

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

The Community Church Serving Northeast Philadelphia

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THE STAFF

APRIL, 2021

R★E★F★L★E★C★T★I★O★N★S

During a pandemic it is normal to feel somewhat nostalgic about the holidays, as many people may find themselves celebrating the Easter season, the same way as they may have last year, although with varying modifications. It's impressive that despite ongoing challenges, Good Shepherd has provided the comforts of familiarity and continuity throughout the season using various creative alternatives and technical resources, as well as mailings of events and notifications from Pastor Candace. For example, "Wednesday Lenten Connections" with meditations given by Susan Dziuk, CSM, Jeannette Cartwright, CSM, and Danielle Parker were offered via the church website and Facebook weekly. Of course, there's no alternative for an Easter egg hunt, and I'm pleased to report that our event held on March 27th was quite successful, thanks to the efforts of our Social Committee, under the direction of Rosemarie Gross and Michele Bennett. We were blessed with perfect weather for the outdoor festivities. Although attendance was limited to a smaller group this year, our attendees had a wonderful time searching for their candy-filled eggs, and were even treated to pizza for lunch, and an assortment of fresh fruit. At the same time, Pastor Candace distributed palm and Communion elements outdoors to grateful members who prefer to participate from home. In keeping with tradition, it was heartwarming to see the "Youth Palm Processional," waving their palms on Palm Sunday, and I took note how some had grown and changed over the year. Holy Wednesday Meditation by Donyen Kofa was offered via Zoom, and the Maundy Thursday service on April 1st at 7:00 PM, as well as the Easter Communion service on April 4th at 10:30 AM, will be offered at Good Shepherd via Facebook and our website.

While reflecting on Easter traditions and family gatherings, I was inspired to research the Stations of the Cross, following a conversation with my son during a recent outdoor visit. I reminisced how during the 90's, while he was in the Navy stationed on the Eisenhower, an aircraft carrier, I had received a "middle of the night" phone call from him during what he referred to as his "*Mediterranean cruise*." His tour of duty had included Spain, France, Italy, Dubai, Turkey, Greece, and Israel. I recalled answering the phone, and how thrilled he was to share with me the fact that he had "walked where Jesus had walked!" I still recall the inspiration and excitement in his voice as he relayed some of the details, and how elated I was to hear from him. During our recent conversation he shared that while in Jerusalem he toured the Stations of the Cross, and lastly visited a station that is marked by a "slab of stone," (the 13th station) which is believed to be the site where Jesus was laid out and prepared for burial, and Jesus' tomb (14th station.) He also mentioned having visited what is thought to be the birthplace of Christ. This is located at the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem, which since the 2nd century was believed to be the location of his birth. (See UNESCO article: "Birthplace of Jesus: Church of the Nativity and the Pilgrimage Route, Bethlehem").

As I began to research the Stations of the Cross in Jerusalem, I learned that pilgrimages to the Holy Land have been documented since the fourth century. It is a historic tradition to follow the route originating from the Via Dolorosa, (Latin meaning "Way of Grief") in Old Jerusalem, that is believed to be the path Jesus took from the moment he was condemned to death by Pontius Pilate, to his final resting place in the tomb. This route of 14 stations was established in the 18th century, and each station is marked with a Roman numeral plaque, with the last 5 stations located inside the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, where the purported remains of the tomb of Jesus are located. (<https://www.beinhardtours.com/fourteen-stations-of-the-cross> provides an excellent descriptive history of each station. Also see "Walking the Via Dolorosa in Jerusalem" by Wendy Bumgardner with photos).

