

MESSENGER JUNE 3, 2020

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

I normally look forward to writing a letter in the Messenger to report the good things that are happening in our church. This week I cannot mention the positive events in our church without addressing the distressing events in our nation. Like you, my heart is heavy with sadness and lament and dismay over the situation in our country. I have been at a loss to know how to respond, both personally and pastorally. Even as I sit down to write this letter, I am not sure what words I can apply to address the turmoil we are experiencing in our country. Words seem inadequate.

The long history of racism in our nation and the terrible treatment of black Americans, of which the horrific murder of George Floyd is only the most recent example, are unspeakably and unconscionably evil. It is right and it is to be expected for massive, widespread protests to take place in response to these horrors. Yet we know that much of the protesting has been far from peaceful. We have seen mass destruction, looting, violence and shocking lawlessness. Human sin is compounded by more human sin. It is tempting to react to all of this with fear and despair and hopelessness. Where can we turn for hope?

It should be painfully clear to all of us that real hope is not to be found in our government, in our elected officials, or in any political party or platform. All of those entities have repeatedly failed us, and we have repeatedly failed each other and ourselves. For real, lasting change to take place, we need much more than what laws, policies and politicians can offer us. Our only real and lasting hope is the Lord Jesus Christ, and the transformation in our sinful human hearts that His Spirit alone can accomplish.

Just this morning I was reading from Paul's letter to Titus. This excerpt from Titus 3:3-8 is from *The Message* paraphrase of the Bible, and it describes how the Holy Spirit takes us from who we once were (or perhaps who we still are) to who we are called to be in Christ: *It wasn't so long ago that we ourselves were stupid and stubborn, dupes of sin, ordered every which way by our glands, going around with a chip on our shoulder, hated and hating back. But when God, our kind and loving Savior God, stepped in, he saved us from all that. It was all his doing; we had nothing to do with it. He gave us a good bath, and we came out of it new people, washed inside and out by the Holy Spirit. Our Savior Jesus poured out new life so generously. God's gift has restored our relationship with him and given us back our lives. And there's more life to come—an eternity of life! You can count on this.*

Friends, in these times of turmoil and despair, we can count on Christ, and Christ alone, to bring about the radical transformation that our world so desperately needs. It starts in our own hearts. When Jesus began his ministry, the very first word he is recorded to have preached is “Repent” (Mt. 4:17). I am personally asking the Lord to help me to repent of my own insensitivity as a white man to the experience of black persons in our nation. I am praying for the Holy Spirit to continue to do the much-needed work of transformation in my heart.

As we are counting on Christ, Christ is counting on us to represent him, to be his hands, his feet and his heart, to be a part of establishing his kingdom on earth and bringing healing to our nation. May we at Faith Harbor live fully into our mission to be a beacon of hope, anchored in Christ, sharing God’s love through joyful service among and with all of God’s children of every race, color and ethnic background, until God’s kingdom is fully established on earth as it is in heaven.

Grace and peace,

Pastor David

Week of 06-01-2020 Scripture card

Centering Prayer: Come, Holy Spirit, and fill my heart.

Psalm of the Week: Psalm 51

M Ezekiel 36:26-27

T Romans 8:9-11

W John 16:12-15

T Galatians 5:22-25

F 2 Timothy 1:14

S 1 Cor. 6:19-20

Key Scripture: 1 Cor. 3:16: Do you not know that you are God’s temple and that God’s Spirit dwells in you?

FATHER'S DAY FUNDRAISER 2020

We are continuing our tradition of a Father's Day fundraiser like the one we just did for Mother's Day. For our bulletin on June 21st we will have an insert for the Father's Uncles, Grandfathers, Brothers and others we wish to honor or remember. Like Mother's Day it is free but if you wish to donate to a designated fund you may do so. Just mark your check or cash donation Father's Day Fundraiser. If no fund is designated the donation will go to the general fund.

You may send your information to Judy at secretary@faithharborumc.org so she can prepare the insert. Be sure to designate honor or memory for the person and give your name.

