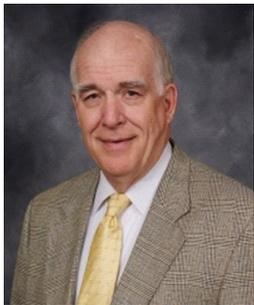




FORESTBURG UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Since we are “staying at home” due to the Coronavirus, and are not sure when we will gather again in the sanctuary as a worshipping 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. Our online worship service can be found each week on our website (www.forestburgumc.com) or on our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/ForestburgUMC/). The update will also include announcements, prayer concerns (if you have a prayer concern, please call or text Pastor Ben at 214-403-5574 or leave a message at the church), and other items of interest for the congregation. 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 evenings.



Pastor Ben Shinn

From Ben's Pen

I don't know about you, but the “stay at home” during this coronavirus pandemic and the changes it has dictated have caused chaos in my life. At times it is difficult to decide which day it is. The rhythm of my pre “stay at home” life had my sermon ready by Tuesday and my portion of the bulletin ready and into Theresa's hands by Wednesday. Worship occurred on Sunday. Now I record our worship on Friday. That means I preach my sermon on Friday. By Sunday evening I have to have a Ben's Pen written and my sermon fairly well organized. I also have the bulletin prepared for the Weekly Update and send it to Liz on Sunday evening. What I can tell you is that Friday does not seem like Sunday and Sunday does not feel like Sunday.

The last thing we want to deal with is chaos caused by change. Some change we can deal with. It is wonderful to have a change of seasons. These spring are days have been wonderful. On cool mornings I am outside on my patio reading. At my house we have been through tulips and irises. I have been cutting roses. My petunias are beautiful as are my gerbera daisies and a potted hydrangea. I have just picked my first two tomatoes. Change like this is change that we enjoy and can even anticipate.

It is change that impacts us personally that causes us difficulty. The other day I saw myself in a photograph. I was not facing the camera, but was turned away from the camera. I knew that the person in the photograph was me because of other people in the picture. What I noticed was how large that bald spot on the back of my head (it now stretches to my forehead) had become and how white my hair was. Why, I can remember going to the barber with my dad and having the barber say, “This kid has one of the thickest heads of hair I have ever seen.” How the years have caused that head of hair to change.

It is when change impacts our lives that we have problems. When the Hebrews were led by Moses through the Red Sea to freedom you would have thought that they would have been a happy people. Once they were free from Pharaoh's reign and found themselves in a new and different land...once they were confronted with having to change their lifestyle...once they were confronted with change that impacted their lives, that is when they started having problems. They disliked change so vehemently they even wanted to go back to being slaves in Egypt!

During this “stay at home” coronavirus pandemic we can view change negatively and like the Hebrews yearn to return to the “good old days” of the past, or we can look at change and understand that Jesus came to teach us that it

Continued on page 2.

Points of Interest

is through change that we find the abundant life we yearn and search for all our lives. If you read through the New Testament, Jesus was one who brought with him change. That change led not only to a cross, but it led to new life for individuals, communities and the world. Heraclitus said, "It is in changing that things find purpose." We are going through change at our church, currently not worshipping in our building on Sundays and anticipating the appointing of a new pastor to our church. We know that when we return for worship that worship will not be the same, especially with social distancing, and new safety guidelines that will be laid out. My hope is that we can find a new purpose through change that will bring with it new resurrected life.

Thomas Dekker gives some thoughts on finding purpose for your life in the midst of a chaotic ever changing world. He writes:

To awaken each morning with a smile brightening my face;

To greet the day with reverence for the opportunities it contains;

To approach my work with a clean mind;

To hold ever before me, even in the doing of little things, the Ultimate Purpose

Toward which I am working;

To meet men and women with laughter on my lips and love in my heart;

To be gentle, kind, and courteous through all the hours;

To approach the night with weariness that ever woos sleep, and the joy that comes

From work well done---

That is how I desire to waste wisely my days.

Did I happen to mention that Thomas Dekker lived 1572-1632? Words of wisdom for us in the midst of a chaotic ever changing "stay at home" world that are valid from generation to generation.

