

MESSENGER JANUARY 29, 2021

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ!

The first month of the year is now nearly over, and I am excited about all that the Lord has planned for our church in 2021. He will surely accomplish those plans in His perfect timing as we faithfully follow Him into the future that He is preparing for us. In the meantime, I want to take one last moment to gratefully reflect on what the Lord accomplished in and through our church in the year that ended not quite a month ago.

Last year's accomplishments are fresh on my mind because we are in the annual season of reporting statistical information to our Conference. The statistical tables require us to provide yearly numbers for everything from membership and attendance to financial giving, indebtedness and operating expenses. We all know what kind of a year 2020 was, with the pandemic and the resulting economic downturn. When the pandemic began and we had to make the decision not to hold in-person worship services, I was certainly concerned about what the impact would be for our church. Many churches were severely affected in 2020 by the inability to hold worship services and a significant reduction in financial contributions. That was not the case for us at Faith Harbor, thanks be to God!

While we did receive fewer tithes and offerings in 2020 than we had budgeted, the shortfall was minimal and was almost entirely attributable to the lack of receipts known as "loose offerings." These are funds in the form of currency placed in the offering plates on Sundays, often by visitors. COVID-19 of course required us to discontinue the practice of passing the offering plates on Sundays, but our members nonetheless found ways to financially support the church as generously as ever. And because our expenses were reduced by a far greater amount than the reduction in giving, we finished the year remarkably well financially.

Perhaps what is most remarkable is that we didn't just hoard every penny we received out of uncertainty and fear; we moved forward in faith to position ourselves for future ministry. We purchased a new church bus; we invested in high quality cameras and other A/V equipment to allow us to provide live streaming of our worship services; we hired an architect to develop a floor plan, elevation and three-dimensional renderings of a proposed new building. Moreover, we paid 100% of our apportionment responsibilities to the Conference, we paid our staff in full and we paid all our bills—all in the midst of a pandemic and a global recession!

I used the word “we” a lot in the previous paragraph, but the truth is “we” were able to do all those things only because the Lord granted us the ability to do them. I could easily and quite accurately exchange the word “we” with the word “He.” Our Lord did all those things through us. He guided and shepherded us in 2020, and He will surely do so in 2021. Seeing what He accomplished through us in such a difficult and challenging year, I can hardly wait to see what He will do through us and among us when this pandemic is over. To God be the glory!

Peace and blessings,

Pastor David

Week of 02-01-21 Scripture card

(use your Bible for further exploration of the scriptures provided below.)

Centering Prayer: *Lord, I yield to your authority.*

Psalm of the Week: Psalm 46

Psalm 46 God's Defence of His City and People

To the leader. Of the Korahites. According to Alamoth. A Song.

¹ God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

² Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change,
though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea;

³ though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its
tumult. *Selah*

⁴ There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,

the holy habitation of the Most High. ⁵ God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved; God will help it when the morning dawns. ⁶ The nations are in an uproar, the kingdoms totter; he utters his voice, the earth melts. ⁷ The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge. *Selah*

⁸ Come, behold the works of the LORD; see what desolations he has brought on the earth. ⁹ He makes wars cease to the end of the earth; he breaks the bow, and shatters the spear; he burns the shields with fire. ¹⁰ 'Be still, and know that I am God! I am exalted among the nations, I am exalted in the earth.' ¹¹ The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.

Selah

M Matthew 9:6-8

⁶But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins'— he then said to the paralytic—'Stand up, take your bed and go to your home.' ⁷And he stood up and went to his home. ⁸When the crowds saw it, they were filled with awe, and they glorified God, who had given such authority to human beings.

T Mark 1:21-28 The Man with an Unclean Spirit

They went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. ²²They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. ²³Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, ²⁴and he cried out, 'What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God.' ²⁵But Jesus rebuked him, saying, 'Be silent, and come out of him!' ²⁶And the unclean spirit, throwing him into convulsions and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. ²⁷They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, 'What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him.' ²⁸At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

W Philippians 2:9-11

⁹ Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

T 2 Timothy 3:16-17

¹⁶All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, ¹⁷so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work.

F Romans 13:1-7

Let every person be subject to the governing authorities; for there is no authority except from God, and those authorities that exist have been instituted by God. ²Therefore whoever resists authority resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgement. ³For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Do you wish to have no fear of the authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive its approval; ⁴for it is God's servant for your good. But if you do what is wrong, you should be afraid, for the authority does not bear the sword in vain! It is the servant of God to execute wrath on the wrongdoer. ⁵Therefore one must be subject, not only because of wrath but also because of conscience. ⁶For the same reason you also pay taxes, for the authorities are

God's servants, busy with this very thing. ⁷Pay to all what is due to them—taxes to whom taxes are due, revenue to whom revenue is due, respect to whom respect is due, honor to whom honor is due.

