

“Wisdom

...Let the wise listen and add to their learning, and the discerning get guidance...Proverbs 1: 8



The other day I was on a Zoom meeting and the topic came up about how our lives have changed as a result of COVID 19 and the ways those changes will carry over “once all this is over.” We started talking about things like Zoom (the videoconferencing tool I wish I had bought stock in prior to this pandemic) and the different ways people have been learning to communicate and connect while social distancing. The theme throughout our conversation was about what we were choosing to learn in this time of adjustments. I thought that I would share with you a few of the things I have learned thus far:

Church is not about a building or a service, it is who we are and what we do! (I know I shared this last week, but I wanted to share again because it is important.) This past week we partnered with a group of crafters in the community to assist them in making masks for healthcare workers. We also provided leftover milk from Heart & Soul to families in our community and a local business (The Lottie). Additionally, I have been in contact with the principal at Mason, Mrs. Ratty, about how the students and teachers are adjusting to virtual learning. Through all of this, the church building may not be as open as it has previously been, but the Church is very much open!

Technology is a blessing (and a curse) - I have learned a lot about videoconferencing and many other “virtual” opportunities. “Virtual learning” has, thus far, been a pretty smooth transition for our kids and others that I’ve heard from. “Virtual meetings” have been a great way to remain connected while distanced. And “virtual worship” has been a big transition. I miss seeing you all on Sunday mornings, seeing your smiles and hearing your joys while worshiping God, and sharing life with you. But, it has also been a joy to be able to continue to worship God in a new way. I want to thank Erin Halpin for all her help with this new venture. Erin’s knowledge of the technical aspects of video broadcasting online far surpass anything I would have been able to offer. She has been a true blessing and has made “virtual worship” possible.

Murphy’s Law is real! The first week we tried “virtual worship” I directed everyone to watch the service on Facebook Live and didn’t promote the YouTube live option. That week, YouTube worked great and Facebook Live didn’t work. So, this past Sunday, I directed as many people as possible to the YouTube link and didn’t mention the Facebook Live option. Of course, this time the Facebook worked great and the YouTube didn’t. So, what I’m learning is that I never know what is going to happen. I thank you all for your patience and grace with us as we continue to learn and perfect our live streaming. In the coming weeks, if you struggle with one of the options, please try the other. To access the Facebook Live feed, you do not need to be a member of Facebook. Go to www.facebook.com/Ilcumc and scroll down the page (even when it asks you to sign in, you can ignore than message).

New things are okay – I am not always one to adjust to a new way of doing things, but right now we just don't have an option. This coming Sunday is a first Sunday of the month. Typically, this is when we serve Communion. How do we serve Communion when we aren't meeting together? All my theological training and understanding tells me that Communion is something done in community as part of a worship service, and that an ordained pastor is required to bless the communion elements. But, through some time in prayer and conversation with colleagues, I am learning that God is seeking to do a new thing right now. This Sunday we are going to try something new. When you join us for worship this next week, I encourage you to have some bread and juice (or something you can dip into something else) as we remember the words of Jesus at the Last Supper. It may not be Communion like you've done before, but we're doing lots of things like we've never done before.

Some things never change – Even though we will not be together, **we will still be observing Holy Week services as we prepare for the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus.** Thursday, April 9 we will join together (online) for worship at 7:00 pm and remember the events of Maundy Thursday. In addition to celebrating the Sacrament of Holy Communion (again, have elements ready), we will look at Jesus' example of servant leadership. The next night we will remember the events of Good Friday as we join together for worship again at 7:00 pm. And Easter Sunday we will celebrate resurrection and the new life we find in Christ.

While these past few weeks are not anything I would have chosen, I thank God for all the things I have learned and pray that I will continue to have a mind open to lessons of wisdom God is trying to teach me.

It is an honor to be your pastor and be in ministry alongside you to a God who never stops imparting wisdom.

Blessings,

Chris

Since we are not able to visit with one another weekly and share all the Joys, Concerns and Prayer requests we have in our lives, I thought I would start a page during the time away from each other and still keep each other in our hearts and prayers. Please feel free to send me in your requests and I will post them weekly in the newsletter.



This week I have no Joys that have been sent to me. Please feel free to send me an email or call me at the office to share any joys you have in your life or have witnessed during these trying times.

