



The Wellspring

News and Encouragement for the RSUMC Family

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VOLUME 2, ISSUE 9

MAY 2020

ONLINE *worship*

As of this writing, we are still worshipping online only. If that changes, we will get the word out as quickly as possible. Just remember, we will likely be returning gradually.

May 3 – 4th Sunday of Easter

Holy Communion – have your bread and juice ready! (see instructions below)

John 10:1-10

Sermon – Follow the Shepherd

May 24 – Ascension Sunday

Heritage Sunday

Luke 24:44-53

Sermon – We are Looking Up and Out

May 10 – 5th Sunday of Easter

Mother's Day

John 14:1-14

Sermon – Trust in Jesus

May 31 – Pentecost Sunday

Wear Red!

Acts 2:1-21

1 Corinthians 12:3b-13

Sermon – How Will They Know?

May 17 – 6th Sunday of Easter

John 14:15-21

Sermon – As You Love

ONLINE *communion*

Instructions to Participate in Holy Communion from Home with Online Worship:

Because of the extended time we are not able to worship in our sanctuaries, Bishop Taylor has authorized participation in Holy Communion at home, as part of online worship. As United Methodists, we believe the sacraments, ordained by Christ, are symbols and pledges of the Christian's profession and of God's love toward us. They are a means of grace. Per Bishop Taylor's instructions: Here is what is necessary for any expression, celebration or participation.

1. Scriptural setting: Holy Communion is celebrated in the context of worship. When you worship online, you are part of that context.
2. Service of Word and Table: Communion liturgy found in The United Methodist Hymnal or other appropriate source. The consecration of the bread and the cup provides the opportunity for the whole community to participate in the broken body and shed blood of Jesus.
3. Grape juice: have enough for everyone gathered at your location.
4. Bread or crackers: have enough for everyone to share
5. Pastor to lead the liturgy: The Pastor will lead the worship, and you will be participating online in a community act of worship. It will have special meaning and benefits.

This is something new for all of us. You do not have to have bread and juice if you do not want to participate. You are still encouraged to participate in our online worship. Afterwards, please let us know what it was like for you. You are invited to share a picture of your bread and juice with us. Also, if you wish, you may share your experience with our pastor and let her know if you have questions or concerns.

Unfortunately we have had to suspend our

ROCK SPRINGS FISH FRY until further notice



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The month of May has arrived, and the pandemic wears on. We may know someone who is ill with the COVID-19 virus. We certainly are impacted by it. And, we may find ourselves grieving, without any real object of our grief. At such times, I turn to God's word. Take the book of Psalms – Jesus' song book. We don't have to read very far into it to see that the psalmists are not afraid to take every human emotion and throw it at God. Joy, sorrow, fear, grief, and lament. A lament is an emotional expression of grief or sorrow. There are entire psalms of lament. There's even a whole book in the Old Testament called, of all things, Lamentations. There is nothing we can express that is beyond God's care. Remember, even our lousiest feelings can be taken to God.

There have been times in my life when all I could do was complain that things weren't the way I wanted them to be. Someone I trusted suggested that I write it out as a lament, as a complaint to God. I have done that, many times. And I find that if I can do that, if I can pour it all out as quickly as I can move the pen across the paper, I find that I feel better. God hears our prayers of grief and sorrow just as surely as our prayers of thanksgiving and praise. But, we don't want to get stuck in lament. In every case I have poured out my heart in lament, there comes a point where I make a turn and my lament pauses, and I can say honestly, nevertheless, I will praise God.

Right now, there is much for which we can lament. We are stuck with our families, we can't go where we want. Many of our church friends and family have lost their jobs, or their work has slowed to a trickle. Graduations are cancelled or postponed. We can't get our hair done. We can't go to church together. Disappointments, for sure. The grief is real. And yet, as we have all done our part, the spread of this virus is slower than it might have been.

We want things to be the way they were. But not yet. Bishop Taylor has extended the mandate for keeping United Methodist churches in the Holston Conference closed for now. We will likely open gradually, but we don't know yet just how. Annual Conference as a three-day meeting at Lake Junaluska is cancelled, and a two-hour video meeting has been scheduled in its place. Nothing will be as we had expected.

Except this: God is still God. Christ's love abounds. We are still the church even when we can't physically gather. I am grateful for those folks who are helping make worship happen online. It's different, for sure. I have no desire to be a televangelist, but am glad for technology and people who can make it happen. And, you are watching! Thank you!

