

Gettysburg United Methodist Church

May 19, 2021

Changes to Worship

In light of recent recommendations from the CDC, Church Council has made the following changes to our policies for Sunday morning in-person worship:

Wearing masks is optional (no longer required) for people who are fully vaccinated, in accordance with CDC guidelines. People who are not fully vaccinated will still be expected to wear masks throughout the service and during their time in the building. Mask wearing for those who are not vaccinated will be on an honor system.

We will continue to practice social distancing, maintaining at least six feet between persons from different households. We will continue our current seating and dismissal practices in the sanctuary.

We will no longer check temperatures as people enter the church, but we will continue to track attendance for possible contact tracing.

Please keep our congregation and our leadership in your prayers as we try to navigate these challenging times to the best of our ability.

Psalm 29

(NRSV)

A Psalm of David.

- 1 *Ascribe to the Lord, O heavenly beings,
ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.*
- 2 *Ascribe to the Lord the glory of his name;
worship the Lord in holy splendor.*
- 3 *The voice of the Lord is over the waters;
the God of glory thunders,
the Lord, over mighty waters.*
- 4 *The voice of the Lord is powerful;
the voice of the Lord is full of majesty.*
- 5 *The voice of the Lord breaks the cedars;
the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon.*
- 6 *He makes Lebanon skip like a calf,*

and Sirion like a young wild ox.

7 *The voice of the Lord flashes forth flames of fire.*

8 *The voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness;
the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.*

9 *The voice of the Lord causes the oaks to whirl,
and strips the forest bare;
and in his temple all say, "Glory!"*

10 *The Lord sits enthroned over the flood;
the Lord sits enthroned as king forever.*

11 *May the Lord give strength to his people!
May the Lord bless his people with peace!*

Meditation

Read Mark 1:16-20; 8:34-38

When I lived in Bedford County, there was a car dealer who ran an unusual advertising campaign. His ads said that he sold driver's seats. The driver's seats were variously priced—some were \$12,000 (this was a number of years ago), some were \$35,000 or \$40,000. And by the way . . . each driver's seat came with a car or a truck attached!

I'm not sure how many more cars the dealer sold because of his campaign, but it was an intriguing concept. Cars usually come as package deals anyway. If you get the moon roof, for example, the car may include some other features you don't really care about—but you get them anyway. When you buy the car you get the whole package, whether you like it or not.

When we decide to follow Jesus, it's a package deal. Deciding to follow Jesus is like putting him in the driver's seat of your life—the rest of you comes along with it. To follow Jesus is to put him in charge of everything. Our lives are no longer our own, for we have been bought with a price (1 Corinthians 6:19-20). Faith doesn't work very well if we

Continued on page 2)

Jesus calls us . . .

(Continued from page 1)

decide to follow Jesus in some areas of our lives but not others. That would be like buying a car with only three wheels. It's all or nothing with Jesus—it's the complete package or no sale at all.

This package deal comes with many things we like—forgiveness of sins, a fulfilling relationship with God, eternal and abundant life, all kinds of joys and blessings, and a Good Shepherd who watches over us. But it also comes with some things we may find more difficult at first—the challenge to love God with all of our heart, mind, soul, and strength (no matter what the cost); and to love our neighbors as ourselves (whether we like them or not). It comes with the expectation that we will worship God on a regular basis, that we will live in fellowship with our sisters and brothers in Christ, and that we will give generously to God's work. It includes working for peace with justice in our world so that all people may have equal opportunity and equal dignity.

It also comes with a mission for each one of us. We no longer decide our own mission in life—we follow Jesus instead. Our individual mission is based on the shared mission of all Christians, but is also unique to us. Mission is part of the package when we decide to follow Jesus—it's not optional, it's required.

Our individual mission always fits into the overall mission that Jesus gave to his people—to love others in his name, to make disciples, and to be his witnesses to the ends of the earth. It's sharing God's love with everyone, and pointing them toward Jesus so they may experience his love for themselves. As The United Methodist Church puts it, it's "to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world."

