



News, Views, & Gospel Truths

EAST NAPLES UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
APRIL 2020

Good News, Good News, Good News! The angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen, just as he said” (Matthew 28:5-6).

After the crucifixion of Jesus, the disciples were bewildered. Some went into hiding and isolation because they just could not comprehend what had happened. Their Teacher, Friend... dead? And it had not been an accidental death; it was a brutal death.

Some thought it was all over, finished. Others, perhaps, wondered about the coming third day. In the midst of their suffering and sorrow, there were glimpses of hope.

Then it happened! The women came to the tomb, the stone had been rolled away and the angel gave them the good news. He said, “He is not here; he has risen!”

Suddenly, where there had been a broken and painful past, a new future emerged.

Beautiful people, today, this good news is still relevant and powerful. It changes lives and gives us a whole new perspective on life as it did for the disciples.

The coronavirus might keep us from worshiping together on Sunday, April 12. However, it does not change the transformative and hope-filled message of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Nor does it change our identity—we are an Easter people, together we will overcome!

Rejoice in this truth! We will celebrate together soon. “Because He lives, we shall live also and emerge into a new life in Jesus Christ!”

Peace to you and yours,
Pastor Jacquie

Communion Sunday

“In Extremis” sets the precedence for the church to celebrate the Eucharist together in times of distress using the means necessary to bring the Body of Christ together.

Therefore, in the state of “In Extremis,” you are invited this Communion Sunday, to participate and celebrate the Eucharist with us from your homes.

Please, have some bread and juice ready and join us in the celebration.

Remember, “there is one body, one Spirit; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.” To Him be all glory and honor!

Notes from the Music Department 🎵

Our ENUMC Concert Series has wrapped up another very successful season! Bear Hill Bluegrass was exceptionally fun with a down-home good time! They had us in stitches telling jokes and interacting with the audience. Great music and great fun!

This year we had record donations/offerings and attendance. All thanks to our very generous supporters! The committee worked very hard at providing a varied line-up of talent to give a little something to everyone. We tried a few new things and it certainly paid off!

We have started planning for next year. Please pencil-in the second Sunday of every month from October – March at 3:00 p.m. This seems to have worked out well for us! We brought several new people through our doors. Hopefully, they will remember our church if they are looking for a house of worship. Remember that this is why we have this series – as an outreach into our community to try and bring people into our church. We hope you will make every possible effort to continue your support of our music outreach ministry.

Brent Nicholas
Director of Music Ministries

Family Ministries

Dear Friends,

This month, as we celebrate Easter, may we be reminded of Jesus's ultimate victory over sin and death. Death, our greatest enemy, was defeated by Jesus when He rose from the dead (Matthew 28:6). And Jesus's victory is our victory because we are His followers. We rejoice in knowing that regardless of what might be happening around us and in the world, we can rest assured that our Jesus has overcome the world with all its troubles (John 16:33). In a world full of uncertainty, we can find peace as we keep our eyes on the Resurrected Prince of Peace.

May your Easter be full of hope and faith as we celebrate our Lord's resurrection.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Edwin

*Thanks To All
our Sponsors*

*We sincerely appreciate
all who took time off
from their Sundays to
attend.*

*And to those who
brought a friend or
friends, we are grateful
to you for being a part of
our outreach efforts.*



Sharing A Few Thoughts...

Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life? Since you cannot do this very little thing, why do you worry about the rest? *Luke 12:25-26*

I thought this was a good thing to read every now and then.

God is with us, we just have to do our part.
Praying for our church family.

Love to all
Carol McElroy

Having gotten to this stage of life, there is something I would say to my younger self, and that is, "Don't worry, God's got this."

Beth Thompson

"When I **stand before God** at the end of my life, I would hope that I would not have a single bit of talent left, and could say, 'I used everything you gave me.'" **Erma Bombeck**

"Challenges are what make life interesting; overcoming them is what makes life meaningful."

Joshua J. Marine

You will never know that Jesus is all you need until Jesus is all you have." **Adrian Rogers**

Always tell the truth, be direct and be kind." **Pastor Gene Morgan, 2012**

"Fix your eyes upon The Crucified, and nothing else will be of much importance."

Saint Teresa Of Avila

"...the duty of Love is listening...."

New World Outlook magazine, 2012

(Pat Poorman)

My family in the UK are all so worried about this virus. What I said to them was, "After you have lived through a war, you realized that this is not going to last forever."

Beryl Melucci



I learn many lessons from watching bird behavior. Back in West Virginia at our feeder, I was particular about what birds were welcome; cardinals, finches, chickadees, and the like.

Most were dainty and took just one seed at a time. I chased away the noisy and messy birds like blue jays.

But finally, I got tired of this and decided to let it go. Soon I learned that all birds got to eat their share—the jays vacated the feeder on their own, and the gentle smaller birds arrived and had their fill.

A lesson on hoarding today and being judgmental every day. Let go and let God, and we will find His Peace.

Blue jays are beautiful too .

