

MEADOWVIEW MESSENGER

Meadowview United Methodist Church

Where Christian Caring Comes to Life

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The Pastor's Pondering:

Ephesians 6:12- NLT- *"For we are not fighting against flesh and blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in heavenly places."*

Is it well with your soul, today? Are you still leaning on the everlasting arms of Jesus Christ? We are living in questionable times. We are not questioning God, however, for we know He is the same yesterday, today and forevermore.

Nevertheless, due to the circumstances under which we are living, we often find ourselves questioning those in authority. Asking the question, when will we get back to where we were at the beginning of the year. Change is not received well! Whether it is personal, professional, or spiritual, we do not do handle change well. But since it has come, we must embrace it and make the best of a bad situation. Every day it seems as though *something* changes. There are reports that the virus is surging. The media, medical persons, and politicians are making new and more bolder requests to keep us safe from the virus. The situation has become known as the "new normal" with "social distancing." Change!!

And because we do not embrace change well, we either ignore the precautions or we actually do them. At any rate, precautions are just that: something to help us stay safe and help others stay safe from us. Just as soon as we think some resemblance of normalcy has returned, new guidelines emerge and we have to change yet again.

There is no way around it; the world is really scary right now. Our cities, our towns, our neighborhoods, our churches have all become "hot button" places. We are afraid for the health of ourselves and our loved ones. All across the world, nation and state, people are feeling the devastation of this virus. People are out of work and some are unable to meet their financial obligations for their families. Children are out of school. Teachers are afraid to return to the classroom. All these situations are adding to the fear that is being spread.

People are lonely and feeling isolated. Yet, during these most devastating times we have a Savior, Jesus Christ. He is my refuge and strength, an ever-present help in time of trouble. During these times we need to stay connected through the power of the Holy Spirit. We have a direct line to the throne and we can consult with the Master anytime day or night.

Don't give up and don't give in! Keep trusting in the Lord Jesus Christ. He is a way-maker and he will make a way for us. This may be a "new normal" (I hate those words), but God is the same God. He loves us all and He has a handle on the situation. Stay the course and keep the faith. The scripture tells us "not to get weary in well doing" but always look to the One who is the beginning and the end, the Alpha and the Omega!

When you need a friend or just need to vent or just need to hear a familiar voice, call one of your church members. Or you can call me. Listening will go a long way during these times. Keep the Faith!! Don't allow the evil one to distort your vision of Jesus Christ. Don't allow him to reduce your trust in the only true God. Reach out to others for help. Call your neighbor, your best friend, if no best friend, call the person who you know doesn't like you much. (LOL). Have a Zoom Tea party? I read about that. Get outside! Get some fresh air! Go for a walk or go for a run! Meditate! Start journaling! Read! Write letters to the elderly; they love getting letters. Be kind to one another! **BE KIND TO YOURSELF!!** If you can afford it, go buy something very expensive at Belk. That would really help me (LOL). Take a vacation or a "staycation". I took three days last week out of town. I have to tell you, it made a world of difference.

Finally, whatever you do, **don't give up on God**. Always remember the Lord Jesus Christ loves you so very much. That is why he died on the cross. Yes, for YOU!!

PS: We were back having face to face worship during for the month of July, but then the virus reared its ugly head again, causing the United Methodist churches in Washington County, VA to close as of August 2 through August 23rd. Stay tuned around the 23rd of August to see if face-to-face worship gets approved. Hope to see you soon!

Peace and grace in Christ Jesus, Pastor (Rev. Dr. Barbara Doyle)

Calendar for August 2020:

04 6:00-7:00 p.m. Food Pantry at MUMC
11 6:00-7:00 p.m. Food Pantry at MUMC
18 6:00-7:00 p.m. Food Pantry at MUMC
25 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.~~

Prayer Concerns for Our Church Family

Anita Coulthard		Joanna Dennstaedt
Skeeter Yeatts	Peggy Bolling	Dale Carter
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		Margaret Carter
William & Doris Quintana		Wayne Rector
Joy Scruggs		Hannah Moore

Expressions of Sympathy

The family of Nancy Carter, in her passing on July 7.

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

Sunday Worship services

While some are still abiding by the “safer at home” strategy (due to the COVID-19 coronavirus), Pastor Barbara will be presenting a message on Facebook “live” **each Sunday morning at 9:30**. ~~For those who decide to venture out, services will be held in the Fellowship Hall at Meadowview UMC from 10:30–11:15 a.m. and at Shady Grove UMC from 11:30 a.m.–12:15 p.m.~~

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 – Wed. @ SG 10:00 – 11:15 a.m.
- Half Century outings
- Older Adult outings

Rules for returning to Sunday Worship in person:

- Temperatures will be taken before entering the building
- Weather permitting, worship will be under the pavilion; otherwise it will be in the Fellowship Hall, using the handicapped access
- Masks will be worn at all times
- Hand sanitizer will be available upon entrance and exit
- Nothing will be passed around; offering plate will be at a table as you enter
- No physical contact with one another, such as hand shaking, hugging, etc.
- Social distancing will be followed; families/couples may sit together
- No children's church or nursery
- No hymnals or Bibles available; bring your own Bible if you want
- No congregation singing; no choir
- Kitchen will be CLOSED; no foods or drinks available. Bring your own drink if you want.

Contact info for Pastor Barbara:

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