



The Main Street MESSENGER

VOLUME 66 | NO. 7 | JULY 2020

REBOOT AND REFRESH

Celebrating In-Person Worship at Main Street



Greetings,

I hope you have heard, we are returning to in-person worship! I'm excited about the return to in-person worship, and I hope you are too! For the time being, we will return with the 8:30 service only. It is going to feel and look a little different, but don't let that scare you. This is a great opportunity to refresh and reboot our worship. I have thought much about Genesis 22 as we have been preparing to return to in-person worship.

Genesis 22 is the story of God's "test" of Abraham. You may remember the story, but in case you don't, let me refresh your memory. Abraham and Sarah had been promised by God that in their "old age" they would have a son who would be the start of a great nation. As is always the case, God was good to keep God's promise. Isaac was born and grew to be a young child. In Genesis 22 we are not told

how old Isaac is, but he is old enough to carry the wood for the burnt offering. As the story begins, God calls to Abraham and he responds, "Here I am." Abraham is open and available for God to use. God gives the incredible news that the promised son Isaac would be the burnt offering on a mountain in the land of Moriah. We are not told how Abraham responds to this news other than getting things ready and leaving for Moriah the next morning. I don't expect he got much sleep that night. The next morning off they go! As they approach the mountain, Abraham says to the men that came with him and Isaac, "stay here with the donkey; the boy and I will go over there; we will worship, and then WE will come back to you." Abraham continues to be faithful to God's call all the way to even raising the knife to offer his son as a sacrifice, but God again intervenes. God provides a "ram caught in a thicket by its horns." Abraham

offers the ram as the sacrifice, and he and the boy Isaac worship and return to the men waiting with the donkey. Abraham called the place "The Lord will provide" *Jehovah Jireh*.

So you may ask, "What does this story have to do with us returning to in-person worship?" I'm glad you asked! Abraham had worshiped God for years before Isaac was born. From the record we have in scripture, there is never a human sacrifice involved in this worship. This was completely different from what Abraham had ever experienced. However, he trusted God and knew God would provide. As we find ourselves in unprecedented times in our country and in the life of the church, we must trust God to provide. Worship will be different, that's for sure. With face coverings, no singing and physical distancing, it would be easy to think that God could not "move" in such an environment. But our God is the God that provides. If we come with an open heart and make ourselves available to God, God can and will "show up" in a big way. We may not want to worship with physical distancing, face covers, and no congregational singing, but God will still be present in our worship. Jesus reminds us in John's gospel that "the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth".

Friends, no matter what form our worship may take in these early days of in-person worship, we can worship in spirit and truth. God will provide! Thanks be to God!

Grace and peace,

Pastor Rich

STAFF CHANGES AND SUMMER INTERNS

We asked for help from our high school and college members, and Joseph Askew answered the call. Joseph will be working throughout the summer on projects and general



upkeep around the church. We are fortunate to have him with us to fill the large void that Bland Newman's departure left. Joseph is the son of Joanne Wunderlich and David Askew and will be a senior at Isle of Wight Academy next year.

Main Street is excited to welcome Meredith Webb as an intern this summer! Meredith is heading into her

third year at Shenandoah University where she is pursuing degrees in Religion and Sociology. Meredith is looking forward to returning to campus in the fall where she will continue to study hard, serve in campus ministry, work as a Peer Mentor at the Not Just Women's Center, and serve as a Head Resident Assistant. Although she is unsure exactly what she wants to do, Meredith believes God has called her to ministry and hopes this summer will help her discern her calling. Meredith will spend the summer experiencing all aspects of day to day church life, as well as helping coordinate volunteers for in-person worship, coordinate summer activities for our confirmation class, and lead a small group for high school girls.

We are also excited to announce that Karen Waddell, former Children's Program Coordinator, has accepted the temporary position of Media and Technology Director. With the need to maintain physical distance, media and technology have become an important part of our lives. That, coupled with the overwhelmingly positive response to our online livestream worship



services, have brought about the need for someone in-house who will help us learn and grow in our use of technology. Karen will be responsible for updating our current technology hardware, determining new approaches and opportunities for technology use, and how to further our use of media and live streams as we continue to do God's work.

We are now seeking tech volunteers who will assist with our Sunday morning worship services. Contact Karen at 618-771-2469 if you would like to become a tech volunteer.

STEWARDSHIP THIRD QUARTER | PRAYERS AND PRESENCE



ZOOM BIBLE STUDY WITH JOHN HATCHER | *Prayer "Full" Stability in a Time of Social Change*

SUNDAYS AT 10 AM
JULY 5 & 19 AND AUGUST 2 & 16

With selected scriptural context, we will engage in holy conversation about our feelings and assessments of the "upsides" and "downsides" of social isolation; as we share our individual and collective stories of experiencing God's presence and blessing during these unprecedented times, through which we are now passing. And as we listen to one another we will be listening for God and strengthening our prayer life.

