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Like us on Facebook
First United Church of Christ
Hampton



TOGETHER **Worshiping God
Growing Spiritually
Serving Others**

BROM will meet in the west parking lot on Thursday, June 4th at 9:30 am. Bring your own lawn chair and food, and please maintain social distancing. In case of rain, check the Facebook page for cancelation.

First Fridays: Tentative date of July 3rd at 7:30pm for a drive-in movie in the west parking lot.

FIRST UCC HAPPENINGS

FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, HAMPTON, VA



There is a certain similarity between the condition of the disciples after the death of Jesus "stuck in the house" and ours today. The disciples feared persecution much like we are in fear of the Covid-19 pandemic. Anxious due to fear of safe spaces and practices, you may be experiencing segregation in the home and a social distance from others, church family, things we enjoy, shopping, going out to eat, daily schedules, entertainment, and more. The coronavirus crisis, although new to us, has proven to be transient and transitory and while humanity has already experienced other horrible crises in the past, there have always been lessons learned and the hope of emerging stronger. We hold onto the hope that this will remain the case.

In this period a return to faith and clinging to Christian spirituality, prayer, fasting, at the service of charity has emerged. At the same time there is a domestic Church that should mature, take root in faith and commitment, manifest the desire to access communion, worship in its various forms and mediums as well as the eventual reopening of places of worship in due time. We are beginning to comprehend that things will be different moving forward, but what exactly will that look like...?

It's often during dismal times we pause to think of where God's presence is and of His desire to be close to us. It should be an important part of our understanding of God. After all, he created us to love, serve and communicate with him. The God of the Old and New Testaments is a God who wants to be with his creation. So he moves in his spirit as close to us as we will allow him to come.

In the beginning, when God created the heavens, the earth and then us, God came down and walked with us in the garden. God was close. God was close to us, because God wanted to be close. Even after we got into trouble with sin and separated ourselves from his presence, he pursued us. He never let us out of his sight. God rescued humanity over and over again.

Scripture tells us that in the fullness of time, God came to earth where the sin problem was, and still is. Jesus, the word, became flesh and lived among us. Now this was certainly something new, God becoming flesh! Nothing, whether political, social, moral, economic or spiritual would ever be the same again, much like our post-virus world. Yet although this looked different, it turns out to be the same story. It was God wanting to be near his people and to restore us to his image.

In John 14:15-21 we find Jesus sitting around the table talking to his disciples about love, and about a promise that he would not leave them alone. So Jesus invites us to pull up a chair and sit at the table and listen to his words; words that transcend time.

Jesus is telling them, and us, that though he is leaving them, he is not going anywhere, he will never leave. And though he will be absent from them physically, he will always be present spiritually. Jesus talks about us loving him, and because we do, we will keep his commandments. Jesus wants to be near us, he makes a promise. He promises to send to them, and to us, another — a helper, an advocate, a spirit of truth, a comforter and a companion. A few days later, Jesus left in a physical sense, but he promised to send his spirit, the Holy Spirit to live in us in a cleansing and empowering way.

During this time you may feel alone, you may feel a distance like you've yet to feel previously in your life, but hold on to this promise, Beloved, that God, through Jesus, walks with you. Cling to the One who created you, the one who pursues you, and the One who loves you. Amen!

~Rev. Ed Lilley



JUNE 2020
TOGETHER

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From the Director of Music

A Few Ways First UCC Can Use Technology to Be the Church By Diane Drury



E-mail – Most of our congregation has access to e-mail, which allows us to communicate and to share worship materials. Those that do not have e-mail have friends or family who get our e-mails and who can share the church news. Within an e-mail one is able to attach audio music files and sermon document files that you can open from your computer or smart phone. Videos are usually very large files and often too large to send as an e-mail attachment. In the body of an e-mail, though, one can embed clickable links to our church Facebook page and to YouTube videos. Be on the lookout for more information on future events via e-mail. I know a lot of us only opened our e-mail once a week before the pandemic, but this is our most reliable means of communications now, so we need to read it several times a week so we can stay in the loop.

Facebook – Videos of worship elements, prayers, sermons, music, can be posted to Facebook either as an entire movie, created by using one of the methods listed below (as we did in March and April) or as individual videos, each created by a different person, but not joined together (as I sometimes do with the music). We can also Go Live, this is when a performance or the worship service can be live-streamed (as we are doing with Park & Praise).

Watch Parties can be organized to watch a movie or video together, which can build a sense of community in a shared activity. You can also type comments or emoticons during the viewing. This can also be organized offline and the discussion take place through cellphone texting. Every weekend my husband and I are doing this with family members in California.

iMovie or MovieMaker – these are two programs that can be used to join videos together to make a movie. iMovie is for Apple products only (iPads, Mac computers or newer iPhones). MovieMaker is no longer supported but is available on older PC computers. These are rather cumbersome to use, and sometimes not possible if you are trying to join videos taken on incompatible devices.

