

Dear Friends,

We continue to find ourselves in difficult times to say the least. Covid 19 has captured all of us in this moment, especially our ability to get around and be with others. I miss seeing you all face to face. And yet, I can still hear the sound of life as it continues to thrive. Neighbors outside my house talking loudly from driveway to driveway. Some laughing at the antics of a dog. Some are offering to help put in a new fence post for one that is sagging sadly. And still others who loaded their kids in the car for a drive through visit to Burgerville.

At the same time, this outbreak brings with it a sense of fear and worry, it also brings a call to compassion as we reach out to those in need. We can assist neighbors who may need some groceries or medications picked up at the pharmacy.... (although some of us have learned that we are 'officially old' because our neighbors come to us in case WE need anything!!) Sobering (ha), but of course, very sweet. Thank God we have many circles of care and compassion.

We pray for the wellbeing of people who work hourly wage jobs that are shuttered for the time being. We hold in prayer, people who wonder how will they get by without a paycheck this week and the next, and the next. We pray for parents who still must go to work and have children left at home unattended.

Give thanks for school districts who by normal bus route stops, give daily food to our children and teachers who continue to teach our kids electronically. We are thankful for all of the medical personnel, city and state officials and workers, the CDC and countless others, who work 24/7 to run basic services and provide healthcare and needed supplies. We give thanks for the ways that stores are working tirelessly to come up with safe new systems of service for groceries and pharmacy supplies. Thanks be to God!

With much love and prayers, Rev. Amy

Opening Song

"I Cast All My Cares Upon You" click on this Link <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=smoYTYuYIYk>

Prayer of St Francis of Assisi (13th Century)

(suggested for our worship today by our pianist, Kathy Niguidula)

Lord, make me an instrument of thy peace;
where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, joy.

O Divine Master,
grant that I may not so much seek
to be consoled, as to console;
to be understood, as to understand;
to be loved, as to love;
for it is in giving that we receive,
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

Prayer For A Pandemic

May we who are merely inconvenienced
Remember those whose lives are at stake.

May we who have no risk factors
Remember those most vulnerable.

May we who have the luxury of working from home
Remember those who must choose between
preserving their health or making their rent.

May we who have the flexibility to care for
our children when their schools close,
Remember those who have no options.

May we who have to cancel our trips
Remember those that have no safe place to go.

May we who are losing our margin money
in the tumult of the economic market
Remember those who have no margin at all.

May we who settle in for a quarantine at home
Remember those who have no home.

As fear grips our country,
Let us choose love.

During this time when we cannot physically
wrap our arms around each other,
Let us yet find ways to be the loving embrace
of God to our neighbors.

Amen.



Prayer: Historic Saint Paul Catholic Church, Lexington, KY

Reflections from Rev. Amy

Here we find ourselves again, worshiping together but from afar. As I close my eyes, I can picture you in the sanctuary. I can scan the space in my mind and locate you in my heart and prayers. I can see others of you at home, with family, within words shared on line, hearing you from any number of discussions together and more than anything I can envision when we will be able to be together once again.

What a time we are experiencing. I find it good for my soul to sit outside and breathe deeply. One of my favorite things to do is close my eyes and listen to the myriad of birds, the breeze, the evergreen cones crackling..... (yes, in the back of my mind, I can hear my children "Geez Mom, you and the birds") Yes the birds are my favorite, and second to them are plants. Flowers of many kinds, plans for veggie seedlings, a giant rosemary plant and mint (yes contained) and so much more.

The scripture that I have chosen for today is I Corinthians 3: 7,9.

*"it's not important who does the planting or who does the watering,
What is important is that God makes the seed grow. We are partners
With God and we are God's garden"*

Today, in these words of Scripture, we join in the vast creation together. One of the most treasured memories of my 7th grade year is planting a garden. As many of you know, I was not a cooperative, direction-following student at age 12. I was a backtalking, sassy “D” student at best. Looking back, I spent more time in the assistant principal’s office than most. Actually, I loved when some of my friends were in detention with me..... the sassiness just grew and grew. One day I got into a fist fight with my friend Teresa Palombi. OUCH! It resulted in hairpulling, a black eye and a fat lip. We both lost hair, I got the black eye, Teresa the fat lip. Sheesh!!!

Who would ever have imagined that I would actually end up graduating from High School with good grades, go on to college and then graduate school. I can only imagine that Mr. Tedeski (my English teacher) would have passed out in shock if he was ever aware of the course of my life. And here is what made the shift for me. A museum, and a garden. Seriously?? Yes, seriously.

