



The Twig Bender

May 2020

Our Ministry of Prayer



Levi Cox

Karina Livingston

Jean Mowatt

Raymond Ritchie

Roger Robillard

Brenda Shuler

the Family of Dot Thomas

Catherine Wallace

Joanne Watch

All Those Affected by the COVID-19 Virus

Join Us for Virtual Worship

By Steve Stalnaker

As we go to press, the Virginia governor has extended his “stay at home” edict through June 10, so it looks like we’ll continue to worship virtually, at least through the middle of next month.

The folks of the Greenwood/Laurel Park UMC Charge are virtually worshipping every Sunday at noon Eastern Daylight Saving Time **on Zoom** or on the telephone (*see the article on page 3*).



All of you, in Virginia and elsewhere, are invited to join us for virtual prayers, fellowship and worship. You’re also invited to join us every Wednesday morning from 6 to 6:15 a.m. for a devotional and community prayer — also on Zoom or on the phone, but with different IDs and passwords — *again see the article on page 3*.

It’s important, particularly in this time of quarantine, that we stay in touch with each other. Our virtual worship and prayer call are a vital part of this. These virtual gatherings are not as good as face-to-face, in-person worship, but they’re much better than not meeting and not knowing what’s going on and how each of us are getting along.

Remember one of the things Jesus told us: “For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am

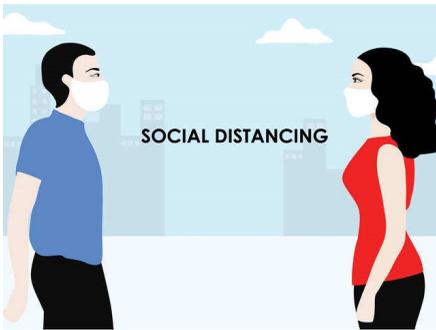
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From the Pastor

Remain Hopeful in God



At the time this article is published it will be almost 8 weeks since we were last together in-person in worship services at both churches—Greenwood and Laurel Park. Almost two months of social distancing and quarantine and it does not seem like we are any closer to a solution to this pandemic, but God.

I trust God's authority. And because I trust God, I have decided to remain hopeful, regardless of what things look like and the information and commentary we see and hear in the news and media. The reason being is my hope is in God through Jesus the Christ.

You may say this is easier said than lived, but it can be as easy as a prayer, meditation, the reading of Scripture and hearing or singing a song that reminds me of in whom I believe. But I have to be intentional about practicing the discipline of being hopeful. If I find myself becoming anxious, I stop and pray and turn my music on. If I begin to feel restless, I stop and pray and turn my music on. If I feel myself slipping back into old habits or feeling sad, I read Scripture, meditate and pray. I pay attention to what I am feeling, acknowledge it and press my way into God's presence.

Psalms 16 reminds me it is in the presence of the Lord I can find fullness of joy. It also reminds me when I keep the Lord always before me, my body can rest secure.

(Continued on page 8)

*Our May Communion
Offering Goes to the*
CARITAS



Worship, Pray, Study Online



During the ongoing quarantine, expected to last through the middle of June, the Greenwood/Laurel Park charge will “gather” via an online meeting service called Zoom for virtual Sunday worship, community prayer and a Bible Study.

Weekly **Virtual Worship** will be every Sunday at noon. Readers can link to the “meeting” on Zoom at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82957101589?pwd=aEtEUk91VmNhQlIVZWpGMEVLSHhqdz09> or dial +1-301-715-8592. The meeting ID is 829 5710 1589 with password 929829. Virtual worship services will also continue on **Facebook Live** at

<https://www.facebook.com/gumcva/> <https://www.facebook.com/laurelparkumcva/>
<https://www.facebook.com/josette.l.franklin>

We will continue our **Virtual Prayer Call** every Wednesday, 6 to 6:15 a.m. on Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85113744202?pwd=cTUrnjVVGK3NXM1hBTUV4OUVjS2FIZz09> or dial +1-301-715-8592. Meeting ID: 851 1374 4202 and Password: 452446.

