

Mothers,  
**FOR ALL  
YOU DO**

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HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY



# News, Views, & Gospel Truths

EAST NAPLES UNITED METHODIST CHURCH | MAY 2020



*Jesus said, “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth” (Acts 1:8).*

On the day of Pentecost this promise was fulfilled. Hopeless, fearful, and discouraged disciples became bold as lions due to the outpouring of the precious Holy Spirit.

Immediately, they went out and began to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit not only filled their hearts with joy, he was also, “the source of day-to-day courage and power” as the late “William Barclay asserted.”

An experience with the Holy Spirit changed the lives of these disciples and the course of the history of the world. Today, amidst this pandemic and chaos, you and I desperately need a fresh and renewing encounter with the blessed Holy Spirit. We need his courage to face our trials and be able to persevere through these unprecedented and challenging times.

I invite you to join me in prayer

during the month of May. Let us ask the Holy Spirit every day to pour out a fresh anointing upon us, our church, community, and beyond. Come, Holy Spirit! Pentecost Sunday is Sunday, May 31, 2020.

Let us continue to pray for the end of this pandemic; I miss seeing your beautiful faces.

Grace and peace to you and your family.

*Pastor Jacquie*

## Mission & Outreach During A Global Pandemic

I have received many requests for prayers and support from wonderful groups and organizations that our church has supported in the past. I pondered on how to decide what group or groups we should be supporting at this time. Then I listened to a video from our Ken Carter, Bishop of the Florida Conference of the United Methodist church a few days ago. The Bishop talked about a new Bishop's initiative in the Florida Conference for this next year to provide a 1,000,000 meals for those who are battling hunger in our state.

- How might God use us in this coming year to feed the hungry in our state?
- What is your church doing to feed the hungry outside your church?
- Find what Jesus is already doing to feed the hungry in our area and build on that.
- We don't need to invent new things but build on what is being done and partner with those already feeding the hungry in our community, our state (and the world). Cont'd on page 7

# Notes from the Music Department

Well, things have been way too quiet around here. It's been a bit difficult trying to adjust to this new "normal" – which is anything BUT normal. I think everyone gets that. I certainly miss the choir and bell members and having rehearsals – my week is just not the same! I also miss seeing and greeting our congregation. Our worship has been as close to what we would normally do – but with everyone online, it sure is different! It is really great to see everyone "liking" or commenting on Facebook. Please continue to do that; it makes us still feel "connected" to you! Thanks to everyone who has taken the time to watch the weekly videos of me sharing my favorite hymns. That has certainly meant a lot to me! I hope they mean something to you in some small way. Please take care, continue to pray, and may God bless you all.

*Brent Nicholas*  
*Director of Music Ministries*



## Family Ministries

It has been a difficult few months with the current situation we are all facing. Many changes have been forced on all of us but we can find comfort and hope in knowing that our God does not change. His love for us has not changed; He is still with us, and will always be. The Jesus Who is the Same yesterday, today and forever is also the One Who is always with us (Hebrews 13:8; Matthew 28:20).

*"Time is filled with swift transition,  
Naught of earth unmoved can stand,  
Build your hopes on things eternal,  
Hold to God's unchanging hand.  
Refrain: Hold to God's unchanging hand,  
Hold to God's unchanging hand;  
Build your hopes on things eternal,  
Hold to God's unchanging hand."*

*("Hold To God's Unchanging Hand",  
Hymn by Jennie B. Wilson)*

We are glad that we have been able to keep connected to some degree during this time. Allow me to encourage you to visit our website frequently for updates, links to videos, online giving and more. Our Encounter Youth ministry continues to meet every Sunday via Zoom at 6:00 pm. We are doing the best we can to stay encouraged and continue to grow in the Lord. Thank you for your continued prayers.

Happy Mother's Day to all our mothers! You are such a blessing and we thank God for you!

Let us keep our church and community in prayer. God is Faithful.

