

DAYTON UNITED METHODIST

Mission Statement: "We invite everyone to become disciples of Christ by loving and serving God and actively living out their faith."

Love. Connect. Serve.

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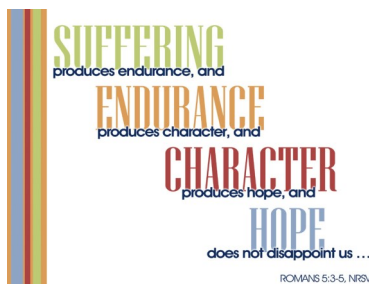
**APRIL
2020**

A Letter from Pastor Jenny

Dear DUMC family, what a crazy time we are living in! I don't know if you're like me, but I keep going in circles with all of this. Sometimes I'm completely at peace and I am able to hold on to all the positives of this social distancing: catching up with friends and family I haven't spoken to in a while; forced to slow down I've had more time for walking, cooking, and reading; for the first time I've been able to watch friends and colleagues preach. But I'll be honest, in other moments I'm weeping over all the things that I miss (like human contact) or all the fun things that are being cancelled. I grieve for the seniors who have lost precious time at school with friends. That brings me to the next emotion, anger. Anger that this is happening. Anger at people who aren't taking this seriously and are putting others in danger. Which then brings me to anxiety, how long with this last? Will it affect someone I love? Then after all this I find myself back to feeling some peace, it's going to end one day and in the meantime God is still in control. Then of course the cycle begins again. This is the series of emotions I'm going through, how about you?

I want you to know that if you are struggling with all of this, it's ok. If you are angry about what you're being forced to give up, that's ok. If you are having trouble being positive all the time, that's ok. If you feel like you don't have it together as well as all your friends on Facebook, that's ok. Allow yourself to experience this time of social distancing and pandemic authentically. Give yourself grace in the moments you're not as patient or optimistic as you would like to be.

This is hard on everyone, whether you're single and wish you had a house full to be quarantined with or whether you have a house full and would give anything for a moment alone. Whether you're able to go into work but are anxious about being around other people or whether you are unable to work and are anxious about when the next paycheck will come. There are a lot of unknowns right now and that is difficult and frightening. Throughout the last week there's been a verse of scripture that keeps coming back to my heart.



Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

-Romans 5:1-5

The familiar words found in Romans chapter 5 remind me that even in times of suffering hope is found. Even in times of pandemic, God is present in this world. Even in times of hardship, God's grace is offered. Even in suffering, hope is produced. As we prepare to celebrate Easter, I think it is a perfect reminder that the suffering of Friday brings hope for us all on Sunday.

So, my friends, hang in there. Let me know if there's anything I can do to make this time a bit easier for you. Stay safe, make good decisions, and know that we may be at Friday right now, but Sunday is coming! **-Pastor Jenny**

During this time of social distancing is you need anything please let me know. We have church members who are more than willing to shop for you if you can't get out, just let me know if there's a need. If you or a loved one are ill or if you have a prayer concern, please contact me. You can reach me by email: jenny.day@comcast.net or telephone: 703-999-4873 (cell) 540-879-1352 (home). Stay safe and healthy and I hope to see you soon!

The Importance of Staying Connected

Connecting on Sundays Online Live

Pastor Jenny is still preaching every Sunday though we are not in the pews. Worship is **streaming live at 10:00 a.m.** on our **YouTube channel: DaytonUMC-VA**. If your internet connection is unreliable for streaming, the video is saved and can be viewed anytime.



Connecting Through Prayer

Pastor Jenny writes, "One of our faithful members brought to my attention the need to feel connected to one another during this time of isolation and in this time of pandemic, the Bishop has called for us to be in prayer. Therefore, I would like for all of us as a church family to **stop whatever we're doing at 2:15 p.m.** (in honor of our church address) **each day and PRAY.**

That way we will be reminded that we are still a church family as we join hands in spirit and come united before God in prayer."

