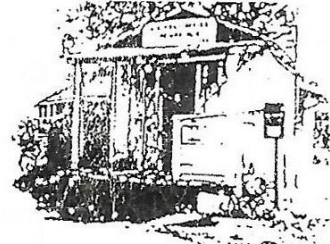


The Acmar Soul Miner

*Searching for wisdom
As for hidden treasures...
For the Lord gives wisdom*



Acmar United Methodist Church May 2020 Vol. 21 Issue 5 Acmar Post Office

Resilient Ancestors

If you haven't seen on YouTube the video "Praise Song for the Pandemic" written and read by Christine Valters Paintner, you are encouraged to do so. Paintner reads:

Give thanks for your ancestors for the wars and plagues they endured and survived, their resilience is in your bones, your blood ... ¹

In May we give thanks for our mothers, their mothers and their mothers. We can go back to the first. Eve was the mother of all living.

***And Adam called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all living.
(Genesis 3:20)***

We give thanks for mothers who crossed bodies of water and barriers of land to make homes. We honor mothers who gave birth and cared for children to make families.

Apostle Paul wrote of an interdependence between men and women. While Adam, the first man, was in a deep sleep, God took a rib from him and formed a woman.

***Nevertheless, neither is man independent of woman, nor woman independent of man, in the Lord. For as woman comes from man, even so man also comes through woman; but all things come from God.
(1 Corinthians 11:11-12)***

Men and women, fathers and mothers, these are our resilient ancestors who endured hardships and struggled against obstacles to give us life and to make our life what it is.

Eve was a mother that touched all of our lives. Another mother that positively impacted all lives was the blessed virgin Mary. She agreed to be the handmaiden of the Lord and give birth to God's Son – her Son and her Lord.

Mary faced the uncertainty of becoming with child without being married. She survived giving birth to her Son in a stable. As if that wasn't enough, when she and Joseph took Jesus to the Temple in Jerusalem to present Him to the Lord, the devout man called Simeon forewarned, "yes, a sword will pierce through your own soul." (Luke 2:35)

Mary's heart was pierced when her Son was mocked, spat upon, beaten and scourged. Her own soul was pierced when her pure Son was crowned with a crown of thorns and nailed to the cross for the sins of all humans.

One of Jesus' last acts from the cross was to lovingly honor and offer care for His mother.

When Jesus therefore saw His mother, and the disciple whom He loved standing by, He said to His mother, "Woman, behold your son!"

***Then Jesus said to the disciple, "Behold your mother!" And from that hour that disciple took her to his own home.
(John 19:26-27)***

A stricken mother's soul was surprised with the others when Jesus emerges from the grave as a Resurrected Savior. Resurrection is the promise for all who claim Jesus as Lord.

Give thanks for mothers and their resiliency.

