



The Main Street MESSENGER

VOLUME 67 | NO. 3 | MARCH 2021



Friends as we entered Lent this year you may be asking, “why do we even need Lent?” Especially this year! This past year has been like an extended season of Lent. The pandemic has forced us to be in “lock-down,” and physical distancing has given us plenty of opportunities for self-reflection and introspection. There has also been the element of feeling like we have been wearing sackcloth, rending our garments, and repenting in the dust.

Expect, maybe there is more to Lent than the suffering we have to endure. There is more than the self-reflection and introspection, there is more than the sackcloth and ashes. These are tools that we are called to use to achieve the ends that Lent calls us to claim. But as always, it is the end and not the means that defines Lent for us.

“So, what is the end of the season of Lent? Why do we have this period of

preparation, of fasting and self-denial, of repentance and confession, of putting our spiritual house in order? Simply, so that we can be prepared for Easter. Lent is about embracing the Resurrected One with a whole and longing heart.”

“What we discover as we make those preparations is that there are so many things that get in the way of our true embrace of the risen Christ. Some of those things are external, but many of them are internal. They are habits and preferences and inclinations that clutter our souls. So, the season of Lent comes along to give us space and appropriate reminders that we need to clean house to receive the one we call Lord.”

To do this well is both a painful and a fulfilling exercise. That is why we have two titles for our sermon series, or, if you prefer, a title and a subtitle. *Rending Your Hearts: Claiming the Promises.* We can’t just choose one,

they are both a part of Lent. “The truth is, we need both: the rending and the claiming. We need to tear out the things that are in the way of truly following Christ, which is not an easy or a simple process. Nor is it something that we can do once and then forget it. It is a constant call for us to “lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely” (Heb12:1). But then we also need to lean into the promise of the kingdom. We need to claim the life that Christ describes and lives out before us, to embrace the joy of the life of faith.”

Lent doesn’t have to be a somber time; but to be effective, it needs to be intense. It needs to be taken seriously and rigorously, and we can bring our full selves to the table. It is worth the strenuous effort, however, as we are enabled to embrace the fullness of the promise of Resurrection and live as disciples of Jesus Christ; disciples who make disciples. So, despite feeling as though we have been in a yearlong season of Lent, we need the season; we need the observance to open us to all God has in store for us. Rend your hearts, so together we can claim the promise.

A special thanks to Rev. Dr. Derek Weber for much of this article’s content.

OTHER NEWS FROM MAIN STREET



WELCOME MIA DIGGS, ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

We are pleased to welcome Mia Diggs as our new Administrative Assistant. Mia grew up in Suffolk and graduated from Lakeland High School in 2005. She and her husband, James, have 3 children and attend Zion Christian Church in Holland where James is a member of the praise band.

Mia brings with her 13 years of banking experience and most recently was employed by Atlantic Union Bank. Many of you have not been able to meet her during this time, but you will find her to be delightful to work with. She is enjoying her new job and getting to know people as they come in. When you are able, please stop by to welcome Mia.

We were blessed to have Wendy Perry as our Administrative Assistant for several years. She did an outstanding job in this position. In the fall, Wendy and her husband decided to move to Jefferson City, TN to be near one of their daughters. They are excited about this new phase of their life and Wendy is still employed as our parttime bookkeeper. We pray that God will continue to bless Wendy and Bob and give thanks for her service at Main Street.



GREETINGS FROM MAIN STREET DAY CARE



As many of you know, Main Street Day Care has been serving our community since 1988. This is a truly remarkable

growth occurs during the infant and preschool years. They learn through play and interaction with each other and with their care providers, both teachers and parents.

When the first COVID-19 related shut downs occurred last March, Main Day Care followed the protocol and shut down for 4 weeks. During that time our director, Julia Farmer, spent time learning the proper procedures for reopening. When it was decided to allow children of essential workers to return, the staff was trained and ready to welcome back children of city workers, nurses, doctors and military personnel. Since that time the Center has gradually been able to open back up to the other

families who depend on our center.

