



Fellowship

Emmanuel United Methodist Church Newsletter

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From the Pastor's Desk:

We are walking on our journey through Lent. This season, we have more hardship during Lent than any other year. Now, people are fighting with COVID-19 all over the world, and the public schools, workplaces, churches, and business stores are closed. We are keeping a social distance and washing our hands.

As shown below, through a letter from the Bishop of the Virginia Conference, we will continue to cancel all our worship services and gatherings until the end of April. However, we will continue to have an online live stream worship service.

"...On March 23, 2020, Governor Northam instituted more changes for the Commonwealth of Virginia, which includes the closure of K-12 schools for the rest of the academic year and the closure of "non-essential" businesses as of midnight on March 24, 2020, for 30 days. In light of these recent developments, In-person worship services are cancelled on all United Methodist Church properties for the next 30 days. This includes Holy Week services. We will revisit the possibility of re-opening our churches for in-person worship on or before April 23 when the state ban is scheduled to be lifted. Meetings in the church parking lot, "drive-in" worship services, and drive-in communion are not allowed on church property during this period."

As we spend this difficult season, there's something we need to think about. We need to look back on our life through these situations. In particular, I hope to reflect on our lives through the reflection of Mr. Bill Gates which I paraphrase for you here;

Through the situation of COVID-19, we think about something important. It reminds us of the lessons that we have forgotten. We didn't look back around our life and neighbors, because we are often too busy. Through this challenging situation, we learn that health is important; it makes us know that our life is short. We learn to help each other. We have to help older people and the vulnerable. Don't value the material world. It teaches us not to stress over a thing like toilet paper; it's love and care for each other that matters. It has sent us home and made us spend time with our families.

Friends! Even if you are staying at home, please don't stay sedentary, move yourself. Take time to pray! Please, pray for civil servants, doctors, nurses, and politicians, praying for our neighbors and the elderly. Call your family, church friends, and neighbors! As our physical distance has become greater from one another we need to bring our emotional distance closer.

I hope and pray that we overcome this difficult situation together.

Yours in Christ,
Rev. San Kang

Lent & Easter Schedule 2020:

Lent is coming to an end. We have been studying and reading 40 days in remembrance of our baptism and solidifying our commitment to Jesus Christ. In our daily lives we go about our usual routines and often times get lost in the mundane necessities until something arises unexpectedly and shakes us to awaken. We are collectively experiencing one of those times now during the spread of the Coronavirus. We may be experiencing a trial, but we must cling to the Word for reassurance, strength, and hope. Just as Jesus experienced temptations and trials, he has paved the way of hope for each of us if we choose him over the worldly temptations, over fear, over everything. "Be strong and bold; have no fear or dread of them, because it is the Lord your God who goes with you; he will not fail you or forsake you." Deuteronomy 31:6 When you are experiencing fear, worry, or trials stop and turn towards God consistently, and every time He will carry you through. So much better will our celebration of Easter be this year regardless of where or how we must adjust our worship service because we know that God will bring us through. We at Emmanuel will be working diligently to help make our Holy Week and Easter Services special even though we will not be together in the building. Please stay updated on any changes that need to be made by checking our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/emmanuelumcva/> or our web page www.emmanuelumc.com

Since our in person worship services are canceled here are the links you can use to log in to Facebook and Zoom to watch the live streamed worship service. This is a new experience for all of us and we are learning as we go. Try it out and don't become too frustrated if there are technical difficulties along the way. Be gentle with one another in our learning. We'll persevere and learn something new together.

If you don't have a Facebook account, but have access to a computer take some time before Sunday and set one up. Reach out to our office by calling 662-1269 and we will try to help walk you through it. Once you have an account it is a great tool to stay in touch with your family and friends during this time of social distancing, and it offers a way for you to log in to the link below. "Like" Emmanuel UMC's Facebook page, and you can watch our service live or go back later to watch at your own convenience. There is a button that says "Like" to the bottom left of the very first picture you will see for Emmanuel and you simply click on that to save our page for your later reference. During the service you can type prayer concerns in the comments.

<https://www.facebook.com/emmanuelumcva/>

You can also join us on Zoom which is a meeting hosting site that can be watched on your phone or computer. You can open <https://zoom.us/j/4861906813> on your phone, tablet, laptop, or desktop and we will also have a link on our web page www.emmanuelumc.com for you to click and join in.

Services will be aired at the regularly scheduled time that you would join us to gather in the church. For Sunday worship services we will also begin 30 minutes prior to the service for gathering conversation.

Volunteers Needed:

Prayerfully consider becoming involved in your church organizations. Here are few ways we could use your help:

We are currently looking for two new volunteers to serve the parish family on either our Trustees or Worship Committees.