The DEADLINE IS JUNE 15th.

TO UMW MEMBERS AND CHURCH MEMBERS

I have received information from the NC Conference regarding the **AGAPE** program. The Conference has asked us to help fund AGAPE for Armenia and Artsakh instead of doing the usual Christmas Shoe Boxes this year. They have enough boxes to give the children for this Christmas, but need funds to keep the program going. These donations would help fund the meager salary for the Director, Nara Melkonyan. Remember she came and shared with our congregation this past year. They also need funds for the children's home, a hospital, a clinic, and an after-school program. Also donations help buy cows, chickens, and garden tools for families.

I would like to suggest to the congregation that it would be nice if we could make a donation at least to what would be spent to fill the shoebox. We have enjoyed doing this ministry each year, so I hope folks would like to participate in a different manner.

The checks can be written to the church, Faith Harbor, and just put **AGAPE** in the memo section. I ask that everyone [respond by June 28 if possible.](#)

Thank you to those who have already sent a donation for this ministry.

Anita Phillips, UMW President



We will be beginning a new book study using "One Thousand Gifts" by Ann Voskamp.

The study guide is optional. Books can be found online at eBay, Amazon and Target to name a few.

We will be meeting **via Zoom** starting **Thursday, June 4th at 6:30.**

If you are interested in joining, please email Kim King at kdking60@gmail.com.

Let us draw
near to God with
a sincere heart in
full assurance
of faith...



PRAYER CONCERNS Members Jim Ace, Jonathan Adams, Scott Adams, Joyce Arnette, Nancy Buckman, Connie Carroll, Ed Drudge, Cal and Diane Geary, Stephanie Hardin, Kellie Henry and Family, Gail Kaufmann, Linda Kimrey, Janice Long, Neal McHenry, Martha Marlow, Patsy Mathews, Doug and Sherry Mewborn, Delores Miner, Jenny Mizzell, Larry Modlin, Judy Pratt, Nathan Redd, Nancy Smith, and Kelly Wills.

Military: Joe Fraley, Sg. Joey Horne, John Modlin, Branden Mooney, Anthony Ripley, David Ritz.

Friends: Sam and Robin Allen, Willie Ray Arnett, Paul Arnett, Al Avant, Jesse Bailey, Rudolph Batts, Rev. Dr. Daniel Sasaro Brewer, George Brodgen, Del Brouwer, Candie, Kathy Carlston, Carole and Blaine, Carter, Kathy Clapp, Tobey Ferry, Jan Foster, Pastor Gary Gandy, Jensen Gandy, J.W. Gibson, Marlene Grove, Gene Harris, **Jewel's grandfather, Russell Heavner under Hospice care and Jewel's family,** Roy Horne, Joanne, Donna Johnson, Major Jones, Katrina Lolar, daughter of Ava White, Dr. Jack Kem, Kody, Craig Jenkins, Brenda Leonard, Liza, A.J. Long, Doreen Luisi, Nancy McAloney, Andrea (Ann) Maready, Douglas Mathis for healing after surgery, Ernie Mazzei, Michelle, Monica, Vann and Ann Moore, Sarah Moyer, Nathan, Sherri Nelson, Chuck Osburn, Becky and Phil Osborne, Dot Phillips, Penny Roberts, Rosie, Tania Roth, Betty Saunders, Nancy Serriano, Bear Shenemen, Jonathan Sloan, Katrina Seferyn, Maria Sutton, Sue Sutton, Sister Monique Schwartz, Terry, Theresa, Christopher Thomas, Jennifer Tower, Andrea Wright, and Bill Zell. Any family member of our members or friends that are in a hot spot for this pandemic.



