



The Courier

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

June 2020

Court Street United Methodist Church

COVID-19 from a Biblical Perspective

People all around the world have become familiar with COVID-19, which has resulted in great fear and concern by many. And just when we think we have learned all there is to know about COVID-19, a new day comes, and we find out something else that results in even greater concern. Only God knows how serious this virus is and how many people will be infected by it in the near future. As a pastor, I have had many come to me with concerns about how COVID-19 can and should be approached. In addition, I have received numerous suggestions from various ministries, medical and governmental sources offering guidelines to adapt what eventually may bring a resolve to this tragic worldwide situation. I thank God for those in the medical science field who are searching for a solution to COVID-19. I am also grateful for political leaders who are attempting to provide direction that will keep the general citizenry informed, calm and peaceful. But I realize that those of us who are in pastoral ministry have a great responsibility before God to provide the spiritual leadership necessary to guide America through this tragic circumstance. Certainly, there is no lack of secular advice being given as to how to approach COVID-19. But I believe the ultimate approach should be from the biblical perspective that presents God's way of dealing with this issue. One passage of Scripture to consider is Psalm 91, which teaches how God takes care of his own. Take time to read all 16 verses of this passage. To summarize the Psalm, we are told that those who belong to God through faith in Jesus Christ dwell in the inner sanctum of the presence of God, who protects them as a mother bird cares for her young under her wings. The promise is that no evil shall befall them because God will keep them in all of their ways. Through God's grace, love and mercy, he will "*set them on high*" and show them his salvation that involves the deliverance through whatever may come their way. This applies to COVID-19 and all other trials of life. Realizing God's promise to provide for his own as taught in Psalm 91, and then trusting God to keep his word, as he always does, will erase the greatest of all fear, anxiety and panic in the hearts of the deeply concerned. So how does one get to the place of trusting God and seeing his provision? Perhaps remembering the following facts about God will help. God is in control. So depend upon him to do what is right. God has a purpose. So watch for him to work. God will provide. So trust in him to deliver. God has a mission. So declare his truth abroad. God has a remedy. So praise him for what he will do. Even though there is a lot of advice being given in the world as to how to approach COVID-19, the sooner one focuses on who God is, what God expects and how God works, and then is convinced of the fact that God causes, allows and directs all things according to his sovereign plan, the more one will experience the strength, hope, peace, comfort and confidence that only God can provide.

~ Pastor Bill Burleigh

HOPE = HANGING ON PATIENTLY EVERYDAY



Musical Musings

QUARANTINE EDITION



Anthems From the Past

Did You Know?

That Court Street's website has recordings of Anthems from the past? Many of the solos and anthems sung in 2016 are loaded on the website for your enjoyment. Here are the musings of ones available to hear online: (click on the title to hear)

"Ave Verum Corpus" by Byrd

"Ave verum corpus" is a short Eucharistic chant that has also been set to music by various composers. It dates from the 14th century and has been attributed to Pope Innocent VI. During the Middle Ages it was sung at the elevation of the sacramental bread during the consecration. It was also used frequently during Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. The poem is a meditation on the Catholic belief in Jesus's real presence in the sacrament of the Eucharist, and ties it to the Catholic conception of the redemptive meaning of suffering in the life of all believers.

"Steal Away", arr. Hogan

The spiritual "Steal Away" was one of a number of songs containing dual meaning from times of slavery in the United States. The broad appeal to escape our earthly bonds and serve Jesus also disguised a more immediate invitation to physically escape slavery, either by the "Underground Railroad" or on one's own.

"I Want Jesus to Walk with Me" arr. Hogan

The song "I Want Jesus to Walk with Me" is a traditional African-American spiritual that reminds us that no matter the situation, we can find refuge with the Lord.

"The Heavens Are Telling," by Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827)

This wonderful setting of Psalm 19 (paraphrased) is often described as majestic and dramatic, and has been a regular favorite of the Court Street Chancel choir.

The Pharisee and the Publican, by Heinrich Schütz (1585-1672)

The Chancel Choir is pleased to return to early Baroque composer Heinrich Schütz' famous setting of Jesus' parable depicting the Pharisee and the tax collector (publican). Each character is dramatically represented by a soloist, whereas Jesus' words are performed by the entire choir.

"Lead Me, Lord," by Samuel Sebastian Wesley (1810-1876)

Grandson of the Methodist movement leader Charles Wesley, Samuel Wesley was the illegitimate child of Charles' son Samuel and his partner Sarah Suter, and shared the same middle name as last Sunday's composer, whose music his father Samuel greatly admired. Samuel Junior became renowned throughout England as an excellent organist and choirmaster. His compositions were mostly for the Anglican Church; among them, *Praise the Lord, O My Soul*, a larger work in which one can find this beloved gem: "Lead Me, Lord."

