

Circumstances have dictated that I focus on another topic rather than continue my post-sermon newsletter article that I started last week and mentioned that I would continue in succeeding weeks. I will endeavor to pick it back up next week and share more thoughts on the basic goodness of human nature, or what C.S. Lewis calls the Law of Human Nature or the Moral Law, in his classic work, Mere Christianity.

I have used the adjective *extraordinary*, or something like it, too many times it seems in conversations over the past six months to describe what we are enduring during the COVID-19 pandemic. I keep using such expressions in order to acknowledge that reality—both for the person or persons to whom I'm talking and for myself. As of today (August 10), we are faced with the reality that Jackson County, Missouri, has 10,385 cases of COVID-19; 18.1% of the total cases for the entire state and the second highest number of cases by county (St. Louis County has the highest). As a result, we have changed how we worship from in-person services to once again having a virtual worship service to limit the potential spread of the virus. We instituted that change this past Sunday and will continue virtual worship for as long as it takes to keep us safe.

But, as I look at my news feeds, there is another important, and deeper, reason why we must not ignore the reality around us. This pandemic has the real potential to change us—to alter who we are as disciples of Jesus Christ and whose we are as children of God—for the worse. By that, I mean giving in to despair and doubt as we continue to deal with the pandemic and its many side-effects. Despair and doubt are the starter emotions for more destructive emotions unless we acknowledge our doubt and despair and take them to God in prayer. One of those destructive emotions is a spiritual numbness called complacency. It is desired because we don't want to feel the pain around us or acknowledge the source of that pain, and instead want to pretend that all is well. The danger is that complacency plays right into the hands of what C.S. Lewis called the worst sin of all—Pride—which then leads us to become bad Christians (see last week's newsletter article). The pandemic is real, and we, as believers in our risen Lord, cannot bury our heads in the sand and be complacent about 161,284 people in our country alone dying from COVID-19—114 of whom lived, worked, and had families near us in Jackson County. That is 114 of our neighbors in the biblical sense who will not be with their families for birthdays or anniversaries, Thanksgiving dinner this fall, or gift exchanges during Christmas.

Our current times require **care** and **concern** for others, even those we do not know, if we are to truly be disciples of Jesus Christ. We can then picture in our hearts the feelings of those 114 families who have lost a loved one to COVID-19 in our county, and how we would feel if it were our family. Our response to the pandemic also requires **faith**—an inner (spiritual) state of trust while in a relationship with God—that goes by the wayside when we let the desired numbness of complacency take hold within us. An attached poem by Adrian Wait titled Faith seems very appropriate for these times in which we live. (In the last stanza, he is referring to a story you find in Luke 8: 23-25.)

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) data, available at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/cases-updates/county-map.html>. Accessed 10 Aug 2020.

Join me on Sunday morning at 10:00 a.m. on our Facebook page and YouTube for our weekly virtual worship service in which we can bring our thoughts and feelings about the pandemic to God. We will be improving the mechanics and look of that service and sending out a congregational email with a worship guide this week to enhance your virtual experience.

--*Pastor Tom*

Faith

**Faith is the light of the next step
Illuminating a way ahead,
Without revealing the direction.
Faith will sustain, and comfort
Through our darkest hours.
Faith upholds the unseen hope,
It is the seasoning that endures,
the pain of life whilst revealing**

**that misery can be optional.
Faith is a light in the darkness,
Surrounded, yet not consumed.
In the storms of our lives
Faith is the stillness, seated at
The rear of our boat.**

Adrian Wait

2020 ELECTRONICS / METALS RECYCLING

LAKE LOTAWANA COMMUNITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

28901 NE COLBERN ROAD LAKE LOTAWANA, MO 64086

SAT, SEPT 12th 9:00 AM - Noon

**Computers - TVs
Large & Small Appliances
Car/Boat Batteries & MORE**

We accept almost anything with a cord or battery. As small as a cell phone to as large as a refrigerator- and everything in between! It does not matter what condition it is in or if it works or not.

Our recycling vendor - Midwest Recycling Center will collect fees on some of the electronics and appliances.

- TVs & CRT monitors - \$5 to \$50 each [See fee schedule llcumc.org](http://llcumc.org)
- All computer equipment, accessories, and cables
- Medical, dental, and laboratory equipment - no biohazards!
- All telephones, cell phones, PDA's, digital cameras, and related items
- Batteries (except alkaline batteries)
- All appliances - small and large Items with freon - \$10.00 each
- AV equipment, speakers, etc.
- Lawn and garden equipment (gas and oil must be drained prior to drop off)

**DRIVE-THRU
DROP-OFF**

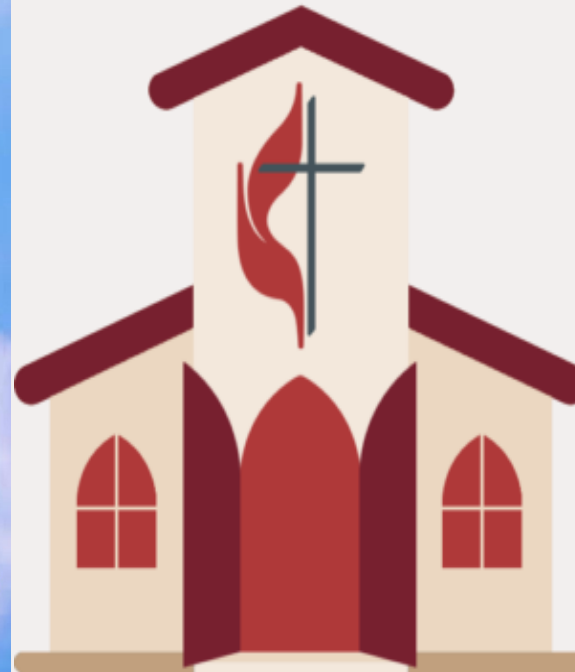
**See complete list
and fee schedule
at llcumc.org**



Due to the spread of Covid-19, we have suspended all in person worship service until further notice. Our online service is available to view every Sunday at 10 on [Facebook.com/LLCUMC](https://www.facebook.com/LLCUMC) or YOUTUBE

We will also be sending out a service bulletin so you can grab your Bible and a cup of coffee following along with our worship series.

Many blessings to all of you.



The church office will remain open 7-12 Mon-Thursday. If you need any information, need to drop something off or just want to chat, please feel free. We will still have Joys and Concerns during our virtual service, so please email me and Pastor Tom will share at Sunday service. We know these times are difficult, but always remember we are in God's house and *always* here for you.



Heart and Soul Children's Christian Learning Center needs our help. Summer is here and that means outside activities for our H&S children. H&S needs our donations of any of your sporting equipment that you no longer use (preferably baseball, tennis and basketball), but anything will work. If you have any of these items collecting dust in your storage areas please bring them and drop them off in the basket in our CONNECT area.

Thanks from the Heart and Soul Staff

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

Strength and Healing: Ken McDaniel

Missions: Kenyan G-Marc Project, 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



Collecting Now
through September 6th



The Merida Foundation will give these glasses to the poor, visually impaired Mayan people living in the rural villages in the state of Yucatan.

Place your unused
Rx and Reading
eyeglasses in the
basket found in our
Connect Area

August 2020

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
9 Services Online 10:00	10	11	12	13	14	15
16 Services Online 10:00	17	18	19	20	21	22
23 Services Online 10:00	24	25	26	27	28	29
30 Services Online 10:00	31	1	2	3	4	5