



FIND
HOPE
HERE

SEDGEFIELD
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Let's Stay Connected!



Picture taken April 2018

God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging. There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy place where the Most High dwells... The LORD Almighty is with us. He says, "Be still, and know that I am God..."

Psalms 46:1-4, 7a, 10a (NIV)

Sermon Series Continues - Commandment #2

Nearly everyone has heard of the 10 Commandments. Many of us learned them as children; others learned them as adults. Some of us know them because we watch Charlton Heston's portrayal of Moses on television every Easter evening! One way or another, we've all heard of the 10 Commandments.

Then Jesus comes along, is executed on a Roman cross and was raised from the dead three days later. When that happened, everything changed! So, do the 10 Commandments still matter? In the second Commandment, God says, "Do not worship idols or images!" Sounds outdated to me...or is it? We don't do that anymore...or do we?



Sunday, May 3, 2020

Message:

*Through the Eyes of Jesus:
No Images or Idols!*

Exodus 20:4-6, John 14:7-9

Study Guide for May 3, 2020



What's the first image that pops into your mind when you think of "idol worship"? Have some fun with this. Sketch out your idea of an idol.

From the beginning of time, people have longed to see and touch their god(s). Why is that?

Read and re-read Exodus 20:4-6 (the second Commandment). Where does it ...make sense? ...challenge you? ...trouble you? ...seem relevant? ...seem out of date?

In order to honor the second Commandment, the ancient Israelites carried an empty chest suspended between two long poles. This was known as the "Ark of the Covenant". Why was the chest empty...and why do you think it was important to carry it from place to place?

God ultimately satisfied humanity's desire to see and touch their god. How did God do that? (Read John 1:1-14 if you need a bit of help.)

After listening to this sermon, is there an idol or image of God in your life that needs to go?

Daily Prayer: Lord God, thank you for sending Jesus as your only perfect image. We are so sorry for the way we treated him when he lived. Forgive us, and make us eager to know and worship you by knowing and worshipping Jesus. Amen.

Prayer Requests

Lorraine Diaz



Jimmie Foster

Jaime Garcia

Ruby Gardiner

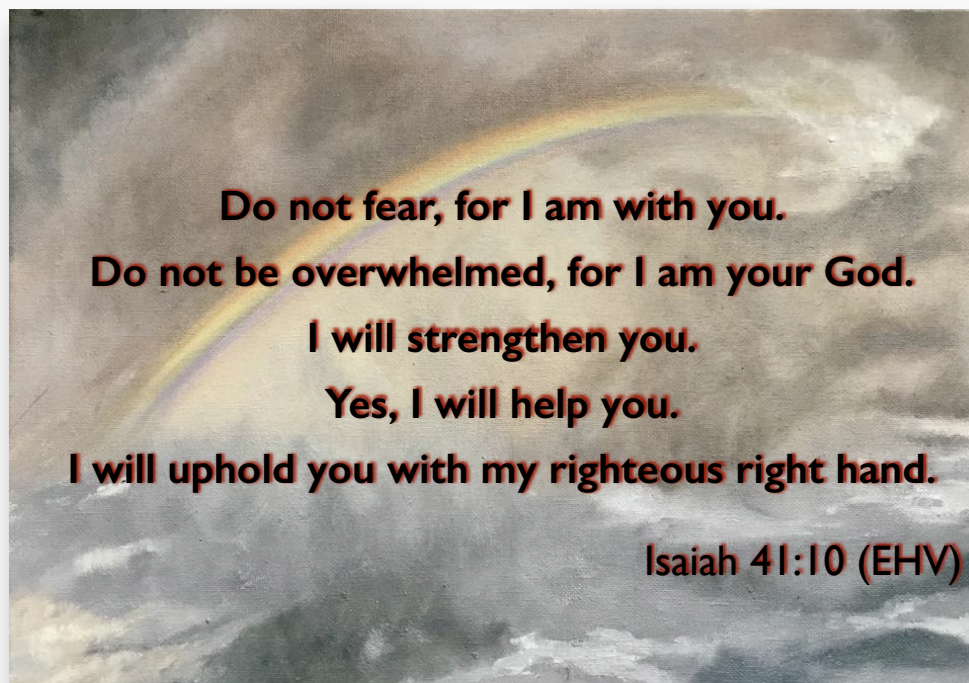
Tommy Reep

Sue Van Vynckt

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

Recently Hospitalized: *Don Rusch*
(3108 Stone Orchard Place • Charlotte, NC 28209)

Sympathy is extended to *Jo Beth Rambo* (720 Hollis Rd • Charlotte, NC 28209) in the recent loss of her step mother.



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

Staying Connected Through Giving

The Need For Giving When Church Doors Close*

The church has left the building.

This saying in faith-based circles has increased in popularity during the coronavirus pandemic when social-distancing guidelines have recommended that churches throughout the world close their physical doors. The result in not gathering for usual worship services has been swift to the balance sheet.

Seventy-six percent of United Methodist churches say that giving is down and one-third report that giving is down by 40 percent, according to new research by United Methodist Communications of 1,000 United Methodist churches. [Complete story can be found at umc.org](http://umc.org)

*Caviness, Crystal. "The Need for Giving When Church Doors Close", April 7, 2020, umc.org

The people were faithful. They brought in their offerings and a tenth of everything they produced. They also brought the gifts they had set apart to the LORD.

