



Chapel Hill

United Methodist Church

November 9, 2020

Pastor's Message



Chapel Hill UMC Staff

Rev. J.D. Allen
Senior Pastor

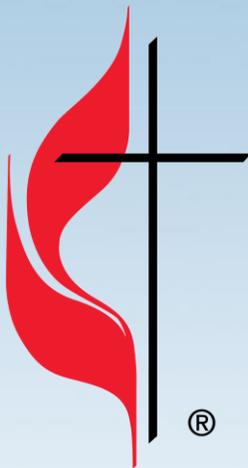
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Office Manager

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Well, friends, another election has come. As of this writing, it remains and will, hopefully, be resolved by the time you read this. The incoming results are creating a variety of thoughts and feelings for people in the United States of America. The last several years of our political lives have been beyond contentious. We often blame it on social media, but, truth be told, this contentious nature began to take shape in, at least, the 1990's. This was the period when rhetoric and spin often limited to commercials during election season began to spill into everyday life on new radio and TV media networks.

I think we all realize that many campaign ads are disingenuous in many ways, seeking not to inform but to state and spin things in a way that makes us afraid of or angry toward those we disagree with or consider our opponents. The rise of new media in the 1990s with a stress on infotainment and opinion for ratings purposes meant the messages seeking to create fear and anger were entering our lives on a daily basis and not only in election season. This helped fuel a tension in which minor disagreements and issues were suddenly being treated with the same fervor as significant differences and outright scandals as the sides of our political debate have been told for years that those who do not view life the way you do are not to be trusted. They are evil. Those investing in this new media and the political groups they aligned with have sought to create this divisive narrative for decades and the rise of social media was like the flame of a forest fire that burns up through the trunk of a tree. The flame reaches the top of a tree still standing and the embers begin to float off into the distance causing an even more disastrous spread of the flame.

The problem this creates for us today is that many do not just disagree with their neighbors. They hate them. The political discourse of the past few decades has spewed rhetoric that has caused us to lose sight of the value we find in our neighbors. We lose sight that all persons bear the image of God and that image is best displayed in communal oneness. It is a oneness remembering that we all breathe from the breath of God. That God, in Jesus, seeks the salvation of us all. We also know, despite our own personal and communal sin, God's love has never ceased. What does this mean regarding how we respond to our neighbor?

Continued on the back...

Prayer List

CHUMC Home Bound	Kay Randall
The Gee Family	Leon Willhite
Jocelyn Barnard	Clara Knight and family
Scott Fletcher	We give thanks for the safe arrival
Jennie Leamons	of Savannah - the newest
Tom Sanders	great-grandchild of Janis and
Peggy Shoemaker	the late Kermit Coggshall.
Robbyn Smith (Cranford)	Rusty George family fighting
Jordan Hammett	COVID-19
Neal Ellis	Those affected by COVID-19:
Project Transformation After	Nurses and Doctors
School	All patients in hospitals
Grace Smith	Families who have lost people
Candace George	and cannot have funerals
Barbara Edward's granddaughter	First responders
Candice and family	Medical personnel who are
Elina Bunker	working
Margaret Ellison's Family	Parents of students
Alex Kaplinsky	Senior citizens in nursing homes
Earl Reed	Students and teachers taking
Judy Charvat	classes online
Kaye Bandy	Those who have lost jobs

Pastor's Message Part 3

So remember, today, how much God loves you. Then, in response, remember how much God loves your neighbor. Seek to extend that love to your neighbor. Love them despite your disagreements, knowing the image of God is stamped on their person and is more visible when we see it in each other as we seek oneness. Bless those who revile you. Heap burning coals of kindness on the heads who have done evil to you or to others. Because the seed of the love of Christ can, and will, spread faster than the flames of political rhetoric of hate and fear. The seeds of new creation will outpace the flame of destruction.

Grace and peace,

Rev. J.D. Allen
Senior Pastor

Pastor's Message Part 2

Do not get me wrong. We are still called to hunger and thirst for the justice and righteousness associated with the Kingdom of God, God's realm of oneness. Our baptismal vows call us to "accept the freedom and power God gives you to resist evil, justice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves." So this does not mean we never have prophetic, sometimes even harsh words, for ourselves and others. But how we go about fulfilling this call is shaped not by the political rhetoricians on TV, the radio, and the internet. It is shaped by Jesus whose love never quits. Who remains in covenant with us no matter how many times our love fails and we rebel against God's way of life. It is the love that led Jesus to cry out from the cross, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do."

While we have reopened the campus for in-person worship, please note that remains the only time we are gathering in the building as we continue to navigate the pandemic. The office is open during the week but we ask that you call and make an appointment if you need to come to the campus for any reason and wear a mask while you are here. This will help us monitor traffic in the building and manage the number of airborne droplets.

Going forward, your faith pledge offerings may be sent to the church office.

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



Martha Johnson 11/3	William Maxwell 11/6
Donna Daggett 11/12	Claudia O'Shea 11/14
Vin Scheihagen 11/16	Sandra Fletcher 11/19
Sherri Stansell 11/26	Kenneth Stansell 11/26
Carol Rose 11/28	Donna Hoisington 11/29
Evelyn Womble 11/30	

Join Us for Online Worship!

YouTube: bit.ly/CHUMCYoutube

Facebook: www.facebook.com/chapelhillumc