



A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF  
THE BALTIMORE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
IN THE TOWN OF EAST BEND, NC

Volume 1 Issue 11

JULY 2020

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### 4 Signs God is at Work in the Chaos of COVID-19

It's still so hard for me to wrap my mind around the reality that COVID-19 has flipped our world upside down. Living in California, we are watching the restrictions on daily life grow tighter and tighter. It seems unreal, like a scary movie.

We are undoubtedly witnessing history in the making. Years from now, scholars and historians will analyze the effects of COVID-19 on our society, economy, mental health, physical health, and our spirituality. In many ways, the world has been caught by surprise.

But God most certainly has not. Even in the midst of chaos, make no mistake, God is at work. His plans will not be thwarted and his people will not be overcome.

Here are 4 signs God is at work in the chaos of COVID-19.

#### 1. Greater Openness to the Gospel

History has shown that people are more open to

religion during times of crisis and instability. We can all empathize and relate to lost and confused hearts looking for answers. It's become clear for all of us that regardless of how much we plan, strategize, and think ahead, we can't control what happens to us and around us.

People are searching for hope in the midst of chaos. And studies show part of that search includes religion. It might seem like bad timing for people to be more open to the gospel, because churches are closed. But the opposite couldn't be more true. Though we don't understand it, God's timing is perfect.

We live during a time when people are less likely to walk into a church because of how foreign and intimidating it might feel. But that isn't stopping us from sharing the gospel. As believers in Jesus, we have an opportunity to minister and share the truth of Jesus like never before. God is on the move and we can be part of the work he is doing. We are all witnessing a pandemic, so we are all standing on common ground. There is an opportunity to share with friends and family why you aren't paralyzed by fear.

Let your peace be a testimony to the truth of Jesus. This is a time when more people are open to hear about Jesus and it's time for believers in Jesus to start sharing.

#### 2. Community Is Stronger Than Ever

It's quite astonishing how connected people are even when they are unable to see one another in-person. God is at work drawing people together during a time of crisis. Say what you will about technology, but it has been a true benefit for families, friends, and churches to stay connected during a time of social distancing. Our innate need to stay in community has become apparent and people are longing to stay connected. People are finding ways to be intentional in their communication through Zoom calls, FaceTime, and other creative ways. Even social media is being used to encourage one another.

In this time of social distancing we are being reminded that we were never meant to live in isolation. Part of being created in the image of God is being designed for community. God even said, man was

*Continued on page 11*



Pastor  
Pastor Chad Shoaf

Administrative Council Chair  
Brian Logan

Treasurer  
Kelly Speer

SPPRC Chair  
Avalon Doub

Parsonage Chair  
Bill McMurray

Nurture  
Michelle Doub

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Witness  
TBD

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Pastor Chad

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Bill Griffin

Finance Committee Chair  
Ernie Hiatt

Finance Secretary  
Shirley Doub

Member Secretary  
Debbie Griffin

Council Secretary  
Deborah Wyatt

**THE UPPER ROOM**  
Pray with us.

MONDAY, WEDNESDAY, FRIDAY  
12:00 PM  
4 Signs God  
f LIVE THE UPPER ROOM

**Like us on Facebook**

The Upper Room is committed to praying with you during this season of uncertainty and isolation. We will be hosting a moment of prayer on Facebook Live on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays at 12 PM. Join Us!



## Administrative Council Meeting Minutes 6/24/2020

United We Read is postponed until next year, however, BUMC's three year commitment is still valid. Next year's program, instead of this year's, will be considered year two of the commitment. The grant funds for this year have been received but will be held in a bank account until next year.

Vacation Bible School (VBS), as it has usually been done, has been canceled. People are still looking into options, perhaps on a smaller scale, for children and seniors.

Due to the virus, the Finance Committee has not been able to conduct the audit of BUMC's finances which they had intended to.

The Nominations Committee is still looking for a people to manage the Outreach and Witness Committees. Also, there are people rolling off of other committees at the end of this year and they will need to be replaced by new people. The Nominations Committee is looking for people who would be a good fit for these openings.

Pastor Chad is following the guidelines of the Western North Carolina Conference (WNCC) for managing worship during COVID-19. WNCC is not recommending worship during Stage 2 of North Carolina's COVID-19 mitigation protocol. Most likely BUMC will continue outdoor services through the end of July at the bare minimum.

The Rise Against Hunger (RAH) initiative has been put on hold. Rise Against Hunger coordinates the making of 20,000 meals to be sent overseas. BUMC has allocated \$4K for 10,000 meals.

