



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | THUMC | MAY 2020

## Predictions

*Prediction is very difficult, especially about the future Niels Bohr*

I can say with all certainty the question I have been asked most over the last 6 weeks involves timing; “ Preacher or pastor Ken when are we going to start having church again?” The answer as of this writing remains the same. I don’t know! It is obvious people are ready for a change that resembles previous times, schedules and a fresh freedom from restrictions. I confess that I hear you and share some of your impatience. However, to give you an exact time and date would be misleading and irresponsible at this time.

I also believe that things will be different in many ways we when gather again for corporate worship. Not everyone will feel the same about how we should resume gatherings. These differences of opinion and preference will include subjects like worship, bible study, outreach, and stewardship to name a few. Join me in praying about the individual and group discernment process involving how we will

choose to approach a less restrictive future.

Much of our frustration is self-inflicted when we struggle to find contentment for a variety of reasons. Many of you know I tend to be a hand-on, relationship driven personality. While that is still true, I have an increased appreciation for the blessings I still possess and receive without restriction. Many of us are able if we so choose to find blessings to count one by one. I still know God is in control and my faith is a daily source of contentment and peace during this challenging time.

Read and meditate on positive thoughts like the single verse of truth shared with us in 1Timothy 6:6 : *But godliness with contentment is great gain.* We truly are in this spiritual journey together. Feed your faith, not your fears.-  
Pastor Ken

## Upcoming Events

- ◆ (All church activities have been postponed until it is safe for us to gather and worship together.)
- ◆ Thursday, May 7th, National Day of Prayer
- ◆ Sunday, May 10th, Mother’s Day
- ◆ Monday, May 25th, Memorial Day

# MY MOTHER

My mother was one of those moms who would always be on my side regardless of the circumstances. If she thought anyone had hurt me or slighted me, she was immediately ready to do battle. She never went to high school or college. She completed the 8th grade which was about all that was offered in the community where she lived. She married at age 16 and I was born before she turned 17. My father was shipped overseas about 18 months later and did not return until I was 6. We spent the first year or so of my life traveling back and forth to military bases. Rooms for rent in private homes or boarding houses were the only accommodations that were available but my mother wanted to be near my father for as long as possible. Not many of the renters really wanted a crying child as a housemate but it seemed to work out. As I remember, or as I was told later, I actually became the center of attention.

Everybody celebrated after the war and I remember the family gatherings. There was, of course, fried chicken, potato salad and other traditional family dishes. It was a lot like a Fellowship dinner in fact. It was also a child's idea of heaven with cousins of every age to tease or aggravate while adults were too busy with their own visiting to pay attention. And right there before us, were all of our favorite foods (desserts!) available for the snitching.

As always, the men gathered outside in a group to talk and to sample homemade wine or stronger locally produced spirits. They slapped one another on the back or made feints as if to land a blow to the jaw. They guffawed and told stories on one another, making something up if there wasn't a good tale to tell. The younger guys stood around, one foot scuffing the dirt as they tried to fit themselves into the adult society. Sometimes the youth broke into real fights as one or another felt slighted in some way. In a separate group, the women gathered on the porch after making sure that the food was arranged and covered and the dishes put away. They gossiped and laughed, drinking iced tea, talking about feminine issues, discussing good friends and not so good friends. Us kids never paid much attention to them until their voices began to lower or they would lean toward one another while hands went up to partially hide their mouths. Then we knew they were talking about something we weren't supposed to hear and we would gradually shift ourselves closer to the source, hoping to hear something we could discuss with one another later.

