

April

2020

Steeple



Tidings

Sharing God's love with each other and the world

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

**Worship with us
Sundays at 10 AM,
www.humcEnfield.org**

Scripture Reading

God is our refuge and strength, a very present [a] help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea; though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

(Psalm 46:1-3)

Quick News and Events

Holy Week

April 12 is Easter

Please check our website often to find out the latest.

For Complete Calendar go to humcEnfield.org

Prayer for the Month

*Dear Heavenly Father,
You are the Creator of all things and You sustain all of life. I come to you, acknowledging that your will is best, and that your plan is far greater than any I could ever ask for or imagine. Lord, I come to you with troubles that are weighing on my heart and the hearts of many believers. God, I know that you carry all burdens, and I ask that you share your yoke with us know during this difficult time. God, you are a God of healing. If it is in your will, I ask that you heal those in need, but I know that whether you choose to heal them or not, that everything will work out according to your purpose. May I seek you in good times and difficult and learn to trust you more every day. May you increase, and I decrease, as I learn to become more like you. In Jesus' holy and powerful name, Amen.*

Some Thoughts from Me —Rev. David Williams



See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?

I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.
(Isaiah 43:19)

Pastors like to joke about the things they never taught us in seminary. A colleague of mine, serving her first appointment at a church lacking indoor plumbing discovered that part of the pastor's job was to take the roll of toilet paper out to the outhouse every Sunday morning and bring it back in after service. They never taught us that in seminary. A church where I pastored held an annual fundraiser called "The Ironman Competition," where the men of the church would don costumes and compete to see who could iron the most shirts in a set period of time. And while I won the competition two years in a row, they never taught us about that in seminary. (And no, you can't see the pictures of my costume. Somethings are better left unseen.) There are no courses for what to do if a parishioner passes out from the heat in the middle of the service. No courses on how to go about installing an elevator. And no courses on what to do if a global pandemic shuts everything down. They just never taught us about this stuff.

This past Sunday I had the chance to experience another aspect of ministry for which seminary had nothing to say. I stood in an empty

sanctuary, looking out at empty seats, and preached to a camera. Julie and I sang to a camera. And when we were done we shut down the camera, turned off the lights, and went home. It was without a doubt the weirdest and loneliest thing I have ever done as a minister. I was not alone. I have had the chance to talk with several of my colleagues in Enfield (through the wonder of on-line meetings) who experienced the same thing. And yet, even in the midst of the loneliness, in the midst of the isolation, we can see God doing something new, and it is amazing.

There are a variety of numbers that are made available to people who live stream. We can learn how many people were on at the same time at any given point in time. We are told how many individual computers accessed the stream at any point in time. We are told how long they watched on average. Of course we have no idea who these numbers represent, or where they live. But it allows us to have some idea of how successful we are being. Based on these numbers we were very successful on our first week of on-line worship. 83 computers accessed us at some point, and we are aware that in several of these homes there was more than one person watching. And we know that people have downloaded and viewed at least part of the service after it was over. And judging from the conversations that were taking place in the chat room during the service, it seems like people had a good time.

Some Thoughts , cont. Was it perfect? No. Was it a great first effort? I think so. Will it help us make it through this period of isolation? I think so. At least it will *help*. It is not the whole answer. We will continue to tinker with the sound, the picture, and the content of the service. But clearly God has provided something new and wonderful in our lives. Just think about our shut-ins and homebound who are able to worship with us now, and who will be able to continue worshipping with us when this crisis is over and we return to church.

Of course, Sunday morning technology alone that will get us through. Phone lines, Instant Messaging, Facebook, text messages, and e-mail are all being used to allow us to stay connected during this period of being separated. Those who can have made themselves available to run errands for those who cannot. The same technology that allows me to connect with my colleagues will allow us to continue to see to the business of being the Church. We are exploring ways to do a Bible Study using Zoom. Clearly God is doing something new and wonderful in our lives. It is springing forth even as we hunker down, and it is wonderful to behold.

I don't know what our church will look like when this is all over. Certainly we will be different in big and little ways. I know I will cherish the fellowship a little more and will not take your presence on Sunday for granted. We know that God causes all things to work together for the good of those who love Him. This virus issue is not different. God has already begun doing something new and amazing in our lives.

I look forward to the day I can look out and see you sitting in the pews. I look forward to gathering with you for Coffee Fellowship, monthly dinners, and Friday morning breakfasts. I look forward to returning to Bible Studies and the laughter and fellowship we enjoy in those settings. And I look forward to hearing our preschool in full operation again. Until that day arrives, please continue to listen to the advice from the experts. Stay inside. Stay safe. And know that you matter.

God bless.

