



FIND  
HOPE  
HERE

SEDGEFIELD  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Stay  
connected

Church activities, meetings, Sunday School, and worship are all suspended through March 31, 2020. During this time we will continue to communicate with you throughout the week. Our primary means of communication will be:

**EMAIL • TELEPHONE • FACEBOOK LIVE**

We are making every effort to stay connected. We are depending on **you** to check these sources frequently as things are changing daily.

Pastor Jim is currently developing a regular schedule to connect with you and keep you informed. This schedule will be posted soon.



# A WORD FROM PASTOR JIM



**Luke 23:32-43**

Sunday, March 15, 2020

Rev. Jim Brookshire

*But God still loved us with such great love. He is so rich in compassion and mercy. Even when we were dead and doomed in our many sins, he united us into the very life of Christ and saved us by his wonderful grace!*

*Ephesians 2:4-5 (TPT)*

## **Something to Think About:**

The Gospel writers tell us that Jesus was crucified between two other men. While the writers describe them using different terms (rebels, criminals, outlaws), what we do know is that they will forever be known as “thieves”.

What were their names? Were they married?

Did they have kids? I wonder what their hobbies were? What made them laugh? We will never know the answer to these questions. They will forever be known as “thieves” due to, what was likely, one very bad choice they made along the way. And yet, Jesus offers grace. Is that fair? No, it’s not. That’s why it’s called “grace”. Grace isn’t supposed to be fair.





**Study Guide:** Think of someone you know or even an historical figure whose life has been defined by one poor choice? Do you think that's fair? Why or why not?

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What do you think of so-called "death bed confessions"...the notion that a person can live any way he/she wants and still receive grace and salvation in their last breath? Does it work that way, and is that fair? Why or why not?

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In Luke 23:35-39, you'll notice how various people treated Jesus as he hung on the cross. Notice the first part of verse 35. What does this say about people? Where has this happened in your life?

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Read and reflect on verse 42. Where do you think the thief came up with this idea?

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Is there something in your life that needs Jesus' forgiveness? If so, ask him now.

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## PASTORAL CARE CORNER

The following is a list of prayer requests:

### At Home:

Jimmie Foster  
Jaime Garcia  
Ruby Gardiner  
Tommy Reep  
Sue Van Vynckt



### Health Care Facilities:

Lorraine Diaz  
Asbury Rehabilitation Center  
3800 Shamrock Drive  
Charlotte, NC 28215

Prayer requests can be submitted to:

[prayerrequest@sedgefieldchurch.org](mailto:prayerrequest@sedgefieldchurch.org)

During these days of social distancing, you are encouraged to stay in touch through notes and cards.

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### *A Covenant Prayer in the Wesleyan Tradition*

*I am no longer my own but yours.*

*Put me to what you will,  
rank me with whom you will.*

*Put me to doing, put me to suffering.*

*Let me be employed for you  
or laid aside for you,*

*exalted for you or brought low for you.*

*Let me be full, let me be empty.*

*Let me have all things, let me have nothing.*

*I freely and wholeheartedly yield all things  
to your pleasure and disposal.*

*And now, glorious and blessed God,  
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,  
you are mine and I am yours.*

*So be it.*

*And the covenant now made on earth,  
let it be ratified in heaven.*

*Amen.*



# Offering

## HOW TO GIVE

Although we are not meeting as a faith community, the work of the church has not stopped. Ministry is still happening! And, it is your offerings that allow us to continue our mission during this current pandemic. Your options for giving are:

**mail:** Sedgefield UMC  
2830 Dorchester Place  
Charlotte, NC 28209

**online:** <https://sedgefieldchurch.org/online-giving/>



# Lenten Reflection

## Still Searching for a Lenten Practice?

Lent is intended to be a season of a successful journey though the desert of penance to a deeper intimacy with God. If you are searching for a Lenten practice (and it isn't too late to begin), some suggestions are: *practice tithing* each week, *pray the Covenant Prayer* every morning, *read and study* Matthew, Mark, Luke or John, *complete the study guide* that accompanies Pastor Jim's weekly message, *faithfully worship online* on Sunday, *fast* one meal a day, *give up something* that distracts you from important relationships. When taken seriously, Lent can be a time to discern what God is calling you to do, what God wants you to be more detached from, what sin he is calling you to abandon; a time when you come to trust God more fully. If you have yet to embark on your Lenten journey, why not start today?



**TUNE IN TO FACEBOOK LIVE SUNDAY MORNING AT 10:25**

## Information & Announcements

### **Cancellations:**

As we continue to take the necessary precautions, the following activities have been canceled:

After-School Mentoring while CMS is closed

Disciple Bible Study

Centering Prayer

Church Council Meeting scheduled for March 19

Sunday School & Worship for March 22 and March 29

Worship Committee Meeting scheduled for March 26

### **Egg Cartons Needed**

Our local Loaves & Fishes food pantry has asked for help in collecting egg cartons. On the occasions when the pantry has eggs to distribute, empty cartons are needed. Please continue to save your egg cartons. We will resume collecting the empty cartons once we resume our normal schedule.

### **Fun Fact**