"My Refuge, My Fortress," by Jane Marshall (1924-)

Jane Marshall, both alumna and esteemed faculty member of Southern Methodist University, creatively combined texts from Psalm 91, Isaac Watts, and the tune ST. ANNE ("O God Our Help in Ages Past") in this stirring anthem. Perhaps most remarkable is her use of the choir when the ST. ANNE tune is first heard: marked "like a chant," the choir sings an almost recitative-like passage to the text, "Those who love me I will deliver; I will protect those who know my name. When they call to me, I will answer them; I will be with them in trouble, I will rescue them and honor them. With long life I will satisfy them, and show them my salvation."

"Hosanna to the Son of David," by Orlando Gibbons (1583-1625)

Although the English composer and keyboardist Orlando Gibbons died at the young age of 42, his compositions were very influential in English church music - and very popular. His monumental "Hosanna to the Son of David" was disseminated throughout England, and exists in at least 30 sources from Gibbons' time.

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

June 7: "Living as God's People"

June 14: "Fire on the Mountain"

June 21: "Lost and Found"

June 28: "Forever Love"

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.



Please Join Us in Congratulating:

Christopher Michael Kincaid who graduated from Venice High School in Venice, Florida. He is enrolling this summer at State College of Florida (SCF) also in Venice, Florida. Christopher is the son of Kenny Kincaid and the grandson of Bobbi and Randy Hurst.

Caroline McCraw who graduated from UVA with a bachelor's degree in Economics with minor in Entrepreneurship. She is the daughter of Laura and Brent McCraw and the granddaughter of Charles Thaxton.

Libba McCraw who graduated from UVA with a bachelor's degree in Economics with minor in Foreign Affairs. She is the daughter of Laura and Brent McCraw and the granddaughter of Charles Thaxton.

Ben Stogner who graduated from Liberty University with a master's in Music Education. He will pursue his Doctorate in Vocal Performance from the University of South Carolina in the fall. Ben is a member of the Chancel Choir.

Joseph Vasquez who graduated from Randolph College with a bachelor's degree in Physics. He will attend grad school in astrophysics at Texas Christian University this fall. Joe is a member of the Chancel Choir.

Please congratulate them and their parents/grandparents for a job well-done!

ONLINE WORSHIP WITH MARSH MEMORIAL IS ON FACE BOOK LIVE!!

Join us live on Facebook every Sunday at 10:00 am. The live feed is on pastor Burleigh's page and then shared later in the day on the Marsh Memorial and Court Street pages to watch anytime you are online.



OUR SERVICES IN MAY WERE VIEWED 673 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!



Embrace the Now, Prepare for the Next!

A Plan for Resuming In-Person Worship

May 13, 2020

In the Virginia Annual Conference

Dear Virginia Annual Conference:

Our Conference has begun the return to in-person worship with Drive-In and Pioneer Church services held on Sunday, May 24 and Sunday, May 31. These have gone quite well throughout the Commonwealth. We will continue to build upon this on Sunday, June 7 and in the weeks ahead.

I thank all of you for your continued commitment to serve Christ and to leading your congregations with joy, peace, and ingenuity during this challenging time. I especially thank the dozens of clergy, church staff, laity, and volunteers who held Drive-In services and services in sanctuaries that followed the Pioneer Church worship format.

On May 24, I had the pleasure of attending a Pioneer Church Worship service at Providence UMC in New Kent, which is east of Richmond. This past Sunday, I attended a Drive-In service at Ocran UMC in Sutherland, outside of Petersburg.

Yes, with the safety precautions in place, it was different and at times a little awkward, such as sitting six feet away and having the inconvenience of wearing a face covering. However, taking these precautions quickly melted away because of the joy I felt being at the House of the Lord with fellow believers!

As much as we all desire to “get back to normal” concerning in-person worship, we must approach this carefully, diligently and above all with love for those in our communities, especially the elderly and those with underlying health conditions who are especially susceptible to COVID-19.

Safety matters most. In fact, it cannot be understated that this is an issue of life and death. As such, we have a duty to our members and guests to follow a regimented process that protects everyone from contracting COVID-19. We cannot guarantee anyone’s safety but we know that being casual in how we return to in-person worship is not the way we treat our brothers and sisters in Christ. It is well documented that without proper precautions, churches can be one of the most dangerous places for contracting COVID-19.

Please offer your support and prayers to these churches that are helping us to innovate. If you would like to attend a drive-in service, please call ahead to the church that is offering it at least four days in advance to register your attendance and receive any special instructions. Pray for your own Healthy Church Team as they prepare for the return to in-person worship and as they discern whether to offer your church to be a Pioneer Church.

Learn more about the core requirements for becoming a Pioneer Church or holding a Drive-In service at your church in the attached appendices. In addition, the Local Church Handbook has a wealth of information for any contingencies that may arise or questions you may have about how the Conference is phasing in the return of in-person worship. It can be found at: <https://vaumc.org/return/>.