2 Chronicles 31:12 (NIRV)

FIND US FAITHFUL

Ways to Give:

Thank you for your continued support of the ministry of Sedgefield UMC. Tithes and offerings can be given online by visiting the websites of either Sedgefield UMC or the Western NC Conference. Both are safe, secure and easy to use. Or, if you prefer, checks can be mailed to the church.

Online:

www.sedgefieldchurch.org

or

www.wnccumc.org



Mailing Address:

Sedgefield UMC
2830 Dorchester Place
Charlotte, NC 28209

‘First, Do No Harm’ Is Not a Simple Principle During a Pandemic*

Nearly everyone wants a quick fix for this pandemic, either in terms of a cure or a vaccine or both. But against that wish, we hear warnings about the dangers of taking unproven medications or vaccines that haven't gone through the rigors of scientific testing. Those warnings may remind us of the principle sometimes applied in the medical field that says, "First, do no harm."



FIRST DO NO HARM

Not many of us are in a position to comment authoritatively about the medical applications of that statement, but this is a good time to consider how "First, do no harm" is a de facto posture of the religious and spiritual life - not the only posture, to be sure, but a starting place.

Confronting the News with Scripture and Hope:

...You shall be holy, for I the LORD your God am holy. ...You shall not steal; you shall not deal falsely; and you shall not lie to one another. And you shall not swear falsely by my name, profaning the name of your God: I am the LORD. You shall not defraud your neighbor; you shall not steal; and you shall not keep for yourself the wages of a laborer until morning. You shall not revile the deaf or put a stumbling block before the blind; you shall fear your God: I am the LORD.

Leviticus 19:2, 11-14 (NRSV)

To Think About:

The commands in Leviticus 19 are part of the holiness code of ancient Israel. At the beginning of the chapter, God commands the people to be holy, and then God goes on to spell out some of what being holy means, and a good bit of it fits into the category of doing no harm:

do not steal; do not deal falsely, do not lie, do not defraud your workers,
do not create problems for the handicapped, do not render false judgments,
do not slander, do not take vengeance

(continued on page 7)

Staying Connected Through Reflection

(continued from page 6)

It's not all doing no harm, of course, and in verses 9-10, God commands some good that they should do: "When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap to the very edges of your field, or gather the gleanings of your harvest. You shall not strip your vineyard bare, or gather the fallen grapes of your vineyard; you shall leave them for the poor and the alien: I am the LORD your God."

Leviticus 19 is also where the statement about loving one's neighbor as oneself first appears (v. 18), a statement that was one of the two great commandments Jesus affirmed. That's a command to do good, but in the Leviticus context, part of loving our neighbors is doing them no harm.

Question:

If part of loving our neighbors is doing them no harm, what are some ways we can best do them no harm in these days of the pandemic? What are some examples during these days of the pandemic of doing good for one's neighbors?

Responding to the News:

Marc Gellman wrote in his book, And God Cried, Too: A Kid's Book of Healing and Hope: "It's hard knowing that no matter what you do to make the world a better place, things will look almost exactly the same when you go to sleep as they looked when you woke up. What you need to do is **think small**. Focus on the one person you can help today. In fact, that's a good thing to think about every night... If you make a difference to just one person today, then you make a difference to the whole wide world. That is how the world changes.. one person, one good deed at a time." Resolve to ask God each day this week for the name of one person you can help that day. What can you do to make a difference in that person's life? Then do that one thing, no matter how small.

*"First, Do No Harm is Not a Simple Principle During a Pandemic", April 26, 2020, thewiredword.com.

Weekly Zoom Meetings



Each *Wednesday* Pastor Jim and Ms. Mary Jo are hosting times for our church family to gather for fellowship and prayer. The adults meet at 1 o'clock and the children meet at 7 o'clock. Please join us!

Every Wednesday
7:00 p.m.

Children's ZOOM Meeting



Meeting ID: [741-1216-0360](#)

Pastor Jim's ZOOM Meeting

Meeting ID: [938-7996-7058](#)



Altar Flowers



On Sunday mornings we continue to gather as a congregation on Facebook Live to hear a message from Pastor Jim. During the broadcast we are able to see our chancel area helping us to feel as if we are present with Pastor Jim. For the past three weeks the altar has been decorated with Easter lilies.

Although we are not meeting in person, you can still place flowers on the altar in memory of a loved one or to honor someone who is special to you. The cost of the altar flowers is \$40.00. And, during this shelter-in-place time period, the flowers will be delivered to you at the conclusion of the service!

To donate flowers, you can contact the [church office](#) or call Clara Hedberg (704-375-9588) to check available dates or to order flowers.



The altar flowers for Sunday, May 3 will be given to honor **Kimberly Little** who celebrates a birthday on May 1.

The flowers were donated by Kimberly's family.





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Charlotte, NC 28209

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SedgefieldChurch.org



Pastor

Rev. Jim Brookshire

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Director of Children's Ministry

Mary Jo Bridges

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