Memorial Methodist Messenger

Memorial United Methodist Church, Russell Cheatham, Pastor P.O. Box 9, 403 Court Street, Appomattox, VA 24522 (434) 352-5705 memorialumc5705@gmail.com

Our Mission is to help others grow in the love and joy of Jesus Christ

MAY 2020



REACHING OUT WITH RUSSELL ON... LAST THINGS

"You didn't choose Me. I chose you. I appointed you to go and produce fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask for, using My name."

John 15:16

As I consider this transition to retirement, I've been thinking about last things I want to do in ministry. What are those things I want to preach and talk about and even what songs do I want to sing in worship? Of course, because of this COVID-19 Pandemic and the church being closed for gatherings, my options are more limited.

But I do want to say that the miracle of Christianity is Jesus Christ. God sent Jesus to us because we were estranged from Him and needed to be saved from that state. We could not do it ourselves! We needed a Savior and He was the only One who could do it for us. Oswald Chambers said it so clearly: "You must yield yourself in utter humiliation to the only One who can break the dominating power [of self and sin] in your life, namely the Lord Jesus Christ. Yielding to Jesus will break every kind of slavery in any person's life."

The shining light of Christianity is a transformed life through the power of conversion. E. Stanley Jones was the American Methodist missionary so influential in bringing vibrant Christianity to India in the first decades of the twentieth century. When we took apart our church library a few years ago, one of the books marked "Discarded" was Brother Stanley's How to Be a Transformed Person written in 1951. I snatched up the book and have thoroughly enjoyed it.

On March 15, the first Sunday morning that Bishop Lewis cancelled worship services in the churches of the Virginia Conference, I read an article in the book about the transformation of Jacob, which Brother Stanley believed to be "the most formative conversion of the Old Testament." The article is titled "The Nobodies Become Somebodies." I want to share part of it with you.

We now turn to the New Testament, which is a book primarily on conversion. Within these pages is the most astonishing account of transformations in literature. These transformations are of spirit, mind, and body—and of climate. The climate within and between groups turned battling to brotherhood, tensions to tenderness. A new and astonishing power had come into availability—the downand-outs became the up-and-on-tops, the nobodies became the somebodies. Paul says, 'Neither the immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers . . . nor sodomites nor thieves . . . nor the drunken nor the abusive nor robbers will inherit the Realm of God. Some of you were once like that; but you washed yourselves clean' (1 Cor. 6:9-10). That is redemption!

Wherever the impact of the New Testament is made on life today, the same miracles of changed lives appear. A lieutenant in the Japanese army now a schoolteacher, told this story: 'I kept insisting that the Japanese would win the war. Then came the defeat, and the nation went down. As a Shintoist I felt I should die with the nation, for Shintoism, identified with the nation, would go down when the nation went down. I was about to commit suicide as an expression of my responsibility,

but something held me back and I cut off some of my fingers instead. In my despair I went to Tokyo to get a New Testament. When I came across the verse in John 15:16, "Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain," light downed upon my heart. My gloom and despair were lifted. I was a changed man."

Strange, but the verse he mentioned has been my life verse, given years ago-a verse which I repeat to myself and God as we bow our heads just before I speak to an audience! The New Testament impact is a redemptive impact wherever it touches life—East or West!

Redemption means being bought back from the devil. Conversion means being changed into something different. I can certainly attest that the impact of Jesus Christ on me made this "down-and-outer" into an "up-and-on-topper"! And the transformation is still happening. Believe me, if it can happen to me, it can happen to anyone. Paul says, "No, dear brothers and sisters, I am still not all I should be, but I am focusing all my energies on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead" (Philippians 3:13).

It has been a joy to grow in God's love with you at Memorial United Methodist Church in Appomattox.

Praise the Lord!

