



FIND
HOPE
HERE

SEDGEFIELD
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Let's Stay Connected!



Picture taken February 19, 2020

My desire and constant prayer is that I would be able to come and visit you, according to the plan and timing of God. I yearn to come and be face-to-face with you and get to know you. For I long to impart to you the gift of the Spirit that will empower you to stand strong in your faith. Now, this means that when we come together and are side by side, something wonderful will be released. We can expect to be co-encouraged and co-comforted by each other's faith!

Romans 1:10-12 (TPT)

New Sermon Series Begins Sunday

The life, death and resurrection of Jesus signaled something *brand new*—a brand new movement (the Christian Church), a brand new covenant (Jesus as the way, the truth and the life) and a brand new commandment (to love one other as Jesus loves you). But what happens with the “old”? Surely the 10 Commandments haven’t been rendered obsolete, have they? Join us beginning Sunday April 26 as we look at the 10 Commandments in a different light. We will look at them THROUGH THE EYES OF JESUS.

...through the
eyes of Jesus

The 10 Commandments



Message:

Through the Eyes of Jesus: You Must Have No Other Gods Before Me

Exodus 20:1-3; Matthew 6:21, 24

Sunday, April 26, 2020

Study Guide for April 26, 2020

Something to Think About: It's important to remember the historical context for the 10 Commandments. In the ancient world, there were very few laws or boundaries for societies. Basically, "might makes right" ruled the day. Justice came in the form of escalated retribution and vengeance. And slaves? They had but one law—obedience to their slave-masters or die. So when God sent Moses to deliver the Israelites after generations of slavery, they needed boundaries and guideposts to help them *begin* to become the people God was calling them to be. Thus, God gave them the Law, including what we know as the 10 Commandments. The first of these commandments was, "You must have no other gods before me." Notice the lower case "g" in "gods". It's a reminder of the polytheistic world in which they lived. In this world of many gods, the God of Israel said, "I must be first."

Name as many of the 10 Commandments as possible (without looking them up!)
How did you do? (See Exodus 20 and Deuteronomy 5)

Study and write down the differences between the 10 Commandment as presented in Exodus 20 and Deuteronomy 5. What surprises you? What disturbs you? Why do you think they're different?

Re-read Exodus 20:1. Notice the word "LORD" in all caps. This reflects God's most personal name...a name so personal and holy that ancient Israelites—including the Old Testament writers—would not dare speak or write it. That name is "YAHWEH", and it is not easily translated. Scholars generally connect the name YAHWEH with phrases such as "all being" or "all existence". What does the name YAHWEH say about God?

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Honestly assess and record the three things (or people) that have the most influence over your daily thoughts and decisions.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

After looking at your calendar and bank statement, would you change your answers to the above question? Why or why not?

What is one thing you could do this week to move towards making YAHWEH-GOD *first* in your life?

Daily Prayer: Lord God, you made me. You freed me. You are the source and sustainer of all that exists. Help me to worship and serve you, and you alone. Amen.

The View From Pandemic Lockdown: Stuck in an ‘Everlasting Present’*



...lockdowns in the United States mean that some adults aren't able to see their newborn grandchildren, weddings have been postponed, the deceased are being buried without mourners present, plans of all sorts are in limbo, visits to our loved one in nursing homes are forbidden, eagerly anticipated events have been cancelled, personal plans are in jeopardy, and people who'd had good jobs are suddenly filing for unemployment. And this includes people who, as far as they know, don't have the disease.

In a recent article, Matt Simon, a science writer at *Wired* magazine, referred to a woman who'd said of the current crisis, "It's like there's no future." Simon then explained, "What she meant was we can't plan for the future, because in the age of the coronavirus, we don't know what we'll be doing in six months, or even tomorrow. *We're stuck in a new kind of everlasting present* (italics added).

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Staying Connected Through Reflection

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Confronting the News with Scripture and Hope:

Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a town and spend a year there, doing business and making money." Yet you do not even know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. Instead you ought to say, "If the Lord wishes, we will live and do this or that."

James 4:13-15 (NRSV)

To Think About:

How dramatically has your life changed due to the coronavirus? Which practices and habits from the way you had been living are helping you now? Which ones are hindering you?

