

Pastor's Update, Wednesday, June 17, 2020

Happy Wednesday to you, Wilmore FMC. Here are a few things you may want to know today:

In-Person Worship! Well, about 160 of you were present for in-person worship this past Sunday morning. That's about 27% of our normal attendance, just FYI, and as I understand it, it is pretty typical of, if not somewhat better than, churches of our size around us. Another 128 family units watched the livestream from home, and another 388 family units watched one of the pre-produced videos on either YouTube or Facebook. So we'll call attendance at 1,850 people.

Ha – I'm just kidding. I'm very grateful, however, for the multiple ways we can worship together during these days, and a big part of that ability is due to Don Sweigard and Jerry Diddle and the tech team Don has assembled for Sundays. Many, many thanks to each of you.

We will do this again this Sunday, June 21. If you attended this past Sunday, we'll assume you'll be present again on the 21st. If you did not attend on the 14th, but are planning to on the 21st, it would help us if you would let us know by contacting the church office – simply for space reasons. We had room in the sanctuary for another 40 +/- people and we could have fit another 20 or so in the Great Hall. We are also planning to open B200-201 for a livestream that will seat another 40 or so people.

Sadly, it began raining during the service, so after-worship conversations in the parking lot were cut short. But all in all, I think it went pretty well. I hope the Lord does too.

Once again, you can find a Quick Facts Version and a Fully Explained Version of how we're working out worship [by clicking here](#). If you haven't already, please take a look at these links.

World-wide Online VBS: Families- if you are missing VBS, then be sure to mark your calendars for this world-wide VBS. There will puppeteers, magicians and storytellers presenting the Gospel to kids all over the world! We have registered our church and more details will follow in the weeks ahead, but mark the dates of June 22-25 or June 29-July 2. [Click here for the website and description](#).

Pastor Andrea's Youth Newsletter is now available. [Click here to download your copy](#).

A Word About Giving: In short, we are doing well. We are paying our bills and meeting all our obligations to staff, missions, programming, benevolence, debt, etc. Though giving is down a bit, our overall expenses are also down, so it's balancing out. One necessary (and unplanned) expense has to do with the purchase of equipment necessary to livestream our services, which could total nearly \$10,000.00. This is equipment that is deeply discounted already and that will continue to be helpful beyond these Covid days. If you're led by the Lord to invest any extra funds in this, they would be appreciated.

Finally, A Devotional Word From E. Stanley Jones that reminds us of the critical place of the Spirit-filled and led Church in eradicating prejudice and racism. Jones writes:

The movement for human social emancipation did not come until the Holy Spirit came. Until then, both Jews and Gentiles were in subjection to owners. And both believed slavery was a divine institution. Aristotle said some people are born as natural rulers and some as slaves, as a dog is naturally a dog and a cat a cat. Greek philosophers had time and leisure to philosophize about life, for beneath their glittering civilization was the toil of slaves, who outnumbered the free. Forced labor built the Hebrew temple. "King Solomon raised a levy of forced labor out of all Israel; and the levy numbered thirty thousand men" (1 Kings 5:13). Since he could use slave labor for the house of god, he would

also use it to build his house, which took thirteen years. The temple was built in seven, simply because Solomon's house was large and more costly than the temple.

That was the picture in Greece and Palestine when John announced that: Every valley will be filled and every mountain and hill will be leveled (Luke 3:5), meaning that with the coming of the Messiah, there would be a leveling of the social status of persons – the high would be brought low and the low brought high.

Mary, the mother of Jesus, took up this topic in song: "He has scattered those with arrogant thoughts and proud inclinations. He has pulled the powerful down from their thrones and lifted up the lowly. He has filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty-handed. (Luke 1:51-53)

Jesus took up the same theme, where he said, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me...He has sent me to proclaim release to the prisoner and to liberate the oppressed... (Luke 4:18)

You see, the only real, lasting answer to racial tensions is found in followers of Jesus living Spirit-filled and guided lives, speaking and acting boldly in ways that lift up those society seeks to diminish. The Spirit-led Church is indeed the only social entity that will truly change our world, which means that we, the body of Christ, are the change-agents the world needs. It's nothing short of a revolution, but not one in the way the world thinks of it. How are you participating in this revolution?

Blessings to you all!

Pastor Daryl