



PHOTO BY ALAN BARBOUR

Rectortown Reporter

May 2020

From the Pastor Celebrations and Staying Home



Greetings in the name of our Risen Lord, Jesus Christ!

You may remember that my article in the 2019 May newsletter was titled "Celebrations and Coming Home," but this year it's been changed to "Staying Home" to recognize that things have changed significantly around the world over the course of the last few months. However, some things remain the same—we will still observe Cinco de Mayo on May 5th; Mother's Day on May 10th; and Memorial Day on May 25th. What has changed due to the COVID-19 pandemic is that we will miss the party-charged atmosphere of large gatherings and parades on these days as we stay home to observe social distancing.

There is another date we observe in the United Methodist Church—the third Sunday in May is Heritage Sunday. This day calls us "to honor [our] heritage by committing [ourselves] to the continuing call of God known and spread by Charles and John Wesley, along with others the early Methodist movement reached and with whose denominations we are all joined as The United Methodist Church" (umcdiscipleship.org). The third Sunday of May was chosen for its proximity to May 24th; on which date in 1738 John Wesley experienced a "strangely warmed heart" through which "he received divine assurance of his salvation" at a Moravian Chapel on Aldersgate Street in London.

Accordingly, Rectortown UMC will celebrate 239 years of continuous missions and ministry in our small community during our Annual Homecoming Worship Celebration on May 17th. Like last year, we will have a guest speaker. The Reverend Alanna McGuinn will preach a sermon entitled "*The Community of Faith Nurturing Each Other*;" but to avoid the very real risk of COVID-19 infection while traveling, she will record the message at home and send it to us. We will not be able to gather and share a meal with one another as we have in past years, and we will not have special music after the meal/fellowship as we normally would. But that does not mean that we cannot gather in spirit.

While our doors will remain closed, our hearts and spirits will soar with the Holy Spirit as we gather online to celebrate Homecoming which will begin at 11:00 am. Find us at www.rectortownumc.org and clicking on the red box that says "*click here for live worship*." We hope you'll plan to log on; and that you'll invite a friend or two to log on as well!

Grace and peace to each and everyone of you!
Pastor Steve

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Scripture of the month Revelation 22:1-3a, 5, CEB

Then the angel showed me the river of life-giving water, shining like crystal, flowing from the throne of God and the Lamb through the middle of the city's main street. On each side of the river is the tree of life, which produces twelve crops of fruit, bearing its fruit each month. The tree's leaves are for the healing of the nations. There will no longer be any curse... Night will be no more. They won't need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will shine on them, and they will rule forever and always.

May Birthdays



Anniversaries

Roger & Linda Daniels 5/1
 Joe & Amy Riggio . .5/19
 Tom & Debbie McLaughlin 5/21
 Ben & Yeshi Pisarcik 5/28

Olivia Walker 5/7
 Ren Walker5/11
 John Stolte 5/12
 Ben Wegdam 5/13
 Roy Sisk 5/13
 Vicki Willis. 5/16
 Susan Haley 5/18
 Gary Garrett.5/19
 Kenny Nalls 5/21
 Kayla Ryder 5/24
 Lori Ponn 5/27

From the Worship Committee

We've been asked a number of times if 1 or 2 people who are having difficulty receiving the live-stream service in their homes could come to the church and sit in the back pews on Sunday morning. In an earlier letter the Bishop made it clear that no one could be in the church building at any time on Sunday except the team of 10 or less who are actively participating in providing the live-stream event. If you know someone who is having trouble connecting for any reason, please encourage them to contact the church office so we can help as we are able.

May God bless you and keep you in the midst of these difficult days.

Notes from the Board of Trustees

Responses to Clean up Help Request

Just a quick word of thanks for help that has begun in response to the call for help. Although the pictures may not show it, the response has been great. The blinds in the sanctuary have been vacuumed and wiped down, with no small amount of effort. And notice the machine in front of the altar rail—it was used to thoroughly shampoo the carpets. The pews were wiped down with disinfectant, floors mopped, pew cushions cleaned and much more. The yard was also mowed and trimmed. Thanks to Russ and Ethel Muter, Amy and Skyler Riggio. There are still many things that need to be done around the two buildings and outside, but what a great start!! Kudos to all! (If you might like to help, check out the Help Needed article on the next page.)



