



# DEEP ROOTS VISIBLE GRACE

July 2020

A newsletter for the families and  
friends of New Market UMC.

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Greetings Church,

Is this some kind of year or what? Many are prone to say that Jesus is just about to step around the corner and reveal God's glory and take all of us home. That would be fantastic, but maybe we are to gird our loins, humble our preconceived opinions and engage in the difficult discussions and actions that can bring equity and justice for all.

In the Hebrew Scriptures the prophet Micah gives us a simple but incredibly challenging formula for holiness. He writes,

"... This is what Yahweh asks of you: Only this, to act justly, to love tenderly, and to walk humbly with your God."  
(Micah 6:8)

This is the spirit that I hope all of you will bring to the discussion of racism and racial justice in our church and in our society. We cannot be a church that is true to the demands of the Gospel if we do not act justly, if we do not act to root out racism in the structures of our society, our church and ourselves, then we cannot begin to aspire to personal holiness if we do not love tenderly, if we do not love and respect all human beings, regardless of their race, language, or ethnic heritage.

Only if we do these things can we expect to walk humbly with our God. For our God is a God of love and justice, a God who made all of us in His image. Racism is a denial of that fact. It is an offense against God. I realize that the subject of race can be an exceedingly difficult one for all of us. Yet I am convinced that we must address it with honesty and courage. For it remains a significant and sinful reality in our midst.

I am issuing this pastoral letter as an invitation to discussion and dialogue. I hope all of you will accept this invitation by taking part in discussions in our parish and our community. By engaging in such a dialogue, we can all enhance our understanding of the role that race plays in our lives, and we can join together in working to combat racism in all its forms.

I have begun discussions with myself (I know that surprises no one) on how racism was deeply embedded in my early life not out of hate but misunderstanding. I am now on the path to better educate and understand myself and I invite you to come with me on this journey. Beginning July 8, every Wednesday at 12:00 p.m. there will be an open zoom meeting for open discussion. Our resource to begin with will be "The World as We Know It" a study on justice in a scriptural view. All participants must speak with love, with respect, and with the humbleness that we may not always agree with one another, but we must always love one another. A download of this study and the zoom link are below.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70a0948acac2ba7ff2-roar>

<https://www.cru.org/content/dam/cru/legacy/2012/02/IJM-Social-Justice-Bible-Studies-Revised.pdf>

Thank you for your commitment to the values of human dignity and racial justice.

God bless you,

Pastor Scott Clawson

## Important Worship Venue Changes begin Sunday, July 5<sup>th</sup>

The Home Safe Team convened yesterday to determine if the team felt that we could safely hold worship in the sanctuary in the coming months.

The decision was made to continue outdoor worship services for the 9:30 a.m. worship hours for the rest of summer and into fall. The team also felt confident that we could safely hold worship in the sanctuary for the 11:00 a.m. service only.

The team felt that this decision can serve our diverse congregation the best. For those who enjoy and feel safer in an outdoor setting please continue to support and sign up for the 9:30 a.m. service in the parking lot. If you wish to worship in a conditioned indoor setting sign up for the 11:00 a.m. service. We have placed the following requirements to insure everyone's safety to the best of the team's ability.

1. Please take your temperature at home. If it is registering out of your normal range, please stay home. If you have a fever, feel ill, or feel you are at high risk for COVID-19, please stay home and worship with us online.
2. Please wear a mask from the moment you leave your car until you return to your car.
3. Please maintain 6 feet of physical distance from all those that do not live in your home. (Pews have been separated in the sanctuary to maintain this safe distance.)
4. Please refrain from all physical contact including handshakes, hugs, etc. Air hugs are great!!
5. Please wash your hands with soap and water or utilize hand sanitizer every time you enter our building. (Touchless sanitizer dispensers will be available when you enter and exit the building)
6. Please ensure that children 5<sup>th</sup> grade and younger are always accompanied by an adult who is mindful of their physical distancing and hand/face hygiene.
7. Bathrooms will be available with sanitation stations in each one.
8. All doors will remain open before and after the service for safe entry and will be clearly labeled entrance and exit only. The stairs to the loft are similarly marked.
9. No congregational singing is allowed at this time.
10. Hymnals and Bibles and all paper products have been removed from the pews. A screen and projector is set up in the front of the sanctuary for the congregants to follow the worship schedule and to see the words of the hymns.
11. A collection plate is located at the exit doors for those who brought their collections to the church.
12. In order to make sure we have a place for you and your family and to adhere to the CDC guidelines of contact tracing, you must sign up that you are attending either service by registering online or calling the church office.
13. To facilitate social distancing, please park in the open parking spaces (every other space is closed). We know that each family has developed its own guidelines for their family based on their needs. While on our property, we appreciate everyone's cooperation following these precautions to keep our community safe. Please know these guidelines may be stricter than mandated. Our priority is your health.





