



The Twig Bender

June 2020

Our Ministry of Prayer

All Those Affected by the COVID-19 Virus
Our Homebound and Shut-in members
Our church leaders

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Don't Let the Quarantine Blues Get to You

By Steve Stalnaker

For this edition of your *Twig Bender* I had hoped to be writing a celebratory article about the Greenwood church family getting back together for in-person worship, now that the governor began phased reopening of Virginia last month.



Alas, resuming in-person gatherings at Greenwood is not to be. *Not yet, anyway.*

Along with the gradual reopening of the Commonwealth, the Virginia Conference UMC has published procedures for a phased approach to resuming in-person worship.

The Conference is now in **Phase One**, which allows “drive in” worship and limited in-person worship by designated “pioneer” churches. Read more about Bishop Lewis’ phased approach at the Conference website: www.vaumc.org.

Greenwood and Laurel Park will not resume in-person worship during Phase One. We will continue virtual worship every Sunday at noon and Bible study every Thursday at 6:30 p.m. on Zoom (*see the box on page 5*). And don’t forget our Wednesday morning prayer call, where we’ve been lifting up group prayers since long before this pandemic kept us [mostly] at

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From the Pastor

What a Wonderful Year!

Well, June 26 will mark our one-year anniversary as Pastor and People, together. So much has happened in such a short amount of time.

None of us could have predicted what 2020 had in store for us. I know for me I never would have dreamed the last four months of my first year as pastor would be done remotely and virtually from home.

The Greenwood-Laurel Park Charge had planned outreach and community events for the spring that did not materialize. And it looks like summer outreach may be a bust as well. I am so happy the Free Food Distribution ministry team has been able to continue serving our community so families in need can get the food they need right now.

Who would have thought this year would have turned out this way? Proverbs 16:9



says, "The human mind plans the way, but the LORD directs the steps." Granted, what we are experiencing is not God's doing nor is it God's fault. And though we had plans that did not happen because of this pandemic, I am still grateful and thankful God is with us and gives us direction regardless of where plans may take us.

As we wait on God to heal people and the land, it is important for the body of Christ to not become lax in practicing our faith and being the church. I know it can be difficult imagining things not returning to the way they were, but God has

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Thank You

The **families of Brenda Shuler** would like to **thank everyone** for the prayers, cards and food during our time of mourning. We know she has gone on to a better place and we will see her again. She will be deeply missed by her family and her church.

UMCOR COVID-19 Response

Downloaded from UMCOR



As each of us shelters in place to do our part to prevent the spread of COVID-19, we cannot help but be affected by the scale of illness, death and financial distress all around us. We could even be led to believe that this is a hopeless situation. But, thank God, that is not true!

Even as you shelter in place, you can be there for others. Together, we can care for each other in this time of great need.

Through the COVID-19 Response Fund, UMCOR plans to release grants to equip partners who assist vulnerable populations around the world impacted by COVID-19, including racial, ethnic and indigenous communities in the United States. Grants of up to \$20,000 will be awarded and disbursed quickly and efficiently to address pressing needs in the areas of health, food insecurity, water, sanitation and hygiene and economic instability.

Since the start of the coronavirus outbreak, UMCOR has been working with health boards, medical professionals, disaster management coordinators and faith leaders to prevent the further spread of the coronavirus. Partners in China, Africa and the Philippines have already received solidarity grants. Training materials have been developed and disseminated in four languages to facilitate online trainings focused on preparedness and prevention.

When you say “yes” to supporting the UMCOR COVID-19 Response, you will help embody God’s love for those who need it most. Join the UMCOR COVID-19 Response with your gift today. Go to UMCOR’s website — <https://www.umcmission.org/> — to see how you can make a gift to help others.



Continued Giving During Quarantine

By Nancy Lloyd

THANKS! to all of you in the Greenwood church family for giving your tithes and offerings even though we are not having in-person church services.

Our regular giving for current expenses through the end of April 2020 was approximately \$1,500 less than the same month in 2019.

However, with your continued giving plus memorial gifts and designated giving for heating oil, our Treasurer, Gay Stapleton, was able to pay all of our bills through the end of April. So far, our May receipts for current expenses are running ahead of April's. If circumstances allow, please continue to give to your church through these trying times.

Remember, there are several ways you can make your regular or special contributions to Greenwood: mail checks to the church; bring your offering envelope to the church during office hours, Tuesday — Friday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.; or use the new Cash App. Greenwood's tag is \$GUMCVA.