Pat Poorman

Mission Department

Cañamazo Methodist Church in Cuba

With your help this past year we have been able to complete many of our projects at Cañamazo. We sent money to buy bikes for pastors who needed them. We have purchased and sent a new drum set for the church. We have been able to supply Galcom Audio Bibles, support the feeding program, pay the pastor's salary, and provide cell phone/internet minutes for the pastor.

Long term projects will include transportation and parsonage upgrades. Thank you so much for your continued support for our sister church and the growing Methodist Church in Cuba. Please help us continue this mission.

When Pastor Reynerio and I "speak" on Facebook Messenger and when we receive letters from the Cañamazo church, they continue to ask about how they can be in prayer for East Naples UMC. I hope to create a slide show of my October trip to Cuba that can be linked to the ENUMC website. Look for more information in the mid-week blast soon.



Festival of Hope

Our festival was postponed. We distributed the fresh fruit that we had purchased for the event. It is my goal to distribute new shoes and socks to the children very soon. I am also looking for ideas of school supplies or craft items that the children and youth might need and appreciate as they are at home for these weeks to come.



*"Because He Lives
I Can Face
Tomorrow."*

...And You'll Find Rest

*"In repentance and rest is your salvation,
in quietness and trust is your strength,
but you would have none of it."*

Isaiah 30:15

Almost 20 years ago, a friend shared the verse above with me. It was during a period when there was much traction—good traction, in my professional life, and a time of transition in my personal life. I could not fathom how the Lord could possibly have given her a word (for me) which instructed me to rest when there was so much responsibility resting on my shoulders, and when there were so many people depending on me. The word suggested slowing down when everything in the natural sense suggested the need to accelerate my busy-ness. I ignored that word until a few years ago.

"In quietness and trust is your strength." I really was having none of it. Instead, I did exactly what the next verse (30:16) says, I said, "No," and everything written in that verse became my reality.

In being still and standing still will the magnitude of your strength materialize. Because in that quiet place, we will not only hear from God, but also be in a position to feed on, fully absorb, and be strengthened by His word.

So why is it so hard for us to find ourselves in that quiet place? Why is it so very challenging to shut/tune the noise (semantic) out and to just be STILL? The concept of being still as encouraged in Psalm 46 is not about being physically inactive. It speaks more to a spiritual stillness. Yes, limiting or curtailing our busy-ness would certainly help, but with practice and time, each one should be able to differentiate between the necessary from the unnecessary "noise."

We, the inhabitants of planet Earth, are living through what is truly a unique moment in time. Every continent (all but one country in the world), has been adversely affected by COVID-19. What is obviously a global crisis could be one of the most perfect spiritual opportunities for us. If ever there was a call and a time to return to the Lord, this is it. This time is a gift given to each and every one of us. What we do with it, is up to us.



Relationships are an important and integral part of our wellbeing. In [Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs](#), the need to belong is at the center of the pyramid.

We are social beings; we were created to be connected, to be intimate, to be loved, and to give love.

However, the most important relationship in our life should be the one we have with our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. It is in Him, with Him, and through Him, we will find our peace and stability. It is in a place of stillness and quiet we will hear from the Lord. Psalm 23 tells us the Shepherd will lead us beside the still waters and will restore our souls.

What are you doing with the precious gift of time that has been given? What we do with it is deeply personal and individual. My spiritual needs are very different from those of the ones closest to me and the same will be true for you. We each need to take some time—carve some time, and set the atmosphere for the "bridegroom;" the lover of our souls, to enter.

Let us not come away from this time the same. Let us set a goal to get to the other side of the pandemic and realize that truly the Lord God is sovereign in all things. That this, the enemy may have meant for bad, was used or allowed by a loving Father-God for our good (Genesis 50:20).

In His infinite mercy and wisdom, He knew how tired and weary our souls were and that we were in desperate need of this time of repentance and rest.

One of the amazing discoveries during this craziness and our quest to attach some sort of meaning to it, is a scripture recorded in the book of Isaiah; it reads like it is a suggestion issued by Isaiah himself to us, for this moment in time. The scripture reads as follows:

***"Go, my people, enter your rooms
and shut the doors behind you;
hide yourselves for a little while
until his wrath has passed by."***

Isaiah 26:20

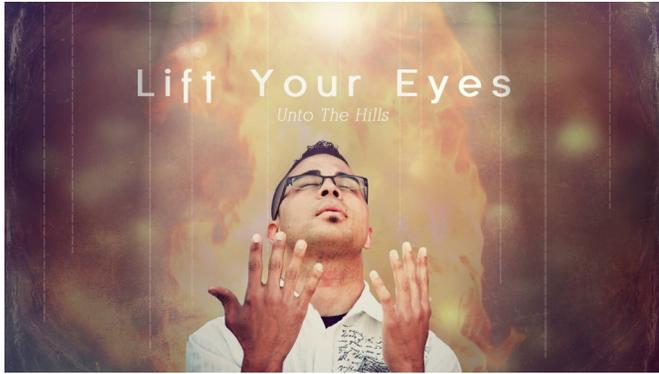
Happy Birthday

A very Happy Birthday to all you wonderful April-borns. Undoubtedly this birthday will be different. However, may you feel the joy and comfort of the Lord on your special day. And may you feel the love, admiration, and cheer of your loved ones who may not be able to communicate in person. May the Lord bless and keep you always.