Because of the virus, several ladies have been sewing face masks and have been sending out cards to shut-ins and vulnerable people who can't go out. If anyone knows of other ways BUMC could reach out to these folks or if they are aware of needs in this community that are going unmet, please make Pastor Chad aware.

The Sunday School booklets came in but were sent back as we don't expect to be resuming Sunday School anytime soon. There should be enough unused material in our old booklets to hold us over while we order and await for new books when Sunday School resumes. *Continued on page 6*



## Sunday Lectionary Readings



### 5th Sunday after Pentecost July 5, 2020

Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67  
Psalm 45: 10-17,  
or Psalm 72  
Romans 7:15-25a  
Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

### 6th Sunday after Pentecost July 12, 2020

Genesis 25:19-34  
Psalm 119:105-112,  
or Psalm 25  
Romans 8:1-11  
Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

### 7th Sunday after Pentecost July 19, 2020

Genesis 28:10-19a  
Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24  
Romans 8:12-25  
Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

### 8th Sunday after Pentecost July 26, 2020

Genesis 29:15-28  
Psalm 105:1-11, 45b  
Romans 8:26-39  
Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

## Drive-Thru Food Drive for Yadkin Christian Ministries

Sunday, July 19, 4-6 PM  
at YCM East Bend (118 E NC 67)

Most critical needs: cereal, saltine crackers,  
canned and dried pintos, personal/hygiene items  
(shampoo, toilet paper, etc.)

**SPONSORED BY EAST BEND UNITED - THE UNITED  
METHODIST CHURCHES OF EAST BEND**



**We'll have volunteers practicing safe social distancing to  
greet you and collect donations! Help us help our neighbors!**



## Upcoming Webinars

### Normal vs. Not Normal Aging and Keys to Connecting with Someone Living with Dementia

**DATE:** Friday, July 10, 2020

**TIME:** 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM

**PRESENTERS:** Scott Hughes, Shelly Edwards

This session helps learners understand and recognize the differences in “normal” and “not normal” aging. The learner will develop better observational skills to recognize and intervene effectively when behavioral challenges occur. Learners will also develop new skills related to approach, cuing, and ability to connect with people affected by dementia. The session emphasizes the value of matching helping behaviors to the person’s needs and retained abilities to promote a sense of control and self-direction.

Shelly Edwards is a Positive Approach certified trainer and consultant who has specialized in dementia caregiver support for thirteen years. She is the Development Coordinator for Positive Approach, which is the organization headed by Teepa Snow, who is regarded as the leading dementia trainer and consultant around the world. She has been a trainer for Oregon Care Partners since its inception in 2014, providing classes about dementia, challenging behaviors, and communication skills for care partners of all types. Shelly is a member of Portland First United Methodist Church.

**SIGN UP:** <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/calendar/event/normal-vs-not-normal-aging-and-keys-to-connecting-with-someone-living-with-dementia/>

“Pray to your  
Heavenly Father. . . .  
He will open doors,  
remove roadblocks,  
and help you  
overcome obstacles.”

— Elder Neil L. Andersen



LDS.org

© 2013 IRI



## East Bend Farm Adds Saving Souls to its Mission

The six-acre farm Randy and Paula Borton moved to in 2007 looks a lot like those belonging to their neighbors in eastern Yadkin County. The living space inside the rambling, five-bedroom farmhouse is tidy and neatly kept. The kitchen is spacious, well-used and inviting; the adjacent dining room holds a large table more than adequate for feeding a large family. Outside, the Bortons keep an assortment of animals — chickens, goats and alpacas (small llamas) — and a good-sized vegetable garden. The grass stays mowed and the flower beds weeded. Leaves, as soon as they fall, are blown into neat piles. Picnic tables, a swing hanging from a large tree near the road and a hand-crafted sign announcing the name of the farm, Solus Christus, round out an idyllic scene worthy of a postcard.

There is one thing that distinguishes the Bortons farm from others. They're not raising a family, not in the traditional sense. Nor are they terribly interested in growing crops. They're trying to save the lost souls of drug addicts and alcoholics. There was no one bolt of lightning, no road to Damascus moment that caused the Bortons to dedicate their lives to what some might think is a losing proposition. Rather, it was a gradual process, a persistent calling that led them to plunk down \$220,000 at a real-estate auction in 2007. "Paula always had the heart for mission work," said Randy Borton, 60, one recent afternoon while sitting under a shade tree at Solus Christus. "Me, my heart was always after doing business. I wanted to build my kingdom here on earth." And build he did.

