



The Courier

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

July 2020

Court Street United Methodist Church

God Will Not Forsake Us — Reflections on Psalm 37

2020 has been the year of years so far, hasn't it? From a global pandemic, to murder hornets, to the death of a sports icon like Kobe Bryant, to civil unrest in the streets of the United States. Things are going crazy, and it's easy to get overwhelmed. The other night as I was drifting off to sleep I was silently praying and asking Jesus one simple question: "Why?" Why doesn't he just come back right now and fix all of this? Why doesn't he bring peace on earth, justice to evil and right all of these wrongs we're living through? Why do evil men prosper in these times, while the meek are still being oppressed? I don't know the answer to those questions just yet and maybe I'll never know, but today as I continued to search my heart for answers, I was reminded of Psalm 37, and that's where I'm choosing to focus my attention. God will bring justice and this Psalm, written by King David, is a reminder that God will do just that. It's also a reminder to continue to trust and focus on God while we wait. He will bless us as we wait for him, and he promises that when push comes to shove, the wicked will be "cut off". This Psalm is long, but I urge you to read it line-by-line. If you're feeling hopeless in these times of turmoil, remember that God is in control.

Psalm 37: Fret not yourself because of evildoers; be not envious of wrongdoers! For they will soon fade like the grass and wither like the green herb. Trust in the Lord, and do good; dwell in the land and befriend faithfulness. Delight yourself in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart. Commit your way to the Lord; trust in him, and he will act. He will bring forth your righteousness as the light, and your justice as the noonday. Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for him; fret not yourself over the one who prospers in his way, over the man who carries out evil devices! Refrain from anger, and forsake wrath! Fret not yourself; it tends only to evil. For the evildoers shall be cut off, but those who wait for the Lord shall inherit the land. In just a little while, the wicked will be no more; though you look carefully at his place, he will not be there. But the meek shall inherit the land and delight themselves in abundant peace. The wicked plots against the righteous and gnashes his teeth at him, but the Lord laughs at the wicked, for he sees that his day is coming. The wicked draw the sword and bend their bows to bring down the poor and needy, to slay those whose way is upright; their sword shall enter their own heart, and their bows shall be broken. Better is the little that the righteous has than the abundance of many wicked. For the arms of the wicked shall be broken, but the Lord upholds the righteous. The Lord knows the days of the blameless, and their heritage will remain forever; they are not put to shame in evil times; in the days of famine they have abundance. But the wicked will perish; the enemies of the Lord are like the glory of the pastures; they vanish—like smoke they vanish away. The wicked borrows but does not pay back, but the righteous is generous and gives; for those blessed by the Lord shall inherit the land, but those cursed by him shall be cut off. The steps of a man are established by the Lord, when he delights in his way; though he fall, he shall not be cast headlong, for the Lord upholds his hand. I have been young, and now am old, yet I have not seen the righteous forsake or his children begging for bread. He is ever lending generously, and his children become a blessing. Turn away from evil and do good; so shall you dwell forever. For the Lord loves justice; he will not forsake his saints. They are preserved forever, but the children of the wicked shall be cut off. The righteous shall inherit the land and dwell upon it forever. The mouth of the righteous utters wisdom, and his tongue speaks justice. The law of his God is in his heart; his steps do not slip. The wicked watches for the righteous and seeks to put him to death. The Lord will not abandon him to his power or let him be condemned when he is brought to trial. Wait for the Lord and keep his way, and he will exalt you to inherit the land; you will look on when the wicked are cut off. I have seen a wicked, ruthless man, spreading himself like a green laurel tree. But he passed away, and behold, he was no more; though I sought him, he could not be found. Mark the blameless and behold the upright, for there is a future for the man of peace. But transgressors shall be altogether destroyed; the future of the wicked shall be cut off. The salvation of the righteous is from the Lord; he is their stronghold in the time of trouble. The Lord helps them and delivers them; he delivers them from the wicked and saves them, because they take refuge in him.

~ *Pastor Bill Burleigh*

FOCUS ON GOD, NOT THE CIRCUMSTANCES



Musical Musings **QUARANTINE EDITION**

Enjoy this edited article written in the 2018 edition of Christianity Today:

Make Worship Patriotic Again? The Top 10 Songs for Fourth of July Services

At Sunday services close to July 4th, churches across the country direct congregants to flip to the section of classic patriotic songs in their hymnals or display lyrics to more recent nation-centric tunes like Lee Greenwood's "God Bless the USA" or Chris Tomlin's "America". Despite ongoing concerns over conflating worship of God with worship of country, the majority of churches in the United States mark the Fourth of July in song—a tradition that in some places goes back to the years surrounding America's first Independence Day.