By closely following state guidelines, today there are 100 infants, toddlers and preschool children and 15 school age children who are learning virtually under the supervision of Main Street Day Care Staff. The program continues to support a very diverse population. In addition to helping families with children, Main Street Day Care employs 35 women who care for the children and also have the opportunity to further their knowledge of early childhood education as they support themselves financially.

We pray that with the continued support or Main Street Church, the Day Care will have many more years of success.

accomplishment. During the 33 years of operation, hundreds of children have been nurtured, loved and taught the most important life skills they will need as they grow and mature. According to Robert Pianta, PhD, Dean of the UVA Curry School of Education, 90% of brain

SCOUTING MINISTRY UPDATE

Troop 1 was first chartered in 1923 at Main St United Methodist Church. The troop has helped hundreds of young men become productive citizens and helped 175 Boy Scouts to become Eagle Scouts. There are currently 26 scouts that have participated in troop activities this year and the troop has been able to accomplish a lot this year even with the restrictions placed on all of us because of COVID-19.

Because of the current group restrictions, the troop has been meeting via Zoom with breakout sessions for smaller groups. When allowed we met outside at Murphy's Mill Cabin which allowed the boys to see their friends from a safe distance and still complete many of our scouting objectives. With the help of at least 20 adult leader volunteers the boys were still able to make several campouts



including a canoe trip in the summer of 2020. A group of scouts attended merit badge camp this year and two crews attended the Sea Base High Adventure Camp in the Florida Keys. The boys earned 49 Merit Badges, 37 Special Awards, 17 Rank Advancements and 489.5 Service Hours. Some of those service hours were accumulated during building a visitation station at Lake Prince Woods, road side clean up, placing flags for our veterans at Cedar Hill and Holly Lawn Cemeteries for Memorial Day and Veterans Day, just to name a few. The scouts also helped with the three Eagle Scout projects. Devin Wilson, Logan Tompkins and Braedon McCauley completed their requirements and their projects in the past year and earned the rank of Eagle Scout. We have several Life Scouts that have projects slated for 2021. The troop hosted Webelos Dens from three different Packs (1,30 and 911) in November with a great deal of planning and coordinating to maintain the social distancing guidelines. This allowed

our Scouts to teach these Cub Scouts some of the skills required to become a successful Boy Scout and helped them achieve their Arrow of Light Awards. While we have been slowed by the COVID virus this winter, each patrol took time to work as separate small groups to build new chuck boxes for our camping adventures.

After more than a decade of service, Dr. Bo Browne is stepping down as our Charter Representative. Dr. Browne has helped guide the troop through many changes from the BSA Organization during his time as the Charter Representative. With his help the troop has thrived and been able to continue teaching young men the scouting way. Please join us in thanking Dr. Browne for his service to our troop and representing Main Street United Methodist Church in the Boy Scout Organization.



We would like to welcome Mr. Robert Baker, III as the new Charter Representative. For those who do not know, Mr. Baker is a life long member of Main Street United Methodist Church and he has been many things to Troop 1 over the past 60 plus years. He has served on the troop committee for many years, served as Scoutmaster multiple times, traveled around the country to allow scouts to experience nature, he has attended the BSA high adventure bases as a scout and adult numerous times, mentored countless scouts (and many of us adults) through the years, and he

earned his Eagle Scout rank through Troop 1. Mr. Baker has provided a world of scouting knowledge to the troop and we thank him for volunteering to be our next Charter Representative.

The largest applause for 2020 goes to Mr. Rick Wilson and Mrs. Carrie Wilson for coordinating the meetings and many events of 2020. Whether they were at church, at Murphy's Mill Cabin, at the Forman's house or through Zoom, the Wilsons were always up front and willing to do what needed to be done. The Wilsons have been the driving force to keep Troop 1 moving during this complicated year. Their dedication to Troop 1 has been a great example for our Scouts to follow. Please give them a big thank you when you see them. Our patrol leaders and the troop leadership worked with the Wilsons and many of the adult volunteers to keep the boys involved and informed. It goes without saying that this has been one of the strangest years for Troop 1 to keep the boys motivated and to help them achieve their goals. As you can see, the troop has been able to succeed despite the restrictions and complications of 2020!