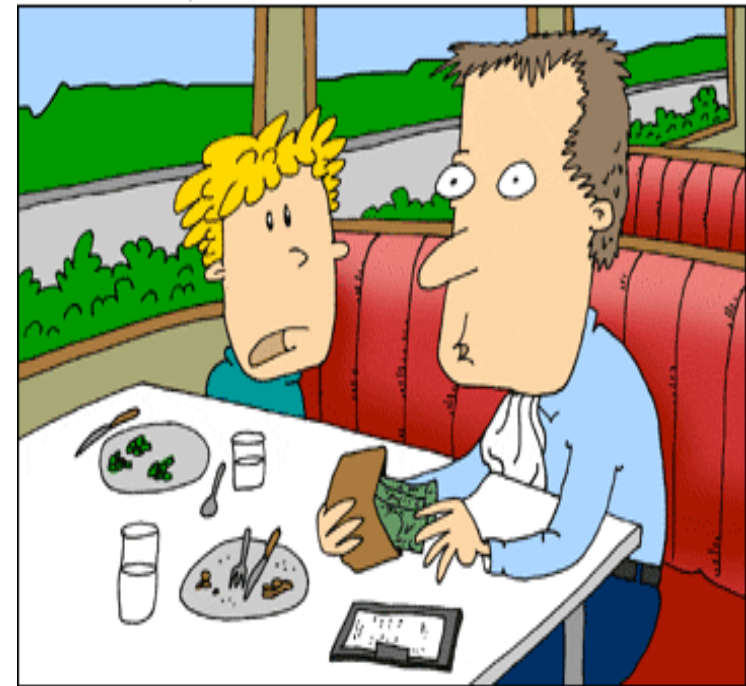
***Hope to hear from you soon,
Tonia***



I am picking this weeks concerns to be about the sadness we are witnessing among our health care workers. They truly are blessings from God and I hope that we all can pray over and over again for their continued dedication and hard work they do by putting their healing hands on the sick and grieving for loved ones who are not being able to be next to their loved ones while they are sick and dying. I can't imagine the pain they are living with but I hope they all know our prayers are always with them and their families.



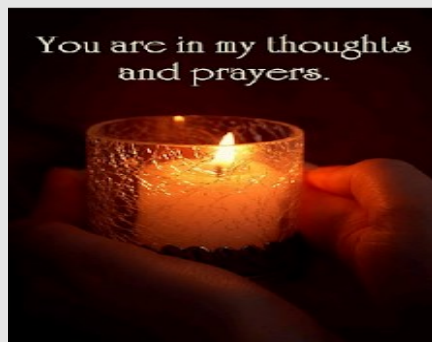
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Thanks to Shirley Ostrander

01-15-2004

HOW COME THE WAITRESS GETS 15% AND GOD ONLY GETS 10%?



Roy Ball	Michael Hatfield
Tammy Brown & Family	Leticia and son Ethan
Les Case	Derek Petty
Donald Cohan	Don Raymond
Dorothy Conn	Steve Raymond
Wade Davis	Nancy Rowe
Chad Elmer	Erin Scott
Janet Ford	Larry Sparks
Richard Fuerst	Ray Trowbridge
Winnie Fuerst	Elaine West
Harvey Geary	Dorothy Wilson
Our New Pastor & his family	

Congregation de Mellier
Heart and Soul Children's
Learning Center
All Ministries
of the Church



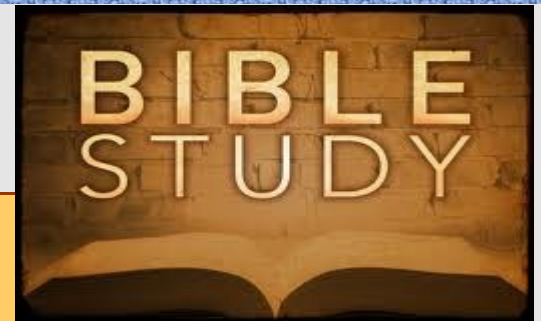
A Special Opportunity to Support Community Efforts

Former LLCUMC member, Pam Hatcher, has organized a group of women who are diligently sewing face masks which are being distributed to ten area hospitals and local first responders. Some facilities have an immediate need, others are building a supply for use in crisis mode. Over 800 masks have been sewn and delivered in the first week.

Elastic is a critical component of these masks and with many other groups taking on this same project, both physical store and online site supplies of elastic are being depleted. Are you able to support our efforts? We are asking you to check your home sewing and craft supplies for any packages/any color 1/8" 1/4" or 3/8" flat elastic or round (cord-like) elastic to donate to this project.

Please DO NOT leave your homes to shop at stores for elastic. Your donations can be left in the tub marked MASK BRIGADE outside the South entrance of the church between 8 am and noon on Monday through Thursday.

We thank you very much – Elaine Raymond



Study resource

Are you missing your Sunday School lesson? The videos we've been watching throughout our Lenten Study are now available online for free at this link: <https://my.amplifymedia.com/amplify/series/unitedmethodistpublishinghouse/29224-the-walk>

Also, Cokesbury has made even more content available for free. Go to <https://amplifymedia.com/free-amplify-content/> to see what other studies are available. This material is available at no charge while all the stay at home orders are in place. Please take advantage of these opportunities. If you see one you enjoy and think others would too – pass the word along. Also, let me know if you'd like to try and get a group together (online) to study any of this material together.

Enjoy!

April 2020

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
29 Services 10:00 Online	30	31	1	2	3	4
5 Services 10:00 Online Palm Sunday	6	7	8	9 Maundy Thursday Service 7:00	10 Good Friday Service 7:00	11
12 Easter Service 10:00 Online	13	14	15	16	17	18
19 Services 10:00 Online	20	21	22	23	24	25