LifeWay Research found that two-thirds of US churches include America-themed music in worship services around the holiday. The top patriotic songs sung in churches, ranked by Christian Copyright Licensing International (CCLI), span contemporary contributions and American classics:

1. "America the Beautiful" – Katharine Lee Bates and Samuel A. Ward

2. "Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory (Battle Hymn of the Republic)" – Julia Ward Howe

SIDE NOTE: Perennial favorites at Court Street, "An American Hymn" ("O beautiful, for spacious skies," better known as "America!") and The Battle Hymn of the Republic have become an inseparable part of American consciousness in music. The Battle Hymn, in particular, is known not only as a patriotic song, but also as inspiration for the title of John Steinbeck's masterpiece *The Grapes of Wrath*, and in a number of specific quotes in the speeches and sermons of Martin Luther King, Jr.

3. "My Country 'Tis of Thee (America)" – Samuel Francis Smith

The fourth verse in the Boston Baptist's famous song goes, "Our fathers' God to Thee, author of liberty, to Thee we sing / Long may our land be bright, with freedom's holy light, protect us by Thy might / Great God our King."

4. "Star-Spangled Banner" – Francis Scott Key and John Stafford Smith

Written in 1814, it was a popular patriotic song for over a century before becoming the national anthem in 1931.

5. "God Bless the USA" – Lee Greenwood

The 1984 country hit became a popular expression of American pride during President Ronald Reagan's campaign, the Gulf War, and later, following September 11. One Christian cover of the song changes the lyrics "I thank my lucky stars" to "I thank my God above."

6. "God Bless America Again" – Billy McVay

The '70s country tune was popularized by Conway Twitty and Loretta Lynn.

7. "May God Bless America" – Weldon C. Kennedy

The 2005 song appears alongside more classic patriotic tunes in Fourth of July medleys.

8. "God Of Our Fathers (National Hymn)" – Daniel Crane Roberts and George William Warren

The hymn was written in honor of the centennial Independence Day celebration in 1876.

9. "A Patriotic Salute" – Linda Spevacek

In military parade and marching band style, the composition includes lines from tunes like "When Johnny Comes Marching Home Again."

10. "America" – Chris Tomlin

Based on 2 Chronicles 7:14, the 2001 song begins, "Let your glory fly, if my people will humbly pray / Turn from sin and their wicked ways / I will hear them and heal their land / And show my glory and power again."

Most Americans—especially evangelicals—continue to believe, as many of the songs imply, that America has a special relationship with God. While a majority of Protestant pastors (61%) believe it's important to celebrate the country around July 4, they also recognize the tensions at hand. A 2016 LifeWay survey found that a little over half say their congregation sometimes seems to love America more than God.

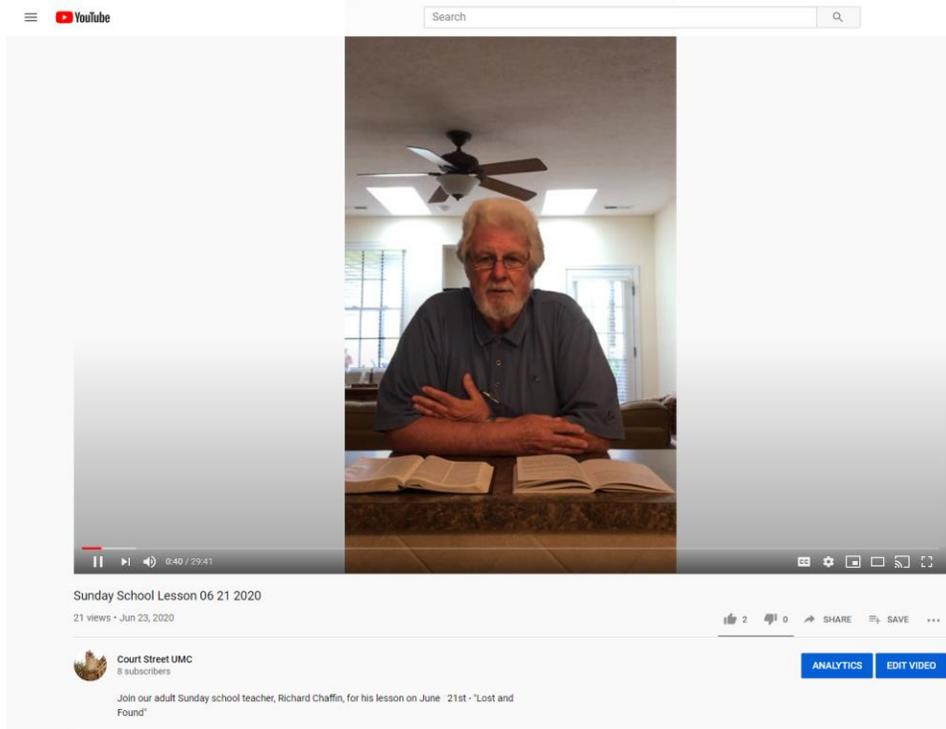
For the Full unedited Article:

