

TUMC Worshipping Together on Sunday April 19, 2020

Words of Greeting and Invitation

I invite you today to breathe in some fresh air. Maybe step out onto your front step, or into your yard. Maybe find a cozy chair near an open window. Breathe, slowly..... Close your eyes and listen. Listen to the world outside. Breezes..... Birds..... Neighbors working in their yards..... A dog barking..... Children running and laughing..... There is precious life in our midst, soak in every sound. Give thanks for the ways in which you experience life today. Open your heart to God and share whatever thoughts are on your mind, whatever feelings are stirring within you. God hears you and loves you.



“anyone could be a family, you just have to love each other and feed each other.” *Flo, age 6.*

Prayer:

Lord of all nations, you hold this fragile world lovingly in your hands and at the same time you are so deep in our souls as to come alive in our very depths. Meet us deep in our souls this day. Let us pause to listen to your heartbeat as one with our own. Help us to see you in the faces of our sisters and brothers.

Let us hear you in the words of Scripture and be nourished by you in each meal, each morsel and sip. Let us be inspired to live our lives in love with our neighbors near and far. And let our lives show how much we care for and protect others every day. With every breath we take we thank you God, for the gifts given to all those who care for us, and their willingness to put their lives on the line for others.



When Peace Like a River (PLEASE SKIP ADS)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0nJ6wQpLmuo>

As always we are keeping everyone in our thoughts and prayers.

THIS WEEK:

- Mildred Wells is continuing to have debilitating back pain. Pray for her and her family.
- Ofilia Boyd is home after surgery for Spinal Stenosis. Recovery is slow but sure.
- Emilie Kroen is home and recovering after her surgery Wed April 15. Things went well.
- Sam Richardson’s Mom, Eva passed away Wednesday morning. Sam will be traveling to be with family and to help with family matters. Many prayers for Sam and Dan and their family.
- Tami Weitman is improving after painful issues with her leg and foot.
- All who are suffering with the Covid 19 virus.
- Health Care and essential workers.

- Those who have lost their jobs and businesses.



- Those who have inadequate housing and resources.
- Those who work remotely from home.
- Parents who are homeschooling.
- Teachers who are distance teaching.
- Children who can't see why life is different for now.

(please send any additional prayer requests to Amy)

And let us join together in the Lord's Prayer:

Our Father, who art in Heaven,
Thy kingdom come, thy will be
as it is in heaven. Give us this
trespasses, as we forgive those
into temptation, but deliver us
power and the glory forever.



hallowed be thy name.
done on earth
day our daily bread. And forgive us our
who trespass against us. And lead us not
from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the
Amen

Friends, it feels to me like we are in a battle. So many people are surrounded by fear, loss and grief. I know that for me, it can feel insurmountable at times. This song by Michael W. Smith can be a source of strength for us right now and for all those who battle for their lives everyday.

Surrounded

<https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=fight+my+battles+michael+w+smith&view=detail&mid=DF8571446DACFEAF4619DF8571446DACFEAF4619&FORM=VIRE0&ru=%2fsearch%3fq%3dfight%2bmy%2bbattles%2bmichael%2bw%2bsmith%26cvid%3d3038526fa04a4139bfb536414e85468f%26FORM%3dANSPA1%26PC%3dLCTS>

Scripture for Today: John 20: 24-28 (new international version)

²⁴Now Thomas, one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. ²⁵So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the LORD!" But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe." ²⁶A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" ²⁷Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe." ²⁸Thomas said to him, "My LORD and my God!"

Reflections from Rev. Amy

I have heard multiple times each day, "I wish we could just go back to normal". At face value that does seem like a great idea, right? But when I stopped to think about it for a bit, I couldn't help but wonder, do I really want to go back to normal?? And then of course the next question is, "what is normal"? If I started to list the 'normal' things in my life before Covid 19, my guess is that my depiction of normal for

me certainly won't be identical to your version. And then I began to think about people in my neighborhood, is their normal the same as mine? What about people in my city, my state, my church, my workplace??? Each and every person would have an entirely different idea about what is normal for them. So, what do we do with that?

The disciples were in a new normal after the resurrection, right? All of a sudden, what used to be certain death isn't any more! There is new life. There is a new path forward. Everything has changed! Expectations, your new job in life, the meaning of connection, the fear of death.... All of that changed. So, in the story, the disciples who saw Jesus on the evening of the resurrection have a new sense of what has changed in their lives. Thomas saw and touched for himself and proclaimed: "my Lord and my God". It is as if, when Thomas makes that profession, he abandons all of his conceptions of his previous life and sees a whole new life ahead. The future is open.

So, I can't help but wonder what will our new normal be? Well, it seems to me that if we (all the people) go back to what our 'normal' was before, we will be missing out on a whole new life ahead. Can we see with new eyes what lays before us? The opportunity? The calling? If we are satisfied to simply go back to normal, what about our new sense of neighborhood? Our new appreciation for essential workers? What about inequities that have been more blatantly exposed before our very eyes? I don't want those to 'go back' to normal.

