



# The Courier

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## MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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August 2020

Court Street United Methodist

### **Unrest and Morality**

Over past several weeks, many Americans watched in horror as peaceful protests turned violent as night fell. It is time to ask ourselves where the anger originates. In the absence of moral restraint, sin begets sin. The very word “sin” is not popular in our current culture. But until we acknowledge the reality of evil, sin and lawlessness, we can never obtain what most people want—love, peace, and joy. It was sin and evil for the police officer to take the life of George Floyd. It is sin to view any life as less sacred than another. It is sin to destroy other’s property, to be in rebellion to authority and to break any number of laws. It is sin to justify angry rebellion as legal ‘protesting’ or ‘peaceable assembly.’ It is sin for public officials to justify rebellious rioters as ‘understandable’ actions arising from the sins of previous generations. It is sin to excuse destruction of people’s livelihoods by burning their neighbors’ businesses to the ground. It is sin for public officials to incite lawbreakers and encourage further division among Americans by their callous and incendiary comments. It is sin for all people not to condemn these evil actions we see as sin! This is the time for all Americans to ask: Do we want freedom to remain in America? Do we wish that civility and respect for others returns to our nation? Do we long to be secure in our homes, property, and persons? Do we hope for a return of justice where there is an objective standard for truth, justice, and equality? Do we wish for leaders who renounce the sins of lying, deception, bribery, corruption, and selfish pursuits? I do. For those also answering “yes” to these questions, there is only one solution—and in today’s culture, it’s about as unpopular as “sin.” That is God, the Bible, and the Ten Commandments. As stated by William Penn in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and later by other founders, unless the citizens and leaders of this nation voluntarily submit their thinking, desires and actions to the limitations of the Ten Moral Commandments of God, then freedom, liberty and the pursuit of happiness cannot endure. The choices before us today broadly are these: God or no God? Truth or no truth? Right and wrong or no right or wrong? Sin or no sin? Jesus Christ as the Way, Truth and Life or no Jesus Christ, in any way, and death and bondage? The former choice brings love, healing, and redemption. The latter brings hatred, death, and condemnation. I choose Jesus Christ.

*~ Pastor Bill Burleigh*

**DO JUSTICE, LOVE KINDNESS & WALK HUMBLY**



# Musical Musings

## QUARANTINE EDITION

### Singing In The Dark Times:

#### **Eric Whitacre's Virtual Choir Takes On New Meaning**

*Enjoy this article from NPR by Jeff Lundén on Eric Whitacre's Virtual Choir.*

*You will be surprised to know that this existed BEFORE CoVid19!*

Here's a surprising statistic: According to a survey by Chorus America, one in six Americans, or 54 million people, sing in choral groups, whether that's community, school and children's choirs, religious groups or professional ensembles. But since stay-at-home orders have been issued across many states, choral music here and around the world has completely stopped. It turns out singing is a perfect way to spread coronavirus. So, what's a choral singer to do? Well, one could join a virtual choir, and that's what over 17,000 people did.

Ten years ago, a teenage fan recorded herself singing the soprano line from one of Eric Whitacre's choral pieces and posted it on YouTube. And it gave composer-conductor Whitacre an idea: What if he could get several singers to record themselves in their rooms, doing one of his pieces in the same tempo and key, then stitch the videos together and make a virtual choir?

"We tried it and it worked!" he says. "We had this little virtual choir, 185 singers from 12 countries. I never thought it would go further than my little group of choir geeks, and it went viral."

More virtual choirs followed, each getting exponentially larger. Now of course, the word "viral" has more connotations, and when Whitacre put out the call to join his latest project, the response was overwhelming.

"This virtual choir, Virtual Choir 6, has 17,562 different singers from 129 countries," he says. "When I look at the numbers and, more so when I look at the faces of the people from around the world, I'm just stunned."

