

Food for thought from J

May 17, 2020

In case you were not taking notes during the announcements portion of this Sunday's worship service, I communicated the most recent information and guidance we have received from our bishop and the South Georgia conference about reopening the church for in-person activities. This included the fact that, last Tuesday, the bishop and the cabinet asked that all South Georgia UM churches remain closed for in-person worship and large gatherings until at least June 21 and possibly the 28th. In conjunction with this, the conference has suggested that all churches begin preparing a plan for a "rolling reopening" that will gradually restart worship, fellowship, and ministerial activities in a controlled and coordinated manner.

As I have mentioned before, we have already begun discussing this type of strategy with our church leadership, and we are in regular contact with the conference and several of the larger Columbus UMC churches to discuss ideas and avail ourselves of resources that will help us make wise decisions. While it is our intention to remain closed until at least those dates mentioned above, we will be using them as tentative targets for putting together a reopening plan that outlines how and when we resume in-person activities at Wynnton. This plan will include determining exactly what activities will resume and how we will do them safely by considering the advice of the CDC and other agencies with regard to any limits that may be recommend for crowd size and social distancing. It also means making sure we have the cleaning supplies necessary to sanitize the church appropriately, masks for people who may need them, and deciding if and when we will sing as a congregation (which is one of the newer concerns that has arisen recently). Perhaps most importantly, any reopening plan will depend on having plenty of volunteers to help us direct the traffic as people return to our facility and to make sure we observe social distancing recommendations for how we enter, exit, and move around the church.

When you consider everything that will go into creating this reopening plan that has at its core the welfare and safety of our most vulnerable members, it is clear that the process is more complex than it may seem on the surface. So, we are trying to get a head start on it, and we will communicate updates as appropriate. Of course, as we observe this extended shutdown, we will continue with all of our online and streaming activities, and we will be seeking to make them better and more meaningful every week in preparation for making them a permanent part of our worship offerings even after the COVID pandemic has passed.

Finally, I want to thank you for the incredible way in which you are supporting our church during this time of unprecedented uncertainty. Whether it is through your continued financial stewardship or your prayers for our leaders, I am humbled, every day, by the faithfulness of our church family at Wynnton. It is my honor to serve you and to be a part of a church that is so committed to building and living God's kingdom. With God's help, we will get through these trying times stronger and more united as the body of Christ than ever before.

J

GIFTS OF LOVE

In honor of **Judy Davidson** by Monday Morning Bible Study

CONGRATULATIONS

To Matt Callier and Chloe Mitchell who were married on March 24, 2020.

CONGRATULATIONS

To Matt and Chloe Callier who graduated from Mercer University School of Medicine on May 2,

MEMORIAL GIFTS

In memory of **Bob Draughon** by Linda & Wallace Twiggs; Carolyn & David Young

In memory of **Bruce Berreth** by Linda & Wallace Twiggs

In memory of **Max McGlamry** by Joy Graham

In memory of **Mary Leighty** by Linda & Wallace Twiggs; Lynda & Bennett Massey; Joy Graham; Jenny Horton

In memory of **Joe Pope** by Linda & Wallace Twiggs; Lynda & Bennett Massey; Joy Graham

In memory of **Dr. John Horton** by Linda & Wallace Twiggs

In memory of **Jonathan Young** by Linda & Wallace Twiggs

In memory of **Kristi Chriss Tidwell** by Linda & Wallace Twiggs; Beth & Larry Hendrickson; Betty Woodruff; Lynda & Bennett Massey

In memory of **Maggie Mae Smith** by Lynda & Bennett Massey



MAY 21ST SAINTS ALIVE SOCIAL DISTANCING CAR PARADE WILL COME WAVE TO YOU!

We miss you all! Our fun car parade will drive by your house and wave! All safe, masks worn, no congregating. The cars will have signs and balloons to let everyone know Wynnton UMC cares about the community. A small gift will be left for you on your front porch. A wave, a gift, and a smile to celebrate you! If you would like us to drive by your house, email Pastor Kim at kimberly@wynntonumc.org or text/call at 843-598-0707. Please leave your name and address. The safe distancing parade is set for May 21st, beginning at 1 pm. We look forward to waving and celebrating you!

GRADUATES

If you have a graduate that you would like to be recognized in the newsletter, please send their name, date of graduation, university name and degree to brendawilson@wynntonumc.org.

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.

MASKS

As we continue with our planning for a future reopening of the church, we know we will need to have masks available to provide to our members and guests upon arrival. If you sew and are interested in making masks, we would love to have your help. We have material available at the church, just contact Lynn White or Gena Tincher to make arrangements to pick the material up. Thank you in advance for your support with this request.

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.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT BOOK OF PSALM CHALLENGE:

There are 42 days between Mother's Day (May 10 – June 21). If we read 3-4 Psalms or 150 (depending on your reading availability), we will have read all 150 Psalms by the time we hope to gather again in worship. Oh, we need the comfort and hope of the Psalms to prepare us to trust in the divine. Read and then join Pastor Kim on Wednesday at 6 p.m. on Facebook live or the wynntonumc.org web page as we share in prayer.

READING THROUGH THE BIBLE

May 17: Acts 24:10-27, Judges 21, Psalm 46
May 18: Acts 25, Ruth 1-2, Psalm 47
May 19: Acts 26:1-18, Ruth 3-4, Psalm 48
May 20: Acts 26:19-32, 1 Samuel 1:1-2:11, Psalm 49
May 21: Acts 27:1-12, 1 Samuel 2:12-36, Psalm 50
May 22: Acts 27:13-44, 1 Samuel 3, Psalm 51
May 23: Acts 28:1-15, 1 Samuel 4-5, Psalm 52

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

18 George Lotz, Zach Smith
22 Jerry Adams

OUR STEWARDSHIP

Unified Budget.....	24,093.00
Endowment Fund.....	330.00
Music.....	20.00
Backpacks of Grace.....	25.00
Wynnton Neighborhood Network.....	25.00
Other Income.....	215.00

SUNDAY'S SERMON

What Do We Have to Fear?
Matthew 27:62-66, 28:1-10
Rev. J Grantham

PASTOR ON-CALL

For emergencies May 15-17,
Rev. Paul Coats 706-573-1141

NEWS FROM WYNNTON NEIGHBORHOOD NETWORK

As you may imagine, the virus has changed the way the Network operates. In order to minimize risks to both our volunteers and our clients, we were only open two days a week in April instead of our usual five; starting in May, we are now open three days per week. We no longer allow clients to get out of their cars; instead we greet them in their cars and bring the groceries out to them. All pantry workers wear masks to protect each other and our clients.

Because we were open fewer days than normal in April, we served fewer people than normal. We served 996 bags of food to 234 families containing 714 individuals, including 318 children. The assistance needed for utilities was also lower than usual since the utilities agreed not to turn off service at this time. We assisted just 12 families for \$588.75.

Please keep the volunteers and clients of the Network in your prayers; and please continue your support for us in this difficult time.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Sunday, May 17

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 20

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

Friday, May 22

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