



The Courier

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

March 2021

Court Street United Methodist Church

Lent

Lent is the time to practice how we live into the belief that life overcomes death. Let us remember that the opposite of death is birth, and that life is all of this, the entire cycle. Death leads to birth. Jesus's death on the cross leads to a birth of a new order, a new reality where, for those who believe, God's reign overcomes the viciousness of death. So, instead of blaming ourselves for not being perfect or not being perfect in our relationship with God, let us do something simply different this Lent. Let us be relentless in our faith in one another and in our service to God. Let us be determined to remove every barrier that gets in the way of us being transformed into a new being, a new child of God, a new friend, a new neighbor. Let us be unyielding in our pursuit for justice and peace. Being relentless this season may also be understood as being re-LENT-less. Let us do again and again those practices of Lent (praying, fasting, almsgiving). It is simple. Let us pray so we are not tempted to believe we are in this alone. Let us fast from the dependencies we have grown accustomed to that perhaps get in the way of us feeling God's presence in the quiet moments. Let us gift to others from the very gifts that have been given to us. We all know we can do it: give money to the people in your community, especially to those most vulnerable in this moment. Let us adopt the mantra of "less is more," especially during these historically rigorous, challenging, and divisive times. Let us not overthink how we are not measuring up, or how one faithful practice will save our souls. Instead, let us allow ourselves the space to receive God's expansive grace at the very margins of our lives. This may be uncomfortable or unsettling, but trust that God is working new things in and around you. So, let us strengthen our resolve to begin with Ash Wednesday's humiliating AND humbling reminder, "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return." Or let us continually pray for the courage to "Repent and believe in the Gospel." Let this Lent be a time to deepen our imagination, belief, and conviction that an all-powerful and merciful God entered into our world in the form of a newborn baby, walked and talked with friends, ministered with those seen as outcasts in society, debated with local church and community leaders, and transformed before our very eyes when he extended his criminal arms on the empire's cross we now elevate. Let his death-defying act, his arms outstretched, continue to invite all of us to a radical practice of openness where we are simultaneously comfortable and exposed, courageously vulnerable, and vulnerably courageous. Because that is exactly when God's love, healing, justice, and reign breaks us open to be shared with others.

~ Pastor Bill Burleigh

TO PREPARE FOR TOMORROW ~ TRUST JESUS TODAY

QUARANTINE

Musical Musings

QUARANTINE EDITION

The passion and the beauty: why Easter music will send a shiver up your spine

Excerpts from an article on [The Conversation](#) by Thomas Breeze Senior Lecturer in Music Education, Cardiff Metropolitan University

Easter is one of those times of year when even the most irregular churchgoer can feel impelled to don their Sunday best and attend a service. This joyful highpoint of the Christian calendar – and the darker-toned days of the Passion which precede it – may not nowadays have quite the same all-pervading presence in the secular consciousness as Christmas. But this time of year has captured the imagination of composers through the ages – not least because the Church was one of the few steady employment options available for composers for centuries. The result has been some of the best-loved, most enduring, and most ethereally transcendent pieces in the choral repertoire.

For many lovers of choral music, Johann Sebastian Bach is the go-to composer at any time of year. But at Easter, his two settings of the Passion story – as told by St Matthew and St John – are monumental presences in any discussion of great Easter repertoire. One of his many commitments while Kapellmeister (master of music) in Leipzig was to compose a weekly cantata to be performed in church. On Good Friday, this cantata became a setting of the Easter story running to some two-and-a-half hours. It can only be imagined how long the actual service was that contained this masterpiece, given that a sermon would originally have been preached in the interval between the two parts.

George Frideric Handel, of course, provided his own glorious tribute to the Easter season in the second and third parts of the **Messiah**, his most famous oratorio premiered in 1742. Strangely, the Messiah is now most often heard in the run-up to Christmas, and yet the majority of the work deals with the events of the Passion and Easter. The Messiah was a huge success from the start and can be relied upon to this day to pack concert venues – though perhaps not to the extent of the premiere performance. On April 13, 1742, when the great and the good of Dublin gathered to hear the premiere of Handel's masterpiece, concern about the capacity of the hall to meet demand was such that male patrons were requested to attend minus their swords, and their female companions to forgo the customary hoops in their dresses. This allowed an extra 100 audience members to squeeze through the doors.

For those music lovers who prefer to depart from the well-travelled routes and experience some less well-known Eastertide offerings, there are a couple of pieces that would reward the lover of fascinating music stories.