Wei Jiang, a professional choral singer and hematologist based in Sydney, Australia, says that Virtual Choir 6 has "a special and a very different meaning because of the state the world is in." She's been part of every Eric Whitacre virtual choir since the beginning, but says, right now, she misses being in a room with other singers.

"You somehow need to learn how to breathe together, how to listen to each other, how to blend with each other and how to communicate as a collective," Jiang says. "I think there's nothing else in my life that's quite like that experience, and that's why I sing choral music."

Those are the kinds of lessons Danielle Koplínka-Loehr teaches her middle school choruses in Culver City, Calif.

"It's about building community," she says. "It's about students finding [their] voice; it's about students building their confidence."

With school closed, her students couldn't sing together, so Koplínka-Loehr gave them the assignment to participate in Whitacre's virtual choir. She says it was a real challenge for her students to sing along to a guide track alone in their rooms. "When you're making your own video, you're very exposed. And I think that a lot of students are understandably a little nervous and anxious about that," Koplínka-Loehr says.

Singing a choral piece alone is not just weird for middle schoolers, it's challenging for everybody. Ashley Ballou-Bonnema, a professional singer from Sioux Falls, S.D., who has Cystic fibrosis, created her own virtual choir for people with the disease. "It's so vulnerable," she says. "And everybody hates listening to their own voice. When you're in a choir, you realize that, OK, I'm not alone in this. I'm melding myself a part of something." Over the years, a community has developed on Facebook around Whitacre's virtual choirs, where people share their trials, tribulations and tips. Marc Lodge, an IT specialist who lives in Kent, England, says he's met many people from the Facebook page in real life. But, now, he says: "It's a very hard time for the world, and the only way that we can come together is virtually."

When Eric Whitacre did his first virtual choir, it was an intriguing curiosity, but right now, it feels like an essential lifeline. "There's something about joining voices, both metaphorically and literally, that makes us better people, better citizens, more empathetic, more compassionate," Whitacre says. "And ultimately, I think that singing is so popular and feels like a thing that we must do, because we feel part of something larger than ourselves."

Eric Whitacre's "Sing Gently" debuted on YouTube Sunday July 19th, at 1:30 p.m. ET. Follow the link to see:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=InULYfJHKIo>

Here are a few more "Virtual Choir" video links to enjoy:

[UMC Virtual Choir sings "Credo"](#),

[UMC Virtual Choir sings "Christ the Lord is Risen Today"](#),

[St. Joseph's School sings "For the Beauty of the Earth"](#)

## AUGUST'S ADULT BIBLE STUDY CLASS

CONTINUE TO READ LESSONS WEEKLY

August 2: "A Life Changing Encounter"