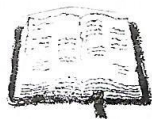
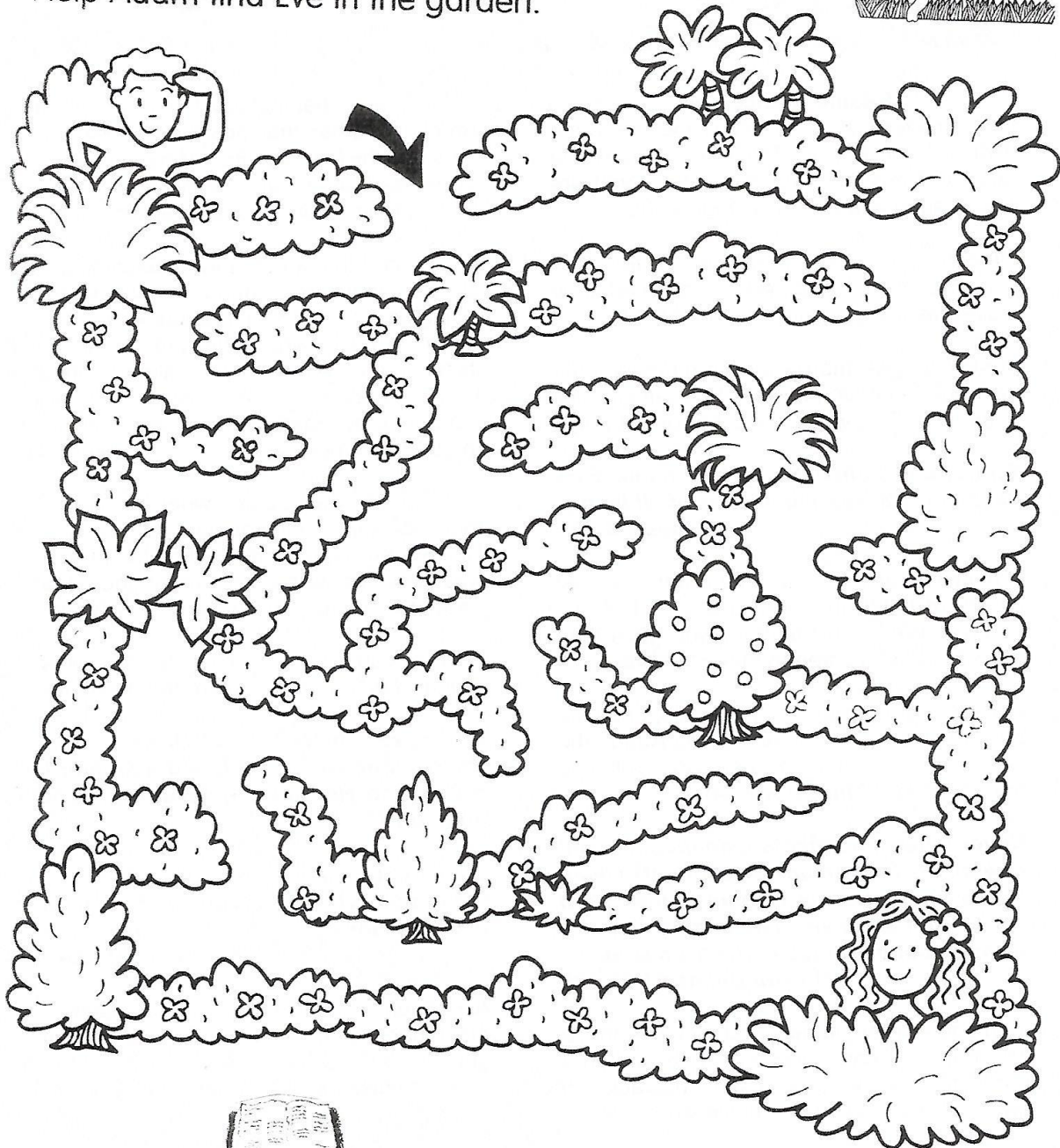
Toward the end of the video Paintner reads:
*And when this has passed,
may we say that love spread more quickly
than any virus ever could.*

¹ "Praise Song for the Pandemic" by Christine Valters Paintner ... The Work of the People ... from Abbey of the Arts and music by Giants & Pilgrims. Youtube.

Children's Camp

Gospel Light's Big Book of Kindergarten Puzzles #2.

Help Adam find Eve in the garden.



Look Here:
*And Adam called his wife's name Eve,
because she was the mother of all living.*
(Genesis 3:20)

Digging In:
Adam was the first man.
Eve was the first woman.
Eve was the first mother.



The Acmar Community Quilt

Several people from the Acmar church and/or the community wanted to share some of their thoughts about this time of quarantine in an effort to feel a little more “connected” as we find our own ways of being alone in this – together.