Pastor Russell



The Family of
Memorial United Methodist Church
Invites you to attend the
Retirement Reception for

Pastor Russell & Julie Cheatham

Saturday, June 13, 2020, 1:00-4:00 pm, In Legacy Hall of MUMC. (403 Court Street in Appomattox, Virginia)

In this uncommon era of pandemic restrictions, we are planning for a beautiful time with Russell & Julie while following all state health and safety guidelines. We will have 3 mini receptions with a total of 50 people attending each. You need to reserve your time for 1:00-1:45, 2:00-2:45, or 3:00-3:45. This will give each group the opportunity to enter safely, be seated in family groups or with adequate spacing, enjoy cake and punch, and have Russell & Julie visit each table. If the current rules require it, we will ask you to wear masks. A limited number of masks will be available at the entrance.

Childcare will be available if needed. (Inquire when you reply.)

If you are not comfortable being in groups yet or are otherwise unable to attend, please inquire about the video message that we plan to make so that all who want to send a message to Russell & Julie can safely do so.

In order to properly plan, we ask that you reply by June 5 by contacting Sue Eggleston at sueeggleston918@gmail.com or by calling or texting (434)664-7325.

If we are not allowed to gather in groups of 50 by June 13, this event will be cancelled.

No gifts, please. Cards only.



Church Council Minutes Memorial United Methodist Church Wednesday, April 15, 2020 ZOOM Meeting

Those in attendance were Sue Eggleston, Mitch Eggleston, Blair Smith, Marie Milton, Steve Nadolson, Donna Deaner, Dawn Elliott, Cindy Ranson, Kinckle Robinson, Leeann Robinson, Rodney Deaner, Joan Holt, Angie Dillon, Tom Hall, Julie Cheatham, Sheila Webb, Doug Webb, Russell Cheatham, Bobby Waddell, Steve Nadolson, Sue Waddell, Dan Turner, Tom Gilliam.

Sue Eggleston called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm

Dawn Elliott led devotions.....Peace in Troubled Times

February 2020 minutes were approved by consensus (there was no March 2020 meeting).

Ministry Reports

Kinckle Robinson (Finance).....Bank account is down about 6K from 1/1/20. We are 13K behind in giving, but have spent 8K less than expected. Will be investigating on-line giving options. Finance report approved by consensus. *(Full report attached.)

Cindy Ranson (Day Care).....Not sure when reopening. Would like for Church Council to waive the \$600 per month fee until July 1st. Dan Turner made a motion to waive this fee, Russell Cheatham seconded....approved by consensus. Margie Hatcher has applied for small business loan. *(Full Report attached.)

Cindy Ranson (Worship).....Would like to thank all those involved in bringing worship services to us through Facebook and YouTube. *(Full report attached.)

Dan Turner (P & G).....Asked for everyone to please limit the use of the church while everything is being sanitized. Epitome Networks is installing classroom cameras and new DVR recorders for both the Day Care and main church office. Work on parsonage will begin the last week of April. Thanks to Jimmy McDaniel for his efforts in keeping things clean. *(Full Report attached.)

Marie Milton (Prayer).....40 Days of Prayer has ended, and we averaged 6 people per night. Plans are to do this again next year. Thanks to all who made this happen. *(Full report attached.)

Tom Hall (Trustees).....is trying to arrange a ZOOM meeting with the other trustees and insurance agents.

Sue Waddell (Missions).....MUMC raised over \$2000 for tornado relief in Tennessee. Sponsoring 2 children in Guatemala.

Dawn Elliott (Childrens Ministry).....VBS has been postponed for now. Materials have been ordered, but can be returned if needed.

Rodney Deaner (Discipleship).....Miranda Deaner is willing to do a virtual bible study called Open and Unafraid.

Donna Deaner (Sunday School).....looking into making packets for the children to work on SS lessons at home.

Sue Eggleston.....will talk to Mary Turner about MUMC possibly subscribing to ZOOM.

Russell Cheatham.....Thanked everyone for their work on the on-line services. His last Sunday will now be 6/28/20.

Pastor Russell Cheatham closed with prayer.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:18 pm.

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RESCUE STORY BY ZACH WILLIAMS

There I was empty-handed Crying out from the pit of my despair There You were in the shadows Holding out Your hand You met me there

And now where would I be without You? Where would I be, Jesus?

