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Unfortunately we have had to suspend our

ROCK SPRINGS FISH FRV

until further notice



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News and Encouragement for the RSUMC Family

VOLUME 2, ISSUE II

JULY 2020

Worship update

On July 5th, our new Pastor, Harry Layell will be broadcasting the Sunday Service Online as well as in person. Uncertain at this moment whether we will be LIVE streaming or not...but we will post the Sermon by 2:00 pm each Sunday on our Website. The Bishop will be issuing updates as things change and we will adjust our plans accordingly. Please stay tuned – we will do our best to get any changes out as soon as we can. Meanwhile, we thank you for your patience and understanding during these challenging times.

Pastor's Corner

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

I am looking forward to the honor of being the Pastor of Rock Springs UMC. This is my sixth appointment since I started pastoring in 1990. I served the Benham Circuit for four years, the Damascus Circuit for six years, the Ewing Circuit for three years, Saint Paul/Castlewood for sixteen years, and after retiring last year served part time at Legion Memorial.



Sharon and I were married in 1992 and she has been a great part of my pastoring. Some will tell you she is the best part of my pastoring and I do not disagree with them.

We have two adult sons, David Layell and Jeff Fleenor. And now we are raising our grandson, Troy Fleenor.

My studies have been predominantly Theology (Masters degree) instead of Divinity and I passionately believe the Bible **is the authority** for Christian belief. While I find all translations of the Bible to hold the Truth, my choice of use is the NIV.

This is a strange and challenging time for everyone what with trying to deal with Covid 19 and all the other difficulties in this nation right now. But God is bigger than any problem we may face, and I know he will lead us through.

"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go".

(Joshua 1:9)

Your servant in Christ, Rev. Harry Layell

P.S. The use of my first name is always appropriate as far as I am concerned.



As we are finally able to begin in-person worship it will require adjusting to a new normal. Initially, we will not be able to

enjoy certain aspects of worship such as congregational singing but we **will** have music and it will be more than just your director singing every week! We will have some solo anthems but also some small ensemble singing (2-3 people) and I hope to incorporate a different family each week to represent the congregation in a hymn. One thing everyone can do is communicate with me. If you are curious enough to ask about our plans please feel welcome to email, text or call me at hawkmj@etsu.edu, or 423-646-1233.

Musicology Note:

The hymn, "His Eye is on the Sparrow" gained great popularity as a gospel hymn when sung by black singer and actress Ethel Waters in film and with the crusade choirs of Rev. Billy Graham and it gained even greater fame when sung in 1958 by the legendary Mahalia Jackson. These two singers gave the song great life and exposure but the start for this hymn was not within the Negro Spiritual genre.

The lyrics for the hymn were authored by Civilla D. Martin (1866-1948) of Nova Scotia. Ms. Martin's husband was an evangelist and musician. She wrote of her inspiration for the lyrics, "Early in the spring of 1905, my husband and I were sojourning in Elmira, New York. We developed a deep friendship for a couple by the name of Mr. and Mrs. Doolittle - true saints of God. Mrs. Doolittle had been bedridden for nigh 20 years. Her husband was an incurable cripple who had to propel himself to and from his business in a wheel chair." Civilla continued, "Despite their afflictions, they lived happy Christian lives, bringing inspiration and comfort to all who knew them. One day, while we were visiting with the Doolittle's, my husband commented on their bright hopefulness and asked them for the secret of it. Mrs. Doolittle's reply was simple: 'His eye is on the sparrow, and I know he watches me.' The beauty of this simple expression of boundless faith gripped the hearts and fired the imagination of Dr. Martin and me. The song 'His Eye Is on the Sparrow' was the outcome of that experience.

The Martins were not as successful at composing the setting for the poem so they sent the lyrics to Charles H. Gabriel (1856-1932) and asked him to write the music for Civilla's lyrics. The collaborative efforts of Civilla Martin and Charles Gabriel created the hymn still sung today.

(Source: www.staugustine.com)

Martha

A big shout out to the team of volunteers who made our June Drive-thru Food Pantry distribution a Great Success!

Thank You!

July Birthdays

- 7/3 Brad Compton
- 7/6 Jackie Leonard
- 7/12 Joshua Hite
- 7/14 Connie Long
- 7/15 Bill Wilson
- 7/16 Joyce Hite
- 7/20 John Hughes
- 7/21 Matt Doty
- 7/24 Philip Dishner
- 7/24 Harry Layell
- 7/25 June Gray
- 7/27 Troy Fleenor

July Anniversaries

7/1 Eddie & Benita Rutherford7/13 Mark & LaDonna Compton

Prayer Requests

Jon Light
Charlie Fischer
Judy Bradley
Bo Compton
Lotus Jean Compton
Carl Painter
Bert Carter
C.M. Jinkerson
Forbes family
Creech Family
Peggy Hughes
Joe Pat Selby Family
Janet Dykes

Unfortunately, due to the Corona Virus we have had to suspend our



Until further notice

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



Shopping Friday 6/19 1:00pm Food Pantry OPEN 6/23

from 5-7 pm



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July 2020

ONLINE worship

https://www.facebook.com/rockspringsumckpt YouTube: search for @rockspringsumckpt AND www.rockspringsumc.com





- 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.