<https://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2018/june-web-only/make-worship-patriotic-again-top-10-songs-fourth-of-july.html>

JULY'S ADULT BIBLE STUDY CLASS
BOOKS ARE AVAILABLE TO PICK UP IN THE CHURCH OFFICE
CONTINUE TO READ LESSONS WEEKLY

July 5: **"Promised Restoration"**
July 12: **"Wisdom to Navigate Life's Challenges"**
July 19: **"Our Always-Faithful God"**
July 26: **"Forgiving, Merciful, Compassionate"**

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



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.



LILLIE MCDANIEL TURNS ANOTHER YEAR OLDER~ MONDAY THE 6TH!!

We do not disclose a lady's age, but Lillie is having a "special" birthday this year in Quarantine at Westminster. Please send cards and well wishes to her from a "Social Distance". We wish we could celebrate in person, but a virtual hug will have to do for now. You can send cards to:

Lillie McDaniel
501 VES Road, Apt. C407
Lynchburg, VA 24503
Or call her:
Home phone: 434-386-3766 ~ Cell phone (for texts or Duo calls): 540-588-0146

ONLINE WORSHIP WITH MARSH MEMORIAL IS ON FACE BOOK!!

Join us on Facebook every Sunday at 11:00 am. The video is on pastor Burleigh's page and then shared on the Marsh Memorial and Court Street pages to watch anytime you are online.



OUR SERVICES IN JUNE WERE VIEWED 575 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



A big THANK YOU to 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 BACK to Jay Kelly on the organ!
How we have missed hearing that wonderful instrument!

From the Lynchburg District: Celebrating Transitions

The Clergy Executive Session of the Virginia Annual Conference met by Zoom on Thursday, June 18, 2020. The 2020-2021 appointments have been "fixed" by Bishop Sharma D. Lewis. The new list is available on the conference website at <http://doc.vaumc.org/AC2020/2020Appointments.pdf>

New Appointments:

The Lynchburg District is happy to welcome Rev. Jeongseung Lee who will be serving Mt Hermon and his wife, Rev. Yusang Chung who will be serving the West Campbell. Rev. Lee and Rev. Chung and their two young daughters come to us from Boston MA.

We welcome Rev. Royce "Chip" Jones who is serving Mead Memorial UMC, Rev. Russel Alden who is serving the Otter Charge in addition to the Peakview Charge, Rev. Jack Davis, who is serving Epworth UMC, and Rev. Dawn Compton who is serving Main Street UMC and Rev. Bob Woodfin, who is serving Providence/White's UMCs. Finally, we welcome Rev. Andrew LaBar-Dietz who is joining the staff at Peakland UMC as Associate Minister.

Retiring:

We celebrate the retirement of Rev. Rick Ecklund, who is serving New Hope UMC and Sharon UMC in retirement. We celebrate the retirement of Rev. Marci Huntsman who will be moving to Steamboat, CO. We bid farewell to Rev. June Carpenter who is moving to the Danville District and to Rev. Keon Huh who is moving to the Harrisonburg District. Finally, we say farewell to Emma Johnston, Associate Minister at Peakland UMC will be moving to North Carolina later in the summer.