You were the voice in the desert
Calling me out in the dead of night
Fighting my battles for me
You are my rescue story
Lifted me up from the ashes
Carried my soul from death to life
Bringing me from glory to glory
You are my rescue story

You are, You are You are my rescue story You are, You are

You were writing the pages
Before I had a name
Before I needed grace, oh
You sing a song of redemption
'Cause every time I ran away
You were louder than my shame

And now where would I be without You? Where would I be, Jesus?

You were the voice in the desert Calling me out in the dead of night Fighting my battles for me You are my rescue story Lifted me up from the ashes Carried my soul from death to life Bringing me from glory to glory You are my rescue story (story)

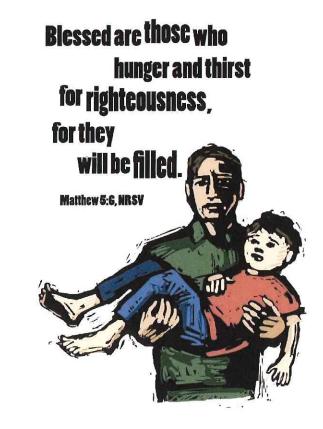
You never gave up on me
You never gave up on me
You are my testimony, oh
Ooh You never gave up on me
Ooh You are my testimony, oh
Ooh You never gave up on me
Ooh You never gave up on me
Ooh oh You never gave up on me
Ooh, this is my testimony

Oh, You were the voice in the desert Calling me out in the dead of night Fighting my battles for me You are my rescue story Lifted me up from the ashes Carried my soul from death to life Bringing me from glory to glory 'Cause You are my rescue story

Financial Support for MUMC

The Corona Virus Relief
Legislation just signed into law,
provides greater tax
incentives for gifts made in 2020
by allowing all tax payers to take
a charitable deduction of up to
\$300 even if you do not itemize.

George Bergdoll



You are, You are
Oh, You never gave up on me, never gave up on me (You are my rescue story)
You are, You are
Yeah, You are my rescue story

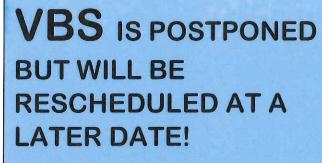
THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE OPEN MONDAY- FRIDAY 9AM TO 2PM.

MDC WILL BE OPEN STARTING IN MAY!

UPPER ROOM DEVOTIONS

Come by & pick up your Upper Room Devotion for May-June at the Legacy Hall entrance.

postponed... but not forgotten ©



WE WILL UPDATE EVERYONE ONCE A DECISION IS MADE.



SUPER SENIOR UPDATE:

You have been missed. As we look back at the fun times we have had together, we can now look forward to more good times to come. Once this social distancing is lifted, we will be meeting together again and having those good conversations and laughter.

Take care. You are loved.

There will be no planned activities from the Fellowship Committee until we resume meeting as a congregation to worship on Sunday's again.





The Missions committee of Memorial United Methodist Church exists to reach out to the needy and to spread the gospel. Its main focus is to involve the congregation in Missions. It is equally committed to local, national, and international needs. If you want to experience the joy of spreading the gospel and helping the needy, join us in one of our hands on Missions Opportunity! If you are interested in finding out more information or giving ideas on mission's opportunities, please contact Sue Waddell at 434-660-0367.

The Vines in Our Lives



A couple of Christmas' ago Dennis was given a tool he lovingly calls "The Man-Eater." This device is a combination of a chain saw, bush hog, and weed-whacker on steroids. It is quite a tool and can take down acres of brush and small trees. We live on the part of his family's historic farm that has not been farmed for decades. Using this tool, Dennis continues to eat away at clearing years of undergrowth.

With the removal of 50+ years of vegetation down the hill behind the old horse barn, this spring brought to view a flowering tree. Seeing the limbs of the tree in full bloom was a welcomed surprise. In all the years of visiting the homeplace and even after moving here, the tree remained hidden behind a screen of undergrowth and wild blackberry bushes. It came into view only after clearing away the scrub growth. With the blooming limbs as a guide, we cleaned away the remaining foliage to create a path to the tree. What we found was not one tree but two peach trees.

