



The Latimer's Voice

The Newsletter of Latimer Memorial United Methodist Church

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Editor's Comments:

Please use my e-mail address to submit stories, events, happenings, or other information that you would like in the newsletter. If you do not have a computer, please give it to me in person or mail it to me. The deadline for all news items to be submitted is the 20th of each month. That will give me time to have it compiled and printed for distribution on the last Sunday of the month.

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Pastor's Ponderings:



"Shoot for the Stars"

When I was in grade school, I loved following

the race to put a man on the moon. I remember listening to the Apollo 8 crew read from Genesis as they orbited the moon in December 1968. I built a model of the lunar module "Eagle," the landing craft used to put Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin on the moon in July 1969. I watched the blast-off of the powerful Saturn V rocket which propelled Apollo 11 to the moon. I remember that night I watched Neil Armstrong step off onto the moon and change history forever.

I am now excited about the plans to send a manned mission to Mars in the 2030s. The touchdown of the rover "Perseverance" on February 18 has me thinking of space travel again. The rover will spend 10 years collecting information in preparation for a future landing. Many challenges lay ahead. Will the resources be available for the vision to go to

Mars? Can a spacecraft be developed which will be able to safely take and bring back a crew for a 14 month long round-trip? Can resources be developed from Mars itself which will make trips to Mars realistic? Can we actually develop colonies on Mars?

The church faces its own challenges. We are at a crossroads. Dwindling interest in the church, divisions over doctrine, and the continuing effect of COVID-19 and its variants threaten the existence of the church. How will we deal with demands for social justice? In today's world, will we be able to develop and implement the necessary vision to make disciples of all nations as Jesus commissions us in Matthew 28? Will we have the resources to do Jesus' work on earth? Can we adapt and change as needed to function as a viable church in the 21st century? Will we learn from our mistakes?

I reflect on what the apostle Paul tells us in Ephesians 6. We need to be strong in the Lord. The Lord gives us mighty powers. The Holy Spirit is in us to empower us and guide us. Paul reminds us that our struggle is not against flesh and blood but against the authorities, the rulers, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realm. Paul tells us to put on the full armor of God. Stand firm with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet filled with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. We take up the shield of faith, with which we can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. In this spiritual battle, we protect ourselves with the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

Those in the American space program could have given up but they kept the faith and persevered onward. The crew of Apollo 1 was killed in a fire during a training exercise. Some would have quit. But those in NASA learned from their mistakes, made changes, and still met President

Kennedy's goal of landing a man on the moon and bringing him back safely by the end of the 1960s.

We in the church need to keep the faith and move forward. In Ephesians 6 Paul outlines those resources available to us. He ends his exhortation to the Ephesians by telling them to pray in the Spirit on all occasions, with all kinds of prayers and requests. Let us remember his words as we move forward to do the work of Jesus as we face the challenges of today.

- Rev. Wally Culp

From the Nurture Team:

The 40 days of Lent. Tell me the story of Jesus, vs 2:

"Fasting alone in the desert, Tell of the days that are past.

How for our sins He was tempted, yet was triumphant at last.

Tell of the years of His labor, tell of the sorrow He bore.

He was despised and afflicted, homeless, dejected and poor."

During this season, we focus on the activities of Jesus, drawing closer to

God and dedicating ourselves to follow Him.

Each Sunday, Pastor Wally looks at defining moments in Jesus' ministry as presented in the Book of Mark.

February 17 was the beginning of the Lenten Season and Ash Wednesday. Remember Easter is April 4. Copies of Wally's Reflections on Ash Wednesday titled "Be Silent" are available.

Our N.O.W. team leaders will meet by Zoom with Pastor Wally March 3rd. We will be discussing how best to present meaningful worship and Christian formation as we go forth in service to each other and witness to the community. We are still practicing safety protocols and limited church uses.

Holy Communion celebration on March 7.

Holy Week begins March 28 with Palm Sunday, April 1- Maundy Thursday, Easter – April 4.

