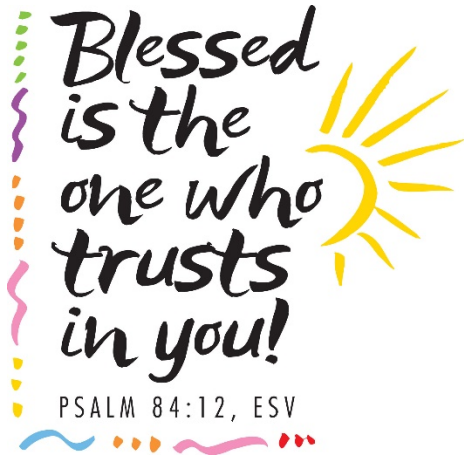




Faith United Methodist Church
432 59th Street
Downers Grove, IL 60516



<https://www.fumc.org>



MAY/JUNE Echoes of faith

Faith United Methodist Church

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Challenging Times

One morning I was sitting at the kitchen table sipping my first cup of coffee. I looked out the window and was amazed at how God whitewashed the landscape with snow. Then the Holy Spirit came for a visit and prompted me to pen out this introductory paragraph. The Holy Spirit also led me to study Mark 6 for Men's Saturday Bible Study. For two hours I read the text with various subsections and looked up parallel passages and footnotes and finally finished two hours later. How wonderful to have the Holy Spirit back and to help me finish this article.



Later in the day I received a text from Pastor Charles asking me to comment on how my wife, Pat, and I have been doing with self-quarantining to avoid COVID-19. From the very beginning, my friends, Pat and other family members have pushed me to curtail my activities and to heed the warnings from social media because I am a walking health risk. This is a challenge for me because I have an active lifestyle. Bible studies, shopping for home, church work and services, errands associated with Little Dresses, and get-togethers with best friends all came to a halt or had to be changed drastically.

During the first 40 days, we had a lot of time to bond. The Lord placed in Pat's heart to switch from her "Little Dresses" ministry to making masks. Others who helped sew little dresses also switched to making masks. Early on, Pat and I decided to switch roles. She sewed masks and I managed the house. It is like God knew that I would serve my apprenticeship while she had back problems for the past year. My real test has been in the last four weeks. Now I have favorite recipes, ways of doing laundry, and developed methods of housekeeping. My friends, Ed and Janet DeLongo, and my kids, Jim and Mellissa, have been my eyes and ears in the grocery store, Amazon, and other shopping outlets. We are thankful for them.

The greatest thing that occurred during the COVID-19 pandemic was our 45th wedding anniversary on April 17th. It fell on Easter Sunday, April 12th. How novel! There was no big splash of cards, flowers or chocolate, but "Good morning. I love you. We will make this up later." But wait?

Another great thing during this time was that my dear love, Pat, stayed home. She did not have to, because I am the one with health risks. Before writing this article, I did not realize how fortunate I am to have a lovely wife stay home so she would not put me at risk. I realize that God had a big hand in this. He is the great social manager of all. How fortunate I am in all respects.

Blessings to all,
Don Hayward

Little Dresses Ministry

It is always a pleasure to talk to you about “Little Dresses.” As you know, our ministry sews dresses for little girls in third world countries. Girls are the least valued of God’s children – the least of the least.

I call these pictures the “visible fruit” of this sewing ministry. The pictures are from a seminary in Venezuela. That country is in turmoil. The people are suffering. We see no smiles on these girl’s faces. The missionaries risked their lives to bring a little Christmas joy to these girls.



Little dresses were also sent to Tanzania, the Philippines, Mexico, the Ivory Coast, Indonesia and our more recent country, Cambodia. Kathy Cheong, Esther Yoon’s sister, learned to sew with us two years ago. Kathy is a pastor’s wife in South Korea and started their sewing ministry with rented sewing machines from the library. Last month their church sent 70 dresses to Cambodia. God’s power at work and we are so grateful to count them sister’s in mission.



We now have 17 members of Faith Church involved in this ministry. And we have 17 community volunteers who have come to sew and be a vital part of “Little Dresses.” Our total dress count since November 1, 2017, is 2,018 dresses. We have sent to 14 countries. We are growing. We occupy 4-1/2 rooms and have 9 sewing machines in the sewing rooms.

