

The Courier

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

April 2021

Court Street United Methodist Church

Who is With Us?

Easter has come at a sobering time this year. In the last year, hundreds of thousands of people have died across the United States, and millions around the world. And while those statistics might feel startling, they barely even begin to tell the full story of the suffering - children who have lost parents without being able to say goodbye, parents who have lost children before their time, those who have died separated from their families, nurses and doctors who have literally given their lives in hopes that others might live. Anyone who is paying attention, who is seeing and acknowledging all this suffering, has got to be asking why? It's one of our most basic human responses as we try to understand. I wonder if Easter brings us a better question. Instead of why, I wonder if we might ask, who is with us? At first, our reaction might be to push that question away in anger and say, if anyone was with me, this wouldn't be happening! But who is with us is precisely the question of Easter, for Easter reminds us that we are not alone, that we are not forgotten, and that we are not abandoned even in our darkest moments. Easter reminds us that God lifted Jesus from death after the suffering and despair of his crucifixion. As I reflect on God sending Jesus to live among us and allowing him to be crucified, I can imagine God trying to tell us I'm willing to suffer with you. I am with you even when it seems you must be alone. God shows us that our suffering, our despair, and our death are never the end of the story. Seeing beyond what is in front of us can seem the hardest part, for we tend to think that what we can see right now is the end of the story. Trusting there's more to the story, when we're afraid of what might happen next, takes a unique act of faith, an act of curiosity. For it is curiosity that leaves a window open for something unexpected, something unforeseen to happen next. Curiosity leaves room for the story to continue. God is with us, always.

~ Pastor Bill Burleigh

BECAUSE HE IS RISEN, SO CAN WE

QUARANTINE

Musical Musings

QUARANTINE EDITION

The importance of music in the church and why you should enjoy singing-up on Sunday

Excerpts from an article on Christianity.com by Bob Kauflin Director of Worship Development: Sovereign Grace Ministries.

Below is an article by Bob Kauflin from Christianity.com, it's a good read with some interesting arguments. What do you think of the points raised in this article? To appreciate this message, you don't even have to enjoy singing. But if that's where you're at, remember that God has a passion for singing. "Oh sing to the Lord a new song. Sing to the Lord all the earth ... tell of his salvation from day to day" (**Psalm 96:1-3**; cf. **Psalm 47:6**). The Bible contains over 400 references to singing and 50 direct commands to sing. We're commanded twice in the New Testament to sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs (**Ephesians 5:19**; **Colossians 3:16**).

Why does God command us not only to praise him, but to *sing* praises to him?

We can begin by realizing that God himself sings (**Zephaniah 3:17**). Jesus sang hymns with his disciples. **Ephesians 5** tells us that one of the fruits of being filled with the Spirit is singing. So we worship a triune God who sings, and he wants us to be like him.

How does music relate to words?

Some Christians think music supersedes the word, both in its significance and effect. Others think that music undermines the word. But God himself wants them together. He gave us music to serve to word. How music does this is the theme of this message.

Three Ways Singing Serves the Word

1) Singing can help us remember words.

Ever notice how easy it is to recall the words of songs you haven't heard for 20 years? We store literally hundreds, even thousands of songs in our memory vaults. Music has an unusual mnemonic power. We remember patterns in music much better than patterns in words alone. Rhyme, meter, and song are the most powerful mnemonic devices. They govern and restrict the way we say words and the time it takes to say them. Notice in Deuteronomy 31 that God uses music to help his people remember his words.

2) Singing can help us engage the words emotionally.

Music is a language of emotion in every culture of every age. It is capable of affecting us in profound and subtle ways (like when Saul's spirit was calmed by David's harp).

Why does music affect us deeply?

One reason is its associations. In our culture, a fast song in a major key is usually associated with happiness, whereas a slow song in a minor key is associated with sadness. Music can also bring forth old associations of things that happened in certain periods or experiences in our lives.

Musical skill also has a role in affecting us deeply. If it is played well it can affect us to a deeper degree, whereas poorly done music can be distracting or less effective.

Music helps us engage emotionally with the words we are singing also by stretching things out. It gives us time to think about the words more carefully. Consider the repetition of **Psalm 136** or the hymn "It Is Well." Through repetition the words and emotions are amplified.

3) Singing can help us use words to demonstrate and express our unity.

The first two points can be accomplished when we sing by ourselves, but this point needs other people.

People sing together in the strangest places: rock concerts, sporting events, birthdays, weddings, funerals. Singing together tends to bind us together. It enables us to spend extended periods of times expressing the same thoughts and passions. And when it comes to the church, it has significant implications.

