

THE EPISTLE

April 17, 2020



FIND
HOPE
HERE

SEDGEFIELD
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Let's Stay Connected!

"We are an EASTER people and 'Alleluia' is our song."

St. John Paul II

Join Us!
LIVE Broadcast
Sunday Mornings
10:30



www.facebook.com

2830 Dorchester Place • Charlotte, NC 28209

www.sedgefieldchurch.org

Staying Connected Through Good News

The Disciple I class was thankfully able to finish their journey, participating in the last three classes via Zoom. I am so grateful to this group for their desire to learn, commitment to study, and sense of fun, while encouraging questions and comments from each other without judgement. The experience was a huge blessing to all of us. Congratulations to all!



Linda Peterson
Class Facilitator

2019-2020 Disciple Bible Study Participants



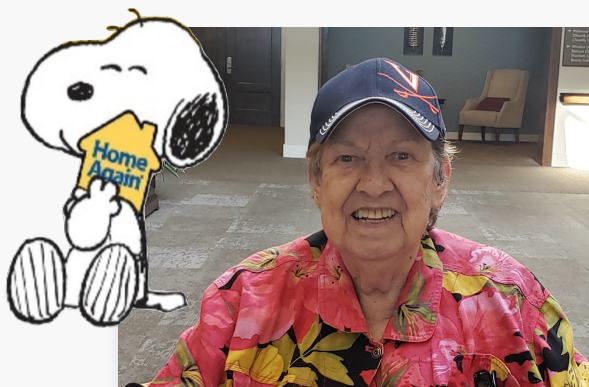
Sally Stout, Pat Stout, Jim Brookshire, Frank Fields



Ellen Lankford,
Bruce Lankford



Tessa Bennstrom, Pilar Tochiki, Luis Tochiki, JoBeth Rambo



Lorraine Diaz was hospitalized on February 7 but returned home on Thursday safe and sound!

A Picture for These Times: Medical Staff Praying on Hospital Rooftops*

In the News

In hospitals across the country, nurses, doctors and other health-care workers on the front line against the pandemic are working to exhaustion. Many have contracted the disease themselves, and some have died from it.

But among those working, when they do get a break, many are praying, and not just for themselves.



Danny Rodriguez, a senior ER tech at Jackson South Medical Center in Miami also posted a photo of eight health-care workers on a hospital roof, all kneeling in prayer. "This is how we started our morning today," he wrote. "Our team said a prayer, asking God for guidance and protection while we are at work, and to keep us and our families safe."

At Cartersville Hospital in Georgia, an online video shows a line of workers on the roof with their palms outstretched toward the sky.

It's not just medical personnel who are praying during this crisis, of course. A just-released Pew Research Center survey found that more than half of all U.S. adults (55 percent) say they have prayed for an end to the spread of coronavirus. It is not surprising that large majorities of Americans who already pray daily (86 percent) and of U.S. Christians (73 percent) have prayed about the outbreak. But 15 percent of Americans who say they seldom or never pray have prayed for the pandemic to end, and 24 percent of people who say they do not belong to any religion have done so as well

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With the high contagion of coronavirus patients, their family members aren't permitted to visit them in the hospital. Instead, doctors, nurses and health-care workers offer not only medical care, but also comfort and support. They need to keep going and keep giving, they know, and prayer is part of their strength.



*God of Zion, to you even silence is praise.
...you listen to prayer -
and all living things come to you.
Psalm 65:1-2 (CEB)*

To Think About:

Have you prayed about the pandemic, and if so, for what and/or whom did you pray? Why?

If you have prayed about the pandemic, how, if at all, has that changed how you view this health crisis?

Does prayer ever cause God to intervene in human problems when he otherwise might not have?

What effect, if any, does the life of the person praying have on how God hears that person's prayers?

If you are in health care in any capacity, who or what are you praying for? Family? Patients? Coworkers? All of them? Are you too tired to pray? How can the rest of us help you?

*thewiredword.com. "A Picture for These Times", April 9, 2020

Prayer Requests

At Home:

Jimmie Foster
Jaime Garcia
Tommy Reep
Sue Van Vynckt



Discharged From Health Care Facilities:

Lorraine Diaz
Merrywood - Apt W210
3600 Park Road
Charlotte, NC 28209

Health Care Facilities:

Ruby Gardiner
Healthcare Center at Brightmore
Room 311A
10011 Providence Road West
Charlotte, NC 28277

We extend our sympathies to
Bruce & Ellen Lankford
(3388 Richards Crossing • Fort Mill, SC 29708)
in the recent loss of their daughter.

If you have a request or concern that you would like us to add to our prayer list, please send the request to:

prayerrequest@sedgefieldchurch.org



I Pray We Don't Go Back to Normal...

I pray...that the next time a friend grabs me and pulls me in for a hug, I actually take the time to appreciate the gift of their embrace.

I pray...that when school resumes and people are dropping kids off, they take the time to thank the staff for the amazing gift that they give to our community.