Like many other churches, we are struggling financially. We are grateful for the gifts and offerings that have been received, but they are far less than our expenses. Most of our financial obligations continue, even when the church doesn't gather for worship and other meetings. I know that several of you are struggling more than ever to make ends meet. We hear you, and we understand. It's a tough spot we all find ourselves in.

I keep thinking about the words from Ecclesiastes:

There's a season for everything
and a time for every matter under the heavens:
a time for giving birth and a time for dying,
a time for planting and a time for uprooting what was planted,
a time for crying and a time for laughing,
a time for mourning and a time for dancing,
a time for loving and a time for hating,
a time for war and a time for peace. (Ecclesiastes 3:1-2, 4, 8 CEB)

If this time in your life is not what you planned it to be, stay tuned. Better yet, stay attuned – listen deeply to what is going on under the noise. Listen with the ears of your hearts. Maybe it's time for something different. Pay attention.

Until we can gather together safely, stay safe, be well.
Wash your hands often and wear your mask when you are out.
God loves you, and so do I.



Grace and peace,
Pastor Carole

A Note  **from our**
Choir Director

Well, as others have said, this is **not** what we planned for the Eastertide season.

Please continue to worship with us in our virtual settings and lift your voice in song. We eagerly await the Sunday when we are able to meet again as a community and raise our voices together! Meanwhile I am tremendously grateful to St James Music Press where we have a subscription, they have identified and arranged music for "quires in quarantine" to help us with solo, instrumental, and small group arrangements that can be legally shared via the online platforms.

Musícology Note:

By some standards, "*Because He Lives*" is not a traditional classic hymn but something more contemporary. In reality the song is no longer young and it is now approaching 50 years since it was first written by Bill and Gloria Gaither. According to Gloria Gaither, much of their music written in the sixties was a response to a time of turmoil, both within the nation and in their personal lives. In the fall of 1969, when they realized they were expecting a child they were also anxious about the state of the world and wondered "*What will this child face?*" Yet even as they worried, they remembered that they could not rely on a stable world, for the world had never been stable, instead they could risk living because the Resurrection happened! A few weeks after the birth of their son Benjamin, the words and music for "*Because He Lives*" was born and became an anthem for many revival services.

Source: *Then Sings My Soul; Book 2*, Robert J. Morgan, Thomas Nelson, Inc. 2004, pg. 299.

Martha

ONLINE giving
Fast...Simple... Secure!

Many of you have asked, "How can I still give my weekly tithe if we aren't physically going to church?"

* We've set up an online giving account on our website www.rockspringsumc.com

* If you're more comfortable sending a check, our address is 227 Church View Dr. Kingsport, TN. 37664

We appreciate your generosity during this challenging time, and pray for your good health and safety.



Our Prayer Request line is still open... please let us know your need...

Pastor Carole: 423-534-1027 Church Office: 423-349-7531

May Birthdays

5/3 Sharon Hite
5/10 Jordan Chapman
5/11 Hannah Meade
5/11 Terry Kaylor
5/12 Aaron Carroll
5/14 Scarlett Hite
5/29 LaDonna Compton
5/29 Dan Martin
5/29 Martha Hawk
5/30 Tony Webb

May Anniversaries

5/24 Corey & Heather Weber
5/25 Doug & Gloria Osborne
5/28 Aaron & Christine Carroll
5/31 David & Sharon Hite

Prayer Requests

Jon Light
Charlie Fischer
Judy Bradley
Bo Compton
Lotus Jean Compton
Carl Painter
Bert Carter
Bob & Nell Reidmeyer
C.M. Jinkerson
Forbes family
Creech Family
Peggy Hughes
Branson Helvey

Find Us!

Facebook: (Rock Springs UMC KPT)
Online Worship begins
Sunday 9:30am

YouTube: Search: rockspringsumckpt
Website: www.rockspringsumc.com

Last month we were privileged to serve 80 needy families God is Good...

FOOD pantry
Shopping
Friday 5/22 1:00pm
Food Pantry OPEN
5/26
from 5-7 pm



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Unfortunately, due to the
Corona Virus we have
had to suspend our
**ROCK SPRINGS
FISH FRY**
Until further notice

May 2020

*In recognition of ALL those women
who have in some way...
mothered a child...
Mother's Day is Sunday May 10th*

ONLINE *devotions*

*On Face Book...
Every Wednesday at 8:00 pm*

*Children's devotion...
Every Thursday at 6 :00 pm*