A special THANK YOU to Linda Walker for picking up the mail and taking it into the church office every day soon after it is delivered! This helps ensure security of your mailed-in donations.

New Richmond District Superintendent

Rev. Dr. Hyo J. Lee will become the new Richmond District superintendent (DS) effective July 1, 2020.

Dr. Lee currently is lead pastor at Sudley UMC in Manassas. He will replace the **Rev. Dr. Peter M. Moon**, who has been the Richmond District superintendent since 2015.

An unconfirmed rumor at press time is that Dr. Moon will become lead pastor at Reveille UMC in Richmond.



Education Building AC Repair

Hungerford started replacing the Education Building's air conditioning unit in the fellowship hall on May 21. The work should be finished by the time you read this.

The total cost of the AC installation and carpentry work will be \$13,831. We currently have donations of \$6,005 committed to this project.

If you would like to make a contribution for this project you may do so using any of the methods listed in Nancy's article on page 4.

The remaining payment for this much needed air conditioning replacement will be taken from the Davis Fund, our capital improvement and repair investment fund. So the more we contribute to this project now, the less we have to take from that backup account.



Sunday Combined Virtual Worship

Every Sunday at noon on Zoom or dial +1-301-715-8592

Meeting ID: 829 5710 1589; password: 929829

Also on Facebook Live



Wednesday Prayer Call

Every Wednesday, 6 to 6:15 a.m. also on Zoom or dial +1-301-715-8592

Meeting ID: 851 1374 4202; Password: 452446



Virtual Bible Study: Prayer

Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. on Zoom dial in +1-301-715-8592

Meeting ID: 863 1433 8951, password: 239754.

Note: Links, Meeting IDs and Passwords Are Different.



Peace With Justice Sunday

Peace with Justice Sunday (PWJS), June 7, is an opportunity for you to give in support of United Methodist ministries in the Virginia annual conference and around the world.

Through your offerings on PWJS, you are part of the restoration of God's perfect balance. Together, as followers of Christ, we are declaring that God's world is very good, and we are investing in ministries that repair unjust systems.

Just one example of the recipients of PWJS donations is the Amanzi Women's Ministry at Peoples United Methodist Church in New Orleans, LA. This ministry serves homeless women by offering free laundry services, spiritual growth opportunities, simple life skills coaching and other educational opportunities and offering the women's children a safe, fun place to play.

Peace with Justice Sunday is one of six Special Sunday offerings in The United Methodist Church. Last year, United Methodists gave \$433,437, making it possible to plant new seeds of peace with justice in God's garden of creation.

We won't be worshiping in person on June 7, but you can still give to Peace with Justice Sunday. In addition to your normal donation check mailed to or dropped off at the church, add another gift with "Peace with Justice Sunday" on the memo line. If you're giving by Cash App, you can designate a portion of your donation to PWJS.



Our June Communion Offering Goes to the Samaritan Fund



Which provides financial assistance to residents who have outlived their monetary resources at Pinnacle Living senior communities like The Hermitage

LPUMC Community Garden

By Linda Walker

Once again this year members of Laurel Park UMC will maintain a community garden of raised beds on the church property. Last year they stepped out in faith to make it happen, and it was a huge success.

This year they plan to grow tomatoes, cucumbers, green peppers, watermelon or cantaloupe, squash and, hopefully, butter beans. Bubba and Teri Harris have already tilled the beds and added some garden soil and fertilizer.

They have gotten some plants from Butch Jones who owns the greenhouses across the street from Laurel Park. Last year he donated the plants, but, since businesses are suffering because of the COVID-19 pandemic, Teri insisted he accept some payment.

Like last year, they plan to distribute the vegetables through Aggie's Attic, Greenwood UMC's free food distribution program, members giving out items and possibly an unattended stand.

Later in the season, as the crops grow, they will need some help to water the garden and pick vegetables. See the July *Twig Bender* for info on how you can help.

We thank God for all the hard work Bubba, Teri and Butch have provided. Please join me in asking God to bless this project that will provide fresh vegetables for so many people.



Bubba Harris tilling the LPUMC Community Garden

**Greenwood's Women's Circles
Are Taking Summer Vacation;
Be Back in September**



What Not to Use Against the Virus

Downloaded from Consumer Reports

As we continue the COVID-19 quarantine, there's lots of advice going around about ways to protect ourselves against the virus. Here's some advice on what **not** to use.