Some of you know this already. When I was in the 7th grade, our Junior High School started a team-teaching type of program. Students were selected at random rather than grade point (lucky for me). Our group of 120 students, got to go on a trip to New York City to the American Museum of Natural History. WOW! Words cannot express my wonder and awe. I went from exhibit to exhibit transfixed on all of the amazing things that I didn’t know even existed. I had to be dragged away from the exhibits each time we moved to the next area. It was life changing in many ways. I realized that there was a much bigger world of awesome things out there and my heart and brain were off and running. More, more, more! I couldn’t wait to learn more.

The next spring, the Team-Teaching group got to clear a vacant piece of property next to the school building and we got to plant a vegetable garden. I couldn’t get enough. I was there before school, after school, every day on summer vacation. I found out I could grow food! I know it sounds silly, but it was a first for me. I tended, I watered, I harvested, I shared. I planted a little garden in my backyard at home (much to my mother’s dismay). I LOVED it. It was amazing to me to plant seeds, watch them sprout and grow and bring forth the most abundant food.

My grandmother sent me a card with some passages of scripture. Psalm 121, Isaiah 40: 31 and First Corinthians 1: 3-9. We are God’s garden!! We are God’s garden! How amazing that felt to me and maybe for the first time in my life, I felt that I was included in this thing called God. I lift up my eyes to the hills, on Eagles’ wings we soar, and in a down to earth way, we are God’s garden.

Indeed, in this time we are assured that God’s help will be by our side, and we will be held in the palm of God’s hand and WE are God’s garden in all we do. As you surely have been doing already, reach out to people in need. Extra patience, kindness and love is needed. Connection is needed. Call, text, email. Whatever it takes to connect to one another.

I have a picture to share that Netha Thacker sent to me. In her neighborhood, a young couple had to scrap their original plans for their wedding and so impromptu, they decided to come out into the street and get married right there. Neighbors came out bringing libations... toasts were made and the two were joined as one. How awesome and life giving is that??

God bless us everyone as we walk through this together.
Be in touch with one another by phone, email, facebook, zoom,
snail mail whatever works for you. Amen



And here are some awesome ideas near and dear to my heart!

12 Museums are giving on line tours. Here is the link

<https://www.travelandleisure.com/attractions/museums-galleries/museums-with-virtual-tours>

And check out an "Ariel Tour of the Oregon Garden" on utube.

<https://www.bing.com/search?q=Arial+tour+of+the+Oregon+Garden+in+Silverton+Oregon&cvicid=963eabbcf4440d68669016bc619e570&FORM=ANSPA1&PC=LCTS>

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. Tim and I use this option and it is very convenient, our monthly pledge is mailed from the bank directly to the church. Of course, you can always send a check from your home if you wish. Those of you who would like to donate electronically, our treasurer Wes Tanac is hoping to have that up and ready on our Church Website on or before April 1st. (www.tualatinumc.org) Thank you so much for your generosity for the life of our church family, staff, and our ongoing ministry together. Bless you.

Song for Prayer (our guitarist Hal Filiar-Aguilera shared this)

(Artists: Christiana Aguilera and Jesus Sanchez)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ALYfY3py8QU>

Words of Blessing

(Philippians 4: 4-8)

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.

Let everyone know your strength. The Lord is at hand.

Have no anxiety about anything, but in everything by prayer in supplication with thanksgiving, let your request be made known to God.

And the peace of God will keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, sisters and brothers,

Whatever is true, whatever is honorable,

whatever is just, whatever is pure,

whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious.

If there is any excellence, of there is anything worthy of praise,

think about these things.

Melinda's Playlist for all of us for this week!

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLMNIDx_tcD4of5k8AdK8FHsc-IGptg6U1

At this time, Tualatin UMC is not prepared to live stream worship, and when we are together again, let's explore putting the technology in place for future use.

There are some churches that are live streaming worship:

Feel Free to join in!!

Tigard United Methodist Church

Join us at 10:00am via [YouTube](#) for a streaming option for worship!

Subscribe to our [Tigard United Methodist Church channel](#) to receive notifications for when we go live.

First United Methodist Church, Portland

We will be live streaming that experience, including some opportunities for you to respond in the comfort of your own home. You can find the Livestream by [clicking here](#).