Pastor Josette will lead a **Virtual Bible Study** beginning Thursday, May 7 at 6:30 p.m. on Zoom at : <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86314338951?pwd=NTdoUGk3S1MzYXFtR1pEbk5oUG1GZz09> or dial in +1-301-715-8592; meeting ID: 863 1433 8951, password: 239754. Study title and more info coming soon.

Important Notes:

- While the **dial in number is the same** for each of these three “meetings” the **video link, the meeting identifier and the password is different** for each one.
- You **do not need a computer or video to join** any of these “meetings.” You only need to dial +1-301-715-8592, enter the appropriate meeting ID and password and listen in.
- **You don’t need to “be on Facebook”** to watch or listen to the virtual worship on Facebook Live. If you have a computer, simply go to one of the Facebook links shown above. You don’t need to download anything, just watch or listen in your favorite Internet browser.

Zoom is the leader in modern video communications, with an easy, reliable system for video and audio meetings. Primarily developed for businesses, Zoom is being used extensively during the quarantine by all sorts of organizations to meet.

Aggie's Attic Has Broad Reach

By Linda Walker

Aggie's Attic, a thrift store mission project of Laurel Park United Methodist Church, is currently closed because of the COVID-19 pandemic. This is a good time to review the wonderful work done for the past ten years by Agnes (Aggie) Dalton and the volunteers.

In 2019, through store sales, yard sales and contributions, they took in over \$68,000. To run the store, they had expenses for rent, insurance, supplies, and utilities like electricity and water. They were able to carry out their mission to provide low-priced items to members of the community who need them while donating all net proceeds to worthwhile area charities.

Here are some of the people they helped:

- **Three elementary schools** – Holladay, Lakeside, and Maude Trevvete. The Attic gave them \$18,377 worth of backpack items (weekend meals for 42 children), snacks, and holiday gift cards. They also gave them \$900 in discretionary cash for things like new shoes or money to enable children to attend field trips.
- \$8,774 in donations for **families in need** (like electric bill payments).
- \$6,000 for six scholarships for students at the **Hermitage Technical School**.
- Clothing, books, CDs, kitchen supplies, etc. to **Goodwill**.
- **United Methodist Family Services** (UMFS) – luggage, bingo/birthday prizes, and Easter gifts.
- School supplies to UMFS **Charterhouse School Drive**.
- 300 pounds of food donations for **LAMB's Basket** (a food pantry).
- Clothing, furniture, kitchen and household items to **Social Services**.



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Your Feedback on Virtual Worship

Last month, after the April 19 virtual worship service, we sent an email blast asking for feedback about that service. The email blast went to every email address we have for the Greenwood/Laurel Park Charge Family.

The response was great; we appreciate all the feedback. Everyone agreed that:

- **Pastor Josette is doing a great job**, under unusual circumstances, of keeping the charge family in contact with each other.
- **Simultaneous “broadcast”** on Facebook Live and the conference call line is the best way to conduct our virtual worship services.
- Everyone on the conference call line, *and we mean **everyone***, needs to remember to **mute their phones**.

Muting is important because all the worshippers' phones, Josette's phone and Facebook Live aren't always synchronized, so there's echoes and overlap, as well as some background noise. All these distract from our worship experience. Most phones these days have a mute feature, but if yours doesn't, remember that you can press star six (*6) to both mute and un-mute your phone. Let's let Pastor Josette do the online singing.



In our weekly Wednesday prayer call, muting is also important. Everyone should mute their phones unless they're adding a prayer request or an announcement.

Again, we appreciate everyone's feedback and constructive criticism and, going forward, we solicit your inputs on our virtual worship services. We anticipate continuing virtual worship at least through the first half of June.

We noted that several people commented that they "weren't on Facebook," so they couldn't see the live broadcast. **You don't need to "be on Facebook"** to watch/listen to the virtual worship. If you have a computer, go to the Facebook link Pastor Josette sends out in her pre-worship email; you don't need to download anything, Facebook won't steal your identity, and you won't become a computer nerd.

Or dial in and worship on your telephone: **your choice**.

