



Gibsonville United Methodist Church

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The Newsletter Of Gibsonville United Methodist Church

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*Gibsonville United Methodist Church exists to **Welcome** people to faith in Jesus Christ, **Equip** us with a faith that helps us grow as disciples, and **Send** us into the world to serve and to make a difference for Jesus' sake.*

July 2020

Inside this issue...

- Upcoming Events and Information
- Anniversaries
- Birthdays
- Children's Ministry
- Memorials & Special Gifts
- Stewardship Update
- Youth Ministry



Live Streaming

In order to access this new worship opportunity:

- Go to our church's website, www.gibsonvilleumc.org
- Scroll down to 9:00AM Contemporary or 11:00AM Traditional Worship Service (live stream)
- Press or click on (live stream)
- This will bring you to the selection of screens for our services.
- For LIVE Streaming click or press on the forward arrow.
- For one of the prior Sunday recorded services, select the video for that date.



A Pen And A Thought



What I Know About Things (Right Now)

Greetings. I thought I would write about some things I know in our July newsletter to try to keep all of the membership of Gibsonville UMC as up-to-date as possible.

What I Know about Reopening Church

It is not as easy as it appears. The last thing I know from the Conference level is we are not to reopen for inside, in-person worship before June 30. I know some churches around us are reopening, but I am committed to following Western North Carolina protocols. (Remember, we live within a mile or less of the North Carolina Conference. That is why you hear of UMC's close by opening). We will reopen some for small groups beginning this week (Youth and Praise Team and some business meetings that total ten or less people). Of course, masks and sanitizing are required inside the building. There are masks and sanitizer available as you enter the Welcome Center (from both sides) and the Joyner Street entrance. There is nothing available yet at either sanctuary entrance. We have a ten-member Reopening Task Force that are meeting each Wednesday evening at 6pm to plan our reopening so that it is as safe as possible. When we do reopen, you will be as safe as we can make it.

What I Know about New Staff

Welcome to Ezekiel and Jessie Gillie. Ezekiel is our new Children/Youth Director. He has been busy since June 1 getting to know our youth and their parents. He is also giving great Children's Times during our live-stream worship at 11am on Sundays. Ezekiel is becoming familiar with how our processes for children and youth ministry that we have been learning from Ministry Architects is working. Jessie Gillie is our new Contemporary Worship Leader. Jessie is Ezekiel's wife. She began playing and singing with our live-stream worship service on June 7. She is getting familiar with how all that works and is meeting with her worship team tonight (June 23). They have three children (Malachi – 7; Genesis – 5; and Gabriel – 3).

What I Know About Worship Attendance

Since we began live-stream only worship on March 15, we have averaged 116 views per week (March 15 – May 24). There is no way of knowing how many people are actually present per view. But if only half are two people, we are averaging about 174 people per week viewing our live-stream worship. We also connected via Face Book on June 21 during the sermon and had 27 live views!

Also, if you have not been to live-stream (ever, or lately) not only do we have contemporary music available, but Rob Hallquist, our traditional music director, is back in the sanctuary playing a song with someone singing (Matt Morrow and John Landphair, so far) and a Prelude.

One more thing, when we first began live-stream as the only way to worship, I used to hear from several of you giving feedback. That has dropped off dramatically the last few Sundays. I just want you to know that any feedback you want to give is welcome! You are not there so I can see your faces, which is pretty good feedback on how a message is being heard and received. Preaching to an audience of four or five and a camera makes me long to hear from you, so just know you are not bothering me if you text or email your responses. I have been trying to "bear down" a little more on current issues facing our society and church. I preached two direct sermons on racism on June 7 and 21 if want to request a copy of those manuscripts, or you can go to the webpage, scroll down to "live-stream," and find the archives. (I believe you have to watch the whole service if you go to archives, but I am not certain about that).

What I Know about Moving Forward

Since the pandemic began, I have been participating with a cohort of colleagues developing a 90 Day Plan for after we reopen. Today (June 23) is the last meeting of the cohort. I should have our 90-Day Plan ready very soon. I will be sharing it soon. I have arranged it in 30-day segments so that it matches our church mission statement to Welcome. Equip, and Send.

