

Food for thought from J

January 30, 2022

As I sit here writing this Monday morning, and recovering nicely from my bout with COVID thankfully, all is not right with the world. The major stock indices are in freefall (down over 3% in every case), tensions with Russia are mounting, and our country continues to be so divided politically and ideologically that it seems unlikely we can come together in the meaningful ways necessary to deal with these myriad challenges. In short, if there was ever a time for feelings of despair and even hopelessness, now would be that time. And yet, these are the very seasons during which we as Christians should not lose our hope or our joy, and instead, draw strength and comfort from our faith.

Certainly, it is natural to have legitimate fears about immediate threats of war or about the financial implications of economic downturns, turmoil, and uncertainty. Similarly, there is nothing wrong with lamenting the division we see all around us, with its accompanying anger and frustration. But as I will be discussing from the pulpit in a couple of weeks, we must remember the timeless words of Jesus from Matthew's gospel:

Therefore do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. "Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.

While there is way too much in these verses to unpack in a couple paragraphs of this newsletter, this is one of the great reminders in scripture about the source of our eternal strength and focus, and it is an explicit warning against allowing worry to be the thief of our hope and joy. Furthermore, it backs up that warning with clear instructions on how to overcome anxiety and worry over the ultimately insignificant, yet alluring, things of this world - *seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness.*

But how do we do this? We pursue with greater vigor and discipline than ever, those spiritual disciplines that help us focus on God's kingdom and God's righteousness. We read and study the Bible. Meditate on its messages. Engage with our church family in worship, study, fellowship, missions. We count our blessings. And pray without ceasing.

Especially now, as we are surrounded by challenges that are clearly beyond our individual control, we must cry out to God, individually, but with one voice, for God's will to be done on earth as it is in heaven. We must cry out for God to touch the hearts of our leaders, and all world leaders, in such a way that they put their own selfish desire for power aside and remember that the power and authority they do possess comes from God alone. We must ask God to soften the hearts of those who would oppose God's will and shun God's righteousness. And we must beg God to fill our own hearts with such grace and love that it overflows from our lives into the world around us as a living witness to the gospel of Christ.

May the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.



IN MEMORIAM

Lenore Ash
January 19, 2022

"In my Father's house are many mansions..."

The Chancel Flowers are given today in memory of Ralph Hammond by Beth & Larry Hendrickson.

MEMORIAL GIFTS

In memory of **Rubye Screws** by Helen Johnson; Susan Edge

In memory of **Jeanette Bunch** by Lynda & Bennett Massey

In memory of **Lenore Ash** by Lynda & Bennett Massey; Suzanne Supple; Lynn & Bill White; Goodwill Sunday School Class

In memory of **Martha Irwin** by Goodwill Sunday School Class; Mary Mims

In memory of **Phil Vining** by Lynda & Bennett Massey; Lynn & Bill White

In memory of **Catherine Carlisle** by Meredith Walters

Join our children and youth in the Souper Bowl of Caring campaign on 2.13.22!



More details to come!

JANUARY IS BACKPACKS OF GRACE MONTH AT WYNNTON!

Backpacks of Grace is a primary ministry of our church through which we provide weekend food for selected students in need at our Partner in Education school, Wynnton Arts Academy. Each Thursday morning, volunteers pack bags that are distributed at the school on Friday. We purchase many basic items from Feeding the Valley at low costs, but other, supplemental items must be purchased from retail food stores at higher prices. This is where you can help!

If you wish to donate, please choose items from the list below. They must be packaged in **INDIVIDUAL SERVING** containers. Also, **NO PEANUTS** can be in the product or in the manufacturing process (see "Contains" label on packages). Items which are particularly helpful are:

- Individual macaroni and cheese cups
- Individual snacks (cookies, crackers, etc.)
- Individual breakfast food (cereal, oatmeal, grits, etc.)
- Individual fruit cups (diced fruit, applesauce, etc.)

Of course, financial donations are always welcome, and they may be made through the church office.

Thank you for your support of this important ministry. Please put your items in the blue bin located outside of the library.

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

We will have our first Church Council meeting of the year on February 6, 2021 immediately following our 11:00 worship service. If you are a member of Church Council, please make every effort to attend.

Children's Programs

The nursery is available from 8:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. as well as Sunday School for grades K-12 from 9:45-10:50 a.m. The nursery for infants through 3-year olds is on the first floor of the Grimes building. Children's Sunday School for K-5th Grade is on the 2nd floor of the Grimes building, and youth Sunday school is in the basement under the sanctuary. Children's Church will be offered for children through 5th Grade in the Children's Center in the Grimes building during the worship hour.

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

Through Old Testament stories and mission projects, our children have been learning who God is, how He loves us and is always with us, and how we are to love God and love others. These lessons have prepared us to meet Jesus during this Advent season. Children in Pre-K through 5th grade are welcome to join us for Children's Sunday School from 9:45 a.m. to 10:50 a.m. on the second floor of the Grimes building.

BE A WYNNTON WELCOMER

WE NEED YOU! - to sign-up as a Sunday morning welcomer. We are looking for volunteers to fill open slots through the end of March. Check your calendars for a few Sundays you are available to help us greet our members and guests on Sunday morning. Sign-up sheets will be available in the main hallway this Sunday.

...and also, please note that our sign-up sheets for the first quarter of 2022 are available on the sign-up table in the main hallway. Please be thinking of dates for which you can sign up over the next few months.

