

MEADOWVIEW MESSENGER

Meadowview United Methodist Church

Where Christian Caring Comes to Life

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The Pastor's Pondering:

Easter and Flowers

April showers bring May flowers. Have you seen all the beautiful flowers blooming along the roadway? And the yards of people? They are absolutely delightful. Flowers make the heart bloom as well. ⁽²⁷⁾ *“Consider how the wild flowers grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you, not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. ²⁸ If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today, and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, how much more will he clothe you—you of little faith!*”

Flowers are the most beautiful gift given by God. They surround us in every phase of our life. They are the source of joy, happiness, sweetness, beauty and what not. The sheer beauty is to be held up as God's bringing nature to life, and God himself beaming with joy! (Isaiah 35:1-2a) *The desert and the parched land will be glad; the wilderness will rejoice and blossom. Like the crocus, ² it will burst into bloom; it will rejoice greatly and shout for joy.*

We can compare our life with the life of a flower. As the life of a flower starts as a small bud, then when the bud is grown up, the petals of the flower come out of the bud and blossom and spread its sweet smell in the surroundings. After that, the flower starts losing its beautiful petals one by one and one day the flower is destroyed. It's totally similar to the life cycle of a human being. Psalm 103:14-15 *“For he knows how we are formed; he remembers that we are dust. The life of mortals is like grass, **they flourish like a flower of the field**; the wind blows over it and it is gone, and its place remembers it no more.”*

Flowers are of different and many colors. The color of a flower depends on the atmosphere of the surroundings. For example, most roses are red in color but at some places pink, yellow, orange, white and even black roses exist. James 1:10-11 *“But the rich should take pride in their humiliation – **since they will pass away like a wild flower**. For the sun rises with scorching heat and withers the plant; its blossom falls and its beauty is destroyed. In the same way, the rich will fade away even while they go about their business.”*

Rose water is very useful as it is used in soaps to give a fresh bath. Rose, jasmine and other flowers are used to make perfumes. Many different flowers are used in the decoration of cakes as well. Marigold flowers are used to decorate stages for various purposes such as for marriage functions, for guests, for birthday parties etc.

Flowers are the source of beauty as well. Flower-based designs are very much loved by people. People like to decorate their houses with flower-based designs in mats, bed sheets, pillow covers, curtains, pots etc. Hence floral designs are very popular and liked by all. Flowers are the best example of natural beauty.

You can give flowers sunlight, you can give the proper amount of water, but one thing will always remain true. Flowers will eventually fade and die. Anything in this world that we put our hope in will one day wither away. Whether it be money, beauty, humans, stuff, etc. However, unlike flowers and the things of this world, God and His Word will always remain the same. God's sovereignty, His faithfulness, and **His love will never fade**. Praise be to our God!

Enjoy your flowers while you live because when you are dead, you can't see them or smell them ever again. God bless and have a blessed Easter.

Pastor Barbara

From Jane Taylor (Clinch Mountain-District Superintendent)

Dear Friends in Christ's Service,

Yesterday the Council of Bishops announced the cancellation of the called session of General Conference that had been scheduled for May 8. This announcement caught many of us by surprise. Here is the link if you wish to read the bishops' announcement: <https://www.umnews.org/en/news/bishops-cancel-may-8-general-conference>

Over the past few weeks the Clinch Mountain District Strategic Planning Team and I (as much as possible) have been meeting with clergy in extended hubs to gather and share information on the challenges we are facing, including the possibility of separation which General Conference is expected to address. Although the issue of separation was not on the agenda for May 8, the cancellation of the called General Conference has left us less certain about how the process will work itself out.

So that you can provide the most reliable responses you can to the questions you may face, I am committed to providing you with the best, most current information I possibly can. I have heard loud and clear that you are providing excellent leadership to your churches. You are keeping cool heads and faithful hearts. I am grateful for you.

At this point I don't have information on General Conference or what is being planned beyond what is on the webpage. In the next few weeks I suspect we will learn more about the bishop's plans for General Conference, and we will hear responses to their latest decision. As we wait to see what the future will bring, please remember that WE are those whom God has called to be in service to our Lord, the people under our care and to our neighbors. To paraphrase one of the members of the leadership team, God is in charge and God will take us where we need to go. God has put us where we need to be and we need to be about God's business.

Since I began in this position I want you to know that I have been praying for each one of you, and I appreciate you praying for me and for our church. Friends, the best of all is that God is with us.

Jane Taylor
janetaylor@holston.org

Prayer Concerns for Our Church Family

Lynn Baggett; Wade Blevins; Peggy Bolling; Mack Boyd; Judy Briscoe; Dale Carter; Margaret Carter; Haley Charlton; Joanna Dennstaedt; Rev. Doyle's daughter; Judith Faris; Trish Foster; **Cherie Henderson** (at home, knee surgery 3/3; therapy 3x/wk); **Jayne Hillman** (has COVID – is home from the hospital); Diane Mash Jones; Wanda Kealey; Adeline Littleton; Linda Martin; Christine Puttock; William & Doris Quintana; Susan Rasnick; Wayne Rector; Tony Smith; David Swiney; Peggy Vaughan; Sandra Warmoth; Jeremy Weaver; Skeeter Yeatts; Donnie Mutter (kidney failure); Wendell Smith, Elizabeth Gray; **Denise Sadler-Chapman** (surgery recently, recovering at home).

Condolences to Anita Coulthard's family on Anita's death.

Remember our service men and women wherever they serve

**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)*

Calendar for April 2021:

13 6:00-7:00 p.m. Food Pantry at MUMC
27 6:00-7:00 p.m. Food Pantry at MUMC

Normal (repeating) schedule:

Sunday: Worship @ 9:30 a.m. – Facebook live
Sunday: Worship @ 10:30 a.m. (-11:15)
~~———— Sunday School @ 10:45 a.m.~~
~~Sunday: Choir practice @ 9:00 a.m.~~

Sunday Worship services

We are now back to face-to-face services at 10:30 a.m. in the sanctuary of the church as of Feb. 21, 2021. Pastor Barbara is still presenting a message on Facebook "live" **each Sunday morning at 9:30** for those who are still hesitant or physically unable to attend.

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

Activities Temporarily Suspended:

- Bible Study
- Half Century outings
- Older Adult outings

Food Pantry

The food pantry at Meadowview has become such a huge success in the Meadowview Community and beyond. People, families, and others are being served and God is getting the praise. This past week there were vegetables, milk, eggs, and other food items. God has been so good in blessing this endeavor. *(If you have egg cartons, save them and give them to MV for eggs)*

Help is needed for the food pantry on the second and fourth Tuesdays (6-7) at MV. Tables are set up outside. Becky McKinney will meet with you and show you what to do if you come. People are needed to stock shelves or pack bags. Becky will also show you that.

Volunteers are needed for delivering food to shut-ins. If you would like to deliver food to shut-ins on Wednesday or any day; the food is left on the resident's porch. See Becky McKinney if you are willing to lend a helping hand to help those in need and our elderly and shut-ins. Thank you, Pastor

Announcements:

- ~~Maundy Thursday celebration, April 01, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. @ Shady Grove~~ ***(this is a recent change)*** for both churches. Holy Communion ~~will be observed. (No communion on Easter Sunday)~~
- Pastor Barbara is going on vacation Monday, April 5-12. April 11, Rev. Elizabeth Tipton, Chaplain at UVA, Wise, Wise VA, will guest preach at Meadowview @ 10:30 a.m.
- Finance Committee/Trustee Meeting on Sunday, April 25 @ 2:00 p.m.

Contact info for Pastor Barbara:

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