We continue to fellowship and have made new friends. We are sisters in friendship and purpose. Our dresses are sewn with love and sprinkled with prayers. Every dress is prayed over before it is sent on its way. Thank you for your prayers and support. I hope you will come see what we do. Just let me know and I’ll give you a grand tour.

So, let us end with prayer: Dear Lord, thank you for all your blessings, especially the blessings we take for granted. Thank you for touching so many hearts to serve in this ministry of hope for little girls. We ask you to continue to bless us as we go forward for Your Honor and Your Glory. In Jesus’ name we pray. And all God’s people would say – Amen.

Pat Hayward
Little Dresses Coordinator

Children and Youth Ministry
Sanha Kang, Director of Children and Youth Ministries



Children and Youth Ministry

Quarantine News:

-I have sent out Bible readings for the children and youth. If you or your child has not received this, please email or text me, and I will send it to you.

-The children's Sunday School packet has the curriculum that the teachers use and my notes. Parents, please go through the packet with your children, especially if they cannot read and/or understand the curriculum. And please make sure that they read the Bible verses for each week. If they have any questions, I have asked them to write them down so that they can bring them to me.

-The youth's Quiet Time booklet has our planned Bible readings with my notes and questions. Quiet Time is a Christian meditative practice where one spends time quietly while reflecting on the Bible. If the youth have any questions, they are encouraged to write down their thoughts to bring to me and the group.

-Both the children and the youth meet with me on Zoom every week for about 30 minutes, an hour at most. We check-in, discuss the Bible reading, do announcements, and end in prayer. The days and times we meet have changed a number of times. So if you want to join the Zoom meeting, please send me an email or text, and I'll send you the Zoom invite.

Cancelled Events:

-Due to the coronavirus pandemic and the shelter-in-place order, we had to cancel any events during the second half of March and all of April. We also have to cancel future events that cannot happen because of quarantine.

-Breakfast with Bunny and Ice Skating were cancelled; however, I will see if I can reschedule our ice skating event for a later date. It may not be right away, as the pandemic may still be a danger even after the shelter-in-place order is lifted.

-VBS is also cancelled because it is not possible to plan for the event during this time.

Future Events:

-We are unsure if the shelter-in-place order will continue into June, but hoping that the order will end on May 30th, I have listed future events we can do in June and the rest of summer.

-As VBS is cancelled, we have decided that we will instead come up with more event days during the summer. These events are still in the works, as I am not sure what is available yet, but there are cancelled events that we can reschedule for this time.

-Art Day – Originally scheduled for April, the kids and I will spend some time on a Sunday creating something new to decorate the halls of our church. I already have an idea for what we will do, thanks to Rose and Terry Paulhus, but that will be a surprise. While I hadn't planned this originally, I may try to see if we could do an art day with the youth as well.

-Movie Day – We had a movie day in February, and it was very fun. I would like to do another movie day, but due to the technical difficulties, I will try to see if we can do it somewhere else in the church, even if it means meeting on a Saturday. Like last time, everyone is invited, but the youth will be required to discuss the movie together.

-Other events will be planned as soon as I can gauge what is available and what everyone wants to do. Going to the zoo or the aquarium are possible events, but I'm not sure if they can happen in June since the virus may still be a danger.

-Graduation Celebration – Originally, this was planned on May 24th. I will be discussing with Pastor about this to see if we should postpone this until we meet or if we could do something online.



Graduation Sunday

Please let us know who is graduating in your family this year so they can be recognized in the Sunday bulletin on Graduation Sunday, May 24th.

Please send in the following information or call the church office: (630) 968-0442

Student Name _____

Your relationship to student _____

Graduating from which School _____

Grade/Degree _____

Which school or college will you be attending in the fall? _____

What are your plans after High school/college graduation? _____

MISSIONS

News

Update from Hope For Today, Hyderabad, India

March 19, 2020

God will not shut down His kingdom work!

The world is changing rapidly as we all seek to react to, prepare for, and prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus. As the countries of South Asia have restricted travelers, the Hope for Today team has also taken precautions. We are limiting our travel, maintaining safe social distancing where possible, and adjusting how ministry is done in many areas.

