

## MESSENGER MAY 7, 2021

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ!

I am writing this on Friday morning, while also looking out my window watching it rain. It is the first significant rainfall that we have had in quite some time. We have missed several good opportunities in the last few weeks, as it appeared from looking at the radar that we were in the path of several storms that ultimately either dissipated or made a turn to avoid us. In fact, I wasn't confident this one would make it to us until it was finally on top of us!

I don't know about you, but sometimes when we are going through a dry spell it can make me wonder how long it will last, how bad it will get, how dried up the earth will become, how many plants might die before we ever get any rain. As I am listening now to the thunder and the rain on my roof, it seems to me that those sounds are reassurances of God's goodness, and promises of God's love for his creation. This long-awaited thundershower may not completely make up our rainfall deficit, but it will surely cause the grass to turn green again and raise the level of the ponds and bring refreshment and healing and renewal to the earth.

It can be very much the same in our lives. If you will allow me to speak of the pandemic metaphorically, we have all been through a very severe drought for the last year. The pandemic has prevented us (or at least limited us) from gathering together, seeing our families, exchanging smiles and handshakes and hugs with friends. It has resulted in the loss of far too many lives. But there are promising indications all around us that the pandemic is coming to an end. Due primarily to the fact that people are getting vaccinated, things are largely opening up again, families and friends are gathering together; we are even getting glimpses of one another's faces! I believe the vaccines are an answer to prayer and are evidence of God's goodness and love. The pandemic is not over yet, and the vaccines will not make up for what we have lost, but it does seem that a long-awaited time of healing and renewal is here at last.

Many of us have issues other than the pandemic that we are facing. Illness, financial setbacks, depression, addiction, marital difficulties, troubled children, legal problems, grief, loneliness: these are just a few examples of the trials and tribulations that can make life feel parched and devoid of joy. Sometimes it can feel like these times of trouble will never end, and to be sure, this life will never be trouble-free. Jesus affirmed this when he said to his followers in John 16:33, "In the world you will have tribulation." Yet he immediately followed that by saying, "But take heart; I have overcome the world."

The examples of drought-ending rainfall and pandemic-ending vaccines bear witness to God's goodness and love, and remind us that the troubles of this life will not last forever. Psalm 30:5 teaches us that, "Weeping may tarry for the night, but joy comes with the morning." So whatever troubles and trials you are in the midst of, take heart, knowing that they will not last. Jesus has overcome the world! Joy is coming soon!

*Peace and blessings,*

*Pastor David*

## Week of 05-10-21 Scripture Readings

Centering Prayer: Let me join all heaven and nature singing your praises, O God.

Psalm of the Week: Psalm 150

M Psalm 19:1-6  
T Nehemiah 9:6  
W Psalm 66:1-4  
T 1 Chronicles 29:10-13  
F Isaiah 55:12  
S Revelations 5:13

**Key Scripture:** *Psalm 150:6 Let everything that has breath praise the Lord! Praise the Lord.*

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**BEACH SERVICES** to begin **Mother's Day, May 9<sup>th</sup>** at 8:00am at the gazebo at the end of Roland Avenue. Free parking until 9:00am.

**AC WINDOW UNITS** - The Thrift store has 4 window units available that will cool 1000 sq. ft. If you are interested in purchasing one of these units for \$25 please contact Jean Hawley at 330-0760, Beth Walker at 252 213-2240, or Gloria at 704 804-4909 and they will meet you at the warehouse to get the units.

**UMW NEWS.....RAINBOW CIRCLE** will meet on



**Wednesday in May 12<sup>th</sup>, at 10:00** to continue our craft work in preparation for the Christmas Bazaar in December.

Everyone is invited to this meeting too. Again, we generally go out together for lunch afterwards.



**SENIOR YOUTH RECOGNITION** – Please advise the church office at 910 328-4422 when you will graduate and from which high school.

If you have college or military service plans after graduation please provide that information as well. We will recognize all our graduating seniors on May 16<sup>th</sup> at the 9:20 service.

## A FOCUS FOR 2021...PRAYER

**In the morning, prayer is the key that opens to us the treasures of God's mercies and blessings; in the evening, it is the key that shuts us up under His protection and safeguard.**

*You have put gladness in my heart...I will both lie down in peace, and sleep; for You alone, O Lord, make me dwell in safety. Psalm 4:7,8*



**Members:** Jim Ace, Jonathan Adams, Scott Adams, Nancy Buckman, Harriet Byrd, Connie Carroll, Dawn Ellis, Diane Geary, Janet Hughes Gail and Mike Kaufmann, Delores Miner, Jenny Mizzell, Brenda Munjas, Duke Smith and family for upcoming decisions to be made, and John Wilson.

**Military:** Joe Fraley, Sg. Joey Horne, John Modlin, Branden Mooney, Tyler Ray, Anthony Ripley, David Ritz and Alex Harris.