Connecting with Chalk Messages of Hope

Hey friends, next time you're out getting some fresh air and find yourself passing by church, stop. We've put a container of sidewalk chalk on the front steps. Feel free to leave cheerful images and/or positive messages on the parking lot. Or grab some chalk and cover your own driveway/sidewalk. **Let's show the community that DUMC is alive and filled with hope!**



Connecting Through Service to Others



★ *Dayton UMC has been intimately involved with Open Doors*, our city and county local homeless shelter. In the past we have opened our building as a weekly shelter site, prepared meals, donated supplies and volunteered to serve meals and clean up.

In response to the COVID-19 crises, Open Doors has continued to search for ways to live up to its name and keep their doors open. It has not been easy as our local faith communities were required to shutter their facilities. Through a great deal of hard work by a dedicated and compassionate community, Open Doors has been joined in partnership with JMU and the city of Harrisonburg to establish a temporary emergency shelter at Godwin Gym.

And we still need your help! In order to sustain this effort over the likely weeks to come, there are many ways to make an impact – prepare a breakfast/dinner to drop off, food donations, daily supplies, drinks, paper products, even volunteer to serve or clean. Open Doors diligently attempts to adhere to recommended COVID-19 protections and social distancing but people are required to keep this ministry going.

The Open Doors volunteer coordinator, Ashley Rawley, community@valleyopendoors.org, 540-7051908, has the most up-to-date information on our current needs. Please consider how you can help those without a shelter while we all deal with shelter-in-place restrictions.

In His love and blessings, **Graham Witt**



★ *This year's Easter Basket Project* had to be canceled (in its traditional form) but God cleared a path. Debbey Roadcap and Kim Guyer made some calls and connections and found a way to distribute what had been collected!

Harris Gardens and Deer Run Apartments agreed to take items and distribute to their parents for the kids at Easter!! Not only the filled eggs but tiny baskets we've had for a while, candy, and small toys. In addition, Debbey took eggs to Valley Missions in Staunton and Bridgewater Area Inter-Church Food Pantry. Rhonda Johnson is taking them to Mercy House and for distribution at Pence Middle School through the backpack program. So funds and donations are being used to bless so many in our community!

We are thankful to the Lord that He brought this awesome idea to Debbey's heart and mind, that the apartment complex employees have agreed to help, that you all have, once again, been so generous in your donations and monetary contributions and for everyone's willingness to serve.

-Pastor Jenny

The Importance of Staying Connected

Birthdays


- 2 Judy Austin
- 3 Mark Simmers
- 4 Allison Eberly
- 4 Lindsey Stover
- 5 Jennifer Appleton
- 5 Bill Groseclose
- 5 Jake Hamann
- 5 Rita Harold
- 9 Abigail Simmons
- 10 Mona Helsing
- 11 Grayson Harold
- 12 Barry Minnick
- 14 Michael Harold
- 16 Kevin Mitchell
- 19 Karen Short
- 20 Aidan Parsley
- 21 David Culver
- 21 Caleb Hill
- 21 Emma Jackson
- 23 Parker Harold
- 24 Nelson Moyers
- 24 Brooke Simmers
- 27 Michelle Brinkley
- 27 James Nutter
- 28 Mia Simmers



Anniversaries

- 7 Perry & Kathy Suter ('86)
- 10 Aaron & Denise Lough ('10)
- 10 Mitchell & Donna McCormick ('00)
- 16 Ken & Jeanne May ('83)




Sending Our
SYMPATHY
 to Nancy Harper and
 Darlene Newman on
 the death of their niece,
 Barbara Newman.



