

## TUMC Worshiping Together on Sunday April 26, 2020

Rev. Amy Overton-Harris

### Words of Greeting and Invitation

I invite you today to come into God's presence with love in your heart. This is the day that the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it. How is it with your heart, mind, soul and strength?? We are in a time of contradictions, are we not? Our hearts are filled with love for people and appreciation for those on the front line, and yet a sense of fear binds us. Our minds are swimming with more and more information, and the "what ifs" seem endless. Our souls might be feeling safe at home, and at the same time, maybe we sorely miss sharing physical space with our loved ones. Our strength perseveres in the moment of need, and at the same time, we feel weary as the days move on.

We come together today with our heart, mind, soul and strength of love because this is a time of connecting ..... Not necessarily face to face but we can see, hear, reach out to one another in our mind's eye and from the depth of our hearts. Come and let us worship together.

**Prayer:** Eternal God, our rock and refuge. You have roots grown old in the foundation of the earth. We look to a time of revival for every person. Release us from our fear and help us find a space of hope. Continue to guide us on the road to Emmaus, and open us to the living presence of Jesus. Help us to release our grip on the "stuff" of life, and live for the wellbeing of others. Your saving love endures forever, your holy light pierces every darkness. May we find a word of praise today. Amen.

### "Forever" Kari Jobe

As always, please keep one another in your thoughts and prayers.

THIS WEEK:

- Mildred Wells is continuing to have debilitating back pain and she continues on Hospice.
- Ofilia Boyd is making progress in her recovery day by day.
- Emilie Kroen is doing well after her surgery and will soon begin radiation treatment.
- Continue prayers for Sam and Dan and their family on the death of Sam's mother.
- 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

**"Open the Eyes of My Heart Lord" Michael W Smith**

**Scripture for Today Luke 24: 28-35**

<sup>28</sup>As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus continued on as if he were going farther. <sup>29</sup>But they urged him strongly, "Stay with us, for it is nearly evening; the day is almost over." So, he went in to stay with them. <sup>30</sup>When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. <sup>31</sup>Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight. <sup>32</sup>They asked each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?" <sup>33</sup>They got up and returned at once to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven and those with them, assembled together <sup>34</sup>and saying, "It is true! The LORD has risen and has appeared to Simon." <sup>35</sup>Then the two told what had happened on the way, and how Jesus was recognized by them when he broke the bread.



**Reflections from Rev. Amy**

As I have mentioned from time to time, the Rev. Dr. David Lose speaks to my heart in his commentaries on scripture. Check him out if you wish: "in the meantime". In a commentary from some time ago, he mentioned the uniqueness of the disciples meeting God and the risen Christ 'on the road'. Certainly, this passage, 'The Road to Emmaus' is a favorite among many.

There are so many revelations of God and Jesus in the scriptures. An upper room, a garden, a mountain top, a river, a rock in the desert, a stable, a well. I bet we could list dozens more. I love that the two disciples meet a guy on the road as they journey from Jerusalem to Emmaus on Easter day. Seemingly, they left town in a hurry and began their many mile trek where they come upon a stranger. The three then travel the road together. The stranger comes alongside the disciples as they walk.

Here is something that strikes me: In the midst of this walk on the road, they have a conversation as companion travelers. The scripture says that the two men don't recognize Jesus..... I LOVE THIS!! We can be talking with a complete stranger, walking alongside someone in need, going grocery shopping for a neighbor and have Jesus in our midst! I see Jesus in our midst when people are banging pots and pans from their balconies in support of frontline workers, I see Jesus sitting on the

sidewalk beside children with chalk writing messages of love. I see Jesus sitting at a sewing machine stitching mask after mask. I see Jesus at the bedside holding the hand of a dying patient. I see Jesus peering through a microscope to assist a cure.

I see Jesus walking the road with these men, teaching them, being invited to stay with them for the night. I see Jesus sitting at table with them, breaking the bread and becoming visible to them in a new way, a lifegiving way.

On this road together, we have walked a long way thus far. It is and will be a long walk together. We are in the fray of moving from doubt, fear and grief to faith, hope and love. Faith, hope and love are not 'magic pill' qualities that we swallow and it instantly fixes everything. Faith, hope and love are enduring qualities that we carry with us on the road. Jesus comes alongside these traveling men and alongside us as well.

He listens and hears the truth of our walk. The setbacks and grief: "I was hoping my mother would recover". "I have lost my job and can't get through to apply for unemployment". "I am a single mom working from home, homeschooling my children, shopping for groceries, paying bills and I am exhausted". We model the work of Jesus. Come alongside, listen, love. No judgment, no chiding, no easy-fix offer or explanation. Come alongside, listen, love.