(Continued on next page)

Patient Attention, Valuable Discoveries

For many people, the coronavirus pandemic has been a test of patience — or worse. Medically vulnerable people face an anxious time of hypervigilance. Furloughed workers wait on hold or in lines for assistance. Special events have been canceled or rescheduled.

Those not impacted directly deal with assorted frustrations and inconveniences. Many people are learning the benefit of slowing down, being present (even virtually) to others and practicing patient attention.

Interestingly, scientist Isaac Newton did some of his best work when the plague forced Cambridge University to close. At home, the inquisitive student invented calculus and developed groundbreaking theories of gravity and optics. Later Newton called 1666 his *annus mirabilis* ("year of wonders") and reportedly said, "If I have made any valuable discoveries, it [owes] more to patient attention than to any other talent."

What have you discovered during the Covid-19 crisis? What appreciations have you developed for aspects of life you may have previously taken for granted? What has social distancing taught you about the value of neighbors, church, community volunteering?

During the pandemic, what have you learned about persistence and God's presence? What empathy do you now feel for writers of words such as "I wait for the LORD, my whole being waits, and in his word I put my hope" (Psalm 130:5, NIV)?

God Amid Pandemic

Last spring, life changed as we became familiar with terms such as social distancing, flattening the curve and self-quarantining. We could hardly believe the closed schools, businesses and especially churches — just as Holy Week and Easter drew near! The coronavirus ran rampant in the world. Where was God?

But as the spread continued, many civic leaders stepped up, calmly informing us of the facts, of actions being taken to mitigate the crisis and of how we could help. Healthcare professionals risked their lives and endured separation from families; teachers drew on astounding stores of creativity to teach online; pastors delivered sermons and lessons to empty sanctuaries as members listened and prayed while living in lockdown. Surely God was present — through them!

Then I remembered how God assures us through Isaiah, "Fear not! When you pass through the waters, the fires, yes, even the pandemics of this world, I will be with you" (43:1-2, paraphrased). And Jesus echoes, "I am with you always" (Matthew 28:20).

—Sandy Hyland

Pen And A Thought (continued)

What I Know about the Annual and General Conferences

You may not know much about this “lingo.” Annual Conferences (like our Western North Carolina Conference) meet annually to do the business and ministry decisions of “the Conference.” On June 18, we met via ZOOM (about 700 of us), to approve new elders and other types of ministers. New ministers will be ordained via ZOOM on August 8. (Let me know if you are interested in attending). You probably know that General Conference happens every four years. There was a special called General Conference in 2019 to talk about LGBTQ issues in the UMC. A protocol was adopted in December 2019 that was supposed to be voted upon at GC 2020, but GC was postponed due to COVID-19 until August 2021. Gibsonville UMC held a general church meeting on March 2, 2020 to become educated about the protocol. If you want to know about the protocol email me and I will try to answer your questions.

Let Me Know What You Want to Know

I have tried to communicate everything I can think about what has transpired since March 15, 2020 - the beginning of the shutdown for the pandemic. Please let me know what you are still wanting to know and I will answer it as best I can, as soon as I can.

Pastor Barry

Counters for July: Green Team

Emily Jones, David Teague & Melissa Troutman

Our Gifts

By our Gifts (as of 5/31/20)

Annual Budget	336,528
Operating Fund Received in May	28,337
Operating Fund Received Year to Date	104,660
Operating Fund Needed Budget to Date	142,377
Above/(Below) Budget to Date	(37,717)
Building Fund received in May	6,125
Building Fund received Year to Date	24,667
Mortgage Payments Year to Date	35,600
Above/(Below) Mortgage Payments YTD	(10,933)
Mortgage Principal Balance	703,312

A complete copy of the current financial statement is available in the Welcome Center.