All Leadership Training and Church Planting Discipleship Movement events have been postponed at this time, and Alpha Home children are home due to school closures. Hope for Today is, however, continuing ministry through Soya Milk distribution, Alpha Vocational Technical Centers instruction, and Widows Support, just to name a few.

AND DO NOT FORGET TO DO GOOD AND TO SHARE WITH THOSE IN NEED.
THESE ARE THE SACRIFICES THAT PLEASE GOD.
-HEBREWS 13:16 (NLT)

During this trying and uncertain time, together let us seek ways to be the hands and feet of Christ. Even as the world closes borders and implements lock downs, God is on the move in a mighty way! Thank you for being a part of the Hope for Today team.

Abundant blessings,



Peter and Esther Pereira

Update from Oasis

Dear Friends,

April 15, 2020

Before sharing our news, we want to acknowledge the challenging times so many of you are facing right now. In the wake of Covid-19, some of you may be afraid for your jobs, your savings, or worried for your health or your loved ones. Those of you who work in medical care are in a unique position of service and stress right now; we are upholding you in prayer! Throughout the years, your prayers have sustained us through different challenges, and we want to stand with you as well. We are praying for you, that God's peace will guard your hearts and minds in the love of Jesus and that He will care for you generously in this time. Please let us know any specific needs that we can be praying for on your behalf!

Covid-19 has also reached our area of service and will likely have a devastating impact. One major factor is that the people we serve are poor. Most lack resources to practice any kind of meaningful social

distancing, the vast majority of people cannot afford to stockpile, and many do not have running water in their homes. Health care services are limited and strained in the best of times. Juxtaposed to this, our small island is also a tourist destination that receives tens of thousands of tourists every month. The local economy depends on tourism, but the island is now hard hit by the impact of tourism during a global pandemic. These factors combine to form a perfect storm, and it has been sobering for us to see the beginnings of Covid-19's impact in our area.

Our initial response was to shelter in place. We pulled our kids out of school to homeschool, shortly after which the local government closed schools nationwide. We practiced social distancing as per the CDC's recommendations, but also because we understand that it is scary to many local people to be around expats right now; there is the view that foreigners are bringing this disease to their country. We can appreciate their fears, as we ourselves have also been shocked that many tourists have still been coming into the area until very recently, some wearing expensive masks they obviously brought from home for their vacation. For people who are poor and vulnerable, this is very frightening. A few of our expat friends who live here have already experienced local people blaming them for the disease; one was called "Corona" while taking the trash out, and an American lady was mobbed while trying to buy vegetables.

When the U.S. Department of State advised American citizens last week to return to America immediately, it made sense to us to do so. We cannot work or study or be with our local friends as usual, and the situation will only deteriorate in the coming weeks. As a family, we have experienced trauma and know its cost, and it seemed wise for us to be cautious at this time and to protect our long-term ministry. For these reasons, and because we have no medical training to assist in the crisis, we decided to pull back and work remotely until the worst of the pandemic is under control. A local family we love moved into our home where they will be much safer, and we made it onto one of the last flights out of our area before the borders closed. We arrived in Atlanta Monday night, thankful and feeling God's presence and care every step of the way. We are now self-quarantined for two weeks in an Airbnb generously made available to us by believers, all four of us feeling healthy but waiting until we are cleared of risk before seeing anyone. After the 14 days, assuming we are fine, we will move in with our parents here in Atlanta. We are deeply thankful to Mom & Dad Harrison for all their loving support and help!

By the grace of God, enough groundwork has been laid with our local partners that a good deal of collaboration can be done remotely, for the time being. As long as they have access to the Internet, we hope to continue creating Scripture Engagement materials such as Scripture songs and story-tellings. We will share more about this in our next update.

In the midst of so much uncertainty, those of us who know Jesus can affirm, "We know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love.... Perfect love drives out all fear." (1 John 4:16,18) The more we can rest in God's love for us, the more we can hear the voice of the One who calls us "beloved," the more we can receive His love into the deepest places of our hearts, the more our lives can be directed by love rather than fear. Our fears loosen their grip on us and instead inform our empathy for others, our dependence on God, and our understanding of His perfect love. All types of mission and neighborly love can flow from this. The center of everything is His love, and the center holds forever.