The trees were in full bloom. The ground around the trees was littered with peach pits. Evidence of years of productivity. However, amazingly, the trees stood mangled and broken, with large parts of the top of the trees ripped off and hanging down almost to the ground. The tree trunks are large and firm, so what caused the top of the trees to be torn from the supporting tree trucks?

Growing from the ground and wrapped around the limbs were the smallest of vines. The individual vines were no bigger than kitchen twine. With the least amount of effort, the vines were pulled from the trees. However, these little green strings had reached up the mighty tree, wrapping around the limbs, and grasping to the reach the treetops drawn by the desire to reach the sunlight. At the top, the vines, individually still only the diameter of a thread, robbed the trees of much need sunlight and crumbled the treetops. Their weight twisted, split, and severely damaged the otherwise healthy trees.

Is there a reason to tell you this? Yes, to ask the question, how often do we let small vines grow in our hearts, thinking they are not that important? It is just an insignificant hurt; it is no big deal. Without realizing, the tiny wound, we just ignore, continues to grow. We overlook it because we are much bigger than it is. And, look, we are still blooming and growing, we are still producing fruit. All the while, this vine is multiplying, creating more vines, entangling around, through what we think is our healthy lives. We may not see the pending destruction — until it is too late.

The good news. God gives us tools to help overcome these destructive vines. His word is replete with help on dealing with deadly vines that creep into our daily lives. CR is based on the advice given to us in the Bible. At CR, you will find support from friends who also struggle with removing the vines (we call them hurts, hang-ups, and harmful habits) that entangle our lives. If you would like to know more about CR and our version of a weed killer, please call us. We would love to talk with you and tell you about our next meeting!



Celebrate Recovery - Appomattox



PRAYER REQUEST:

Recent Prayer Needs:

COVID-19 Pandemic, Frontline Workers, Sick w/ virus, Unemployed Fred Underwood (Aortic Valve Replacement Surgery recovery) Tara Adams & Baby (wife of co-worker of Beverly Thomas)

Clarence Davidson (Peaches Smith step- father)

Manning Harrell & Family (at LGH w/ pneumonia)

Hazel Thomas (at LGH for breathing)

Nick Vancil (Beverly Thomas kin)

Leon Mettler (Vanessa from MDC husband- heart attack /3 stints)

Tommy Bryant (Beverly Davidson's brother-in-law- surgery)

Greg Knight (Francis Knight's son)

Kash Lucado (Joan Holt's nephew's baby) healing from surgeries

Brandy Roberts (Tom & Terrie Conrad's friend)

Kathy Griggs (recovering from Surgery, Carolyn Bergdoll's sister)

Darlene Clark (Gerald Wilbun's cousin) heart attack

Jennifer Tucker (friend of Cindi Williams, breast cancer)

Shawn & Jennifer Walsh (Jean Walsh's son & daughter-in-law)

Bethany Nadolson and family (Bear & Mary's niece)
Charlotte Fenchum (Butch Thomas' girlfriend)
Pastor Russell & Julie's upcoming retirement season
Tony Freedman (UM Rev. Freedman Kim's son)
Nancy Horton (stoke, fall – relative of Mindy Blake)
Ethan Nadolson (Steve Nadolson's son)
Janet Lowery (Skeeter & Betty Armstrong's niece)
Carrie B. Lloyd (Rick & Mindy Blake's daughter)
Linda Thomas Turner (Beverly Thomas' cousin)

Carrie B. Lloyd (Rick & Mindy Blake's daughter) Linda Thomas Turner (Beverly Thomas' cousin) Robin Parsons (daughter of the Parsons- cancer)

Vicky Jones (Stroke- Peg Lawson's niece) Timothy Lloyd (Skeeter & Betty's Grandson)

Frances Parsons (Bob Parson's mother) Doug Howard (cousin of Pastor Russell)

Michelle Denis (Hospice, friend of Parson's)
Judy Ferguson & family (aunt of Dawn Elliott)

Olivia Baldwin (Bob & Doreen Parson's friend)

Patricia Wallace (Melissa Doss' aunt)

Ronnie Spiggle

Betty Armstrong

Denise Bates

Sharee Whitmer

Gary Lindsey

Billy Guthrie

Cassidy Richardson

Rick Blake

Cathy Bates Phil Bass

Deb Stacey (health issues)

Dianne Marsh (Cindi Williams Aunt) Doug Doss Jr. (Father of Melissa Doss)

Cayden Walsh (Walsh's grandson)

Brandon Coles (Kelly Cole's brother)

Praise the Lord!