*Pastor Edwin*  
*Director of Family Ministries*

*"I remember my  
mother's prayers  
and they have a  
always followed  
me. They have  
clung to me  
all my life."*

Abraham Lincoln



# Mother of Mine



Thomasine David

One Friday evening, mid-January, 2017, I found myself singing a hymn I enjoyed as a child in choir. *Mother of Mine*, was a usual hit on Mother's Day, sang every year either by the full choir, as a solo, or duet. It was extremely odd that I would be singing the hymn at that time, and I remembered thinking, instead of just belting it out, why not call my mother and sing to her. And so, I did. While singing to her, my mother joined in and I asked her to stop and allow me to serenade her.

A few short weeks later, I received a phone call announcing my mother's exit from this earth; she died on February 23, 2017.

Although the service for her funeral was planned to the very last detail and documented since 2015, I coerced my sister into an agreement to join me in singing the song during the service.

Of course, on the day, I did not have what it took to walk up to the altar to carry out the plan. Days later, after chastising myself for my perceived failure, I was comforted by the thought that I had followed my instincts and expressed the sentiments of the song to my mother while she was living and able to appreciate it. Her appreciation was confirmed to me by the housekeeper after her passing. I am happy that my final tribute to her was not made while she laid in a casket, but shared while her brain and her heart were fully alive to embrace my love.

During this season of "pause," amid all the phone calls and video chats, the person I find myself wanting to call the most, is my mother. I miss her telling me that everything would be alright and I miss her laughter.

Tomorrow is not promised to us. We certainly have seen enough evidence of the fragility of life these past few weeks. If your mom is still alive, *cape diem*—sieve the day! Pick up the phone, pen and paper, or a card and touch your mom's heart with words that clearly express your love. If you share a home, walk over and wrap her in an embrace which says it all.

In the meantime, I will go on missing that *Mother of Mine*!



*A mother is she who can take the place  
of all others but whose place  
no one else can take.*

Cardinal Mermillod

*"I love this quote and would like to dedicate it  
to my mother, Hazel Garofano."*

*Love, Lisa*

## *Mother of Mine*

Hayley Westenra

Mother of mine you gave to me,  
all of my life to do as I please,  
I owe everything I have to you,  
Mother sweet mother of mine.

Mother of mine when I was young  
You showed me the right way  
things had to be done,  
Without your arms where would I  
be,  
Mother sweet mother of mine.

Chorus:  
Mother you gave me happiness,  
much more than words can say,  
I thank the Lord that He may  
bless you, every night and every  
day.

Mother of mine now I am grown  
and I can walk straight all on my  
own,  
I'd like to give you what you gave  
to me, Mother sweet mother of  
mine.

# A Special Mother's Day Dedication

*"Happy Mother's Day Mom, Grandma Carol, and Grandma Anne. We love you three so very much and are very thankful that even during all of this, we get to be home and spend extra time with you. We love playing card games, painting fingernails, watching old home videos, eating cookies, and spending quality time together during this crazy time. Thank you for all that you do for both of us, we could not ask for better motherly figures in our life. We love you, Mallory and Victoria."*

## Highlights from the McElroy & Poff Families



Celebrating April birthdays a little different this year at the Poff and McElroy homes. Drive-by greetings were a hit; the Nailors also participated.



April communion at the Poff house

# Saying Goodbye

To some she's been a mother-figure, to others, a teacher, a sister, a mentor, or a "boss." However, to the majority, she has been Pastor Jacquie, the first female minister given charge over the flock of East Naples United Methodist church. (ENUMC).

Reverend Jacqueline Leveron began her ministry at ENUMC on July 1, 2017. She led the church through Hurricane Irma and the recovery efforts which included negotiating for insurance coverage for a new roof in the fall of 2019. Her leadership steered the church through lean financial times, through expanded outreach, and now through the curve-ball thrown by the Coronavirus pandemic. Pastor Jacquie has a talent for making the scriptures come alive by delivering meaningful messages on Sunday mornings and in Bible studies.

Her last day of work will be Sunday, May 31, 2020. It is unfortunate and regrettable that Pastor Jacquie's departure is taking place amid the safer-at-home order and this time of social distancing.



Want to express your love and appreciation to Pastor Jacquie? Why not send her a card, a note, or take part in the love offering drive organized by the SPRC on her behalf.

