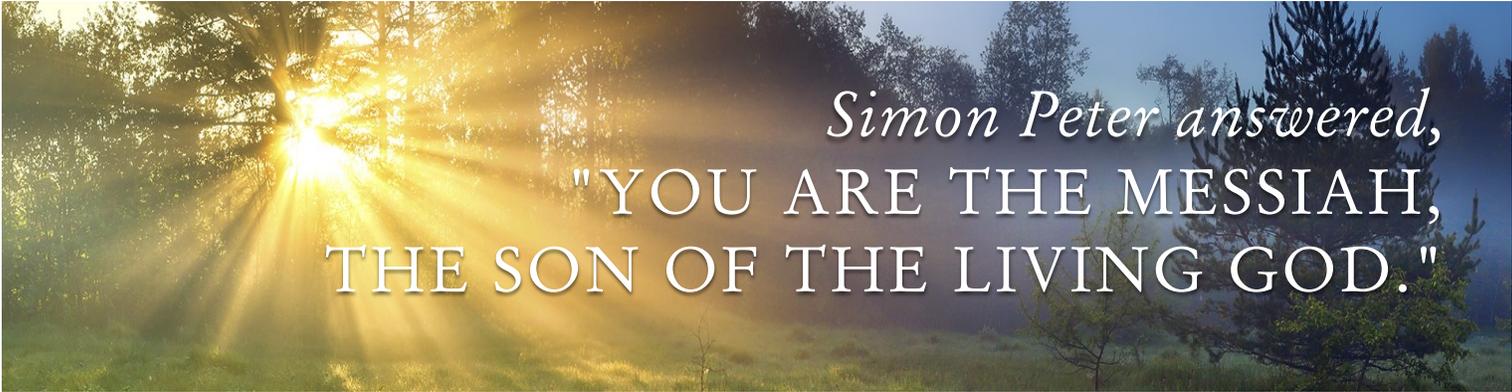




# *The Main Street* MESSENGER

VOLUME 66 | NO. 9 | SEPTEMBER 2020



*Simon Peter answered,*  
"YOU ARE THE MESSIAH,  
THE SON OF THE LIVING GOD."

In August I have been preaching from the Gospel of Matthew, and we have reach a critical point in the Gospel. The climax of the Gospel happens in chapter 16 as Peter declares Jesus as the "Messiah, the Son of the living God." As the disciples worked their way through those days, they were not sure what the future held. However, with Peter's declaration, they were sure who held the future. It is Jesus, the Messiah, the Son of the living God. They continued to follow Jesus even when they were not sure what was next. The disciples were not perfect, but they had faith enough to follow Jesus.

Since March 2020, things have been very different for our world, our nation, our communities, and our church. In the midst of this global pandemic, the church universal has changed in the way we gather and worship; but the One we worship has not changed.

Jesus is still "the Messiah, the Son of God," God is still Love, and the Holy Spirit is still the eternal presence of the divine in our lives.

At Main Street UMC, we have been back to in-person worship since June 28, 2020. Our 8:30 am in-person worship has been a blessing. As we have gathered, I have been blessed and encouraged by your attendance. It also gives me hope that we are working our way back to some sense of normalcy.

It will no doubt be a "new normal," but a constant movement toward non-worship gatherings and the lessening of restrictions for in-person worship will be a welcome "breath of fresh air." Our Healthy Church Team (HCT) just approved the use of our facilities for non-worship gatherings. These "ministries" are an important part of the life at Main Street UMC. It is with great

joy that we announce the return of our Scouting ministries and AA gatherings. There will be restrictions for these groups, and certain areas of the facilities will not be available for use; but there is great hope in a return to a "new normal."

As we continue to follow Jesus as best we can and live in a constantly changing world, we must remember to declare as Peter did, Jesus is "the Messiah, the Son of the living God." This not only guides us in a changing world, it will also guide us in the changes that occur in our personal lives. Thank you for all the wonderful cards and prayers offered up for my healing. I find strength and hope in your prayers and words of encouragement. I hope to be back to my "new normal" very soon.

Grace and peace,  
Pastor Rich

## [CAPS FUNDRAISER TICKETS]

It is time once again for the CAPS BBQ fundraiser. Tickets will be available in the church office, and Carol Harry will be at church on the following Sundays with tickets for sale:

*Dates*.....Sundays, Sept 6 and 13

*Time*.....between 9:30 and 10:30 am

**\*\* Tickets are \$12 each. PLEASE BRING EXACT CHANGE OR A CHECK (payable to CAPS) so that no money exchange must take place.**

**\*\* For details, please see fundraiser insert.**

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## [CARE AND CONCERN FOR MEMBERS]

The United Methodist Women have had a committee for years that supplies meals to our members who are sick, just home from the hospital, or have a special need . We also send cards and make calls and visits. We have a list of willing servants for each month so that we all have an opportunity to serve.

