

Pastor's Update, Wednesday, May 13, 2020

Happy Wednesday to you, Wilmore FMC. I hope you are well and enjoying a good day with the Lord. Don't let the rain bring you down. The grass is green, the flowers made it through the recent cold nights, and spring is at our door. Granted, we expected it to be here fully by now, but there are some things about timing that we can't control. Still, cool nights and rainy days are all part of the signs of the times, which mean good things are coming.

The same is true with the situation in which we find ourselves because of this virus – it too is a sign that good things are coming. All of these sorts of things should remind us of the sure return of Jesus to assume his place of leadership in our world. Just like rain is a sign of the coming of spring, so are these strange happenings signs of the times for those who see with spiritual eyes. It's good news for Christ's Church. It's also a reminder of our mission: to invite others to receive this news...so they might receive the King when He arrives.

A few news items today:

A Way to Help – The Wilmore High Bridge Community Center is organizing some days for donations to be dropped off at the Thrift Shop and they need volunteers to help receive items. You can click here to sign up for a shift:

<http://calendly.com/community-service-center-wilmorehb>

The "event" is called "receiving donations." There are 5 days highlighted on the calendar...6 volunteers are needed for each day. Time is 10:00a to 2:00p. Note that volunteers should be able to lift boxes, bags of donated items.

Pastor Andrea's Youth Newsletter: [Click here to download your copy.](#) Even if you don't have teens or grand-teens at home, this is a great way to check out what our teens are up to.

Kids Ages 3-12 - Grab your crayons - for coloring sheets, dot-to-dots, verse posters, color-by-number, cut-paste-draw puzzles and lots more. [Click here for some great resources.](#) Or, to follow your Bible Family Tree, [click here.](#) Or, how about [this fun bingo game.](#)

Light From The Word daily devotional guides for the months of June and July have arrived and are available in the church foyer.

Re-scheduling of New South Conference Camps Our camping leadership has chosen to attempt to re-schedule Kids Camp, Youth Camp and Family Camp at Eagle Ridge from their original June dates to sometime in July. We'll announce those dates once they're confirmed.

A Note Regarding Future In-Person Worship Services:

The church staff, Pastor's Cabinet and Board of Administration are in ongoing discussion regarding when and how to return to in-person worship while respecting Health Department guidelines and the best counsel of our own doctors. I have also taken counsel from other local pastors and institutional leaders. While everyone agrees that we want to be "back to normal," we all realize that what we've come to know as "normal" won't be possible for quite a while. In the interim, we are trying to think through the best options for worship that includes all, keeps us relatively safe, provides connection and honors God.

Of course, as you know, everything is in flux. Even the Health Department guidelines are changing regularly, so any timeline suggested may well be adjusted forward or backward. For your planning purposes, however, and so you're not simply left to wonder, let me say that, for now, we plan to remain online for this Sunday and the following two...through the end of May. As things develop and change, we'll consider where to go from there.

Please understand that no one wants to return to in-person worship any more than I / we do. Yet under the present guidelines, an in-person worship service would be, let's say, far less normal and maybe even more isolating than what

we're presently doing online. We're simply trying to take all these things into consideration. I might also add that, even when in-person worship is restored, we intend to continue offering a video option and will encourage the older and immunologically compromised among us to continue worshipping in that way.

As you read this, I recognize that you may be sensing emotions from relief to anger to somewhere in between. Regardless of where you land, I've likely been there myself. Please remember that there is a wide variety of opinion about all this in our nation, our town, and our church family. Some will certainly be disappointed regardless of the decision made, and were it not for the amazing grace of this church family, I would be concerned about the division something like this can cause. I don't doubt that there will be disagreement, but I'm confident we will disagree in a manner that honors God and that reveals the Savior whom we follow to our world, which, especially in these days, is in desperate need of Christ-like examples.

You know that you can always contact me with questions, and I'll do my best to answer them. At the same time, I may well simply say, "I have no idea." ☺

And Finally, In the Interest of Keeping Our Sense of Humor:



Blessings to you all!

Pastor Daryl