“I have the springtime picture of Acmar Church in a magnet frame on my refrigerator door. It is a daily blessing to see Donna Turner’s beautiful photography of the church and the wonderful memories it provides. I recently posted this picture on my Facebook page along with a few comments about the history of the church as it relates to the mining community and my family history. I received many positive comments about the photograph as well as wonderful comments about Pastor Belinda Wilson and the church family.” *Terrie Denny*

“Staying home for weeks in this quarantine reminds me of bad weather days when I was a kid. I never liked having to spend the whole day inside because in Acmar, there was too much to do. For a kid like me who would grow up to be a historian, Acmar was a paradise of old ruins and living links to the mining past, like Mr. Martin who lived next door. I was never happier than when I was walking the old railroad beds picking up iron spikes, collecting fossils at the mouths of the abandoned mines, climbing the old sawdust pile, studying the abandoned washing facilities and wondering how they worked, throwing rocks off the dam, hanging out with Mrs. Smith (and her monkey) in the commissary, or trying to read the names of Acmar’s WWII veterans on the old wooden sign. For me, Acmar was the greatest place on earth to grow up, and my heart has never left.”

Jim Baggett

“I have spent most of my time cleaning out and sorting out my house and garage. Trying to do things I have been putting off. I have not had a hug or human contact since March 13. If your spouse, kids or grandkids are driving you nuts right now, think about how much you would miss them as I miss mine. Hugs are so precious! I have lost a very special person in my life. My sweet Mother-in-law, Sarah Payton, passed away on April 19, one day after her 93rd birthday. I am sad that she won’t be here anymore but happy that she is with Bruce and the Lord now. She was ready to go. She loved the Acmar Community Church so much. Much love and stay safe!

Rhonda Payton

“Having been fortunate to have been born in Acmar during the 50’s I have such great memories of all our friends and neighbors there. I know how important great neighbors and friends are! After 40 years in larger cities near Birmingham and Atlanta, I retired to Yonker, Georgia. My neighbors here are a huge reason why I like it here. Yonker and its people remind me so much of the kindness and love I remember from my Acmar extended family always checking up on us and showing love. We even have our version of a Minnie Lee Grocery store! Pastor Belinda Wilson’s mother, Nellie Gooch, had a great line my mother (Billie Grimes) always strived to abide by. “When you know someone needs something – you do it for them as most of the time they will say “no” to the offer”. I’ve always remembered that and as a hobby bread baker, I knew many of my neighbors were having problems finding bread recently. Most said “no” when asked if they needed bread, but I went ahead and provided loaves. Thank you, Nellie, for your words of wisdom. Ya’ll take care!”

Bill Grimes

“It’s a crazy time in the world. I feel like I’m trapped. We’re supposed to be free, but I feel like I’m stuck. But it will get better some day.”

Olivia Champion (Age 8)

“As the week of March 16 began, I made my last visit to the grocery store on that Monday. It was a different shopping trip. My mind was focused on staples, dried beans and canned goods, meats I could make into dishes that I could freeze. I arrived home with the groceries and felt good that we were well stocked and sort of looked forward to having more meals at home. That week was **like being on vacation**, free to do as you wanted, no where you had to go, nothing that had to be done on a time schedule, just sweet freedom. I liked it. The second week, beginning March 23, when the official closures were in place, I became aware of **home as sanctuary**. Since I meet the “at risk” criteria, Steve became the shopper. I took **pleasure in cooking** each day. It was during this week that we realized we had **lost weight**, not because we were dieting, but because our diet had improved. I was so grateful that at this point in my life, I was blessed with a comfortable, safe, secure home that brought me not only shelter but pleasure, and the luxury of retirement. I was also aware of all the young people who were struggling to deal with school closures, day care, whether their job could continue and how they were going to support their families and meet their needs. Also, all the people in the medical community, firemen, police, all those who serve the community, the challenges and dangers they were facing with exposure to the virus as a further danger. My being in sanctuary gave me the opportunity to spend more **time in prayer** for all those, and others, on my heart and mind. The pleasure of **reading scripture** and allowing it to resonate and comfort, not just myself, but reading it for the good of the world during this time, trusting that God will use this for our benefit and good in some way. Psalm 91 has been a regular passage. The fourth week brought Steve’s birthday on April 7th. I arranged a “drive by” birthday gathering and we served pre-sliced cake to each car. This is one he will never forget. The **blessing of friends and family** gave me comfort and strength every day. Finding ways to stay in touch and stay well is a challenge but also, its own comfort. We are all in this together and our Mighty God holds us all in His hands. My prayer continues to be that we are better for this; that we yearn to keep the gifts we have found in this time, by continuing to live in a way that retains them for our good and the good of God’s entire world.”