This poem and advice is from Helen Steiner Rice, for March:

"There can be no crown of star without a cross to bear,

And there is no salvation without faith and love and prayer.”

Today with faith and love and prayer as your companions, press on to newer and higher achievements

- Sandy Sorrow

From the Outreach Team:

I have talked to Sandra at Patrick B. Harris Hospital. They are beginning to accept donations on a limited basis. She said they are in great need of Bibles at this time. I have ordered twenty-five large print Bibles and will take them to the hospital when they are delivered to me. Many of the patients need the large print. I am thankful that we can help the hospital meet this need. The Bibles are given to the patients to keep rather than just loaned to them.

We continue to reach out to our church family through the prayer chain, cards, notes of encouragement, calls to check on each other, and most importantly praying for each other.

I have heard that several members have had the

Covid 19 vaccinations and all has gone well.

On a personal note, Joshlyn asked me to please let all of you know how much she appreciates your prayers. It was a great comfort to her to know that you were praying for her. She still considers Latimer her “Home Church Family” and loves all of you. She hopes to go back to work the 25th of February.

“In the same way, you should be a light for other people. Live so that they will see the good things you do and will praise your Father in Heaven.”
Matthew 5:16

- Pat Wilson

From the Witness Team:

Susie and Glenda are continuing with their ministries insuring that the church Newsletter along with other important information is available to our members.

The Witness Team is updating addresses, email addresses, and phone numbers. Please contact Susie Howell to make sure we have your updated information on file.

During this time of lent there are many stories of Jesus teaching, feeding the masses and healing the sick but I am fascinated by the scriptures found in the book of Mark chapter 1, verses 16-20. Jesus is walking along the shores of the Sea of Galilee when he comes across a group of fishermen. He calls out to them and says "Come follow me and I will make you fishers of men." Jesus goes a little further up the beach and asks another group of fishermen to also join him. They dropped everything and followed.

I don't believe I could just drop everything like that. I would have to make sure my family, friends and commitments were taken care of and I could not leave without saying goodbye to my family. Could you do that just drop everything and follow without thinking twice? I would like to share the song:

"I Have Decided To Follow Jesus"

I have decided to follow Jesus (2x)
No turning back, no turning back

Tho' none go with me, I still
will follow (2x)

No turning back, no turning
back

My cross I'll carry, till I see
Jesus (2x)

No turning back, no turning
back

The world behind me, the
cross before me (2x)

No turning back, no turning
back

- Jane Barton

Church Happenings:

Wednesday, March 24,
Rev. Culp will host a Zoom
call from 2-4 pm in which
he will answer questions
and concerns. This will
also be a time people can
share good news and what
has been going on with
them for the past year.
Please e-mail Rev. Culp if
you would like to be part of
this call. His e-mail is
wculpii@aol.com.

Thursday, April 1, at 5:00
pm., Maundy Thursday
service will be held in
Sanctuary.

Sunday, April 4, Holy
Communion will be
celebrated during Easter
Sunday Service;

Church Council:

The next regular meeting
of the Church Council will
be on Tuesday, March 9th
at 4:30 PM. This will be a
Zoom meeting.



United Methodist Women

"Knitted Together For
God's Good Work is the
program theme for this
year's UMW. In the letter
to the Ephesians, Paul
describes the people of
God as growing together in
Christ, knit together by
ligaments, each part
working properly and
promoting the growth of the
whole body of Christ.

Whether referring to body
parts or strands of
yarn we know that knitting
them together makes for a
stronger whole. Even
when broken bones knit it
often results in a stronger
connection. Through
biblical passages the
monthly programs will
emphasize the role of
women in carrying out
God's will making them
part of the body of Christ
working in the world.

February's mission
emphasis is Wallace
Family Life. The March
meeting will be the annual
Call to Prayer and Self-
Denial. All women are
invited to attend this
special program on
Monday, March 1, at 3:00
at the church.

