



January 15, 2021

THE EPISTLE



Find Hope Here

Sedgefield United Methodist Church

2830 Dorchester Place
Charlotte, NC 28209

www.SedgefieldChurch.org

704-523-0077

Rev. Jim Brookshire, Pastor

This Week in Worship

Sunday, January 17, 2021

Pre-Service Music

Ms. Lynn Hager

10:25 a.m.

Message

The Gift of Pain

2 Corinthians 12:7-10



Study Guide

Something to Think About: Occasionally you run into people who seem to be OK even when their lives are anything but OK. One of the remarkable things about such people is that many have come to see their adversity as if it were a gift from God. They know God did not cause their pain, and yet they receive their pain...they actually embrace their pain...as if God actually wanted them to have it. This is a strange but powerful idea that is worth exploring.

Do you believe that God sends painful circumstances into your life, perhaps for a higher purpose? Looking back on your faith journey, how did you arrive at your conclusion?

Do you believe that faith in God reduces or eliminates adversity? Why or why not? Explain your opinion, and please be specific.

Do you see a conflict between facing adversity and the existence of an all-powerful and all-loving God? Why or why not?

Have you ever known someone who continued to project joy, hope and purpose in the midst of their difficult circumstances? Did their faith have any affect on your faith? Explain.

Read **2 Corinthians 12:7-10**. The original Greek word for “given” is “*didomi*” which is reserved for gifts that bring happiness and joy, much like a Christmas gift. And yet, Paul says this gift “tormented” him. Is it possible for these two concepts to be compatible? Why or why not?

Paul says he “pleaded” with God that this gift be taken away. Have you ever pleaded with God for something? How did it turn out?

How did God respond to Paul? Has God ever responded to your prayers in a similar way?

Paul claims there is purpose in his pain. What is that purpose?

Notice this detail—Paul says, “...when I am weak, I am strong.” He doesn’t say, “When I am weak, God is strong.” What is the difference between these two thoughts?

Daily Prayer: God, I know you do not cause my pain, but help me receive it as if it were a gift from you...a gift with a purpose. Amen.

Pastor Jim Announces His Retirement

On January 13, 2021 Pastor Jim shared the following message with the Sedgefield church family...

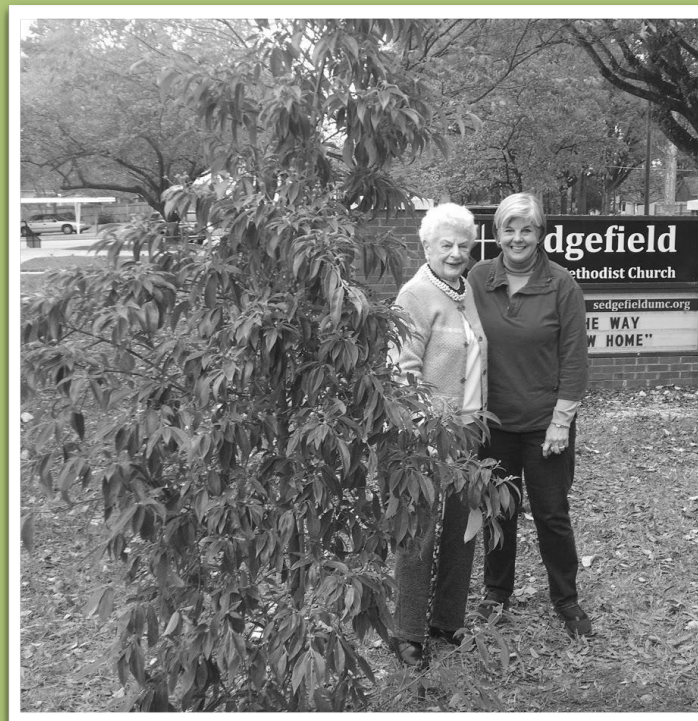
I will be retiring from pastoral ministry on June 30th of this year. Linda and I are ready to begin a brand new chapter of life. We want to start enjoying ourselves in a different way by spending more time with each other, more time on the lake, and, yes, way more time with our family including our granddaughter, Jo. I love pastoral ministry. More specifically I love pastoral ministry here at Sedgefield. I'll be leaving a place and a group of people that mean the world to me. But that's July. Until then I am still honored to be your pastor and I'm still as excited as ever for our work and our ministry to continue. Thank you so much and may God bless you.

Resources for Parents



Altar Flowers

Our altar flowers on Sunday, January 17 are donated in memory of Needham & Mae Pearsall by their five children. In the picture below, Mrs. Pearsall is shown standing next to a tree planted in her honor in 2015.



If you are interested in providing flowers for an upcoming Sunday, please email office@sedgefieldchurch.org, telephone 704-523-0077 or call Clara Hedberg at 704-375-9588. The cost of the flowers is \$40.



2021
LEADERSHIP DAY

Sunday
January 24
2:00 PM



Various church committees and teams will meet virtually Sunday, January 24 for the purpose of organizing and preparing for the upcoming year. *Everyone serving on a committee or team* is asked to attend for this important time of planning for our new church year.

Ways to Give Your Offerings to Sedgefield UMC



Online Through

sedgefieldchurch.org

Make a credit card
or electronic
contribution.



Bank Draft

Set up automatic
contributions
through your
bank's Online
Bill Pay.



Church

Mail your check to:

Sedgefield UMC
2830 Dorchester Pl
Charlotte, NC 28209

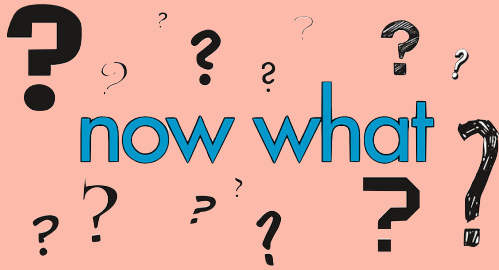


Online Through

wnccumc.org

Make a credit card
or electronic
contribution.

Links to Current Sermon Series



No Way Out

Matthew 4:12-13; Matthew 11:1-6


The Gift of Pain

2 Corinthians 12:7-10

January 17, 2021

Previous services can be viewed at
www.sedgefieldchurch.org/sermons/



Virtual meetings are indicated with this symbol  and are held via Zoom.

To join a Zoom meeting by phone, call

1-312-626-6799.

To connect by computer, go to

www.zoom.us

► **Leadership Day 2021** ◀

Sunday, January 24

2:00 p.m.

Meeting ID: 861 8187 4539





Rev. Jim Brookshire, Pastor
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704-232-4878



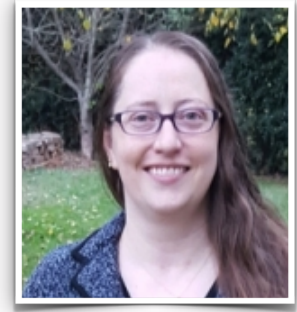
Ron Aldridge
Worship Leader



Mary Jo Bridges
Director of
Children's
Ministry



Bud Davidson
Treasurer



Robin Moore
Nursery Caregiver



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