

June 2020

The First Connection

a publication of Mason First United Methodist Church

"I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."

—John 16:33

Where Peace May Be Found

Just when it seems like the trials of the pandemic are beginning to ease just a bit – enough for us to begin to have hope – insult has been added to injury with an eruption of violence tainting otherwise peaceful protests against another systemic issue in our nation that needs to be addressed. We want peace. We want normalcy. We just want to feel safe again. Is that too much to ask?

John chapter 16 is Jesus's farewell speech to the disciples who are very much afraid of what is about to happen. Social unrest is coming to a head and the result will be that their friend and leader will be arrested and brutally killed and there's nothing they can do to stop it. And Jesus tells them that in the face of the inevitable tribulations of the world, peace may be found in him because he has overcome the world.

Love wins. It's a phrase that has become a slogan for a number of things, most recently it was used to commemorate marriage equality. And it's what Jesus was trying to tell his disciples. Ultimately, love is going to have the final say. And I saw it last night when I was watching the news. The morning after violence, people came out in droves to scrub away the spray paint and sweep up the broken glass. Ugliness cannot have the final say if we don't let it.

And I think that's what the peaceful protesters are trying to do as well. They are trying to say, "Enough is enough. We have to deal with this issue that keeps happening. It's not a one-off anymore. We have to say that this is unacceptable." Hate cannot have the final word. Violence cannot be overlooked. Racism cannot be ignored. We have to say, it's not ok...so that love can win.

This is what the Lord says: "Maintain justice and do what is right, for my salvation is close at hand and my righteousness will soon be revealed. –Isaiah 56:1

In these incredibly trying times, I know that we're all feeling a mixture of fear and anxiety and dismay over what's happening. And there's no magic wand to make those feelings go away, or to restore our lives to what we perceive is an easier time. But here are a few things to remember:

1. We are not alone. God is with us and will redeem us if we make room for something new.
2. Peace may be found in the knowledge and teachings of Jesus. So don't forget to talk to him, and listen to him.
3. Be open to how God may be calling you to be a messenger of love. Try really hard not to join the rhetoric of anger and accusation, but instead, in stark contrast, speak messages of love and of justice.

I would conclude with the reassuring phrase, "This, too, shall pass." But I think that gives the false impression that we can wait it out and this will all somehow go away. It's time for us to consider how we're being called to participate in a victory of love where God's peace becomes the order of our lives. Stay committed to love and grace and justice, my friends. We are the church together.

Blessings,

Pastor Suzanne

Vacation Bible School Reunion Fun Night

As many of you know, our area Christian community churches have built a relationship and alliance over the past several years to host the best Vacation Bible School (VBS) that we can for all the children who can attend. We as a team have had several Zoom meetings, explored options (live and virtual), and have come to the conclusion that we would like to postpone our live VBS for next summer.

Our team doesn't want to lose the connections we have made through the past several years. In light of this, we plan to host a fun night in early September. We would like families to gather, eat together, and participate in some fun activities. We hope to renew friendships and keep our connections. The date, time, and place are to be determined but we will let you know when the event will happen.

Stay safe—rely on God.

Your VBS team—

Brittany Beaune, Director of Children's Ministry,
Mason First United Methodist Church

Pastor Christin Fawcett, All Saints Lutheran Church

Lori Filka, Director of Spiritual Growth, First
Presbyterian Church

Maureen Stockwell, Faith Formation Director,
St. James Catholic Church



News of Our Church Family

Recovering at home following recent hospitalizations are Elaine Ferris and Jean Bement.

Congratulations to Colin and Allison Whipple on the birth of their son, Lochlan Santee Whipple, May 5.

Christian sympathy is expressed to Jason and Alex Darling and their family on the loss of Alex's grandmother; to Claudia Ireland on the loss of her sister-in-law; and to Brian and Julie Spyke and their family on the loss of Brian's father.

Please note: The hospitals do not notify the church when someone from our church family is admitted. Please ask a family member or a friend to let us know!

Our members or friends who are in assisted living, nursing homes, or hospice care:

Grand Haven Living Center, Lansing:

Gayle Gunns

Green Acres, Mason

Bev Eccleston

Beth Grosshans

Holt Senior Care, Holt

George Dunivon

Ingham County Medical Care Facility, Okemos:

Char Bush

John Dodge

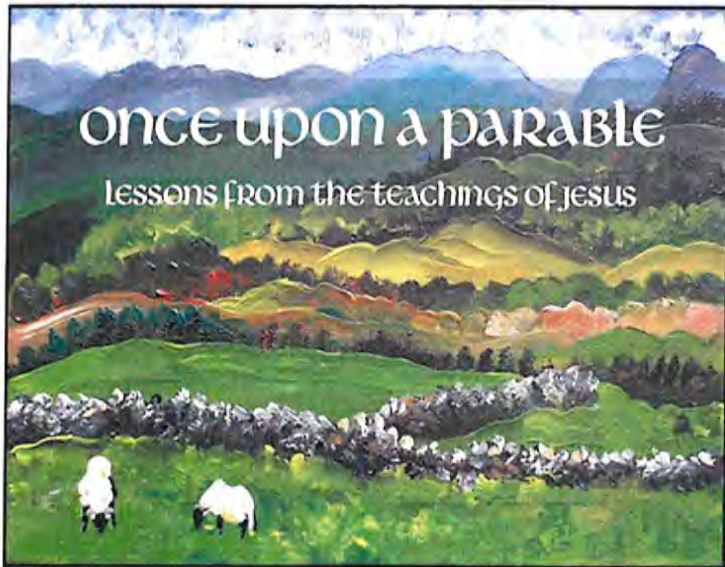
The Willows of Okemos:

Lew Tibbits

Vista Springs Edgewood, Lansing:

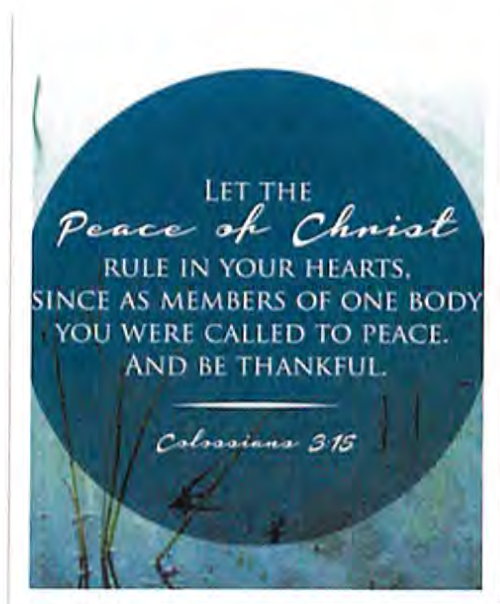
Garrett and Barbara Wheaton

Vic Whipple



New Summer
Sermon Series:
Once Upon a Parable
Lessons from the
teachings of Jesus

Over the course of the summer we're going to be exploring some of those puzzling parables. Do they have anything to say to us today?



Virtual Workshop

Offered by Tri-County Office on Aging

Cost: The workshop is free of charge but donations are accepted. Suggested donation is \$25 but it is not required.

To register: Call Tri-County Office on Aging at 517-887-1465 or e-mail Christine at histedc@tcoa.org

Chronic Pain PATH (Personal Action Toward Health) is designed for individuals with chronic pain. In this virtual workshop, participants are taught effective tools to better self-manage their condition and its impact on their life. We address a variety of topics including fatigue management, dealing with difficult emotions, and pacing & planning. Includes the Moving Easy Program: safe exercises to improve strength, flexibility, and endurance.

What: Chronic Pain PATH workshop

Where: Virtually with Zoom

When: Wednesdays, June 10 – July 15, 2020 from 10:00 a.m. – 12 noon. Pre-workshop Zoom orientation Wednesday, June 3 at 10:00 a.m.

Powerful Tools for Caregivers is an interactive workshop designed to help family caregivers take better care of themselves while caring for a family member or friend. This program will give YOU, the family caregiver, tools to: help reduce stress and guilt, communicate effectively, take care of yourself, and much more! This program is not intended for professional caregivers.

What: Powerful Tools for Caregivers workshop

Where: Virtually with Zoom

When: Wednesdays, June 17 – July 22, 2020 from 2:30 – 4:00 p.m. Pre-workshop Zoom When: Wednesdays, June 17 – July 22, 2020 from 2:30 – 4:00 p.m. Pre-workshop Zoom orientation Wednesday, June 10 at 2:30 p.m.





Birthdays

Joyce Fillmore.....	1	Meghan Harrison.....	17
Lynda Crandall.....	3	Jane Karlzen.....	19
Jerry Spink.....	3	Claire Boynton.....	19
Jan Dodge.....	3	Kate Fiske.....	20
Gordon McMillan.....	4	Bonnie Howe.....	21
Sharon Workman.....	4	Misty Lautzenheiser.....	21
Eston Thorburn.....	5	Larry Ried.....	21
Jordan Page.....	6	Diane Murray.....	23
Ella LoVette.....	6	Natalie Baker.....	23
Janelle Lautzenheiser.....	6	Leo Walter.....	25
Ken Guettler.....	8	Mary Lou Keenon.....	25
Alexander Nay.....	8	Daniel Crackel.....	26
Bryce Forester.....	9	Brian Crackel.....	26
Mary Ruttan.....	9	Sueann Nims.....	26
Marjorie Pulver.....	9	Kathy Aldering.....	26
Judy Husband.....	10	Alan Heaviland.....	26
Don Dickinson.....	11	Chris Bement.....	27
Lauren Fiske.....	12	Don Sherwood.....	27
Ryan Fiske.....	12	Mike Place.....	28
Linda Plyler.....	12	Kirstin Kribs.....	28
Garrett Giguere.....	13	Larry Harrison.....	29
Karen Krepps.....	15	John Hepfer.....	30
Pauline Stanton.....	16	Cooper Green.....	30



Anniversaries

Brian & Char Hankey.....	1	David & Peggy Gunns.....	16
John & Heather VerHage.....	1	Brian & Julie Spyke.....	16
Wayne & Carol Peek.....	4	Bart & Glenda Crider.....	17
Howard & Joann Becker.....	7	George & Martha Hosek.....	19
Paul & Barbara Chapman.....	9	Brian & Tara Ball.....	21
Larry & Bonnie Howe.....	9	Don & Phyllis Dickinson.....	24
Gary & Cheryl Howe.....	12	David & Deborah Fogg.....	30
Ken & Lynda Carlson.....	13		



Meeting needs

The Bible emphasizes the importance of giving to people in need. In Matthew 6:1-4, Jesus describes the proper attitude for giving.

*Directions: Starting at the *B and going counterclockwise, write every other letter on the lines below. Continue until you've completed Matthew 6:3, NIV.*



"B _____

_____ g."

MATTHEW 6:3, NIV

Answer: "But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing." Matthew 6:3, NIV

First United Methodist Church

201 E. Ash Street
Mason MI 48854
Phone: (517) 676-9449
www.masonfirst.org

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT #47
MASON MI 48854-1775



Be courageous; be strong. Do everything in love.

1 Corinthians 16:13-14