



Chapel Hill

United Methodist Church

June 15, 2020

- Pastor's Message -

Consider the possibilities of a fully benevolent God revealed in Christ as we discussed in worship this past Sunday. A God who, rather than being so angry that someone had to be punished for sin, but who limited the consequences by enacting that punishment on God's child, instead sends God's child to enact obedience, even unto death, and credits belief in that faithful one and his way of life as righteousness all while overcoming the power of sin and death through resurrection.

This further illustrates what we learn about God through Christ Jesus: God does not operate through shame. When Peter knelt, overwhelmed, before Jesus because he was a sinner, Jesus responded, "Do not be afraid." When the woman caught in adultery was thrown in front of him for judgment, Jesus forgave her and defended her from execution. When Zacchaeus climbed the tree to see Jesus, Jesus did not shame the hated, dishonest tax collector. He went to his home and broke bread with him. Jesus did not shame the Samaritan who had quite possibly had five husbands because they had all rejected her. He embraced her.

What if we approached others this way? If our friends have racist views and their lives, like ours, are still shaped, even unwittingly, by systemic racism and the remaining vestiges of white supremacy, what does benevolence look like? If we see people so angry at generations of suffering they act out in violence with rioting and looting, what does benevolence look like? If we disagree on the place of our LGBTQ+ neighbors in the church, what does benevolence look like? If a friend or family member wrongs us in some way, what does benevolence look like?

This is a thought to wrestle deeply with for us. It is true that God calls us to faithfulness for the faithful life is an abundant life. It is also true that our actions have consequences if we stubbornly refuse, like refusing to follow doctor's orders. If we do not do what the doctor is telling us, we should not be surprised things only get worse. It is also true that we should not be silently complicit to harm being done around us for God stands with especially the suffering poor and oppressed.

Continued on the back...



Chapel Hill UMC

Staff

Rev. J.D. Allen
Senior Pastor

Pastora Idalia Luna
Pastor of Children, Families,
& Hispanic Ministries

Adam Lubbers
Youth Director

Adam Richards
Office Manager

Alec McKay
Office Manager

Jim Hanigan
Building Manager

Kurt Maerschel
German Worship Leader



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Prayer List

CHUMC Home Bound	Charles' aunt and her boyfriend
The Hampton Family	Family of Chelsea Taft
The Gee Family	David Rice
Jocelyn Barnard	Those affected by COVID-19:
Scott Fletcher	Nurses and Doctors
Jennie Leamons	Senior citizens in nursing homes
Tom Sanders	Those who have lost jobs
Rev. Allen's family in search of jobs	Students and teachers taking classes online
Charles Cancellare	Parents of students
Jamie Rigsby	First responders
Don Keim	All patients in NY hospitals
Sally Medcalf	Medical personnel who are working
The Medcalf and Keeler Families	Families who have lost people and cannot have funerals
Janis Coggshall - surgery recovery	

Please note:

J.D. will be on vacation Wednesday, June 17, through Sunday, June 28. If we receive updates while J.D. is out regarding if/when we can return to onsite worship, we will be sure to let you know promptly.

Online Book Club

You may have heard our youth chose a book entitled *The Hate U Give* by Angie Thomas to read in their youth book club. It is the fictional story of a sixteen-year-old African-American girl navigating between different cultures and who finds herself under pressure from all sides when she witnesses the shooting of her best friend by a police officer. The story was inspired by the 2009 shooting of Oscar Grant III in Oakland, CA. Some adults at CHUMC heard what the youth were doing and wanted to read this book as well. The book club will begin in July via Zoom.

Email J.D. at pastor@chapelhillumc.org to sign up.

Pastor's Message, continued

This suggests we stop looking for reasons to not listen to the pain of the suffering poor and oppressed. We embrace rather than shame. Yet it also means we embrace those whose harm and injustice we confront, not excusing their/our actions, but remembering their shared humanity as well. Perhaps this is the benevolence of God which is transforming the world.

Grace and peace,

Rev. J.D. Allen

Service of Prayer and Testimony on Zoom

Our midweek services for June 17th and 24th will be canceled, as J.D. will be on vacation during that time. We look forward to continuing when he returns!

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, 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



Gordon Putnam 6/13	Andrea Rains 6/16
Kathy Bandy 6/18	Victoria Bell 6/18
Patsy Kaphengst 6/24	Terri Moore 6/24
Jennie Leamons 6/27	Pat Thompson 6/30

Join Us for Online Worship!

YouTube: Search for CHUMC FarmersBranch

Please subscribe!