fact that the Holy Spirit is active in our midst.

My encouragement is to find ways to strengthen our personal relationships with the Lord in the weeks before us. Don’t fixate on what we can’t accomplish, but rather spend our time creatively, finding new things we can do to grow spiritually. How can we experience a daily devotional time, or re-focus prayer time, or seek ways to be a blessing to someone else. Let’s see if God can’t help us with a plan to be the best version of ourselves that we were created to be!

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

P.S. COVID-19 joke – “Mom always scolded me that I’d never accomplish anything just sitting around the house all day. But look at me now mom, I’m saving the world!”

World Communion Sunday-October 4, 2020

This is one of the United Methodist Special Sunday Offerings. Your donations empower a diverse mix of national and international ethnic young adults to make a global impact for Christ. An insert (with envelope attached) will be included in your bulletin on October 4th. Please prayerfully consider a generous donation.

Hispanic & Community Ministry

Dayron Reyes is going weekly to a local laundromat with the quarters we raised before Easter. He gives out these quarters to people to use for their laundry to be washed and dried.

Change to Our Worship Videos

The October 4th worship video will be audio only, with photos & words to the hymns. Also beginning that week we will begin sending out/posting online the weekly worship videos on Wednesdays. This will give us time to include words to the hymns/songs/litanies, etc. to help you be able to participate better.

“Wednesday Wanderings”

The October “Wednesday Wanderings” (monthly outdoor worship), will be held on the 14th, at 6:30 PM on the side lawn (where the stone sign is located). We’ve moved the date up one week (second Wednesday instead of the third Wednesday of the month), to try and squeeze one in before the weather turns. We will follow the CDC guidelines (asking everyone to stay 6 feet apart, bring a mask and their own lawn chair). Wear a hat or bring an umbrella for shade, and feel free to bring bottled water or soda, if you’d like. This time together will give us an opportunity to see each other (from a distance).

Worship and Music Ministry

It is so interesting to investigate the meaning behind hymns and songs and what inspired the writers or composers. You have heard me share stories that have been passed down through years for some of our favorite classic hymns as well as contemporary worship and praise music. So often, these people are amazing not only in their talent but in translating their real-life inspiration into music for the ages. Such is the case for the hymn “*I Know Whom I have Believed*” which we will sing in this Sunday’s worship (October 4, 2020).

“*I Know Whom I Have Believed*” was written by Major Daniel Webster Whittle. Daniel Webster Whittle was born on November 22, 1840 in Chicopee Falls, Massachusetts. He was named for the politician and founder of the dictionary, Daniel Webster. Whittle was very religious as a young man and worked as a cashier for Wells Fargo Bank.

In 1861, he joined the Army with a rank of 2nd Lieutenant. The night before leaving for war he married Abbie Hanson. In his own words he tells of his departure, “My dear mother was a devout Christian, and parted from me with many a tear, and followed me with many a prayer. She had placed a New Testament in a pocket of the haversack that she’d arranged for me.” He rose to the rank of Major, lost an arm in the war and became a prisoner of war. While a POW, he began to read through the scriptures.

One day, a nurse begged Major Whittle to go pray with a boy who was dying and the nurse admitted to be touched by watching Whittle read the scriptures and not cuss. Here, in Major Whittle’s own words, is what took place that night: “I dropped on my knees and held the boy’s hand in mine. In a few broken words I confessed my sins and asked Christ to forgive me. I believed right there that He did forgive me. I then prayed earnestly for the boy. He became quiet and pressed my hand as I prayed and pleaded God’s promises. When I arose from my knees, he was dead. A look of peace had come over his troubled face, and I cannot but believe that God who used him to bring me to the Savior, used me to lead him to trust Christ’s precious blood and find pardon. I hope to meet him in heaven.”

Ten years later, Dwight D. Moody, encouraged Major Whittle to enter evangelism. James McGranahan put music to many of Major Whittle’s hymns, including *I Know Whom I Have Believed*. The chorus of the hymn is based on 2 Timothy 1:12, “...for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.”

I Know Whom I Have Believed was originally published in 1883 in Gospel Hymns No. 4. Major Wittle died on March 4, 1901, having written over 200 hymns. *I Know Whom I Have Believed* is one of Major Whittle’s best known hymns, along with *There Shall Be Showers of Blessing*. Major Whittle also wrote under the pseudonym’s El Nathan, Elias Nathan and W.W.D. Blessings ~ Michael Bleau, Music Director musicianmichael@bellsouth.net

Children and Youth

Our Children's Committee meet at the end of September to discuss some upcoming events. We are trying to be creative and stay within church guidelines as well as CDC guidelines in respect to the current pandemic and these unprecedented times we are traveling through. Our children are highly important to us as a church. We are in the planning stages for our fall and Christmas ideas for our children. More information to come out soon about the upcoming events. I am also meeting monthly starting in October with other Methodist Leaders to discuss activities for our children. If anyone has any questions or concerns about our children's activities please reach out Kara 270-505-9519.

