



Arthur Carlen, Paul Chapman, Helen Chokey, Diane Davis,
Pat Dromboski, Doris Gafgen, Shirley Malmsbury, Robin Martin,
Joseph Massaquoi, Vera Straley, Barbara Althouse

Austin (friend of Rhonda Rea)
Nancy J. (Mother of John Jakimowicz)
Paula (friend of Linda Herbster)
Robin (friend of Phyllis Patterson)
Mike Pugh (Nephew of Vickie Katona)
Jill M. (friend of Pam Manners)
Pattie B. (friend of Charlotte Swenson)
Teri M. (Linda Mier)
George L. (Helen Chokey's nephew)
Barbara G. (mother of Jenn Arruda Ayling)
Julie J. (cousin of Kim & John Jakimowicz)
Trish G. (friend of Kim & John Jakimowicz)
Carolyn K. (friend of Charlotte Swenson)
Forrest (friend of Abby)
Kay G. (nephew of Phyllis Patterson)
Reuben (grandfather of Dawn Pabers)
Evelyn (aunt of Dawn Pabers)

PRAYER
changes things



The June Maple

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 of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

This beautiful prayer offered by Paul to the Christians in Philippi brings encouragement and comfort to us right now. The way we hold each other in love and grace is an essential ingredient in our survival through the isolation, depression, and anxiety that this pandemic is causing in our world. I have appreciated the love and concern you have shared with and for me – and I want you to know – that I am here to love and support you as well.

Your church family has been very generous with financial donations to help friends in need. If you have been furloughed, laid off, or have gotten behind with your financial responsibilities, we are here to help you! If you need a prayer partner, a listening ear, someone to talk to through your front door, or virtual visit from your pastor, *please* give me a call so we can work something out. No one should go through this time alone. We are in this together.

Peace and Joy,
Wendy



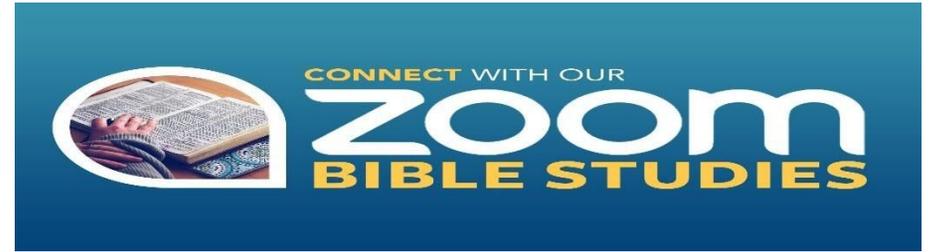
Live Stream Worship Sundays at 11:00 AM – or Anytime

Through our website MUMCPA.ORG you can participate in our worship service every Sunday morning at 11:00 am. If you miss a service, every Sunday is recorded and archived on the website. This is a wonderful opportunity for us to gather at the same time for a sense of unity. You can participate by sending pictures to use during our passing of the peace moment; video yourself reading Scripture or singing a hymn or other song; and by sharing your prayer requests.

Share this information with friends and family members so others can join us as well. Because we use YouTube as our platform for our live stream, you can go right to your TV to the You Tube channel and find our service any time.

Pentecost Sunday is May 31

As we have been doing for the past two months, our worship will continue to come into your home through our website's live stream at 11:00 am. RED is the color for Pentecost as we celebrate the birthday of the church as recorded in Acts 2. We will have a little fun on this day. Pastor Wendy will bring a birthday cake to our worship service (and wear red). After the benediction, we will sing happy birthday and cut the cake. You might want to bring some birthday cake to worship with you, too, and join everyone in fellowship time with a cup of coffee (or tea) and a piece of cake. It has been a long time since we have shared in this type of fellowship – and virtual reality is as close as we can come in these times! Will you join us?



We are learning that we can do things which were only done face to face, in new and creative ways.

For instance, our **Prayer Time** - which was once held in our prayer room, is now being held on the phone with all participants calling into a common phone number. We would love for you to join us any **Thursday morning** you are available at 7:00 am. Just dial: 718-362-6120 followed by the pin #590-1854 when prompted.