July Music News At GUMC

I will freely confess it: even in the midst of great joy (that our entire immediate family is soon to be based in North Carolina), I am sometimes beset by sadness. I recently heard that the reason the most radical form of social distancing – solitary confinement – is such an effective method of torture owes to the fact that humans are social creatures through and through. To take away ringing handbells or singing in the choir, although not so extreme, is still hard on folks, not least those who would lead. So, like others, I pay great attention to my physical, mental, and spiritual “immunity,” on the lookout for Truth wherever it may appear. This morning, Truth showed up in a reading from the 14th-century Persian poet Hafiz. Here’s his wisdom in recent translation:

“If you are sad, remember a beautiful song you know. It is really something living. It can bring you to the place where it was created *out of light*, and you can feel that for a moment. If you do not wish to sing, if you are feeling shy or just too low, picture me doing so, while sitting at a table with you, with maybe a drink in our hands... toasting something you would like to clink a cup with me about, my dear.” Hafiz’s story is right on: both light and sound *can* be measured as vibration. And for me as a would-be follower of Jesus, I can easily picture our Lord at table with me, perhaps just the two of us, our raising full cups in recognition of solidarity in suffering the infirmities and injustices of a world now groaning in labor. *And then we sing!*

Rob Hallquist
Director of Music in Traditional Worship

How Will We Use Our Freedom?

In 2000, Cornealious Anderson was sentenced to 13 years for robbery. The 23-year-old was released on bail and told to await orders to show up to prison. But due to a clerical error, those orders never came. Some people might have taken advantage of such freedom and committed more crimes. But Anderson started a business, coached youth football and volunteered at church, earning respect in his community.

Thirteen years later, when Missouri officials discovered the error and put Anderson behind bars, an online petition called for his release. A judge agreed that Anderson was a changed man and, again, he was freed.

What would *you* do with such undeserved freedom? What *do* we do with the unmerited freedom God grants us despite our sin, and with the freedoms we celebrate on July 4? May we follow Anderson’s example and use our freedoms — social and spiritual - to serve others.

—adapted from *Homiletics*

Mixed Messages

For their summer offering, Sunday school students donated money to a missionary family. Before teachers sent a care package overseas, they asked students to write short notes, letting the recipients know they were in children’s prayers.

“The family is pretty busy,” one teacher mentioned, in case the kids hoped to become pen pals. “You might not get a response, but it’s kind of you to write.”

When teachers collected the messages, they chuckled at what one brutally honest child had written: “We’re praying for you, but we don’t expect an answer.”

Gibsonville UMC children and youth vision and core values!

We UPLIFT, SERVE, and CONNECT with God’s children and youth to instill a lifetime of faith and nurture Christian relationships.

Christ-like: In everything we do, we follow the teachings of Jesus by treating others as we wish to be treated.
Supportive: We love and encourage all children and youth.
Inclusive: We welcome everyone and believe all are unique and loved by God.
Genuine: Our actions mirror our beliefs.



WATER WORKS!

The gospels record Jesus’ miracles, many of which involve water.

Directions: Using the illustrated equations, fill in the blanks to describe each miracle. Use the Bible references for help.

+ e _____
 Water changes to _____
 JOHN 2:1-11

- k + d _____
 Heals a man born _____
 JOHN 9

- op + - w _____
 Calms a _____
 MATTHEW 8:23-27

f + - d _____
 Catch of _____
 LUKE 5:1-11

- ch + er _____
 Walks on _____
 MATTHEW 14:22-33

Answers: wine, blind, storm, fish, water

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Words

Words are super important! I have found it true that we are what we think. The words we tell ourselves have power. The bible says in **Proverbs 18:21** *the tongue has the power of life and death*. Too many times we tell ourselves we are not qualified or we cannot do this or that. When you say those things you are speaking it into existence. When those thoughts come into your mind, stop entertaining them! Start telling yourself, the devil is a liar, and speak Gods words to yourself and others. Words and phrases such as, “Yes I can”, “I am smart”, “I will reach my goal”, “beautiful”, “smart”, “intelligent”. Believe in the word of God. You are His child and you are loved. This week focus on the word, “YES”. When you do not think you can do something or its just too hard, don’t give up. Tell yourself Yes. Yes I can do it. Yes it is hard, but I will do it. Yes I can. I won’t *try* it, I will *do* it. You are more than a conqueror. If God is for you who can be against you? Believe in yourself and speak, YES, into your life.

If you do not have a bible, please call or email Ezekiel Gillie and He will make sure to get you one.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The youth group has been approved to meet in the church because we can maintain a group that has no more than 10 people meeting in a room, and abide in safe sanctuary!

Kids Bible Activity

Prizes and recognition will be given to any child who calls or emails with the correct answer.

In Genesis God created the world in 7 days.

Question: What is the correct order of days God created?