



Chapel Hill

United Methodist Church

January 17, 2021

Pastor's Message



Chapel Hill UMC

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This week, we are completing our Bible Year 2022 journey through Genesis and moving into Exodus. Genesis gives us an origin story set in terms of the generations, beginning with the generations of creation (2:4) and leading us through the generations of the peoples who are the ancestors of the nations that will make up the stories we encounter in Genesis and beyond, especially the generations of the family line central to the story: Abraham and Sarah, Isaac and Rebekah, Jacob and Rachel.

Throughout the story we see a complexity of God's promises to these generations at the root of the story and the sometimes faithfulness and sometimes failure to trust in God. God's promises constituted the forming of a people who would be a blessing to other peoples/nations and a land. The wavering faithfulness both aided the connection with the God of the promises and strained it. It both gave them an identity for generations to come and strained that identity and their relationships. It both gave hope to a world of corruption and violence and helped fuel the corruption and violence.

Take, for example, the story of Joseph which we finish reading today. At the root of his story is discord and violence. He is hated by his brothers because he is favored by Jacob/Israel, whose names are both used throughout the scriptures to reflect this tension between faith and unfaith. Joseph is also arrogant, fueling the hate even more. His brothers plot to kill him only to decide to attack him and sell him into slavery and tell their father he was killed by a wild animal. God is with Joseph through a series of unfortunate events and aids him in becoming second in command only to Pharaoh in Egypt.

Joseph's circumstances put him in a position to save Egypt and the surrounding nations from famine. However, it also helps give the empire of Egypt more power over the surrounding nations when famine was seen by the ancients as divine judgment on powerful rulers. A series of events helps reunite a family. However, it also leads the family to move to Egypt, a move Joseph's grandfather Isaac had been instructed not to make. Egypt's increased power and the family's move set the stage for the coming slavery of the Israelites in Egypt. The story leaves us with a family reunited, soon to bear the consequences of their actions.

Continued on the back...



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	Edrese Hanigan
Donna Daggett	Those affected by COVID-19:
Tim Harrison	Nurses and Doctors
Lynn & Dixie Copeland	All patients in hospitals
Gary & Judy Anderson	Families who have lost people and 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 classes online
Yvette's kids	Those who have lost jobs
Adam Rice	
Nancy Hartman	

Bible Year 2022 Readings

Monday, 1/17: Gen. 46:1-50:26
Tuesday, 1/18: Ex. 1:1-4:31
Wednesday, 1/19: Ex. 5:1-7:13
Thursday, 1/20: Ex. 7:14-12:30
Friday, 1/21: Ex. 12:31-15:21
Saturday, 1/22: Ex. 15:22-18:27
Sunday, 1/23: Ex. 19:1-21:36

Pastor's Message Part 2

This is a story that gives us the complexity of life formed by our incomplete faith while never letting us forget that the God who loves us never gives up.

Grace and peace,

Rev. J.D. Allen

COVID-19 Safety Update

As announced during online worship this past Sunday, the CHUMC COVID Safety Team has determined it is best for us to continue online-only worship for the remainder of January. We know this is a great hardship, as we feel it too, and we thank you for your understanding.

May we continue to join together in prayer that this pandemic will finally come to an end or reach a manageable point and that the Holy Spirit will lead as we seek to be on mission together.

Grace and peace, Rev. J. D. Allen

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