



# *The Main Street* MESSENGER

VOLUME 66 | NO. 5 | MAY 2020



“...GOD *is always the*  
CONSTANT.”

Dear Friends,

When I think about the overall message of the gospels and the life of the disciples, I'm amazed at the amount of change that occurred in their lives as they followed Jesus. The disciples were far from perfect, but they followed even with their faults. Then consider all that changed after the death and resurrection of Jesus. They trusted the message of Jesus and rested in the new life God's love provided. While everything was changing for the early disciples, the one thing that stayed constant was God's love.

We are in unprecedented times. There is change happening all around us, and we long for a return to "normal." I'm not sure we will ever see "normal" again. Yes, there will be a time when we are back to worshipping in community; there will be a time when we can embrace one another as we greet; and there will be a time when we can see the smiles on people's faces because they won't be covered with masks. But I'm not sure "normal" will ever return. Our society will do many things

differently in the coming months, and that may actually be a good thing.

Until our lives are back to being as "normal" as possible, I want to remind you that God's love is stronger than any virus. This is not an excuse to go about as if there is no danger. Please practice safe social distancing, wash your hands often, and stay home if you can. In the meantime, we will continue to provide as many opportunities for worship and study through our Facebook page and Zoom meetings as possible. If you do not have the desire to use social media for maintaining contact, we will do our best to keep you connected through our print media.

During these next few weeks, please take the time to check on one another. Also, use these days to offer up to God your praises as well as your laments. This may be a good time to spend time each day in the Psalms. In these writings, we can find the breadth and depth of human emotions and God's response to the honesty of the authors. I hope you have taken advantage

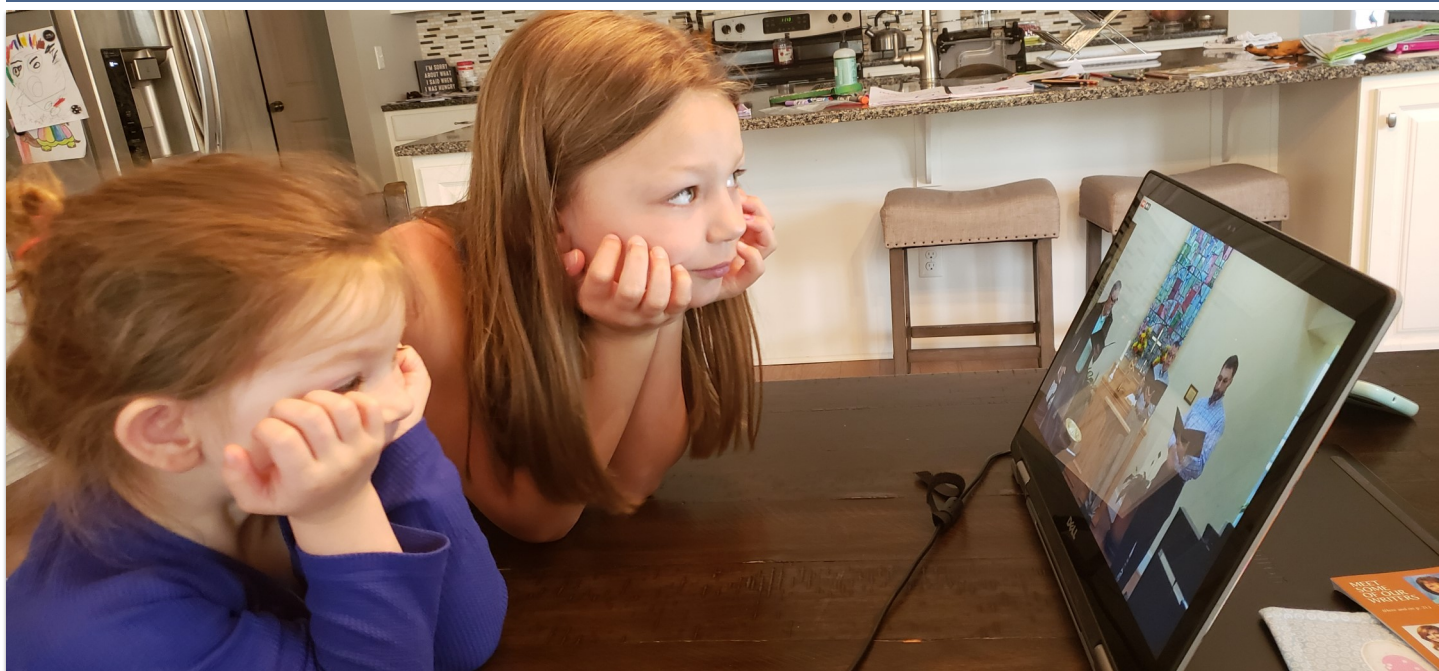
of the McMormore Sunday School class Zoom meetings. They continue to meet via Zoom. We will also be offering a new weekly Bible study beginning Tuesday, April 28, from 7 to 8 pm. The study is entitled ***The God We Can Know: Exploring the "I Am" Sayings of Jesus*** by Rob Fuquay. I will be leading this study, and I'm excited about meeting with you via Zoom.