Please keep in mind that we are all part of the Body of Christ and we have a duty to protect ourselves, our families, and our brothers and sisters in Christ. We must be measured in how we return to in-person worship. We are to love God and our neighbors and transform the world. We will do both by being careful and safe. The attached sheets and the Handbook are the framework for us to get this right.

I am so proud of how our Conference has remained positive in the face of so much negativity and adversity in our world. Our faith in Jesus Christ provides the only light we need at the end of the tunnel. Our denomination will be stronger because of our connectional nature as United Methodists. Pray for me, as I pray for you.

Thank you for your attention to these matters.

Peace and Blessings,
Bishop Sharma D. Lewis

Birthdays and Anniversaries

June Birthdays	June Anniversaries	July Birthdays
Cameron Jackson June 03	Karen & Randy Speer June 01	Sam Franklin July 06
McKenzie Lynn Larkin June 07	Susan & Keith Leazer June 12	Lillie McDaniel July 06
Rob McDaniel June 09	Samantha & Matthew Turner June 17	Karen Speer July 11
Andy Whitehead June 16	Elizabeth & Josh Larkin June 23	Kathy Mason July 14
Rick Kinne June 17	Barbara & Bobby Brown June 26	Christine Speer July 17
Katie Thaxton June 18	Ellen & David Petty June 30	Madeline Pillow July 18
Ellen Petty June 20	July Anniversaries	Keith Leazer July 20
Elaine St. Vincent June 28	Lori & Eddie Letchford July 12	Jo Woods July 20
Samantha Turner June 29	Sarah & Eric Johnson July 18	George Clark July 23
		Kathy Draper July 23
		Brent McCraw July 24
		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 – 5271 Avenue Unit 373, Shepherd AFB, TX 76311
son of Shelley and Rev. Bill Burleigh

SICK (Church members*)

*Harriette Cash – 501 VES Road, Hearthside Rm 627, Lynchburg, VA 24503
Phone # 434-386-3377

*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

Sylvia Shuff - Mother-in-Law of Rev. Bill Burleigh

*Alicia Speer – 1815 Rivermont Ave #68, Lynchburg, VA 24503

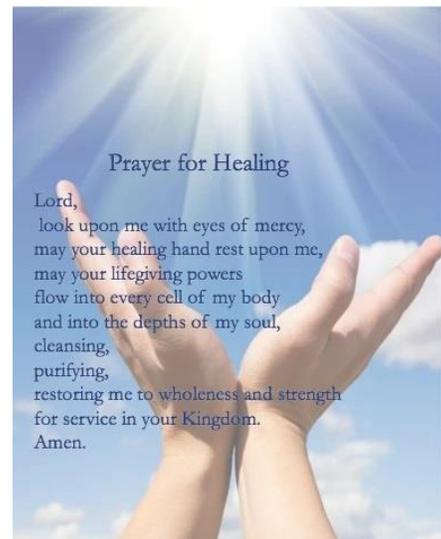
*Robert Tyree – 1404 Brookville Lane, Lynchburg, Virginia 24502

son of *Mary Tyree, brother of *Debbie Chaffin

Elaine St. Vincent – 501 VES Road Room 415

Lynchburg, VA 24503

* Church members



Gifts to the church

To the General Fund in Memory of:

Eleanor Pillow by:

Peggy S. Berger; Connie Coleman & Lynn Watson; Argent Credit Union; Clifford and Mary Ann Demars; Langley Federal Credit Union; Nancy Z. Farley; Next Mark Credit Union; Mary and Jim Rogers; Shanda & Garnette Horner; Janelle and G. Doug Pillow; Conrad (Buz) Frey, Deane Frey, and Cameron Frey Sealey; Sandra and Fred Keesee; Bill Puckett; Susan and Bob Butler; UVA Community Credit Union; Justice Federal Credit Union; Virginia Credit Union Services; Adult Sunday School; Kathy Mason; Dolly and Dee Porter; Ray Pulliam; Mary and Joyce Tolley; Sonny and Carolyn Smith; CUNA Mutual Group

To the General Fund in Memory of:

Eleanor Pillow by:

Walter Wright

Update on Capital Campaign:

Campaign Goal	\$300,000
Promised as of 5/31/20	\$248,981
Balance needed to reach goal	\$51,019
Received to Date	\$210,016
Received since last update	\$250.00
Elevator fund	\$10,328

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.

ESA Outside!

Saturday, June 6th

Ballet Fitness

Ages 10 - adult

10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Wear your sneakers, bring a towel or pilates mat, and water bottle, and enjoy a ballet-style workout! (Dance experience not required to participate)

Art in the Park

Ages 6 - 12

11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Engage your imagination in the great outdoors, while painting a canvas! Students will be guided through an acrylic painting. Students should wear old clothes or an apron. All art supplies included.




Ecclesia
SCHOOL OF THE ARTS

\$10 per class (pre-registration required)

Register online at EcclesiaArts.com

Classes will be held outside in the playground area at Ecclesia School of the Arts.