

February 2021



The Perry Scope

Perry Hall United Methodist Church Newsletter
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A Message from The Pastor

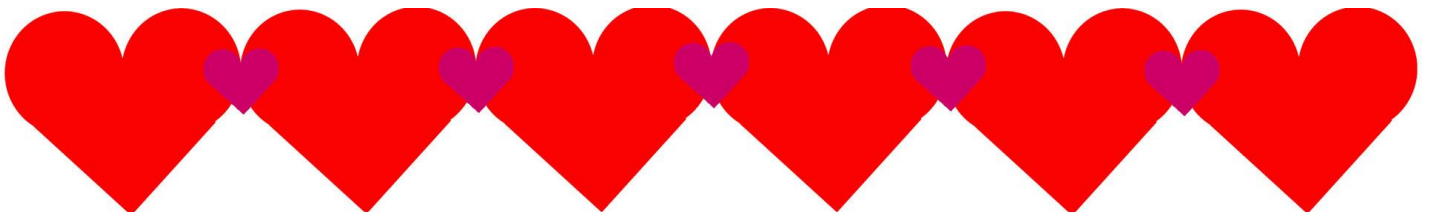
Greetings,

We have been going through a difficult time, in both in our country and around the world, due to the Coronavirus. What most of us thought would be a short-lived experience has turned into something that we never expected.

As another month on the calendar prepares to turn and the virus and difficulties linger – let me remind you that Easter is NOT CANCELED! We may celebrate the Resurrection a bit differently this year than we ever have but I still believe because Jesus rose from the grave, we have tremendous hope for today, tomorrow, and all eternity! Bill Gaither wrote a beautiful song, which seems to be more relevant today than ever. Because He lives, I can face tomorrow. Because He lives, all fear is gone. Because I know, yes, I know, He holds the future. And life is worth the living... just because He lives!

Because Jesus lives no matter what we might face today or tomorrow we have hope!
Blessings

Pastor Vic





**Perry Hall United Methodist
Church to Resume
Limited Indoor –
10:00 a.m. Worship
Beginning on March 21**

If you do not feel safe returning to in-person, indoor worship at this time, please do not feel any pressure to do so. Our worship services will be live streamed through Facebook Live on Sunday mornings and posted for viewing later.

If you are feeling unwell—or if you know that you have been exposed to anyone who has tested positive for COVID-19—we urge you to err on the side of caution and stay home.

If you do attend worship and later test positive for the virus, we ask that you let us know. While we will not divulge your name without your permission, we feel an obligation to let others know they may have been exposed.

Please remember, Little Jewels Children's Center operates under strict parameters from the state, as well as an obligation as the people of God to care for one another. Because of that we are closing the bathrooms on the first floor for public use. When entering the building, please do not congregate in the areas on the first floor.

We will continue to **worship at 10:00 a.m.** Sunday School will continue to meet virtually.

In order to attend, **we are asking that you "make a reservation"**. Each week there will be a **Sign-Up Genius** on the Internet for you to use by **Thursday 12 noon**. You may also call the church and leave your name and phone number in **church voicemail (410-256-6479)**, by **Thursday 12 noon**. Email can be set to perryhallumc@verizon.net with your reservation as well.

Masks will be required without exception. If you do not have a mask (or forget to bring one), masks will be available. Those who feel they cannot mask because of health reasons are asked to worship

remotely from their homes. If (in addition to a mask) you feel safer wearing a face shield, gloves, or mittens, by all means do so.

We are limiting access to the building to the front door and the back door. You will be greeted, **asked to sign in and have your temperature taken**. At that time, you will be allowed to enter the sanctuary and find a seat in the marked off areas. Family groups may sit together.

Hand sanitizer will be available at every door and its use is strongly advised.

In order to observe safe distancing, our sanctuary can accommodate **60 people seated** (plus the worship leaders). **Please be flexible**. We are all creatures of habit and prefer to sit in our regular seats, but these extraordinary circumstances will require patience and cooperation. Insisting on a particular seat might prevent someone else from being able to be seated in the sanctuary.