YouTube – this is a website that you can access by computer, tablet, or smart phone. On it you can find a bazillion videos of everything from how to fix a toilet, to a symphony orchestra performance. I have a private YouTube channel where I can post videos of my music (public) or can post my student recitals (private – only can access by a link that I give out to students). There is a 15 minute limit on the length of what I post for a free account, but a paid account allows longer videos to be posted. I can also create playlists of selected videos for my TNCC classes. Some of the embedded links I have e-mailed have included music I recorded for public viewing, but I can create links to video rehearsals or music sing-a-longs or even a worship service. Watch for e-mails where I might embed a private link or a public video.

MAY & JUNE BIRTHDAYS

May

- 3 Dianne Forbes
- 4 Troy Smith
- 8 Janelle Germanos
- 10 Michael Snider
- 10 Myles Quach-Yeargin
- 11 Libbie Smith
- 14 Vinton Gates
- 14 Deborah Harris
- 16 Sylvia Travis
- 17 Kyle Gallagher
- 19 Bryen Quach-Yeargin
- 24 Ellyson Bratton
- 25 Margaret Richmond
- 26 Lynn Sanderson
- 29 Tom Gallagher
- 30 Julie Phillips

June

- 2 Frances Eckert
- 4 Barry Forbes
- 5 James Hathaway Jr.
- 10 John Hook
- 17 Chris Snider
- 18 Tom Sroczyński
- 18 Megan Bocklet
- 20 Guy Scherrer
- 22 Merle Dewey
- 27 Tommy Highsmith
- 28 Tami Henderson



If you have a birthday and it's not on the list, please let us know so we can correct our records.

May & June Anniversaries

May

- 2- Lee & Serena Fischer
- 10- Doyle & Frances Eckert
- 30- Charley & Megan Bocklet III

June

- 9- Harold & Lynn Sanderson
- 11- Tony & Gail Nelson
- 24- Ralph & Celia Smith
- 24- Tom & Robyn Gallagher



Church-Wide Prayer: Pray with us each day at noon

June 1-15: Tender Father, make me more watchful of the time that I give to useless thoughts and words, and save me from cutting words, which make deeper impressions than can be cut with sharp tools. Forgive me for the hours that I have not been profitable; I would I had them back, for my heart and mind have need of them. Amen!

June 16-30: Loving Father, help me that I may realize the depth of your love. If I feel discouraged, please speak to me and lead me out of where I am to find the right path. May each day bring a joy and happiness knowing I have been created in your image and live under the umbrella of your grace. Amen!



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- ⇒ Phishing emails prompting the recipient to enter their login credentials into a web site to access information about coronavirus. Once entered, the login credentials are stolen by the threat actors.
- ⇒ Fraudulent charities that use legitimate social media sites to ask for donations for charitable causes related to the virus.
- ⇒ Non-Delivery Frauds – fraudulent advertisements for medical supplies such as medical masks, gloves, disinfectants, etc. The fraudulent company will ask for upfront payment and will never deliver the ordered products. Be cautious when ordering such supplies online.

Other Scams

- ⇒ Tech support scammers may call and pretend to be a computer technician from a well-known company. They say they've found a problem with your computer. They often ask you to give them remote access to your computer and then pretend to run a diagnostic test. Then they try to make you pay to fix a problem that doesn't exist. ***If you get a phone call you didn't expect from someone who says there's a problem with your computer, hang up.*** Or they may try to lure you with a pop-up window that appears on your computer screen. It might look like an error message from your operating system or antivirus software, and it might use logos from trusted companies or websites. The message in the window warns of a security issue on your computer and tells you to call a phone number to get help. If you get this kind of pop-up window on your computer, don't call the number. ***Real security warnings and messages will never ask you to call a phone number.***
- ⇒ IRS scammers may call or email claiming that you owe taxes and even try to scare you by saying they will put out a warrant for your arrest. ***The IRS will never call you or email you; they will communicate by postal service. They will also not use threatening tactics.***
- ⇒ Advance fee scams involve tricking you into paying "fees" or providing personal information upfront for things like lottery or sweepstakes winnings, inheritance claims, refunds, or goods or services. They often ask for payment via wire transfer or store-bought gift cards, like Wal-Mart, iTunes, or Google Play. ***Do not wire money or give your bank account information to people you do not trust. Do not pay for any goods or services with gift cards. Do not pay any money to receive a "free" prize.***

In general, ***do not give any kind of payment, bank or online account information, numbers, or passwords in response to unsolicited messages, texts or emails. Only confirm account information with businesses that YOU contacted first. NEVER GIVE OUT PASSWORDS OR PIN NUMBERS TO ANYONE!***

Various Music Apps – I have been experimenting with a lot of different cellphone and computer apps that allow music to be created and shared. Lately you have seen my creations using an iPhone app called Acapella. This allows the user to record themselves doing up to 9 different parts. It has the ability to become a collaborative tool for making music, the fruit of which I will share with our church soon. That feature is a bit more complicated and requires having an iPhone, headphones, and the ability to manage the frustrating collaborative processing. It is a whole lot easier for the Cloistered Clone Choir to do it by itself.