None of us can accomplish that mission on our own. But God doesn't expect us to. He gives us the Holy Spirit to empower, encourage, and equip us for his work. He puts us together with other Christians who have different gifts so that we can work together to fulfill his purpose.

There may be people who only you can reach with the gospel. There may be people who will only know God's love through you. Perhaps there are needs in

our community that God wants you to address—people who are suffering or oppressed. Maybe God even wants you to change the world. Mission is always part of the package when you put God in the driver's seat of your life.

Once I saw a bumper sticker that read "God is my copilot." At first it sounded good—who wouldn't want to have God as their copilot? But then I thought about it. If you're in an airplane that encounters turbulence, would you want God as the copilot, or as the pilot? If you're riding in a car on a dangerous road, would you want God in the passenger seat, or in the driver's seat? Take some time every morning to ask God to be in the driver's seat of your life, and remember—it's a package deal. Everything's included.

Prayer

Lord God, you created us in your image to live in a loving relationship with you. Yet we turned away from your love, and followed our own will rather than yours. Forgive us, Lord, and turn our hearts once again toward you. Renew in us the presence and power of your Holy Spirit. Take control of every aspect of our lives, and enable us to fulfill the mission you have given us. Teach us to love you with all that we are as we learn to love our neighbors as ourselves.

We pray for your wisdom and guidance throughout these difficult times. Be with those who continue to battle COVID, both here and throughout the world. May your Spirit work through us and through others to meet the needs of the hungry, the homeless, and the suffering. Comfort those who grieve with your loving presence. We pray for peace in our world, especially in Palestine, Israel, and the Middle East. Bring your healing to those troubled lands, and to the hearts of those who thrive on violence.

May we be the light of the world, even as you are the light of our lives; this we pray through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

. . . to follow him.

Exciting News from the Worship Committee: GUMC's Going to Have a Baby!!

Yes, it's true; we're expecting the delivery of a Baldwin "baby" grand piano soon - isn't that grand! Thanks to Pastor Rick Noll—he connected the Worship Committee with a friend of his at St. Paul UMC in Chambersburg, who is selling a circa 1997-1998 Baldwin baby grand. We had first dibs on it and, after inspecting it (and playing it), we recommended that the Trustees authorize the use of Memorial funds to purchase it. The Trustees approved the purchase on May 9th and, after a little negotiating with the seller, we settled on a price of \$5,500.00. The piano is in mint condition. It has been well maintained. The sound is wonderful! The plan is to place it in the chancel behind the organ. That will require the removal of the pew that is up against the wall so that it will fit comfortably.

There will be some additional costs of approximately \$1,600-\$1,800.00 for professional moving, purchasing a climate control system and a piano microphone. We already have about \$1,200.00 pledged to cover those costs. If you are so moved by the spirit to help with these costs, please drop off (or mail) your donation to the Treasurer, Cindy Toussaint, and mark your donation "Baby Grand". We will move the current sanctuary piano to the choir room, the choir room piano to the robe room, and the robe room piano to the Fellowship Hall. We will dispose of the current Fellowship Hall piano (the oldest).

So, that's the news from the Worship Committee. We are excited to add this beautiful instrument to our music ministry inventory. We know that John Day can't wait until it is delivered, so he can use his musical talent to glorify God and lead us in worship. We look forward to a dedication service that will feature this fine instrument providing music for some of our favorite hymns.

Weekly Prayer Concerns

To add someone to this prayer list, please call the church office.