Name your worry, your grief, your heartache. Jesus comes alongside. We come alongside one another. Unfortunately we can't erase our worry, grief and heartache..... trust me, I have tried! God is with us, not just when life is great and going our way, but always. And the clear message in scripture is that Jesus is the unexpected Savior. The disciples were expecting a powerful, vengeful and conquering king to take their troubles away. Instead, they got vulnerability and inclusion and love. Surely God would come as a warrior, they thought.... Instead, God came as a servant. On this road we walk, there is always room for surprise. It isn't about conquering others, building military might, having more money and land to ourselves. It isn't about some people having the say of who is "in" and who is "out".

On this road, Jesus walks with us all in love and grace. Take the opportunity to converse. There is grief and disappointment, there is love and victory, there are endless numbers of people putting their lives on the line to love and save others. All others. So, on this road: question, wrestle, shout, cry, love, embrace, laugh. We are on the road with you and you with us.

If your road is 7 feet or 70 miles, Jesus walks with you every step of the way. Close your eyes, imagine Jesus beside you. Imagine your family and friends, neighbors and strangers, and the two disciples walking with Jesus. You are there.



## "Open My Eyes That I May See"

### **Offering time**

We invite you to continue your gracious offerings to our congregation. You can use Automatic Bill Pay, set it up with your bank and they will send it to the church. You can always send a check by USPS. If you would like to donate electronically,

GO TO OUR WEB SITE ([www.tualatinumc.org](http://www.tualatinumc.org))

Find this button [DONATE CLICK HERE](#) TO DONATE ON LINE.

**THANK YOU SO MUCH** for your generosity for the life of our church family, staff, and our ongoing ministry together. Mere words cannot express our deepest appreciation. With your help we will be able to pay our on-going bills and make employee payroll for the month of May.

**In addition:** Feel free to donate to the National  
UMC Native American Ministries Sunday offering, [umcgiving.org/giveNAMS](http://umcgiving.org/giveNAMS)

Praying with Psalm 139 (vs1-10)

O Lord, you have searched me and known me!  
You know when I sit down and when I rise up;  
You discern my thoughts from afar.  
You search out my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways.  
Even before a word in on my tongue, You, O Lord, know it altogether.  
You are behind me and before me, and you lay your hand upon me.  
Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, it is high, I can't attain it.

To where shall I go from your Spirit?  
To where shall I flee from your presence?  
If I ascend to heaven, you are there!  
If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there!  
If I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,  
Even there your hand will lead me  
Your right hand shall hold me.

"They'll Know We Are Christians By Our Love"

Benediction:

May the blessing of god give us strength for the journey.  
May the Spirit of wisdom give us vision for the road.  
May the love of Christ make us caring companions,  
As we walk the road together. Amen

Something good for your soul. A ROCK?? Really? How is a rock good for my soul? In my walks around my neighboring blocks, I have spied some painted rocks here and there. Hmm, I thought. Why are there on a rock wall?? So, I discovered later that it draw with chalk on a someone to find as a about this, I thought, of hope and along the road may find. they traverse from one so inspired by a rock she that you see pictured a rock to write on or draw a chalk heart or choose your own form of creativity to share with



painted rocks on a sidewalk or a curb or enjoyed them and continued on my walk. is a thing! It is a thing to paint a rock, or rock and leave it somewhere for gift to keep if they wish. And when I read what a great idea. It is a small message encouragement that anyone walking Something tangible for them to keep as place to another. My friend Debra was found, she went home and painted these here. So maybe, possibly, you could find

fellow travelers on the road. Fellow travelers who walk with us, whose footsteps we follow. There is a hopefulness, a solidarity, a powerful message that we find on our walk together. God bless you as we make this journey our own.

Amy

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**Special thanks to our Music Director/ Pianist, Kathy Niguidula for our worship music selections for today.**

I invite any of you to offer any items for our worship together. Prayers, pictures, joys, concerns etc.  
Email me; [amytumc@gmail.com](mailto:amytumc@gmail.com)

**Announcement:** The garden is doing great! You can come and volunteer to weed on your own schedule. Pick your area, lots of weeds to go around. Social distancing is easy in the big space, just be mindful. At least 10 feet apart would be great. If it feels too crowded, come back another time. You are encouraged to wear a mask. Bring your own tools and bag for weeds. Bring your own water bottle.

(email Larry McClure with questions: [larry.mcclure@gmail.com](mailto:larry.mcclure@gmail.com))