After taking walking tours (vicariously) by reading multiple articles, as well as watching a YouTube video, I felt as though I was temporarily transported to another time and place as I reflected on the last days of Jesus' life. It was also interesting to learn about Easter week in Jerusalem, and the multitudes of pilgrims that enter the city yearly on Palm Sunday waving palms in a procession from the Mount of Olives to the Old City, commemorating Jesus Christ's triumphal entry riding a donkey into Jerusalem, days before the Last Supper. This year the group of people in that procession will be wearing masks, but that is quite an improvement from the previous year when festivities were drastically scaled back. Realistically I know that I will never visit the Holy Land, but the beautiful alabaster bust of Jesus, and the plaque of Jesus that my son brought back from his "cruise" (that resembles my childhood wallet-sized laminated photo), are cherished reminders of unconditional love, forgiveness and hope. - **Paula Direso, Editor**

MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

March 24, 2021

Greetings to you in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

It is with great joy to serve as interim pastor of this great church, my home church. Even though we “*count it all joy*” (James 1:2a), we are saddened that our beloved Pastor Olivet went home to live with God on January 28, 2021. She is truly missed.

Palms and communion elements were distributed in advance outside of Good Shepherd on Saturday, March 27, 2021. On Palm Sunday, March 28th, we remembered the Triumphal Entry of Jesus into Jerusalem. Palms were given to all attending, and our young people shared in worship.

Our theme during this Lenten season has been “*A Journey to Jerusalem.*” Our journey as a church continues through the Easter Season. The Season of Easter is the period of fifty days from Easter Sunday to Pentecost Sunday. I am thankful to be on this journey with you, and I thank God. During this time, we will celebrate the good news that in Christ’s death and resurrection we, and all creation, are continually under construction, being made new by God’s love and saving grace.

The Easter Season is the most joyous and celebrative season of the Christian year. This season gives us time to rejoice and experience what it means when we say Christ is risen. As “Easter People” we also celebrate and ponder the birth of the church and gifts of the Spirit, and how we are to live as faithful Disciples of Christ.

As we move toward Pentecost, let us dig deeper and know what it means to be “holy”. Acts 1:4-5(NLT) – Jesus gave his apostles this charge: “*Do not leave Jerusalem until the Father sends you the gift he promised, as I told you before. John baptized with water, but in just a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.*”

I look forward to journeying with each of you over the next few months!

Easter Blessings,

Pastor Candace



Be of good courage, and he shall strengthen your heart, all ye that hope in the Lord. (Psalm 31:24)

Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors

The people of the United Methodist Church

APRIL, 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 7:00 – Maundy Thurs. Service/The Lord’s Supper	2 GOOD FRIDAY	3 12:00 - AA Meeting Wood Hall
4 EASTER Holy Communion 10:30 - Worship in the Sanctuary 4:00 - AA Meeting	5	6 7:00 -Trustees Meeting	7 6:30 - Prayer, Study, Communion & Fellowship Sanctuary	8 6:00 - Worship Comm. Meeting	9	10 12:00 - AA Meeting Wood Hall
11 10:30 – Worship in the Sanctuary 4:00 - AA Meeting	12	13 1:00 – UMW Executive Board Meeting	14 6:30 - Prayer, Study, & Fellowship Sanctuary	15 STAFF ARTICLES DUE!	16	17 12:00 - AA Meeting Wood Hall
18 10:30 – Worship in the Sanctuary 4:00 - AA Meeting	19 6:30 - Church Council	20 12:00 – Ruth Circle	21 6:30 – Prayer, Study, & Fellowship Sanctuary	22	23	24 12:00 - AA Meeting Wood Hall
25 10:30 – Worship in the Sanctuary Youth Sharing in Worship 4:00 - AA Meeting	26	27	28 6:30 – Prayer, Study, & Fellowship Sanctuary 6:30 - Lydia’s Circle	29	30	

DID YOU KNOW WE HAVE A



During this coronavirus outbreak, please refer to our website (listed below) for updated cancellations and information, and share this notice with other members.

Are you the head of a committee or work group? Are you planning a church event? Would you like information about your committee, group or event placed on the church website to be available to all members, neighbors and the world? If so, please e-mail this information to our e-mail addresses which are as follows:

webservant@umcgoodshepherd.org. Our church website address is:
www.umcgoodshepherd.org.



