



*The United Methodist Church
of Garrettsville*

June 2020 Newsletter

A Message from Rev. Rich

Hello to the Church in Exile:

As St. Paul would say long ago in his greetings, “*Grace to you and peace from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.*” Those words are still wonderful. Grace to you and peace... That is my wish to you all. Please do not be startled by the word “*Exile.*” It is actually an appropriate word. Exile does not mean you are in prison or something, but it is also not normal life. We cannot just go where we choose, or do what we choose. In some ways we are still okay, although we are surely lonely. I know that I am. We have been facing this now for 4 months. Many of us have been meeting on Sunday mornings through ZOOM which has been at least a tolerable alternative. But it is still not what we desire, and many of our people are not able to access this.

I went back to read my words from 6 weeks ago. I said then that I had no idea when we might reopen. That is still true today. In June I mentioned that health experts were concerned that things would SPIKE as they say, due to Memorial Day celebrations. It turns out that those words were sadly accurate. I fear for my extended family members living in Florida. Covid cases are currently rising in 39 out of 50 states. The greatest fear is that hospitals would be overrun with people needing intensive care. This is happening in places right now. Even in our little Portage County the cases are rising. After 4 months of fighting this thing, this should not be the case. But it is.

Every week people mention to me that “*Hey... such and such church is meeting now, they have reopened. Why not us?*” There are reports of even UMC churches that have reopened where people will wear masks, stay apart, not sing, and all that, but then at the end of the service people *gravitate together to visit*, which I totally understand. I would **want** to do that too. But there is one simple truth in this: this virus continues to live as it is spread from one person to another. And the only way for that to happen is to be close together. The only way to slow it down is to stay apart and not let it spread. Diseases have been doing this very thing for thousands of years. It is simply what they do.

I need to do a full disclosure here for you all. Our East Ohio Conference has made a decision on something important. They are no longer going to tell us what PHASE we are in (we had been in Phase 2). They are letting us decide what we feel we can safely do. In our area, Nelson and Windham churches were both planning to open on July 19. But now they have changed their minds. They will not resume services in their sanctuaries. I personally believe that to be a wise move. It is difficult, but still wise. The only way to slow this down is to stay away from each other.

As we have not had a Church Council meeting for a while, I am calling for one via ZOOM for July 21 or 28. We have much to discuss. If we were to reopen, I believe we have many things to consider. I now believe that we should keep the Zoom service and the in-person sanctuary service separate. That should not be a problem. We can figure these things out. Something will be worked out.

I am working on more intentional spiritual development resources to be made available for all who might desire them. We do have Upper Room devotional guides still available. But this will be something more. I am seeking permission from a company that went out of business some years ago, so this is a little complicated. But there are some really good materials available. And it is my hope that we can make use of them.

Jill and I urge you to wear a mask when you are inside a building, not for your protection, but for that of everyone else. Please keep your distance. It just takes one party with laughing, happy people to spread the virus out to many others. Please pray for our leaders at all levels of government. Pray for our medical and health workers, as well as those agencies that are specially trained and committed to such troubles as these. And be kind to others. There are too many ugly things in the news. This is where we should be salt in the stew, and leaven in the loaf, so that we have a positive effect on others.

May God grant us wisdom for the facing of this hour.

Rev. Rich Theulis

Daily Prayers for Morning and Evening:

Sunday Morning: You have brought us again to new life, Almighty God, and gathered us in the community of faith to be your people as we work and witness in this world. Feed us today with the presence of our risen Lord Jesus Christ, that we may be bold witnesses in all we say and do, to the glory of your holy name. AMEN.

Sunday Evening: Eternal God, in Jesus Christ you poured out your love for us and claimed us as your own. Keep us secure in your gracious embrace this night and in every tomorrow, by the power of your Spirit, in the name of Christ our risen Lord. AMEN.

Monday Morning: Eternal God, our beginning and our end, be our starting point and our haven, and accompany us in this day's journey. Use our hands to do the work of your creation, and use our lives to bring others the new life you give this world in Jesus Christ, Redeemer of all. AMEN.