Dave

 **APRIL**
Birthdays

Nancy Dyer	April 01
Frank Troiano	April 03
Susan Braun	April 07
Adam McDonagh	April 12

 **MAY**
Birthdays

John Sandford	May 01
Holly Fisher	May 03
Noma Caldwell	May 06
Tracy Weisel	May 23
Diane Hctor	May 24
Ernest Jensen	May 31

SERMON SERIES:

WE REMEMBER JESUS' TRIUMPHANT ENTRY INTO JERUSALEM ON PALM SUNDAY. WE WALK THROUGH HIS BETRAYAL, ARREST, SUFFERING AND DEATH DURING HOLY WEEK. AND WE CELEBRATE THE RISEN CHRIST ON EASTER MORNING. AND THEN WHAT? WHAT DOES ALL OF THIS MEAN FOR US? WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO SAY THAT THE LAMB OF GOD SITS UPON THE THRONE? JOIN REV. DAVE BEGINNING APRIL 19 AS WE EXPLORE THE VARIOUS ASPECTS OF JESUS CHRIST THROUGH THE LENS OF THE HYMN, *CROWN HIM WITH MANY CROWNS*. BY FOCUSING ON ONE VERSE EACH WEEK WE WILL BE REMINDED THAT THE LAMB WHO SITS UPON THE THRONE IS A MATCHLESS KING, THE LORD OF LIFE, THE LORD OF PEACE, AND THE LORD OF LOVE.



When we come back we will update you all and the goings on the celebrations.

As always keep us and our families in your prayers! Phyllis

Janette Young went home to the lord on March 25, 2020. I would be remiss if I didn't honor this with a bit of a memory. Janette was the first Female Police officer in Enfield, she pulled over Chris Sackett! She was a transplant that chose Enfield and our church. Every time I was able to chat with her I learned something valuable, about faith or humankind. She will be missed but she is enjoying a reunion in heaven.

Condolences may be sent to: The Young Family

244 Moody R, Enfield CT 06082

Neil Kelley went home to the lord March 18, 2020. Kathy and Neil were married in HUMC over 40 years ago., Rev.. Almond married them.

Journal Inquirer for March 24th has the full obituary.

Condolences may be sent to: Kathie Kelley

2 VanBuren Rd.

Enfield CT, 06082

Hear my
PRAYER
O Lord
Psalm 86:6

Please keep the following in your prayers
*If you have a name to add or notice a
name that is missing
please contact Isobel Skukowski or the
church office.*

Illness

Mike Braun,
Diane Chantre,
Mark Chevalier,
Mary Lou Sarno,
Peg Steinert,
Ron Uricchio,

Family Illness

The Braun Family
The Phelan Family

Shut-Ins

Elsie Andrews
Diane Hoctor
Pat Owens
Ann Stanzione

Recovery

Jeannette Burkhardt
Colleen Williams

Dale Nuefer:

From Mary Baum:

I just got word that a former Pastor of HUMC has gone to Glory. Dr. P. Dale Nuefer, passed away on March 17 at the age of 91 in Greenville, North Carolina. Dale and Judy had re-located from PA to NC to be near their son and daughter-in-law.

For those in the church that remember the Nuefer's, Dale and Judy were a great team. She was very supportive of his work but also worked along with members in UMW and Choir. I will always remember the two of them walking hand in hand from the church to the parsonage on Elm Street. Like a couple of newlyweds!

Condolences may be sent to: Judith Nuefer and Family
1615 Bloomsburg Road
Greenville, NC 27858

St. Pauly Textile Shed

Over the past year this shed has brought in \$782. Now that we are all stuck home lets clean out those closets and bins. They accept any textiles and shoes.



Hello from the scouts, leaders and families of Troop 108.

We are not meeting again until the COVID 19 crisis is over. If you have any scouting questions please send an email. Rick Howe, Scoutmaster, at graphicproductionspecialist@gmail.com. In addition if you would like information about the Cub Scouting program for young boys & girls ages 5-11 please contact me (Scott Vujs), Troop Committee Chairman at lobster63@cox.net

Troop 108 thanks the HUMC for its continued support of our troop!

The Positives of Uncertainty

People are singing to each other
across the empty squares,
keeping their windows open
so that those who are alone
may hear the sounds of family around them.
All over the world people are slowing down and reflecting.
All over the world people are looking at their neighbors in a new way.
All over the world people are waking up to a new reality
 To how big we really are.
 To how little control we really have.
 To what really matters.
 To Love.
So we pray and we remember that
Wake to the choices you make as to how to live now.
Today, breathe.
Open the windows of your soul
 And though you may not be able
 to touch across the empty square,
Sing.

*Fr. Richard Hendrick, OFM, March 13th 2020 ,
edited version*

ZOOM

Will have a regularly scheduled Zoom Meeting every Sunday Morning at 11am the meeting is announced on the calendar on the website. Click on details and you will see a link! The link will bring you to Zoom and let you join the Coffee Hour.