I pray...that the next time I'm sitting in a crowded restaurant I take the time to look around at the smiling faces, loud voices and thank God for the gift of community.

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I pray...that the next time I'm standing in church listening to the voices of praise and worship that I take a moment to thank God for the gift of congregation.

I pray...that the next time a friend grabs me and pulls me in for a hug, I actually take the time to appreciate the gift of their embrace.

I pray...that when school resumes and people are dropping kids off, they take the time to thank the staff for the amazing gift that they give to our community.

I pray...that the next time I'm sitting in a crowded restaurant I take the time to look around at the smiling faces, loud voices and thank God for the gift of community.

I pray...that the next time I'm standing in church listening to the voices of praise and worship that I take a moment to thank God for the gift of congregation.

I pray...that the next time I see a person or situation that needs prayer, I hope I pray as passionately and fervently as I have these past weeks.

I pray...that when I am at the grocery store that I take a moment to thank God that He provides us with the necessities of life and the amazing people who work so hard to keep us supplied.

I pray...that I never again take for granted the ability to hop in the car and visit a friend, go to the mall, go to a gathering, etc.

So, truth is, I don't want things to return to the they once were. I pray that we take the lessons and challenges of the past few weeks and create a new normal. My goal is to pray more, love harder, and truly appreciate the daily abundance of blessings that were so easily overlooked just a mere weeks ago.

Unknown Author

Tithes & Offerings

Trust in the Lord completely, and do not rely on your opinions. With all your heart rely on him to guide you, and he will lead you in every decision you make. Glorify God with all your wealth, honoring him with your very best, with every increase that comes to you. Then every dimension of your life will overflow with blessings from an uncontainable source of inner joy!



Proverbs 3:5, 9-10 (TPT)

THANK YOU for your financial support as we continue to find ways to be the church in this very unusual time. We ask that you:

- ▶ Pray daily for our church
- ▶ Continue to be generous with the church
- ▶ Consider on-line giving. It's easy and safe!

WAYS TO GIVE

mail:

Sedgefield UMC
2830 Dorchester Place
Charlotte, NC 28209

online:

<https://sedgefieldchurch.org/onling-giving/>

NEW

An additional giving option is now available online through the Western North Carolina Conference website. This site is also easy, safe and secure.

<https://www.wnccumc.org/online-donations-to-churches>

Staying Connected Through Reflection

Realities of the Resurrected: A Post-Easter Reflection

by Sarah Martin*



I shall not die, but I shall live, and recount the deeds of the LORD. The stone which the builders rejected has become the head of the corner. This is the LORD's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.

Psalms 118:17, 22-34 (RSV)

Most of you celebrated the Lord's resurrection yesterday. For many, it was a glorious day of rejoicing in the miraculous. It was a day where you reflected not only on the event 2,000 years ago, but on the resurrections in your own life...

For others, this day only served as a reminder of your cross. You felt like you got left at Good Friday weeping while the rest of the world moved on to Easter Sunday. You wish you could celebrate, but you don't know how...

Most of life is like this. Happiness, unmixed, is not easy to come by. So how do we deal with this reality? How do we deal with Good Friday and Easter coexisting?

(* for three answers to these questions)

Ultimately, all Good Fridays will lead to joyful Easter mornings if we cling to Christ. Whether you are in a season of hardship, rejoicing, or a mix of both, the key is to keep walking in faith one step at a time. Only the risen Christ can guide us through the foggy path of life. And when our final Easter morning arrives, we will finally see with clarity that the journey was worth it.

Reflect on the "little resurrections" in your life - the times God answered a prayer in a very tangible way, the blessings in your life, and the miracles you've witnessed. All these serve as reminders of the great work God will continue to do in your life.

*<https://www.crosswalk.com/faith/spiritual-life/realities-of-the-resurrected-a-post-easter-reflection-11628457.html>

Missions Committee Invites You to Participate



LOAVES & FISHES
Groceries for Neighbors in Need

Loaves and Fishes needs your donation! They tell us that financial donations are the best way to help. The number of people they are feeding has tripled in the last couple of weeks, It costs \$33 to pack a week's supply of groceries for each person served. They just purchased 3 pallets of tuna at a cost of \$14,000 (16,128 cans) and 10 pallets of peaches at a cost of \$18,000 (20,400 cans) and their goal is to pack 1,000 boxes of a weeks supply each day. Donations can be made online at [Loaves & Fishes COVID-19 Response - How You Can Help | Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry](#) or you can mail a check to: 648 Griffith Road, Suite B, Charlotte, NC 28217.

Due to your generosity over the past year, the Missions Committee has also \$2,000 to Loaves & Fishes.



In addition to supporting Loaves & Fishes, we are also collecting deodorant for the ladies at Dove's Nest. An addiction recovery residential program, Dove's Nest provides women a place to rest, mend, heal and gain new directions for their lives. Dove's Nest is a ministry of Charlotte Rescue Mission. Donations can be left in the collection box located on the front porch at the church through the remainder of April.

Thank you,
Linda Peterson
Missions Committee Chair



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Pastor

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