



Latimer's Voice

The Newsletter of Latimer Memorial United Methodist Church

Publisher: Witness Team

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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:



"Pastor's Report"

At its July 14, 2020 meeting, church council

reviewed the use of the church building. In late May, Rev. Culp and a leadership team had developed a plan to reopen the church building for worship services only on June 14, 2020. Church members received a list of safety protocols to be used when the church reopened for worship. The highlights of these protocols include wearing of face coverings by all who attend church services, worshipers seated at least six feet apart, use of hand sanitizer, and no congregational singing.

The worship services have been going well. Feedback from those who have attended has been positive. We have averaged 20 in attendance, which is about two-thirds of the attendance before the church was originally shut down on March 22, 2020. Everyone has been compliant with the safety measures.

The hope originally had been that by the July 14, 2020 meeting the council could approve moving to Phase 2 of the reopening,

which could include making use of face coverings at the worship service voluntary and setting dates when the church could once again be used for Sunday school and other meetings. However, the current state of increased positive COVID-19 cases, increased deaths and hospitalizations make it impossible to make any changes at this time. I and church council have decided we will continue to have in-person worship services with the same safety protocols in place as when we resumed on June 14. At this time there will be no Sunday school or other meetings in the church building. Church council will meet again on September 8 and will review this situation.

In making a decision about what to do, I have had conversations with other United Methodist ministers, our District Superintendent Steve Patterson, our Congregational Specialist Rev. Cathy Joens, Rev. Dale Lynch of First Baptist Church in Belton, and Rev. Sarah Cornell of First

Presbyterian Church in Belton. All agreed that all possible safety protocols should be remain in place at this time during inside worship services.

For those of you who may not be able to attend under these circumstances, I continue to have a video sermon each week on YouTube. We have also considered having a drive-in service occasionally but at this time it is just too hot to do that.

Please continue to be in prayer. I thank you for your continued financial support of the church as well as your prayers. Also, many of you have done much work to make sure our church community has continued to function. Please remember that despite the changes that have been made, God is still in the midst of us. God is present no matter what form our worship takes.

In Christ,
Rev. Wally Culp

From the Nurture Team:

“How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God.” 1 John 3:1.

Let us never forget to rely on the incomparable power of God to see us through to the very end.

We have experienced a full month now of Inside Worship Services on Sundays. The newly formed “Re-open Team” has been diligently working to keep us safe as we gather together each Sunday. The team has been following guidelines from the CDC, The SCHD, The UMC and Bishop Holston. The main guides are Wear your mask inside, Use Hand Sanitizer and observe Social Distancing (6 feet separation). We believe these steps help provide a safe re-opening.

Re-Open Team members:

Kent Millwood – Greeter. He has a welcome table with Masks and hand sanitizer for your use.

Sandy Sorrow – Greeter Assistant. Records attendance and temperatures.

Alan Walfield – Usher/Acolyte. He will escort you into the sanctuary.

Frank Sorrow – Sanctuary Usher – escort you to your seat and is Sound manager. Pastor Wally – Provides Order of worship and direction

Misty Walfield – Director of music.

This team wears gloves and masks, and has their temperature taken before service.

Going forward for August will remain the same protocols as set forth in June and July.

We’ll still continue with broadcasting the service to those in cars in the parking lot on the FM radio, station 89.5.

The Church Council will meet in September. Further decisions will be discussed regarding church meetings and other gatherings, fellowship opportunities and Sunday School classes.

Remember to keep your trust in the Lord. There are several things about this Covid 19 we just do not know.

We try to discern a way for everybody’s care and safety concerns. We are praying for you and I know you are

praying for us. God bless and keep you.

- Sandy Sorrow

From the Outreach Team:

By the time you are reading this hopefully we will have participated in another successful School GiveAway on August 3, 2020. When we came to Worship Services at the church this morning (July 19) the basket for donations of school supplies was getting full. A special thanks to all who participated. If you did not get to participate because you let the time slip up on you or you couldn't go shopping, it is not too late. You can still participate by praying for the students, school personnel, bus routes, etc.

God bless and stay safe.

- Pat Wilson

From the Witness Team:

Tommy and I are going to be in the church parking lot this Sunday, July 26th, with the cookbooks. I have sent an email to all those who have ordered them with the number and amount. If you can't be there this Sunday, just let me know and we

can deliver your cookbooks to you.

Also, don't forget your donations to the School GiveAway on August 3rd. A copy of the school supply list is included in this Newsletter. If you have been unable to shop, and want to give a money donation, you can do that too. Just give it to Pat Wilson so she can do your shopping for you.

- Susie Howell

Church Council:

The next Church Council meeting will be Tuesday, September 8th at 5:00 PM. This will be a Zoom meeting.

Treasurer's Report:

As of July 1, 2020, the balance of the general account was \$49,726.45, of which \$34,926.88 is escrow, leaving an operating balance of \$14,799.57. This is approximately \$1,000.00 more than the operating balance posted at the last meeting in March. The housing allowance balance is \$3,171.65; deposits continue to be made to this account from the Martha Manry endowment. All usual expenditures are in the normal range.

The Trustees Account received additional monies from our foundation accounts, raising its total to \$30,309.73.

The rental account has a balance of \$31,423.09. Payments continue on a regular basis for House 6; the tenant for House 4 normally pays two months at a time and is due for July. The tenant in House 3 has made one payment this year, and the tenant in House 7 continues to be more than 18 months in arrears. Insurance, custodial payments, taxes, and the monthly amount to BIMA are made from the rental account.

