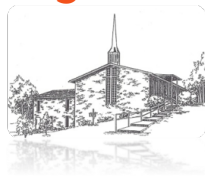


Pegram UMC



Newsletter

Rev. Dane van Eys

479 Thompson Road

Pegram TN, 37143

615.646.6033

615.944.8348 (mobile)

peggramumc@gmail.com

16 July, 2020

Around the Church

We continue as a congregation to navigate this season of coronavirus. Perhaps we are discovering more deeply what Paul meant when he said to Timothy, "preach the word in season and out of season" (2 Timothy 4:2). If any time was "out of season," I think it would be this one. Yet we remain steadfast in our faith, confident that God is in control, and resolute in maintaining our mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. By the grace of God, we are doing this. Praise Him!

I am pleased that we have been able to reopen our sanctuary for in person worship. We have had four Sundays back together, and it has been a sincere blessing to see people in the pews and to see many of the faces of our fellowship (albeit only half their mask-covered faces). To those who are still participating at home, we feel your spirit with us, and I want you to know that the Spirit connects us and unites us through faith and worship no matter our location.

Speaking of the online component of our worship, there is a real silver lining that I have seen through this experience of doing church in the midst of a global pandemic. As God always proves his strength in our weakest moments, as God always takes the broken and binds it up in healing, as God always makes good come out of bad situations, so He has done mighty things with our online worship. In 2019 our average worship attendance in the sanctuary was approximately 55 people. Online, we are getting well over 100 views weekly on Facebook Live, and some Sundays we have gone into the range of 200+. For those of you who have used Facebook evangelistically by inviting friends and family to tune in, I thank you. There has been great fruit from your online outreach.

Meals on Wheels continues to thrive through all of this. I am daily grateful to the hands and feet who make that ministry run smoothly. I am happy that even though the times we are in are tough and we have to be innovative and creative, we are still making sure we care for the hungry and homebound in our community.

The men's coffee group which meets Thursday at 7:30a.m. at the Iron Skillet has begun gathering again. It is always an enjoyable time to chit-chat, catch up on each other's lives, and simply enjoy a nice breakfast together. I sure missed that weekly event when we were all locked down, it has been refreshing to be able to get back into that routine.

We have a baptism upcoming this weekend! It will actually be the first baptism I have performed in the PUMC sanctuary (the only other one I have ever done was for a child in the Kari Foundation down at VU Children's hospital). We will baptize baby Jaxton Cunningham at 2p.m. on Saturday July the 18th. We look forward to welcoming a new member into the New Covenant of Christ Jesus our Lord.

Certainly, more could be said. I want to thank the Church Council for their hard work in preparing us for safely reopening. Special thanks to Rick Newton Donna Tidwell, and Friede Patrick who took lead on making sure everything was in order and ready to go. God is with us. God is good.

Weekly Calendar

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

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

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

Thursday: 7:30a.m. – Men’s Coffee at Iron Skillet

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

5:00p.m. – Prayer Meeting (in person)

Special Note!

On Saturday July 25th the ARK will be conducting the annual “back to school giveaway.” As many of you know, our fellowship hall is the space where the supplies are gathered and packed.

In years past we have had several members of the congregation volunteer for helping pack the bags, helping distribute them, and hosting a PUMC prayer booth at the event.

This year will be different due to coronavirus. It will be a “drive through” event, and so, less volunteers will be necessary. If you would like to support this event please do one of two things. You can donate a financial gift, or you can pray for the students and families who will be receiving the school supplies.

New Members of Blessings Behind Bars w/ Addresses

Casey Howren
#21642-074
FCI- Tallahassee
P.O. Box 5000
Tallahassee, FL 32314

Jessica Miller
#31693-064
FCI- Tallahassee
P.O. Box 5000
Tallahassee, FL 32314

Samantha Thompson
#25372-075
FCI- Tallahassee
P.O. Box 5000
Tallahassee, FL 32314

George Laise
#540932
N.W.C.X.
960 State Route 212
Tiptonville, TN 38079

Shane Miller
#559902
Davis Correctional Facility
6888 East 133rd Road
Holdenville, OK 74848

Please use the churches P.O. Box for your return address for safety reasons. All letters should be on white paper with blue/black ink. No handmade cards please.

“I was in prison and you came to visit me”
- Matthew 25:36

Wit & Wisdom

“Faith does not eliminate questions. But Faith knows where to take them.”