Despite Pandemic, Expenses Go On

By Nancy Lloyd

Ed. Note: this article is a reprint from last month's newsletter because we still have expenses. Giving still isn't what it needs to be to meet those expenses and to sustain our missions.

Greenwood's expenses must be paid, even though state restrictions prohibit in-person services. If possible, we need everyone to continue their regular offerings to the church during this trying time.



There are three ways you can do this:

- Mail your checks to the church. During this time the mail is being collected from the mailbox in front of the church Monday through Saturday soon after it is delivered.
- Bring your offering envelope to the church during the office volunteers' regularly scheduled hours, Tuesday — Friday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- Or use the new Cash App. Greenwood's tag is \$GUMCVA.

Thanks for helping Greenwood Church meet our obligations on a timely basis.



Greenwood's Women's Circles

The **Ruth Circle** and **Willing Workers Circle** will not be meeting in May, due to the Pandemic lock-down.

While the Ruth Circle's Chocolate Easter Eggs were deferred due to the quarantine, they intend to make these delicious filled-chocolate confections once the ban is lifted when they will be called "Celebration Eggs" to celebrate the end of the quarantine.



After School Update

ASM Kids Enjoy Short Month

By Porter Schermerhorn

Ed. Note: this article was unfortunately bumped from last month's Twig Bender due to the excess of articles relating to the ongoing pandemic. We present it here because news about this important Greenwood Ministry is always relevant.



March was a short month for the After School Ministry, but rewarding as ever, what with our usual great lineup of supervised play, tasty snacks, Bible study and service projects. Our service project for March was collecting items for the UMCOR hygiene kits.

Greenwood's After School Ministry (ASM) closed on March 13 due to the Coronavirus Pandemic. As everyone is well aware, Henrico County Schools are closed until the end of this school year, so our After School Ministry will not reopen until September 2020.

It was still a good year, though, despite its shortness. In addition to our other activities, there was a special focus on helping others as well as on music.

Everyone connected with the After School Ministry prays for you the best of health, and every blessing, during this difficult time.



Greenwood's Vision

Loving

»

Growing

»

Serving

Learning to love and connect with God and People

Acquiring tools for being transformed into the image of Christ

Participating in church ministry and community outreach

Invite Jesus in and Follow Him

(Continued from page 2)

Today I want to encourage us. Jesus is with us. We can cast our cares on him. The Holy Spirit reveals God through Christ to us when we invite the Spirit into those desperate spaces where our emotions and thoughts can drown us if we do not invite the Spirit to dwell with and in us.

Every moment of every day we must decide to be hopeful. It requires faith, discipline, and intentionality. Where the Spirit of the Lord is there is liberty and freedom to experience love and joy in this season.

Don't give away your power to experience the presence of God through Christ. Don't be consumed by feelings and emotions, for these things lie to us and keep our minds from the perfect peace that Jesus the Christ wants us to have as God's children.

Acknowledge your current situation and head space and decide to invite Jesus in and follow Him. Lay down every weight and burden at the foot of the cross knowing that, because Jesus lives, you and I can face today and tomorrow with hope. And despite what it looks like, He is in the midst of this pandemic with us.

No disease or virus or anything that was, is, or is to come can separate us from the love of God found in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen and Hallelujah!

Pastor Josette L. Franklin



Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.

The people of The United Methodist Church®



May Eating

Because of the ongoing COVID-19 (Corona) virus pandemic quarantine, **Fellowship Dinners, FunRaisers Bag Lunches and Men's Breakfasts** are suspended until the quarantine is lifted. Watch the church website, Facebook page and the weekly bulletins for updates.



Don't Miss Virtual Worship

(Continued from page 1)

there among them" (*Matthew 18:20, NRSV*). This alone is a good reason to join in virtual worship and the prayer call. Another good reason for joining worship, either in-person or virtually, is that it supports two of the three components of our charge's newly revised vision:

Loving >> Growing >> Serving

Attendance supports "loving" because, in worship, you learn to love and connect with God and people, and it supports "growing" by helping you acquire the tools for being transformed into the image of Christ.



