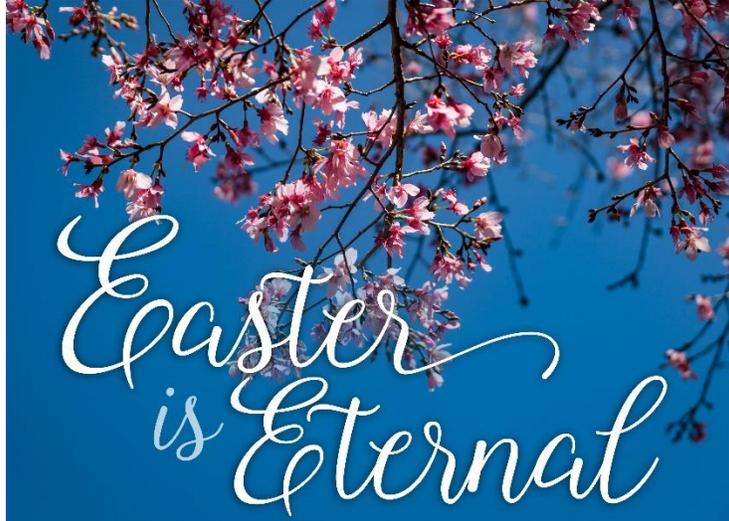


Weekly News from Johnsville United Methodist Church

“And God raised the Lord and will also raise us up by his power.”

1 Corinthians 6:14



Johnsville UMC
April 20, 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As I was praying about what to send this week, I felt a nudge to turn my office chair around and pick a book off of the shelf that was given by a friend, “Appels of Gold”, by Jo Petty. It is a book of little snippets of wisdom. As I prayed I heard the call to seek the wisdom of faith. When picking the book off of the shelf, I dropped it, because I am that graceful. Then I realized that the moment was grace-filled. The book open to the page that is to be shared. I heard the 1 Corinthians 13:13, “And now faith, hope and love abide, these three; and the greatest is love.”

I turned the book over and read this snippet, “It is not the greatness of my faith that moves mountains, but my faith in the greatness of God.” During these days of uncertainty, it is the greatness of our God that will sustain and heal us and our world. God is great! God is worthy of our praise in the midst of challenge, uncertainty, and the interruption of the comfort of what we believe to be our norm.

I had a phone call from a sweet woman who was struggling with the challenge of how the present circumstances are affecting her small business. She is a woman of faith, middle age, raising almost grown children with the help of her new husband. At first she shared the many concerns she had with the wellness of her aging parents, grandparents, college age children, and the business that she worked all of her life to build. Our conversation read like a modern day lament, as she expressed the questions

of “Where is God?”, “Will God protect my family?”, “Why has God allowed this virus to get out of control?”, and “What will things look like when things open back up?”.

This woman is a woman of faith, and as I listened, her faith came out in recalling of blessings. She shared how she had taken food to shut-ins, picked-up medications for those who could not drive and are immune compromised. She shared the ways that she and her family have been spending time together, that they usually don’t have until, now. She expressed gratitude for the bills that they can pay. She told me how thankful she is to have health at this time and the ability to pray anywhere at any time, and the love she feels from our Lord.

The second snippet is this one, “You can’t control the length of your life—but you can control its width and depth. You can’t control the contour of your face—but you can control its expression. You can’t control the weather—but you can control the atmosphere of your mind. Why worry about things you can’t control when you can keep yourself busy controlling the things that depend on you.” May we attend to the tasks given us by our Lord to do. The Lord is depending on us to be His hands and feet in all times, even times like these.

Blessings,

Pastor Shari

The State of the Church

Churches throughout the Baltimore-Washington Conference will continue to operate under restrictions that mitigate the spread of COVID-19 through May 15, Bishop LaTrelle Easterling announced in a State of the Church webinar today.

The bishop said that she is following guidance from health officials and local governments in making the decision. Previously, the bishop had requested that churches refrain from gathering on-site for worship through April 26.

Her announcement came during a “State of the Church” webinar in which BWC leaders offered new information and updates to the conference’s on-going response to the coronavirus pandemic. More than 850 people viewed the webinar, which is [available online](#).

Bishop Easterling said that thanks to the resilient efforts of churches throughout the conference, “we have saved lives. Thank you for being good neighbors to one another.”

In light of recent government decisions, the **BWC has extended restrictions** on gathering together in houses of worship from April 26 to May 15.

The 2020 Annual Conference Session, which was postponed from May, will be held during a one-day session on Sept. 12.

These two decisions were announced on Saturday, when BWC leaders gathered for a webinar on the State of the Church. See the video, read a story, and view an FAQ online at bwcumc.org/sotc.

Thank You

The New Windsor Fire Department has announced that the Fireman's Carnival will not be held this year. The Board of Directors would like to thank our church members for their unwavering help and support of the Fire Department in the past.

Prayer Requests

Prayers for Rebecca's cousin Bob and Pam who have COVID-19.

Prayers for Larry Thompson's bull calf whose mother passed away.

Prayers for George Pisacano for healing.

Prayers for Wade Young who has COVID-19 and his wife Debbie.

Prayers for all of those in nursing facilities and rehabilitation facilities.

Prayers for all those on the front lines – grocery stores, pharmacies, hospitals, police departments, fire departments.

Prayers for Louise Graybill for healing.

Thanks to those who are working our Food Pantry through the COVID-19 crisis to provide services to our community.