From Bishop Sharma Lewis:

Dear Virginia Annual Conference:

These are certainly challenging times – and there is also a great deal of positive news for our church. Through faith, flexibility, and hard work we are returning to in-person worship in a safe and responsible manner. Virginia is on track to enter Phase Three of Governor Northam's reopening plan this Wednesday, July 1, 2020, as the number of COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations and deaths continue to decline in the Commonwealth. The Conference has been carefully monitoring events at the state level and the transition to Phase Three by Governor Northam was expected. It does not impact our return to worship plans. Our churches continue the return to in-person under the Stage 2 criteria that went into effect for the Conference on June 21, 2020. The Conference will remain in our Stage 2 for the foreseeable future as we are being rigorous about the safety of our members and guests. Face coverings and social distancing are essential at all in-person gatherings. I encourage all churches to return to in-person worship, even if it is with a modest number of church members, while continuing to provide online or telephonic worship services. We will continue to monitor and evaluate events. As trends are expected to continue to improve in Virginia, we will likely loosen some of the requirements for in-person worship. Thank you to the hundreds of churches that have returned to in-person worship and other church activities, and thanks to those that are making plans to do so soon. Even though the services are smaller than before the pandemic, you are providing important, essential ministry to help the well-being of the Body of Christ. Every church that is comfortable can have in-person worship by following the [Technical Assistance Manual](#) on the Conference website.

Peace and Blessings,
Bishop Sharma D. Lewis

From Bishop Lewis, Appointive Cabinet and Annual Conference Planning Team

The Bishop, Appointive Cabinet and the Annual Conference Planning team have continued to evaluate options while conducting extensive logistical work of planning for the 2020 Virginia Annual Conference.

We would like to inform the Conference that the 2020 Virginia Annual Conference will take place on Saturday, September 19, 2020, in a virtual format.

Additional details regarding timing, agenda and procedure will be forthcoming. Thank you for your patience and understanding as the Planning Team continues to coordinate the many facets of conducting Annual Conference, especially in this unusual time.

Please direct any questions to your [district superintendent](#).

Birthdays and Anniversaries

July Birthdays	July Anniversaries	August Birthdays
Sam Franklin July 06	Lori & Eddie Letchford July 12	Christopher Lilly August 01
Lillie McDaniel July 06	Sarah & Eric Johnson July 18	Walter Wright August 08
Karen Speer July 11		John Sweeney August 09
Kathy Mason July 14	August Anniversaries	Martha Moorman August 10
Christine Speer July 17	Sarah & Aaron McGlothlin August 02	Susan Hall August 11
Madeline White July 18	Debbie & Richard Chaffin August 23	Josh Larkin August 13
Keith Leazer July 20		Ann McDaniel August 20
Jo Woods July 20		Cheryl West August 21
George Clark July 23		Matthew Diuguid August 22
Kathy Draper July 23		Debbie Chaffin August 26
Brent McCraw July 24		Robert Allen Tyree August 31
Sarah Haley McGlothlin July 24		
Laura McCraw July 26		
Sherwood Newton July 28		
Noel Draper July 31		



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 – 263 Gartin Place, 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

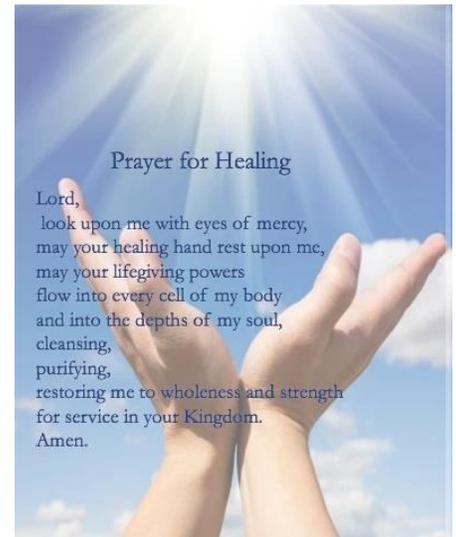
*Robert Tyree – 1404 Brookville Lane, Lynchburg, Virginia 24502

son of *Mary Tyree, brother of *Debbie Chaffin

Elaine St. Vincent – 501 VES Road Room 415

Lynchburg, VA 24503

* Church members



Prayer for Healing

Lord,
look upon me with eyes of mercy,
may your healing hand rest upon me,
may your lifegiving powers
flow into every cell of my body
and into the depths of my soul,
cleansing,
purifying,
restoring me to wholeness and strength
for service in your Kingdom.
Amen.

Gifts to the church

To the General Fund in Memory of:

Eleanor Pillow by:
Susan Cobbs

Update on Capital Campaign:

Campaign Goal	\$300,000
Promised as of 6/28/20	\$248,981
Balance needed to reach goal	\$51,019
Received to Date	\$210,066
Received since last update	\$50.00
Elevator fund	\$10.328

We send our love and sympathy to:

Anne Langley on the loss of her brother Oscar Stewart Martin, Jr. on Saturday June 27th

Court Street UMC
621 Court Street
Lynchburg Va. 24504



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

EMAIL: 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.

