



Emmanuel United Methodist Church

26 West Washington Street, Fleetwood, PA 19522

Web Site: WWW.FleetwoodUMC.org

April 2020

**Due to the Corona COVID-19 epidemic
all church activities scheduled for April
have been cancelled**

Pastor Mark will open the church on Friday mornings from 10 am-12 noon for meditation and reflection. If anyone wants to come to the church and spend some quiet time or pray in the sanctuary or to speak with him in his study they can come at that time. Please use social distancing and the wipes and sprays are available in the church if you go.

Pastor's Corner

God's Love For Us

Many people say "I love God" to express good feelings about the Lord, but Jesus taught that only those who obey God's commands truly love Him. So, what are some actions that show that we love God?

Pray often. Jesus taught that frequent prayer is essential to the Christian life. However, when we pray with wrong motives—ones that center around what we want rather than what God wants—we're not expressing affection for Him. True prayer seeks to determine God's mind in order to carry out His agenda. This kind of prayer, accompanied by an obedient response, says "I love You" to God.

Read the Bible regularly. Since Jesus defined love as obedience, it's essential that Scripture reading be accompanied by application. Otherwise, we're just hearers of the Word (James 1:22).

Serve at church and in the community. If we ourselves choose how to serve instead of obeying the Lord's direction, our efforts are simply good works rather than an expression of love to Him.

God's love for us was demonstrated through the sending of His Son Jesus (1 John 4:9-10). Our obedience to the Father's known will reveals how deeply we care about Him. Take steps each day to show God your love.

*God Bless
Pastor Mark*

April Birthdays

April 3 – Carole Sanders

April 15 – Kristen Stup

April Anniversaries

April 22 – Herman & Peggy deHaan

April 24 – Carole & Glenn Sanders

Disaster Distress Helpline can offer mental health assistance during pandemic

The Rev. Rick Rimert (*right*), the Eastern PA Conference Disaster Response Committee’s Spiritual and Emotional Care specialist, shares this information on mental health assistance available during times of disaster, including the current pandemic. “It is vitally important for churches to clearly proclaim that fear is not the only force that is at work in the world today,” said Rimert, a pastor. “We need to make use of every possible resource to make certain that message is being put out there.”



The Disaster Distress Helpline, 1-800-985-5990, is a 24/7, 365-day-a-year, national hotline dedicated to providing immediate crisis counseling for people who are experiencing emotional distress related to any natural or human-caused disaster. This toll-free, multilingual, and confidential crisis support service is available to all residents in the United States and its territories. Stress, anxiety, and other depression-like symptoms are common reactions after a disaster. Call 1-800-985-5990 or text TalkWithUs to 66746 to connect with a trained crisis counselor.

Join in online for Holy Week Worship, Wednesday April 8

Bishop Peggy Johnson and the Eastern PA Conference Cabinet will lead churches and members in a mid-Holy Week online worship service on Wednesday, April 8, **at 11:30 AM**. The service should last about 45 minutes.



We hope you will join us for this unique, virtual experience.

Friends and families are welcome. Together, we will pause in the midst of Holy Week to remember Jesus' walk to the cross amid those who likely understood what God was doing and those who did not.

We will pray together and remember our connection as sisters and brothers in Christ. You can join us via computer, tablet, smartphone or landline with the Zoom video-conferencing link below. We can host up to 1,000 people for this mid-week service.

We hope you will join us in celebrating the Christ, who is the balm in Gilead and will not leave or forsake us.

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://epaumc.zoom.us/j/766144817> (Click on link)

Meeting ID: 766 144 817

Telephone participants in the Eastern PA region should use: +1 646 558 8656

**Below is Pastor Mark's sermon from March 22nd that was emailed out.
It is repeated here in case you missed it.**

The Peace of God

Pastor Mark A. Dricker D. Min

March 22, 2020

Philippians 4:6-7

2 Timothy 1:7-9 John 14:27-31

Philippians 4:6-7 "Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

2 Timothy 1: 7-9: "For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind."

John 14:27 "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid."