CHANCEL FLOWERS

The following dates are available to put flowers in the sanctuary: March 6th, 13 & April 3. If you are interested in filling any of these dates, please call the office.

Flower Delivery

Linda Harp

Youth Sunday School

Four Acts of Love

We are starting a new series in The Basement called, "Four Acts of Love". Through Old and New Testament Bible stories about human encounters, we will talk about four Christian actions in response to Jesus' saving grace: radical hospitality, grooming a hunger for spiritual knowledge, practicing humility, and as J likes to say, always leaving room for the Holy Spirit.

SUPPORT FOR UMCOR

The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) is the primary arm of the United Methodist Church that provides vital support for such missions as domestic and international disaster relief, global health, missionaries around the world, and evangelism/church revitalization. If you would like to support UMCOR financially, you can do so in the following ways:

1. Send your check, designated to UMCOR, to the church office and we will make sure it is forwarded to UMCOR.
2. Go to their website: <https://umcmmission.org> and follow the links for designating your gift to the mission of your choice. For those wishing to support relief efforts related to the recent disasters in Kentucky, you can designate your gift for US disaster relief.
3. You can also support UMCOR on an ongoing basis with the Amazonsmile program that will make automatic donations to UMCOR based on your spending with Amazon.

Our Known Prayer Concerns:

Sue Rogers	Lexie McRae
Glenn Killough	Kathy Draughon
Matthew Allen	Debi Meacham Wright
Bobby Porch	Dorothy Robinson
Lillian Cox	Kerry Mess
Lynn Christenson	Jennefer Spell
Beverly Ragsdale	Jim Accordino
Jean McGlamry	Gwen Bolin

Christian Sympathy for loss of loved one:

Family of Rubye Screws
Family of Stella Jambon
Family of Marjorie Croft
Family of Sarah Crawford
Family of Deanna Stevenson
Family of Wanda Jones
Family of Rick Mitchell
Family of Brad Trim
Family of Lenore Ash

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Sunday, January 30

8:30 a.m. Traditional Worship Service - Sanctuary
9:45 a.m. Sunday School for Adults, Youth & Children
11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship Service - Sanctuary
Streams Live on Facebook
11:00 a.m. Children's Church - Grimes Building

Monday, January 31

10:00 a.m. Women's Bible Study - Library

Tuesday, February 1

10:00 a.m. Quilting Group - Alpha Bldg.
6:00 p.m. Wynnton Neighborhood Housing

Wednesday, February 2

10:00 a.m. Women's Bible Study - Alpha Bldg.
5:30 p.m. Wednesday Night Prayer Chapel & Book Study - Alpha Bldg.
6:30-7:15 p.m. Handbell Rehearsal - Fellowship Hall
7:15-8:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, February 3

7:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study - Alpha Bldg.
9:45 a.m. Backpacks of Grace

JOYFUL NOTES FROM THE CHOIR! 🎵

A considerable amount of our sacred music is developed and inspired by God's promises to us. Scripture promises such as *I will protect you, I will comfort you, I will give you peace, I will listen to you, I will strengthen you, I will give you rest, I will be with you*, are a small representation of God's promises that have inspired composers and lyricists. God's promises are as solid as a rock. They bring us hope and assurance. What an amazing foundation for our faith! Our focus in music this Sunday celebrates our faith as we stand on the foundation of God's promises. The Wesley Choir will sing a Stan Pethel arrangement of the hymn "How Firm a Foundation." The Chancel Choir will sing Pepper Choplin's "You Are Lord." It is a worshipful anthem with beautiful harmonies and a gently flowing piano accompaniment.

Wesley Choir

"How Firm a Foundation" arranged by Stan Pethel
How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord, is laid for your faith in his excellent word! What more can He say than to you He hath said, to you who for refuge to Jesus have fled? "Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dismayed, for I am thy God and will still give thee aid; I'll strengthen and help thee, and cause thee to stand upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand."

Chancel Choir

"You Are Lord" by Pepper Choplin
You are love, You are peace, and Your faithfulness and hope never cease. To the humble heart You stand as an open door. You are Lord. You are joy, You are light, and You guide us as we walk through the night. You are all the human heart is searching for, You are Lord. Your children stand before You to bring you gifts of praise, but our gifts seem so humble, for You are Lord, for You are God. You are now, You are then and Your holiness and power never end. And we'll live within Your house forever more. You are Lord. You are love, You are peace, You are Lord.

2 Peter 1:3-4

His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.

God's Great Peace to You!

Diana B.

READING THROUGH THE BIBLE

January 30: Luke 22:1-38, Genesis 39, Psalm 30
January 31: Luke 22:39-71, Genesis 40, Psalm 31
February 1: Luke 23:1-25, Genesis 41, Psalm 32
February 2: Luke 23:26-56, Genesis 42, Psalm 33
February 3: Luke 24:1-12, Genesis 43, Psalm 34
February 4: Luke 24:13-53, Genesis 44, Psalm 35
February 5: Hebrew 1, Genesis 45:1-46:27, Psalm 36

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

31 Sue Pope
1 Don Davidson
2 Randy Autry, Steve Croft,
Glenn Killough

OUR STEWARDSHIP

1-23-21
General Fund.....15,406.00
Endowment.....15,953.69
Missions.....65.00
Backpacks of Grace.....90.00
Other Contributions.....59.00

SUNDAY'S SERMON

So, Who's Your God?
Exodus 3:1-14
Rev. J Grantham

PASTOR ON-CALL

For emergencies Jan. 28-30
Rev. J Grantham 706-681-3258