Another advantage of virtual worship and conference call prayer is that I get to attend "church" in my cutoffs and flipflops – and you can, too.

You don't have to be a computer nerd or even have a computer to join the virtual worship since the service is also on the telephone (*see article on page 3*).

Also, even though we're presently not meeting in-person, you should still be giving your regular offerings to support the church. See the article on page 6 for ways you can give while we're locked-down.

If you've missed any of Pastor Josette's virtual worship sermons, they're available on You Tube at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCrIE295Ee1SNQ-T4WA67Yig>.

So, won't you join us in virtual worship, during this quarantine period? And, after COVID goes away or is abated enough that we can again get together, join us at in-person worship services every Sunday, for the same reasons we already mentioned.

See you (or hear you, for now) in church.



Mower Ready for Summer?

Downloaded from Consumer Reports

If the relatively mild weather we've enjoyed lately continues, you may find your lawn waking up earlier than usual. So, this might be a prime time to get your lawn mowers or lawn tractors ready so they'll start when you need them.



For an electric mower, just sharpen the blade and charge the battery. A gas mower, particularly one that wasn't winterized, will need more before its first run of the season.

After a season of idleness, your mower needs to have its **engine oil refreshed**. Consult your owner's manual to see whether you must change the oil completely or just top it off. With other models, you'll need to change the engine oil entirely. Follow the manufacturer's instructions on emptying oil and adding new. A tractor needs an oil change as specified in your manual.

Make sure your mower has **fresh fuel**. Don't start right away a mower with unstabilized gasoline leftover from last season. Stale fuel could create problems that require you to drain the lines. Rather, remove that old gas from the tank using a turkey baster dedicated to the task. Then fill the tank with fresh fuel and stabilizer. If you winterized the gas that last fall, you don't have to do anything special. Assuming there's sufficient fuel, your mower should start right up.

Dull blades rip rather than slice grass, and that makes your mower work harder. You can remove the blade yourself and take it to a hardware store or other outdoor equipment retailer for sharpening. To remove your the blade, wear heavy leather gloves, remove the spark plug wire, and jam in a short 2x4 to keep the blade from turning as you loosen the bolts. Even tractor blades should be sharpened three times a year. If you have a battery mower, remove the battery before removing and sharpening the blade or blades.

Mind the Electrical. Change your spark plug about every 100 hours of operation. If not, it can affect engine startup and overall performance. If you don't know when

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Aggie's Attic Reaches Out

(Continued from page 4)

- Over \$4,500 to other charities and missions including Lakeside Rescue, Heart Havens, Henrico Christmas Mother and Greenwood's After School Mission.

Once the COVID-19 pandemic is past, Aggie's Attic will be back in business. At that time you will be able to help by donating gently-used household items and purchasing items there.

The Attic is located at 2320 Hungary Road, Henrico, VA 23228, in the Laurel Park Shopping Center – telephone number (804) 262-5054. Aggie encourages us to keep an eye on their Facebook Page (<https://www.facebook.com/Aggies-Attic-288839537890110/>) to watch for upcoming special events.

Please pray for God's continued blessings on this fine organization.



Be Prepared – Read the Scriptures May Lectionary Readings

May 3	Acts 2:42-47; Psalm 23; 1 Peter 2:19-25; John 10:1-10
May 10	Acts 7:55-60; Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16; 1 Peter 2:2-10; John 14:1-14
May 17	Acts 17:22-31; Psalm 66:8-20; 1 Peter 3:13-22; John 14:15-21
May 24 Ascension Sunday	Acts 1:1-11; Psalm 47; Ephesians 1:15-23; Luke 24:44-53
May 31 Pentecost	Acts 2:1-21; Psalm 104:24-34, 35b; 1 Corinthians 12:3b-13; John 7:37-39

Get Your Mower Ready for Summer

(Continued from page 10)

you last changed it, do it before using the mower. An electric mower, has no spark plugs, but you'll need to charge battery.



