

MEADOWVIEW MESSENGER

Meadowview United Methodist Church

Where Christian Caring Comes to Life

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The Pastor's Pondering:

Although we as a people are still “social distancing” and in quarantine, life continues as usual. People are still getting sick for other reasons. Women are having babies. Men and women old and young are dying from other ailments beside Coronavirus. No matter the circumstances surrounding us, life goes on.

We wish time would stand still for a while and allow us all to reconfigure our lives. If we just had a day to adjust to our new surroundings before we have to purge ourselves back into the abyss. How good would that be? Just to have a break from the endless news updates would be good. To enjoy more than one day of sunshine would be good. To be able to go out without looking like a bandit would be good. To be able to find something new and different on TV or something new and different to cook for a meal would be really good.

I am not complaining. There is no need. I am just speaking what others are thinking. It might look like pessimism but it is actually optimism because these things I have suggested are the lighter things of this situation. How about the serious things of the situation? The fact that people are dying and families are being destroyed in many and various ways because of this silent killer is a serious situation.

Medical persons know what it is but they don't have a cure. Medical persons are working around the clock to care for patients but come away feeling helpless and hopeless. Non- medical people are feeling helpless and hopeless. We are sitting at home feeling helpless and hopeless.

Nevertheless, life goes on. Why? Because God is still ruler of the universe! Things might seem hopeless and helpless but they are not. We might act like we don't know what to do but we do. We pray! Somebody may be saying, “I have prayed to no avail”, but I say “keep praying” because this too shall pass. It will not be like this always. Prayer changes things. We have been a witness to prayer changes.

So I say to us all: don't get weary. Keep trusting that God will give the medical personnel the wisdom and knowledge to find a cure. Keep the faith and hope and love of God forever in the forefront of your mind. Never stop believing! Never stop having faith! Never stop trusting God! Because we are safe in the arms of Jesus Christ!

Do not forget your tithes and offerings. It is important to keep the church bills paid. We can't do it without you. Send to: MVUMC: P.O. Box 255, Meadowview, VA 24361 or Shady Grove UMC: 329 Whites Mill Road, Abingdon, VA 24210 or go to Holston.org and follow the instructions for sending tithes online, or come to the front door of Shady Grove and insert through the receiving door. We will be most grateful for your giving.

On a bright note: Food pantry at Meadowview UMC is going well. Thank the Lord for volunteers from both churches. We are serving from outside. What a blessing! I was up there last week and people were coming and going. I felt so good about what God has blessed us to do. Thank you all for your due diligence to the Lord!

Those of you who are not members of either church, but would like to contribute, please send contributions to: Meadowview UMC, P.O. Box 255, Meadowview, VA 24361 contribution/donation to Food Pantry.

Psalm 23: *The Lord is my shepherd, And I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters; he restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name sake. Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and staff; they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely, goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long. Amen*

Blessings for the days ahead, Pastor Barbara

OBJECTIVES for when we return to church building: these are just ideas to give some thought to. Some of these ideas should be acted upon soon because we cannot wait until the actual date/day to put these in place. Consult with medical personal (Susan, Fran) which is part of the church, on masks.

- Hand-sanitizers at each entrance. The touchless sensor kind so no one has to touch anything. Masks (available for those who need one) at each entrance; new mask every week; old mask to be worn home by person.
- A person 6ft. apart on each pew. One person at one end and one person at the other end. Unless you are a family living in a household together, then you can sit together, otherwise, you too will be asked to separate.
- No more children’s church unless they are yours.
- The church will be sanitized after worship by custodian. Custodian will be responsible for refilling sanitizer and replenishing masks (and gloves if necessary.)
- Holy Communion will be self-served; possibly use prefilled disposable cups with wafer sealed on top. Pastor will put out the communion and each person will partake, one person at a time.
- Choir will sing one hymn from the congregation area. No more choir gathering in the choir loft.
- Offering will be self-giving. Each person will drop check or money into offering plate upon entering or leaving. Two people will still count offering.
- Greeters/ushers- We will still have greeters/ushers to pass out bulletins. Gloves are to be worn during this time.

This is only a tentative list. The conference will have some directives as well.

Calendar for May 2020:

05	5:00-6:00 p.m.	Food Pantry at MUMC
06	12:00-1:00 p.m.	Food Pantry at MUMC
07	5:00-6:00 p.m.	Food Pantry at MUMC
12	5:00-6:00 p.m.	Food Pantry at MUMC
13	12:00-1:00 p.m.	Food Pantry at MUMC
14	5:00-6:00 p.m.	Food Pantry at MUMC
19	5:00-6:00 p.m.	Food Pantry at MUMC
20	12:00-1:00 p.m.	Food Pantry at MUMC
21	5:00-6:00 p.m.	Food Pantry at MUMC
26	5:00-6:00 p.m.	Food Pantry at MUMC
27	12:00-1:00 p.m.	Food Pantry at MUMC
28	5:00-6:00 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	Joe & Margaret	Carter
William & Doris	Quintana	

**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).*

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.**

Activities Temporarily Suspended:

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

Wanted: Choir members

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

Volunteers needed:

Volunteers are needed to teach the children’s sermon.

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