My life is like a faded leaf,
 My harvest dwindled to a husk:
 Truly my life is void and brief
 And tedious in the barren dusk;
 My life is like a frozen thing,
 No bud nor greenness can I see:
 Yet rise it shall — the sap of Spring;
 O Jesus, rise in me.
 —Christina Rossetti

Other Ways to Connect Without Touching

I remember a song from my youth. Written by Charles F. Brown and published in "Sing 'n' Celebrate!" we sang it often in the 70's. Here are some of the lyrics:

Reach out and touch a friend who is weary;
 reach out and touch a spirit in despair;
 reach out and touch a life torn and dirty,
 someone who is lonely... if you care!
 Reach out and give your love to the loveless;
 reach out and make a home for the homeless;
 reach out and shed God's light in the darkness;
 reach out and let the smile of God touch through you.

Area nursing care facilities and retirement communities are restricting access to the public and following the government orders to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Only employees and a few selected others are being allowed on campuses or in buildings. Some sections are completely locked down. Even the movement of residents is controlled with facilities closing dining rooms, gyms/wellness centers, gathering areas and hair salons. VMRC and Bridgewater RC are even blocking streets.

Please continue to be in prayer over the situation and for those who are currently residents of nursing homes, retirement communities or are homebound. Consider sending cards and letters or making a phone call during this time. For mailing addresses or phone numbers call the church office and we will try to assist.

These are the people we know about. ***PLEASE, if someone is missing contact the church office right away.***

Bridgewater Retirement Community:

Reta Harold
 Dave & Ruth Culver
 Don & Wanda Gault
 Ed Byrd

White Birch Communities:

Mary Francis Koontz
 Geneva Carr

Virginia Mennonite Retirement Community:

Nancy Byrd
 Irene Rebholtz
 Kay Coffman

*These folks are
 at home and are
 either "shut-ins"
 or dealing with
 health issues:*

Judy Estes
 Bonnie Lough
 Elsie Hyde
 Phyllis Ward
 Flo Byrd
 Bill Miller
 Tom Austin
 Hugh Robinson
 Pat Ruminski

Sentara-RMH, Augusta Health and UVA Health offer free greeting card services. You fill out the card online. It is printed at the hospital and delivered to the patient's room within a few hours. Knowing the room number is helpful. Make sure you use legal names. Here are the links:

<https://sentaraecards.com/>
<https://www.augustahealth.com/cheer-cards>
<https://ecards.uvahealth.com/>

The Importance of Celebrating and Sharing

Look at those little lambs! (& the paintings are cute, too!) Thank you, Andrea Nichols, for sharing your talents with our YFF! We heard of the parable of the Lost Sheep and got to touch real lamb's wool. We also assembled snack bags for Open Doors guests. Since our final week of hosting was canceled, Betsy took them to Briery Branch Church of the Brethren for distribution.



A Note from Council Chair, Lena Osborne: The Chili Cook-off and Progressive Hearts Party was great fun. Thank you to Melinda & James Shiflet, Connie Gilmer and Debbie Rasnack for all their work and to Council members for helping and providing desserts. We appreciate our competitors who made 13 different pots of chili - all delicious! Judging and tasting was serious business for those attending. The winners were: Mailee Findley (1st); Lois Lineberry (2nd) and Mary Helen Witt (3rd). They each received a beautiful basket full of useful and fun items (hand painted bowls, gift cards, etc). Melinda did an exceptional job creating the baskets. Elsie Cox and Nancy Harper won Progressive Hearts, with many participants also receiving prizes during the evening.



Stephanie Osborne Finley posted this photo/message on Facebook on March 24th:

“About 3 to 4 years ago Matt got a call from me. I was so excited because I found out that I was able to get peafowl chicks. He built a coop for me that night and has been so patient with me because he knows how happy they make me. Well finally, Blue showed how gorgeous he is and I was able to get some pictures!! Today, I cried tears of happiness because since I was a child I have wanted a peacock. Today Blue was a glimpse of how beautiful the world really is. Anything counts especially in the current situation we are in. Stay safe and healthy friends. Hopefully Blue gives you a little joy with these pics and hoping sometime soon friends can come see him and the rest of the zoo in person!!!”

Shared with permission

Did you know that the peacock is a symbol of Easter? The peacock sheds his feathers annually. Each year the feathers grow back more beautiful and more brilliant in color.