Change or Clean Filters. A dusty air filter won't prevent your gas-powered mower or tractor from starting, but a clean one makes your engine run more efficiently. Tractors have a fuel filter, too. Check your manual for the proper maintenance schedule and procedure.

Food Donation Connection

May Pick Up Rotation

Because of so many people out of work we have been having more to come and pick up food. If you would like to donate canned goods or boxed goods it would be really appreciated. You can bring them to the church office on Tuesday - Friday. The hours are 9 a.m.— 1 p.m.



Lets be in prayer for all of the people picking up the food to give out on Fridays and all of the people picking up the food.

Wednesday, April: 29: Charley Banks; Thursday, April 30: Lewis Daniel; Friday, May 1: Ray and Carolyn Smith.

Wednesday, May 6: Jean Mowatt and William Gibbs; Thursday, May 7: Lewis Daniel; Friday, May 8: Brenda and Harry Shuler.

Wednesday, May 13: Charley Banks; Thursday, May 14: Lewis Daniel; Friday, May 15: Adamarye and Riley Patteson.

Wednesday, May 20: Jean and William; Thursday, May 21: Lewis Daniel; Friday, May 22: Carolyn and Ray Smith.

Wednesday, May 27: Charley Banks; Thursday, May 28 Lewis Daniel; Friday, May 29: Brenda and Harry Shuler.



Greenwood Church Family Birthdays

Izabel Stalnaker	5/2	Lathan Shuler	5/13
Bob Stapleton.....	5/4	Mary Walker.....	5/19
Kendra Thomas	5/7	Bob Smith.....	5/28
Patricia Rios.....	5/7	Steve Stalnaker.....	5/30
Jeremiah Frazier.....	5/11		

Anniversaries

Adamarye & Riley Patteson	5/2
Bobby & Jackie Schultz	5/8



*Don't see your birthday or wedding anniversary in The Twig Bender and would like to have us publish it? Send your dates to admin@gumcva.org or call the church office at 804-266-5341; likewise, let us know if you'd like your birthday or anniversary **re-moved**.*



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Greenwood UMC — May 2020



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
May 31 is Pentecost so wear something red that Sunday, wherever or however you worship!						1 Space Day 6 p.m. Free Food 	2 Kentucky Derby Day 
3 Noon: Virtual Worship	4 Star Wars Day (May the 4 th be with you!) 	5 Cinco de Mayo Nat'l Teacher's Day 	6 Nurses Day 6 a.m. Prayer Call 	7 National Day of Prayer 6:30 p.m. Bible Study 	8 V.E Day (1945) Military Spouses Day 6 p.m. Free Food 	9 National Train Day 	
10 Mother's Day Noon: Virtual Worship 	11 Eat What You Want Day 	12 Limerick Day 	13 6 a.m. Prayer Call 	14 Nat'l Decency Day 6:30 p.m. Bible Study 	15 Peace Officers Memorial Day Women's Army Corps (WACs) Founded 1942 6 p.m. Free Food 	16 Armed Forces Day 	
17 Noon: Virtual Worship 	18 Int'l Museum Day	19 Boys Club Day 	20 6 a.m. Prayer Call 	21 Nat'l Waiters and Waitresses Day 6:30 p.m. Bible Study 	22 <i>Twig Bender</i> Deadline 6 p.m. Free Food 	23 Int'l Jazz Day 	
24 Noon: Virtual Worship 31 Noon: Virtual Worship Pentecost	25 Memorial Day (Obs.)  Nat'l Missing Children's Day	26 Sally Ride Day 	27 6 a.m. Prayer Call 	28 Nat'l Hamburger Day 6:30 p.m. Bible Study 	29 1 st Coca-Cola Ad (1886) 6 p.m. Free Food 	30 Memorial Day (Trad.) 	

Mark Your Calendars

June 21..... Father's Day
July 4..... Independence Day
Sep. 7..... Labor Day
Sep. 18—19..... Virginia Annual Conference

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WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/GUMCVA



Our Mission



*The mission of The United Methodist Church is to
make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation
of the world.*

Matt. 28:19

Our Vision

Loving >> Growing >> Serving