We would like to open this opportunity to our whole congregation. Your name would be on a rotating list, so you may be called only a couple of times a year. It may be a need for a meal or to pick up items for the member from the grocery store.

We also have plans to get together and cook meals to freeze in our church kitchen to make the meals as safe as possible.

You will be able to specify what you would like to offer on the list beside your name.

Please let me know if you would like to be included in this ministry to serve others. We need you now more than ever!

Thank you,

Laura Solomon

Email: [laura@smileforlaura.com](mailto:laura@smileforlaura.com)

Phone: 757-439-0767

Care and Concern Committee

## A BOOMERANG, A BAD PENNY, “THE CAT CAME BACK THE VERY NEXT DAY” ...



It seems like I was just with you as your Intentional Interim Pastor after Pastor Myrtle died, and yet it seems like it has been a lifetime! You have had changes in members, leadership, and focus, yet the Spirit of God flows through you just as it has before. I welcome the opportunity to be with you for the late summer and early fall

to come along side you and your ministry, even masked, in the COVID 19 pandemic social distancing that we are experiencing.

Rather than full time, while Pastor Rich is attending to his health needs, I will be among you and on call to “fill in the cracks” where I am needed. If you have a need or question or you’d just like to talk, please feel free to be in touch! [ellencomstock@vaumc.org](mailto:ellencomstock@vaumc.org) or through the church office.

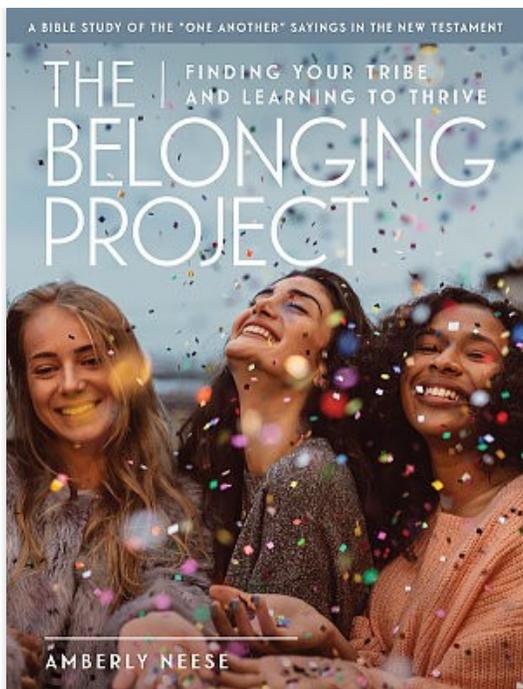
By the way, what have I been doing since I last saw you? I’ve been helping with the on-line worship at Monumental UMC in downtown Portsmouth, seeing a few pastoral counseling clients, taking care of three permanent “canine children” and fostering a fourth who is blind and deaf. I’ve been doing research in family genealogy, and just started to do “virtual rehearsals” with the Virginia Choral Society! Like everyone else, Ray and I are finding new ways to spend time in our home. I’m looking forward to “catching up” with y’all and hearing your stories.

As Paul greeted the community at Philippi by letter, so I greet you: *“I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ.*

With Christ’s love,

Pastor Ellen

# SPIRITUAL GROWTH OPPORTUNITIES



**4 WEEK STUDY BEGINS  
TUESDAY | SEPTEMBER 15 | 7 PM**

Consider joining us as we study  
"The Belonging Project"!



## [FOR WOMEN]

*Attention ladies!* Consider joining us for a new 4 week small group study for women, "The Belonging Project" by Amberly Neese. This study will be held on Tuesday's at 7 pm beginning September 15.

### *Two Options for Participation*

- [1] **THE IN-PERSON GROUP** of up to 10 participants, led by Colleen Meiser, will be held outside, weather permitting, (location to be announced).
- [2] **THE ONLINE ZOOM GROUP** led by Glenda Johnston. 10 to 12 participants would be ideal for facilitation and discussion.

### *Please Respond by Tuesday, September 8*

Please respond and purchase your book by Tuesday, September 8, if you are interested in participating. Contact Chris Ward in the church office at [cbward114@aol.com](mailto:cbward114@aol.com) or (757) 539-8751.

BOOKS ARE AVAILABLE at [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) or other book sellers.