For the Great acts of Kindness and Unity we have experienced during this Global Pandemic.

For continuing to support Our Church Family financially during this unpresented time.

SPECIAL CALL TO PRAYER:

Bishop Lewis has invited everyone to join in prayer at noon daily praying:

Almighty God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit, We thank you for your blessings, past, present and future. You are our rock and the source of our hope in all things and at all times. As Jehovah Jireh, our provider God, we ask you this day to stretch out your mighty hand and eradicate from the face of the earth forever this virus called COVID-19 (coronavirus) that is spreading rapidly from continent to continent. We also pray that you, Jehovah Rapha, our healing God, would place your hand upon all of those who have been stricken by this virus and restore them to full health. Be with those who have lost loved ones and are grieving. Protect all who are caring for those with this virus and keep them from contracting it themselves. Calm our fears and provide us with your peace that surpasses all understanding. Strengthen us with the joy of the Lord and help us to hold firmly to the hope that only you can provide. Unify us that we, the Virginia Annual Conference, may be able to experience anew the promise of your presence in and through the unity of our faith, hope and trust in you in the days ahead and forever. We offer this prayer in the mighty name of our Lord, Jesus Christ. AMEN

Our Missionary Partners: Young Life (Appomattox & Central VA), The Jesus Center (Appomattox, VA), Clara Biswas, Street Children Ministries (Cambodia), Chris & Paula McNutt, Mt. Comfort (Guatemala); Charles & Becky Jackson, Generous Hands (Philippines), Emi Monges, Ambassadors for Christ (Paraguay), The Mathers, Stepping Forward Ministries (Romania)

Continuing Concerns:

-Babcock Manor: Anne Weakley & Margaret Wilson &

Lorene Lucado & Estaline McCraw

-Valley View Retirement Community: Mary Martin 401A

-Bentley Commons: Daphne Jackson

-Heritage Green Assisted Living, Rm. 101: Elizabeth Jamerson

-St. Joseph's Home: Frances Rogers

Margaret Moon, Victor & Susan Vernon, Manning & Myrt Harrell, Hazel Thomas, Sara Baine, Myrtle White

VA Conference Bishop Sharma D. Lewis, District Superintendent Denies Bates, Pastor Russell & MUMC Leaders, Youth United, Members of our Armed Services stationed overseas and here at home, Police Force & Special Agencies, President Trump/World leaders/ The United States of America, All Refugees

Our Ministry of Prayer: Anyone wishing to receive prayer requests for our church and community send your email address to Marie Milton at mcmorgan112@gmail.com. If you would like a name on our printed bulletin Prayer list, please contact the church office at 352-5705. At the end of each month the Prayer List will be purged. Your help in removing names (when appropriate) and giving updates is greatly appreciated.



A Grinchy Easter Poem

How the Virus Stole Easter

By Kristi Bothur
With a nod to Dr. Seuss

Twas late in '19 when the virus began, Bringing chaos and fear to all people, each land.

People were sick, hospitals full, Doctors overwhelmed, no one in school.

As winter gave way to the promise of spring, The virus raged on, touching peasant and king.

People hid in their homes from the enemy unseen. They YouTubed and Zoomed, social-distanced, and cleaned.

April approached and churches were closed. "There won't be an Easter," the world supposed.

"There won't be church services, and egg hunts are out. No reason for new dresses when we can't go about."

Holy Week started, as bleak as the rest. The world was focused on masks and on tests.

"Easter can't happen this year," it proclaimed. "Online and at home, it just won't be the same."

Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, the days came and went. The virus pressed on; it just would not relent.

The world woke Sunday and nothing had changed. The virus still menaced, the people, estranged.

"Pooh pooh to the saints," the world was grumbling. "They're finding out now that no Easter is coming.

"They're just waking up! We know just what they'll do! Their mouths will hang open a minute or two, And then all the saints will all cry boo-hoo. "That noise," said the world, "will be something to hear." So it paused and the world put a hand to its ear.

And it did hear a sound coming through all the skies. It started down low, then it started to rise.

But the sound wasn't depressed. Why, this sound was triumphant! It couldn't be so! But it grew with abundance!

The world stared around, popping its eyes.
Then it shook! What it saw was a shocking surprise!

Every saint in every nation, the tall and the small, Was celebrating Jesus in spite of it all!

It hadn't stopped Easter from coming! It came! Somehow or other, it came just the same!

And the world with its life quite stuck in quarantine; Stood puzzling and puzzling.

"Just how can it be?"

"It came without bonnets, it came without bunnies, It came without egg hunts, cantatas, or money."

Then the world thought of something it hadn't before. "Maybe Easter," it thought, "doesn't come from a store. Maybe Easter, perhaps, means a little bit more."

And what happened then?
Well....the story's not done.
What will YOU do?
Will you share with that one
Or two or more people needing hope in this night?
Will you share the source of your life in this fight?

The churches are empty - but so is the tomb, And Jesus is victor over death, doom, and gloom.

So this year at Easter, let this be our prayer, As the virus still rages all around, everywhere.

May the world see hope when it looks at God's people.
May the world see the church is not a building or steeple.
May the world find Faith in Jesus' death and resurrection,
May the world find Joy in a time of dejection.
May 2020 be known as the year of survival,
But not only that Let it start a revival. AMEN!!
Happy Easter to all!



The Discipleship Journal Bible Reading Plan

September

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5. 21:29-38	°	20:16-30	11-13	5	1:43-51	72:14-26	3:16
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October

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesda v	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3 11:00 AM – Online Worship Service @ MUMC.org or on Facebook	4	5 Cinco de Mayo	6	7	May Day	9
10 11:00 AM – Online Worship Service @ MUMC.org or on Facebook	11	12	13	14	15	16
11:00 AM – Online Worship Service @ MUMC.org or on Facebook	18	19	7:30 PM – Church Council Zoom Meeting	21	Newsletter Deadline	23
ASCENSION 11:00 AM – Online Worship Service @ MUMC.org or on Facebook	25	26	9:30 am- Newsletter Mailing Team, Legacy Hall	28	29	30
11:00 AM – Online Worship Service @ MUMC.org or on Facebook						



- 3 May-Skeeter Armstrong
- 4 May- LeeAnn Robinson
- 4 May- Becky Henderson
- 7 May- Dow Mongold
- 8 May- Megan Drinkard
- 8 May- Harper Scott
- 9 May- Lisa Smith
- 11 May- Joy Bagby
- 11 May- Estaline McCraw
- 12 May-Courtney Thompson
- 14 May- Eleanor Dolan
- 14 May- Kevin Mongold
- 17 May-Susan Book
- 17 May- Nelwyn Smith
- 3.5 C
- 17 May- Grace Carter
- 18 May- Janet Noble
- 20 May- Carrie Lewis
- 25 May-Braylon Rothgeb
- 25 May- Mary Turner
- 26 May- David Harris
- 27 May- Poppy McDowell
- 28 May-Ryan Weakley
- 30 May- Tom Hall
- 30 May-Bret Wilbun
- 31 May- Connor Elliott
- 31 May- Howlett Hunter



2 MayJason & Nicole Smith

2 May.....Tina and Chris Blondek

22 May...David and Shannah Wilbun

23 May...Harry & Jeannie White

27 May...Penny and Dow Mongold



MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Our Vision is to Help People Grow in the Love

Weekly Worship Schedule: Sunday:

Revised till further notice: 11:00am- Online Worship @ Memorial United Methodist Church Facebook



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