Cathy Taylor Karr

“Thanks everyone for prayers for my brother, Mike, and continue to pray for him. They have determined that he has blood clots in both lungs (but not related to the virus). He is improving and we hope he’ll get to come home soon. We miss seeing everyone at church.”

Linda Garrett Lee

“My thoughts on this quarantine time? Just my “honey-do” list is considerably shorter now thanks to self quarantine time!”

Henry Turner

“I made a couple of grocery runs for Toni Knie. Toni lives in an apartment at Danberry, but early on they weren’t providing very good meals and no fruit for residents. I talked with Mary Hall, (our late friend, Harriett’s daughter-in-law), and she volunteered to shop every week for Toni. She likes her milk to drink and fruit and cookies. Easy to shop for her basic needs! Mary’s offer was greatly appreciated as Danberry is about an hour from Steele, and Mary is quite a few years younger than I am. She has even delivered flowers along with Toni’s groceries. Toni is making the best of their “lock down”. The Steele Food Pantry operated on schedule April 17. The coordinator, her husband, granddaughter and church member filled bags for the clients. We had bought ahead when stuff was “on sale” so had a pretty good supply of food on hand. They only had four volunteers at the delivery point and 36 vehicles drove up (served 111 people) and had the bags placed in their trunk. Everybody got four bags and large families got five. They did not want to send anybody to Birmingham to pick up food at the food bank in April. For the next pickup, the third Friday (May 15), if anyone would like to donate to the pantry, please make a check payable to Steele UMC (mark “food pantry” in memo line), and mail to Dot LaFerry, 3476 Beason Cove, Steel, AL 35987. Acmar’s support of the Steele Food Pantry is always appreciated!”

Nancy Miller-Borg

"I miss warm hugs! I miss getting to be together with people, I miss grandchildren we can't see. But it's not a bad idea for us to be slowing down and appreciate this opportunity to 'smell the roses'. I miss going to church and hearing Belinda's sermons. Jimmy finds he still gets to hunt and fish, so it's not much different from his regular retirement!"

Karen Byers

"One of my favorite quotes is from Brother David Steindl-Rast, "Another name for God is surprise". Is this not appropriate for the time we are living in right now? Life is surprising and unexpected. We cannot prepare for everything and because this is true these surprising things often jolt us into being reminded that life is so much bigger than us and our plans. I am blessed that with this surprise of the current pandemic I can work from home and stay safe at home, but I do miss the social aspects of life. When I begin to think of what I am missing, I remind myself that I have invisible connections that are strong and alive! I have a connection to a place, family, community, faith and history that I call home. I often find myself homesick for Alabama (even still), but it is so much a part of me that I am never far away from it. During this pandemic I have developed a routine for my days so I can get my work done and so I can stay healthy. One part of this routine is a daily call to my mama (Helen Gable). I look forward to hearing her voice and knowing she is going to be positive about our isolation. And I have hope for the rest of the day. She reminds me of the "home" I carry around with me every day and I am thankful for this. Mother's Day will most likely be different this year as our Easter was, but to my mama I say, "thank you and Happy Mother's Day". I love you mama! Love and prayers to you all after all we are all connected by this "surprise".

Frances Gable Cade

"I miss time with my friends and going to church. I'm reading a lot of books over again. After my recent birthday, if I get lonely, I re-read all the birthday cards my friends have sent."

Helen Gable














"This time has seemed surreal. Is this really happening? Some people are grieving the death of loved ones and others are grieving the loss of cancelled events. Some have slower days and nights while others are overwhelmingly busy. I join others in gratitude for all those who do so much good in our world. During this time, we have recognized how essential many jobs are. It was troubling that churches were classified as 'non-essential.' Aren't we eternally essential? Churches are essential. What is not essential is that we have to gather to worship or to be the hands and feet of Jesus. It seems that it is the coronavirus that has connected the world. It has helped us to recognize how connected we are. In reality, we have already been connected through Jesus. Christians around the world pray that everyone will come to know Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. We know God has exalted Jesus and that every knee should bow and every tongue confess His name."

