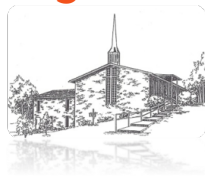


Pegram UMC



Newsletter

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20 April, 2020

Around the Church

Things have felt quite different around the church this past month. The fellowship hall has been empty, when it is usually filled on Wednesdays and fifth Sundays. The Sanctuary has had just four or five in it on Sundays, as only our musicians, preacher, and “camera crew” are coming in during this pandemic. Furthermore, the majority of our outreach projects have been suspended. Yet, through it all one thing remains quite constant. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ is with us, and for this, I am grateful.

While church life has looked different, we have not let the pandemic cause us to simply slow down or shut down. In fact, in some ways, we are busier than ever and reaching more and more people. We have commenced doing three live stream videos during the week, to keep people spiritually connected between Sundays. On Wednesday at 2p.m. we do a Bible teaching live stream on Facebook. On Friday at 2p.m. we do a Bible trivia game live stream on Facebook. On Friday at 5p.m. we live stream Prayer meeting on Facebook and through the Sanctuary camera (which can be accessed by clicking the “watch live” button on our webpage). On Sundays, we are live streaming service at 10:30a.m. on Facebook and through the Sanctuary camera. These live streams have been receiving hundreds of views, and many people from many places who we would never have reached before are joining us online as you share the videos with friends and family, or as people stumble upon our page. I think that this season of growing outreach is a powerful reminder of how God can take bad situations and bring good out of them!

We celebrated Holy Week. On Palm Sunday we waved palm branches and shouted hosannas, on Holy Thursday we meditated on the last supper and Christ’s amazing self-sacrificial love and servant-leadership, On Good Friday we mourned the crucifixion of the Savior through a candle light service, and on Easter we gloried in the triumph of Christ who is alive and has conquered the grave. I am immensely grateful to all the individuals who have helped with leading and live streaming worship. Holy Week was powerful, and while we were not physically together, I felt deeply spiritually connected to you all.

On the Saturday before Easter I had the joyful opportunity to deliver Easter bags to the children of the church. I thank Linda and Donna for helping pull those together. The smiles on the kid’s faces was wonderful to behold.

We are five weeks into a six-week Wesleyan Bible study (using both the Bible and a book by Steve Harper called *Five Marks of a Methodist*). we have done the past three lessons through the video conferencing app online called “Zoom.” It has worked really well, and it has been great to see people’s faces. The study has been fruitful and many interesting conversations and insights have been had. I am grateful for technology which helps keep us together.

Meals on Wheels is an essential ministry and our church has remained involved with it. I want to thank all the volunteers who deliver meals faithfully week in and week out for bravely continuing in this mission. I want to also thank Butch Rogers and Melanie Smiley for overseeing the project, they do a spectacular job every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday ensuring that people get their meals, and they truly bring their hearts into this ministry.

Our God is a good and gracious Lord. All praise to Jesus.

Weekly Calendar

Sunday: 10:30 a.m. – Live Stream Worship (Facebook and Sanctuary Camera)

Monday: 5:30 p.m. -- AA meeting

Tuesday: 6:30 p.m. – Wesleyan Bible Study on Zoom (contact Dane if you would like to join)

Wednesday: 2:00p.m. – Live Stream Bible Teaching (on Facebook).

Friday: 2:00.m. – Live Stream Bible Trivia (on Facebook)

5:00p.m. – Live Stream Prayer Meeting (On Facebook and Sanctuary Camera)

Special Note!

The 2020 General Conference of the United Methodist Church has been postponed until 2021 due to the coronavirus.

Also, the TN Annual Conference has been postponed until September of 2020.

These are major changes, and will require a lot of effort and coordination to reschedule, plan, and prepare for. Please keep the leadership of the UMC, our bishops, our boards and agencies, and our denomination as a whole in your prayers as we navigate these strange times together.