*"You may participate by either mailing a check to the office or submitting it through our online giving. Please include "love offering" in the memo portion. We do ask that you send those in no later than Tuesday, May 26th, so we can present it to her before she embarks on her new journey" (SPRC).*

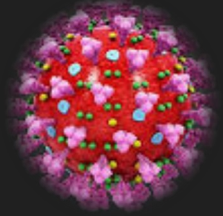
In the meantime, let us all wish Pastor Jacquie bountiful success in her new role, new city, and new home.

Very best wishes to you Pastor Jacquie.



# COVID-19—An Uninvited Guest

How has this virus changed your life? Have you made any promises to do differently once it's over? Here is a thought to ponder:



In the rush to return to normal, use this time to consider which parts of normal are worth rushing back to.

Dave Hollis



## Some COVID-19 Humor

*Origin Unknown; Shared Online*

- ◇ I used to spin the toilet paper like I was on Wheel of Fortune. Now I turn it like I'm cracking a safe.
  - ◇ I need to practice social distancing from the refrigerator.
  - ◇ Still haven't decided where to go on vacation - the living room or the bedroom.
  - ◇ PSA: every few days try your jeans on just to make sure they fit. Pajamas will have you believe all is well in the kingdom.
  - ◇ Home schooling is going well. 2 students suspended for fighting and 1 teacher fired for drinking on the job.
  - ◇ I don't think anyone expected that when we changed the clocks we'd go from Standard Time to the Twilight Zone.
- ### More Humor...
- ◇ This morning I saw a neighbor talking to her cat. It was obvious she thought the cat understood her. I came home and told my dog . . . we both laughed a lot.
  - ◇ So, after this quarantine . . . will the producers of My 600 Pound Life just find me, or I do I have to find them?
  - ◇ Quarantine Day 5 of homeschooling. One of these little monsters called in a bomb threat.
  - ◇ Went to the restaurant called KITCHEN. You have to gather all the ingredients and make your own meal. I have no clue how this place is still in business.
  - ◇ My body has absorbed so much disinfectant and soap lately that when I pee it cleans the toilet.
  - ◇ I'm so excited! It's time to take out the trash. What should I wear?
  - ◇ I hope the weather is good tomorrow for my trip to "Puerto Backyardo". I'm getting tired of "Los Livingroom".
  - ◇ Classified Ad: Single man with toilet paper seeks single woman with hand sanitizer for good clean fun!
  - ◇ Day 6 of Homeschooling: child just said, "I hope I don't have the same teacher next year".
  - ◇ Better 6 feet apart than 6 feet under.

# A Journey to Remember

Greetings to all at ENUMC! We hope this finds you well.

Thank you to all who prayed for our safety as we traveled back to the UK on April 5th - nearly a month earlier than scheduled.

We had a very good journey and arrived at London Heathrow (LHR) thirty minutes early. Our taxi driver met us in the Arrivals Hall and we were back in our home in Milford on Sea by late morning on April 6th.

We were shocked by the empty airports; no open shops and few passengers walking in the empty hallways of the terminals which are usually full of people moving purposefully to or from their gate.

We saw virtually empty airport parking lots, especially in Atlanta, and this added to the strange scene we viewed from the airport departure lounge.

Our transatlantic flight was half-full and that was an amalgamation of 2 flights. We were the only flight listed in the baggage area at LHR. Usually, every carousel is in use with passengers arriving on overnight flights from all over the world.

Heathrow's Arrival Hall had 3 people waiting to meet passengers; one of those 3 was our taxi driver. The place was empty.

Our driver told us we were the last 'pick up' on his books. He had no further work.

We are thankful to be back home safely – it's now Day 17 of our 'isolation.' We are allowed to take a short walk every day, otherwise, we are inside.

The streets are empty; everything is very quiet. We are not able to see family or friends.

Today, April 23rd, we had our second grocery delivery, the first was on April 6th, the day we arrived. It is quite difficult to organize and anticipate what you need for 2 weeks.

However, we are fortunate to have lovely views from our windows—to the south, over the water of the English Channel (which separates us from France) - and to the north, we look out over woodland.

Our church here has services online, and of course, we are able to follow the ENUMC services via YouTube.