What is the best part of forced time at home? What is the worst part? How do those reactions fit with the idea of an “everlasting present”?

What is the danger of speaking for God? Some may try to tell us that the Lord wants us to learn such and such from the pandemic. Should we accept those statements as expressions of God’s will? Why or why not? How about what seems to be God speaking to you directly through prayer? How can you determine what is actually a message from God?

Evaluate this statement: Sometimes God’s will and our good gets worked out by our plans not working out.

What would it mean for you to add the words “God willing” at the end of your plans?



**thewiredword.com. "The View From Pandemic Lockdown"*

Prayer Requests

Lorraine Diaz



Jimmie Foster

Jaime Garcia

Ruby Gardiner

Tommy Reep

Sue Van Vynckt

Health care workers, the unemployed and all those who are receiving treatment for the coronavirus.

Dear friend,

I'm praying that all is well with you and that you enjoy good health in the same way that you prosper spiritually.

3 John 1:2 (CEB)



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

Tithes & Offerings

Stop collecting treasures for your own benefit on earth, where moth and rust eat them and where thieves break in and steal them. Instead, collect treasures for yourselves in heaven, where moth and rust don't eat them and where thieves don't break in and steal them.

Where your **treasure** is, there your **heart** will be also.

Matthew 6:19-21 (CEB)



The finance committee would like to thank all members for their faithful generosity and support of our church's financial commitments especially while we are worshiping remotely on Sundays. All gifts are needed and gratefully appreciated. As always, checks can be mailed to the church office or gifts can be made online through our website at www.sedgefieldchurch.org.

Thank you!!



Hans Warren
Chair, Finance Committee

Mailing Address:

Sedgefield UMC
2830 Dorchester Place
Charlotte, NC 28209



Church Council News

Church Council met on April 16 via Zoom.

So much has changed in our life in the past weeks. We miss the fellowship of Sunday School and worship along with other activities of our church. The Montessori School had to suspend classes as have all schools. The Council spent time talking about how we are coping with these changes, not only at church but in our homes. Prayer is vital in coping with our circumstances.

A positive note from Finance is that more members are taking advantage of online giving. Continued giving is vital to our church because our expenses continue. If you are interested in contributing this way, go to sedgefieldchurch.org and click on Online Giving at the top of the page. Your prayers and gifts are even more important during this trying time.

As we receive more direction from the Conference, decisions will be made about when services will resume as well as how VBS and other summer plans will be addressed.

It has been a blessing that Pastor Jim is keeping us connected through Zoom meetings and the Sunday message each week on Facebook live. Thanks also to Ron for his gift of music.

What we are going through can be a truly spiritual experience. As we reach up to God in faith, he is reaching down to us by his grace to support and comfort each one of us.

Be safe, stay well, and give someone a call to let them know you care.

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We are frightened, God,
Worried for our loved ones,
Worried for our world.
Helpless and confused,
We turn to You
Seeking comfort, faith and hope.

Teach us, God, to turn our panic into patience,
And our fear into acts of kindness and support.
Our strong must watch out for our weak,
Our young must take care of our old.
Help each one of us to do our part to halt the spread of this virus.

Send strength and courage to the doctors and nurses in the frontlines of this battle,
Fortify them with the full force of their healing powers.
Send wisdom and insight to the scientists
Working day and night across the world to discover healing treatments.
Bless their efforts, God.

Fill our leaders with the wisdom and the courage
To choose wisely and act quickly.
Help us, God, to see that we are one world,
One people
Who will rise above this pandemic together.
Send us health, God,

Watch over us,
Grace us with Your love,
Bless us with Your healing light
Hear us, God,
Heal us, God.

Amen

Blessings,



Tom Little
Church Council Chair

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



Sedgefield United Methodist Church

2830 Dorchester Place

Charlotte, NC 28209

704-523-0077

office@SedgefieldChurch.org

SedgefieldChurch.org



Pastor

Rev. Jim Brookshire

PastorJim@SedgefieldChurch.org

704-232-4878



Director of Children's Ministry

Mary Jo Bridges

marycbridges@yahoo.com

704-617-4056