This four-week Bible study provides biblical and practical help for cultivating meaningful relationships that glorify God through an exploration of the "one another" sayings in the New Testament:

- Love one another
- Serve one another
- Build up and strengthen one another
- Forgive one another

## [FOR CHILDREN]

**4 WEEK SESSION BEGINS SEPTEMBER 13, 9:30AM**

*We're excited to share* that we will begin a four-week session for Main Street children on Sunday, September 13. Using Zoom, we'll "meet" on Sunday mornings at 9:30 for a 30 minute session. The lessons will focus on the special use of water in the Bible and incorporate well-known Bible stories from both the Old and New Testaments which include water as central to the story. Crafts will be provided for children for all 4 weeks prior to the first session, and we will complete crafts together while on Zoom.

If you didn't sign up when the email was sent in July, please let us know right away if children in your family would like to participate. We have six participants now but would welcome more! Email Nancy Webb at [nanwebb74@gmail.com](mailto:nanwebb74@gmail.com) or call or text (757) 620-5402. We would love to see our group grow!

# WHAT'S HAPPING AT MAIN STREET DAY CARE & PRESCHOOL



These past months we have been working hard in partnership with local agencies, our Board of Directors, and Conference leaders of the Virginia United Methodist Church for the health and safety of MSDC's children, families, and staff. This partnership continues with parents and guardians in helping keep the children, families, and staff healthy and safe.

When the shutdowns around the world began, our Day Care director, Julia Farmer, and Board of Directors decided it was in the best interest of the children and staff to shut down until more direction could be given on how to respond to the virus. The doors were closed for 4 weeks, and then

the need to provide childcare for essential employees became a priority. Policies for safely returning children and staff to the building were carefully developed and implemented, and soon we were back in business. With reduced numbers of children allowed in each classroom and many other changes, children of essential employees were the first to return. As we entered Phase 2, more children have been able to come back. With the help of a PPP grant and another from the state, salaries have been covered. With lower numbers of children, the tuition income was greatly reduced.

Today MSDC continues to operate with the safety of children and

staff at the forefront. This fall we will also provide care for up to 20 school age children who will not be returning to the classroom. They will be able to do their work virtually with the assistance of the staff. In addition, we will provide appropriate activities as we do with the summer camp for older children.

Main Street Day Care and Preschool has been operating for 32 years, and we are glad to have weathered the Covid-19 storm so far. We will continue to do all that we can to serve the community through this ministry. Please pray for our staff and children and the parents who depend on us to care for their children so that they can return to work.

## TROOP 1 SEA BASE 2020



Five Troop 1 Boy Scouts (Joseph Askew, Braedon McCauley, Devin Wilson, Matthew Shaffer, Matthew Duley) and two leaders (David Askew and Rick Wilson) have completed the Boy Scout Triple Crown of high adventure bases in the last 13 months (Northern Tier, Philmont and Sea Base).

Boy Scouts of America purchased the complex in 1979 with a grant, and the Florida Gateway to High Adventure had a new home and a new name – the Florida National High Adventure Sea Base. Since 1980, the BSA has added participant dorms housing over 200 Scouts and leaders, scuba pools, conference/staff housing, program facilities and an administration building, making this facility a showplace of Scouting!

# SEPTEMBER 2020 [BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES]

## [BIRTHDAYS]

9/1 Leah Powell  
 9/1 Bitsy Hallman  
 9/2 Paige McCauley  
 9/3 Jamie McLemore  
 9/3 Chuck Fisher  
 9/3 Sarah Spiker  
 9/4 Cabell Birdsong  
 9/4 Massimo Soto  
 9/5 Charles Birdsong  
 9/5 Ginny Blair  
 9/5 Mary Beth Johnson  
 9/6 Brook Birdsong  
 9/7 Miriam Birdsong  
 9/7 Jacque Edwards  
 9/7 Pam Hill  
 9/7 Callie Guenther  
 9/8 Cara Brinkley  
 9/8 Rachel Callis  
 9/9 Mike Michael  
 9/9 Stephanie Strouse  
 9/10 Paul Cutchin

9/11 David Livingston  
 9/11 Cameron Hill  
 9/13 Michael Beale  
 9/13 Amber Grudenian  
 9/14 Rob Harry  
 9/15 Alex Powell  
 9/15 Jennifer Crytzer  
 9/15 Heather Joerger  
 9/16 Cindy Garner  
 9/16 Abigail Bassey  
 9/16 Jennifer Kilborn  
 9/17 Trent Holland  
 9/17 Susan Rivenbark  
 9/17 Maksim Seleznev  
 9/18 Karla Brown  
 9/18 Kandice Majette  
 9/19 Peyton Harrell  
 9/20 Warren Birdsong  
 9/20 Hugh Cross  
 9/20 Debbie Williams  
 9/20 Bobby Cullop  
 9/21 Frances Kelley  
 9/21 Riley Pruitt

