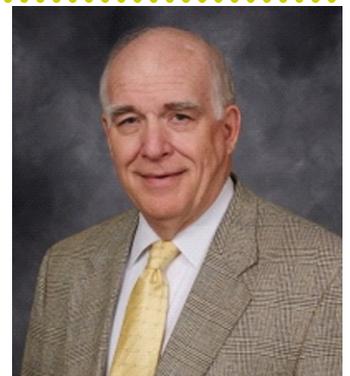


Forestburg United Methodist Church

Since we are “staying at home” due to the Coronavirus, and are not sure when we will gather again in the sanctuary as a worshiping congregation, the Administrative Council felt that it would be essential once we were past Easter, to have a Weekly Update. Our Weekly Update will have a "Ben’s Pen", an "Order of Worship" for the weekly Sunday worship, and will also include announcements, prayer concerns, and other items of interest for the congregation. **Our online worship service can be found each week on our website (www.forestburgumc.com) or on our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/ForestburgUMC/).** If you need assistance in viewing the online worship, please feel free to contact Theresa Gentry prior to Sunday morning. Pastor Ben usually has the worship posted by Saturday evening.

From Ben’s Pen



*In the bulb there is a flower, in the seed an apple tree;
In cocoons a hidden promise: butterflies will soon be free!
In the cold and snow of winter there’s a spring that waits to be,
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.*

These are words from a familiar hymn that is regularly sung during the Easter season and at funeral services. It was written in 1986 by Natalie Sleeth. As I have read about the history of this hymn, Natalie wrote this hymn for her husband Dr. Ronnie Sleeth. Ronnie Sleeth was a professor at Perkins School of Theology when I was a student there. Ronnie Sleeth had taught at several universities after Perkins. In 1986 he learned from his doctors that he had a terminal illness. From the date of the diagnosis of his illness to his death was just twenty-one days. Natalie Sleeth wrote this hymn for her husband before he died.

The hymn is a reminder of wonderful Easter surprises God provides for us as we journey through life. A little over a month ago I noticed that a dove had built a nest on a ceramic plate on a shelf in a sheltered area of our patio. It was not long before I noticed there were two eggs in the nest. Then came about two weeks of a dove sitting on the eggs. I have learned that the male dove sits on the eggs during the day while the female sits on them during the night. About three weeks ago I was aware that the eggs had hatched. From a distance we watched as the baby doves grew. Then on the Monday before Easter I went onto our patio and the nest was empty. It was our Easter surprise! On Saturday I was on the patio and noticed that the doves were building a new nest in a large bowl on the same shelf on the patio. I think there will be more doves in our future.

My tulips have stopped blooming but I have irises that are adding a dash of color to the landscape. I have just cut some pink roses that now sit in a vase in our living room. A fig bush that looked dead has sprung to life with a plethora of leaves and shoots. Mother Nature is relentless. If you have been reading about what has happened with shelter in place across the planet you find that skies are clearing of smog and pollution. In Pakistan a village saw the Himalayas for the first time in thirty years as pollution in the sky has abated. In Venice the canals are clear and the water is blue. The world is filled with Easter surprises that are around you every day. Natalie Sleeth wrote about the greatest Easter surprise in the third verse of her hymn:

*In our end is our beginning, in our time infinity;
In our doubt there is believing; in our life eternity.
In our death, a resurrection; at the last a victory,
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.*

Special points of interest:

- Ben’s Pen, Weekly Announcements, Prayers/Praises, Weekly Giving, Birthdays/Anniversaries, Order of Worship for Sunday, April 19

Weekly Announcements

- ◆ With our not worshipping together on Sunday mornings, we still have operations and bills to pay at the church. We encourage you to:
 - ◆ Mail your gifts to the church. Our mailing address is: P. O. Box 374; the Zip Code is 76239.
 - ◆ Or drop them off at the church on Wednesday afternoons. Theresa is usually there between 4:00 and 6:00 p.m. She will go out to your car and get the checks, if someone does not want to go into the church.
- ◆ There has not been a Yard Mowing Schedule posted, but if someone would like to help out with the lawn care at the church and/or at the parsonage, it would be greatly appreciated.