Randy Borton left his native Michigan in 1979, headed to Florida with \$13,000 — his life's savings — and a plan to open a doughnut shop. A little more than three years later, he had six stores

selling doughnuts and pizza to snow-birds. "It just shows you how driven I was to succeed in business," he said. "I worked night and day to accomplish that." He sold them in 1983, and decided the next year to move to Winston-Salem to be closer to Paula's relatives. They moved into in a seven-bedroom, four-bath home in the West End neighborhood, and Randy Borton set about looking for his next business opportunity.

Eventually he decided to manufacture and market snack cakes, a business he still runs in Winston-Salem. "In my late 40s or early 50s, I started to feel God's pull in my heart," Randy Borton said. "I



continued to live my life the way I had before but I knew my time was running out." At some point, a verse from Matthew 13 caught his eye. "The kingdom of heaven is life treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field." "Let me put it this way," he said. "I was not running in my joy to sell what I had." But he was thinking. And that was a start.

About 10 years ago, Randy Borton made a decision. He would listen to that internal pull and do something different. "I asked God to change my life so I didn't die with regrets," he said. The next day, he says, he met a man on the street and struck up a conversation. The man was a cocaine addict; he'd been living in a rooming house for years, surround-

ed by others caught in the same cycle. "I tell people that Noah built the ark and took in his charges two by two," he said. "At one point we had 20 sleeping on floors in our house."

For five years, the Bortons opened their home. They learned the ins and outs of the legal system, and learned much about the world of clinics and rehab centers. There is almost always a wait to get a bed in rehab; finding a serene, safe place to stay until then is difficult. "If they want help, there is a short window of time to find it," said Paula Borton. "The wait can be three or four months." Throughout the learning process, the Bortons figured out that women almost always have it tougher than men and that fewer resources targeted females with addiction problems. At that point, the mission became clear. The Bortons needed to open a safe place for women who want help with their addictions and combine it with their deep Christian faith. "We wanted it to serve as a sort of bridge until we can find them a spot in a Christian rehab center," Paula Borton

said.

The next step for the Bortons was expanding. They learned about the property in Yadkin County and decided to attend the auction in fall 2007. "We showed up with the \$220,000 figure in mind," Randy Borton said. "We got within \$2,000 (at \$218,000) and I said, 'This is my last bid.'" The Bortons offered the \$220,000. No one matched, and the gavel came down. Sold to the couple from Winston-Salem.

What happened over the next few weeks defies conventional explanation. Paula Borton incorporated Solus Christus as a nonprofit and they started to work transforming the house and grounds. Little by little, things started happening.

*Continued on page 5*

Furnishings showed up. A 12-passenger van and a pickup truck were donated. Church groups started coming by to offer help; a new roof, front porch and a sidewalk were added. Fencing for the animals was built. One afternoon while the Bortons were painting inside, a man pulled up in a large truck and started pouring a new gravel driveway. "He said he'd been clean for 20 years and had heard about what we were doing," Randy Borton said. "We never asked for a thing. Everything we needed showed up in two weeks. It just happened."

The next summer, a group from Pinedale Christian Church in Winston-Salem came by to see what could be done. The members wound up constructing a 1,500-square foot activity building complete with offices, restrooms and meeting space. All the while, the Bortons were taking in women seeking to help themselves. Soon their contacts in Christian rehab centers began referring women on their waiting lists. The project snowballed. Since 2007, more than 450 women have come through Solus Christus.

While they're waiting for a place in rehab, the women at the farm do chores for three hours a day. They take classes taught by volunteers and study their Bibles. They support and encourage one another. "Until I got here, I didn't have peace in my heart," said Sandra Butler, 45, a recovering alcoholic from Bladen County, who has since joined the staff. "This means everything to me. This ministry is my heart. When I saw how they'd given up their lives, I knew this was real." In exchange, the Bortons ask that the women (or their loved ones) come up with \$50 a week. But that's no deal-breaker; no one truly seeking help is turned away.

Donations are always welcome, and the Bortons opened a thrift store by the same name in downtown Winston-Salem to help raise money to support the farm. (*Note: the thrift store has since relocated to Pfafftown.*)

There are still obstacles. Fuel and food are expensive. And the tranquility of the farm is occasionally broken by dust-ups caused by women burdened by the stress of detoxification and making wholesale changes to their lives. But whatever the difficulties, the payoff is well worth it. "To see the change in these women's lives is incredible," said Paula Borton. "This is a wonderful thing to be part of," said Randy Borton, finishing the thought for his wife. "Christ is walking among the least of us, women who are dealing with the biggest struggle of their lives. God shows up fastest for them."