EAGLE SCOUTS



SCOUTING MINISTRY *CONTINUED*

PACK 1: WEBELOS DEN 1

We started the year by doing in-person den meetings outside at Main St. UMC, but have switched to virtual meetings (via Zoom) since the restrictions on group sizes moved down to 10. Given the size of our den, we could not all meet together in person at the same time.

While I think everyone would prefer in-person meetings, the Scouts in the den have done an exceptional job at shifting to virtual meetings and staying engaged. Overall attendance to the meetings has remained consistently high throughout. We started the shift to virtual meetings by talking about internet safety and have worked on game design, household fix-its, and geology since.

Leaders, Bobby Noell & Tracey Beers



GIRL SCOUTS

Girl Scout Troop 5357 came to Main Street in 2006.

The current leaders are Libby Hiner, Joanne Wunderlich, Megan Taliaferro, Krista Opauski

There are 17 girls registered: Juniors (4-6th grade), Cadettes (7-8 th grade) Seniors (9-10th grade) Ambassadors (11-12th grade)

We meet at Main Street practicing social distancing and wearing masks. Service Unit activities have been greatly curtailed. Outdoor activities are allowed. Indoor meetings were not allowed by GSCCC until mid-November. The girls continue to work on Badges and Journeys. Several girls are

working on higher awards. Service projects are limited. We have begun to take cookie orders. Cookies will be in later this month. Cookie booths are uncertain in the community. Grubhub will be involved with distribution in some communities.

Some troops have utilized Zoom as a means to meet. Troop 5357 has chosen not to Zoom thus far.

2020/2021 has certainly shown us a different way to conduct our meetings. GSCCC has been supportive and innovative.

Libby Hiner, Leader



MARCH 2021 [BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES]

[BIRTHDAYS]

3/1 Martha Callis	3/9 Adam Webb	3/17 Jeffrey Gardy	3/29 Robert Marks
3/1 Rory King	3/9 Ariel Smith	3/17 Libby Hiner	3/29 Carl Savage
3/1 Alex Bivins	3/9 Lanny Horn	3/17 Mary Marks	3/30 Buddy Baker
3/2 Linda Ferguson	3/9 Daniel Totten	3/19 Abigail Van Orden	3/30 Susan Conner
3/2 Marianna Friend	3/11 Becky Debnam	3/19 Amelia Fisher	3/30 Beverly Bredemeyer
3/2 Dale Birdsong	3/11 Mary Ann Eure	3/20 Natalie Williford	3/30 Carol Harry
3/2 Ann Shappell	3/11 David Hainley	3/21 James Russell	3/31 Audrey Anthony
3/3 Laura Michael	3/12 Karen Waddell	3/22 Barbara Haverty	
3/3 Josh Brooks	3/12 Jaelyn Grant	3/23 Alexandra Miller	
3/4 Orion Hoy	3/13 Douglas Cary	3/23 Evie Taliaferro	
3/4 Lillian Crawford	3/13 Tom Harry	3/25 James Butler	
3/5 Kana Kilborn	3/13 Kelly Askew	3/26 Lin Callis	
3/6 Bill Powell	3/14 Jimmy Powell	3/26 Thomas King	
3/6 Heather Carr	3/14 Alexandra Bartlett	3/27 Rex Rooker	
3/7 Adrian Holland	3/14 Sawyer Webb	3/28 Parker Duke	
3/7 Jim Jones	3/15 Ney Austin	3/28 Bob Callis	
3/8 Macy Grizzle	3/15 Greg Brown	3/29 Lillie Hartman	
3/8 Addison Michael	3/15 Linda Hurst	3/29 Mac Birdsong	
	3/15 Eric Venable	3/29 Gregg Crow	

