



Chapel Hill

United Methodist Church

July 20, 2020

- Pastor's Message -



Chapel Hill UMC
Staff

Rev. J.D. Allen
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During Lent, our Thursday night bible study group and the Class Menagerie began a study of *The Walk* by Adam Hamilton. Some have been able to finish the study via Zoom video conferencing. Our children have begun studying the material this summer and the youth will follow soon. The book itself is a great review of the basics of Christian faith formation, a cornerstone of Methodism.

With our ongoing faith formation in mind, Hamilton points us to five spiritual practices that we seek to practice both individually and corporately:

1. Worship and Prayer
2. Study - reading our scriptures
3. Serving - through acts of kindness and justice
4. Giving - generosity with our finances and other personal goods
5. Sharing - being witnesses to the good news of Jesus the Christ and the Reign of God

These practices align with our United Methodist General Rule of Discipleship which is, "To witness to Jesus Christ in the world, and to follow his teachings through acts of compassion, justice, worship, and devotion under the guidance of the Holy Spirit."

The thought behind such practices is not about earning God's favor but as a response to God's unmerited grace and love, understanding God has a far better life set before us than the one we have built without God. In the book *Finding God in Messy Places*, Jake Owensby explains that, as we are shaped by God's grace through the Holy Spirit our lives are transformed from lives of hedonism, the self-centered pursuit of pleasure and comfort, to a life of happiness (eudaimonia in Greek), which points to the well-lived life of virtue which is focused on the common good. These practices focus us on God and our neighbor or, you might say, the two Great Commandments given to us by Jesus.

If you pick up a copy of Hamilton's book, you will see he takes an extremely non-cumbersome approach to starting or refining these practices in our life. Any way we can begin to apply these practices to our lives will be well worth it, for when we find ourselves in Christ and communal happiness shapes our lives in place of a self-centered pursuit of pleasure, we will have found eternal life, the life of the ages.

Grace and peace,
Rev. J.D. Allen

Prayer List

CHUMC Home Bound	Barbara Larsen and family
The Hampton Family	Those affected by COVID-19:
The Gee Family	Nurses and Doctors
Jocelyn Barnard	Senior citizens in nursing homes
Scott Fletcher	Those who have lost jobs
Jennie Leamons	Students and teachers taking classes online
Tom Sanders	Parents of students
Charles Cancellare	First responders
The Rigsby Family	All patients in hospitals
The Medcalf and Keeler Families in the death of Sally Medcalf	Medical personnel who are working
Charles' aunt's boyfriend	Families who have lost people and cannot have funerals
David Rice	Bell County, KY residents, including Iris Shivar's family
Peggy Shoemaker	
The Family of David Mercer	
Robbyn Smith (Cranford)	
Loretta Culp	

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 meet on July 22 and 29 at 7:15 pm.

Zoom Meeting ID: 415 350 3052 for video.
Dial (346) 248-7799 to connect for audio only.

Zoom Kids Bible Study

Join us for Zoom Kids Bible Study on Tuesdays at 7 pm, led by Barbara Tatum! We will be meeting tomorrow, July 21st, and August 4th, 11th, and 18th.

Zoom Kids Choir

In the same time slot as Zoom Kids Bible Study but on the last week of each month, we'll be having Zoom Kids Choir, led by Katy Allen! Join us on July 28th and August 25th at 7 pm for Zoom Kids Choir.

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



Judy Bull 7/10
Tom Wooldridge 7/12
Edrese Hanigan 7/18
Pat Khoury 7/27

Ava Allen 7/11
Daniel Bandy 7/17
Nancy Putnam 7/25

Join Us for Online Worship!

YouTube: Search for CHUMC FarmersBranch

Please subscribe!