Scripture does not only speak about congregational singing—God can be honored when we sing alone or when soloists sing in the church. But it is clear that the dominant theme of Scripture is believers singing together. Jesus died to redeem a universal choir, and every individual voice matters. We are not called to listen to others sing or to sing by ourselves. We are called to sing together. The question is not, "Do you have a voice?" The question is, "Do you have a song?" If you're redeemed by Christ's cross, then you do have a song.

We must be clear that it is the gospel and not music that unites us. We should guard against gathering together in churches based upon our musical preferences rather than according to our unity in the gospel. The gospel is what unites us. **Ephesians 2:14** – Jesus has united us, not our music. I don't connect with people at my church because they have the same song selection on their iPod. I love them because Christ has enabled me to love them.

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

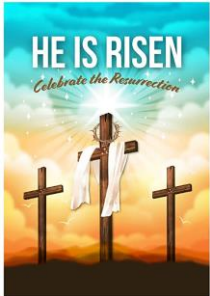
April 4: **“Encounter on the Road to Emmaus”**

April 11: **“Living by New Standards”**

April 18: **“Clothed with the New Person”**

April 25: **“Vessels for the Lord”**

VIRTUAL SUNDAY SCHOOL IS GOING STRONG with **40** weeks of lessons on our website <https://courtstreetmethodist.com/virtual-sunday-school> and [YouTube channel](#) to enjoy.



SUNRISE SERVICE AT MARSH MEMORIAL will be at 7:00am on Easter morning in the top parking lot of the church. Please join our sister church to celebrate our risen Lord! (bring a chair if you need to sit) After the service you are also welcome to join members at Cracker Barrel for breakfast.

IN LIEU OF EASTER LILLIES was once again a great success! We raised over 1,000.00 for meals on wheels. The list of “In Honor Of and In Memory Of” is posted to the end of the service online. We hope to continue to give to charities each year in lieu of flowers.

IN-PERSON WORSHIP TO RETURN MAY 2ND!!! A plan to return to in-person worship was submitted to the district and they not only approved our plan to return but are happy to hear we are ready to come back! A recording of the service will still be available for those who are unable or not ready to return in-person.

VIRGINIA CONFERENCE NEWS:

VIRTUAL EASTER CHOIR WAS A GREAT SUCCESS! Over 400 members of the UMC recorded themselves singing “Thine Be the Glory”. The video is available to watch on all of our media platforms: [Website](#), [Face Book](#), and [You Tube](#). One of your favorite Lay Speakers, Chris Howell, is in the video!!!! Try to spot her. Hint: she is wearing blue.

DISTRICT ALIGNMENT UPDATE

The District Alignment Team (DAT) was formed in 2020 with Bishop Lewis to discern, “How can districts most effectively order themselves for the adaptive challenges of the 21st century?” Through the team, we are doing bold and prayerful work – work that builds upon the collective vision of the Virginia Conference which is “to be disciples who are lifelong learners who influence others to serve.” And as you recall, this vision is rooted in the larger mission of The United Methodist Church which is to “make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.”

Follow this link to the Virginia Conference for more information on the districts and moving forward with 8 District Superintendents for 16 Districts. (Lynchburg will join Danville)

<https://vaumc.org/dat/>

Birthdays and Anniversaries

April Birthdays		May Birthdays
Harriette Cash April 05	April Anniversaries	Brad Diuguid May 01
Emilia Dimitrova April 10	Laura & Brent McCraw April 23	John McDaniel May 04
William Draper April 12	Susan & Sam Angus April 24	Bill Phillips May 14
Stuart Jackson April 14		Dottie Scales May 14
Emmerson Johnson April 17		Matthew Turner May 26
Aaron McGlothlin April 20		Jason Brooks May 31
Marcia Thom-Kaley April 23		
Drew Leazer April 25		
Emma Grace Thom April 25		
Jennifer Draper April 26		
Lewis James April 28		



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*)

- Anne Burleigh ~ 2608 Plum Branch Road, Concord, VA 24538
mother of Rev. Bill Burleigh
- *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
- *Dane Peterson - 901 Jefferson Street – Apt. 3E, 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



Update on Capital Campaign:	
Campaign Goal	\$300,000
Promised as of 3/28/21	\$248,981
Balance needed to reach goal	\$51,019
Received to Date	\$211,216
Received since last update	\$50.00
Elevator fund	\$10,328

Gifts to the church

To the General Fund in Memory of:

Lillie McDaniel by:

Elizabeth and John Rutherford, Kathy Mason, Anne Langley,
Richmond Metropolitan Habitat for Humanity Board of Directors and staff,
Anne McDaniel, Adult Sunday School Class, Helen Petrill, Mary Tyree,
Susan Cobbs, Carol and Jack Johnson.

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.