We also have two groups meeting for **Bible Study, Tuesday morning** at 10:00 and 7:00 in the **evening**. Some join on their phone while others use ZOOM. We have a friend from Georgia, one from Lancaster county, and even North Carolina.

We will begin a new study by Greg Carey called: Stories Jesus Told in two weeks. Would you like to join us? Please let Pastor Wendy know ASAP so enough books can be purchase and distributed (or you can purchase your own on kindle or through Cokesbury or Amazon). First morning session begins May 26. First evening session begins June 2. A zoom invitation will be given to all participants.

The **Men's Bible Study** has been meeting on the second **Saturday morning** each month to enjoy fellowshiping together for many years. The Coronavirus caused the group to cancel the March meeting. However, fellowship began again using Zoom in April, and added an extra meeting in May. We have been studying the book of Philippians. Along with the Zoom invitation every man on the email list gets the scripture we are studying and a list of the questions we will discuss. If you want to be on the email list call or text David Miller at 267-614-3836.

Our next sessions will be May 23 and June 13.



Graduation Sunday is June 7

We will be honoring those in our church community who are graduating from High School and college this spring in our 11:00 live stream worship service. This has been a disappointing year, to say the least, for our graduates and their families (and teachers and friends!). So we will do our best to show our love and support for these young people as they begin a new chapter in life.

From High School: Bethany Macwana, Amy Mealey, Swithin Swaroop, and Matt Tlacomulco.

College: Brian Doron Jr. and Christina Duthie.

Nursing Degree: Lori Decker



Communion is a sacred meal, consecrated and shared in worship. Some of us have enjoyed this sacrament each Sunday, while others participate on the first Sunday of the month. Our home bound members receive communion from Pastor Wendy at home. Because we have not been able to meet in person, this aspect of worship is greatly missed by many. Until we can figure out how to share the consecrated elements with one another safely, we will share in a love feast together on the first Sunday of June. The **Love Feast** has been shared by Methodist gatherings since the time of John Wesley. When you join in the June 7th live stream service, have bread/cracker or any kind of food, together with water/juice or anything to drink with you. We will eat this meal together in a celebratory fashion in our time of worship.

faith and finances

I am happy to update members and friends of the financial status of our church as we pass the middle of May. Offerings to the General Fund are down slightly but so are the expenses so we have been able to pay our church staff, who are all working behind the scenes if not in front of the cameras, and also to pay our monthly expenses as well as our apportionments to the Conference. The really good news is that giving to the Communion Fund, which is used as the Pastor's Discretionary Fund, is up dramatically and is used to help those in the community who need assistance. I will be sending out giving statements in early June to update you on your giving for the first 5 months of the year. Please check it to ensure we have accurately recorded your giving. I thank you for your continued commitment and generosity to your church family and community.

In Christ,
Jim Rae

Trustees Tool Box:

The Trustees continue their important work of maintaining our facilities. Thank you for all of your support. Here are some of the projects that the Trustees are working on:

- o **Landscaping and grounds:** We have been working to have the landscaping done and maintenance performed to keep our grounds beautiful.
- o **Additional security cameras-**To be installed soon in parking lot and main entrance driveway.
- o **Outdoor worship center-** The new fence has been installed. We are working to get the electrical box and lighting completed.
- o **Preparations for return to church building after COVID-19 crisis-** Although we do not know when this will occur we are procuring supplies and developing procedures for building use, social distancing, disinfection and others in accordance with guidance from the CDC and other sources.
- o **Parsonage air conditioning-** This project is now completed!!
- o **Shingle roof-** We are planning for replacement as it is now at end of life. We are working on obtaining several proposals for comparison.

Changes **AND** CANCELLATIONS

It is with very heavy hearts that we have needed to cancel our face to face ministries and mission projects over the past few months. These cancelations have forced us to look at our ministry together in new ways. Having some doors slammed shut, has helped us to open new doors to pursue new opportunities. This has been a gift to us and to our community.

On March 14 our building closed.