Rog	Mosser	1-Apr	Ronna	Boyer	8-Apr	Edyth	Karr	18-Apr
Carol	Powell	1-Apr	Daniel	Jordan	8-Apr	Stacy	Robertson	19-Apr
Lynn	Cadenhead	2-Apr	Brad	Beebe	9-Apr	Nancy	Hargie	20-Apr
Rita	Murphy	2-Apr	Kathy	Johnson	9-Apr	Graeme	Clemmensen	21-Apr
Amy	McIntyre	3-Apr	Jim	Comings	10-Apr	Kris	Clemmensen	22-Apr
Duane	Poorman	3-Apr	Sandy	Moore	10-Apr	LaDoris	Davis	24-Apr
Ann	Ferrell	4-Apr	Mark	Williams	10-Apr	Barb	Loewel	24-Apr
Mallory	Poff	4-Apr	Jean	Barger	11-Apr	Carol	McElroy	24-Apr
Jackie	Robinson	4-Apr	Julia	Martinez	12-Apr	Marcos	Blanco	25-Apr
Paul	Sullivan	4-Apr	Rhonda	Sleezer	12-Apr	Rosie	Hatwell	25-Apr
Amber	Williams	4-Apr	Lincy	Antoine	13-Apr	Jack	Finley	27-Apr
Danielle	Poff	5-Apr	Al	Micieli	13-Apr	Jean	Brodhead	29-Apr
Bill	Mitchell	6-Apr	Pat	Poorman	14-Apr	Desiree	Harrison	29-Apr
Helen	Pearson	6-Apr	Jackson	Simera	14-Apr	Jordan	Zech	29-Apr
Ben	Simera	6-Apr	Jacqueline	Hennink	16-Apr	Brandon	Digirolamo	30-Apr
Jon	Camp	7-Apr	Tom	Milliren	17-Apr	Howard	Moxam	30-Apr
LuAnne	Wahlstrom	7-Apr	Jayne	Derf	18-Apr			

Where Does Your Help Come From?



John Smith, the beloved leader of the British Labour Party passed away in May 1994. I was home from school the day his funeral was held and decided to watch the televised service. Speech after speech touted Mr. Smith as a great leader, but the words I remember the most were not words that praised Smith, but those that praised our Lord. Those words came from Psalm 121 and it was the first time I had heard them.

Something about them resonated in my spirit. They (the words), kind of crawled into my spirit and made a little home for themselves.

Over time, I would come to see the words in print for myself when I was introduced to the Bible. But the second profound impact of the psalm came one day at a church service when it was being recited through the worship song, *Total Praise*.

The choir kept repeating the words, “All of my help...” “All of my help...” “All of my help...” And then suddenly, something hit so hard in my spirit, that it felt like an awakening. I found myself saying (quietly of course), “If all of my help comes from the Lord, then why am I ...?” The ... represents actions that were contrary to the blessed assurance that all of my help comes from the Lord. And I vowed to stop and do differently, but it was not an easy thing to do. It has been a process.

I Will Lift Mine Eyes Unto the Hills

The third impact of this psalm came a few weeks ago when video chatting with one of my daughters and her son, one night before his bedtime. I am sure many of you know what most kids are like at that time, wanting to do any and everything else other than go to bed, right? Dominique is no different. So on this night, his strategy to keep me on the phone and connected to them was to ask his mother if “granny” could pray along with them. I was instructed to get my Bible as reading from the psalms was a part of their bedtime prayer routine.

We started praying and I realized Dominique was not reading along and I asked why? His mom said Psalm 121 is the one he likes the most. Once, we got to Psalm 121, this boy so confidently recited the words, that I kept quiet and beamed with such pride.

The Coronavirus pandemic has magnified so many things. First and foremost, it has magnified the fragility of life. It has magnified our fear of the unknown and those things that are known. It has magnified worry, anxiety, depression, lonesomeness, and lack. It has also magnified the good that is in our hearts and how when we take our labels off, we can be so amazingly remarkable.

Regardless of what day this is for you in the long journey to the other side of COVID-19, regardless of what continent, country, or city you call home, regardless of your age or stage in life, please do not sorrow like those who have no hope” (1 Thessalonians 4:13). Do not allow the facts, theories, or myths to bring you to a place of hopelessness. Instead, lift up your eyes to the hills, for it is there you will find the true source of your help.

Cheryl David-Fordyce

Happy Easter
ENUMC

Stay Well, Stay Safe,
Stay Victorious!



RESURRECTION
SUNDAY

HE IS NOT HERE. HE IS RISEN.