*Article written by:*

Scott Sexton  
Winston-Salem Journal  
Nov 17, 2012

[https://www.journalnow.com/news/local/east-bend-farm-adds-saving-souls-to-its-mission/article\\_5df7de78-310c-11e2-bbca-001a4bcf6878.html](https://www.journalnow.com/news/local/east-bend-farm-adds-saving-souls-to-its-mission/article_5df7de78-310c-11e2-bbca-001a4bcf6878.html)

# Solus Christus Donations are greatly Appreciated!

## *Current Wish List*

**Office paper, Kleenex, toilet paper,  
paper towels, napkins**

**Allergy meds, cold/cough meds, band  
aids, decongestant meds (non-  
drowsy), bug repellant, vitamins**

**Food: perishables and non-perishable**

**Trash bags, tall kitchen bags  
and big black bags**

**Laundry detergent pods,  
dishwasher pods**

**Food Lion gift cards**

**Cleaning supplies, furniture polish,  
bathroom cleaner, Windex,  
floor cleaner**

**Makeup, accessories,  
nail clippers, tweezers**

**First Aid supplies**

**Calling cards for ladies going to rehab**

**Glue, glue sticks,  
Feminine products**

**Hair conditioner**

**Bring donations to the Solus Christus Thrift Store:**

**6208 Yadkinville Road, Pfafftown, NC 27040  
P: 336-837-4433, Hours: Tues – Sat 10-4**

**NOTIFY STAFF DONATIONS ARE FOR THE FARM**

# What's happening

## July 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4 
5	6	7				
12	13					
19 	20					
26	27	28				
				30	31	

### *Council Meeting Minutes continued from page 2*

The church is scheduled to be professionally sanitized/cleaned from June 29 through July 1 in preparation for returning to indoor worship as is recommended by WNCC guidelines.

The BUMC van was hit while it was parked in the BUMC parking lot. It sustained \$2,700 worth of damage which the insurance company covered. Repairs should begin the week of June 29th.

The trustees have found a repairman who will fix the roof leak. The work has not been scheduled yet.

Replacing the heat pumps has been put on the back burner until we get closer to resuming indoor worship.

The trustees have gotten estimates for pouring the concrete in the area between the church and fellowship hall. No further action has been taken on this.

The United Methodist Men are planning to resume meeting monthly, without serving breakfast. An outdoor meeting was scheduled for Sunday, June 28th at 8:30 AM.

The Scouts are planning on resuming meetings (outside) on Monday evenings. They need to plan for the summer camp which the troop still wants to attend.

The United Methodist Youth would like to get together before the end of the summer.

No action has been taken on the issue of whether or not BUMC should get involved in sponsoring people who would like to participate in the Emmaus walk.

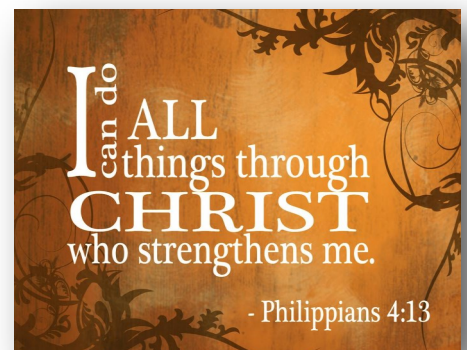
Pastor Chad will be away from July 11th through July 22nd. Services on July 12th and 19th will be conducted by Avalon Doub and Steve Gentry. Pastor Chad will pre-record a message for those Sundays to be aired on Facebook and YouTube.

Kelly Speer will procure sanitizing products to be used before and after indoor worship services. It is getting difficult to find hand sanitizers and sanitizing wipes but WNCC recommends we have a 3 month supply on hand when we resume indoor worship.

The stationary camera that the council voted to procure and install in the back of the church (to continue online streaming wor-

ship services after we resume indoor worship) is slated for installation in late July or early August.

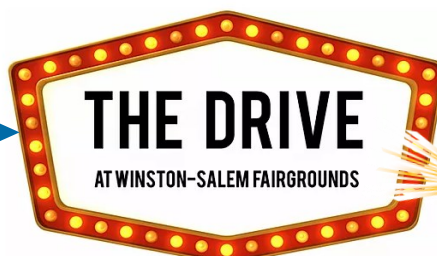
Our budget is still behind compared to last year. Through 6/21/2020, the financial needs of BUMC amounted to \$81,692. A total of \$67,642 was collected, which left us \$14,050 under budget. However, BUMC received a grant of \$9,500 which brought us to \$4,550 under budget for the year. WNCC has committed to covering Pastor Chad's pension and health costs for three months: July, August, and September. Since the facilities have been closed, we are saving money on monthly expenses like janitorial services, music, and power.