EDITOR'S CORNER

Thank you for your monthly contributions to the "Staff." In order to enter and edit your articles for each month's edition, PLEASE submit your information by the 15th of each month by emailing your articles to: secretary@umcgoodshepherd.org. You may also leave a phone message on: 215-632-1929.

If you prefer to receive an e-mailed copy of *The Staff*, please notify the secretary at the e-mail address listed above.

During this coronavirus pandemic, we will do our best to stay connected as much as possible. The 10:30 AM Sunday service can be viewed online via Facebook or via the church website.

COMMUNION

We love sharing communion with you, so if you would like to have several months of communion elements delivered to you, please contact Robert Gurtcheff at: (215) 378-0026, Jeannette Cartwright at: (215) 539-7716, or Candace Carter at: 215-638-4090. That way, we can get elements to you as soon as possible.

SUNDAY SERVICES

On Sundays, feel free to join us in the Sanctuary for worship at 10:30 AM. While in the sanctuary, we wear face coverings, practice safe distancing, and the pews are marked for seating with big dots. So, when you enter, just take a seat on a dot. Families may sit together. Our sexton does a wonderful job cleaning the sanctuary before and after use. Also, we have masks, hand sanitizer and gloves available if needed.

We pray that you will come out and experience a warm welcome and a sweet spirit of fellowship.

All services can also be viewed live online via the church website or Facebook.

MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE will be held at Good Shepherd on **April 1st, at 7:00 PM.**

EASTER SUNDAY SERVICE with Holy Communion will be held at Good Shepherd on **April 4th at 10:30 AM.**



to attend our Wednesday Prayer, Study, and Fellowship @ 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary starting April 7th. Communion

will be shared on the First Wednesday of each month. Masks and social distancing practices will be followed.

GOOD SHEPHERD OFFERS ELECTRONIC GIVING!

at: www.umcgoodshepherd.org

Scroll down to the **green GIVE NOW button** and follow the prompts to register. There is even an online tutorial and a contact number if you need help.

To continue doing the work of God in the future, we've been offering online giving to you. Online offering has many benefits for the church, and is a convenience for you as well. This service allows you to give any amount, at any time, from home or on the road, with your computer or even your mobile device. Now you can control how and when you give your tithes. We hope you will consider electronic giving.

PRAYER CHAIN



To put a **JOY OR CONCERN** on the prayer chain, or if you would like to become one of the prayer team members, please email Joyce Cartwright at: dotgojoy1590@aol.com.

For those who are not computer savvy, Betty McLaughlin handles the telephone requests and notifications, so feel free to leave a message at 215-947-3317.



We sadly received the news that Patricia Sommers' husband, William, passed away on March 22, 2021. He is survived by four children and their spouses, 8 grandchildren, and 2 great-grandsons.

Bill lived a wonderful life for 76 years. Every day was an adventure. Bill could travel near or far and made friends wherever he went. Bill proudly served in the U.S. Navy, and was employed as a machinist at the Philadelphia Naval Shipyard. Following retirement, he worked as a delivery driver for Al's Corner Deli. Bill was also a Master Mason for over 50 years.

Some of you may know Patricia, who graciously volunteered to prepare breakfast for the Good Shepherd monthly Men's Breakfast. Please remember the Sommers family in your prayers.

LET US KEEP THEM IN OUR PRAYERS!

As we continue to make our way through this pandemic, let us not forget to pray for the doctors, nurses, and hospital personnel, as well as our brave first responders. While in prayer, please do not forget your family doctor, specialists, and their staff, the sanitation workers, the postal workers, grocery store employees, custodians, gas station attendants, pharmacists, drug store employees, and delivery service employees, etc., who deserve our praise and appreciation for their vigilance and dedication during this unprecedented time. Please pray for their safety, their families, their mental and emotional well-being, and remember they put their lives at risk while serving all of us.