This week's list (as of 5/18/2021) is:

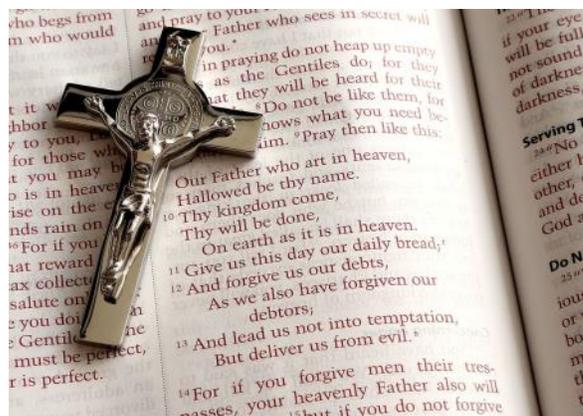
Rodney Truscott
Penny Daugherty
Scott Bowers
Imogene Hunt's brother
Florence Davis
Mary Fleming
Ben Fisher
Family and friends of Don Richmond,
Jackie Rudisill
Rev. Meredith Ball
Pat Kellam
Dale Shade (sister passed away)
Bill Ryder
Judy Woolston

Members in Assisted Living / Skilled Care Homes:

Edith Bulman (SpiriTust Lutheran, York);
Shirley Hammond (Morning Glory, Littlestown);
Missy Legay (Moul Home, York);
Peggy Reynolds (Quincy-cottage, Waynesboro);
Gloria Swingler (Country Meadows-apartment, Mechanicsburg)

Members with Limited Mobility:

Butch Carter, Betty Cook, Joyce Dye, Barbara Evans, Pearl Keckler, Raymond Koenig, Chuck Lutz, Ruth Anna Polley, Wilma Schable, Betty Schulteis, June Spencer



HYMN

Nothing Between

Charles Albert Tindley

1. Nothing between my soul and my Savior,
naught of this world's delusive dream;
I have renounced all sinful pleasure;
Jesus is mine, there's nothing between.

Refrain:

Nothing between my soul and my Savior,
so that his blessed face may be seen;
nothing preventing the least of his favor;
keep the way clear! let nothing between.

2. Nothing between, like worldly pleasure;
habits of life, though harmless they seem,
must not my heart from him ever sever;

he is my all, there's nothing between.
(Refrain)

3. Nothing between, like pride or station;
self or friends shall not intervene;
though it may cost me much tribulation,
I am resolved, there's nothing between.
(Refrain)

4. Nothing between, e'en many hard trials,
though the whole world against me convene;
watching with prayer and much self denial,
I'll triumph at last, there's nothing between.
(Refrain)

Charles Albert Tindley was born in MD in 1851. His father was a slave, but his mother was free. In his youth he moved to Philadelphia and worked for a while as the janitor at Calvary Methodist Episcopal Church. He studied for the ministry, and was ordained in the Methodist Episcopal Church. In 1902 he returned as Pastor to the church he had once served as janitor. During his pastorate, the church grew to a membership of over 7,000, and (over his protests) it was renamed the Tindley Temple Methodist Church in his honor. Although this hymn melody was written by Tindley, it was harmonized by Francis A. Clark. Clark (1851-1933) was a very popular organist and choir director in Philadelphia, and in 1913 became chorister of the Wesley A. M. E. Zion Church there. He also served as staff arranger for Tindley's Soul Echoes Publishing Company.

Tindley wrote *Nothing Between* in 1906 during a very stressful time in his life and ministry. The hymn expresses his strong faith in Christ, and his determination to walk as closely with Jesus as he possibly can. He wants nothing to separate him from the Savior's love and grace. *Nothing Between* challenges us to embrace a similar faith and commitment. It's found in our hymnal as number 373.

Altar Flowers

The altar flowers for Sunday, May 23, are presented by Sharon Brown in memory of Lois Mae.

We greatly appreciate your continued faithful donations to GUMC during this time of continuing change. Your faithful giving is greatly appreciated, and we are very grateful for your continued generosity.

Bulletins / Weekly Mailing

The worship bulletins for this week are sponsored by Ginger Riley in memory of her father, Allen Sloanaker, on the occasion of his birthday.

Since we're not printing worship bulletins at present, the sponsorship will be applied to this week's mailing instead.

Gettysburg United Methodist Church
30 West High Street
Gettysburg, PA 17325
www.gettysburgumc.org

717 334-3032
gettysburgumc@gmail.com