# Are you bored? Looking for summer fun?



Get Out, Drive In



2886 Shorefair Drive, Winston-Salem, NC 27105

## HOW ABOUT GOING TO AN OLD FASHIONED DRIVE-IN MOVIE? IT'S COVID-19 SAFE AND FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!

**When:** July 7th - July 28th. Closed Sundays & Mondays. Doors open at 7:30 PM, show starts at 8:30 PM.

**Where:** Midway at the Winston-Salem Fairgrounds. Enter Gate 7 off Shorefair Drive (2886 Shorefair Drive, Winston-Salem, NC 27105)



### Weekday Prices:

Kids (age 5-11) – \$7

Adults (Age 12 & over) – \$8.50

4/6 Pack \$7.50

### Weekend Prices:

Kids (age 5-11) – \$8.50

Adult (Age 12 & over) – \$10.50

4/6 Pack \$9.00

**Tickets:** Advance ticket purchases are highly encouraged to ensure a touch free experience. If you do not purchase tickets in advance, there will be limited staff and availability to assist with on-site ticket purchases. Children age four and under are free.

The Drive is a socially distanced drive-in movie venue set on the midway of the Winston-Salem Fairgrounds. The Drive offers outdoor fun in a safe environment.

Beginning with a touch-free ticketing system, your health and safety are considered in every step of The Drive experience.

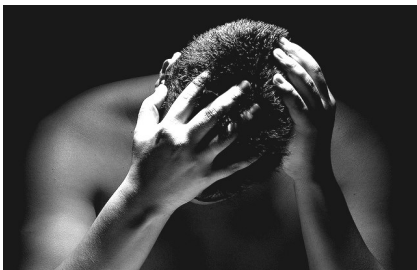
Large parking places allow for room to enjoy the movie – much more space than your average drive-in. Each space is properly distanced from neighboring spaces by at least eight feet. Concession are sold by Carolina Classic Fair concession vendors. Food and beverages, including beer and wine, can be ordered by a mobile app and delivered directly to your vehicle. Set up camp in a large, socially distanced parking space and enjoy the entertainment without leaving your spot. Everything you need is delivered to your parking space!

Huge, 40ft by 20ft screens and cinema quality movie projectors combine for an excellent viewing experience. Crisp FM audio will be transmitted directly to car radios or FM radio devices. Health and safety focused rules, regulations and protocols are an important part of The Drive's DNA. We are here to provide an outdoor entertainment experience where everyone can relax and enjoy a movie with family and friends!

For more info on the movies playing and/or purchasing tickets online, visit [thedrivemovie.com](http://thedrivemovie.com)

### Tired of Missing In-Person Church Because of Covid-19?

All worship services at BUMC are conducted outside on the lawn for now and most likely will continue this way through the end of July, at a bare minimum. Of course, this arrangement is definitely not ideal for everyone. If you'd like to attend services in person but can't manage traipsing across the lawn or don't want to be in any proximity to other people, consider parking around the lower lot and remaining in your car for the service. Pastor Chad's robust sound system can be heard far and wide so you won't miss one word! Think about it!



# Five Truths About Christian Suffering

Between COVID-19, the anarchy that is spreading to American cities, the looming recession, and the angry rhetoric that characterizes political discourse today, it's no wonder that many people are left suffering from anxiety and depression. The thing to remember is that all Christians will experience suffering at some point in their lives. We are told that it is "through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God" (Acts 14:22). This reality is a stark reminder that we have not reached the new heavens and new earth. The New Jerusalem of no tears and no pain, of no mourning and no death, hasn't arrived yet (Revelation 21:1, 4). But just because we experience suffering as we await the redemption of our bodies, it doesn't mean that our suffering is random or without purpose. And neither does it mean that Scripture doesn't tell us how to think about our suffering now.

Here are five important biblical truths about suffering every Christian should have ready:

## 1. Suffering is multifaceted.

Suffering has many faces. The Bible doesn't whitewash our experience of suffering by saying that it's all of one stripe. Rather, it recognizes the multifaceted ways that suffering can come upon us. The apostle Paul wrote, "We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed" (2 Corinthians 4:8–9). In these two verses, Paul lists several types of suffering — mental, physical, emotional, and spiritual. Each of these are different ways that we can suffer, and when suffering comes, often several of these types of suffering are involved.