**Friends:** Del Brouwer, Vicky Burge, Candie, Kathy Carlston, Cheryl, Chris Carroll, Carole and Blaine, **Children,** David, Mary Pharr Erickson, cancer and husband Jae, **Beverly Foley,** Jan Foster, J.W. Gibson, Kelly and Amy Glass, Grayson-Cancer, Tara Hall, Grandmother Sue Heavner, Jewel's grandmother, Roy and Tony Horne, Janine and Rudy, Donna Johnson, Kathy-Liver Cancer, Tammy and Nick Kefallinos-covid, Kelly, Janet Durman Kokran, Craig Jenkins, Lisa, A.J. Long, Logan, Loren, Tim McCart, Jill Maurer, Ed Minnich, Rick Nauss, **Ruth, Brenda Munjas' mother,** Ruth Nordquist, Chuck Osburn, **Parents,** Rose Peters, Dot Phillips, Penny, Susan Penny, Jimmy Platts, Virginia Platts, Judy Pratt, Sharon Ray, Duke Smiths Mom hospitalized, Todd Rice, Tania Roth, Katrina Seferyn, Skip and Marcia, Roxanne Smith, Stanley and Ruby, Maria Sutton, Sister Monique Schwirtz, **Teachers, Terry,** Theresa, Christopher Thomas, and Bill Zell.

**And all unnamed persons needing God's peace, comfort and healing.**

**IF YOU HAVE REQUESTED PRAYERS FOR ANY OF THE ABOVE NAMED AND THEY ARE HEALED OR RECOVERED AND CAN COME OFF THE LIST PLEASE LET JUDY KNOW.**



**Dear Faith Harbor Family,**

**Thank you all for the prayers, cards and texts during my hip surgery and recovery. I feel great and can't wait to be with my church family.**

**With Christ's Love,  
Vicky Cooney**



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

**NO JR. BASIC ON MOTHER'S DAY MAY 9TH**

**May 23.....Pre K though 5th....All ages for end of the school year celebration.**

**May 2nd Vacation Bible School Registration** will be open for Faith Harbor families and friends only. We are limited to spots this year as we have decided for the safety of all to operate on half capacity. June 6th I will open registration to the public to fill any remaining spots.

There will be a registration table in the narthex with forms. If you are unable to fill out a form on Sunday feel free to stop by during our church hours. Please reach out to me with any questions or concerns. Safety is our number one priority moving forward and we will be doing everything in our power to keep within COVID 19 safety protocol (our door activities and meal time, masks worn at all times, temperature checks,....)

**Dates for VBS will be: Decorating on Sunday June 27th and VBS starting Monday June 28th to July 1st from 5:30 to 8:15pm.**

**Theme: "Night's of North Castle"**



**Hello MS & HS bAsiC Youth parents~**

*I hope you and yours had a wonderful Easter and Spring Break! ♥ Please see below for meeting information for April & May (the rest of the School year) and Summer Youth Mission Trips & possible events:*

**\*Sun., May 9th ~ Mother's Day Holiday, No Youth Group meetings that evening**

**\*Sun., May 16th ~ Senior Recognition at the 9:20 am service**

*Group A meets from 5-6:30pm (End of School year celebration & wrap up)*

Older HS Group  
Older MS Group

**\*Sun., May 23rd~ Group B meets from 5-6:30pm (End of School year celebration & wrap up)**

Younger HS Group  
Younger MS Group

**\*Sun., May 30th~ Memorial Day Holiday Weekend, **No Youth Group meetings that evening****

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### **Summer Mission Trips & Other events~**

**\*HS Youth Summer Mission trip~ June 21-25th at Lake Junaluska Retreat & Conference Center.** Deposits of \$100 per youth due on Sun. April 18th at Youth group if possible. Please note-if you need more time or need assistance with this fee, please let me know directly. Thank you.

**\*MS Youth Summer Mission trip~ July 19-23rd at Lake Junaluska Retreat & Conference Center.** Deposits of \$100 per youth due on Sun. May 23rd at Youth group if possible. Please note-if you need more time or need assistance with this fee, please let me know directly. Thank you.

\*Other possible late Spring/Summer youth opportunities to include Beach Clean-up days, Service Days, Fellowship events, etc. will be announced to parents as they are determined. \*\*Please don't forget that FHUMC's Vacation Bible School will be on June 28-July 1st in the evenings and if your youth is interested in volunteering, please let Ms. Melissa or myself know at your earliest convenience.

If you should need more information about anything listed above or have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to me at (910)232-9844. We are looking forward to finishing out the rest of the school year strong and a Summer of making new memories with our Middle and High School youth! Thank you 😊

Wishing each of you the Peace of Christ~

Jewels Swain  
FHUMC Youth Coordinator

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- 2 Isaac Henry
- 7 Gail Ace
- 8 Linda Wells
- 9 Tamara Jones  
Jessica Matthews
- 11 Hunt Tayloe
- 13 David Cosner
- 17 Sandy Sly
- 18 Oscar Phillips
- 20 DeAnne Chryst  
Dawn Frazier  
Doug Medlin
- 21 Beth Kane
- 25 Joyce Arnette
- 29 Vonda Gardner
- 30 Chaundel Medlin