

Faith United Methodist Church

1616 Blue Avenue

Zanesville, Ohio 43701

**May Newsletter Deadline:
April 22nd at 10:00 a.m.**

**E-mail submissions to: fumcxa@gmail.com
Be sure to put "Newsletter"
in your subject field.**



From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Friends,

As I am writing this, our country is diving deeply into fear about the coronavirus. Concerts and events are cancelling, and the NBA, NHL, and MLB are considering games without spectators. Someone asked at the Free Store if I was still hugging people; it seems the radio told them not to hug people anymore just to be safe. At least gas prices are down! But so is the Market. For those who are at high risk, it is wise to stay home and avoid people who could potentially be carrying the virus. However, the same could be said for those who are avoiding the flu. When your body has a weaker immune system, make wise choices about where you go and what you do.

What I have found surprising are the number of people who are relatively healthy people that are allowing the fear of the coronavirus to prevent them from fully living their lives. Yes, it is highly contagious, but we are exposed to bacteria and viruses constantly and our bodies function as designed by God to fight off that which attacks us. In this image, I see a paradigm for life in general. We live life constantly barraged by that which we do not see: viruses, bacteria, parasites, mass gunmen, mean thoughts from others, grumpy comments from other drivers, and all kinds of negative, if not actual evil forces. Were we to stop and evaluate all of these potential ills, I believe we would certainly be paralyzed with fear and crawl into some form of 'self-quarantine'.

What does the scripture say about living in the face of potential disaster or overwhelming fear?

"Perfect love casts out all fear." (1 John 4:18)

"God will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged." (Deuteronomy 31:8)

"The Lord is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer." (Psalm 18:2)

From the Pastors Desk cont.

“Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name; you are Mine.” (Isaiah 43:1)

“For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.” (2 Timothy 1:7)

“Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil.” (Psalm 23:4)

“Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified or discouraged, for the Lord you God will be with you wherever you go.” (Joshua 1:9)

“Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself.” (Matthew 6:34)

“Jesus told him, ‘Don’t be afraid; just believe.’” (Mark 5:36)

There are so many more that could be listed here! It is not possible to read the scriptures and come to the conclusion that we are to live our lives in any kind of fear.

I cannot imagine how filled with fear the Disciples must have been when Jesus was arrested, beaten, and crucified. Everything they had worked toward, trusted and believed in was disappearing before their eyes. As Jesus was being put to death, surely they feared they would be next for being associated with him. They hid in fear. At least one denied knowing him. Centuries later, there are still overwhelming moments in our lives where violence and death seem to surround us and we consider living as the Disciples in those days, hidden away in fear.

But we are a resurrection people! We are an Easter people! We believe that in overcoming death, Jesus showed God’s power over every evil of this world – and beyond this world! God is more powerful than death. God is more powerful than mean people. God is more powerful than mass shooters. God is more powerful than plagues or illnesses. No matter what we face, God is able to bear us through and enable us to overcome.

Choose a scripture about fear. It can be from the list above or a different one. Memorize that verse and live it until your present-day fears become every day’s victory over all forms of evil and death. And make plans to worship Holy Week and Easter.

See you Sunday,

Joy Wigal

All Activities Cancelled

Don’t forget that all studies, activities, regular services and Lenten services have been cancelled through the month of April due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Church Office

The church office will remain closed through the month of April, although we are checking the voicemail regularly.

Please feel free to contact Pastor Joy 740-221-3653 or Amanda 740-252-6009 with any questions or concerns.

Giving

Even though we are not worshiping within the walls of the church at this time, please remember that we still have bills to pay. Your continued giving during this time is greatly appreciated. Offerings can be sent directly to the church and will be deposited regularly. Thank you for your love and support.



Matthew 11:28-29 Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

Prayer List

Australia
Nonny Brackman
Jenny Higdon Chacey
Ernie DeGarmo
Steve DeGarmo
P.C. Fitz
Andrew Graham
April Holland
Homeless Community
Eric Howard
Family of Wendell Huhn
Colette Kinder
Ed McAuley
Betty Miller
Jerry Moore, Jr.
Joesy Moore
Barbara Morris
Billie Jo Munyan
Mike Munyan

Joann Norman
Karen Norman
Parlin Family
Joanne Peterman
Karen Sue Royer
Paula Smith
Steve Summers
US Troops
Greg Williamson
Logan Wolford

Medical Faith Shut-ins:
Henrietta Hurst
Frances Johnson
Kathleen McCutcheon

*Names will remain
on the prayer list
for one month
unless otherwise requested.*

Basement Sale

We are once again participating in the annual community yard sales. On May 2, (with a rain date of May 9) we will have items available for the community to purchase. We will set up in the Fellowship Hall throughout the week prior to the sale. Barb Wolfe and Don and Roberta Covert have volunteered to serve food and we have a sign up sheet for more volunteers on the welcome table in the Narthex.

When you are doing your Spring cleaning, please remember to save items for the basement sale!

If you have any questions, please contact the church office by phone or email.



2 Corinthians 4:16-18 *So we do not lose heart.*

Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.



Psalm 9:9 *The LORD is a stronghold for the oppressed, a stronghold in times of trouble. And those who know your name put their trust in you, for you, O LORD, have not forsaken those who seek you.*

United Methodist Women 2020 Reading Program



The other books and dates are:

On Pluto, Inside the mind of Alzheimer's written by Greg O'Brien. Mission Emphasis: Nurturing for Community. Meeting date: Monday, May 18, 2020.

Immigration and Justice for our Neighbors written by Jennifer Clark and Miriam Downey. Mission Emphasis: Social Action. Meeting date: Monday, July 27, 2020.

My Life and Lesser Catastrophes written by Christina Schofield, Mission Emphasis: Spiritual Growth. Meeting date: September 28, 2020.

“READER'S CHOICE” –Mission Emphasis: Education through Mission. You will be given a wide range of books to choose from. Meeting date: Monday, November 23, 2020.



Birthdays

April 2—Colt Maxwell

April 7—Amy Wolfe

April 9—Peg Beitzel

April 12—Tori Farmer

April 13—Julie Wolfe

April 13—Greg Beitzel

April 16—Charlotte Cole

April 23—Karson Hatfield

April 26—A.J. Harper

April 28—Pastor Joy Wigal

April 28—Karen Graham

April 29—Kurt Wolfe



Happy Anniversary to
Randy & Jeri Schreiber
on April 20!



Philippians 4:6-7 do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.