

MESSENGER OCTOBER 16, 2020

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ!

You may have noticed that in my role as pastor, I rarely wade into the subject of politics, and I do not intend to go there now. Yet, it is nearly impossible for any of us to ignore the massive deluge of political commercials, billboards, signs and ads that are seemingly everywhere we look, even when we are trying *not* to look!

Kim and I live in a neighborhood where the homeowners' association by-laws prohibit the display of political signs. The problem is, homeowners who violate that particular by-law are given thirty days to remove any such signs. As you can imagine, when the calendar reached October 3rd, political signs began springing up all over the neighborhood. By the time the thirty-day warning period is up, the election will of course be over and the signs will be gone.

While Kim and I generally avoid discussing politics with our neighbors, we cannot help but observe who is on what side as we ride around the neighborhood and see the political signs proudly displayed. Sometimes we are surprised by our neighbors' candidates of choice, and sometimes we are not. Even more surprising to me than the observation of who favors which candidate is the degree to which many people, both inside and outside of our neighborhood, allow their identities to be wrapped up and defined by their political party.

Actually, I am not really surprised when that happens with non-Christians, but for those who claim to be followers of Jesus Christ, our Christian identity should supersede any other identity. Yet, it seems many Christians have become victims of spiritual identity theft. By that I mean that we have allowed our identities to be defined more by cultural influences and our personal preferences—political and otherwise—than by the Christian identity we received at our baptisms.

I want to be clear in saying that there is nothing wrong with Christians being politically active. But the question is, do our Christian beliefs determine where we stand politically, or is it the other way around? One thing is for sure: if we are staunch proponents of either one of the two major political parties in our country, there are elements of our party's platform that cannot be supported by the teachings of Scripture.

In the Gospel passage we will explore together this coming Sunday, Jesus is confronted by two groups of people whose identities are wrapped up in their political status and their positions of power. They are opposed to Jesus because they realize that his teachings are a threat to their political identities. Jesus does not deny the political realities of his time, but he points the people to their greater identity as children of God.

I hope you will plan to join us this Sunday, either virtually through our website or in person in our sanctuary, as we consider together the question, in what or in whom do we claim our ultimate identity? May none of us let our spiritual identity be stolen!

Peace and blessings,

Pastor David

PRAYER CONCERNS

SYMPATHY is extended to *Sandy Taylor* in the death this week of her brother Don from pancreatic cancer. May God grant Sandy and her family peace at this time of loss.

Members Jim Ace, Jonathan Adams, Scott Adams, Joyce Arnette, Nancy Buckman, Connie Carroll, Frank Carroll, Ed and Rebecca Drudge-Ed is now in Hospice Care, Lindsey Fleagle, John and Lou Wilson, Diane Geary and Family, Jim and Faye Graziano, Stephanie Hardin, Courtney Kane, Beth Kane and her father, Gail and Mike Kaufmann, Janice Long Terri Luisi and Family, Neal McHenry, **Martha Marlow**, Nancy Merlino, Delores Miner, Jenny Mizzell, Becki Modlin, Larry Modlin, Alma Osborn, Judy Paliotti and Jency, Virginia Platts, Nancy Smith, Dave Strohpaul, Alice Williams, Kelly Wills.

Military: Joe Fraley, Sg. Joey Horne, John Modlin, Branden Mooney, Tyler Ray- John and Marsha Ray's Grandson, Anthony Ripley, David Ritz.

Friends: Willie Arnette, Kim Audet, Rev. Dr. Daniel Sasaro Brewer, George Brodgen, Del Brouwer, Colin Campbell, Allison's Brother, Candie, Collin, Kathy Carlston, Chris Carroll, Carole and Blaine, **Children**, Chimer Clark, Kathy Clapp, Eddie, Tobey Ferry, Jan Foster, Pastor Gary Gandy, Jensen Gandy, J.W. Gibson, Kelly and Amy Glass, Roy and Tony Horne, Leslie Irving, Joanne, Donna Johnson, Kelly, Dr. Jack Kem, Kevin Kesterson, Kody, Craig Jenkins, Brenda Leonard, Liza, A.J. Long, Doreen Luisi, Mary, **Mia, Bonnie Hunter's 1 year old Great Granddaughter and Mia's parents, Nate and Sydney**, Nancy McAloney, Andrea (Ann) Maready, Beth Matthews, Ernie Mazzei, Ed Minnich, Michelle, Monica, Sarah Moyer, Nathan, Sherri Nelson, Chuck Osburn, Becky and Phil Osborne, Linda Parker, **Parents**, Dot Phillips, Penny, Susan Penny, Jimmy Platts, Virginia Platts, Judy Pratt, Ronnie and Tona- Covid-19, Tania Roth, Betty Saunders, Nancy Serriano, Bear Shenemen, Jonathan Sloan, Katrina Seferyn, Allison Sutton, covid-19, Maria Sutton, Don Sweeney, Sister Monique Schwartz, **Teachers**, Terry, Theresa, Christopher Thomas, , Andrea Wright, and Bill Zell.