## 2. Suffering happens in community.

Christians still suffer as we wait for Jesus to return, but none of our suffering is random or without purpose. The

church is not meant to be a loosely bound association of functional Lone Rangers. Paul confronts that type of thinking when he writes, "Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ" (Galatians 6:2). The church is meant to be a refuge for those suffering. When a member is hurting, the church applies the bandages; when a member is down, the church encourages; when a member is in need, the church comes alongside to help.

## 3. Suffering equips us for ministry.

Firsthand experience in suffering is essential in equipping us for ministry. Paul writes in 2 Corinthians 1:4 that God "comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God." But how? And what is the link between experiencing suffering and equipping for ministry? David Powlison answers this way: When you've passed through your own fiery trials, and found God to be true to what he says, you have real help to offer. You have firsthand experience of both his sustaining grace and his purposeful design. He has kept you through pain; he has reshaped you more into his image. . . . What you are experiencing from God, you can give away in increasing measure to others. You are learning both the tenderness and the clarity necessary to help sanctify another person's deepest distress. (*Suffering and the Sovereignty of God*, 166)

## 4. Suffering is a battleground.

Wherever there is suffering, there is a battle — a battle for your soul. The book of Job shows us there can be two ways to respond to suffering: one that curses God because of suffering and one that praises God, even in the midst of suffering (*Job 2:9–10*).

## 5. Suffering prepares

us for more glory.

God says a lot about suffering in Scripture so that you know where to look when the pain comes to you. One of the counterintuitive truths about suffering is that it prepares Christians for more glory. Paul writes in 2 Corinthians 4:17–18, "This light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal." These verses are like sandpaper on our modern sentiments about suffering. We naturally try to avoid suffering at all costs. But God brings suffering in our lives for the sake of our eternal joy — yes, even glory.

Joseph Scheumann  
(@JosephScheumann) is a graduate  
of Bethlehem College & Seminary.  
He and his wife live in Arkansas.

<https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/five-truths-about-christian-suffering>

HOME  
OF ★ THE  
FREE  
BECAUSE  
OF ★ THE  
BRAVE





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# JULY BIRTHDAYS

Brianna Doub	7/3
Ray Griffin	7/9
Avalon Doub	7/10
Jacob Doub	7/10
Stephanie Bruce Hyatt	7/11
Jack Logan	7/11
Ann Matthews	7/13
Garry Wyatt	7/18
Bethany Vestal	7/27
Stacey Young	7/28
Anita Sikes	7/24
Josh Binkley	7/25



## HOW TO START A FRESH EXPRESSION (IN A PANDEMIC)

Are you feeling called to start a new community in this time of isolation? Is your church looking for ways to shift from a large gathering to a network of lay-led small worship gatherings? Fresh expressions offers a practical framework for starting small gatherings that connect with folks outside the church. Join us for a four-part interactive conversation about creating communities that have the potential to become church led by Luke Edwards.

### Schedule:

- July 6: Getting Started
- July 13: Creating a Community
- July 20: Introducing Discipleship
- July 27: Becoming Church

We'll gather every Monday morning in July at 10 AM on Zoom.

### Register at:

<https://wnc-reg.brtapp.com/startafreshexpression> to receive the Zoom link and replay links (if you can't make a session live).

the Lord

is my *light &*

*my salvation*

whom shall I fear?

the Lord is the

*stronghold*

of

my life.

Whom shall I be afraid?