S Ephesians 1:19-22

¹⁹and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. ²⁰God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. ²²And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church,

Key Scripture: Matthew 28:18– And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

A FOCUS FOR 2021...PRAYER

In prayer, we are called upon to yield the rudder of our soul to God, so that He might steer us toward His blessings, or to opportunities to bless others.

Make every matter of care a matter of prayer.

Casting all your care upon Him; for He careth for you.

1 Peter 5:7

No problem, big or small, is beyond His love, concern, and ability.



IN OUR
Thoughts and Prayers

Courtney Kane, Beth Kane and her father, **Courtney Kane**, Gail and Mike Kaufmann, Janice Long, **Doug Lowry**, Terri Luisi, Neal McHenry, Martha Marlow, Delores Miner, Jenny Mizzell, Anita Phillips, Teri Ragan O'Driscoll, Judy Paliotti and Jency, JoAnn Rivenbark, Nancy Smith, Dave Strohpaull, Kelly Wills, **John Wilson-Surgery successful-praise God**, and Dean and Sandy Wise-covid.

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

Members Jim Ace, Jonathan Adams, Scott Adams, Joyce Arnette, Harriet Byrd, Nancy Buckman, Connie Carroll, Frank Carroll, Rebecca Drudge, Dawn Ellis, Carol Franklin, Buddy and Suzanne Fussell, Diane Geary, Jim and Faye Graziano, Stephanie Hardin,

Friends: April, Barbara Rummel's mom and Martha Marlow's mom, Christine, Willie Arnette, Kim Audet, **Peggy Barton**, Bill and Rachel -covid, George Brodgen, Del Brouwer, Vicky Burge, Candie, Kathy Carlston, Cheryl, Chris Carroll, Carole and Blaine, **Children**, Chimer Clark, Kathy Clapp, **David**, Bill Dirk and Teresa, Tobey Ferry, Jan Foster, **Suzanne Fussell's mother**, Jensen Gandy, J.W. Gibson, Kelly and Amy Glass, Lisa Godwin, Hugh and Melinda Harrison -covid, Judy Hoopes, Roy and Tony Horne, Janine and Rudy, Donna Johnson, Lea Jones, Kelly, Kevin Kesterson, Kody, Craig Jenkins, Donald Kornegay, Jr.-covid, **Otis Ledford**, Barbara Lee, Brenda Leonard, Lisa, A.J. Long, Logan, Loren and Martha, Doreen Luisi, Tim McCart, Sandy McVickers, Andrea (Ann) Maready, Ernie Mazzei, Ed Minnich, Michelle, Monica, **Rick Nauss**, Chuck Osburn, Becky and Phil Osborne, **Parents**, Pastor Stephanie, Jack Parrmar-covid, **Rose and Dick Peters**, Dot Phillips, Bobby Phillip's cousin Tommy and family in death of his wife to covid, Penny, Susan Penny, Jimmy Platts, Virginia Platts, Judy Pratt, Todd Rice, Stanley and Ruby, Tania Roth, Nancy Serriano, Bear Shenemen, Katrina Seferyn, Jonathan Sloan, Jacob Smith,-covid, Family of Patricia Sox, Stanley and Ruby, Maria Sutton, Don Sweeney, Sister Monique Schwirtz, **Teachers**, Terry, Theresa, Christopher Thomas, and Bill Zell.

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

Sympathy is extended to *Joyce Arnette* in the death of her cousin Ricky Sloan.

Sympathy is extended to *Bescye Burnett* in the death of Johnnie Powell. Continue to pray for his wife Libby and daughter Winter.

YOUTH NEWS

Sun., Jan. 31st~ Group A meets from 5-6:30pm

*Older HS Group

*Older MS Group

Just a few reminders about Youth Group~ Please have youth bring and wear their masks to each meeting. If your youth doesn't feel well, please have them wait until they are better to attend their next scheduled (Group A or B) youth meeting. With Covid 19 cases on the rise after the holidays, we want to continue to be cautious and help keep everyone safe and healthy so that we can continue to meet. Thank you for all of your continued support and we look forward to the new year ahead with your youth!💕 If you should have any questions, feel free to contact me.

Wishing you all the Peace of Christ in 2021~

Jewels Swain
FHUMC Youth Coordinator
910-232-9844



- 29 Kyle Jernigan
- Bodie Taylor
- 30 Jimmy Canady
- Porter Olmstead
- 31 Stacy Menzies

FEBRUARY



- 3 Caiya Medlin
- 4 Payton Rice
- 6 Danielle Smith
- 8 Jameela Kerr
- 9 Jim Graziano
- 10 Anita Phillips
- Cecila Watson
- 12 Samuel Kerr
- 17 Dawn Ellis
- Laura Frazier
- Mike Hopper
- 20 Grace Holmes
- 22 Tom Fisher
- Suzanne Fussell
- Lucy Horrell
- 26 Jamie Jernigan
- 27 Avery Joy Harrison
- 28 John Cain