

Food for thought from J

June 7, 2020

In our worship service this week I acknowledged that it seems we are experiencing a season of particularly bad things in the world around us. We've had months of dealing with the COVID19 situation and the loss of health, life, jobs, and personal freedom that has accompanied this pandemic. What's more, throughout this time of personal separation to "stop the spread," we've had to endure the endless finger pointing and posturing of many of our leaders who have sought to use this crisis for their own personal and political gains.

Unfortunately, just as it seemed light was reappearing at the end of this particular time of darkness, now we have all been faced with a new national crisis. The senseless death of George Floyd in Minneapolis and the nightly riots that plague the streets of our major cities are impossible to ignore. This tragedy and then the fact that much of the violence arising from it is being perpetrated by individuals pursuing their own nefarious agendas rather than those seeking true justice and reform is challenging for us as Christians. In a recent conversation with one of our members, she confessed that these events had filled her with such despair that all she wanted to do was sit and cry.

So how should we respond? How should we live in a world that seems to be moving further and further into the darkness? Well, first we need to remember the words of John's gospel when he wrote of the coming of Jesus that:

In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. – John 1:4-5

Praise God! The darkness has not and cannot overcome the light of Jesus, and as his disciples, we are charged with carrying that light forward especially in times like these. And we do this by being witnesses for the love of Christ; a love that came not to condemn but to save. His is a love that offers grace and mercy to unworthy recipients by being willing to endure the harshest of unjust treatment and punishment so that those who are truly guilty – you and me - can know redemption and forgiveness. When you think about it like that, it is clear that we can't truly be witnesses for the love of Jesus if we are more interested in pointing fingers, allowing ourselves to be filled with hate, and wallowing in the evil and despair around us than in finding ways to share the love of Christ with the world.

So, let me suggest that the first thing we should all do in these troubled times is unplug from the constant barrage of news feeds and social media sources that seek mostly to fuel the flames of discord in pursuit of website "clicks" and viewership. Instead, let's spend more time plugging into the Bible, the real source of truth, as we seek God's guidance for living up to our responsibility to be Christ for the people and the situations in our lives. And remember, it is only when we commit, individually and collectively, to build and live God's kingdom right here and now, that we can truly and effectively respond to the evil that surrounds us and hope to make the world a better place for everyone.



MEMORIAL GIFTS

In memory of **Kristi Chriss Tidwell** by Lynn & Bill White; Cynthia McLemore; Shirley Moon; Joyce Hawkins

In memory of **Carolyn Belk** by Lynn & Bill White

In memory of **Bruce Berreth** by Lynn & Bill White

In memory of **Bob Draughon** by Lynn & Bill White

In memory of **Dr. John Horton** by Lynn & Bill White

In memory of **Mary Killough** by Lynn & Bill White; Joyce Hawkins; Mary Mims; Anne & Larry Spell; Suzanne Supple; Betty Woodruff

In memory of **Max McGlamry** by Lynn & Bill White

In memory of **Jennifer Meacham** by Joyce Hawkins; Mary Mims

In memory of **Joe Pope** by Lynn & Bill White

In memory of **Jack Watkins** by Lynn & Bill White

In memory of **Jonathan Young** by Lynn & Bill White



READING THROUGH THE BIBLE

June 7: Romans 12, 1 Samuel 23-24, Psalm 67
June 8: Romans 13, 1 Samuel 25, Psalm 68
June 9: Romans 14, 1 Samuel 26, Psalm 69
June 10: Romans 15:1-13, 1 Samuel 27-28, Psalm 70
June 11: Romans 15:14-33, 1 Samuel 29-31, Psalm 71
June 12: Romans 16, 2 Samuel 1, Psalm 72
June 13: Mark 1:1-20, 2 Samuel 2:1-3:1, Daniel 1

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

7 Sarah Crawford, Kitty Griggs
9 Diane Bussey, Elizabeth Killough
11 Nate Gerken, Susan Powell
12 Carey Bray, Larry Campbell
13 Avery Bolin, Stacey Hammond, Richard Holmes

OUR STEWARDSHIP

Unified Budget.....	3,793.00
Endowment Fund.....	260.00
Pastor's Discretionary Fund.....	100.00
Other Income.....	265.00
Trustees.....	250.00
Music.....	75.00

SUNDAY'S SERMON

What Do We Do with this World?

Luke 13:1-5

Rev. J Grantham

PASTOR ON-CALL

For emergencies June 5-7,
Rev. Kim Evans 843-598-0707

Greg and Alaina Harrison

June 28th is the official starting date for our new associate pastor, Greg Harrison, but if you would like to send him and his family a card or letter welcoming them in advance, you are invited to use their new address in Columbus:

3409 Seminole Dr.
Columbus, GA 31907

LOVE AND SYMPATHY

To Doris Rowe on the death of her daughter,
Jennifer Meacham,

CONGRATULATIONS

To Nancy Hallman on the birth of a grandchild, Zoey Grace Ward, on May 28, 2020. Parents are Wellons and Bradley Ward.

LOVE OFFERING

As Pastor Paul Coats prepares to move to his new appointment as pastor at Richland UMC we want to show our love and appreciation to him for his faithful service over the last year. We are doing this through a love offering that will be presented to him following his last day of service which will be June 21, 2020. If you would like to contribute to this offering, please send a check, marked "Love offering for Paul," to the church by June 15th.

TITHING

You may still support the church by giving online or through mail. The church staff will be going to the Post Office and depositing checks on a regular basis. Our mailing address is P.O. Box 5469, Columbus, GA 31906.
