

3 Encouraging Truths to Remember When Life Gets Hard...

From You Version Bible App

<https://blog.youversion.com/2020/03/3-encouraging-truths-to-remember-when-life-gets-hard/>

Choose Faith over Fear

“What sort of man is this, that even winds and sea obey him?”

Matthew 8:27

Think about the disciples hanging out with Jesus on a boat when a life-threatening storm erupts on the water. They’re unprepared to face it and, panicking, realize they might die. The entire time this is happening, Jesus is sleeping peacefully.

Instead of looking at Jesus’ reaction to their situation, the disciples allowed their situation to dictate their reactions.

After begging Jesus to do something, He calms the storm... But not before asking them, “Why are you afraid?”

His gentle rebuke over their lack of faith wasn’t because they didn’t believe Jesus could save them from the storm, but because they struggled to believe He would see them through it.

When we find ourselves in storms we can’t control, how do we respond with faith? Here are three encouraging truths to remember:

1. God has power over every storm.

If the wind and waves don’t concern Him, then they shouldn’t frighten you. You might not be able

to change your situation, but you can choose to faithfully trust God in the middle of it.

2. Fixing your eyes on Jesus leads to peace.

Are you looking at the size of the storm, or turning towards the One who can calm it? It’s only by focusing on God, who knows every outcome, that you can navigate any situation with His wisdom and peace.

3. Jesus is always in your boat.

It’s easy to focus on your fears when you can’t control your future. But thankfully, Jesus knows your future, and He’s always by your side. And, He calls you to live by faith, not by sight.

Whenever you find yourself overwhelmed by life, you always have two choices: you can focus on your circumstances or fix your eyes on Jesus.

If you choose to look to Jesus above everything else, you will begin to see that the storms you face are not nearly as powerful as the Savior choosing to walk through the storm alongside you.

Matthew 8:23-27 NIV

Then he got into the boat and his disciples followed him. Suddenly a furious storm came up on the lake, so that the waves swept over the boat. But Jesus was sleeping. The disciples went and woke him, saying, “Lord, save us! We’re going to drown!” He replied, “You of little faith, why are you so afraid?” Then he got up and rebuked the winds and the waves, and it was completely calm. The men were amazed and asked, “What kind of man is this? Even the winds and the waves obey him!”



Prayer & Witness Ministry



We normally meet every Thursday in the church library at 10 am. We are not meeting until further notice.

The Miracle of the Carpenter

by Max Lucado

Loretto Chapel took five years to complete. Modeled after the Sainte-Chapelle in Paris, its delicate sanctuary contains an altar, a rose window, and a choir loft. The choir loft is the reason for wonder. Were you to stand in the newly built chapel in 1878, you might see the Sisters of Loretto looking forlornly at the balcony. Everything else was complete: the doors had been hung, the pews had been placed, the floor had been laid. Everything was finished. Even the choir loft. Except for one thing. No stairs.

The chapel was too small to accommodate a conventional stairway. The best builders and designers in the region shook their heads when consulted. "Impossible," they murmured. There simply wasn't enough room. A ladder would serve the purpose, but mar the ambiance.

The Sisters of Loretto, whose determination had led them from Kentucky to Santa Fe, now faced a challenge greater than their journey: a stairway that couldn't be built. What they had dreamed of and what they could do were separated by fifteen impossible feet.

So what did they do? The only thing they could do. They ascended the mountain. Not the high mountains near Santa Fe. No, they climbed even higher. They climbed the same mountain that Jesus climbed 1,800 years earlier in Bethsaida. They climbed the mountain of prayer.

As the story goes, the nuns prayed for nine days. On the last day of the novena, a Mexican carpenter with a beard and a wind-burned face appeared at the convent. He explained that he had heard they needed a stairway to a chapel loft. He thought he could help. The mother superior had nothing to lose, so she gave him permission.

He went to work with crude tools, painstaking patience, and uncanny skill. For eight months he worked. One morning the Sisters of Loretto entered the chapel to find their prayers had been answered. A masterpiece of carpentry spiraled from the floor to the loft. Two complete three-hundred-sixty-degree turns. Thirty-three steps held together with wooden pegs and no central support. The wood is said to be a variety of hard fir, one nonexistent in New Mexico!

When the sisters turned to thank the craftsman, he was gone. He was never seen again. He never asked for money. He never asked for praise. He was a simple carpenter who did what no one else could do so singers could enter a choir loft and sing.

See the stairway for yourself, if you like. Journey into the land of Enchantment. Step into this chapel of amazement and witness the fruit of prayer.

Or, if you prefer, talk to the Master Carpenter yourself. He has already performed one impossible feat in your world. He, like the Santa Fe carpenter, built a stairway no one else could build. He, like the nameless craftsman, used material from another place. He, like the visitor to Loretto, came to span the gap between where you are and where you long to be. Each year of his life is a step. Thirty-three paces. Each step of the stair is an answered prayer. He built it so you can climb it. And sing.