Carlo Gesualdo is hardly a household name as a composer, but his music tends to stay with the listener once discovered – the bizarre part-writing and tortured dissonances can lead the unwary to believe they are listening to 20th-century atonalism, but Gesualdo was in fact a prince who lived from 1566 to 1613. The source of his avant-garde compositional moments was a lifelong sense of guilt and torment at brutally murdering his wife and her lover on catching them in the act of adultery. As a prince, he was able to evade justice for his crime, but the effect on his mind is, supposedly, the reason for the astonishing harmonic twists and leaps in his music. His **Tristis est Anima Mea** is a fine example of his tormented style dovetailing perfectly with the darker moods of Holy Week.

Perhaps the many musical offerings by composers throughout the centuries to the Easter story provide us with a valuable antidote to the teetering piles of chocolate that greet us at every turn in the high street at this time of year. The list above, while far from exhaustive, should provide a more nutritious Easter experience, for the soul at least.

MARCH'S ADULT BIBLE STUDY CLASS

CONTINUE TO READ LESSONS WEEKLY

March 7: “**Living as Holy People**”

March 14: “**Nourishing Holiness**”

March 21: “**Physical Holiness**”

March 28: “**Prayer and Holiness**”

“**VIRTUAL SUNDAY SCHOOL**” is now available on our [WEBSITE](#)
or our Youtube Channel [SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS](#)

CHURCHWIDE MEETING SCHEDULED FOR MARCH 14TH all members are asked to attend an in-person meeting on March 14th at 2:00pm to discuss the future of Court Street. The meeting will be held in the Sanctuary with safety precautions in place. Please wear a mask and practice social distancing. If you are unable to attend; a summary of the meeting will be sent out the following week.

THANK YOU for the care package during finals week! You're among the nicest people I have ever known, and you will never be forgotten for the thoughtfulness you have shown. From *Drew Leazer*

IN LIEU OF EASTER LILLIES Back by popular demand: Court Street will be accepting donations for Meals on Wheels. Please make a donation in Honor and/or Memory of loved ones. The list of names “Given to ~ Given by” will be published on Good Friday and will be added to the end of the Easter Virtual Service posted online. Please send in your donations by March 29th.

VIRGINIA CONFERENCE NEWS:

JOIN THE UMC VIRTUAL EASTER CHOIR Be a part of The United Methodist Church 2021 Worldwide Virtual Easter Choir video! You've seen the videos of choirs and studio singers coming together (digitally) to sing uplifting songs and hymns, creating works of art that in times like these are needed and incredibly inspiring. Congregations will be able to use the video in their Easter worship services and post to social media. Now is your chance to be a part of a virtual choir for Easter! Come together with unified voices to celebrate Christ our Risen Savior!

To participate is easy, just follow this [link!](#)

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

March Birthdays	March Anniversaries	April Birthdays
Sharon Brooks March 04	Amy & Rick Pillow Mar 15	Harriette Cash April 05
Randy Speer March 05	Karen & David Hudnall Mar 20	Emilia Dimitrova April 10
Lori Letchford March 12	Eva & Reiman Shoher Mar 30	William Draper April 12
Susan Angus March 14		Stuart Jackson April 14
Amy Pillow March 15	April Anniversaries	Emmerson Johnson April 17
Rick Pillow March 18	Laura & Brent McCraw April 23	Aaron McGlothlin April 20
David Petty March 19	Susan & Sam Angus April 24	Marcia Thom-Kaley April 23
Bill Puckett March 22		Drew Leazer April 25
Marty Diuguid March 27		Emma Grace Thom April 25
Shanda Horner March 31		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

“
Heavenly Father,
We lift up all those who are
facing various illnesses.
Give them the hope and
courage they need today and
every day. Comfort their pain,
calm their fears, and surround
them with Your peace.
In Jesus' name, Amen.”

CIRCLE OF PRAYER



~ We send our love and Sympathy to Ann Lis and Mary Kay Huss and family in the passing of their mother and longtime Court Street member, Lillie McDaniel on Monday March 1st.

Gifts to the church

A gift was made to the church by Flo Traywick's Estate.

She loved Court Street and her wonderful church family.

It is hard to imagine the future without her, but the outpouring of affection for her and support for us has been a big comfort. ~ Robin Williams and family

Update on Capital Campaign:

Campaign Goal	\$300,000
Promised as of 2/28/21	\$248,981
Balance needed to reach goal	\$51,019
Received to Date	\$211,166
Received since last update	\$50.00
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.

