

Food for thought from J

I know everyone has been following the remarks and decisions by our governor about beginning to reopen our economy in Georgia, and this is, of course, prompting us to begin asking the legitimate questions:

What does this mean for Wynnton? When can we begin worshipping together again?

Well, as of right now, the guidance we have received from our bishop calls for all South Georgia Methodist churches to remain closed and continue with ONLY virtual services and activities at least through the end of the declared state of emergency for Georgia on May 13. This means that while we will continue to offer all of our virtual worship and weekly activities for the foreseeable future, we will not reopen for in person worship until sometime after May 13th.

We understand, though, how much attending worship and related activities “in person” means to you. I, like you, am anxious to begin putting this crisis behind us, and that includes coming back to church, seeing friends and getting back to Sunday school, Bible studies and ministries we enjoy. But please know that your church leadership has already begun to meet to discuss these very issues, and in our meeting last week, we agreed unanimously that we must remain committed to making decisions about reopening the church based on our love for you and your safety rather than rushing to get “back to normal” just because the governor has said it is permitted.

This may mean that we need to extend our “virtual only” activities beyond the current state of emergency period for a few weeks. And then, even when we begin meeting together in person at the church, things might need to look significantly different for a while. The bottom line is that we are still in the evaluation and discussion phase, but we will keep you posted on the guidance we receive from the conference and any decisions that are made about when and how we will reopen our doors and come together again in person for worship and fellowship.

Until then, we will continue with all of our online and live streaming activities to which you have become accustomed, adding enhancements as possible. Plus, we will be reaching out to our Sunday School classes and small groups this week to discuss how you can use technology like Zoom to conduct virtual or online meetings.

It is one of our great blessings at Wynnton that our community desire to worship and be together is so strong. On the other hand, this also makes these times even more difficult to endure. But in the interest of being faithful to the first two of John Wesley’s Simple Rules, doing no harm and doing all the good we can do, we must continue to be cautious and to stay the course knowing that our God will work all things together for good for those who love God and who are called according to God’s purpose.

At Wynnton, we do love God and we are committed to working for God’s purpose. Because of this, I believe we are already seeing some of the good things God is bringing from the “bad” of this pandemic. Chief among these is our enhanced usage of technology and live streaming capabilities that is making it possible for our homebound members to participate in worship again and for new guests to visit our church from the comfort of their homes. The numbers of people being reached by these online activities is truly amazing, yet I believe it is just the beginning of what God has in store for us in the future.

So stay safe, trust God, and continue to pray for the future of our church, this community, and the world.



GIFTS OF LOVE

In honor of **Margaret Ellen Alexander** by Shirley Moon; Suzanne Supple; Betty Woodruff; Cindy & Rand Autry

LOVE AND SYMPATHY

To Agnes Tew on the death of her sister, Maggie Mae Smith, of Valley, AL on April 26, 2020.

MEMORIAL GIFTS

In memory of **Bob Draughon** by Jean McGlamry; Jeanine Cotton

In memory of **Max McGlamry** by Jeanine Cotton

In memory of **Mary Leighty** by Candice Cotton; Jeanine Cotton

In memory of **Dr. John Horton** by Candice Cotton; Jeanine Cotton

In memory of **Joe Pope** by Carole & Eric Sears; Mary Gene Calfee

READING THROUGH THE BIBLE

May 3: Acts 15:22-41, Judges 1, Job 33

May 4: Acts 16:1-15, Judges 2-3, Job 34

May 5: Acts 16:16-40, Judges 4-5, Job 35

May 6: Acts 17:1-15, Judges 6, Job 36

May 7: Acts 17: 16-34, Judges 7-8, Job 37

May 8: Acts 18, Judges 9, Job 38

May 9: Acts 19:1-20, Judges 10:1-11:33, Job 39

LOVE OFFERING

Ian Allen will be leaving as our Student Ministries Director at the end of May. He has served in this position since June of 2016. During that time, he also served as Worship Leader in our Link worship service for 2 years. We hope you will help us show our appreciation to Ian by supporting a love offering in his honor. You can contribute to this love offering by mailing a check to the church post office box and designating it as Ian Allen love offering.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

5 Bill Bussey, Jimbo Dryman, Susan Groke
7 Billy Daffin

OUR STEWARDSHIP

Unified Budget.....	12,707.00
Endowment Fund.....	110.00
Easter Offering.....	50.00
Backpacks.....	25.00
Open Door.....	100.00
Other Income.....	145.00

SUNDAY'S SERMON

A Simple Plan
John 21:9-17
Rev. J Grantham

PASTOR ON-CALL

For emergencies May 1-3,
Rev. Kim Evans 843-598-0707

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.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Sunday, May 3

10-10:30 a.m. Virtual Sunday School
Rev. Paul Coats - Facebook Live

11:00 a.m. Live Streaming Sunday Worship
Rev. J Grantham - Facebook Live

5:00 p.m. Basement Message
Ian Allen - Facebook & Instagram Live

Wednesday, May 6

6:00 p.m. Midweek Check-In
Rev. Kim Evans - Facebook Live

Friday, May 8

11:00 a.m. Phone Conference
Phone number – 669-900-6833
Code – 4745976652#