## Summer 2020 Flat Jesus!!

More than ever this year we need to remember that Jesus is always with us. So, it is exciting to kick-off our third year of Flat Jesus!! If you have one from the last two years, dust him off and start taking him with you and sending us your pictures. If you need a new one or haven't done this before a file is attached.

Download, color and laminate him if you want.

**How It Works:** Take Flat Jesus along on your summer adventures near and far. Take a picture to

share with our church family. Pictures will be shared on our church Facebook and church website. Please let us know where the picture was taken! Email pictures and a brief description to [hometownchurch@comcast.net](mailto:hometownchurch@comcast.net) or text them to Kelly Herzing at 410-746-4181.

If you do not want your child's picture to be on social media, you can be creative in how you take the picture or just let us know not to post, but we still hope you will send it so we know all of the adventures this summer's Flat Jesus takes.

If you have any questions, contact Donna Clawson at [declawson16@gmail.com](mailto:declawson16@gmail.com) or 301-418-0863.

### Events for July

Stay tuned in July as Miss Donna will be setting up a "Take Out Church", it is a pizza box that will contain worksheets, crafts, and a few surprises for the summer. This is perfect for stay at home or to take with you on your vacation!

#### HOPE 4 KIDS UPDATE

In case you are wondering about our Hope 4 Kids students during the summertime, Frederick County Public Schools will be providing weekday meals at 20 locations throughout the county. In the past, they have not had near as many sites. New Market Shopping Center, Lucus Village and Spring Ridge Elementary are among the added locations.

Hope 4 Kids was proud to be able to help support, with funds and food, the Thursday food mission this spring which helped to feed Frederick families. Hope 4 Kids is gearing up for the fall. Please look for announcements in the months to come.

### Online Bible study on Justice

Beginning July 8, every Wednesday at 12:00 p.m. there will be an open zoom meeting for open discussion. Our resource, to begin with, will be **"The World as We Know It"** a study on justice in a scriptural view. All participants must speak with love, with respect, and with the humbleness that we may not always agree with one another, but we must always love one another. For a download of this study [Click Here](#) and the zoom link [Click Here](#).

Thank you for your commitment to the values of human dignity and racial justice.



### Crossroads Freedom Center

Luke Summers, Greg Novotny and Pastor Scott started painting the rooms of the cottage at Crossroads Freedom Center two weeks ago. Pastor Scott will be returning to apply a second coat on Tuesday, July 7<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m. to 1 p.m. If you are interested in helping with this vital mission, please reply to this email or contact Pastor Scott. Crossroads Freedom Center is an addiction recovery home and is located at: 4730 Ijamsville Road, Ijamsville, MD 21754



### New Market UMC Gardens

The education building and schoolhouse flower gardens need a little pruning and TLC. If you are interested let the main office know and when you may be present to do the work. We give you are thanks in advance.



### 9:30 a.m. Outdoor Worship Service set up.

Joe Shaw, who along with his daughter Erica, oversee setting up and tearing down of the systems for the 9:30 a.m. Outdoor worship service. Joe will not be available on Sunday August 9<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>. We are looking for a volunteer to help with this set up. Minor lifting required. Arrival for the set up should be at 8:30 a.m. each Sunday. Please contact the church office if you can volunteer.

### Sunday Worship Helpers

If you would like to volunteer for reading liturgy and scripture during the 9:30 or 11:00 a.m. services, please contact the main office.

**Pastor Scott Clawson**  
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