-- Elisabeth Elliot

“God had one Son here on earth without sin, but never one without suffering” -- saint Augustine

“I build on Christ, the rock of ages; on his sure mercies described in his word, and on his promises, all which I know are yea and amen.” -- John Wesley

“Lord, I’m going to hold steady on to You and You’ve got to see me through.” -- Harriet Tubman

“I hope not in works. I hope not in ethics. I hope not in baptisms or church membership. I hope in Christ alone.”

-- Paul Washer

“Compassion means entering the suffering of another in order to lead the way out.” -- Rosaria Butterfield

“And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus.”

-- Saint Paul (Ephesians 2:6)

“As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you.” -- Jesus Christ (John 15:9)

A Theology of Saying Goodbye

In the United Methodist Church pastors have to get used to saying goodbye to congregations and congregations have to get used to saying goodbye to pastors. Like the phases of the moon, the shuffle of pastors is certain, and we find ourselves currently in one of these moments of having to say goodbye.

The itinerancy of elders is a long-standing tradition in the Methodist Church. The circuit riders of old would travel from congregation to congregation across the rugged American frontier, because there were not enough ordained elders to fill every pulpit. Therefore, they would circulate the clergy so that at least once a month, congregations would have access to an elder. It was on this Sunday the Sacrament would be administered (this is why we still take Communion just once a month).

The early church also experienced the tradition of itinerancy. Jesus did not preach exclusively in his hometown of Nazareth, but of course preached all over Judea. Peter did not stay in Jerusalem after Pentecost, but traveled on to Rome. Paul was a missionary who would establish a congregation, like the Corinthian congregation or the fellowship in Ephesus, and after they were trained up and had leadership in place, Paul would carry on to the next city to preach Christ crucified and risen. The itinerancy is in our bloodstream as Christians.

There is both pain and beauty in the itinerant system. The pain is obvious that when you love a pastor and when the pastor loves the congregation it is hard to say goodbye. Yet there is also beauty in it. The itinerancy creates stronger Christian connection throughout the conference, it allows for fresh ideas to enter pulpits and church offices on a regular basis, and it reminds us of that most important reality that the emphasis is never on one leader or vessel, but always on Jesus. Jesus is all any congregation actually needs.

In recognizing the historical reality of this system, I thought I would look to Paul’s letters and say goodbye how he did. One thing Paul always does in his letters before he concludes them is to bless the readers. For example, Paul says at the end of 2 Corinthians, “May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.” Another example could be found at the end of 1 Thessalonians where Paul writes these beautiful words, “May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

So, I would like to bless you all. May the Father of lights cover your lives with such tender mercies that your heart erupts with praises. May the Son of glory fill your souls with such lavish grace that unending gratitude is ever on your lips. May the Spirit of holiness sanctify you entirely so that in love you are conformed to the image of Christ through and through. In Jesus name, amen.

Something else Paul would do is reflect on how God worked through the people of a particular congregation. In Romans 16 Paul lists a large collection of names within that particular congregation, sends his greetings to them, and honors them for their work in advancing the Kingdom. For example, Paul speaks about the fidelity Appelles has



shown to Christ, Paul says Appelles' faith has stood the test. Paul talks about how Andronicus and Junia have been "outstanding among the apostles," he speaks of Rufus being chosen in the Lord and how Rufus' mother has been like a mother to Paul himself...what a tender and pastoral heart Paul had to name specific members of his family in the faith and give them accolades for their spirituality and growth in Christ.

So, allow me to do something similar. I will not name names because I do not want to leave anybody out, but let me simply reflect on our ministries and give glory to God for the manifold ways he has displayed his power and love in this congregation over these past three years.

I thank God for the meals on wheels team and volunteers, their compassionate hearts and dedication have led to the providing of food for many in Cheatham County. For the FUEL program and the volunteers who support the ministry financially, by packing bags, and by getting the bags to the schools, you have worked in such a way as to ensure the children of our community are well nourished on a daily basis.



I thank God for the brothers and sisters who aided me in making the worship experience at the NHC on the first of the month both possible and fruitful, God's Spirit moved many times in that nursing home. For the choir who make joyful noises to the Lord, who are small but mighty, who are faithful to practice week in and week out, what beautiful melodies we have made to offer to God and his people as an act of worship.

I thank God for the hard work of outreach through pancake breakfasts, fish fries, Christmas Bazaars, Pet blessings, and memorial meals. To feed the people (and the pets), to offer them love and hospitality, is a Christian tradition that extends all the way back to the Lord himself. For the ministries of charity like the angel trees, thanksgiving boxes, the back to school giveaway, UMCOR buckets, and school kits, I give God praise that we could participate in blessing those in need.