From *In the Eye of the Storm*

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Friendly Neighbors



Our Friendly Neighbors potluck for April 7, 2020 at noon has been cancelled.

Any questions, call me, Luanna Harris @ 307-9655.

"Hark, I hear a robin calling!
List, the wind is from the south!
And the orchard-bloom is falling
Sweet as kisses on the mouth.

In the dreamy vale of beeches
Fair and faint is woven mist,
And the river's orient reaches
Are the palest amethyst.

Every limpid brook is singing
Of the lure of April days;
Every piney glen is ringing
With the maddest roundelays.

Come and let us seek together
Springtime lore of daffodils,
Giving to the golden weather
Greeting on the sun-warm hills."

- Lucy Maud Montgomery, Spring Song



The pet adoption/festival event held on March 14th at our church was wonderful, although sadly, the three shelters cancelled the day before. The event overall went very well.

Special thanks to Christine and David Gibbs for all their help and inviting so many awesome craft vendors. Thank you to Belleview fire rescue, the blood mobile, the cub scouts, the girl scouts, and my daughter Samantha who brought some of her students and who sold soap and candles they made themselves. Thank you to Kevin and Mary Davis for their music, Pastor Shawn for his support and blessing the pets, Shirley Eck for representing our thrift store. Special thanks for my Harley Heroes group who came with their mascot Noel and helped to raise awareness about what a puppy mill is. Our Harley table was child friendly and I think we helped educate several young people.

Thank you to my husband Danny and my son Adrian who support me in all that is involved raising awareness and trying to protect companion animals. Thanks for all the donations, some of which we already brought to one shelter and the rest will be given to the other shelters this week. I hope I didn't leave anyone out!

If anyone would like to learn more about my Harley's Hero group please contact me, Cindy Polcyn.

FINANCE NEWS

From the Finance Committee – Our Record of Faithfulness – Scripture Thought to Ponder – GIVING SHOULD BE...

One of the priorities of Paul's third missionary journey was to take up a collection for the suffering believers in Jerusalem. His advice to the Christians at Corinth was:

"On the first day of every week let each one of you put aside and save, as he may prosper, that no collections be made when I come" (1 Corinthians 16:2).

There are several practical principles contained in Paul's instructions to the Corinthians concerning this collection.

1. Giving should be periodic. *"On the first day of every week ..."* The Lord understands that we need to give frequently and habitually. Giving only once a year as some do is a mistake. We need to give regularly, because we need to be drawn consistently to Christ.

2. Giving should be personal. *"Let each one of you ..."* It is both the responsibility and the privilege of every child of God to give. If you are not yet consistently giving, now is a choice time. The advantages of giving are intended for each person; and to be enjoyed, each individual must participate.

3. Giving should be out of a private deposit. *"put aside and save ..."* Many people have difficulty keeping track of the money they have decided to give. Consider opening a separate checking account or setting aside a special envelope into which you deposit the money you intend to give. Then as

needs are brought to your attention, you will already have the money set aside to meet those needs.

4. Giving should be a priority. *"Honor the Lord from your wealth and from the first of all your produce"* (Proverbs 3:9). As soon as we receive any income we should set aside the amount we are going to give. This habit helps us to remember to put Christ first in all we do and defeats the temptation to spend on ourselves the portion we have decided to give.

5. Giving should be premeditated. *"Let each one do just as he has purposed in his heart"* (2 Corinthians 9:7). Our giving should be done prayerfully, exercising the same care in selecting where we are going to give our money as we do when deciding where to invest our money.

To experience any of the Lord's benefits, your giving cannot be motivated out of a desire to impress people.

"Beware of practicing your righteousness before men to be noticed by them; otherwise you have no reward with your Father who is in heaven. When therefore you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be honored by men. Truly I say to you, they have their reward in full. But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing that your alms may be in secret; and your father who sees in secret will repay you" (Matthew 6:1-4).

FOR REFLECTION

Which of these five areas do you excel in and which areas can you improve?

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Giving and Operational Expenses		
	<u>February 2020</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>
Giving	\$ 13,898.91	\$ 32,733.66
Operational Expenses	\$ 19,734.57	\$ 37,734.20
+/-	\$ 5,835.66-	\$ 5,000.54-

Year-to-date our giving has totaled \$32,733.66 while our operational expenses totaled \$37,734.20 leaving us a year-to-date deficit of \$5,000.54.

Please watch your emails, the church's FaceBook page or Website for the latest news regarding Bellevue United Methodist Church, our worship and activities. All planned activities are cancellation during the COVID-19 pandemic.