JULY 2020 [BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES]

[BIRTHDAYS]

7/1 Lynn Cross	7/6 Rick Van Orden	7/20 TJ Argust	7/29 Kate Holland
7/1 Jeffrey Forman	7/7 Martin Sweat	7/21 Ellen Saunders	7/29 Annabeth Lynn Kashner
7/1 Claire Taliaferro	7/7 Austin Drewnowski	7/21 Jay Butler	7/30 Suzanne Pruitt
7/1 Bruce Salsbury	7/8 James Caton	7/21 Annie Scott	7/30 Sara Ray
7/2 Karen Williams	7/8 Blake Wagner	7/22 Patricia Forman	7/31 Ruby Brinkley
7/2 Blake Baker	7/9 Robert Baker	7/23 Christopher Caron	7/31 Doug Ward
7/2 Sara Brooks	7/9 Grace Saunders	7/23 Ken Williams	
7/2 Tina Lewis	7/9 Terrence Knight	7/23 Teresa Hardee	
7/2 Emily Brown	7/11 Alexis Whalley	7/24 Joseph Verdirame	
7/3 Lily Garner	7/15 Virginia McNeill	7/25 Annette Bailey	
7/3 Dylan Pruitt	7/15 Gail Fisher	7/25 William Powell	
7/3 Annette Toner	7/18 Mary Keith Floyd	7/26 Nancy Braford	
7/4 Cassie Venable	7/18 Ann Walker	7/26 Chris Smith	
7/4 Barbara Rayburn	7/18 Linda Argust	7/26 Sarah Higinbotham	
7/4 Adam Joerger	7/18 Caroline Venable	7/26 Joseph Askew	
7/5 Mary Anne Barnes	7/19 Monica Lynn Eure	7/27 Iris Mamlin	
7/6 David Forman	7/20 Carson Birdsong	7/27 Scott Carr	
	7/20 Pam Huber	7/28 Laura Mizelle	

[ANNIVERSARIES]

7/2 Chuck & Irene Fisher
7/9 David & Shirley Baldwin
7/9 Cheri & David Anthony
7/11 John & Ann Shappell
7/18 Bernard & Iris Mamlin
7/23 Brent & Ann Brown
7/30 Harold & June Barrett
7/31 Eley & Nicole Duke, III

PRAYER LIST UPDATE

RECENT PRAYER: Cheri Harrell Anthony, all those affected by COVID-19, Larry and Betty Hudson, Rebecca Musser, Scott Michael, Darma Hedrick, Bekah Newsome, William Murphy, Samantha Carpenter, Robin Decker, Brenda Cox, Janice Harper, Alan Holland, social justice, unity and peace

ONGOING: Steve Clark, Sylvia Funkhouser, Bob Catlett, Heather Lawrence, Leila & Bob Tompert, Michael McPherson and Family, Lee Bowman, Lucas Lawrence, Joseph Medeiros, Stan Waterfield, Trenton Bishop, Juanita Colley, Carolyn Davis, Bobby Cullop

CANCER: Betty Sowell, Kate Rhoads, Brenda Atkins, Ralph Knapp, Nick Cleary, Wilma Babich, Ed Barber, Pam Askew, Linda Argust, Ray Holland, Midge Sanchez, Judy Duonela Vicars, Johnny Hardy, Thomas Burnett, Cheri Lane, Al Bremer, Diane Liles, Linda Harper, Faye Askew, Lois Barker, Angela Seed, Dave O'Neill, David Holloway, Judy Calfee, David Hollowell, Craig Holland, Christine Duran, Rod Rodrigues, Melaine Medeiros, Carol Coleman, Mary Lou Hedgepeth, Judy Holland, Kelly Grier (Ferguson) Coston, Fran Holland, Anita Nelson, June Adcock, Heather Carr, Dolores

Farrero, Robert Wilson, Susan Shea, Jessica Chamberlain, Julie Nance, Michael McClung, Marshall Thomas, Jill Harris, John Nodeen, Michael Barrett, Richard J. Peko, Nancy Pike, Bill Pollock, Roland Word, Thelma Johnson, Shannon Rivera, Juel Carr, Nancy Spring Parker

SKILLED CARE: Bill Gallant, Doug McPhail

HOMEBOUND: Melanie French, Jean Sutphin

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

Church Staff & Contact Information

Main Street United Methodist Church

202 N. Main Street, Suffolk, VA 23434

Office: 757.539.8751 | Fax: 757.539.7566
www.mainstumc.org | mainstreet@mainstumc.org

PASTOR

Richard L. Meiser, Jr. | richmeiser@vaumc.org
Cell: 434.294.1957

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC / ORGANIST

Chris Ward | cbward114@aol.com

UMYF COORDINATOR

Mark Popik | mapopik@yahoo.com

DIRECTOR OF CONGREGATIONAL CARE

Barbara McPhail | barbara@mainstumc.org

TECHNOLOGY COORDINATOR

Karen Waddell | karen.mainstumc@gmail.com

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Wendy Perry | wperry@mainstumc.org

PROPERTY MANAGER ASSISTANT

Joseph Askew

Main Street Day Care & Preschool

Office: 757.539.3431 | Fax: 757.539.7566
www.mainstreetdaycare.org

DAY CARE/PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR

Julia Farmer | julia@mainstumc.org



The Main Street MESSENGER

OF MAIN STREET UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



2020 STEWARDSHIP REPORT

Friends, thank you for your faithful stewardship of God's gifts! Great is the faithfulness of God!

JUNE 2020 [1-25]

Average Worship Attendance: - 150 Facebook
livestream and website viewers

Average Sunday School Attendance: 40+
Zoom participants

2020 Operating Budget: \$530,971

Received YTD Tithes & Offerings: \$204,147

YTD Expenses: \$235,161

MAY 2020

Average Worship Attendance: - 150 Facebook
livestream and website viewers

Average Sunday School Attendance: 40+ Zoom
participants

2020 Operating Budget: \$530,971

Received YTD Tithes & Offerings: \$183,358

YTD Expenses: \$219,071

APRIL 2020

Average Worship Attendance: - 160 Facebook
livestream and website viewers

Average Sunday School Attendance: 40+
Zoom participants

2020 Operating Budget: \$530,971

Received YTD Tithes & Offerings: \$143,982

YTD Expenses: \$171,361

4 WAYS TO GIVE



ONLINE



SMART
PHONE



SUNDAY



MAIL