Homemade Hand Sanitizer: There are all sorts of hand sanitizer recipes floating around social media and the Internet. Stephen Thomas, M.D., of Upstate Medical University in Syracuse, N.Y. advises against making your own. "People don't know the right ratios to use, and the Internet won't give you the right answer," he says. "Not only can you hurt yourself, but it could give you a false sense of security."

Organic chemist Richard Sachleben adds: "I'm a professional chemist, and I don't mix my own disinfectant products at home. Companies spend a bunch of time and money to pay chemists specifically to formulate hand sanitizers that work and that are safe. If you make it yourself, how can you know if it's stable or if it works?"

Vodka: There are widely circulated recipes on the Internet using vodka to combat the coronavirus. A few vodka makers have already published statements that 80-proof (40 percent alcohol) vodka does not contain enough alcohol to kill the coronavirus. Solutions with at least 70 percent ethyl alcohol are required. (*ed. note: while this may not work to clean things, a couple of vodka tonics with lime while cleaning with the right stuff might not hurt.*)



Distilled White Vinegar: Disinfection recommendations using vinegar are popular online, but there is no evidence that they are effective against the coronavirus.

Tea Tree Oil: While there is preliminary research that suggests tea tree oil may have an effect against the herpes simplex virus, there is no evidence that it can kill coronaviruses.

Consumer Reports and other authorities stress **scrubbing with soap and water**, as well as using

Beat the Quarantine Blues

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home.

While it would be easy to let **gloom and doom** overtake us regarding not resuming in-person worship, let's not forget that old adage "... it is better to light a single candle than to curse the darkness ..." Let's always look for something positive about whatever situation in which we find ourselves.



If not, we would be forgetting an **important fact**: God has good plans for each of us and for Greenwood. The Lord affirms this when He says: "For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope." (*Jeremiah 29:11 NRSV*). And let's also remember what the Apostle Paul wrote: "We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose." (*Romans 8:28, NRSV*).

So, **be thankful** God's blessed us with the technology that affords us the opportunity to stay in touch and to continue to gather together in Jesus name (see *Matthew 18:20*). Be thankful God's given us a variety of modern means to communicate with each other, like our website, social media (Facebook), the prayer chain, etc. Join the 21st Century and take advantage of God's technological blessings.

As much as we might enjoy sitting in the comfort of our living rooms watching and listening to virtual worship on Zoom, be assured that **we'll eventually resume** in-person worship and other meetings. We'll do that as soon as the bishop, our pastor and the churches' lay leaders deem it safe to do so. And, the church leaders will use all those modern communications blessings to keep you all in the loop.

So, see you (or hear you, for now) in church.



What a Wonderful Year!

(Continued from page 2)

provided us with **resources and technology** allowing us to still fellowship together, even from a distance.

While I have been **encouraged** by the members of both churches who continue to participate in Sunday service, Wednesday Prayer and Thursday Bible study, I am also keenly aware many members are not.

My prayer is we will **meet the challenges and fears** we may be experiencing head on. And, as a result of change and social distancing, call on our children, grandchildren and neighbors for assistance to help us connect on **social media** on our mobile devices and the computer via the Internet and become a part of this new thing God is calling us to in this season. As a member of the Greenwood-Laurel Park UMC Charge, it is **vitally important** you hear the sermons, participate in corporate prayer and the fellowship of Bible study, specifically going forth for the unity of our churches.

We want to **grow, love and serve together** and be better together than we were before this quarantine. This too will pass, and we will be together again.

I want to end by saying “Thank you” to all for the prayers, cards, gifts, phone calls, emails, text messages and conversations this past year as we have been on this journey together. It has been a tremendous blessing to me and my daughters, in this huge step of faith moving to Richmond, VA.

I love each of you and pray the blessings of our Lord will be upon you.

Pastor Josette L. Franklin



June Eating

Fellowship Dinners and FunRaisers Bag lunches are taking the summer off; they'll return in September.

No Men's Breakfast in June.

Don't Harvest Tetanus from Your Garden

Downloaded from Medicare.gov



Gardening this summer? Whether you're new to gardening or have a green thumb, remember to keep your health and safety a priority.

Gardeners can be prone to tetanus infections. Tetanus lives in the soil and enters the body through breaks in the skin, especially when using sharp tools, digging in the dirt or handling plants with sharp thorns.

Before you start gardening this season, make sure your tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis (Tdap) vaccination is up-to-date. Medicare prescription drug coverage (Part D) generally covers shots needed to prevent illness. Contact your Medicare drug plan for more information about coverage.