This renewal symbolizes eternal life or resurrection. -from The Newsletter/Newsletter April 2003

VBS 2020 is August 2-6 “Knights of North Castle.”

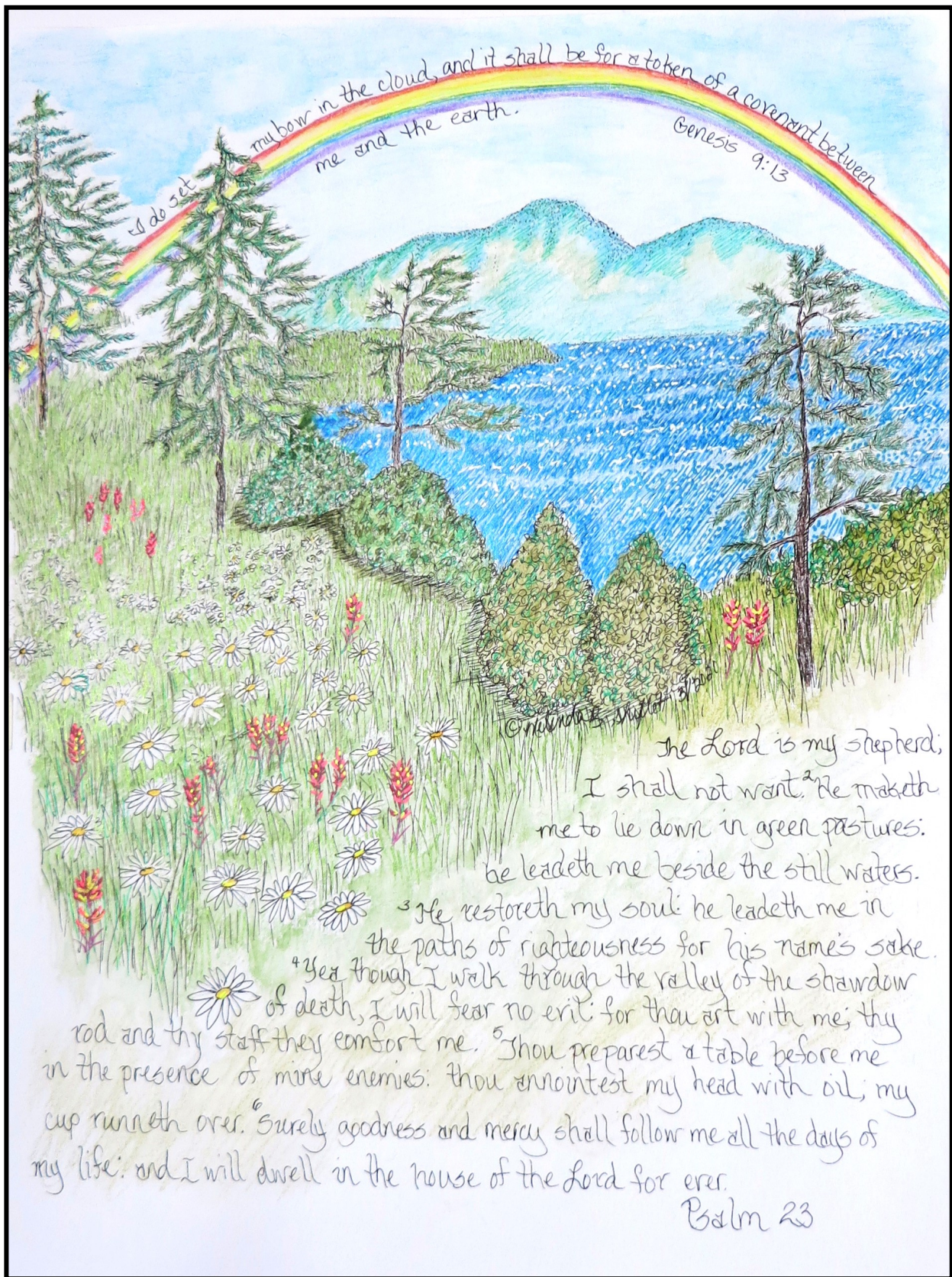
We are very excited about this year's theme and have already started the planning process. We are in need of supplies for decorations. If you are able to help with any of the following contact Mary Ryder (540-607-6286) or Pastor Jenny.