Prayers/Praises

For those in need of continued prayer:

Myrt Denham, Helen Ellzey and Family, Harriett Nauert, Bobbie Jo Wiley, Wassie and Rosemary Reynolds, James Wooldridge, Trent Tipton, Treaver Freeman, Travis Landers (cancer), Chance Fox, Jim Bob Roberts and family, Our Church and Church Family, Our Military, Mary and Glen Whatley, Gloria Gregg and Family, Clara Tipton and Family, Stella Crowsey and Family, Rex Larkey, Carol and Wilbourn Smith, Bill Scott, Veronica Greanead,, Lisa Trussell, Peggy Cain, SPRC and District Superintendent Todd Harris and placing new pastor process, Larry Bailey, Betty Dunn, Keen Johnson and all our service men and women, Un-named individual experiencing health issues and their family, Daniel White and Family, Family and Friends of Weldon Roberts, **Our World and the those concerned with Coronavirus**, Those considered Essential that continue to work and thereby experience exposure to the virus, Recently diagnosed healthcare worker, residents and staff at the Advanced Rehab in Bowie, Businesses large and small that are having to make difficult decisions due to the Coronavirus and their employees

Places we've seen God at work:

Healings, Family, Friends, Children, Grandchildren and Great Grandchildren, Veterans, Answered Prayers, Grandparents, Healing for Gary Johnson, Pastor Ben and his wife Mary for providing our Sunday worship time on-line weekly, The Empty Tomb and Resurrection of Our Lord.

Weekly Giving

Date	General Fund	Designated Funds
April 05	\$1,200.00	\$50.00
April 12	\$1,300.00	\$354.00

Birthdays

- April 12 – Jewell Dill (last week)
- April 16 – Raymon Wood
- April 18 – Margaret O'Brien
- April 24 – Samuel Farrell
- April 26 – Carolyn Wood
- April 30 – Abby Carter

Anniversaries

- April 12 – Jana and Kenneth Tipton
- April 22 – Theresa and Dan Gentry

In this uncertain time, I wanted to share a little beauty that I have on my back porch. It is an Amaryllis` from a bulb that my good friend and next door neighbor, Merle Hudspeth, gave me many years ago. It has bloomed every year about this time, and this year it did not fail. It always brings a smile to my face. I hope it did yours, as well.

(The picture does not do it justice, it is so beautiful in person.)

As Pastor Ben quoted from the hymn,

“Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.”



Submitted by Liz

Order of Worship for April 19, 2020

Announcements

Call to Worship

Hymn

Hymn of Promise

In the bulb there is a flower; in the seed, an apple tree
In cocoons a hidden promise; butterflies will soon be free!
In the cold and snow of winter there's a spring that waits to be,
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

There's a song in every silence, seeking word and melody,
There's a dark in every darkness, bringing hope to you and me.
From the past will come the future; what it holds a mystery,
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

In our end is our beginning, in our time, infinity;
In our doubt there is believing, in our life, eternity.
In our death a resurrection; at the last, a victory,
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

Affirmation of Faith

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.
and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried;
the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the
Kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Scripture

John 20:19-23

Special Music

Mary Shinn on flute

Sermon

A Gift From God

Closing Hymn

He Lives

I serve a risen Savior, he's in the world today;
I know that he is living whatever foes may say.
I see his hand of mercy, I hear his voice of cheer,
And just the time I need him, he's always near.
He lives, he lives, Christ Jesus lives today!
He walks with me and talks with me along life's narrow way.
He lives, he lives, salvation to impart!
You ask me how I know he lives? He lives within my heart.

Benediction





Forestburg United Methodist Church

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