9/22 Karen Wills  
 9/22 Jackson Henry  
 9/22 Joanna Johnson  
 9/23 Meredith Michael  
 9/24 Bollie McLemore  
 9/24 Aiden Gregory  
 9/24 Carolyn Davis  
 9/25 Phil McPhail  
 9/25 Eley Duke  
 9/26 Sarah Barnhill  
 9/26 Julie Wampler  
 9/26 Anne Rooker  
 9/27 Tim Riley  
 9/27 Tom Riley  
 9/27 Landon Farley  
 9/28 Chris Ward  
 9/28 Malene Bryant  
 9/28 Sue Lowe  
 9/28 Monette Harrell  
 9/28 Ted Williams  
 9/28 Lindsey Spiker  
 9/29 Gerardo Soto

## [ANNIVERSARIES]

9/1 Dale & Peggy Bradshaw  
 9/6 Jimmy & Katie Hicks  
 9/8 Bobby & Nan Cullop  
 9/9 Scott & Heather Carr  
 9/9 Jimmy & Leah Powell  
 9/11 Rex & Anne Rooker  
 9/14 Tom & Megan Taliaferro  
 9/14 Bo & Liz Russell  
 9/17 Ken & Gail Williams  
 9/19 Hugh & Lynn Cross  
 9/21 Todd & Suzanne Pruitt  
 9/22 Lanny & Janet Horn  
 9/23 Jeremie & Courtney Gibbs  
 9/26 Dan & Jennifer Myers  
 9/27 Blake & Kelly Baker  
 9/27 Carl & Karen Savage  
 9/29 Jay & Kim Butler  
 9/29 Bob & Sylvia Funkhouser

## PRAYER LIST UPDATE

**RECENT PRAYER:** 8/23/20: Cheri Harrell Anthony, all those affected by COVID-19, Larry and Betty Hudson, Rebecca Musser, Darma Hedrick, William Murphy, Robin Decker, Brenda Cox, Matthew Agnese, Tom Buxton, Lydia Duke, Jacquelyn Catlett, Elena Tonon, Bob Callis, Pastor Rich, doctors and nurses; social justice, unity and peace; all those affected by Tropical Storm Isaias; Pamela Edwards-Jones; Christi Bastion; Melissa Bencosme; students, parents, teachers and administrators in local schools; safety and well being of our college students and professors; Brother-in-law of Tess Popik

**SYMPATHY:** Family of Marita Gist (Mother-in-Law of Beth Gist); Family of Katie Wallace; Brenda Stallings and family (loss of Daughter); Caryn Johnson (loss of Husband)

**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

**OUR NATION AND WORLD:** Military Troops & Families: Chris Smith, Anthony Hickler, Hunter Pietrowski, Adam Waddell, Kent Brooks, Bryanna Grant, James Russell III, Kristi Kilborn, Will Crow, Wesley Linder, Duncan Bevan, Hayley Burton, Jonathan Burton, TJ Argust; Police, Fire & Rescue Workers; CAPS (Coalition Against Poverty in Suffolk); Our Schools; Main Street Day Care & Preschool; Workplaces & Homes

## 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

Eric Hyman | propertymanager@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!*

### AUGUST 2020 [1-27]

Average Worship Attendance: - 115 Facebook Live and website viewers; 21 In-Person 8:30

Average Sunday School Attendance: 40+ Zoom participants

2020 Operating Budget: \$530,971

Received YTD Tithes & Offerings: \$293,7856

YTD Expenses: \$315,799

### JULY 2020

Average Worship Attendance: - 115 Facebook Live and website viewers; 21 In-Person 8:30

Average Sunday School Attendance: 40+ Zoom participants

2020 Operating Budget: \$530,971

Received YTD Tithes & Offerings: \$264,273

YTD Expenses: \$276,556

### JUNE 2020

Average Worship Attendance: - 150 Facebook Live and website viewers; 22 In-Person 8:30

Average Sunday School Attendance: 40+ Zoom participants

2020 Operating Budget: \$530,971

Received YTD Tithes & Offerings: \$213,735

YTD Expenses: \$248,793

## 4 WAYS TO GIVE



ONLINE



SMART  
PHONE



SUNDAY



MAIL

pick-up a plate of

# BBQ

to support the

**Coalition Against Poverty in Suffolk**

C A P S



**\$12**

**CAPTAIN BOB'S**

Fried chicken, BBQ, coleslaw,  
hush puppies, mac 'n cheese

**SUNDAY**  
**SEPT 20**  
**11:00-2:00**

**PURCHASE TICKETS**

Go online to

[capsuffolk.org/bbq](http://capsuffolk.org/bbq)

or call the

CAPS Office | 757-935-5497

See your church's CAPS rep:

Drive through plate pick up at:

Westminster Reformed Presbyterian Church

3488 Godwin Blvd Suffolk, VA 23434

Questions? Contact CAPS 757-935-5497