I began this article by talking about change and acknowledging how difficult it is to deal with. However, I'm convinced that God loves change. The reason? When things are changing around us, it causes us to look for the constant, and God is always the constant. Lean on God, rest in God's love, and stay connected to others as best you can. We will continue to offer our weekly livestream worship. Consider checking in with us on Sunday mornings at 11 am, and invite others to join you. We will get through this time and be stronger as result of trusting God and supporting one another.

Grace and peace,  
Pastor Rich



# VIRTUAL BIBLE STUDY, CLASSES & MISSIONS



## ZOOM BIBLE STUDY BEGINS APRIL 28 AT 7 PM.

Join Us! The God We Can Know A Worship and Study Series on the "I Am" Sayings of Jesus In the Gospel of John, Jesus gives us the "I Am" sayings, meaningful metaphors such as "I am the bread of life" and "I am the light of the world," to reveal his mission and purpose. One by one, the "I Am" sayings of Jesus not only grab our imagination about Jesus' identity, they also help us to experience God, who spoke the first "I AM" to Moses. Join us for this insightful worship and study series as we learn more about the God we can know and as we seek to answer Jesus' question to us, "Who do you say I am?"

We will send out the Zoom link in an email. In the meantime, you can download the Zoom app so you will be ready to go.

## VIRTUAL CONFIRMATION CLASS VIA ZOOM!

Did you know that even though we are not able to meet together, we have a confirmation class that continues their journey toward membership? They are have Zoom meetings with an average of 15 people in attendance. The confirmands are Gracie Finn Eure, Buddy Baker, Jackson Henry and Michael McPherson. Steve Webb is leading the group and Pastor Rich and others are very much involved. Please keep them in your prayers and look forward to the day when they will be able to stand up in church to make their commitment to God and to Main Street church.



## COVENANT RELATIONSHIP COMMITMENT

Our Covenant relationship with John Elmore, our missionary in Chile, continues. Main Street UMC contributes \$2,500 each year to

support his work. Due to the unusual situation in which find ourselves this year we are offering two ways to give:

- 1) Send your check made out to Main Street UMC and annotate Covenant Relationship/John Elmore in the "memo" section. Mail to Main Street UMC, 202 N. Main Street, Suffolk, VA 23434.
- 2) Donate via the [www.mainstumc.org](http://www.mainstumc.org) website. Just click on the orange "Give Online" box, on the Fund line arrow down to "Covenant Relationship for John Elmore".

Your donation of any amount will help us fulfill this Covenant Commitment. The Mission's committee appreciates your support and so does John!

## STEWARDSHIP SECOND QUARTER - SERVICE

In lieu of the original plans for the service quarter of the church year, the Stewardship Committee has decided to provide box lunches for some of the essential personnel around the city. We will let you know who they are and when the meals will be delivered. These meals will be prepared by one of the local restaurants that offer take out orders.