Halloween—Instead of Trunk or Treat as usual, this year's candy will be distributed in a "grab-and-go" system. The congregation is invited to drop off candy at church. It will be collected and bagged in individual portions for children, distributed **10/31, 10 AM-1 PM**.

Cub Scout Pack 75-We had our Arrow of Light Crossover ceremony on the side church lawn on September 17th. The Arrow of Light is the highest achievement a Cub Scout can achieve. We held their crossover ceremony to commemorate the beginning journey for them as Scouts BSA. We will have our first Den meeting on Thursday October 1st at 7:00 pm.

Scouts BSA Troop 875- Beginning to work hard on further merit badges. We also have several boys who are working on Earning their Eagle Scout Rank.

New Address

Bob Duncan—Bob is still at The Springs at Stony Brook (2200 Stony Brook Drive, Louisville, KY 40220). His room number has changed. It is now room #618.

Christian Love and Sympathy to . . .

. . . Jennifer Webster (JUMC Day Care Director) and family, in the death of her nephew, Steven Head, on Friday, September 18th.

. . . Teresa Allen (JUMC secretary) and family in the death of her husband, Joe, on Sunday, September 20th.

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

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.

Thank You

Thank You to my J-Town church family for the many expressions of sympathy following the death of my husband, Joe. The cards, calls, emails, texts, gifts, flowers, food, etc. have all been very much appreciated, but what means the most to me is all the prayers. Please continue to remember my family in prayer. *—In Christian Love, Teresa Allen*

I want to thank JUMC SO very much for the Starbucks and KFC food! I had never before been able to enjoy Starbucks. *—Sincerely, Mildred Breckenridge*

Thank-You & Citizenship Giving Update

My family and I would like to thank everyone for their generous donations toward our Citizenship fees. We are looking forward to our whole family being U.S. citizens.

--from Dayron, Liliana & Dayren Reyes

Total donated toward the Reyes Family's Citizenship Fees to date is \$1,710.00

Birthdays & Anniversaries (Anniversaries marked with an asterisk)

10/1-*Russ & Claudia Zeckner; 10/2-Susan Knight; 10/3-Lorinda Shewmaker;
10/6-Jean Micklewright; 10/8-Dallas Bennett; 10/9-Linda Schoene; 10/10-David Parker,
Jennifer Risen, Julia Eskridge; 10/14-*John & Linda Schoene; 10/17-Shirley Harmon;
10/20-Dana Rabuzzi; 10/23-Nancy Brumback; 10/24-John Schoene; 10/27-Donica Parker;
10/28-Jennifer Sharber; 10/29-Marilyn Hite; 10/31-Gloria Beswick;
11/7-Chuck Micklewright; 11/9-Douglas Reeser

September Statistical Report

September General Offering Total:
\$23,455.35

August General Offering Total=\$23,409.43

Designated Donations: COVID-19=\$10.00;

UMCOR=\$100.00; Human Relations

Day=\$74.00; Citizenship Fees: \$1,710.00

Date	Attendance	General Offering
8/30/2020		\$4,653.84
9/6/2020	41	\$8,255.84
9/13/2020	51	\$3,797.00
9/20/2020	48	\$5,442.00
9/27/2020	45	\$5,960.51

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-Please write a separate check for donations to the church other than your tithe (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-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). For more information, call Lee Hart 502-267-8066 (wk); 502-254-1682 (home).

Continuing Ministries

KY U.M. Homes for Children & Youth-They rely heavily on 5th Sunday offerings. You may also donate online at kyumh.org or send gift cards directly to them for their residents.

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

Coca Cola Codes for Red Bird-Codes on the inside of Coca Cola bottle caps & inside cardboard multi-pack end flaps. Place in Campbells Soup tin in the Gathering Area.

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

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

Kroger Points-Designate JUMC as your charity of choice, and we receive 4% of every purchase you make. Our 2nd quarter of 2020 check (June through August) was \$180.19!

Mask Ministry-Free (donated) face masks are available on the table in the Gathering Area.

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 provided back when we were taking donations will be used to pay for client's laundry fees at a local laundromat soon.

Jeffersontown Area Ministries' "Christmas Is For Kids" Program

This program takes the place of The Angel Tree program. JAM is asking for donations of \$50 gift cards to Walmart, Target or Meijer. These gift cards will be given to the parents of each child that qualifies, and the parents will shop for their child(ren). Gift cards may be dropped off at the church office, or taken directly to JAM (10617 Taylorsville Road). Deadline to donate gift cards is Sunday, November 22nd. If you have questions, please call JAM at (502) 267-1055.