- Gloria Eaves

Our Homebound:

Bessie Clark
Frank Clark
Jackie Manning

Our Prayer Concerns:

Dr. Tom Barnett, Sarah
Blackwell, Ben Brogden,
Hilda Bruce, Dr. Thomas
Burriss, Juanita Butler,
Scott Campbell, Kendall
Chandler, Bessie and
Frank Clark, Jocelyn
Collins, Glenda Conley,
Katie Coward, Tim Culp,
Carl DuBose, Kate
DuBose, Gloria Eaves,
Rev. Tommy Edwards,
Tony Ellett, Bob Emhof,
Eric Emhof, Linda Emhof,
Dick Finney, Cory Foubert,
Jim Grubbs, Jane Jackson,
Amy and Jim Lane, Susan
Long, Jerry Manning, Sara
McDowell, Nancy Nagel,
Eric Ni, Racine Owings,
Brenda Parfitt, Joe Frank
Pinson, Keith Ridgeway,
Melissa Scott, Kandice
Shirley, Joda Snipes,

Frank Sorrow, Norma Timms, Frank Woods, Carl and Ellen Yates



Treasurer's Report:

For the period from February 1, 2021, to February 21, 2021, Latimer has had the following receipts and expenditures: Receipts totaled \$7,437.00 plus an additional amount from the Methodist Foundation for interest earned during the past year. During the same period, expenditures were Apportionments - \$851.00; Utilities and Office Expense - \$501.50; Pastor/Staff, including pension - \$3,560.81. In addition, the Trustees have paid for the repair of the heat system in the sanctuary and the removal of a tree at the back of the property in the total amount of \$1,617.00. Expenses remaining for the month include natural gas, direct billing, and health benefits.

Thank you all, once again, for your faithfulness in insuring that the financial

needs of the church are met.

- Linda Millwood

Bishop's Corner:

In These Moments

By Bishop L. Jonathan

Holston

"We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed." 2 Corinthians 4:8-9

It has been said that "when you reach the end of your rope, tie a knot in it and hang on." Friends, it has been almost a year, and our circumstances remain much the same. Vaccine distribution has begun, but it is clear that the realities of the COVID-19 pandemic will remain with us for some time yet.

So many of us experienced something of an adrenaline rush that propelled us through the challenges of 2020. As we deal with the ongoing pandemic, many people are feeling more foggy and fatigued. The adrenaline rush has waned, so how do we amass the energy

necessary to sustain us through the final stretch of this season?

For Felecia and me, having a child accepted, attend and graduate from the Naval Academy was exciting for us, and it was demanding for him. In Karlton's first year, the weeks following the winter break were known as the "dark days." In his words, "these days were long, cold and dreary due to the weather and the next school break being so far away." Following their return to school from a wonderful time with loved ones during holiday leave, the dark days embodied a monotonous rhythm of work, formation, studies and sleep, which did not lead to very much excitement. Spring break and the reprieve of summer were still too far away.

Business psychologist Merete Wedell-Wedellsborg, in an article published in Harvard Business Review, writes that resilience and stamina are the keys to sustainment during these months, these "dark days" of winter amid a global pandemic. In order to build this resilience and stamina, we must prioritize what is

important over what is urgent, and we must offer encouragement to others as we simultaneously receive it for ourselves when it is offered.

Naming the challenges of these times means that we acknowledge their existence and then seek to overcome them. To persevere. To get back up when we get knocked down. As people of faith, it is in these moments when we so desperately seek God. We cry out in the wilderness of our lives, believing that God is with us, no matter the challenges we face.

There is opportunity right now to re-evaluate what is most important. Reflection is a powerful antidote to the “dark days” of this global pandemic. Remember why you spend your time, money and energy on the things you do. Turn your focus toward others, opening yourself to opportunities to offer encouragement and love.

The apostle Paul wrote letters encouraging those in the church to remain steadfast and resilient in the face of trials. And this is still true for us today.

Faced with seemingly insurmountable odds, feeling hard pressed on every side, these are the moments when we seek most earnestly after God.

Just as God led the Israelites through the wilderness, providing manna to eat, leading them on their journey as a pillar of fire, so God is still guiding us today, journeying onward with us through the dark days of winter, toward the marvelous light of the promised land.

