



# The Courier

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## MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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September 2020

Court Street United Methodist

### Christian Response to COVID-19

As the COVID-19 pandemic sweeps across the world, how should Christians respond? I believe that, as Christians, there are a number of specific responses that we can, and should, make to this crisis in our world. First, and most importantly, don't panic. There are more than enough "Chicken Littles" running around proclaiming doom and gloom, and there are many false prophets proclaiming this virus as God's judgment against whatever ill they believe plagues society. I believe that it is important during this time that we realize that God is still sovereign. He is in control. Nothing that is happening is a surprise to him. Regardless of what may happen to others around me, to my family, or to myself, God is in control and I can trust him to accomplish his perfect will through whatever may come. That does not mean that I will not potentially experience hurt or grief, but, as Paul said, *"I know who I have believed and am persuaded that he will guard what I have entrusted to him till the end"*, and with that knowledge, as believers, we can rest assured that he will take care of us. One of the challenges that many are facing now is being isolated from other people. If you are on the extreme end of the introvert scale, this may not be a big deal. But for most people extended isolation can be very challenging. During this time, look for opportunities to stay in touch. Nothing can replace face to face contact and human touch. Many of us today live in a very connected world. We can text, chat, email, talk on the phone, attend virtual worship services and more. Of course, not everyone can do all of that, but most of us can do at least some of it. So, take advantage of the available technology. Stay in touch with the other people in your normal circle of family and friends. Make the effort to contact them to see how they are doing and offer encouragement to them. Especially look to those who may be all alone. As always, Christians should be open to opportunities to help those in need, and that is no less true during this time. You may find it challenging if you are among the many who find yourself spending more time at home than you are accustomed to. If you are in that position, take advantage of the opportunity to spend more time in personal development. You can read a book. Invest time in your family. Pray. Read the Bible. Seek the Lord and his will for your life. Above all, don't let this time go to waste. Without a doubt, the loss of life and suffering caused by COVID-19 is tragic. Before it runs its course, it will have likely touched everyone in the world to one extent or another. But, as Christians, our response does not need to mirror the unrest and despair that those around us exhibit. We have a hope that transcends this world and our circumstances. We can rejoice, not in the tragic events unfolding around us, but in the God who can use them to accomplish his purpose in our lives and in this world. During this time of darkness, be a light. Let your light so shine that it will glorify God, drawing others to find their hope and fullness in the only one who truly transcends the struggles of this life. *"Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."*

~ Pastor Bill Burleigh

**DURING THIS TIME OF DARKNESS, BE A LIGHT**



# *Musical Musings*

## **QUARANTINE EDITION**



### **Churchgoers aren't able to lift every voice and sing during the pandemic.**

Excerpts from an article on [The Conversation](#) by Donna M. Cox Professor of Music, University of Dayton:

Because of COVID-19, churches no longer reverberate with song; hymnals are neatly stacked and projection screens blank. Even as church leaders plan for reopening, scientists warn that it might be too early to resume singing in groups. Though such restrictions are understandable, they rob congregations of an important aspect of their Christian faith. As the Apostle Paul wrote in Ephesians 5, Believers should be *“filled with the spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord.”*

Singing has tremendous power, both spiritually and physically. When people sing, sound runs through the body, giving rise to emotion and facilitating transformation. It acts as a natural antidepressant by releasing endorphins, the feel-good chemical. Studies have also linked singing with improved mental alertness, memory, and concentration through increased oxygenated blood to the brain. Neuroscientist Andrew Newberg found that changes in the brain during worship make people “nicer, more forgiving, and trustful.”

Those with praise teams and bands that lead the congregation in song found it easier to provide music in online services – with fewer people, social distancing was easier to maintain. As a result, they continued to rehearse and perform in livestreamed or prerecorded services. The Ebony Heritage Singers recorded a song for the University of Dayton’s virtual commencement using this technique. The result was pleasing, but it lacked the true feel of a gospel music performance. In my experience, virtual choral experiences are pale imitations of the real thing. Being connected in a physical way, feeling each others’ inhalations, coordinating exhalations and blending voices gives life to singers and to congregations.

Although research on the spread of COVID-19 is rapidly changing, singing in groups might be deemed too risky to enable churches to return to anything approaching “normal” for a long time. So, until further notice, congregations are being advised to consider alternatives to singing. Worship may still be joyful, but it will likely be more quiet.

