



Chapel Hill

United Methodist Church

January 10, 2021

Pastor's Message



Chapel Hill UMC

Staff

Rev. J.D. Allen
Senior Pastor

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Kurt Maerschel
German Worship Leader

The first week of our Bible Year 2022 is in the books. It may have started a little skeptically: "I have read the first chapters of Genesis many times. It is where you start every time you try to read through the Bible right before dropping that resolution a few days or weeks later."

Yet there is so much goodness in the midst of the rollercoaster that is Genesis 1-20. Frankly, the entire Bible is a rollercoaster. But, here, we first get a glimpse of the character of God in this book that was likely composed or compiled and edited after the exile into Babylon in the 6th century BCE. When a people had their entire identity uprooted by another people, they first sought to remember who their God is. God creates and recreates. God loves, though it is hard to tell at times due to the way Genesis tells this story. God does not abandon the covenant with creation and humanity.

After these exiled people reflected on who God is, they discovered two options for themselves: to live in a beautiful community of trust in God and care for one another or the life of sin and selfishness. Think Abel or Cain. Think Enoch who follows his father Cain who had built a city, an ancient symbol of oppression or Enoch, the descendent of Seth, the child born to Eve after her older son killed her younger son, who was seen as righteous and is said to have ascended to heaven. Think Ham, who shames his father or Shem and Japheth, who honor their father. As you can see, these two family lines in the story set up two divergent paths for humanity. Sadly, though, their paths will come back together as departing from the path is a universal human reality.

You and I may be feeling a little exiled. After all, we are once again worshipping online only for the sake of our friends and neighbors and for people who have attended a local church for so long it becomes a major part of one's identity. And the pandemic and accompanying upheaval resists going away. Today's a good day to remember who God is. The God of Epiphany who shines light in the darkness to remind us that no matter how exiled we feel or how far we have departed from the beautiful path God has called us to, that God is still with us offering us a new hope and reality. A new day is dawning.

Grace and peace,

Rev. J.D. Allen



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Prayer List

CHUMC Home Bound	Family of Jim Hoisington
The Gee Family	Family of Joel Williams
Jennie Leamons	Family of Jim Hunt
Tom Sanders	Brigit Ilona Fincham
Judy Charvat	Betty Garrison
Beverly Holmes	Mike McClure
Norma Wood	The Family of Sandra Shawver
Danny Halron	Martha Johnson, hospitalization
Sonny Miller	Marie Rinker
Neal Ellis	Those affected by COVID-19:
Donna Daggett	Nurses and Doctors
Tim Harrison	All patients in hospitals
Lynn & Dixie Copeland	Families who have lost people and
Gary & Judy Anderson	cannot have funerals
Jayde's Nana	First responders
Carter Tatum	Medical personnel who are working
Donna Hoisington's niece, Jana	Parents of students
Jim Taylor	Senior citizens in nursing homes
Grandma Gloria	Students and teachers taking
Yvette's kids	classes online
Adam Rice	Those who have lost jobs
Nancy Hartman	

Bible Year 2022 Readings

Monday, 1/10: Gen. 21:1-23:20
Tuesday, 1/11: Gen. 24:1-25:18
Wednesday, 1/12: Gen. 25:19-28:9
Thursday, 1/13: Gen. 28:10-30:43
Friday, 1/14: Gen. 31:1-36:43
Saturday, 1/15: Gen. 37:1-41:57
Sunday, 1/16: Gen. 42:1-45:28

COVID-19 Safety Update

Due to the rapid spread of COVID-19 in our communities and among our members, the CHUMC COVID Safety Team and I have decided it is important to take further enhanced safety measures at this time:

1) Worship will be online only starting Jan. 2nd for at least two weeks as we wait to see a peak and decline in the current spread of COVID-19. Our online worship will function with a minimal crew of pastor, choir director/accompanist, audio-visual crew, worship leader, and a couple of others as needed.

2) The office will operate under normal office hours. We ask that everyone who comes to the office wear a mask. The staff will wear a mask in the office whenever we interact with each other.

We thank you for your understanding as we continue to navigate this pandemic.

Grace and peace, Rev. J. D. Allen



Human Relations Day

January 16th is Human Relations Day. This UMC Special Sunday offering benefits neighborhood ministries, community advocacy, and work with at-risk teens. Please consider making a donation that Sunday.

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 Charvat 1/13
Glen Womble 1/15
Amy Swanson 1/18
Alex Young 1/23
Sarah Bandy 1/30

Margarita Figueroa 1/15
Archie Shivar 1/16
Janis Coggshall 1/22
Barbara Tatum 1/29

Join Us for Online Worship!

YouTube: bit.ly/CHUMCYouTube

Facebook: www.facebook.com/chapelhillumc