Yesterday, there was information from the Government that everyone over 70 years will have to self-isolate for a further 12 weeks, after the present lockdown period which ends on May 7th.

We have also been advised that even beginning to return to 'normal' is not going to happen for many months, and it could be some time in 2021 before social distancing is relaxed. Does that mean no travel? Quite possibly!

It is too soon to even think about it, but it is obvious that going forward, life is going to be very different.

There is news of a COVID-19 vaccine being tested initially on 500 volunteers; this is the work of scientists at Oxford University.

Hoping that you staying safe and well!

God's blessings on you all,  
Stephen & Pearl Holt



## Missions Cont'd.

1. East Naples UMC has collected food in our grocery cart to share with local food banks including: Grace Place, St. Matthew's House, and Salvation Army. We have shopped and filled bags of food to distribute to those in our community.
2. We have donated to ECHO who has a community garden initiative that equips local organizations with the knowledge needed to serve, grow, and make impacts of their own. ECHO is currently donating bags of fresh produce to community farm workers in Immokalee and feeding programs in our region. ECHO's vision is this: "Honoring God by empowering the undernourished with sustainable hunger solutions."
3. We support a missionary family in Tunisia who have been creative in this global pandemic. They have identified 131 people in need of help and getting food. Using Galatians 6:10 - Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers. They have organized a donation system for believers to give to. They are working with a registered Tunisian Christian non-profit who has received travel permits to distribute food throughout the duration of the quarantine. The Tunisian local believers will be the public face of this initiative and the wider church body can help to be the engine that propels this initiative forward. It has been beautiful to see the church uniting for God's glory. They are asking that we pray for their work, that God's glory shine through as this food is shared with non-believing family members and friends, and that God would touch lives and draw people to himself through this time.



At this time let God and your heart lead you as how to best help feed the hungry during this time. I had someone ask me about Feeding America that they have seen so much about on TV. Harry Chapin Food Bank is the SW Florida Food Bank that is connected to Feeding America. If it is important to you that your money stays in SW Florida, I would suggest donating to Harry Chapin Food Bank, Meals of Hope, Salvation Army, or St. Matthew's House. If you would like to support those feeding the hungry globally, then ECHO and our missionary family in Tunisia can use your help.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me at 239-331-4889 or krisclm@comcast.net

Blessing to all of you! Stay safe and healthy. **Kris Clemmensen**



# Happy Birthday

Norma Lees-Davis	1-May	Ivonne Carlson	18-May
Karen Rae	1-May	Damari Fernandez	21-May
Karl McConnell	3-May	Jane Hofstra	22-May
Ron Roberts	3-May	Luddy Ludwig	22-May
David Hill	4-May	Jan Myers	22-May
Carose Theresias	4-May	Phyllis McGraw	23-May
Ed Weldon	5-May	Daniel Falcon	24-May
Jaelle Juste	6-May	Dolly Loewer	24-May
Dianne Pisani	7-May	Sharyn Barber	25-May
Ruth Cunningham	8-May	Lisa Connors	27-May
Florence Stone	9-May	Ann Eberle	27-May
Lorna Lawhun	10-May	Carol Hill	27-May
Mike Hargie	11-May	Cheryl Conyers	29-May
Andrea Dasari	13-May	Jeanette Lindberg	29-May
Lizzy Moxam	14-May	Beth Thompson	30-May
Jan Pyle	14-May	Shawn Chisholm	31-May
W. Vaughn	15-May	Bob Landis	31-May

*To a most wonderful group of people, a very Happy Birthday to all of you. However, you choose to or are able to celebrate, we pray you have an awesome day. May you feel the loving embrace of a Father who loves you, and a church family who misses you.*



*Wishing You...*

*What are you celebrating this month? Another birthday, a milestone anniversary, Mother's Day, Memorial Day, or a new addition to your family? Whatever the occasion, let us add the joy of simply being alive to the list of things to celebrate. We should all be ever so grateful for the blessings—big and small, tangible or intangible, quantifiable or too numerous to count. Let us embrace this new month with a joie de vivre and a commitment to make every new day count. Here's wishing you the best days of your life!*