In times of crisis and social disruption, people look to the Church for spiritual guidance and assurance that God is with us, and to be sure: God Is With Us! Even as churches are cancelling worship and moving to online services, the time to be present in our communities is upon us. Recommended practices of social distancing offer new opportunities for us to be the church that is needed in this time. We believe in facts over fear and promote safety and precautions for all including members of our church. Plans continue to be cancelled and events are being cancelled or postponed.

We know that this developing situation is on the minds of our denominational leaders and we pray for them as they provide leadership in their settings, making recommendations for churches in their contexts and providing pastoral care.

Determining when and if to cancel or postpone gatherings is to be undertaken with care and consideration of the unfolding facts, as concerns continue to be heightened in communities where emergency declarations have been made and social distancing has become mandatory. Our Conference is providing and updating resources for the UMC congregations, in work that is ongoing as we continue to minister one with the other during this time.

One of the challenges of social distancing is isolation. How do we exercise more care for one another? This is a time to consider the ways we can show love for our neighbors within the context of this current health crisis. Let's pray for each other. Let's look out for one another, demonstrate care for one another, and simply check in on one another. A phone call has great meaning and provides a lifeline for those who are alone.

Sometimes what looks like a bad thing—shutting our church's doors due to a pandemic, say—turns out to have some unexpected bright side of caring for each other

That's not to trivialize COVID-19. It's done enormous damage here and abroad, and experts agree worse lies ahead. None of us knows whether we'll catch it, or how sick we'll get if we do. People are laid off. Medical personnel are stressed. The stock market has lost its mind. It's bad.

Nonetheless, faith says God will make a way. Someway. Somehow.

Yes, I know. It's reasonable to ask why, if God can redeem good from bad events, he doesn't just stop the bad events to begin with. If he's that powerful, why didn't he prevent this coronavirus? Then, nobody would have to suffer.

Great question. I don't know the answer. The mysteries of suffering and evil are as old as the book of Job. If you figure them out, let me know.

For the moment, I stand by my statement. Even in terrible situations, God remains present with us, working in ways large and small for our good and his glory.

Let me point out a couple of things. One, God doesn't want us to live in fear. And two, God has simultaneously given us sound minds. Don't fret, but do use common sense.

2 Timothy 1: 7-9: *"For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind."*

Exactly right. Indeed, I think there are multiple points to be made from that verse:

- We're to be people of faith, not people driven by fear. Anxiety shouldn't become our habitual state of mind, even in a pandemic. We can instead look for God's merciful hand surrounding us—and expect encouraging surprises.
- Also in that vein, God has given us power. Jesus said, "Let **NOT** your heart be troubled." To some extent, fear is a choice. We have the power to not be derailed by it. We can resist the instinct to panic. We can trust the Lord.
- We've been given a spirit of love. In crises, we can share God's compassion. We're not to hoard. We're not to barricade ourselves in bunkers. We're to reach out.

If we're healthy, we can deliver food to an at-risk person. We can call those who are isolated and encourage them. We can resist going into crowded places where we might without knowing it pose a risk to those who are weaker.

▪ We can use sound judgment. Faith and common sense don't contradict each other. Faith and common sense balance each other. We must take recommended measures to protect ourselves, such as avoiding crowds, washing our hands, not touching our faces. None of that shows a lack of faith. God gave us brains; he meant for us to use them. Facts are facts; we shouldn't deny them.

But within the unknown and unpleasant, remain of good cheer. This pandemic, like all pandemics, will pass. God will still be God when it's over. God is listening every minute of every day. He knows where you're hurting. ...He hears your questions. When we lift our arms up in prayer God will come to us, And the calm will come as we rest in the quiet assurance that God is with us, and will never abandon us.

Bishop Johnson reminded us in her March 13 Pastoral Letter: *"There is ministry to be done in all situations, and the church should especially be 'the Body of Christ' at this critical time."*

AMEN

In closing, please say this prayer.

Holy God, always present with us, we are mindful of these times in which we live. Uncertainty, anxiety, and fear are present among us as we listen to and care for one another in these days. We ask that your peace and healing presence be with us, as we pray for and hold each other in love. We ask your guidance and direction as we live out your command to love one another as we are called to love you. In the name of the one who has called us and prepared us for these challenging days, we pray. Amen.