*psalm 27:1*

*But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.*

*Galatians 5:22-23.*



## Current State - Updated June 24, 2020

<b>Worship</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We <b>do not</b> recommend returning to indoor worship at this time.</li> <li>Continue hosting online, drive-in, or outdoor worship services while following <a href="#">CDC</a>, <a href="#">state</a> and local guidelines, including handwashing, wearing masks, and observing physical distancing rules.</li> <li>Most experts recommend no congregational or full choir singing at this time.</li> </ul>
<b>Preschools, Children &amp; Youth</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Generally, most of our preschools, childcare, children and youth ministries follow public school guidance. As you plan for the Fall, we urge you to be aware of the plan your local school system will be adopting. <a href="#">The CDC</a> and <a href="#">NCDHHS</a> have strict guidelines for reopening of preschools and childcare facilities in order to assist with children of essential workers and to provide support and enrichment for children and families in need. It is difficult for children and youth to practice social distancing. If you plan to reopen any preschools, childcare, or children/youth activities prior to public schools reopening, we ask you to be in touch with your District Superintendent.</li> <li>Consider creative online children VBS and youth activity options to keep children and youth engaged, making sure to honor the On-Line Safety section of the <a href="#">Safe Sanctuaries Policy</a>.</li> </ul>
<b>Mission &amp; Outreach</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No mission trips including youth trips are recommended through the summer.</li> <li>All outreach to vulnerable populations (food distribution ministries, homeless, etc.) should be done with appropriate physical distance and sanitation practices, including no sit-down meals until public gatherings are safe.</li> </ul>
<b>Church Staff</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Working remotely is still recommended.</li> <li>If staff (paid or unpaid) work on-site, you must use the guidelines for size of gatherings, social distancing, masks, gloves, etc. Their presence on-site should be done with minimal overlap. We recommend a daily health-screening and temperature check for on-site staff and volunteers. (<a href="#">Legal and Liability Issues</a>)</li> </ul>
<b>Discipleship Formation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Groups should meet online as much as possible.</li> <li>In person meetings should be 10 or less and must follow Safe Sanctuaries policies and all CDC Guidelines for physical distancing. No food should be served or shared during these gatherings.</li> </ul>
<b>Leadership, Teams &amp; Committees</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Groups should meet online as much as possible.</li> <li>In person meetings should be 10 or less and must follow Safe Sanctuaries policies and all CDC Guidelines for physical distancing. No food should be served or shared during these gatherings.</li> </ul>

## What other forms of worship gathering may be acceptable?

The following are forms of worship gathering that may be considered. However, the required safety precautions in the checklist for each worship alternative listed below must be met. **These guidelines will be reviewed and revised regularly based on updated information.**

Worship Options	
<b>Drive-in Church/ Outdoor Worship</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use FM transmitter or PA system.</li> <li>Ensure that members remain in their vehicles, maintain physical distancing, and are only with people from their own household.</li> <li>Restrooms should remain closed at all times.</li> <li>Masks are recommended for outdoor worship.</li> <li>Worshippers should bring their own chairs.</li> <li>Take attendance for contact tracing in the event an attendee tests positive for COVID-19.</li> </ul>
<b>House Churches</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Encourage worshippers to gather in homes in groups of 10 or less to worship together with your online worship service.</li> <li>Encourage those who live near one another to gather close by, use neighborhood club houses, etc.</li> <li>Use church leaders as hosts to provide hospitality, etc.</li> </ul> <p><b>Note:</b> These house gatherings should adhere to the Safe Sanctuaries Policy and follow CDC guidelines for physical distancing. No food should be served or shared.</p>
<b>Funeral Services</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maximum 50 persons allowed in service ONLY IF physical distancing can be ensured or unless sitting with persons from their own household.</li> <li>Masks should be worn by participants.</li> <li>No reception or greeting line.</li> <li>No bulletins.</li> <li>No congregational singing.</li> <li>Online streaming of service for others to participate virtually is encouraged.</li> </ul>
<b>Weddings</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gathering should be of 10 or less people for the service including the couple and the clergy.</li> <li>No reception or greeting of guests.</li> <li>No bulletins.</li> <li>No congregational singing.</li> <li>Online streaming of service for others to participate virtually is encouraged.</li> </ul>

not meant to be alone. It's not the way he designed humanity. Through this pandemic, it has become clear that we were not meant to live in isolation. We are all being reminded of something we have always known to be true. God is at work through the chaos of the coronavirus as the whole of humanity is stepping further into community, as we were designed.

### 3. Forced Rest

The world has slowed down in a way we've never seen before. The mandate to shelter-in-place is forcing people to pause and rest. It's not a pace of life our society is used to living. And it's not one that comes easy. But it's a life God has called us to.

God even modeled rest for us, "And on the seventh day God finished his work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all his work that he had done" (Genesis 2:7). This model of rest from work is something we should follow and likely, not something many of us are very good at.

The call to rest is really a call to trust God. Many of us become busy striving, achieving, and succeeding. Right now, we are very limited in what we can do. You might even feel as if you've lost control. That's a very natural response in these unprecedented times. But rest isn't only good for our

physical health. It's good for our spiritual and emotional health, too.

To step into the rest God called us to is to actively let go of control and to put it into God's hands. In this season, you and I are being forced to slow down and rest. Rest is a good thing and yet, it's so hard for us to make it a priority. To create space in your life for rest is a way God restores you and revitalizes you. God is moving through this time to remind us about the goodness of rest in our lives.