Weekly Announcements

- ◆ As suggested by, Bishop McKee, Rev. Cammy Gaston, Director for the Center for Leadership Development, and our District Superintendent, Rev. Todd Harris, guidelines are currently being drafted by and for our local church. Once they are finalized and approved, the guidelines will be shared with the whole congregation. Every precaution is being discussed and steps will be taken to keep our church members here at Forestburg UMC healthy and safe.
- ◆ At this point, it **looks like our first "in-house" worship will be Sunday, June 14.** But please remember, that is still a month away, and things can change.
- ◆ **Our D.S., Todd Harris has assured us that we will have a new pastor in place before July 1.** He and the cabinet are working diligently through the appointment process. Hopefully we will know who by next week at the latest.

Help is Needed

Carolyn Wood, Trustee Chair, has stated she appreciates everyone who has helped to keep the parsonage and church lawns mowed. But, the parsonage lawn needs a lot of work to be done to it before we can even think about a new pastor moving in July 1. In addition to the grass mowing, the parsonage lawn needs to be weeded, hedges trimmed, etc. If you feel so inclined to help out, please contact Carolyn to see what specifics need to be done.



Weekly Giving

Date	General Fund	Designated Funds
Week of May 3	\$1,852.00	—
Week of May 10	\$1,446.00	\$600.00

(\$500 was from the North Texas Conference purchase of equipment to help support our online programs/worship)

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, 76239.
- ◆ Or drop them off at the church on Wednesday afternoons.
 - ◆ Theresa continues to be at the church 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 building.

Prayers/Praises

For those in need of prayer:

Myrt Denham, Helen Ellzey and Family, Harriett Nauert, Bobbie Jo Wiley, Wassie and Rosemary Reynolds, James Wooldridge, Trent Tipton, Treaver Freeman, Chance Fox, Jim Bob Roberts and family, Our Church and Church Family, Mary and Glenn 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, Keen Johnson and all our service men and women, Our World, government officials/ decision makers, and the those concerned with Coronavirus, Kathy Guier and Family, Rand and Omar and Family, Carolyn Hawk, Family of Joyce Pruett (Jana Tipton’s step-mother), Family and Friends of Travis Landers, Abby Hyde, Family and Friends of David Brewer, Business’ and patrons of business’ reopening

Places we’ve seen God at work:

Healings, Family, Friends, Children, Grandchildren and Great Grandchildren, Veterans, Answered Prayers, Grandparents, Graduating Seniors

Please take a moment to review the prayer list and if you feel there are any changes needed (corrections, additions, or deletions) please let Pastor Shinn, Theresa or Liz know. Thank you.

Happy Birthday

- | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>May 3
Doris Coates
Carroll Dill</p> <p>May 8
Jennifer Jones</p> <p>May 14
George Miksovsky</p> | <p>May 15
Chris Doane</p> <p>May 16
Lily Martinez
Natalie White</p> <p>May 18
Betty Dunn</p> |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

Happy Anniversary

- | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>May 25
Brittany Martinez</p> <p>May 27
John Brim</p> | <p>May 3
Savanah & Garrett Johnson</p> <p>May 17
Jewell & Carroll Dill</p> |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|



Order of Worship for May 17, 2020

Announcements

Call to Worship

Hymn

O Worship the King

O worship the King, a glorious above,
O gratefully sing God's power and God's love,
Our Shield and Defender, the Ancient of Days,
Pavilioned in splendor, and girded with praise.

Frail children of dust, and feeble as frail,
In thee do we trust, nor find thee to fail,
Thy mercies how tender, how firm to the end,
Our Maker, Defender, Redeemer, and Friend.

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

Matthew 14:22-23

Special Music

Mary Shinn

Sermon

The T in Faith

Closing Hymn

Stand By Me

When the storms of life are raging, stand by me;
When the storms of life are raging, stand by me;
When the world is tossing me, like a ship upon the sea,
Thou who rulest wind and water, stand by me.

Benediction



FORESTBURG UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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