Monday Evening: Great God, you bring together what is scattered and mend what is broken. Unite us with the scattered people of the earth that we may be one family of your children. Bind up all our wounds, and heal us in spirit, that we may be renewed as disciples of Jesus Christ, our Master and Savior. AMEN.

Tuesday Morning: Eternal God, open our eyes to see your hand at work in the splendor of creation, in the beauty of human life. Your touch makes this world holy. Help us to cherish the gifts that surround us, to share your blessings with our brothers and sisters, and to experience the joy of life in your presence. We ask this through Christ our Lord. AMEN.

Tuesday Evening: God of glory, no darkness of despair nor gloom of sin can eclipse the light of your love revealed in Jesus Christ. May we shine brightly in serving him, and reflect something of your overwhelming love for the whole world in Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.

Wednesday Morning: God of grace, we praise you for the richness of your love, for you rescue those in peril and ransom the captives. Give us grace to proclaim your mighty acts of redemption in Jesus Christ, in our lives, in our community, in our nation, and throughout the world. Then all will turn again to give you glory and honor. AMEN.

Wednesday Evening: O God, you have brought us through this day to a time of reflection and rest. Calm our souls within us, and give us a sense of your peace that will renew us. Keep us close to Christ that we may be closer to one another because of his wondrous love. In his name we pray. AMEN.

Thursday Morning: Mighty God, you have given us life and all goodness, and you bring us daily to new life in Jesus Christ. Re-create us in Christ's image, and fill us anew with your Spirit, that we may be your new creation and bring about your purpose in this world you love, through Jesus Christ. AMEN.

Thursday Evening: To you, O God, we give up the burdens of this day, trusting your love and mercy. To you, O God, we surrender ourselves, trusting our risen Lord to lead us always in the way of peace, today, tomorrow, and always. AMEN.

Friday Morning: Eternal God, remind us always that you have gone before us through every dark valley, and that Christ walks with us still. Free us from fear that we may be firm in our discipleship. Lead us to stand with all who suffer and to support the cause of justice and goodness in Christ's name. AMEN.

Friday Evening: As you have made this day, O God, you also make the night. Give light for our comfort. Come upon us with quietness and still our souls that we may listen for the whisper of your Spirit and be attentive to your nearness in our dreams. Empower us to rise again in new life to proclaim your Name, and to show Christ to the world. AMEN.

Saturday Morning: Take our lives, great God, and mold us into the image of Jesus. Forgive all waywardness in us, and move us beyond our sin to set afresh with Christ, who is our only way. Give peace to us, to all your children, and to the whole world for which Christ died. AMEN.

Saturday Evening: Inspire us, Holy One, that we may wait expectantly for all you promise, and look forward to new life in Jesus Christ. Keep us moving on life's journey, traveling with our brother Jesus, through every darkness toward the dawn of the Lord's Day. AMEN.

Pray For:

Carson Cooper

Ann Kalina

Melody Norton

Heidi Parazeau

Harriet Singelyn

Barb West



CONTINUING

PRAYERS FOR:

Rich & Jessie Adams

Nancy Baldwin

Fred Bell

Rev. Edgar Brady

Donny Fackler

Nancy Faulkner

Becky Gardner

Mollie Lewis

Melissa McGuire

Joan Mendik

Maxine Nimitz

Roderick Nimitz

Kenny Norris Jr.

Shirley Porter

Reita Silvis

Pam Steinfurth

**For those not mentioned
here but in our hearts.**

**Remember our shut ins:
Pat Shepard**

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

7/01: Jessie & Connie Crate

7/04: James & Diane Irwin

7/30: Marty & Jane Hill

8/04: Chuck & Connie Evans

8/06: Paul & Melinda Ensinger

8/10: Dave & Becky Harrington

8/15: Adam & Kat Berry

8/25: Brandon & Pam Baynes



7/01: Griffin Young

7/03: Hank Osterman

7/05: Leif Hammel

7/06: Ben Ciancio

7/10: Carol Clark

7/17: Clarissa Parizeau

7/22: Helen Manlove

7/25: Iva Walker

7/29: Mike Mikula, Joey Tarnowski

7/30: Connie Crate



8/02: Sally Hammel

8/03: Melody Apthorpe

8/04: Timmy Tarnowski

8/10: Miley Collopy

8/16: Cindy Cooper, Alex Ellerhorst,
Robert Smith

8/17: Kristina Cupples, James Irwin

8/18: Dennis Pavelko Jr, Dennis Powell Jr.