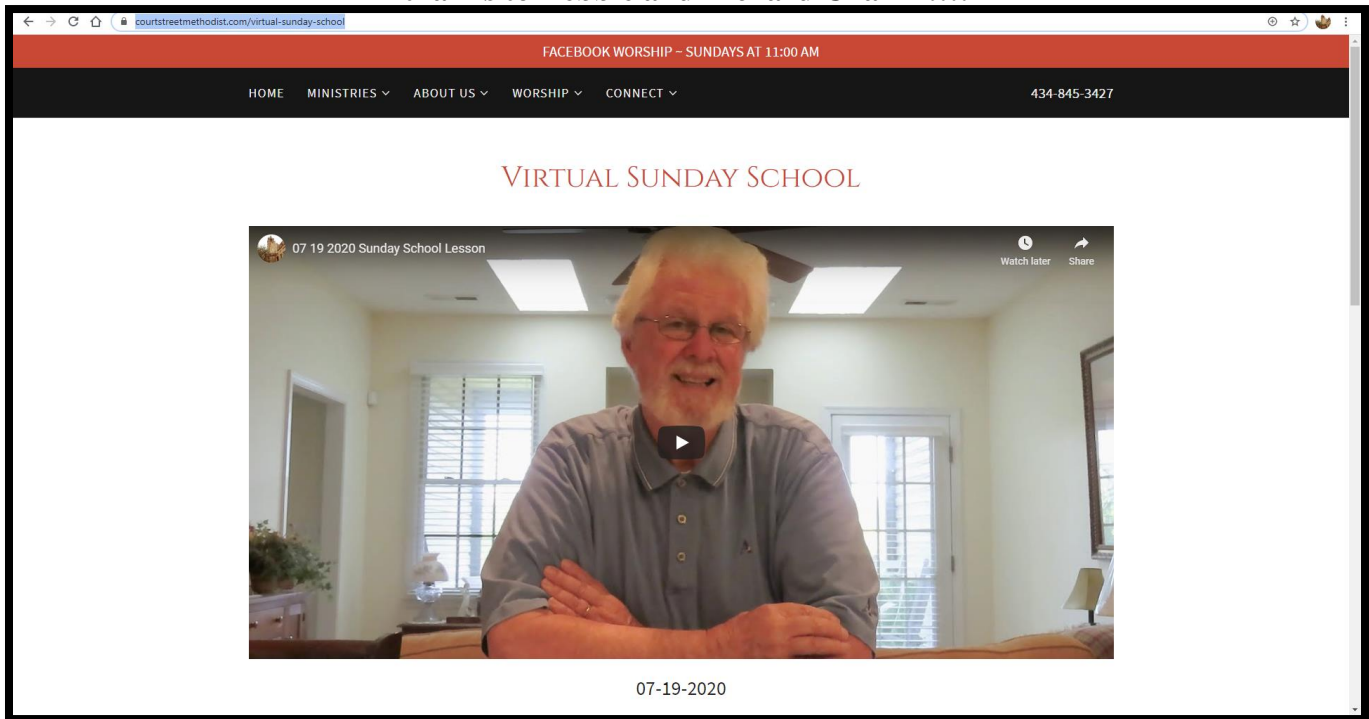
August 9: "Come and See"

August 16: "Who is My Neighbor"

August 23: "Great Faith"

August 30: "Great Mercy"

"VIRTUAL SUNDAY SCHOOL" is now available on our [WEBSITE](#)  
thanks to Debbie and Richard Chaffin!!!!



## Response to Covid-19 and Reopening Churches

I know that all of us want to get back to in person worship. We have been carefully reviewing the Bishop's guidelines as to how we can do this and after much deliberation and prayer the leadership of our church has decided that we should wait until September at the earliest to resume in person worship. Let me list some of the restrictions that have been imposed on us and has influenced the making of this decision. We feel that the attendance would be minimal at best and that it would not be feasible to open the church at this time

1. All persons must wear mask at all times.
2. No singing is allowed.
3. No written literature is allowed in the sanctuary.
4. No socializing before or after worship.
5. There will be limited use of bathroom facilities. Bathrooms need to be sanitized after each use.
6. All water fountains will be turned off.
7. There will be no food or drink brought into the church

These are just a few of restrictions. If you would like to view the Bishop's letters or her Technical Assistance Manual for reopening churches please go to the conference website which is [vaumc.org](http://vaumc.org). It is a great disappointment to me and I am sure to many of you that we are still delaying the reopening of our church for in person worship. We will continue to offer our online worship services on our Facebook pages and on You-Tube. I will also continue to email my sermons. I want you to know that I miss seeing all of you and I continue to pray for you.

*~Pastor Bill Burleigh*

## WORSHIP WITH MARSH MEMORIAL ON YOUTUBE!!

Join us on Facebook every Sunday at 11:00 am. The video is on pastor Burleigh's page and shared on the Marsh Memorial and Court Street pages to watch anytime you are online. If you do not use FaceBook; you can see the service on the church's YouTube Channel AND on our website – [www.courtstreetmethodist.com](http://www.courtstreetmethodist.com)



OUR SERVICES IN JULY WERE VIEWED **713** TIMES AND COUNTING!