Belinda Wilson

"I overheard a conversation between Merritt (age 3) and her Barbies in their pink plastic convertible – "We can't go to the park 'cause the c'rona virus will get you!" This has been a real challenge for children. They don't really know what's going on and don't understand the restrictions on so many things that were a part of their 'normal' days. This is something over which they have no control and so few choices. It is a bit ironic for me as most folks my age are getting a little bored with so much time on their hands, while I'm busier than usual keeping my 'grands' most weekdays. Navigating online school has been very complicated for us, and I try to find activities around the house that provide some opportunities for learning. Let's just say that some days are better than others! I can honestly say that I went to church Easter Sunday! (Didn't go in, but planted some plants in the Prayer Garden.) I've been by since on sunny days and it occurred to me that, although the church is closed, the Prayer Garden isn't! So if anyone wants to just get out and go for a ride one sunny afternoon, you'd probably get a good feeling of peace and hope from visiting Acmar church – without even going inside!"

Donna Turner

May 2020 (No Worship or Events Scheduled Due to COVID-19)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
National Day of Prayer Theme: "Pray God's Glory Across the Earth" <i>"For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD as the waters cover the sea." (Habakkuk 2:14)</i>					1  Skyelur Byrd	2
3	4	5	6  Ethan Wilson	7  NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER Don Borg 	8	9
10  MOTHER'S DAY	11	12	13	14	15	16  Kay Hammett
17  Maureen Raines	18  Jeff Reeves William Rowell 	19	20  Nancy Miller-Borg	21	22	23
24	25  MEMORIAL DAY	26	27	28	29	30
31  Pentecost Nolan Carpenter 	Acmar will not gather for worship before May 18. Following health safety guidelines, we will re-evaluate at that time. If you are uncertain about our plans, please call Belinda Wilson at 205 640 6719 (home).					

Mon., April 27
 Tue., April 28
 Wed., April 29
 Thur., April 30
 Fri., May 1
 Sat., May 2

Acts 2:42-47
 Psalm 23
 1 Peter 2:19-25
 John 10:1-10
 Romans 8:12-17
 Luke 15:11-32



Food for the Soul

Mon., May 4
 Tue., May 5
 Wed., May 6
 Thur., May 7
 Fri., May 8
 Sat., May 9

Acts 7:55-60
 Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16
 1 Peter 2:2-10
 John 14:1-14
 1 Peter 2:1-10
 Colossians 1:1-14

Acmar UMC / P.O. Box 85 / 4107 Old Acton Road
 Moody, AL 35004 Phone: 640-4325
 Moody Crossroads / Intersection Hwy. 411/Cty. 10
 Take Cty. 10 W. (Park Ave.) toward Trussville;
 Travel 1 mile; Right on Acmar Rd; travel 2 miles;
 Left onto Old Acton Rd.; Church is on the left

Mon., May 18
 Tue., May 19
 Wed., May 20
 Thur., May 21
 Fri., May 22
 Sat., May 23

Acts 1:1-14
 Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35
 1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11
 John 17:1-11
 Ecclesiastes 4:9-12
 Matthew 6:25-34

Mon., May 11
 Tue., May 12
 Wed., May 13
 Thur., May 14
 Fri., May 15
 Sat., May 16

Acts 17:22-31
 Psalm 66:8-20
 1 Peter 3:13-22
 John 14:15-21
 Psalm 143:5-10
 Matthew 5:1-12

Mon., May 25
 Tue., May 26
 Wed., May 27
 Thur., May 28
 Fri., May 29
 Sat., May 30

Acts 2:1-21
 Psalm 104:24-34, 35b
 1 Corinthians 12:3b-13
 John 7:37-39
 Philippians 4:10-19
 Hebrews 12:4-11