We need a chairperson to run the Chicken BBQ or the Yard Party & Auction

Help with installing flooring in the new Finance room, or refinishing the Youth room.

There is a place for every talent and gift that God has given us. Please contact Pastor Kang if you can help.

District & VAUMC News:

Out of safety concerns for our staff and for anyone who may enter the building for business it has been decided that the **Winchester District Office will be closed for the foreseeable future.**

All staff will be working remotely during this time. All staff can be contacted through e-mail if needed.

Information for contact:

Steve Summers, District Superintendent: WinchesterDS@vaumc.org or (804) 822-2824

Melanie Melester, District Administrator: melaniemelester@vaumc.org

Chad Hrbek, District Director of Congregational Excellence: chadhrbek@vaumc.org

Join Bishop Lewis at noon each day in prayer

The Apostle Paul writes in Philippians 4:6 “Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.” (NIV) Prayer is essential to sustain our faith and Jesus Christ modeled a life of prayer.... I am very blessed to lead an annual conference that believes in the power of the petitioned prayer!

Please join me at 12 noon every day and pray the following prayer. Let us invoke the power of the Great Physician to do a mighty work in eradicating this disease all over the world.

Peace and Blessings,

Bishop Sharma D. Lewis

Almighty God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit, We thank you for your blessings, past, present and future. You are our rock and the source of our hope in all things and at all times. As Jehovah Jireh, our provider God, we ask you this day to stretch out your mighty hand and eradicate from the face of the earth forever this virus called COVID-19 (coronavirus) that is spreading rapidly from continent to continent. We also pray that you, Jehovah Rapha, our healing God, would place your hand upon all of those who have been stricken by this virus and restore them to full health. Be with those who have lost loved ones and are grieving. Protect all who are caring for those with this virus and keep them from contracting it themselves. Calm our fears and provide us with your peace that surpasses all understanding. Strengthen us with the joy of the Lord and help us to hold firmly to the hope that only you can provide. Unify us that we, the Virginia Annual Conference, may be able to experience anew the promise of your presence in and through the unity of our faith, hope and trust in you in the days ahead and forever. We offer this prayer in the mighty name of our Lord, Jesus Christ. AMEN

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 April 2020			1 9-10a Prayer Time	2	3	4
5 Palm/Passion Sunday 10:00a online	6 7p Trustees watch for info about Zoom mtg	7	8 9-10a Prayer Time	9 Holy Thursday	10 Good Friday	11
12 EASTER Worship 10a online <i>Helping Hands</i>	13 6p Finance watch for info about Zoom mtg	14	15 9-10a Prayer Time	16	17 <i>Newsletter Submissions Due</i>	18
19 Worship 10a online <i>Building Fund Sunday</i>	20	21 5:30 p Worship 7p Church Council watch for info about Zoom mtg	22 9-10a Prayer Time	23	24	25
26 Worship 10a TBD	27	28	29 9-10a Prayer Time	30	All regularly scheduled worship services are cancelled for 30 days, and will be held via live streaming on Zoom & Facebook	

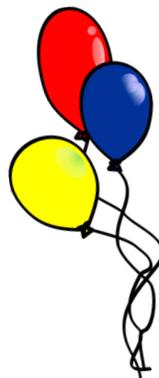
Birthdays & Anniversaries:

Now is a great time to make an extra effort to stay in touch. Consider sending a Birthday/Anniversary card, text, or email to someone to let them know you are thinking of them.

April Birthdays:

01 – Tanner Rutherford
 02 – Kim Norman
 03 – Brenda Eskildsen
 03 – Kelly Rutherford
 07 – Beverly Franks
 08 – Mary Jennings
 09 – June Conley
 10 – Brian Stottlemyer
 13 – Zachary Kuhn
 14 – Samantha Johnson

15 – Drew Bentley
 17 – Emma Rose Evans
 17 – Carolyn Barker
 18 – Dale Katrobos
 20 – Richard Swartz
 20 – Bob Law
 22 – Katelyn Fauver
 28 – Jacob Shade
 30 – April Burke
 30 – Phil Dodson, III
 30 – Brian Ingram



April Anniversaries:

01 – Quinten & Ocean Kuhn
 02 – Jon & Patty Kuhn
 12 – James & Kristina Loy
 15 – JoAnn & Leo Clowser
 22 – Gladys & Melvin Crouse
 25 – Roy & Sharon Taylor
 25 – Rev. San Kang & Chanmi Lee



A Change of Perspective:

We want to help you during this time of social distancing. It is important to choose our outlook during this time to maintain our mental, physical, and spiritual health. When we have children we work diligently to provide for all of their needs, and it becomes like second nature to encourage them, feed them healthy meals, teach them intellectual and spiritual lessons, and stimulate their curiosity with new adventures. We encourage you today to begin nurturing yourself in the same manner that you would a child. It's easy to fall in to a negative mindset and forget to take care of ourselves, but we are never too old to learn something new, do something different, and make a new choice. Below we have a list of ideas for everyone to stimulate your curiosity and encourage you along the way:

- As Easter Egg Hunts are on our mind, change your perspective each day by going on a Bible Hunt for the most encouraging verse you can find. The Bible is an amazing tool for God to speak to you when you are least expecting it. Use tools on the internet, books you already own, or better yet just open it randomly and see the message God wants you to know today. Write it down and post it on your refrigerator, next to your bed, or in a prominent place that it will be a constant reminder for you.
- Take a walk:
 - * Collect items that you find beautiful. See the beauty in the mundane and small things like a child collecting rocks. Examine creation with childlike eyes, and take those things home to create a display for your Easter celebration.
 - * Take pictures with a camera or phone. Experiment in new ways of seeing the rich vibrant life that surrounds us.
 - * Grab some paper (any paper will do-newspaper, envelopes, use what you have on hand) and draw something. Sketch what you see be it a full scene, or just one item that catches your eye. Not an artist? That's the idea– use this time to learn something new, look at something differently, open your eyes to the majesty of God's creation. A child's drawings are abstract and out of the lines and beautiful all the same.
 - * Write a poem about the things you see. Make notes as you walk. Then go home and tinker and play with the words to find just the right combination– should it rhyme, maybe a Haiku? It's up to you. When was the last time you broke out the thesaurus? Go dust it off.
- Find a new recipe. Look in your kitchen and I bet, like a lot of us, you have a cookbook hiding that you haven't cracked open in ages. We fall into habits of eating the same old things over and over. How many recipes have you torn from magazines? Well now is the day. Make it. Try it. Experiment!
- Keep in touch with others. It seems so simple, but it is essential to our mental well being and yet we somehow forget to reach out. Look in your address book find those old numbers and call someone you haven't heard from. Use your abstract art and make a card. Send your poem to someone else as encouragement. Reach out and feel your heart soar!

In Times of Need:

In times of need we can be encouraged by the good we see in the world. We are surrounded by angels and heroes that step up and support us through our weakest times. We can easily become disheartened during this time of social distancing and watching too much news. We encourage you to limit the number of times you tune in to news channels each day. When you are watching, proactively be watching to find the people that are doing the greatest good in the world. Look for the best in humanity. Just as you would shelter a child from distressing news, so too should you protect your own mental outlook. Gather the news you need and then turn off the T.V. Instead use the inspiration you found to do good for someone else. Join together as the church to do God's work in any small way you can.

We are concerned at this time for those most susceptible to contracting the illness and want to help them or you maintain the appropriate social distancing for your personal situation. To that end we want to help you in any way possible. Jean Weigel and Jackie Brondstater have volunteered to begin contacting parishioners to check in on their needs and assist by helping in any way necessary. Do you need groceries, or essentials like medications? They will be happy to help by picking up what you need and delivering it to your doorstep. Thus eliminating the need for you to be in public.

Would you like to assist in this work for our parishioners or community members most in need? Can you go to the store to pick up essentials, or can you make phone calls from your home to help keep us all connected during this time of social distancing? Please let us know if you are interested in helping do your part by contacting the church office 540-662-1269 or Jean Weigel 540-303-2535 or weigelj@fcpsk12.net . Please let us know also if you know of someone in need that may not receive this newsletter or have access to the internet. We want to support as many friends and neighbors as we can during this time.

Ministry and Outreach:

Please keep ministry and outreach towards others at the forefront of your mind during these trying times. It is when we give to others that our souls are truly nourished, and our minds do not dwell on our own plight. Many local agencies are being seriously hard hit in this time of closures making the good work they do very difficult to maintain.

The ministries of the church are also facing a hard time trying to find new ways to help those that we usually assist through our Community Meal, and seasonal giving initiatives, such as, the Red Wagon Ministry. Please keep these ministries in your prayers and if you are able to offer assistance you can send an offering to the church office designating how you would like that donation to be utilized.



"In the same way let your light shine before others, that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven." Matthew 5:16

Emmanuel United Methodist Church

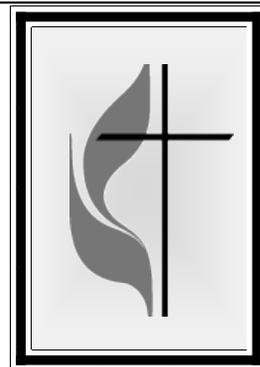
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Prayer Chain—eumcprays4you@comcast.net

Website—emmanuelumc.com



April 2020 Fellowship Newsletter

We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ.

1 John 1:3

Winchester, VA

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