[ANNIVERSARIES]

3/1 Keith & Glenda Johnston
3/2 Mark & Laura Wrighte
3/8 Robert & Midge Callis
3/19 Billy & Dawn Lassiter
3/28 Peter & Lindsey Holman



PRAYER LIST UPDATE

RECENT PRAYER: 2/21/21: All those affected by COVID-19, Tom Buxton, Lydia Duke, Bob Callis, CAPS Night Stay Program; Pastor Rich and Colleen; Rev. Sylvia Meadows; Liam Grant; all who are without insurance, enough food and a warm, clean place to live; Harold & June Barrett; Robert Blair; Rev. Ellen Comstock and the congregation of Franktown UMC on the Eastern Shore; Juanita Colley; Ann Shappell; Jim Dowaliby; Anthony Merendino; Emma Jean Tackett (infant)

SYMPATHY: Friends of Pamela Edwards

ONGOING: Steve Clark, Sylvia Funkhouser, Heather Lawrence, Leila & Bob Tompert, Michael McPherson and Family, Joseph Medeiros, Stan Waterfield, Trenton Bishop, Juanita Colley, Carolyn Davis, Bobby Cullop, Pamela Edwards-Jones, Christi Bastion, Melissa Benscome; Cheri Harrell Anthony

CANCER: Pam Askew, Linda Argust, Ray Holland, Al Bremer, Diane Liles, Linda Harper, Faye Askew, David Hollowell, Rod Rodrigues, Melaine Medeiros, Carol Coleman, Mary Lou Hedgepeth, Kelly Grier (Ferguson) Coston, Julie Nance, John Nodeen, Richard J. Peko, Nancy Pike, Roland Word, Thelma Johnson, Shannon Rivera, Juel Carr, Nancy Spring Parker, Anita McLeMore, Gary Graham, Marion Barrett Murphy, Glen Harrell, Pat Knapp, Randy West, Charles Swann

SKILLED CARE: Bill Gallant, Doug McPhail

HOMEBOUND: Melanie French, Jean Sutphin

ASSISTED LIVING: Colette Ballard, Susan Rivenbark, Ray Shamburger, Frances Kelly

OUR NATION AND WORLD: Military Troops & Families: Chris Smith, Anthony Hickler, Hunter Pietrowski, Adam Waddell, Kent Brooks, Bryanna Grant, James Russell III, Kristi Kilborn, Wesley Linder, Duncan Bevan, Hayley Burton, Jonathan Burton, TJ Argust; First Responders; CAPS (Coalition Against Poverty in Suffolk); Our Schools; Main Street Day Care & Preschool; Workplaces & Homes; social justice, unity and peace; students, parents, teachers and administrators in local schools; safety and well being of our college students and professors, our President and national leaders

Church Staff & Contact Information

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The Main Street MESSENGER

OF MAIN STREET UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



March and Beyond

Wednesdays - Zoom Bible study at 7:00 pm, *Words of Life, Jesus and the Ten Commandments Today* by Adam Hamilton. Look for the email from Pastor Rich each week with the meeting link.

Sundays - *Our Children and the Journey to Easter*, begins at 9:15 a.m. and conclude by 9:45 a.m. via Zoom on March 7, 14, 21 and Palm Sunday March 28. Please contact Nancy Webb at (757) 620-5402 (call or text)

March 8 - Church Council Meeting at 7:00 pm via Zoom

March 14 - Daylight Savings Time begins. Spring forward!

March 20 - First day of Spring

March 28 - Palm Sunday. We will have 8:30 in-person worship and 11:00 am virtual service found on the Main Street Facebook page

April 4 - Easter Sunday and **11:00 am In-Person Worship Returns**

We will continue the protocol for in-person worship at **both** services which requires that you sign in with your name and phone number, wear your mask at all times and be seated by the ushers for proper distancing in the sanctuary.