### 4. Your Faith Is Growing

It doesn't matter who you are, COVID-19 is affecting everyone in one way or another. For followers of Jesus, questions of God's sovereignty and provision are natural. It's in times like these, when your faith is challenged, that you are more likely to grow in your faith.

Though this is not a time when the church is being persecuted, it is a time when believers are collectively facing hardship. The church has a long history of growing during times of trials and difficulty.

James the brother of Jesus, said it this way, "for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing" (James 1:3-4).

Though Christians shouldn't go looking for difficult situations, we should

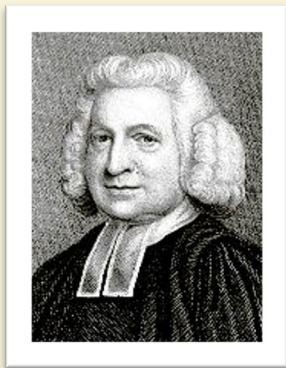
view them as opportunities to grow our faith. It's in moments like these that we begin to wrestle with the promises of God and we undoubtedly find him to be faithful. The relief might not come when you want it and it might look different than what you thought, but God is always true to his promises. It's in times of hardship that we see God's glory on full display. When human efforts fail and you have done all you can do, God moves in ways only he can. It's out of this place your faith will grow deeper, stronger, and wider.

There is no doubt that we are all living in difficult times that are directly affecting us as individuals. But God has not stopped working. He is not silent or passive. He is on the move. He is working in the hearts and faith of his people.

It may be difficult to see the hand of God during this time. But rest assured that God is at work during the COVID-19 crisis. He is working all things for his glory and for the good of those who love him.

**Tamara Chamberlain** and her husband Dale are authors and speakers who are passionate about loving and serving Jesus together. They love having conversations and creating community around the abundant life that Jesus promised us. You can connect with Dale and Tamara at [herandhymn.com](http://herandhymn.com).

<https://www.crosswalk.com/special-coverage/coronavirus/signs-god-is-at-work-in-the-chaos-of-covid-19.html>



**Charles Wesley** (brother of John Wesley) wrote over 6500 hymns, which would mean writing at least two hymns a week, every week for 50 years, from his conversion in 1738 to his death in 1788. His hymns came out of what he saw as important occasions. His own life inspired hymns: his conversion, his marriage, things he had seen, the death of his friends. Public events inspired hymns: the earthquake panic, rumors of an invasion from France, the defeat of Prince Charles Edward at Culloden, the Gordon riots.

In 1739, he published *Hymns and Sacred Poems*, which included 50 hymns written by Charles including "Christ the Lord is Risen Today" and "Hark the Herald Angels Sing." The following year he published another volume by the same name which included the first appearance of "Christ! Whose Glory Fills the Skies," "Jesus, Lover of My Soul," and "Oh! For a Thousand Tongues to Sing." Many other volumes followed. At his death, there were about 2,000 hymns in manuscript, that is, unpublished. Some of these have since been published, including his "Poetical Version of nearly the whole Book of the Psalms of David," which was edited by the Rev. Henry Fish and published in 1854.

He wrote hymns for all the festivals of the Christian faith. Wesley's hymns can be generally classified as hymns of Christian experience, invitation hymns, sanctification hymns, funeral hymns, and hymns on the love of God. In his hymns, he referenced all but 4 of the books of the Bible. He used more than 45 different meters. It has been said that Wesley's hymns clothed Christ in flesh and blood and gave converts a belief that they could easily grasp, embrace with personal faith, and if necessary, even die for.





# CONTACT INFORMATION



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## Want to Get Involved at BUMC?

At BUMC, we encourage everyone to get involved. There are many ways to join in:



Provide Flowers for a Sunday Service  
Join the United Methodist Women  
Volunteer as a Nursery Attendant  
Join the United Methodist Men  
Join the Table Talk Group  
Become an usher  
Join the Choir



## Office Hours

The Church Office is open Mondays from noon to 4 p.m. and Wednesdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

## Birthdays and Anniversaries

We would like to add birthdays and anniversaries to our monthly calendar.

## BUMC Phone Tree

Get your phone number added to our phone tree list to get the latest announcements.

## Schedule of Services

Baltimore United Methodist Church worship services start at 9 a.m. every Sunday. Worship is followed by Sunday School for all ages at 10:15 a.m. The Lord's Supper is celebrated on the first Sunday of every month.

Baltimore United Methodist Church  
2419 Baltimore Rd  
East Bend NC 27018



Or Current Resident