8/21: Jesse Crate

8/22: Van Ellerhorst

8/25: Edgar Berry, Jack Duncan

8/28: Eric Hammel, Rachel Schwan

8/30: Jane Hill

Church Office Hours
are Tuesday &
Wednesday from
9am to noon, thru
the end of July 2020.
Please call and leave
a message. The Sec-
retary will return
your calls.

Office Phone #:
330-527-2055

Rev. Rich is in the of-
fice everyday except
Wednesday.

The door is locked for
security.

Please
ring the doorbell to
gain entry.

Thank you for your
patience

Website:
Garrettsvilleo-
humc.com

**OPPORTUNITIES FOR
MINISTRY AND FELLOWSHIP
PLEASE SIGN INTO ZOOM**

Sundays

9:30 am - Virtual Worship Service

Monday

7:00 pm - Religion in America
Study—Zoom (please contact Rev.
Rich for the #'s and password)

Coronavirus inspiration

www.umc.org

WE PERSEVERE

We've been at this for months. It is difficult, frustrating and sometimes disheartening.

Restrictions are lifted, then reinstated. We move ahead a phase, only to return days later.

As the struggles last longer than we expected, we must continue to care for our neighbors, support our congregations, and check-in with one another. In this way, we “run with perseverance the race that is set before us” (Hebrews 12:1).

Seven tips to combat fear

1. Pray
2. Focus on the positive
3. Find a reason to laugh
4. Take up a new activity
5. Turn off the news
6. Revisit something that comforts you
7. Create a to do list

Vintage Methodist Recipes:

Lemon Whippersnaps

I found this recipe on UMC.org and thought it would be fun to share with you. If you have any vintage recipes that you would like to share, please email/mail to attn: Gale Lane.

Many of us grew up in homes where spiral-bound church cookbooks were a familiar sight. Methodist church cookbooks have been around for more than a hundred years and the recipes and cooking methods offer a time-capsule peek into the kitchens of generations of Methodist families. This 1978 recipe for Lemon Whippersnaps cookies comes from the "Friendly Recipes" Cookbook, published by the Macedonia United Methodist Church in Raleigh, North Carolina.

1 (18.25 ounce) package lemon cake mix

2 cups frozen whipped topping, thawed

1 egg, beaten

1/2 cup confectioners' sugar

Step 1: In a large bowl combine cake mix, whipped topping and egg; mix until well combined. Chill the dough several hours or overnight (or freeze dough wrapped in plastic).

Step 2: Preheat oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C).

Step 3: Form tablespoons of dough into one inch balls and roll them in the confectioners' sugar. Place the cookies on greased or parchment lined cookie sheet a couple inches apart.

Step 4: Bake 10 to 12 minutes until cookies are set, but not browned. Cool on wire rack.

Apple Tree Preschool News

****OPEN REGISTRATION****

2020-2021 School Year

If you or a friend have a 3 - 4 year old who would like to come learn, play and make new friends, for a few hours 3 days a week, check out our preschool.

Location: Garrettsville United Methodist Church

8223 Park Ave. (Next to the YMCA)

For more information:

Phone: (330)527-2055

Email: gumcappletree@gmail.com



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NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

If you would like to submit articles, committee news or announcements for the next newsletter please provide by
August 1, 2020

Email: garretttsvilleumc@frontier.com
Website: garretttsvilleohumc.com

Submission by email is desired , however if email is not an option please feel free to provide a hard copy to the church office.

**Thank You,
Gale Lane, Secretary
330-527-2055**