The full article can be found [HERE](#)

Since the last newsletter article on Virtual Choirs was published; a new section has been added to the church’s YouTube page featuring virtual choirs singing favorite hymns and anthems. Here are a few more links to enjoy including The Ebony Heritage Singers from the University of Dayton mentioned in the above article. Enjoy!

**Ebony Heritage Singers** performing [“I sing because I’m Happy”](#)

**NYC Virtual Choir and Orchestra** performing [How Can I Keep from Singing](#)

**300 Ireland Churches** performing [Be Thou My Vision](#)

**All Women Virtual Choir** performing [Down to the River](#)

**800 musicians from 55 countries** combine to create a stunning virtual video - [Nearer, My God, to Thee](#)

**Catholic Artists from Home** performing [Be Not Afraid](#)

**The Georgian Singers, Mersey Wave Choir, and Runcorn Community Choir** performs [You Raise Me Up](#)



### PARKVIEW CAFÉ "TO GO"

Beginning in July, Park View Café began distributing to-go meals on Wednesday nights at the Park View Café. They set up a large table at the bottom of the ramp, greet the neighbors with mask and gloves on, and hand them a to-go dinner. Justine Kiger and Jadon Nagel, Directors at Park View Café, feel this will be the routine through the end of the year.

Court Street UMC was scheduled to provide the Wednesday night dinner at Park View Café on September 23rd. The meal we would have served in April was canceled due to the pandemic. Our Missions Committee voted to send Park View Café a check for \$600.00, approximately the amount that would have been spent for food and supplies if we had been able to serve as scheduled in April and September.



The workers from Court Street who normally set up, prepare, serve and cleanup will be so happy to get back to Park View Café when it is safe.

*"...Your church is such a Blessing to this ministry!!! Thank you for helping us during this difficult time!!! Faithfully, Justine"*

**JAMES CROSSING BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM** received a donation of 7 desktop and 2 laptop computers thanks to our very own Milton West! The Education and Research Foundation was upgrading their computers and he told them about the program that we support at James Crossing. They were glad to donate the computers to help start a computer lab. B.B. Shavers will be starting the program back up once the Community Center is back open. Thank you Milton for thinking of our kids!

**LYNCHBURG CITY SCHOOLS REOPEN VIRTUALLY** and our James Crossing kids will need more support than ever! Pastor Burleigh and B.B. Shavers will start handing out school supplies and food to James Crossing starting this week. Each Friday Parkview food for thought with the help of our members will deliver and pass out food through the backpack program until kids return to school. A big THANK YOU to our members who made donations and have volunteered to deliver the backpack food on Fridays. If you are available to help with deliveries; please contact the church office to be added to the list of volunteers.

