

MEADOWVIEW MESSENGER

Meadowview United Methodist Church

Where Christian Caring Comes to Life

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April 2020 Edition

Volume 3, Issue 4

The Pastor's Pondering:

Have you seen the picture of the little girl on the beach and she sees her shadow? She thinks it is something trying to follow her. Then her parent explains to her "it is just you and your shadow." Or have you ever been out walking in the hot sun and suddenly you see a tree with an abundance of shade. It was there you found a shield and protection from the sun and its heat.

This reminder came...*"He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty."*
Psalm 91:1

We may not always see it, or feel it, we might forget it is there at times, or even wonder if He's left us to fend for ourselves in the heat of hard situations of life. But His protection is real. He doesn't and He can't forget us or ignore us. If we belong to Him, His love is too great to leave us on our own.

Psalm 91

Is it any coincidence that this is the Coronavirus verse? In whatever troubles we face today, God is the place of refuge we can run to; He is our safe place.

The word "dwell" used in this verse actually means, "To take up permanent residence in." He reminds us to stay in His presence, for it is a permanent place of living. His Word says if we do that, we will "rest" in the very "shadow of the Almighty." Shadows by definition are a place of protection or covering; they provide relief from the direct heat of the sun. If the heat is severe, the shade is the place we run to. It diminishes what we actually feel in the intensity of the heat.

This is a reminder for us, especially *now* in the tough stuff of the situation we find ourselves in, that we never walk alone. Full heat of troubles bearing down hard and heavy, it's a struggle at times to keep trudging through it all. Pressure and stress can seem as stifling as a hot afternoon summer sun. Yet God whispers truth, strong and sure, "Walk in my shadow, up close to my side."

It is in the safe place that brings confidence, for when we are resting in God's shadow, we will never face the full heat of our difficulties. He shelters us from that pain. His shade, His shadow, diminishes what is actually felt in the intensity of all the heat. Rest, peace, and calm rise up strong, right in the struggling mess of life, and we are assured God is in control.

Sometimes, maybe unintentionally, in the busyness or difficulties of living, we might strive to survive on our own. We forget that what we need most, God's protection and the comfort of His presence are freely available to those who love Him and walk under His covering.

This entire chapter of this Psalm is filled with the goodness and power of God. Psalm 91 is a great reminder that God faithfully works on behalf of those who love Him. And at the end of it all, God gives 8 reasons of why we do not have to fear.

He promises: *"Because he loves me," says the Lord, "I will rescue him; I will protect him, for he acknowledges my name. He will call on me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble, I will deliver him and honor him. With long life I will satisfy him and show him my salvation."* [Psalm 91:14-16](#)

Those of you who may be anxious and in turmoil over what's happening, "abide under the shadow of the Almighty, for he is your refuge and your fortress, your God and in Him you can trust." The secret place is an intimate place of divine protection. In a time when we feel danger and oppression a "shadow" is a metaphor for care and protection. God will take care of you (of us). Happy Easter!

Blessings for the journey ahead! God bless us all!

Pastor Barbara

Calendar for April 2020:

01	12:00-2:00 p.m.	Food Pantry at MUMC
02	5:00-7:00 p.m.	Food Pantry at MUMC
07	5:00-7:00 p.m.	Food Pantry at MUMC
08	12:00-2:00 p.m.	Food Pantry at MUMC
09	5:00-7:00 p.m.	Food Pantry at MUMC
14	5:00-7:00 p.m.	Food Pantry at MUMC
15	12:00-2:00 p.m.	Food Pantry at MUMC
16	5:00-7:00 p.m.	Food Pantry at MUMC
21	5:00-7:00 p.m.	Food Pantry at MUMC
22	12:00-2:00 p.m.	Food Pantry at MUMC
23	5:00-7:00 p.m.	Food Pantry at MUMC
28	5:00-7:00 p.m.	Food Pantry at MUMC
29	12:00-2:00 p.m.	Food Pantry at MUMC
30	5:00-7:00 p.m.	Food Pantry at MUMC

Normal (repeating) schedule:

Sunday: Worship @ 9:30 a.m. – Facebook live

~~Sunday School @ 10:45 a.m.~~

~~Sunday: Choir practice @ 9:00 a.m.~~

Prayer Concerns for Our Church Family

Anita Coulthard	B Neese	Joanna Dennstaedt
Skeeter Yeatts	Peggy Bolling	Doris Quintana
Wade Blevins	Judy Briscoe	Lily Mehl
Linda Martin	Wanda Kealey	Malcolm Nutter
Susan Rasnick	Mack Boyd	Christine Puttock
Jeremy Weaver	Beulah Stringer	Haley Charlton
Lynn Baggett	Adeline Littleton	Nairn Family
Diane Mash Jones	Tony Smith	Christina Reynolds
Sandra Warmoth	Anita Taylor (in her loss)	

**If you need to add someone to the prayer list or are ready to have someone taken off, please contact Annette Sumrell at shadygrove_umc@yahoo.com or 276-206-3243 (call or text).*

Cleaning of the Parsonage:

The parsonage will be cleaned on Saturday, April 25, 2020.

Tithes & Offerings:

Don't forget that the church is still dependent on the tithes & offerings of its members during this pandemic. Keep sending those to: Meadowview UMC, P.O. Box 255, Meadowview, VA 24361

Sunday & Special Worship services

While we are all abiding by the "stay at home" order (due to the COVID-19 coronavirus), Pastor Barbara will be presenting a message on Facebook "live" **each Sunday morning at 9:30**. There will also be the following *special services* via Facebook: Sun. 4/5 (Palm Sunday) – (includes virtual comm.) Thurs. 4/9 (Maundy Thurs.) – 6:30 (w/communion) Fri.4/10 (Good Fri.) – **12:00 noon**

Bible Study – Wed. @ SG

Bible study on Wednesdays: 10:00 – 11:15 a.m. at Shady Grove is suspended until the coronavirus pandemic gives everyone a break.

Wanted: Choir members

Jayne Hillman and Judy Farris are recruiting choir members. If you can sing, please see one of them.

Volunteers needed:

Volunteers are needed to teach the children's sermon.

Lay Servant Training

The lay servant training event scheduled for March 21 in the Clinch Mountain District will be re-scheduled.

April Half Century Outing

Due to the "stay at home" order by our governor, the Half Century group will NOT meet in the month of April. Hopefully, things will be better for the month of May!

The Older Adult Outing for April:

Due to the "stay at home" order by our governor, the Older Adult group will not be going on an outing in April.

Contact info for Pastor Barbara:

Email: pastordoyle1209@gmail.com

Phone: 276-525-1637 (home); 423-341-2198 (cell)

NOTE: When referencing the pastor, please use "Pastor Barbara" or "Pastor" or "Pastor Barb."