



THE MESSENGER
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
601 NORTH PINK STREET
CHERRYVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA 28021
Phone (704) 435-6732 Fax (704) 435-4468
firstmethodistcherryville.com

March 26, 2020

Vol. XXXI No. 4

Rev. Zack Christy
Pastor

Teresa Gardo
Administrative Assistant

Bess Thornburg
Director of Christian Education

Nancy Catena
Pianist / Organist (Interim)

Linda Barger
Chancel Choir Director

Andrew Harmon
Handbell Director

Mildred Young
FUMC Weekday Preschool Dir.

APRIL REFLECTION

Mark 4:38-40 "But Jesus was in the stern, asleep on the cushion; and they woke him up and said to him, 'Teacher do you not care that we are perishing?' He woke up and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, 'Peace be still!' Then the wind ceased, and there was a dead calm. He said to them, 'Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?'"

Brothers and sisters, I dare say these past few weeks have been about the strangest that I have ever lived through. It was the first week of March, there were some rumblings about a virus out on the West Coast, and Teresa Gardo, our amazing administrative assistant came into my office and said, "have you thought about a coronavirus plan?" I was a bit caught off guard by the question, I had not in fact given the coronavirus a single second of my time. I said, "Well we will just encourage people to use good hygiene, and in an extreme case I guess we would just post our videos online. But I don't think it will ever come to that."

I'm willing to bet you didn't know that being a prophet was one of Teresa's gifts. My oh my how the world has changed in just a short time. Brothers and sisters, we find ourselves in completely uncharted waters. Just yesterday it was announced that schools will be closed until May 15th, barber and beauty shops are closed until further notice, it can seem like the world is moving just a bit too fast.

And in the middle of all this craziness, a global pandemic, a crashing economy, you might be tempted to ask "Where is God? Does God not care that we are suffering?" These are indeed scary times my friends, but in times like this I think it is important to remember we are not the first ones to go through such uncertain times.

Jesus had just called his disciples. James and John were probably still trying to dry off from jumping out of their boat to come and follow Jesus, when Jesus led them to a boat to go over to the Gentile country of Gerasene. On this boat Jesus does something, well odd, Jesus goes to sleep. I say this is odd, because we don't think of Jesus being tired, we certainly don't think of Jesus sleeping, but it is right here in Mark's Gospel. Jesus sleeps and while Jesus is sleeping, and dreaming there comes a great storm on the sea of Galilee.

Now at this point it is important to remember the disciples are seasoned sailors, they have been through this before, this ain't their first rodeo. But they get scared, in fact they are sure they are going to die. When one of them looks around and they see Jesus sleeping in the boat. Well the disciples get angry, they are dying and Jesus is sleeping, the audacity! So they wake him up, screaming over the wind and the waves, "Do you not care that we are perishing?"

Jesus simply speaks the words, "Peace be still" the wind and the waves stop, and Jesus looks to the disciples and says, "Have you no faith?" I have always felt it was a bit harsh of Jesus to chastise the disciples like this at this point. They haven't been following him all that long. Who in their right mind would believe someone could still wind and waves with simply their voice.

But then I realize Jesus' words to the disciples there were not a condemnation of the disciples fear over the wind and waves, they were a condemnation of the disciples fear when Jesus was with them. For when Jesus is with you, what in the world can stop you? Indeed as Paul tells us Christ has conquered the world and everything in it. So to be in Christ to join in the same blessing! We as disciples do well to remember this now.

Does that mean that all we need is faith and everything will magically become better? No, what it does mean is that because we have faith we know that this too shall pass. Because we have faith we know that God is greater than the coronavirus, we know that God is greater than the struggles we now face, and we know that even though the storm is raging all around us, when Jesus is with us, we will be safe. May we draw closer to God during this time and may this time of quarantine and stillness be a time of restoration and revival in our lives.