The Last White Line

Many of you have seen the various white lines painted around the church and White House properties. Over the years they have marked new gas lines, back up generator power lines and other improvements. The latest lines, like the one shown in the picture, indicate where the new fiber optic cables have been installed. The line, heading across the back lot, will provide cable to many of the houses along Atoka Road over the next month. All other distribution lines from the main connection on the RUMC property, have been run. So, this should be the last white line (at least for fiber optic cable installation)! Thanks for your patience, and as you have seen for the past weeks, the new fiber optic cabling has provided RUMC the ability to "Livestream" worship services each Sunday and thru Holy Week.

HELP NEEDED

Dear Church,

As we move through these uncertain times, the church is still being utilized by Sunday Morning and Special Worship services, administrative support, Pastoral office hours and others. We are following Church District, State and National guidelines which means we have limited general use for larger numbers, however, we still need to keep the facilities clean and safe during this time. So far we have been able to take care of the outside of the building (mowing, weeding, etc.), but now we are in need of keeping the interior of our buildings cleaned. At this time we are asking for support in TWO ways:

1. If you are using the facility, please wipe down select areas that you are utilizing. Our regularly scheduled streaming worship service team is taking care of the space that they use when in the church building.
2. At this time we are looking weekly volunteers to do the normal tasks within the common areas such as vacuuming, bathrooms, etc. (See list below) This may seem daunting at this time but we have a few suggestions to help.
 - Please wear a mask. Bring your own OR if you do not have one let us know. We will provide a mask for you to keep.
 - All cleaning supplies will be provided
 - It saves time to have 2 people. However, please make sure that it is someone you are already in contact with (Mother/Daughter, Husband/Wife, etc.) to lessen the social interaction

If you are available and/or interested, please email: secretaryRUMC@gmail.com with the week you would like to help. (See dates below)

Thank you and God Bless,

Amy

CLEANING LIST DURING COVID-19 CLOSURES

Dates Needed*:

- Week of May 4-May 9
 - Week of May 11-May 16
 - Week of May 18-May 23
 - Week of May 25-May 30
- *Times/days are adjustable to your schedule. Preferred days are Monday-Saturday.*

Personal Precautions:

- Wear a mask (if you need one please let us know)
- Gloves (if you would like and if you have them available)
- Stay socially distanced as much as possible while helping us. Stay Safe!

Cleaning Solutions/ Equipment (provided):

- Hot water & soap (for mostly everything)
- Clorox Wipes (if available)
- Antibacterial Spray
- Paper Towels

What to Clean:

Sanctuary:

- Vacuum carpets
- Sweep wood floors
- Wipe down pew ends as well as back rails
- Wipe down door knobs at all entry/exit points and doors where people would touch
- Front entrances
- Entrance to social hall
- Water plants (Throw out dead cut flowers if needed)
- Wipe down vases
- Altar, Pulpit, Brass, Music stands, Organ do not need to be cleaned (This will be done by Worship Service participants prior to leaving on Sunday)

Social Hall:

- Bathrooms
- Wipe sinks & make sure toilets are flushed

- Restock toilet paper, paper towels, hand soap & air freshener as needed (email secretary if anything needs to be purchased)
- Wipe down door knobs and parts of door people would touch
- Sweep floors and remove dust/dirt
- Kitchen
- Wipe down counters and tables
- Wipe down door knobs at all entry/exit points and doors where people would touch
- Make sure sink is free of dirty dishes and dry dishes are put away
- Restock paper towels, hand soap & dish soap as needed (email secretary if anything needs to be purchased)

Update on RUMC Homecoming 2020

As we continue in these very uncertain times, our Homecoming 2020 planning has resulted in a few possible changes. In light of guidelines at the Federal, State and UMC Conference level in effect until June 10, **RUMC's Homecoming slated for May 17, requires us to consider alternative plans.** Options being considered are:

- Conduct a livestreamed morning worship service at 11am*
- Include a recorded guest pastor, Alanna McGuinn, providing the Homecoming message during a livestreamed morning worship service at 11am*
- Continue to ask for suggestions for items, articles, artifacts for a "Time Capsule" that will be buried following the 2021 RUMC Homecoming
- Continue to ask for 1- to 2-minute videos that identify the submitters, how they were/are connected to RUMC in the past, currently and a specific memory/event
- Conduct an event in late summer/early fall, to join together for a worship service, lunch and fellowship time (as we would have done during the May 17 Homecoming).

Thanks for your understanding and support as we move forward.

Blessings, Larry Scheuble

**Note: All RUMC livestreamed worship services are simultaneously recorded for future viewing*



Our Mission Statement

Serving God through Prayer, Action, and Love through Service.