After the service, please stay in your seat **until you are dismissed**. You are asked to **leave the building immediately**. We urge you to greet and converse with other members of the congregation outside the building at a safe distance. We have all missed each other and crave a chance to catch up, but close contact, shaking hands, or embracing could put us all at risk.

There will be **no coffee hour or fellowship meals** for the foreseeable future.

There will be no congregational singing. We will be using soloists and instrumentalists to add to our worship experience. We will also explore alternatives such as humming, "spoken word," or reading lyrics in unison. Soloists, liturgists, and preachers will be 12 – 20 feet away from the congregation.

Communion will be celebrated the first Sunday of each month **in person and virtually**. **Pre-packaged juice cups with wafers** will be placed on the pews. One person from each family is encouraged to pick up enough for each person in your group without touching the others.

Pantry News Updates

Dear Friends,
Wow – the new year has started, and the cold days of winter are truly upon us! But no matter the season, we hope the warm feelings of the Christmas holidays are staying upon you all.



Holiday Basket News:

While it has been a month since the holiday basket give away (wow, a month!!) here are some updates: Due to the generosity of so many we were able to give 150 holiday baskets away between Thanksgiving (50 baskets) and Christmas (100 baskets)!

These baskets were filled with all the fixings for a bountiful dinner, including the gift card to purchase a turkey, ham, beef – whatever the family wished for their meal! But the baskets were not the only gifts given!

Due to the generosity of so many people from the Church and community, we also had donated surprise gifts (gift cards to restaurants and retail stores; children books; stuffed bears and toys; and large wrapped surprises that contained items for around the home!) to be given to families. These gifts were given out randomly to well over 40 families during the Christmas basket give-away!

Lastly, we had children hats, mittens/gloves, and more toys that we were able to give away during the holiday week! So- your caring, generous love that you, Camp Chapel United Methodist Church, and members from the community provided truly made so many families have a very nice holiday with their loved ones. Thank you!

Pantry News:

Due to the pandemic, the financial instability of so many has made the pantry quite busy. In fact, the pantry helped the most people ever in it's history in December! – 159 families (that included almost 500 people)! January is showing itself to be equally busy between 3-5 new families being added each

week while still retaining the clients that are already coming each month.

The pantry may be busy, but it is meeting the challenge. With the generosity of so many people from our Church and other local churches giving actual food donations, personal items and grocery donations, and monetary donations, as well as donations from the Maryland Food Bank and Baltimore County; donations of Weis Markets; and the donation boxes at Giant and Weis – the families are getting a full basket of grocery! Literally the families are getting about 50 lbs. of grocery items – everything from tooth paste to chicken breast!

Winter is here, the pandemic is at its most brutal level and financial insecurity is a major issue for thousands – you truly make a very positive difference in so many lives! Your kindness, your generosity, your love is what makes it all possible! So on behalf of the hundreds of individuals that you have helped – THANK YOU!

If you do ever wonder what the pantry actually gives a family, here is the 'usual' items: boxes of hot and cold cereal, pancake mix, cans of vegetables (corn, green beans, carrots, peas, mixed vegetables) ; cans of fruit (peaches, pears, apple sauce, mixed fruit); cans of beans (kidney, black, baked beans); cans of soup (all types but always tomato and chicken noodle); cans of tomato products (diced tomatoes, spaghetti sauce, ravioli/spaghetti); pasta products; bags/boxes of rice or mashed potatoes; bottles of juice; detergent; shampoo; tooth paste; soap; toilet paper; peanut butter; jelly; package side dishes (packets of flavored noodles, macaroni and cheese, boxed flavored potatoes); canned tuna and canned chicken; canned meat meals (chili, beef stew, spam, etc.); baked products (bread and dessert items); and frozen fish/chicken/meat products. All of these items are the usual items received, but then the families also will receive bonus items from cake mix to condiments; from graham crackers to sauerkraut; from dish detergent to powder milk;

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("Pantry News Updates" – continued)

from chips to flavored water - always dependent on what was so graciously donated! So, as you can see, your kindness and generosity truly is giving the families a big helping hand. THANK YOU!!!!!!

