



South End United Methodist Church

Nashville, Tennessee

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

Be strong, and let your heart take courage, all you who wait for the Lord.

(Psalm 31: 24)

As I write this short reflection for this newsletter, I am struck by the fact that I may not see any of you gathered together in the sanctuary, sharing in worship, in the way we are accustomed to being with each other. It saddens me.

The last few months have been an upending of all of our lives, each with unique experiences and yet some stresses are held in common. One commonality is the emerging realization that our current circumstances (pandemic, serious financial downturn and a time of social and racial reckoning) are not going to simply go away in another few days or weeks.

We are in a period of unprecedented change and the future ahead is not well defined or even singly hoped for. We are faced with continual adaptation and for many of us that has brought about fatigue and loneliness and even fear, at least at times and to some degree.

Several of us have been reading and discussing a book written by Adam Hamilton, entitled *Unafraid: Living with Courage and Hope in Uncertain Times* (2015). Hamilton reflects on the role of fear in our lives, its necessity to alerting us to danger, our tendency to allow fear to overwhelm us at times and the place of faith in overcoming fear. Yet he reminds us that ... "courage is not the absence of fear; instead it is doing what you feel you should do, or what you long to do, despite the fear. As you press through your fear, you live a life of courage and hope." (p. 9)

This is certainly our time and place in history to live as witnesses of Jesus' grace and hope. Jesus calls us to love God with all of our being, love ourselves because we are children of God and love our neighbor (who God has placed among us) as ourselves. Such a call is most needed in the midst of uncertainty!

The psalmist reminds each of us to be strong and let your heart take courage!

Yours in Christ,

Ann Cover

NEWS from Our Staff Parish Relations Committee:

Our Administrative Assistant and Housekeeper, Gerrie Grimsley, will be leaving these positions at the end of July. The Staff Parish Committee decided at our June 6 meeting that the Administrative Assistant position should be transitioned for two months (August and September) with a person from the congregation. This person would help Rev. Ordnung learn the people of the church and the details of the position, as well as give him time to discern his particular needs in the office.

If you are interested in this two-month, part-time (20 hour) Administrative Assistant position, please contact the church office no later than June 30 by email (office@southendumc.org) or by phone (leave message at 615-833-2077), and you will be contacted.

Applications for the permanent position will be taken in September after the job description is re-evaluated, per Rev. Ordnung's needs.

The housekeeping position, to begin in August (depending on Covid 19 practices), requires about four hours per week with occasional extra hours in special circumstances. You may email or phone with interest in this position, also.

ANNOUNCEMENT

South End UMC Task Force for In-person Worship

- 1) We will **continue** recording and posting our **Online Worship** services for the foreseeable future.
- 2) We are finalizing plans for a

(Pilot) In -person Worship Service

8:00 a.m.

Sunday June 28, 2020

an OUTSIDE gathering

on the lawn of the Fellowship Hall

and extending onto a portion of the parking lot at top of the hill

(No indoor plans for the service - in case of rain)

- 3) **In order to accommodate as many people as possible with utmost safety—**
the Task Force is inviting **up to 50 people** from the congregation to participate,
to be willing to adhere to the guidelines, which have been given thorough consideration by this task force,
and **to be flexible** with those in leadership on that Pilot Sunday, knowing that we may be making changes to
improve the experience as we move forward:
 - a) Please **register** for the service by emailing office@southendumc.org or by leaving a voice message on the office phone (615) 833 – 2077.
You will receive a confirmation of your reservation.
 - b) **Face masks** will be required of us all.
(We will have extra cloth masks if you need to use one or forget yours.)
 - c) Please bring your own **folding chairs** or blanket.
(There will be some metal folding chairs available as needed.)
 - d) There will be **hand sanitizer** available, but if you bring some of your own that is great also!
 - e) **Ushers** will greet you at **both entry stations** to the worship space (from the parking lots on both sides of Fellowship Hall). They will help you with seating and hand out paper bulletins.
 - f) The worship service will last **about 30 minutes** and will involve minimal singing. Folks will need to keep face masks in place during singing.
 - g) The **worship leaders** will be positioned **on the porch** of the Fellowship Hall and there will be a microphone/audio system in use.
 - h) **Offering plates** will be easily accessible, so that no one is asked to pass the plates between people.
 - i) We will **NOT provide transportation with the church bus** for this first Sunday, but will decide when and how that assistance will resume.
 - j) Finally, **we ask that you come with the idea that each of us needs to be mindful of protecting ourselves and everyone else present.**

Please refrain from hugging and shaking hands.

Please share in conversations from a respectable distance (at least 6 feet) when catching up with folks you have missed seeing for so many weeks.

Respectfully submitted,

SEUMC Task Force on In-Person Worship

[Rick Rains, Earnie Hickerson, Jim Kirby, Joe Jackson, Rob Dodd, Irene Marshall, Gail Sanders, Linda Dunbar and Ann Cover]

Our Summer Food Program of past years has become simply the Food Program!

We are consistently serving 16 – 20 families a week (mostly referred by the neighboring schools) and offering them a significant amount of food supplement.

To date we continue to purchase dried beans and rice from Second Harvest Food Bank as needed. The United Methodist Women and others are purchasing canned fruit weekly, and we are able to “shop” weekly at the Second Harvest warehouse to bring to the church hundreds of pounds of food that we know families in our community will use and appreciate – all at no cost to the church! Examples of such are frozen meat, fresh eggs or milk, yogurt, cheese, day old bread, 5 lb bags of flour, cereal and the like.



Green beans from the garden will be added to the food offered in the next 10 – 14 days.

Carol Braden, Robert Dodd and Eli and Isaac Crouse have worked with Ann Cover in picking up this food on Wednesdays. Diane Hickerson and Ann Cover are responsible for its distribution at the church on Wednesday afternoons. Irene and Don Marshall deliver food to our families on Thursdays along with books and activities and Sunday School material that is prepared by Irene and Brenda Nance.

Thanks to All!

The Good Neighbor Fund Update for April and May 2020

As many people have been very negatively impacted by the loss of jobs or of recent underemployment, and due to the heightened generosity of many people (including some gifts from folks outside of the congregation), the donations to the Fund in these two months totaled \$11,010 and \$10,849 were given to 13 families for assistance with rent, utilities, co-pays for medications, phone bills, car tags and other pressing bills.

In addition, several individuals have contributed significantly to the Pantry (food and toiletries) in the last several weeks.

Thanks to All!