As you tend your garden, use a good set of gardening gloves, which can help lower the risk for skin irritations and cuts.

Visit Medicare.gov for more information on vaccine coverage and find additional gardening safety tips from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Be Prepared – Read the Scriptures

June Lectionary Readings

June 7	Genesis 1:1-2:4a; Psalm 8; 2 Corinthians 13:11-13; Matthew 28:16-20
June 14	Genesis 18:1-15; Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19; Romans 5:1-8; Matthew 9:35-10:8 (9-23)
June 21	Genesis 21:8-21; Psalm 86:1-10, 16-17 or Psalm 17; Romans 6:1b-11; Matthew 10:24-39
June 28	Genesis 22:1-14; Psalm 13; Romans 6:12-23; Matthew 10:40-42

June Grass Cutting Detail

Your Trustees have established a volunteer rotation for cutting the grass on the church grounds this summer. This month's schedule is:

- Week of June 1:..... Steve Stalnaker
- Week of June 8:..... Harry Shuler
- Week of June 15: Bob Stapleton
- Week of June 22: Lewis Daniel
- Week of June 29..... Steve Stalnaker



If anyone else would like to help with this summer's grass cutting, please give Bob Stapleton a call at 804-672-8408. Thank you from your Trustees.

Food Donation Connection

June Pick Up Rotation

If you would like to donate canned goods or boxed goods it would be really appreciated. You can bring them to the church office Tuesday - Friday. The hours are 9 a.m.— 1 p.m.



Wednesday, June 3: Jean Mowatt and William Gibbs; Thursday, June 4: Lewis Daniel; Friday, June 5: Carolyn and Ray Smith.

Wednesday, June 10: Charley Banks; Thursday, June 11: Lewis Daniel; Friday, June 12: Adamarye and Riley Patteson.

Wednesday, June: 17 Jean Mowatt and William Gibbs; Thursday, June 18: Lewis Daniel; Friday, June 19: Trish Hayes.

Wednesday, June 24: Charley Banks; Thursday, June 25: Lewis Daniel; Friday, June 26: Adamarye and Riley Patteson.

Wednesday, July 1: Jean Mowatt and William Gibbs; Thursday, July 2: Lewis Daniel; Friday, July 3: Carolyn and Ray Smith.

Greenwood Church Family Birthdays



Adamarye Patteson.....	6/11	Jean Mowatt.....	6/27
Willis Sheffield.....	6/24		



Anniversaries

Betty & Raymond Ritchie	6/9
Paul & Teresa McCartney.....	6/26
Daniel & Amanda Langston.....	6/27

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 removed.



Twig Bender

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Greenwood UMC — June 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Int'l Children's Day 	2 Nat'l Rocky Road Day 	3 6 a.m. Prayer Call 	4 Battle of Midway 1942 6:30 p.m. Bible Study 	5 6 p.m. Free Food 	6 D-Day 1944 No Men's Breakfast 
7 Peace with Justice Sunday Noon: Virtual Worship	8 Best Friends Day 	9 Donald Duck Day 	10 6 a.m. Prayer Call 	11 6:30 p.m. Bible Study 	12 6 p.m. Free Food 	13 Sewing Machine Day 
14 Flag Day Noon: Virtual Worship 	15 Nat'l Smile Power Day 	16 Nat'l Fudge Day 	17 6 a.m. Prayer Call 	18 6:30 p.m. Bible Study 	19 6 p.m. Free Food 	20 Summer Solstice 
21 Father's Day Noon: Virtual Worship 	22 Nat'l Onion Ring Day 	23 Public Service Day	24 6 a.m. Prayer Call 	25 6:30 p.m. Bible Study 	26 Twig Bender Deadline 6 p.m. Free Food 	27 Sun Glasses Day 
28 Noon: Virtual Worship	29 Waffle Iron Day 	30 Meteor Day 				

Mark Your Calendars

July 4	Independence Day
July 14	Bastille Day
July 15	[New] Income Tax Day
Sep. 7	Labor Day
Sep. 11	Patriot Day
Sep. 18—19	Virginia Annual Conference
Oct. 12	Columbus Day
Nov. 26.....	Thanksgiving Day



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

Greenwood's Vision

Loving

Learning to love and connect with God and People

»

Growing

Acquiring tools for being transformed into the image of Christ

Serving

Participating in church ministry and community outreach