(REPEAT in case you missed this last week)

My Faith Harbor Church Family

I am simply overwhelmed by your outpouring of birthday greetings to me on my 90th birthday. The many beautiful cards, text messages, phone calls and monetary donations to Faith Harbor special programs were so heartwarming and so appreciated, " my cup runneth over".

Each and every one of you are so special to me as we strive to serve our Lord and one another.

I hope that I may continue for many years to be active with our wonderful giving family at Faith Harbor.

Our Lord has truly blessed me so completely and I pray that I am worthy to receive such blessings.

Thank you Faith Harbor Family, I am ever grateful.

Jean Hawley

Finance Report for September 2020 and Year to Date Totals

September Contributions	\$ 26884.12
Year to Date Contributions	\$271805.57
Year to Date Budget	\$323950.50

Thank you for the continued support of the mission and ministry of Faith Harbor UMC.

The Finance Team

SHARE THE TABLE NEEDS....Back in Feb. we started different groups Adopting A Shelf at Share the Table and Faith Harbor is to do condiments. We need donations of ketchup, mustard, mayo, salad dressings, oils, sugar, flour etc. Bring them to the church or STT location.



DIAPER DONATIONS?

We are in need of all sizes of diapers and/or monetary donations for the Keep Me Dry program. There is a container at the church for donations of diapers and money.

Thanks for your continued support of this important outreach ministry of Faith Harbor by the United Methodist Women. Any questions contact Kim King, Susan Wieland or Alma Osborn.

Week of 10-19-2020 Scripture card

Centering Prayer: Lord, let my ultimate identity be found only in you.

Psalm of the Week: Psalm 139

M 2 Corinthians 5:16-17

T 1 Peter 2:9-10

W Romans 6:1-11

T Genesis 1:27

F Galatians 3:26-28

S Philippians 3:17-21

Key Scripture: **2 Corinthians 5:17**~ *“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.”*



Christmas is sneaking up on us and we need to start planning for the **Christmas Craft Fair** and **Church Bazaar**

Saturday December 5th 9am – 2pm.

I will need helpers to set up and tear down, to also help during the fair to help maintain safe distances, so I will be having a meeting with all

those interested in helping the week before the fair.

Please contact me if you are interested in being a vendor or would like to help.

Thank you, Jessica Blackburn 910-622-1193 jmb@rayblackburn.com

AVAILABLE NOW ON AMAZON-



What you ask?

“Topsy” book 2 is published and is available on Amazon.

Price is \$16.99. This is the second book written by our own Nancy McCurtin who is visually impaired. There are a few of book 1 available on the credenza outside the church office. Now the second book is available on Amazon. The set would make a great Christmas or Birthday gift for a child or adult. Check them out. A delightful read especially for those who love and are fascinated by turtles.

FAN (Faith, Activity and Nutrition) Goals - Please check with your doctor before starting activity

1. Become physically active at a moderate intensity for 150 minutes per week.
2. Eat about 2 cups of fruit and at least 3 cups of vegetables each day. (one cup of raw or cooked vegetables and 2 cups of leafy greens count as one cup)
3. Eat whole grain foods (e.g., oatmeal, whole wheat, brown rice)
4. Eat less fat, especially saturated fat found in processed meats, red meats and baked goods.)
5. Eat less sodium (salt).

The weather has been simply beautiful, friends! Let's all get outside and enjoy it while we can!



- 16 Sheryl Johnson
- 17 Bill Moore
Greg Holmes
- 18 Faye Decatur
Jann Tayloe
Martha Vaughn
- 20 Lou Secary
- 21 Cindy Jester
Cathy Medlin
- 24 Linda Kimrey
- 27 David Decatur
- 28 Zander Guy
- 29 Jan Jenó
Roxey Jordan
- 30 Leigh Bizzell
Sue Medlin Smith