READING AND RELIGION

Contributed by: **Phyllis Brock**



The Five Wishes of Mr. Murray McBride

By Joe Siple

One-hundred-year-old Murray McBride is looking for a reason to live, since all his family and friends are gone. He finds a reason when he meets Jason Cashman, a ten-year-old boy with a terminal heart defect and a list of five things he wants to do before he dies. Together, they race against the limited time each of them has left, checking off wishes one by one.

Along the way, Murray remembers what it's like to be young, and Jason fights for the opportunity to grow old. But when tragedy strikes, their worlds are turned upside-down, and an unexpected gift is the only thing that can make Jason's final wish come true.

TRUSTEE MEETING: Trustees will meet on **Tuesday, April 6th, at 7:00 PM** at Good Shepherd.

WORSHIP COMMITTEE: The next meeting will take place on **Thursday, April 8th at 6:00 P.M. in the Sanctuary** at Good Shepherd. Please contact Jeannette Cartwright at 215-539-7716 for any additional information or questions.



THE UMW EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

will be held in the Sanctuary on **Tuesday, April 13, 2021 at**

1:00 PM. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss how we are going to proceed with UMW in the future. Board members, all UMW members, and anyone who would like to attend will be welcome. We still must meet our "mission giving" (formerly pledge) for the year. We would appreciate it if you would kindly continue to send your UMW offerings (that go to Missions) to: Liz Malloy at the following address: 1507 Huntly Drive, Warrington, PA 18976.

CHURCH COUNCIL will meet on **Monday, April 19th at 6:30 PM**. If meeting in person we will follow social distancing practices and wear facemasks. Otherwise, there will be a Zoom link for participation. Members will be notified of the link as it becomes available. If you are unable to participate in Zoom or in person, please let me know. – Gina Case, Chair

RUTH CIRCLE will meet on **Tuesday, April 20, 2021 at 12:00 PM in the courtyard**. Please bring a chair and your lunch. We will be wearing masks and social distancing. **ALL ARE WELCOME TO JOIN!**

LYDIA'S CIRCLE, our circle for today's working women, will be meeting on **Wednesday, April 28th, 2021 at 6:30 PM**; however, the location has not been determined at this time. If you'd like to join this circle, or have any questions, please contact Jeannette Cartwright at: 215-539-7716.



Happy Birthday

APRIL

- | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------|
| 1 - Betty McLaughlin | 2 - Dolores Snyder |
| 2 - Ryan Devlin | 3 - Lee McCarthy |
| 5 - Lorraine Lawrence | 7 - Janet Freidel |
| 8 - Liz Malloy | 12 - Matthew Munizza |
| 13 - Madison Orr | 14 - George Weber |
| 15 - Dan McLaughlin, Sr. | 19 - Jacob Case |
| 22 - Amanda Brock | 30 - David Sango |

If you would like to include your name on the **STAFF BIRTHDAY or ANNIVERSARY LIST**, please include your name and the day and month you were born, or your names and anniversary date and send an email to: secretary@umcgoodshepherd.org.

C*O*L*L*E*C*T*I*O*N*S

- Do you know we collect the following items?
1. Aluminum Tabs – McDonald's House – Helps to keep the cost down for the parents of the children hospitalized.
 2. Eyeglasses – Delivered to the Lion's Club.
Non-perishable food for our food bank.
There are collection baskets for these items in the Narthex.
 3. Non-perishable food for our food bank.
There are collection baskets for these items in the Narthex.

IN THE SERVICE OF OUR COUNTRY:

Thank you for all you do to keep us safe!



- Christine Bader
Daniel Bader
Nolan Bader
Keith Busby
Mousa Dassama, Jr.
Evan Kuehl
Reilly Kuehl
Taylor Sestito
Ryan Sutch*