**YOU CAN ALSO VIEW THE SERVICES ON OUR YOU TUBE CHANNEL** (yes, we have a you tube channel)

YOU TUBE: [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCE6eHrcKPdXxX3Mue1dr\\_vg](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCE6eHrcKPdXxX3Mue1dr_vg)



A big THANK YOU to Jay Kelly on the organ; Karen and Randall Speer, Marianne Virnelson and Mark Roper for singing our hymns each week. Your dedication to the church during these unusual times are greatly appreciated!



**A big WELCOME to the Lynchburg Symphony Orchestra who will be providing special music.**

# Lunch at Westminster

**Lunch with members living at Westminster-Canterbury will resume soon.**

In the meantime, reach out to our lunch buddies with a phone call or email to let them know you miss them and are thinking of them.



## \*Birthdays and Anniversaries\*

August Birthdays		August Anniversaries		September Birthdays	
Christopher Lilly	August 01	Sarah & Aaron McGlothlin	August 02	Mike Russell	Sept 01
Walter Wright	August 08	Debbie & Richard Chaffin	August 23	Alicia Speer	Sept 01
John Sweeney	August 09			Dane Peterson	Sept 04
Martha Moorman	August 10			Cecil Kidd	Sept 06
Susan Hall	August 11			Mark Roper	Sept 06
Josh Larkin	August 13			David Case, Jr.	Sept 07
Jay Kelly	August 18			Pam Jackson	Sept 10
Ann McDaniel	August 20			Lynette James	Sept 10
Cheryl West	August 21			Dennis Pruitt	Sept 10
Matthew Diuguid	August 22			Robert Draper	Sept 16
Debbie Chaffin	August 26			Aubrey McDaniel	Sept 29
Robert Allen Tyree	August 31			Eva Shoher	Sept 29
				Patsy Cundiff	Sept 30



### PRAYER CONCERNS

**All Men and Women serving in the Military**

**Travis Dean Burleigh – 7425 Snowy Owl St., N. Las Vegas, NV 89084**  
son of Shelley and Rev. Bill Burleigh

**SICK (Church members\*)**

- \*Harriette Cash – 252 Lynwood Drive, Madison Heights, VA 24572
- \*Patsy Cundiff – 1559 Lexington Drive, Lynchburg, VA 24503
- \*Noel Draper - 501 VES Road Drinkard 619, Lynchburg, VA 24503
- Susan Dwyer – sister of Rev. Bill Burleigh
- \*Christopher Lilly – 1705 Rivermont Ave. Apt 8, Lynchburg, VA 24503
- \*Chis Logan - 5325 Hickory Hill Drive, Lynchburg, VA 24503
- \*Phil Ripley – 60 Jill Alison Circle, Ormond Beach, FL 32176
- \*Alicia Speer – 1815 Rivermont Ave #68, Lynchburg, VA 24503
- \*Robert Tyree – 1404 Brookville Lane, Lynchburg, VA 24502  
son of \*Mary Tyree, brother of \*Debbie Chaffin
- Elaine St. Vincent – 501 VES Road Room 415; Lynchburg, VA 24503
- \* Church members



### Gifts to the church

To Missions in Honor of:  
**Kathy Mason's Birthday** by:  
Anne Langley

**Update on Capital Campaign:**

Campaign Goal	\$300,000
Promised as of 7/26/20	\$248,981
Balance needed to reach goal	\$51,019
Received to Date	\$210,116
Received since last update	\$50.00
<b>Elevator fund</b>	<b>\$10,328</b>

Court Street UMC  
621 Court Street  
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In worship, praise and ministry, we respond to God's call by reaching out to all people with light, hope, and a vision of God's love.

COURT STREET UMC WEBSITE: [www.courtstreetmethodist.com](http://www.courtstreetmethodist.com)

EMAIL: [621courtstumc@gmail.com](mailto:621courtstumc@gmail.com)

PHONE: 434-845-3427

Please contact the church office at:

621courtstumc@gmail.com or (434) 845-3427 on or before Wednesdays to have events and notices posted on the church website.