I wonder if we can move to a more life-giving reality. Increased pay and benefits for the least paid among us who, carry our groceries, care for our elderly, watch our children, cook our food, and clean up after us. How about adequate housing, food and healthcare for people living on the street. In the light of the resurrection, the future is open. In light of where we are right now, we can decide how we live our lives in new ways. Take the good things that we value from before, and add to that new life giving ways for us to walk into the future together.

Global health must be attended to by every country and every leader. Decision making power cannot be held captive by wealth, skin color, webs of lies and violent reprisal. The earth cannot continue to be abused if God's creation is to survive. And how about this? In India, people living near the Himalayas can now look out their windows and see the mountains. They have lived in their homes for years and the air pollution completely blocked their view of the mountains. And now, they can once again see them from their homes. Maybe the world can figure out how to balance industry and environment to give us clean air. I know that sometimes I am an unrealistic optimist (or so some tell me!), but we have a new chance before us to hold up what gives us ALL new life. The common good must come first. The global community must be in this together.

Right now, this moment, we can see our neighbors and ourselves in a new light. What are our priorities? What and whom do we love? Where do we find spiritual solace and hope? How and why is God leading us to see a whole new life for us and the world? These are the questions that I dream will be part of our new normal together.

I read an article in the Oregonian a few days ago that inspired me beyond measure. An Oregon man named Bashar Wali, CEO of Provenance Hotels is leaving the company. Wali said that the global pandemic, which has wreaked havoc in the hospitality business, has convinced him to make a dramatic change. He said **"The landscape has been irrevocably changed. And if it hasn't yet, then it must. In the post-COVID-19 era, can I really return to debating which local roaster I carry for my coffee? Making quips about the superficial things that most hotels are going to get wrong anyway? Posting pictures of palatial hotel bathrooms that are larger than some Manhattan apartments? I think not."** Bashar Wali

Talk about a new normal! Talk about new life!

I love that people walking down my street stop.... People I have never seen before stop across the street and say “Hi, how are you all doing?” “Scary time we are in, huh?” “ Have a nice day and take care, be safe”. I DON’T WANT THAT TO STOP! I don’t want to go back to us just going about our lives without taking much notice of others. My Lord and My God! There is new life! I want us to make connections in bold new ways. Please God..... don’t let us simply go back what was normal. Thomas’ life and that of the other disciples were forever changed..... let ours be the same.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Av85JmTN4NY> Please skip ads
Josh Calhoun “How Sweet the Sound”

Offering time

Although we are not gathered together in one space, we invite you to continue your gracious offerings to our congregation. There are several options while we are apart. You can use Automatic Bill Pay which you can set up with your bank. It is very convenient. Your donation is mailed from the bank directly to the church. Of course, you can always send a check snail mail if you wish. Those of you who would like to donate electronically, our treasurer Wes Tanac, has the electronic giving option set up on our web site (www.tualatinumc.org)

find this button **DONATE CLICK HERE** TO DONATE ON LINE. **(Tim and I are doing this!)**

Thank you so much for your generosity for the life of our church family, staff, and our ongoing ministry together. With your help we will be able to make employee payroll for the month of April. Bless you.



What inspires me.....

Jessica Mazzola reports for TogetherNJ

David Placek never thought twice about his decision.

“We should all do our part, and it’s something we can do,” Placek, who owns rental units in Montclair, told NJ Advance Media this week of his decision to cancel rental payments for April, May, and June for all of his tenants, as a way to ease the economic stresses brought on by the spread of the coronavirus.

And on top of that, he encouraged his tenants to spend some of the money they’d be saving on rent to help support local businesses and charities that are giving back during the pandemic.

It provides a little bit of good news to people in a world where there’s no good news, and I think that’s meaningful.” Acts like this are why NJ.com launched #TogetherNJ, an initiative to share the stories that remind us about all of the good, strong, inspiring people in New Jersey who are selflessly giving to others and who will help us get through the coronavirus pandemic.

8,000 pizzas, 300 hospitals: N.J. native delivers smiles to doctors, nurses from coast to coast

Pizza vs. Pandemic, a collaboration between Slice Out Hunger, a volunteer non-profit organization, and Slice, a pizza delivery app, says it has collected in the past three weeks \$342,000 from 5,200 donors, using that money to coordinate the delivery, through local pizzerias, of nearly 8,000 pizzas to 300-plus hospitals and clinics across the country.

This boss used his home equity line to pay health insurance for his employees after shutdown

The restaurant owner furloughed his employees, but wanting to make the landing as soft as possible, he said he tapped his own home equity line of credit to continue paying health insurance premiums for his 18 full-time workers. He’d already stopped paying his own salary, anticipating the restaurants would need extra cash to help in the storm to come.

May the gracious love of God, Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer be with you this day and forever more. Amen

“Tis So Sweet to Trust In Jesus”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-DdqkvnshjM>