

MEADOWVIEW MESSENGER

Meadowview United Methodist Church

Where Christian Caring Comes to Life

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

February 2020 Edition

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The Pastor's Pondering:

Black History Month

Black History Month is an annual celebration of achievements by black people few people know anything about. Knowing the past opens the door to the future. The conversation must start here. "Now is the time"!

Since 1976, every American president has designated February as Black History Month and endorsed a specific theme.

The Black History Month theme for 2020, "African Americans and the Vote," is in honor of the centennial anniversary of the Nineteenth Amendment (1920) granting women's suffrage and the sesquicentennial of the Fifteenth Amendment (1870) giving black men the right to vote.

Newly freed black men made great political gains during the Radical Reconstruction period. In the Southern states' legislatures and even in Congress, many black men were elected. But the Southern backlash was swift with retribution. They passed a law called "black codes" designed to intimidate black voters, prompting a call for formal, national legislation on the right to vote. Of course, the black man did not have the right to vote or hold office for many years after that.

The women's rights movement grew out of the abolitionist movement, with activists like Frederick Douglass working alongside Elizabeth Cady Stanton to secure the right to vote for all. That goal was reached with the passage of the nineteenth amendment in 1920.

Celebrating Black History means celebrating the heroic leaders of the Black community. People like civil rights leader Medgar Evers and his wife Myrlie. Medgar was gunned down right in the front doorway of his home. We don't celebrate Medgar's death, but we do celebrate what he died for, namely civil rights for all. Celebrating Black History month allows us to pause and remember the stories that have given Black people pride over the years.

Celebrating Black History Month helps all of us be better stewards of the privileges we have gained through the years. Without the blood, sweat and tears of the past we can never fully appreciate the blessings we enjoy in the present.

Black History Month provides the opportunity to focus on different aspects of the narrative that is the Black American. We can applaud Madam C.J. Walker as the first self-made female millionaire in the American. And we celebrate the poetry of Phyllis Wheatley, first Black poet and woman to publish a book.

Celebrating Black History Month creates awareness for all people, thus giving all people the opportunity to learn about a past and a people of which they may have little knowledge. Our history as Black people belongs to us all. The diversity of the Black race admits and includes all of us as "one nation under God, indivisible with liberty and justice for all" and that we, too have the right to "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness". That is why we celebrate Black History Month.

Each Sunday throughout February, I will give a brief history of some famous and some not so famous black people. It will be in the bulletin, in my sermon and maybe even some readings or acting.

Calendar for February 2020:

- 2 2:30 p.m. Trustees meeting
- 9 9:30 a.m. Scout Sunday
- 1:30 p.m. Finance Comm. meeting
- 12 11:30 a.m. Half Century lunch at Milano's (Abingdon – Exit 14)
- 23 2:00 p.m. Church Council mtg.
- 26 6:30 p.m. Ash Wednesday service @ Meadowview (Joint service)

Normal (repeating) schedule:

- Sunday: Worship @ 9:30 a.m.
- Sunday School @ 10:45 a.m.
- Sunday: Choir practice @ 9:00 a.m.

Prayer Concerns for Our Church Family

Anita Coulthard	Joanna Dennstaedt
B Neese	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
Diane Mash Jones	Christina Reynolds
Tony Smith	Nairn Family
Sandra Warmoth	St. Clair family

*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).

Drivers needed for Meals on Wheels:

Runs are on Monday starting at 9:00 a.m. or Thursday afternoon starting after 12:00 p.m. If you have time to give back to your community and are interested, call Abingdon Community Center at 276-628-3911.

Scout Sunday next week, 02/09/20:

Next Sunday is Scout Sunday and the Scout troop will be leading the service.

Committee Meetings in February:

- 02/02/20 @ 2:30 - Trustees; there will also be a visit to the parsonage
- 02/09/20 @ 1:30 – Finance Committee
- 02/23/20 @ 2:00 – Church Council

Volunteers needed:

Volunteers are needed to teach the children's sermon.

January Half Century Outing

Greetings all! The Half Century Club will be returning to Milano's Restaurant in Abingdon on February 12 for another delicious Italian meal. We have had excellent service and memorable food there in the past. I hope you can join us there at 11:30 for lunch and friendship. I will be ever so appreciative if you will answer this email with a yea or nay as soon as possible so that I can give Milano's a head count by **Monday, February 10**. Thanks, Nancy Latimer 276-944-4017

Scripture Readers for February:

- 02/02: Joy Scruggs; Matthew 5:1-12
- 02/09: Randy Pennington; Matthew 18:1-6 & 19:13-15
- 02/16: Scott Deel; Matthew 5:21-37
- 02/23: Missy Deel; Matthew 17:1-9

Bible Study – 2 choices

Pastor Barbara is leading a Bible study on Wednesdays (10:00 – 11:15 a.m.) and on Sundays (4:00 – 5:15 p.m.) Both are being held at Shady Grove. **NOTE: No Bible study on: Sundays: 2/9, 2/16 & 2/23; Wed. 2/19.**

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."