- The Montessori School changed to on-line and virtual learning.
- 12 Step programs are using zoom to continue to meet and offer support to one another.
- Our Food Closet moved to the lobby so our guests can continue to come and shop, but only by appointment. Gift cards are now being distributed to each guest to supplement their need for fresh produce, dairy and meat.
- The Back Pack Center changed their protocol, but continues to give food, gift cards and personal support to all 40 families.
- Our office closed in April, and Becky works from her home, checking on the phone messages and postal mail several times a week.
- Pastor Wendy works remotely and is available at any time by phone or email.
- Our in-person worship is now available 24 hours a day to anyone with a computer or access to you tube.
- Youth Group still meets – virtually!
- Meals are still prepared, but with a new protocol. Rather than a sit-down experience, take-out meals are provided several times a month. We have grown from 80-90 guests, to serving up to 150 guests.

Changes **AND** CANCELLATIONS

- After School programs stopped when school was cancelled. Care packages with school helps, craft ideas, and gift cards, are being shared with every After School Adventure family.
- Welcoming the stranger classes now meet virtually, continuing to meet the growing needs of their students.
- Vacation Bible School will not be held this summer in the usual way, If our building usage status changes, there may be an opportunity to reach the children of our community at some point, in some manner, but for now, we must cancel VBS.
- The United Methodist Women have cancelled the Rose Breakfast for the first time in 40 years.
- The Indoor Flea Market could not take place in April.
- All UMW circle meetings and large face to face meetings have been cancelled, but the UMW is looking into how to meet virtually.
- The Women's Retreat moved from January to May and is now rescheduled for September 18-20.
- The MyCalling Mission experience for Junior High Students from neighboring states, which meets in our building July 19-23 will not be able to happen this summer.

The effects of the pandemic are longer lasting than any of us at first imagined causing us to adjust hopes, plans and expectations. We are finding new paths, meeting new challenges, creating different time frames, and developing caring, helping relationships in creative ways. God is leading us through with courage and faith! Our partnerships with community organizations have deepened and broadened to provide meaningful support to our neighbors and friends both across the street and around the world.



As a church family we made a commitment to love and serve our neighbors both across the street and around the world in this time of national crisis because of the COVID 19 pandemic. Several members and friends of the church have made masks to share with medical workers and first responders – giving out hundreds of masks. Thank you for being generous with your time and material!

Our Food Closet has remained open and well stocked thanks to your willingness to shop and bring food to our doors. Gift cards are given to every guest, thanks to you mailing in and dropping off Giant Gift Cards. When you grocery shop for our food closet, what is needed most are personal hygiene items and canned meats. Pasta, pasta sauce and beans are plentiful at the moment. To date, we have given:

- \$5,000 to Salvation Army to help with the growing number of people coming in for a daily meal.
- \$1000 to Ivin Outreach Center.
- \$1000 to Conquering Life Prison and Recovery Ministry.
- \$1000 to IFA to purchase gift cards for our guests.
- \$500 to Livingrin to help people in recovery from addiction.
- \$4000 to Zoe Empowers. (Look for the picture of the children we have adopted in Liberia)
- \$1000 to AHTN (Advocated for the Homeless and those in Need).
- \$500 to UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief)

In addition to the financial aid we are giving, we are also preparing freshly cooked meals for take-out almost every week. We do not know how long we will be kept from meeting face to face for fellowship worship and celebration – but we do know that we will continue to love one another in whatever way we are able to do so!



It's really scary how our lives can be changed on a sudden gust. From going out with family, school events and milestones, having friend get-togethers and going even to church, we have to stay at home. The daily grind of everyone had to be readjusted; it changed dramatically. Certainly, some of us may be, at this moment, experiencing some anxiety and a bit of loneliness. This is especially true for our youth. But the great news is - GOD is HERE and he loves us - he chases us. And we are chasing our YOUTH!

So what are we doing in YOUTH GROUP? I'm so glad you asked.

