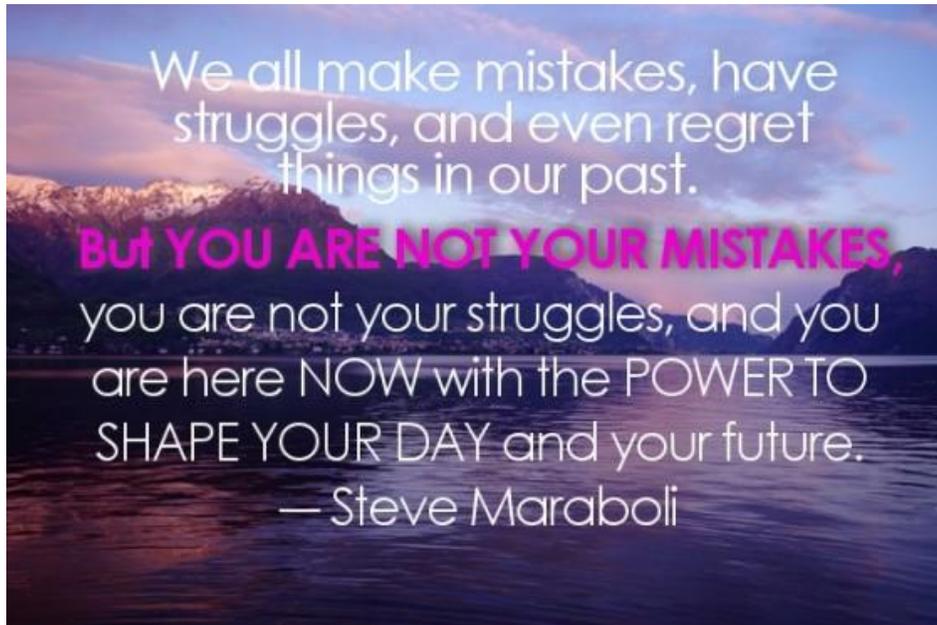


Weekly News from Johnsville United Methodist Church



**Johnsville UMC
August 3, 2020**

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

This morning I woke up with music in my thoughts! I kept hearing the lyrics written by Laura Story of her song, "**Blessings**".

**We pray for blessings, we pray for peace
Comfort for family, protection while we sleep
We pray for healing, for prosperity
We pray for Your mighty hand to ease our suffering
And all the while, You hear each spoken need
Yet love us way too much to give us lesser things**

**'Cause what if Your blessings come through raindrops
What if Your healing comes through tears
What if a thousand sleepless nights are what it takes to know You're near
What if trials of this life are Your mercies in disguise**

**We pray for wisdom, Your voice to hear
We cry in anger when we cannot feel You near
We doubt Your goodness, we doubt Your love
As if every promise from Your word is not enough
And all the while, You hear each desperate plea
And long that we'd have faith to believe**

**'Cause what if Your blessings come through raindrops
What if Your healing comes through tears
What if a thousand sleepless nights are what it takes to know You're near
What if trials of this life are Your mercies in disguise**

**When friends betray us
When darkness seems to win
We know the pain reminds this heart
That this is not
This is not our home**

It's not our home

**'Cause what if Your blessings come through raindrops
What if Your healing comes through tears
And what if a thousand sleepless nights are what it takes to know You're near**

**What if my greatest disappointments or the aching of this life
Is the revealing of a greater thirst this world can't satisfy
And what if trials of this life-
The rain, the storms, the hardest nights
Are Your mercies in disguise**

This song made me think of the many times that we struggle and have regrets. The many times that we think that we might be in control, and miss the mark of our Christian discipleship. The attitude we sometimes have, when we blame God for not being there for us. All of this made me think about how God uses every little and big thing to bless our belief in times of unbelief. As I thought back over my own life, I am amazed at how the power of God's grace has transformed me.

Regrets, can be moments of self-examination, so that we continue to grow stronger in the love of Jesus Christ. Regrets, can also be moments that help us turn and reset our direction back toward God. Regrets can lead toward repenting, and release from sinful ways. This release helps us to forgiveness: forgiving others, the Lord forgiving us, us forgiving ourselves, and us accepting the Lord's forgiveness.

May we each take time with the Lord each day to grow through our challenges, and move closer to Him.
In Christian love,
Pastor Shari

[2 Corinthians 7:10](#)

¹⁰For godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation and brings no regret, but worldly grief produces death."

We all make mistakes, have struggles and even regret things in our past. But you are not your mistakes, you are not your struggles, and you are here NOW with the power to shape your day and your future.

~ Steve Maraboli

Today's Affirmation

My struggles are opportunities to grow.

Prayer for Today

Dear God,

I am grateful you recognize my struggles
when extraordinary changes come into my life.

You open my ears to be attentive to your voice.

Your warehouse of treasures overflows,
blessing me with strength.

All that binds me falls away,

and I become free to follow the road map for my life.

Amen.

www.RenaissanceUnity.org, Tuesday, July 28, 2020

The Task Forces of both St. Paul and Johnsville met last week and have decided we will not reopen during the month of August. Both Task Forces will meet again in August. Please continue to pray for our churches, our community, our state and the world.

St. Paul Ad Council – August 11, 7:00 pm via Zoom

Johnsville Task Force – August 13, 7:00 pm via Zoom

Johnsville Church Council – August 13, 7:00 pm via Zoom

St. Paul Task Force – September 1, 7:00 pm via Zoom

Please welcome new member Deborah Sims to St. Paul UMC. Her contact information is 1155 Western Chapel Road, New Windsor, MD 21776, phone number 410-259-2082

Prayer Requests

Healing

Francis Moats

Mike Lehman – surgery on August 25

Bella, granddaughter of Irene Wallace – recovering from surgery

Mike Luers

George Pisacano

Louise Graybill

Patsy Eyler

Winnie Freyer

Mack is home. Continued prayers for healing.

Bobby Graham - healing - now at home

Charles - healing

Wanda Wick's Mother, Pam- healing

Shadowens family - for grieving