Unite714

There is a prayer movement happening in our nation right now that I want to invite you all to join in on. This movement is dedicated to praying for the healing of our land, for the healing of people suffering from coronavirus, for the strength of our health care workers, for us to get through this pandemic and on to the other side as quickly as possible.

The Reason it is called “Unite714” is because of the Bible passage out of 2 Chronicles 7:14 which says, “if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land.”

The movement asks for people to join in prayer at 7:14a.m. and 7:14p.m. every day until this pandemic is over. As we pray, we will know we are connected with prayer warriors all across the nation and globe, who at that very moment are praying in the same mind and Spirit, for the same goal and healing, as we are. There is power in prayer, and power in collective prayer.

If this is something that you would be interested in participating in, I encourage you to begin today!

Here is a link for more information on this current prayer movement.

<https://www.unite714.com>

Here is a prayer you can use if you do not know exactly what to say:

“Lord in your merciful kindness, please heal our nation and world of the coronavirus. We pray for the virus to be completely eliminated. We pray for those who grieve loved ones lost to this virus, we pray for comfort and healing for those who are currently battling this virus, and we pray for strength and endurance for our health care workers on the front lines. Protect us all, keep us safe, shield us in your mighty grace. In Jesus name. Amen.”

Wit & Wisdom

“When I cannot read, when I cannot think, when I cannot even pray, I can trust.”

-- Hudson Taylor

“To one with faith, no explanation is necessary. To one without faith, no explanation is possible. -- Thomas Aquinas

“Truth is powerful and it prevails.” -- Sojourner Truth

“If we are to better the future, we must disturb the present” -- Catherine Booth

“May we be enabled to say 'No' to sin and 'Yes' to the sinner.”

-- Dietrich Bonhoeffer

“It is grace at the beginning, and grace at the end. So that when you and I come to lie upon our death beds, the one thing that should comfort and help and strengthen us there is the thing that helped us in the beginning.” -- Martin Lloyd Jones

“For there is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus.”

-- Saint Paul (1 Timothy 2:5)

“I was dead, and behold, now I live forevermore.” -- Jesus Christ (Revelation 1:18)

Where is God During a Global Pandemic?

The question in this title is a silly one, and I am allowed to call it silly since I am the one who wrote it. The question assumes God goes somewhere, or hides somewhere, or flees from the battles and troubles of our world. Where is God during a global pandemic? The same place God is during times of peace and security. The same place God is always, namely everywhere.

God is omnipresent. God is in every place, in every space, in every moment, throughout all time, all at once. Ephesians 4:6 says that God is, “in all things, through all things, and above all things.” That covers it pretty well doesn't it? All places, all things, are occupied by God. If we traveled into the deepest darkest crevice in the Pacific Ocean, or if we summited the mighty peak of Mount Everest. God would be in both places, and would have been with us at every point as we journeyed between them. Even if we left planet earth, and traveled to a galaxy far, far, away...yes even there, God would be with us.

And yet, while we know this truth. While we believe this reality that God is omnipresent. While we see it in Scripture and feel its certainty in our hearts...we still ask this question, don't we? Where is God during a global pandemic? But if we are honest, I think there we are masking a more difficult question when we ask where God is...because as we have noted, we know where God is, he never left, he is here. The real question we want to ask, but perhaps we are too timid to ask, is this: Why are you not stopping this and fixing this pandemic God? Now, we are arriving at our true question, the one in the deep place of our hearts. Why does the all-powerful God not stop this pandemic, heal people and the land, eradicate this virus from the face of the earth, and do so immediately?

Well, it is above my pay grade to tell you *exactly* why, but I can still offer some thoughts on it they may (or may not) prove helpful. One thing I know is we live in a fallen world and every generation has to deal with atrocities, calamities, sufferings, and tragedies. Our generation is not unique in this. Indeed, Martin Luther ministered in the midst of the Black Plague, a plague that wiped out 1/3 of the European population. He kept the faith in the midst of this suffering, but I am sure he had questions similar to those that go through our minds.