For the brothers and sisters who went to VU hospital to pray with the families of the children in the Kari Foundation, to weep with those who weep and to rejoice with those who rejoice, we did our best to bring Christ into difficult situations. For Bible studies and Sunday School, I give God thanks for the opportunity to dig into his holy Word and grow in the knowledge of Christ. For all the various councils who conduct the business of the church with immense integrity...I give God thanks.

I praise God for the blessings behind bars program in which we have the opportunity to nurture the souls of inmates, as they in turn nurture our souls too. And most importantly, I praise God for the gift of gathering each Sunday to exalt the Lord Jesus together, to proclaim his word, sing his praises, and feast at his holy table.

And this has only scratched the surface...God has been at work here. And he will continue his work here. God will work until righteousness covers this earth as waters cover the seas, and PUMC you are a part of it all. I love you. Glory to God!



Farwell to Bro. Dane

Just 3 years ago
He came into our life
With a brand-new haircut
And his beautiful wife

We all had our doubts
But embraced him from the start
Such a God-fearing man
With Jesus in his heart

He brought his own style of preaching
With God at the core
But now the time has come
To show him the door

He has sung with us and prayed with us
and has eaten so much
The impact on our lives
No one can touch

He taught me how to pray
Without caring who will hear
And whenever tragedy struck
You could always find him near

A true friend and brother
Pastor Dane will always be
And soon our friends at Sango
Will all get to see

We love you, Bro. Dane
And Kielee and Lera too
Y'all will always have a family in Pegram
That is praying for you

Trisha M. Biggs

Bible Trivia! (answers at bottom of page)

Category: Books of the Bible

Q1: How many books are there total in the Protestant Canon?

Q2: Which of these is NOT in the Protestant Canon: Joel, Judith, Titus, Zechariah?

Q3: Which of the four gospels is the shortest in length?

Q4: Which of these books did Paul NOT write: Galatians, Philemon, Acts, Philippians?

Q5: Which of these books is NOT Old Testament: Jude, Malachi, Hosea, Amos?

Q6: The first five books of the Bible (Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy) is often called what in Hebrew?

Q7: Which is the longest of all Paul's letters?



FUN PHOTOS



We Love you Pastor and your precious family.



Baby Jaxton Baptism



Back to School

Trivia answers: 1) 66 2) Judith 3) Mark 4) Acts 5) Jude 6) Torah 7) Romans

PEGRAM UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
JULY 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 LUNCH *CHIOR PRACTICE Skip Beck (B) Dale Mills (B) Bobby & Sheila Harris (A)	Hutch Hockenberger (B) Max Morris (B) Men's Coffee 7:30 a.m. Iron Skillet	Prayer Ming 5 pm	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Maurice & Donna Tidwell (A)	AA 5:30pm			Men's Coffee 7:30 a.m. Iron Skillet	Kelly Greer (B) Prayer Mting 5 pm	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Collin Hockenberger (B) Church Council 11:45am	AA 5:30pm			Lynn Anderson (B) Men's Coffee 7:30 a.m. Iron Skillet	Prayer Mting 5 pm	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
	AA 5:30pm			Brayden Bell (B) Men's Coffee 7:30 a.m. Iron Skillet	Prayer Mting 5 pm	
26	27	28	29	30	31	
	AA 5:30pm					

SENIOR 60+ LUNCH & BINGO & CHIOR PRACTICE HAVE BEEN SUSPENDED UNTIL FARTHER NOTICE
PEGRAM UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

AUGUST 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1.
Regular Sunday Schedule Sunday School 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am	(A) Anniversary (B) Birthday		*Senior 60+ Lunch *Choir Practice	Men's Coffee 7:30 a.m. Iron Skillet	Prayer Mting 5 pm	
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
		Carolyn Miller (B)		Men's Coffee 7:30 a.m. Iron Skillet	Prayer Mting 5 pm	Paul Moffatt (B) Clay & Angie Hedgepath (A)
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Church Council 11:45am	AA 5:30pm			Men's Coffee 7:30 a.m. Iron Skillet	Prayer Mting 5 pm	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Linda Hardin (B)	Jaxon Greer (B) AA 5:30pm	Elliott & Paulette Wells (A)		Men's Coffee 7:30 a.m. Iron Skillet	Prayer Mting 5 pm	Angela Dixon (B)
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
Dane van Eys(B)	AA 5:30pm			Men's Coffee 7:30 a.m. Iron Skillet	Prayer Mting 5 pm	
30	31					
	Rick & Karen Newton. (A) AA 5:30pm					

SENIOR 60+ LUNCH & BINGO & CHIOR PRACTICE HAVE BEEN SUSPENDED UNTIL FARTHER NOTICE