**JUNE
BIRTHDAYS**

1 Jim Ellis
Bobby Phillips
4 Savannah Grace Harrison

Charlie Medlin		
Noah Sulwer		
5 Melissa Schlienkofer	18	Lydia Blackburn
Amanda Williams		Paula Hopper
6 Jackson Moore	21	Nancy McCurtin
9 Aiden Moore	25	Tony Merlino
10 Penny Rogers		Alan Sasser
11 Jim Ace	26	Lisa Byrd
13 Nathan Scott Smith-Lopez	27	Cameron Kane
17 Spencer Henry	30	Sydney Burgess
Courtney Kane		Donna Fisher

THRIFT STORE NEWS

- The Thrift Store reopened to the public May 13th with great response from our customers.
- We have guidelines for customers and clerks to wear mask and use hand sanitizer on entry.
- Customers limited to two at a time unless it is a family group. No public restroom available nor children allowed at this time.

We will not be hosting our bake sale goods currently, but hope to resume in the future.

Our Store volunteer clerks and Warehouse volunteer workers make a positive work team. **You are appreciated.**

In April the Thrift Store made a \$1,000.00 donation to Share The Table for Back Pac Ki

This is an appeal to our church family for young girls summer wear as our shelves are bare for 3 year old to 8 year old girls. **NO ADULT CLOTHING PLEASE.**

Problems that plague our operation:

We have had numerous things dropped on the Store porch/Warehouse porch and some donations put inside the Warehouse that are totally unacceptable , some is trash, rusty pans, chipped/cracked dishware, and damaged furniture pieces that are unsafe, etc. Also, items such as electronics/exercise equipment that we do not accept.

We appreciate all donations but we have been overwhelmed with items that need repaired or trashed, therefore the access code to **Warehouse will be changed.** Appointments must be made for all donations and furniture.

Also, note that Sherry Mewborn **(910)526-2573** will be at Warehouse on Mondays from 9AM to 11PM to accept donations or will make **an appointment for donors.**

Call : Thrift Store (910) 329-1336

Jean Hawley (910) 330-0760

Beth Walker (252)213-2240

Thanks for your support in this regard.

Jean Hawley, Store Manager

Beth Walker Asst. Manager

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Summer Backpack Program:

Faith Harbor in conjunction with Share The Table will be participating in the summer backpack program. In the past we have packed 100+ bags for the children in our area. This year we will be packing every other week. Please contact Barbara Poole at barbarapoole71@gmail.com/910.391.0897 if you are interested in packing the food, or contact Faye Graziano at fayestr46@gmail.com/910.864.6151 if you are interested in delivering the food to the homes.

Keep Me Dry Diaper Ministry

Our Diaper Ministry is in need of disposable diapers. Sizes 3, 4, 5 & 6 are of the greatest need. If you wish to donate money, please use our online giving link, and designate it to UMW/Diaper Ministry.

Highlights of Leadership Council:

Leadership Council of Faith Harbor UMC met via Zoom on May 28.

All department chairs gave reports.

- ❖ Finance shared that while giving is down to some degree, the expenditures are also down. We have been given a payroll protection plan grant, a waiver of principal on our mortgage and good usage of our online giving.
- ❖ Trustees have shared that we are purchasing a bus to replace our van, using the money donated by the congregation for a new van; the purchase of a tent to use in outside gatherings, such as our Sunday worship services; a request to purchase equipment in order to live stream services. All of these items will be used beyond the time of the pandemic and will be part of our future.
- ❖ SPRC shared that all who make our church run continue to do so well during this critical time. Children and Youth ministries are keeping in touch with our families, and even visiting while maintaining good distance.
- ❖ Our Building Committee Chairs shared updates on the work the various subcommittees were working on before the shutdown. Some of this work continues still.
- ❖ Share the Table is working beyond what they have done in the past to keep up with the demand. Changes regarding social distancing have been necessary, but have not prevented clients from getting what they need.
- ❖ The Thrift Store is back open with new guidelines, and Mercy Abounds is at work, helping our community.
- ❖ Kim King presented a new program called FAN: Faith, Action and Nutrition. We will learn more about this important program in the coming months.
- ❖ The next Leadership Council Meeting will be July 23rd either via Zoom or in person in the sanctuary.