This fact that we live in a fallen world, is the fault of humans, not of God. It is human sin that causes suffering. God made all things good (Genesis 1), Adam and Eve broke that original goodness. Sometimes human sin manifests in violence, when humans engage in unjust war against each other. Sometimes human sin manifests as hoarding, and some become over indulgent “haves” while others starve or struggle as “have nots.” Sometimes human sin manifests as viruses outbreaking...yes God spoke a word on whether we should eat bats (Deuteronomy 14:12-18), and you guessed it we are not supposed to do that! Therefore, this virus is the consequence of human sin. Even natural disasters can in a certain way be chalked up to human sin...Adam and Eve were given dominion over the whole earth and when they fell, the whole creation was subjected into corruption, God curses not just the serpent, man, and woman, but also the ground (Genesis 3:17).

So, it seems that God, in his infinite wisdom, has seen fit to allow humans to have free will, even knowing that this freedom we are endowed with will get us into trouble. But the risk is worth it in the eyes of God, because when we freely choose to follow God, when we freely choose to live in



line with his will, when we accept his free gift of grace, then the love shared between God and his people is a deep, genuine, true, uncoerced love. It is not the love of a scientist and his robot, but a much better analogy is like the love between a groom and a bride. God seems to think this risk of granting us free will is worth taking, but it is a risk.

So, the answer to our question may be found in this. That until the New Heavens and the New Earth are fully revealed. Until the World Without End is brought upon this planet. Until Christ returns and consecrates the next age and conforms us fully into his image...God has given us permission, and has allowed us, to make free choices, even bad choices, some of which have quite harsh consequences...which brings us back to the original question, but reframes it...where is God when we make bad choices that mess things up?



Here is a beautiful truth, God enters into the messiness with us. Remember when Joseph was sold into slavery by his wicked brothers, God went down into Egypt with him and helped him ascend to the second highest position in Pharaoh's courts. Remember, when the Hebrew children were slaves in Egypt God heard their cries and sent to them a powerful prophet in Moses. Remember when Daniel's three companions are put into the fiery furnace, a fourth person stood in it with them...that was Christ! Remember that God has been with his people through every trial, every hardship, every battle, and in God's own timing and through God's own power, has delivered his people out of all the sticky situations we have ever found ourselves in.



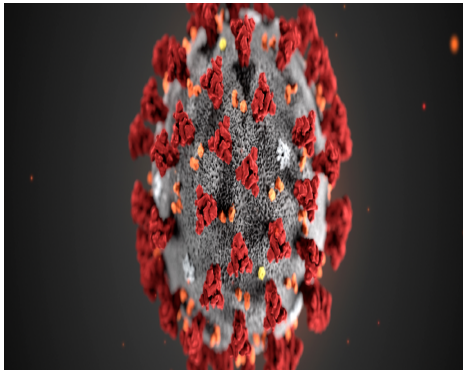
And then remember what is most important. That God took on human flesh, and lived here on earth in the person of Jesus of Nazareth, and he endured the suffering of the cross. He did not excuse himself from the suffering of human life, but came into our world, experienced our humanity, and offered himself as a sacrifice for all our sins.

God promises us love, he promises us grace, he promises us tender mercies which are new each morning, and he gifts those to us through Christ and the Holy Spirit. God does not, however, promise us ease. Jesus says, "in this world there will be trouble" (John 16:33). There will be storms, there will be hurt, there will be all types of issues to overcome. Jesus doesn't say there "might be" he says there "will be." The comfort, the hope, the grace, found in all this is that God will be there with us through it all, he never leaves or forsakes his children (Hebrews 13:5).



So where is God? He is here with us. Why is he allowing this? Because he has gifted us free will which has allowed sin to enter into the universe and break everything it touches...but there is good news. God is not only with us, but has redeemed the creation through Jesus, has promised to protect and keep us eternally in his love, and offers all this to us free of charge...all we have to do is repent and believe the gospel.

