March 18, 2024

CHUMC family,

Pastor's Message

> Rev. J.D. Allen Senior Pastor

Kate Whitaker Hendrick Minister of Families

Melissa Sky-Eagle Worship & Music

> Jill Cox Office Manager

Jim Hanigan Building Manager As we head down the stretch in Lent toward Holy Week, I remember Martin Luther's words in regards to sin and the human condition, "I am a worm."

This was Luther's way of saying that humans, including himself, were worthless because of sin and relied on God's grace through faith for salvation. There is a significant nugget of truth in this thought. We are indeed helpless to escape the power of sin in our lives and in all humanity without the grace of God.

However, it is often thought that we continue as worthless sinners whose only value is the grace God bestows on us. As Wesleyans, we talk about "grace upon grace." There is the grace received in creation. Due to this grace, we exist because a loving God created us all in God's image to love and be loved. There is also the grace that sets us free from the sin that corrupted the image of God in our individual and collective beings which resulted in the rebellion of humanity against God's will to love and be loved.

While Luther's words carry an element of truth, they can be taken too far. It is often said we are just saved sinners who barely grow from our penchant to sin. We have no real value other than the fact God chose to save us and not just punish us for our sin. While this may keep us on a good track, it can be a kind of mental, emotional, and spiritual flogging that limits our ability to love and value ourselves the way God does. It can also turn into a license to sin because we decide we'll always be sinners so there's no use in fighting it.

Instead, consider that God is love. God is not looking upon humanity thinking, "Those worthless fools better recognize how lucky they are!"

Rather God was grieved by the way sin had corrupted our being, recognized the self-destructive path humanity was/is on, and acted extravagantly to provide a way to salvation, reconciliation, transformation. God's radical love for us assures we are valued. It reveals to us we have ultimate value in the eyes of our Creator. It tells us that God is not demanding that we beat ourselves up and just accept we'll never be anything but worthless sinners. It is the assurance that the beauty with which we were created is being restored in us, by God's grace. Sin has no power. Love has won.

God is not tearing us down. God is building us up.

Grace and peace,

Rev. J.D. Allen



Prayer List

CHUMC Homebound The Gee Family Tom Sanders Grandma Gloria Yvette's kids Judy Bull Mike Hill (Barbara Tatum's son-in-law) Gay Keim (Kandy Burdette's sister-inlaw) Charles Cancellare Aaron Brooks Jim Cranford and Family Matthew Shivar Habib Khoury Janis Coggshall

Lynda Lyon (Iris Shivar's Cousin) Gary Fuls Mark Loper Joanne Marchant Claudia Marchant Wesley Freeman The Family of Evelyn Womble The Family of Jim Morgan Cranford Mass shooting victims West Texas Wildfire Victims California Flood Victims Peace, healing, & restoration in war torn areas

Announcements

Our **March Mission Emphasis** is Metrocrest Services. Urgent pantry needs are feminine hygiene products, canned soup, toilet paper, toothpaste, diapers, and cereal. Please bring your donations to CHUMC throughout the month of March. You may also give using the Metrocrest Services <u>Amazon Wishlist</u> or donate online <u>here</u>.

Sunday, March 24th we will have a Potluck after worship at 11:30 am.

Holy Week, Maundy Thursday, March 28th and Good Friday, March 29th will be at 7 PM at Christ UMC.

Chili Cook Off, Sunday April 14th from 4-6 PM. Tickets are \$5 per adult – Children are free! Deadline to register is Monday, April 1st.



Church Office Hours

Regular Office hours are Monday through Thursday 10 AM – 2 PM

For pastoral appointments outside of office hours, you may call the office to schedule. If you have a pastoral care emergency outside of office hours, please contact our Senior Pastor, Rev. J.D. Allen at (972) 467-7756.

Join Us for Online Worship!

YouTube: bit.ly/CHUMCYouTube

Facebook: www.facebook.com/chapelhillumc

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



Allen	8-Mar
Moore	11-Mar
Schulz	12-Mar
Willhite	15-Mar
Byrd	16-Mar
Lopez	17-Mar
	Schulz Willhite