

MEADOWVIEW MESSENGER

Meadowview United Methodist Church

Where Christian Caring Comes to Life

29043 Walker Lane, (PO Box 255), Meadowview, VA 24361
meadowviewumc@comcast.net

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The Pastor's Pondering:

God is in Control

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 1:3-9 CEB: *"I thank my God always for you, because of God's grace that was given to you in Christ Jesus. That is, you were made rich through him in everything; in all your communication and every kind of knowledge, in the same way that the testimony about Christ was confirmed with you. The result is that you aren't missing any spiritual gift while you wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed. He will also confirm your testimony about Christ until the end so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful, and you were called by him to partnership with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord."*

As winter approach and numbers of Covid-19 cases increase, many churches might need to change their Advent plans. Aside from the practical concerns, people also need hope and assurance during this difficult year.

As I am writing this, we are experiencing world-wide panic regarding the resurgence of the Coronavirus. Some think it is blown way out of proportion (and it may be), while others are panicking and again stocking up on everything from aspirin to toilet paper, Lysol and other seemingly necessary items to contain the virus around us for months to come. These are challenging times for sure!

What will the future bring? At this point, we can only watch, look and pray. Is that not what Advent is all about? Preparing, anticipating, hoping, relishing, and many other adjectives to describe the coming of the Messiah.

What will the future bring? We don't know! What we do know is that millions of people have died around the world. 1,000's more have been infected and are in hospital. Schools, churches, and many public places have closed, some stores are running out of items again and many people are without work or even unemployment benefits. If this continues, we will relive March and April 2020 all over again.

Phil. 4:6-7- *"Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passes all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."*

There is so much information circulating that it can sometimes be overwhelming. Who is right, and who is wrong? Is the government trying to scare us on purpose? Should we obey the new "social distancing" law or not? And should Christians even be afraid or not? It is easy to become afraid of all the information because we or they do not understand the ramifications of the situation. But scripture makes it clear that we should not be anxious about anything but in all things pray.

And, as Christians we should be examples to others who are afraid and who do not understand the wherewithal of the situation, by respecting the leaders and those more knowledgeable than they. The previous verses make it clear that God put these people in control. God is also in control of their decisions. Even the leaders themselves often do not realize that God is in control, that is why we need to pray for them.

During this Advent time let us remember God is in control whatever the circumstances. We will celebrate and we will "social distance" and we wear our masks and we will wash our hands frequently. We will observe all the rules and take every precaution, not because we are necessarily being the obedient servant of those in charge, but because God requires it of us to take care of each other.

I Timothy 2:1-2a- *“I exhort therefore, that, all supplications, prayers, intercessions and giving of thanks, be made for all mankind; For kings, and of all that are in authority.*

We must always be obedient to the word of God!

So, during these challenging times we should be looking for an opportunity to serve the Lord. During the Advent season we should be looking for an opportunity to serve the Lord! Even during bad times we should be looking for an opportunity to serve the Lord! This is an opportunity for the body of Christ to work together to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, and take care of the needs of all those less fortunate than we are. We should be a light to and in our communities, and to point people to Christ. He is the One we must lean on, and people are more willing to hear than before. We must stand strong in our faith and do not be afraid because He will never leave us alone.

So, let your shine during these dark times of Covid-19 and Advent. For the light of Christ cannot be over-taken by the darkness of the world. His light shines even when we don't see it. So, let's not be weary in well doing. For if we continue in Christ, He will bring us out. Trust him for all things even the cure for the virus.

Merry Christmas!

Pastor Barbara

Calendar for December 2020:

08 6:00-7:00 p.m. Food Pantry at MUMC
22 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

Lynn Baggett; Wade Blevins; Peggy Bolling; Mack Boyd; Judy Briscoe; Dale Carter; Margaret Carter; Haley Charlton; Anita Coulthard; Joanna Dennstaedt; Rev. Doyle's daughter; Judith Faris; Trish Foster; Dave Henderson; Diane Mash Jones; Wanda Kealey; Adeline Littleton; Linda Martin; Carl McKinney; Lily Mehl; Hannah Moore; Malcolm Nutter; Christine Puttock; William & Doris Quintana; Susan Rasnick; Wayne Rector; Christina Reynolds; Tony Smith; Beulah Stringer; David Swiey; Peggy & Sammy Vaughan; Sandra Warmoth; Jeremy Weaver; Skeeter Yeatts. [NOTE: I have re-formatted the prayer list and names are now in alphabetical order to make it easier to locate a name]

Expressions of Sympathy to:

Mary McFarlane on the loss of her brother who passed away Wednesday.

**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)*

Sunday Worship services

Pastor Barbara will be presenting a message on Facebook “live” each Sunday morning at 9:30. Starting Sunday, Dec. 06, Meadowview will worship at 10:30 a.m. **inside the Fellowship Hall**. Shady Grove will worship inside their Fellowship Hall at 11:30 a.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
- 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 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

Contact info for Pastor Barbara:

Email: pastordoyle1209@gmail.com
Phone: 276-525-1637 (home); 423-341-2198 (cell)