Lastly, none of this would be possible if it weren't for the wonderful volunteers that make the pantry run every Wednesday, Friday, and Saturdays. These 20 individuals make the families feel cared for, special, loved! These individuals make sure that the clients get all their food, their next appointments, they call them to remind them of their appointments, they talk to them and keep up on their families, they pick up weekly donations from Weis bakery, they make sure all the donations received are in date before they are given out, they let the clients know that we care! So while they are quiet, gentle, caring souls – they are the true backbone to the pantry and frontline to the clients! A big thank you to all our volunteers!



Holy Week Services

***PALM SUNDAY – March 28th
10:00 am***

Contata – “The Old Rugged Cross Made the Difference”.

*It will be **Facebook live and In-Person worship.** *Posted to **YouTube** later in the day.

***Zoom** reply at 2:00 pm



MAUNDY THURSDAY April 1st 7:00 pm

*Pre-recorded service posted on **Facebook**,

***YouTube and Zoom** at 7:00 pm

GOOD FRIDAY April 2nd 7:00 pm

*Pre-recorded service posted on **Facebook**,

***YouTube and Zoom** at 7:00 pm

EASTER SUNDAY April 4th 10:00 am

*It will be **Facebook live and In-Person Worship.**

*Posted to **YouTube** later in the day.

***Zoom** reply at 2:00 pm

**Invitation to Zoom
Bible Study Classes**

Greetings in Christ!



As we continue to navigate these uncharted waters of a Global Pandemic, we believe God helps us find ways to reach people as never before. While we are looking forward to the day we can join together without concern for social distancing or masks; this is not a day to shut down the ministry that needs to take place!

If there is ever a day we need the encouragement that comes from the Word of God and fellowship with one another, it is today. I would like to invite you to join us for Bible Study via Zoom. You have most likely been participating at some level with Zoom either at work or in your educational environment or even with your family.

If you would like to join us for Bible Study, please send an email to rovervic@verizon.net to receive the Zoom call's necessary instructions and to make arrangements to pick up a book. We will be studying, **“Entering the Passion of Jesus”**

The six-session DVD features Dr. Amy-Jill Levine offering a fresh, timely reinterpretation of the Passion of Jesus. The video segments are approximately 10-12 minutes each and, when combined with the six book chapters, make an ideal six-week group study. All videos sessions are closed captioned.

The six sessions include:

1. Jesus’ Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem
2. The Temple Incident
3. The Anointing of Jesus and the Role of Women
4. Jesus’ Teachings in the Temple
5. The Last Supper Traditions
6. Gethsemane

If you have any questions before joining us, please don't hesitate to reach out to me at rovervic@verizon.net or 443-417-8227

*Blessings in Christ!
Pastor Vic*



To my church family,

In January of 2020, my husband job was phased out and he decided to retire from full time employment. We discussed retiring and moving to the beach permanently. The decision was made, and we put the house in Baltimore up for sale, 1 week before Covid hit. Little did we know how much everyone lives would change.

My position as Administrative Assistant at the church was put on hold for a few weeks, not knowing what would happen with Covid. I decided to retire from the church position on May 3, 2020.

Everything happened so quickly that I was not able to say my good-byes to my church family.

In my 18 years of service to the church, I feel as though a part of me will always be at church. Each one of you have touched my life and spiritual journey, in some way. I am eternally grateful for my experience. Perry Hall UMC will always be a part of my life and I hope and pray that we as a church family will continue God's work through his love and ministry.

Thank you for being a part of my journey and giving me the opportunity to share my talents.

I miss all of you.

Mary Schramm



Stewardship update:

Our giving appears to be down, but our expenses are holding steady due to the fact that we aren't active in the building currently. Many have continued to give doing this difficult time, but the reality is that some have been unable to do so due Covid virus related issues.

Any support you can give to the church to meet our stewardship need is greatly appreciated. NO gift is too small.

Fortunately, we were able to receive funds from two other resources:

We received **\$33,200 in PPP funds** and they have been forgiven. We are applying for a second round but there is no guarantee that we will receive it.

In September we swept **\$24,225.03 in interest and dividends** from our investment account with the Foundation.

Our original investment remains intact and will not be touched.

Our total **INCOME** \$318371.36.

Our total **EXPENSES** \$310568.63.

Thank you for your continue prayers and financial support!