- Large cardboard Boxes -- refrigerator size boxes or bigger
- Oatmeal Containers (*the tall round cardboard type like Quaker*) -- need about 15-20
- Brown Paper Bags -- grocery size; can have writing on them
- Tea Lights -- need about 15-20



April comes from the Latin word, *aperio*, “to open” (bud) because plants begin to grow during this month. It has a number of ‘awareness’ designations - Autism, Abuse Prevention, Diabetes, Pet Wellness - just to name a few. Here are some of the special days that may make you giggle (www.brownielocks.com):

2 National Peanut Butter & Jelly Day	14 National Dolphin Day	25 World Penguin Day
6 Hostess Twinkie Day	16 National Orchid Day	26 Pretzel Day
7 No Housework Day	20 National Cheddar Fries Day	30 Bugs Bunny Day
10 National Siblings Day	23 Talk Like Shakespeare Day	World Immunization Week April 24-30



Church family, feel free to print and share this drawing. It is just my little humble offering of inspiration for these times of uncertainty. -Melinda Shiflet

Treasurer's Report: Jan - Feb 2020 Budget	
Contributions/Income	\$ 42,106.38
Expenditures	\$ 52,604.43
Year-to-Date Budget	\$ 53,678.79
Designated Contributions	\$ 2,025.75
Mortgage Report as of Feb. 29, 2020	
Loan Amount	\$ 650,000.00
Principal payments	\$ 26,056.10
Loan Balance	\$ 623,943.90
Extra payments on principal	\$ 483,667.77 **
** Includes Original + Refinanced Mortgage	

Behind on your pledge/tithe or giving because of missing worship? Consider E-Giving!

Use a checking account, savings account, debit or credit card to quickly and easily make your secure one-time or recurring (weekly or monthly) donation.



Automating your donations permits uninterrupted giving during vacations, illness or weather closure.

Just visit our website www.daytonumc.net or call Mary Beth in the church office for more information.

540-879-2102 or DaytonUMC@comcast.net

Quarterly Statements - In an effort to save postage, only year-end statements are mailed to everyone. However, if you are in need of a first quarter 2020 giving statement, please do not hesitate to request yours from Mary Beth in the church office.

Me getting out of bed at 9:55 to attend church online at 10:00



A Prayer on behalf of the Dayton United Methodist Church Family:

"Heavenly Father, we thank you for your servant, Mary Beth Morris.

You gave her a heart for missions, a gentle spirit, compassion for everyone and wisdom for dealing with tough situations. We are blessed by all of these, daily! Lord, we appreciate her faithfulness to You and to the ministry of DUMC. Amen."

CONTACT information



Now more than ever we need everyone to provide the church with all your contact information. ***We especially want Email addresses.*** Obviously, if you got this newsletter via email, we have it.

If you received this publication in the regular mail, tell us if you use email and share your address, please.

During this time of restriction on public meetings Mary Beth is sending church announcements, birthdays and anniversaries, and prayer requests during the week via email. We don't want you to miss a thing! And remember to contact the church office if you move or change an email address, drop a landline or change a phone number, or experience any happy or sad 'life event.'

**Together we will
Love. Connect. Serve.**

Can't get to worship? Watch it LIVE! Check out our YouTube Channel! **DaytonUMC-VA**



"Like" us on Facebook!

Dayton United Methodist Church @Dayton UMC



Direct questions and submissions for this publication to:
Sally Smith, Editor at DUMCNews@comcast.net
I have a box in the Coffee Social Room, too!
Next Deadline: Sunday, April 26

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