It was at one such family gathering that I established my claim as a family memory. It was that time of afternoon when the kids had become a little bored with one another and began to wander off or to curl up on the porch swing and go to sleep. Being less sleepy and more adventurous, I made my way around the outer yard, looking for something to pique my interest. And I found it in the chicken yard! The hens were busy chasing insects and the rooster, who hated me with a passion, was otherwise occupied. I had helped my grandparents gather eggs before so I knew where to look for an outlet for my energy. I

carefully gathered up my skirt, making a soft basket for the eggs. I went from nest to nest, adding each clutch to my batch until I had a couple of dozen at least. There was a huge oak tree in the middle of the chicken yard that provided shade for the henhouse and a roost for the more adventurous poultry. Taking careful aim, I lofted the first projectile toward that tree. It landed with a satisfying SMASH! Swiftly I began to throw eggs as hard as I could. What I had failed to take into account was the fact that not all of these eggs were from laying hens, some were from setting hens. These were eggs left in the nest to encourage the hens to sit on their product and hatch new chickens. Not all of these eggs germinated. Some of them had been left in the nest for a long time...long enough for the yolk to become, shall we say, rotten? Those rotten eggs literally exploded on impact, covering me with an odor that not even a mother could love. Not without a clothespin on her nose anyway.

To say I disrupted the family gathering is an understatement. It was as though a spewing skunk had made its way into the group. People scattered in all directions. Nobody but NOBODY wanted to get near me. Of course, as always, a mother has to do what a mother has to do. Later, after many washings, and many hugs, I was still the object of levity as the other kids refused to get anywhere near me and the adults would look at me and burst into laughter. To say that the experience scarred me for life is a little too dramatic. Let's just say I will never forget it! And I will be a lot more careful if I ever again decide to throw any eggs.

I was and am thankful for such a loving mother. It was a blow when I lost my mom. Somehow though, it feels like she is always with me. In my mind I see her smile with me as I interact with my grandchildren or watch my great-granddaughter as she matures. I feel my mother's encouragement when my head is hanging low. I feel my mother's support when I try something new. She'll always be at my side because her love was so strong that it has never left me, even though she is no longer physically available.

We often compare God's love to a father's love and that is entirely appropriate. But in my mind, the thought of God's love will always be associated with my mother's love. God loves us in spite of our faults and washes us clean with His grace just as my mother bathed me and loved me in spite of the rotten eggs. The memory of my mother's love sustains me. God, however, is more than a memory. God IS with us. He encourages us, He supports us, He refreshes our spirits.

Zephaniah 3:17 tells us, "The LORD you God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you with loud singing

Sandy Kelly

# WHAT HAVE WE BEEN DOING ?

I have been working on art projects and trying to finish a vest that I started crocheting a few years ago. I have also been reading a book that claims you can reduce some of the problems that come with any Auto Immune problems. It mostly deals with food intake. I had been led to believe that nothing you did helped Lipodema. Doctors don't seem to give much hope. I hope that I can prove them wrong or at least improve the situation.

Sue Stephens

Today is another day. Michael and I have been staying home more. I have been making masks, a few every week. I only go out on Tuesdays to pick up the Publix donation and on Wednesday mornings to help with Farm Share. I have been cleaning more and of course reading. I love reading. Michael has painted the front porch and trim on the house. He keeps the yard tidy and has trimmed the bushes in the back yard. Best of all, he has been cooking! He is a wonderful cook. Wishing all of our friends love and prayers during this time.

Darlene Blain



Jack has been reading a lot. He had to quit his job the end of January, because he broke his hip. He does some exercises here to strengthen it. I'm cooking 3 meals a day, cleaning out stuff and reading a lot. Will be glad when we can get out again. We really miss seeing everyone at church.

Cora Ann Chapman

I've been sewing fabric face masks. At first I made them for the staff of our Health Center. Then I decided to make some for our residents who don't sew. We are now required to wear a face mask when we leave our apartment/house. Then my daughter in Apalachicola said she needed a face mask when going to the grocery store and to her office at the school where she is a guidance counselor. School may be closed but parents, teachers and students call her all day long with problems they need solved. So I made six and sent them to her for all the adults in my family in Apalachicola to each have a face mask. I soon learned that 3/4" elastic is as scarce as toilet paper! I learned to cut 1/2" elastic down to 3/4". "Necessity is the mother of invention." I've made so many masks I think I can make them in my sleep!