# MAY 2020 [BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES]

## [BIRTHDAYS]

5/1 Graham Garner	5/12 Suzanne Van Orden	5/23 Eliza Guenthner
5/1 Beth Johnson	5/12 Carrington Wentz	5/24 Paul Hogg
5/1 Sawyer Holland	5/12 Phillip LaRose	5/24 Amy Yauger
5/2 Allie Pietrowski-Powers	5/12 Thomas Bartlett	5/24 Sarah Wampler
5/2 Michelle Selezneva	5/12 Wendy Perry	5/24 Connor Hill
5/3 Sarah Catlett	5/13 Mallory Walker	5/25 Barbara O'Berry
5/3 Maxwell Russell	5/14 Ralph Branchaud	5/25 Kim Wagner
5/4 Peggy Bradshaw	5/14 Cole Browne	5/25 Chase Brooks
5/4 Doreen Davis	5/14 William Hill	5/25 Thomas Garcia
5/4 Ryan Patterson	5/14 Colleen Meiser	5/26 Barbara McPhail
5/4 Glenda Johnston	5/15 John Yauger	5/26 Paul Callis
5/7 Cale Tyeryar	5/15 Trevor Boyd	5/27 Taylor Conner
5/8 Griffin Duggan	5/16 Stanley Picott	5/27 Steven Clark
5/8 Jack Webb	5/17 Mac Birdsong	5/28 Lalona Saunders
5/8 Angie Venable	5/17 Pam Fuller	5/28 Brian Kinsey
5/9 Connor Zydron	5/18 Lachlan Johnston	5/29 Zachary Crytzer
5/10 Reed Browne	5/19 Aubrey Callis	5/29 Jack Bivins
5/10 Charnell Blair	5/19 Dan Myers	5/30 Emily Hill
5/11 Jodi Browne	5/20 Marie Bowman	5/31 David Eure
5/12 Penn Birdsong	5/21 Patrick Suttle	5/31 Robert Flintoff
	5/23 E Duke	5/31 Alyssa Bossick

## [ANNIVERSARIES]

5/6 Lew & Ann Carr
5/12 David & Christel Hoy
5/14 Elliott & Barbara Haverty
5/17 Anthony & Sarah Catherine Giacometti
5/18 John & Kim Wagner
5/18 Tom & Linda Argust
5/20 Everett & Miriam Birdsong
5/20 Mike & Betty Michael
5/20 Joseph & Nancy Verdirame
5/22 Robbie & Shellee Stevens
5/26 Steve & Courtney Jackson
5/28 Steven & Laura Clark
5/29 Don & Harriette Albritton
5/29 Wes & Wendy Hill

*The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.*



## PRAYER LIST UPDATE

**RECENT PRAYER:** 4/19/20 Carolyn Davis, Bobby Cullop, Bev Cox, Hannah Goetz, Ruby Brinkley, Jeffery & Ashlyn Younkens, Lin Callis, Kandice Majette, Cheri Harrell Anthony, Laura Austin, all those affected by the coronavirus, Katherine Sigman (10 week old baby), co-worker's family (friends of Carol Harry)

**SYMPATHY:** Family of Patricia Casto-Knight; Family of Sue Birdsong

**ONGOING:** Steve Clark, Sylvia Funkhouser, Bob Catlett, Heather Lawrence, Leila & Bob Tompert, Michael McPherson and Family, Lee Bowman, Otto Wegman, Lucas Lawrence, Joseph Medeiros, tan

Waterfield, Trenton Bishop, Juanita Colley, Shellee Stevens

**CANCER:** Bob Tompert, 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, Sally Gum Palmer, Diane Liles, Linda Harper, Faye Askew, Lois Barker, Angela Seed, Dave O'Neill, David Holloway, Judy Calfee, David Hollowell, Craig Holland, Jean Brinkley, Christine Duran, Rod Rodrigues, Melaine Medeiros, Pat Wegman, Colton Cover, Carol Coleman, Mary Lou Hedgepeth, Judy

Holland, Kelly Grier (Ferguson) Coston, Fran Holland, Holly Wilson, 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

**SKILLED CARE:** Bill Gallant

**HOMEBOUND:** Melanie French, Jean Sutphin

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

## 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

#### CHILDREN'S RESOURCE COORDINATOR

Karen Waddell | karen.mainstumc@gmail.com

#### ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Wendy Perry | wperry@mainstumc.org

#### PROPERTY MANAGER

Bland Newman | bnewman@mainstumc.org

### 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!*

### APRIL 2020 [1-18]

Individual Worship Attendees: -  
Average Worship Attendance: -  
Average Sunday School Attendance: -  
2020 Operating Budget: \$530,971  
Received YTD Tithes & Offerings: \$128,972  
YTD Expenses: \$156,891.65

### MARCH 2020

Individual Worship Attendees: 261  
Average Worship Attendance: 178  
Average Sunday School Attendance: 57  
2020 Operating Budget: \$530,971  
Received YTD Tithes & Offerings: \$109,627  
YTD Expenses: \$140,762

### FEBRUARY 2020

Individual Worship Attendees: 261  
Average Worship Attendance: 178  
Average Sunday School Attendance: 57  
2020 Operating Budget: \$530,971  
Received YTD Tithes & Offerings: \$79,265  
YTD Expenses: \$103,996

## 4 WAYS TO GIVE



ONLINE



SMART  
PHONE



SUNDAY



MAIL