### 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.



**SEPTEMBER'S ADULT BIBLE STUDY CLASS  
CONTINUE TO READ LESSONS WEEKLY**

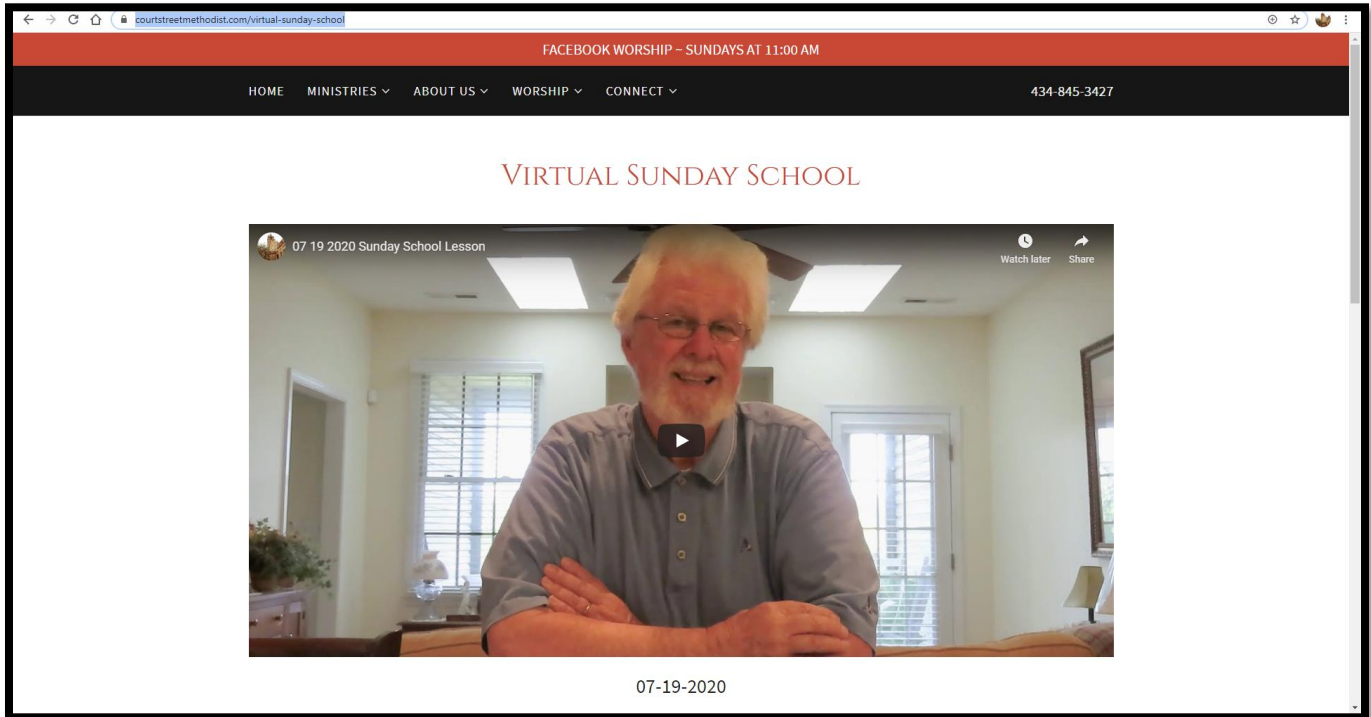
September 6: **"Seeing Jesus"**

September 13: **"Forgiven, Rescued, Restored"**

September 20: **"Life in the Spirit"**

September 27: **"Faith, Salvation, and Righteousness"**

**"VIRTUAL SUNDAY SCHOOL" is now available on our [WEBSITE](#)**



**WORSHIP SERVICES ON FACEBOOK, YOUTUBE AND OUR WEBSITE!!**

Join us every Sunday for worship at Court Street and Marsh Memorial. The video is on Court Street's Facebook page. 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)

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



**A big THANK YOU to the Lynchburg Symphony Orchestra and Chancel Choir members who provide special music.**

## \*Birthdays and Anniversaries\*

September Birthdays	September Anniversaries	October Birthdays
Mike Russell            Sept 01	Nancy & Mike Russell    Sept. 03	Jeb Haley                October 01
Alicia Speer            Sept 01	Stuart & Tracy Jackson   Sept. 24	Charles Sweeney        October 05
Dane Peterson         Sept 04	Lisa & Jeff Thaxton        Sept. 25	GiGi Sweeney            October 05
Cecil Kidd              Sept 06		Addison Johnson        October 08
Mark Roper             Sept 06		Libba McCraw            October 09
David Case, Jr.        Sept 07		Caroline McCraw         October 09
Pam Jackson            Sept 10	<b>October Anniversaries</b>	Pat Haley                 October 10
Lynette James         Sept 10	Christine & Karl Speer    October 10	Karen Hudnall            October 13
Dennis Pruitt          Sept 10		Susan Leazer             October 16
Robert Draper         Sept 16		Irby Hudson              October 22
Aubrey McDaniel      Sept 29		Charles Thaxton         October 22
Eva Shober             Sept 29		Robin Hudson            October 23
		Anne Quillian            October 28
		Karl Speer                October 29

### 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
- \*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
- \*Church members

### PRAYER FOR THE SICK

Father God, we lift up all those who are facing illness today. We ask that You would bring healing, comfort and peace to their bodies. Calm their fears and let them experience the healing power of Your love. In Jesus' name. Amen. 

~ We send our love and sympathy to Sharyn Marks and the family of Elaine St. Vincent who passed away Friday August 21<sup>st</sup>.

#### Update on Capital Campaign:

Campaign Goal	\$300,000
Promised as of 8/30/20	\$248,981
Balance needed to reach goal	\$51,019
Received to Date	\$210,466
Received since last update	\$350.00
<b>Elevator fund</b>	<b>\$10,328</b>

Court Street UMC  
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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.

