

Moving one's household goods is not easy. It is, in fact, an arduous, time-consuming, and emotionally draining experience. As you all know by now, that has been our experience over the past month in coming to Lake Lotawana. Our move was made more difficult by the logistics of getting two cars and two cats in a pandemic environment halfway across the country. What you may not know is that we still have some of our stuff in Norfolk (long story I will not get into but which I will address this week). And even when you get your things (well, most of it anyway) to the new house, there is all the unpacking to do—in our case, taking unopened boxes from the garage and into the house in the summer heat, then taking the empty boxes back to the garage. It doesn't end there, unfortunately, because you still have to determine where all that stuff will go.



By my best guest, and by that I mean listing all the cities to which I have moved since I was born, I have relocated 36 times. Jennifer's life story in this regard is similar—over 30 times, most of that due to the Navy both as a child and as a spouse. That is a lot of moving, and those moves seem to get harder as we get older. Granted, the moves when I was small were not painful (I think I've mentioned that I was a United Methodist preacher's kid), and transitions to and from college for four years were not that stressful, but that is still a lot of instability. I then made it worse, for me and my kids, by becoming a United Methodist minister and a Navy chaplain on active duty.

Yet, somehow, there is a life lesson in our difficulty of getting to the point where we feel everything is in place and we have all those cardboard boxes piled up in the garage gone. The lesson is this. **Life is inherently unstable.** We want it to be steady, or at least relatively unchanging (and if it does change, we want it for the better). But what we want sometimes contrasts with reality. At the risk of mixing my metaphors, there are twists and turns on the road that we cannot foresee (who among us has a crystal ball?), and when we encounter them, we are thrown for a loop. That happens because of our perspective of wanting our world to be predictable and always in our favor.

We need a new perspective in dealing with the stress of life, be it moving or something else, and that new perspective is, in a word, **faith**. We love our spouses, children, or other family members, and we trust them to a large degree, but when I speak of faith, I am talking about a trust in our loving God through Christ our Lord that transcends us—that is bigger and more wonderful than we can ever imagine, yet, mysteriously, is also within us through the Holy Spirit. It is that faith that helps us view the short-term and long-term stressors with a proper point of view. Instead of being some insurmountable mountain that we imagine, a faithful perspective sees the situation as a more manageable hill that we can climb by taking one step at a time. And with each step we take, we hold onto Jesus as he walks beside us. We then feel that love and support directly through the power of the Holy Spirit in the practice of our spiritual disciplines (prayer, worship, Bible study, etc.) and indirectly through the love of those around us who share our perspective on faith and life.

It is faith that tells me that the boxes, whether real or metaphorical, will eventually get emptied and taken away, and that life will go on.

Pastor Tom

July 2020

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
5 Services 8:00 & 10:00	6	7	8	9	10	11
12 Services 8:00 & 10:00	13	14	15	16	17	18
19 Services 8:00 & 10:00	20	21 Missions Meeting 7:00	22	23	24	25
26 Services 8:00 & 10:00	27	28 Church Council Meeting 7:00	29	30	31	

FESTIVAL OF SHARING

2020

ONE
MISSION.
MANY
COMMUNITIES.

573.474.3332

FestivalofSharing.org

festival@socket.net

Through Festival of Sharing in Missouri, various Christian denominations and non-profit organizations have joined forces to respond to poverty, hunger and injustice throughout the world by providing funding and resource goods.

LLCUMC has participated in this project for many years and this year we will be accepting donations to purchase "new" twin, full, queen and king size blankets or quilts to be given to agencies in Missouri. The blankets will be given to domestic violence victims, foster children, homeless individuals, and victims of disasters throughout the state. Donations will be accepted through August 9th. If you write a check, please write a separate one (do not include with your normal giving) and in the memo or on your giving envelope, please indicate "Blankets". Let's cover the State of Missouri with our love by providing blankets of warmth to those in need.

Thank
you!

I received a phone call last week from Winnie and she wanted me to let you know that she loves

all the cards and notes everyone has sent her and that she misses everyone dearly. Pastor Tom was not able to go visit with her but she was delighted to speak with him on the phone and get to know him from afar for now.

Please keep Winnie in your prayers and know she loves us all.



2020 ELECTRONICS / METALS RECYCLING

**SAVE
THE
DATE** SAT, SEPT 12th 9:00 AM - Noon
Mark your calendars!

Plans are underway for our annual recycling event. Like so many other things in 2020, our event this year "will be a bit different"! Due to policy changes of our usual participating organizations, the list of items we can accept this year for recycling will focus on electronics, electrical/battery powered items, and metal items.

Our recycling vendor will collect fees on some of the electronics and appliances.

More details coming soon



On Going: Les Case, Wade Davis, Roger Grable, Richard Fuerst, Winnie Fuerst, Harvey Geary, Michael Hatfield, Mike McMillin, Nancy Rowe

Strength and Healing: Families and Staff @ Hillcrest Transitional Housing

Missions: Hillcrest Transitional Housing, Harvester's Food Bank, Lazarus Ministries, Tarsney Lake Families, Congregation de Mellier, Heart and Soul Children's Learning Center

*Please contact the office to update or add
prayer requests*