- o Janet and I delivered Youth Survival Kits to our youth. These kits were designed to help the kids feel connected and to receive a fun treat. These kits have fun items that we are using in our youth meetings.
- o We are meeting on zoom on Thursdays at 4:30. We have been experimenting with days and times to meet the needs of the group! So for now we have been meeting on Thursdays! Any changes will be made with the group and shared!!
- o Our recent youth group study is called - Storytime! Storytime is an experience where we are inviting guest speakers to come into our virtual meeting and sharing a bible story or parable with our group. Many of these stories were once told to us in Sunday School but this is a nice way to bring those stories back to life and enjoy the company of someone from our church family. So far we have had:
 - Brian Doron Sr. - Story: David and Goliath
 - Pastor Wendy Bellis - Story: Adam and Eve
 - John Koba - Story: The Good Samaritan
 - Coming soon:
 - Rhonda Rea - Story: Woman at the Well &
 - Diana Pabers - Story: Mary & Martha

If you would like to be a guest, please reach out to me at 267-393-5381 - Call or TEXT. If you have any ideas - I'm waiting for them!!! Let's talk!



The last day we saw our ASA children was on March 11th. As the shelter in place order started into the second week, the ASA staff decided to reach out to our 9 families to let them know we cared! We distributed snack care packages which included toys and craft kits to intellectually stimulate the kids and fill their days with creativity and fun. Some crafts were related to Palm Sunday and Easter, such as decorating eggs to hang in their home, creating a palm cross, and scratch off crosses. We also included a word find with our names on it, an activity/puzzle book, a rubber ball and a frisbee. For an Earth Day activity, we presented each family with a large pot, soil and tomato seeds to plant for harvesting their own fruits in August/September. The care packages were given out during the following 5 weeks. Since late-April, with donations from the congregation, we have given these families gift cards to stores. Our families are appreciative of the care packages and gift cards. We feel their gratitude, whether it is on their faces when care packages are dropped off, or in thank you notes, emails, and gifts we have received from them. We miss the children and look forward to when we will be with them again in person.



We would love to have you participate in our live stream worship by submitting a picture of you sharing the peace of Christ or a video with a greeting for your church family. If you would like to read one of our Scripture passages, we will show you how to video tape yourself and send it in. Perhaps you would like to share a song or a musical selection. Maybe you would like to adorn the altar one week or present a children's sermon (which the adults love, too!). Be creative!



June Anniversaries:

- 2 - David & Marianne Miller - 55 years
- 4 - VK & Shilpa Macwana
- 7 - Bill & Janet Fabian - 34 years
- 8 - Dave & Nancy Sample - 57 years
- 9 - Joseph & Edith Massaquoi - 29 years
- 12 - Brian & Dawn Pabers - 16 years
- 15 - Blair & Wendy Bellis - 20 years
- 15 - David & Miriam Burkhardt - 46 years
- 17 - Don & Charlotte Swenson - 64 years
- 17 - Roselyn & Emmanuel Weagba - 3 years
- 21 - Debbie & Rich Eichoff - 45 years
- 29 - Cheryl & Jeffrey Scott - 29 years
- 30 - Donna Lombardo Cribbs - 1 year

June Birthdays:

- 1 - Shilpa Macwana
- 2 - Aneza Abalo
- 3 - Amelia Abalo, Anthony Surdy
- 5 - Rosemary Bensted, Ruth Karsor, Shirley Malmsbury, Elizabeth McCard
- 6 - Sarah Barlow, Makenzie Evans, Madison Evans, Abigail LaVecchia
- 7 - Charlotte Duthie, Doris Gafgen
- 9 - Edith Massaquoi
- 12 - Joseph Massaquoi
- 13 - Brandon Knapp, Breanna Trimble
- 15 - John Davidson, Theodore Hughes, Keith Lash, Andy McCall
- 17 - James Dugan
- 19 - Roselyn Weagba
- 21 - Lynda Krause
- 21 - Lori Lombardo, Nancy Pietrocarlo, Peter Wisnosky
- 24 - Cristian Estrada, Erin Scala
- 25 - Thomas Martin, Walter Pabers
- 27 - Luretha Jennett, Donald Swenson
- 30 - Emma Surdy