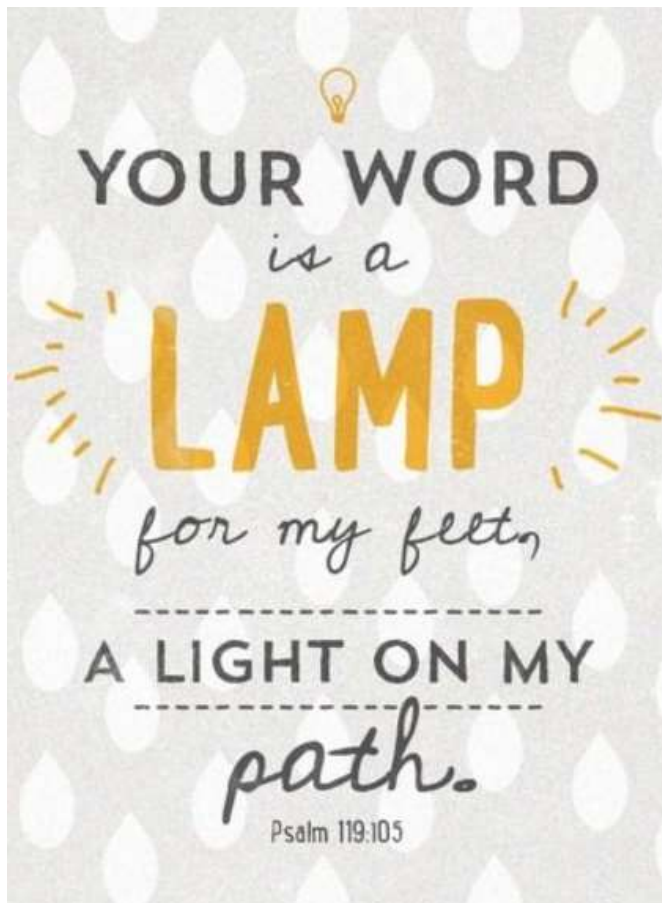
God Bless everyone during this difficult season.

Worship Online with Bellevue United Methodist Church's one of several ways:

BUMC Website: <http://www.bellevuemc.net/worship-online.html>

FaceBook: <https://www.facebook.com/BellevueUMC/>

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/user/photographybyteri/videos>



Young at Heart

Sandy Matheny has agreed to facilitate the Young at Heart activities and events. Anyone with ideas or suggestions and especially anyone who would like to help Sandy please contact her at her email: rsmatheny@att.net

I thank everyone; I have been blown away by the amazing cooperation and acceptance for this new mission/project in our church. I am sure that all will help Sandy with the same enthusiasm.

Unfortunately, our March activities had to be postponed. Keep watching for the new schedule when we can gather in person once again.

God's continued blessings, peace and good health always,
Melicent Versteeg

Let's Celebrate!

Happy belated birthday to Ruby Pelot. Ruby celebrated her 96th birthday on March 14th.

April Anniversaries

Joseph & Carol Backowski	04/06
Randy & Susan Leighton	04/08
Joanne Newberry	04/15
Robert & Marilyn Moran	04/22



May he give you the desire of your heart and make all your plans succeed.

Psalm 20:4 (NIV)

April Birthdays

Sis Cullen	04/02	Carol Pauze'	04/14
Mary Lou Murray	04/03	Tom Dann	04/16
Donna Northrup	04/08	Harvey Versteeg	04/18
Paula Lempke	04/09	Lucy Williams	04/22
Ron Dankert	04/13	Judy Butler	04/23
Howard Northrup	04/13	Carol Swanson	04/27



From the Editor:

Please submit your articles and events for the May 2020 BelleRinger newsletter to bellevuebelleringer@gmail.com.

All articles must be submitted by Sunday, April 19th.

Thank you,
Mary Davis



A gift in memory of

- A donation was given from Joyce Baugher in memory of Hilda Bolomey.
- A donation was given from Linda Neisler in memory of David Willoughby.
- A donation was given from Cindy Polcyn in memory of Ray Stowell.



Please note that all church activities are cancelled during the COVID-19 pandemic. Please take care of yourselves and others during this uncertain season.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5 Palm Sunday 10:30am Online Worship	6	7	8	9 Maundy Thursday	10 Good Friday	11
12 Easter Sunday 10:30am Online Worship	13	14	15	16	17	18
19 10:30am Online Worship <i>*BelleRinger Deadline for May 2020</i>	20	21	22	23	24	25
26 10:30am Online Worship	27	28	29	30		

Worship Online with Belleview United Methodist Church's one of several ways:



BUMC Website: <http://www.belleviewumc.net/worship-online.html>

FaceBook: <https://www.facebook.com/BelleviewUMC/>

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/user/photographybyteri/videos>

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Bellevue United Methodist Church
Live Out Faith  Serve with Love  Change Our World

Rev. Shawn O'Trimble

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April Worship Schedule

Online Sunday Worship 10:30 am on
Website, FaceBook or YouTube.