Now, eternity is a long time. After one million years in heaven, we will have just as much time there to look forward to as the day we first arrived. Eternity literally never ends. And so, while we wrestle and struggle and suffer in this life...we know the struggles are temporary. And when we are in heaven, and all is set right, and there are no more tears...how greatly we will appreciate what God has done for us in Christ, so deep will our appreciation be that even through eternity we will not cease to praise him, our praise will know no end, as we see more and more glory upon glory in the face of Christ and in his love and redeeming grace.



Pandemic

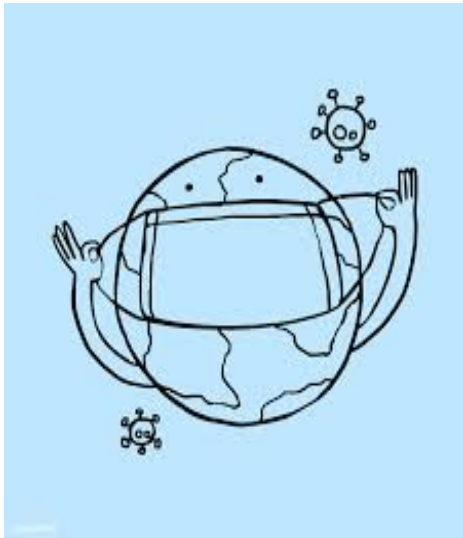
HIDE FROM EACH OTHER!
HIDE IN YOUR HOMES!
THE VIRUS MIGHT GET YOU!
STAY GLUED TO YOUR PHONES!

Don't go around crowds!
Don't go to church!
Give time for the scientists
To do their research.

Don't visit Grandma!
You might make her ill!
Everyone in a panic
But God says BE STILL!

Know that He is God,
Is what He would say
And know that He is with you
Each frightening day.

So, love on your neighbors
And check on your friends.
Facetime your mother
And please WASH YOUR HANDS!



Trisha M Biggs

Bible Trivia! (answers at bottom of page)

Category: Who said it?

Q1: "Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world." Who said it?

Q2: "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe." Who said it?

Q3: "I have been crucified with Christ, and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me." Who said it?

Q4: "I know that my redeemer lives, and that in the end he will stand on the earth." Who said it?

Q5: "Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!" Who said it?

Q6: "All Generations shall call me blessed" Who said it?

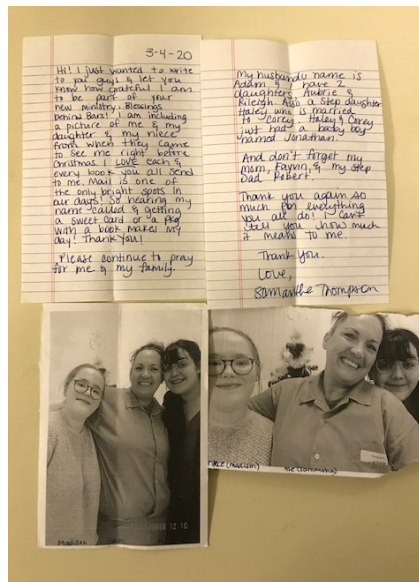
Q7: "What is truth?" who said it?



FUN PHOTOS!



(Easter basket Delivery for Parker and Luke!)