Jean Day



We have been growing tomatoes and I have completed a scrapbook of William's awards. Sally B.

I finally worked the jigsaw puzzles made from pictures of my grandchildren. They were given to me for Christmas. All I need now is one for Liliana and Denise's baby when it arrives :) Nancy B.



I have been sewing dresses and face masks, (she made the dress above and the facemasks Cindy and Marta are modeling) making scrub pads, and painting a bookcase for the church nursery. Violet Arthmann



Clark Brookstone donating restaurant gift cards to the nurses at Capital Regional Hospital



## THE LSM BASIC COURSE: CONNECTING AND SERVING DURING COVID-19



David Palmer

During this time of pandemic and isolation, many of us have to remain home and separated from family, church, and friends. Reconnect with our United Methodist history and faith and learn how to reach out to others in this one-of-a-kind pilot course in Lay Servant Ministries offered at a discount price.



Rod Groom

Learn **online** while connecting with others who want to lead better without losing time from your work and loved ones. Easy and doable even if you are new to online learning. The Basic Course is a requirement towards becoming a Certified Lay Servant, but it is open to all lay members in the Florida conference.

Instructors, North Central District Director of Lay Servant Ministries (LSM), David Palmer, and Florida Conference Lay Servant Ministries Director, Rod Groom look forward to serving you in this course. Register today at [BeADisciple.com](https://www.BeADisciple.com).

**MAY 26 | 3 WEEKS | \$25 | 1 CEU**



The Florida Conference  
OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

North Central District Director of Lay Servant Ministries, David Palmer, and Florida Conference Lay Servant Ministries Director, Rod Groom, would like to share the news of an online course beginning May 26 which is just for United Methodists who live in The Florida Conference.

During this time of pandemic and isolation, many of us have to remain home and separated from family, church, and friends. Reconnect with our United Methodist history and faith and learn how to reach out to others by participating in [this one-of-a-kind pilot course](#) in Lay Servant Ministries offered at a discount price. We encourage you to join with us as we connect and serve during COVID-19.

This online course is for those who are hungry to know how God can use them to help others during COVID-19. This 3-week-course will give you clarity around your talents and the needs of your community. Learn online while connecting with others who want to lead better without losing time from your work and loved ones. Easy and doable even if you are new to online learning. The Basic Course is a requirement towards becoming a Certified Lay Servant, but it is open to all lay members in The Florida Conference. Six of the required 10 hours will be offered online with an additional four hours through use of Zoom Meeting software. This course is being offered online on a limited basis to meet needs during The COVID-19 pandemic and is only approved for use within The Florida Conference.

If you have any questions please contact Florida Conference Director, Rod Groom, at 941-356-4566.

# Congratulations to our High School Class of 2020

We will be sending out a separate email with information regarding their future plans and a way we can celebrate their accomplishment during these unusual times.

Makaela Campos

Dakota Hough

Carson Hough

Gwennie Adkins

Kara McDaniel

Carson Chapman



## **HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

Warner Garrison 05/01

Randy Lane 05/04

Libby Warren 05/09

Jacob Nelson 05/11

Carolyn Ingram 05/13

Khanh Tuong 05/14

Devon Lynn 05/14

Rachel Lamantia 05/14

Anne Pelt 05/17

Jessica DeLoach 05/17

Sydney Papka 05/20

Ed Nelson 05/23

Buddy Spradley 05/24

Bob Boyd 05/27

Jim Matthews 05/28

William Benjamin 05/29

Anita Tuong 05/29

Lori Lynn 05/29

Mundy Hopper 05/29

Sue Stephens 05/31

Gwen Adkins 05/31

## **HAPPY ANNIVERSARY**

Merle & Kristie Manzi 05/02

Brian & Merideth Middleton 05/05

Kevin & Shay Chapman 05/06

Doug & Elizabeth Ostrus 05/07

Don & Laura Bizzell 05/16

Travis & Meghan Marchant 05/16

Alex & Kay Szigeti 05/19

Thaddeus & Sharon Grimes 05/23