Grace and Peace,

Zack Christy



UMK's will not meet for at least the next 4 weeks. Of course as you know, this is due to the COVID19 outbreak and the need to remain safe and healthy during this time. We had planned to process and sing on April 5th, Palm Sunday, but that has been canceled. We will however meet again as soon as the isolation is lifted, and we will plan to sing for our church family when we can all gather again to worship. We have many plans going forward to finish out our weeks of "Cereal-Taste and See That the Lord is Good" study lessons and our End of the Year cookout and Party! It is just hard at this time to give any definite dates. Information will be sent out through our church website, text, email and US mail as it becomes available.

In the meantime, here are several suggestions and favorite **You Tube** web sites to share with the family for bible lessons for UMKs at home: **Deep Blue Bible Stories, Deep Blue Joseph and his brothers, Deep Blue Easter Stories, Deep Blue David and Goliath, Deep Blue Loving God and Loving Neighbor. Also on YouTube are Kids Bible "Holy Tales".**



Easter Egg Hunt Postponed

Our annual Easter Egg Hunt will be postponed and not take place on April 11. However, there will always be a great time to celebrate our Risen Christ and Easter and Life's New Beginnings. This will most likely take place later in the year.



UMYF: Of course due to the COVID19 outbreak we are not meeting at this time. And our March 29th outing has been canceled. We will begin our Sunday night meetings again as soon as safety allows. You guys are truly missed on Sunday nights and we look forward to gathering again soon. Special thanks to those of you who helped take orders and hand out food at the "grab and go" hot dog supper.

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION



TO ALL HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS:

Scholarship Applications are now on-line on the church website under the "Youth" tab. There are 6 scholarship applications that are available. The

due date to have the applications into the Scholarship Committee is **April 24, 2020**. If you have problems opening these documents, please come by the church office.



Pastor Zack will hold his Bible Study by "Zoom". To connect to this live Bible Study, you will need to go to our church website and click on the "facebook" link and the instructions will be on the page how to join in with him and interact with others who have joined him for this remote Bible Study.

"PRAYER WARRIOR"



The Prayer Warriors will start meeting again when we resume a "normal" schedule.

Breakfast

When we get back to our normal Worship and activity schedule, breakfast will resume on the last Saturday of each month.

LENT BOXES



These boxes will be available at the Events table. Please pick one up and save your change throughout

the 40 days of lent to help "rise against hunger". We will collect the change boxes at the end of Lent and pack as many food boxes with this change as we can. We will need 40 - 50 people to assist with packing for the completion of this project. We will collect these boxes once we are able to Worship together again as one.

ONLINE GIVING now available!



A giving portal is now available to submit tithes and offerings to any United Methodist

Church within the Western North Carolina Conference.

To give to a church, a donor would go to the following website: <https://www.wnccumc.org/online-donations-to-churches>

Follow the prompts to identify the church, along with the amount of the donation. Please see more details on the front page of our website.

Ron Hovis, Larry Gunnell, Bruce Barrett, Darin Webb, Tim Moss

April Birthdays

- 1 Nancy Catena
- 2 Mallie Emerson
- 2 Terry Young
- 3 Gail Beam
- 3 Elizabeth Austell Shuford
- 3 Vernon Smith
- 4 Molly Whitworth
- 7 Carol Metzger
- 7 Emily Grace Nytko
- 9 Billy Alexander
- 10 Jody Fowler
- 10 Linda McQuaige
- 11 Nick Brown
- 12 Molly Wright
- 14 Linda Kale Barger
- 14 Suzanne Day
- 15 Colton Ballard
- 16 Mitchell Bowen
- 18 David Baity
- 18 Ephie Beam
- 18 Mary Etta Stephenson
- 19 Todd Sorenson
- 20 Mary Wiles
- 21 Wesley Anthony
- 21 Linda Brittain
- 21 Chrystal Harmon
- 22 Dawn Moss
- 22 Holly Skibo
- 23 Travis Dellinger
- 23 Susan Fraley
- 25 John Dimiceli
- 25 Eddie Ledford
- 27 Grayson Cushman
- 27 Dartha Stroupe
- 28 Tricia Beall
- 28 Sam Dellinger
- 29 Scott Beam
- 29 Madison Moss
- 30 Seth Harmon



When we learn more from our Bishop about when can resume normal operations, we will let you know. There is no calendar of events included in this newsletter.

If your birthday is in April and not listed, please contact the church office.