(Blessings behind Bars)




(Pastor Dane gets a visitor)

Trivia answers: 1) John the Baptist 2) Thomas 3) Paul 4)

Job 5) Martha 6) Mary the mother of Jesus 7) Pontius Pilate

PEGRAM UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
APRIL 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4
Regular Sunday Schedule Sunday School 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am	(A) Anniversary (B) Birthday		Senior 60+ Lunch & Bingo 11am Choir Practice 6:30 pm	Men's Coffee 7:30 a.m. Iron Skillet	Sean Mevis (B) Prayer Meeting 5 pm	Gary & Jamie Merritts (A) Cathy Beck (B) Blessing of the Pets 10 am
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Worship NHC The Trace 2pm	Sarah Femino (B) AA 5:30pm		Adam Moffatt (B) Senior 60+ Lunch & Bingo 11am Choir Practice 6:30 pm	Men's Coffee 7:30 a.m. Iron Skillet	Prayer Meeting 5 pm	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
 Sun Rise Service VA Cemetery	UMW 6 pm AA 5:30pm		Rick Newton (B) Senior 60+ Lunch & Bingo 11am Choir Practice 6:30 pm	Men's Coffee 7:30 a.m. Iron Skillet	Jo Lampley (B) Prayer Meeting 5 pm	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Church Council 11:45am	AA 5:30pm		Jane Harris (B) Senior 60+ Lunch & Bingo 11am Choir Practice 6:30 pm	Men's Coffee 7:30 a.m. Iron Skillet	Prayer Meeting 5 pm	Church Fish Fry Adults \$ 10 Children (10 and under) \$ 6
26	27	28	29	30		
	AA 5:30pm		Elfriede Patrick (B) Emma Neely (B) Leah McMahon (B) Choir Practice 6:30 pm			

PEGRAM UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
MAY 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
Regular Sunday Schedule Sunday School 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am	(A) Anniversary (B) Birthday		Senior 60+ Lunch & Bingo 11am Choir Practice 6:30 pm	Men's Coffee 7:30 a.m. Iron Skillet	Jo Shaffer (B) Prayer Meeting 5 pm	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Worship NHC The Trace 2pm	Karen Newton (B) AA 5:30pm	Michelle Femino (B) JoAnn Welch (B)	Senior 60+ Lunch & Bingo 11am Choir Practice 6:30 pm	Men's Coffee 7:30 a.m. Iron Skillet	Prayer Meeting 5 pm	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Church Council 11:45am	UMW 6 pm AA 5:30pm		Senior 60+ Lunch & Bingo 11am Choir Practice 6:30 pm	Sydney Shearon (B) Men's Coffee 7:30 a.m. Iron Skillet	Don Anderson (B) Prayer Meeting 5 pm	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
		Sandra Radford (B)	Senior 60+ Lunch & Bingo 11am Trisha Biggs (B) Choir Practice 6:30 pm	Zach Moffatt (B) Men's Coffee 7:30 a.m. Iron Skillet	Terry & Linda Hardin (A) Prayer Meeting 5 pm	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Betty Petty (B) Nicholas Biggs (B)	Debbie Turner (B) AA 5:30pm	Ed & Susan Greer(A)				
31						

PEGRAM UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
JUNE 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	Gary& Donita Woodall (A)		Senior 60+ Lunch & Bingo 11am Choir Practice 6:30 pm	Men's Coffee 7:30 a.m. Iron Skillet	Prayer Meeting 5 pm	Angie Hedgepath (B)
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Worship NHC The Trace 2pm	AA 5:30pm		Senior 60+ Lunch & Bingo 11am Terry Turner (B) Choir Practice 6:30 pm	John & Angela Dixon (A) Men's Coffee 7:30 a.m. Iron Skillet	Tori Femino (B) Prayer Meeting 5 pm	
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Bill Clark (B) Church Council 11:45am	Jimmy Femino (B) P.J. Shaffer (B) UMW 6 pm AA 5:30pm		Senior 60+ Lunch & Bingo 11am Choir Practice 6:30 pm	Men's Coffee 7:30 a.m. Iron Skillet	Wyatt Hardin (B) Prayer Meeting 5 pm	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
			Senior 60+ Lunch & Bingo 11am Choir Practice 6:30 pm	Men's Coffee 7:30 a.m. Iron Skillet	Prayer Meeting 5 pm	
28	29	30				30
	AA 5:30pm			Regular Sunday Schedule Sunday School 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am	(A) Anniversary (B) Birthday	