Two of our remaining CD's for the rental account have become due; one has been rolled over for an additional six months. The other is now due, and I have been able to contact the bank to have it transferred to the rental account for insurance/custodial payments. If I cannot contact the bank within the allotted ten-day grace period, it will automatically roll over for another year. This will not be a problem, however, as there are sufficient funds in the account to pay the usual bills for the rest of the year.

As you can see, our congregation has been faithful in sending in tithes and offerings during the past four months of the “new normal”. I propose to reinstate the remaining apportionment payments unless and until offerings fall below the normal level.

- Linda Millwood

Our Homebound:

Phillip Brannon
Jackie Manning
Frank Clark
Bessie Clark

Our Prayer Concerns:

Sarah Blackwell, Phillip Brannon, Ben Brogden, Hilda Bruce, Juanita Butler, Bessie and Frank Clark, Katie Coward, Tim Culp, Gloria Eaves, Richard and Margaret Edwards, Tony Ellett, Linda Emhof, Dick and Nancy Finney, Jim Grubbs, Eugene Hembree, Jane Jackson, Amy and Jim Lane, Susan Long, Sara McDowell, Mike Mock, Nancy Nagel, Racine Owings, Brenda Parfitt, Steven Peck, Keith Ridgeway, Melissa Scott, Kandice Shirley, Lucretia and Joda Snipes, Norma Timms, Frank Woods, Carl and Ellen Yates

Bishop’s Corner:

By Bishop L. Jonathan Holston

What’s Going On

“God, the Master, told the dry bones, ‘Watch this: I’m bringing the breath of life to you and you’ll come to life. I’ll attach sinews to you, put meat on your bones, cover you with skin, and breathe life into you. You’ll come alive and you’ll realize that I am God!’” Ezekiel 37:5-6 (The Message)

Forty-five years ago, against the advice of his Motown record executives, Marvin Gaye released the song “What’s Going On.”

The world was changing rapidly as the 1960s came to a close and a new decade began. The civil rights movement, women’s rights, assassinations, picket lines, Vietnam – so much was happening as awareness of injustice and oppression grew. But change does not come without push back, and Gaye recognized the timely message that resonated from these song lyrics.

“What’s going on” is not a question. It is a statement. “Mother ... there’s too many of you crying; brother ... there’s far too many of you dying.” Gaye vocalized the

reality of the era, calling into question the problems caused by hate and fear, yet also offering a response that could bring healing and hope. Namely, “Father ... we don’t need to escalate. ... For only love can conquer hate. ... Don’t punish me with brutality; talk to me so you can see what’s going on ...”

What’s going on is that we can’t breathe. The weight of oppression and injustice is suffocating. Pressure is being applied to the necks of our brothers and sisters instead of being used to change policies and prejudices.

When our eyes are opened in a new way to the realities of injustice in the world, we have a personal and collective responsibility to put our faith into action. By studying the context, you will recognize that the experiences of others may well be different from your own. We have much to learn by talking and listening to one another rather than speaking in sweeping generalities. If we are willing and open, we will grow. As we reflect on this broadening perspective, the opportunities for action will come into focus. If you want to make a difference, you can’t do it from the sidelines.

Ezekiel, a prophet of God, finds himself surrounded by dry bones. Death and hopelessness abound, yet God's glory and power are revealed as God brings the dry bones back to life. What once was a place of desolation and despair can be replaced by life and hope if we choose to obey God's commands.

Our collective memory as a society can be so fleeting. The old adage "there is nothing new under the sun" rings true as we recognize the similarities between what the world looks like now and how it looked half a century ago. And yet, here we are, standing on the threshold of opportunity. The opportunity to influence the culture, to create positive change. The opportunity to allow God to work through us, breathing new life into dry bones.

The time is now. Let us work together, as Marvin Gaye sings, to "find a way to bring some understanding here today." How will your actions shape the future so that one day soon hate and fear will succumb to the power of reconciliation, hope and love?

The late Rev. Joseph Lowery, United Methodist clergy and former president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, often shared this prayer when speaking: "Lord, in the memory of all the saints who from their labors rest, and in the joy of a new beginning, we ask you to help us work for the day when black will not be asked to get back, when brown can stick around, when yellow is mellow, when red can get ahead, and when white will embrace what is right."

Let it be so. Amen.

SCHOOL SUPPLIES TO COLLECT FOR THE 2020 – 2021 SCHOOL YEAR

Glue

- sticks
- liquid in bottles

Crayons

- any
- 24 count
- twistables

#2 Pencils

Erasers

- small pencil caps
- big pink erasers

Plastic Folders

- with pockets & prongs
- without prongs
- blue/green/red/orange/yellow

3 Ring Binders

- 1 inch
- 1 ½ inch
- 2 inch
- 3 inch

Notebooks

- spiral 1 subject
- spiral 3 subject
- composition (marbled)
(wide & college ruled)

Dividers for Binders

Sheet Protectors

Earbuds

Markers

- any size
- pip-squeaks for Pre-K - K5
- dry erase

Highlighters

Colored Pencils

Bags

- gallon size
- quart size
- sandwich size

Pencil Case

- hard case
- zippered pouch

Scissors

Paper

- loose leaf notebook paper
(wide ruled & college ruled)
- construction
- graph

Index Cards

Sticky Notes

Box of Tissues

Hand Sanitizer

Disinfectant Wipes