Zoom – I mention Zoom only because it is what I am familiar with. There are a number of other similar platforms that can be used to do video conferencing. We experimented with this last week and it was a joyous experience! A lot of our church members are able to do this already, and some are just figuring it out. There is a lot of potential with this because people can be face to face again, and (though there is an annoying time lag) church meetings, worship, or rehearsals could even be done using this method. More of these are coming. Watch for e-mails!

Good Time Singers Prayer Ministry

I have been in contact with some of our area nursing homes, and have asked what we can do to help them during this most difficult time. Their responses have been uniform: please pray for them. I know we would like to do so much more, but the power of prayer is REAL! I would love it if all of us in the Good Time Singers could, for a time, become the Good Time Pray-ers. Please find time each day when you will pray specifically for our nursing homes and rehab centers, their residents and employees. Even if you aren't in the Good Time Singers, please pray for them.

Music and Memories

For a project that I am working on, I would like to ask everyone who wants to participate to email me with a favorite musical selection and a memory that makes this piece of music so special to you. Make sure that the memory is one that can be shared! You can include the link to the YouTube video if you want, but just the name of the song and maybe who wrote or performed it is enough. It does not need to be a religious piece of music either. Let's see what musical memories are special to our congregation. Please e-mail me at: toccatagirl@aol.com and be sure you write Music and Memories in the e-mail subject line so I don't accidentally delete it.



Our deepest condolences to the family of

June Langslow

June 19, 1924—May 17, 2020

stewardship

The Way

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." -John 14:6

These oft-quoted words are part of the longest speech attributed to Jesus in the four Gospels, longer even than the Sermon on the Mount. Spanning chapters 14-17 of the Gospel of John this speech is often called the Farewell Discourse. Jesus makes the speech on the last night of his life and offers it intimately to his gathered disciples, who are growing increasingly anxious. The overarching theme of this speech, Jesus' final discourse, is giving of oneself, personal sacrifice, and radical love.

All these beams of light focus like lasers on Jesus giving of himself on the cross the next day. In the larger context of the speech, which is made following Jesus' washing of his disciples' feet and in the looming shadow of the cross, "the way" is clearly self-giving; "the truth" is love; and "the life" is sacrifice for others.

~Michael L. Lindvall, from These Days, Vol. 50, No. 2, May 8, 2020.



First UCC Weekly Offering

May 3	\$ 275.00	May 10	\$ 3,258.00
May 17	\$ 2,526.46	May 24	\$ 1,085.50



Thank you to all who have practiced stewardship through your gifts during this challenging time. Prayerfully consider your tithing to support the ministries and staff of First UCC. Thank you!

Treasurer's Report

General Operating Checking Account Balance	\$ 36,052.01
Breakdown as of 05/26/20:	
Bills to be Paid through 06/03/2020	\$ 5,101.84
General Fund	\$27,725.21
Reserve Fund Balance	\$ 1,007.40
UCC Local Mission Grant Balance	\$ 342.15
Mission & Evangelism Balance	\$ 2,882.81



WIDER MISSIONS/ OUTREACH MINISTRY



Strengthen The Church is one of the 5 major UCC offerings we collect during the year.

The traditional time to collect is on Pentecost Sunday when we celebrate the beginning of the Christian Church with the coming of the Holy Spirit. This offering helps struggling churches & helps to plant new churches. Please use an envelope handed out at the Park & Praise service on Sunday. Some will also be available in the mailbox by the office door. Or you can donate online at <https://www.ucc.org/stc>.

HELP: as we continue to hear on the news about people needing food, let's not forget to contribute to our local food bank or HELP. Mailing a check to the organization that our church has supported for many years, is the best way to help at this time.

HELP Ministries, Inc.
1320 Lasalle Ave.
Hampton, 23669



We are also continuing to collect Church World Service health kit items. Many people are not shopping, but some are. When the truck comes in the Fall, we will probably be shopping & collecting many kits to help CWS.

Please be safe & stay healthy.

~Carol Diehl & Pat Kline

Avoiding Scams

Scams and fraud have been around for a long time, but unfortunately crooks are always devising new ways to take advantage of people, particularly the elderly. The pandemic has only given them more opportunities to attempt to trick you into giving them money or sensitive information. Here are some common scams and tips to avoid them.

Coronavirus Related Scams

⇒ Phishing emails from cyber-criminals posing as reputed organizations like the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) or the World Health Organization (WHO). These emails contain a malicious file attachment that claims to be useful information about coronavirus. When the unsuspecting victim opens the attachment, malware is installed on their PC.

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