Prayer Concerns for March

Please remember the following members in prayer

**Catherine Lenhart, Eleanor Wolf, Nancy O'Rourke, Todd Becker, Herman deHaan
David and Trisha McKay for the loss of David's mother, Barbara McKay who passed away
suddenly last week.**

A note on your church Giving and Finance during this crisis

Please remember that we hope to be able to continue to pay salaries and utilities, so please mail or drop your giving envelope directly in the front door mail slot (while you are out exercising.) Please note that your envelopes are designed for mailing! Even if you cannot give your full offering, every little bit will help to offset costs. We do have some funds available but if there is no income we will have to make some crucial decisions in the weeks to come.

Also being home during this Corona Crisis you are probably doing shopping on line. Please see the note on using Amazon Smile Charity below to learn how you can be helping your church while shopping using Amazon!

Smiles for April

In this time of great concern over the virus this cartoon may be particularly relevant.



Children Are Quick

TEACHER: Why are you late? STUDENT: Class started before I got here.

TEACHER: John, why are you doing your math multiplication on the floor? JOHN: You told me to do it without using tables.

TEACHER: Glenn, how do you spell 'crocodile?' GLENN: K-R-O-K-O-D-I-A-L' TEACHER: No, that's wrong GLENN: Maybe it is wrong, but you asked me how I spell it. (I Love this child)

TEACHER: Donald, what is the chemical formula for water? DONALD: H I J K L M N O. TEACHER: What are you talking about? DONALD: Yesterday you said it's H to O.

TEACHER: Winnie, name one important thing we have today that we didn't have ten years ago. WINNIE: Me!

TEACHER: Glen, why do you always get so dirty? GLEN: Well, I'm a lot closer to the ground than you are.

TEACHER: George Washington not only chopped down his father's cherry tree, but also admitted it. Now, Louie, do you know why his father didn't punish him? LOUIS: Because George still had the axe in his hand.....

TEACHER: Now, Simon, tell me frankly, do you say prayers before eating? SIMON : No sir, I don't have to, my Mum is a good cook.

TEACHER: Clyde, your composition on 'My Dog' is exactly the same as your brother's... Did you copy his? CLYDE: No, sir. It's the same dog. (I want to adopt this kid!!!)

TEACHER: Harold, what do you call a person who keeps on talking when people are no longer interested? HAROLD: A teacher

TEACHER: Clyde , your composition on 'My Dog' is exactly the same as your brother's.. Did you copy his? CLYDE : No, sir. It's the same dog. (I want to adopt this kid!!!)



Do You Shop on Amazon?

Please use AmazonSmile Charity and Help Our Church!

This is a reminder that if you shop on AmazonSmile.com you could be helping get donations for Emmanuel UMC. Amazon will donate 0.5% of all orders made through AmazonSmile and it is very simple to register yourself and your charity as Emmanuel. AmazonSmile.com is a website operated by Amazon with the same products, prices, and shopping features as Amazon.com. The difference is that when you shop on **AmazonSmile**, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products to the charitable organization of your choice. **Every item available for purchase on www.amazon.com is also available on AmazonSmile (smile.amazon.com) at the same price.** You will see eligible products marked "Eligible for AmazonSmile donation" on their product detail pages.

Follow the instructions on the link below and every time you shop using Amazon you will be helping your church! Shop 'til you drop and make sure you are registered through AmazonSmile! **Be sure to always start your Amazon Shopping at [smile.amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com/gp/help/customer/display.html?nodeId=201365340) to support Emmanuel United Methodist Church.** <https://www.amazon.com/gp/help/customer/display.html?nodeId=201365340>

Reminder - Newsletter Deadline— If you have **articles or humor items** for the May Newsletter be sure to email them your newsletter editor, Dick Tracy, at dtracy@ptd.net or call or text him at 610-207-2016 **not later than Tuesday April 28th.** **We are always looking for articles/photos stories or jokes so PLEASE email me with anything you feel appropriate to share!**