



Chapel Hill

United Methodist Church

March 30, 2020

– Pastor’s Message –

Chapel Hill Family,

Chapel Hill UMC
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Chapel Hill Family,

Many communion tables have the words "Do this in remembrance of me," inscribed on the front. This phrase recalls the words of Jesus to his disciples at the Last Supper when he instituted Holy Communion. Whenever they observed Holy Communion they were to do so in remembrance of Jesus' gracious acts.

The word we translate as remembrance comes from the Greek word "anamnesis." Yet the word "anamnesis," like many words in translation between two languages, does not correlate perfectly with our English word "remembrance." Typically, when we speak in English of remembering, we speak only of recalling something from our past, like our first fishing trip. However, as the United Methodist Statement on Holy Communion, "This Holy Mystery" states, the Greek meaning infers a much deeper meaning of remembering:

"Holy Communion is remembrance, commemoration, and memorial, but this remembrance is much more than intellectual recalling. Do this in remembrance of me (Luke 22:19; 1 Corinthians 11:24-25) is 'anamnesis' (the biblical Greek word). This dynamic action becomes re-presentation of past gracious acts of God in the present, so powerfully as to make them truly present now. Christ is risen and is alive here and now, not just remembered for what was done in the past."

Can you imagine? When we receive Holy Communion, we are not just remembering what Jesus did for us, we remember what Jesus did while being made present with Jesus and the early disciples at the table. To receive Holy Communion is to commune in the present with Jesus around the table. The early church would come to understand that we joined not only Jesus and the early disciples around that table, but also all those who are observing Holy Communion and all the saints who have gone before us. We gather for the feast with our siblings, parents, grandparents, friends, and others who have passed. It is awe-inspiring when you think about it.

Thus, not being able to join together for Holy Communion is fairly tragic. We miss the routine. We miss the meaning when we kneel at the rail. When we feel the elements on our tongue.

And while Holy Communion is meant to be received when we gather together, our Council of Bishops has decided to allow a practice that United Methodists have theologically resisted to date: Virtual Communion.

Continued on the back...

Prayer List

The Family of Audrey Oppenheim	Craig Stanley
The Hampton Family	Amy Burdette
The Gee Family	Charles Cancellare
Emily Smith – Confirmand	Lisa Lawless
Betty Peace	Ke'Andra
Jocelyn Barnard	Hector Marroquin
Scott Fletcher	Russell
Jennie Leamons	Wendy Canfield Collin
Tom Sanders	The Family of Riley Eye
Edrese Hanigan	Those affected by COVID-19
Nancy Ochoa and baby Anaya	CHUMC Home Bound

Pastor's Message Part 2

This is a temporary, special allowance made by our COB to allow us to maintain the sacraments and the depth of remembrance in this time of pandemic that has us sheltered in our homes. It will be different. It will raise some questions. But, I trust, if God is with us, that the elements can and will still be blessed from a distance and lead us into that sacred time of "anamnesis" so we may commune with Jesus and one another in Holy Communion.

We will begin our practice of Virtual Communion on Sunday, April 5, during our live-streamed worship. Before worship begins, you will need to gather the bread and juice to be used in your home. As is typical, it is expected to be red grape juice. The bread should be plain bread with no frostings, nuts, raisins, artificial coloring, or other additions. On one hand, you may obtain a loaf or roll of Hawaiian bread so we might all partake of the same type of bread. On another note, during this time when bread is not as readily available as it usually is in our context, use whatever bread you can obtain. Those who are present in the CHUMC sanctuary for the purposes of live-streaming worship will need to each bring their own bread and juice so we can avoid viral contamination.

Pastor's Message Part 3

The communion observance will proceed, in most ways, the way you are used to, but at a distance. For those who would like, you may text or email me your name and I will look into the camera and say your name as if I am giving the elements directly to you by saying, "(name) the body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ poured out for you."

I know this will be different, but I hope you can join with us in this way. For, if we cannot commune in-person, may we still commune in Christ.

Grace and Peace,
Rev. J.D. Allen

Please Note:

While we are unable to gather, please remember CHUMC still has expenses. Please continue to make your faith pledge offerings by mail by sending them directly to our treasurer, Jan Wooldridge, at 12930 Mitchwin Road, Farmers Branch, TX 75234.

Please send prayer requests to Alec and Adam at office@chapelhillumc.org. Please note, the office is closed during the week per Dallas County's Stay at Home Order, so the phone is not being checked. If you are unable to email, please ask someone with email to send your information to the office email or contact J.D. at (972) 467-7756.

In the case of a pastoral care emergency, please contact J.D. at (972) 467-7756.

BIRTHDAY REMINDER: Please let our church office know your birthdate, mm/dd/yyyy, so your church family can acknowledge your special day. **Your 'year' will remain private:** office@chapelhillumc.org



Sloane Byrd 3/14
Haley Byrd 3/16

Lee Willhite 3/15
Kelsey Maxwell 3/26

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Facebook: www.facebook.com/pg/chapelhillumc

YouTube: Search for CHUMC
FarmersBranch