Thank you for your prayers for us and for the people we love and serve! We are praying for you, too!

With love,
Daniel & Kim
Oasis



Through March we are doing good with consistent giving which is up over last year and our cash position was solid. April giving has fallen off quite a bit.

Please see the article below regarding automated giving, and if you are not interested in that option, please send your offering to the church by mail. Many of our expenses are fixed and our cash position will likely be reduced to zero by late May without more support.

To Faith United Methodist Church Family and Friends,

The Finance Committee is pleased to announce a new and better way to give your offering to the church. This will eliminate the need for you to write checks and save you time (as well as save the church money on offering envelopes). All banks offer a bill pay feature for your account. Recurring payments (weekly/monthly) can be set up for whatever date and frequency one chooses. **THESE ALSO CAN BE CHANGED OR CANCELED AT ANY TIME.** The bank will pay these with a paper check that they will mail to the church. This can usually be set up online, and if not, it can be done at your local branch. The address for the church is 432 59th Street, Downers Grove, IL 60516.

To the extent that you want the funds to go to other accounts beyond the general fund (building, missions, etc.) you will need to set up a different bill pay for each of the other accounts. Setting these up is fast and easy.

PLEASE REALIZE THAT OUR EXPENSES CONTINUE THE NEXT FEW WEEKS DESPITE NO SERVICES. If you do not want to set up this automated giving, please consider mailing your offering to the church to help us cover the ongoing expenses.

If you have questions, please contact Bruce Denby at 630-399-2054.

Thank you.

The Finance Committee



BLANKET SUNDAY - Faith Church will sponsor Blanket Sunday in conjunction with Mother's Day on May 10th. You can help support Church World Service by purchasing a blanket for the unfortunate victims of war, floods and other disasters – and, at the same time, honor the mothers in your life. Mother's Day cards are available for \$10 which inform your mother that a blanket has been sent to a needy person somewhere in the world in her name – or you can donate \$10 in memory of your mother.

Please fill out the following and mail to Faith Church. **Make check payable to: FAITH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH - Blanket Appeal.**

-

I am donating \$ _____ for the purchase of blankets for the needy.

IN HONOR OF

IN MEMORY OF

Your name: _____

Phone # _____

Do you need Mother's Day cards? Qty _____
Cards will be sent to your address:



TOOLS OF HOPE - You can be part of the Tools of Hope program and at the same time honor the fathers in your family. For each \$10.00 you donate, tools will be given in honor of or in memory of your father.

On Father's Day, June 21st a special bulletin insert will contain the names of all fathers so honored.

A special Father's Day card will be available for mailing to fathers you wish to honor.

Please fill out the following and mail to Faith Church. **Make check payable to: FAITH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH – Tools of Hope**

-

I am donating \$ _____ for the purchase of tools for the needy.

IN HONOR OF

IN MEMORY OF

Your name: _____

Phone # _____

Do you need Father's Day cards? Qty _____
Cards will be sent to your address:



Senior Fellowship luncheons are cancelled for May and June due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Hope everyone stays safe.

In God's grace,
Bonnie Gentile

Caring & Connecting: As we continue to be in social distancing and the "staying-at-home" order, we need to try our best to spiritually connect and care for one another by praying, calling, texting or connecting to social media. Sharon and Pastor Charles will work at home until further notice. You may call the church office (630-968-0442) to reach Sharon or her cell phone (630-863-4497) if you need any help, such as grocery shopping, picking up medication, or transportation. You can contact Pastor Charles at 815-590-6282 if you need any pastoral care.

Distributing Masks: Our "Little Dresses" sewing group is making masks for those in need. If you or your friends need masks, please contact Sharon or drop by the parsonage (back porch) and pick them up.

May/June Upper Room Devotional booklets are available while supplies last. If you would like a booklet sent to you by mail, please contact Sharon by email sharon@faithchurchdg.org or call 630-968-0442. Specify large print or regular size.

UMC General Conference has been postponed to 2021 in Minneapolis (Convention Center), MN. After the pandemic-caused postponement, the new prospective dates for The United Methodist Church's General Conference are Aug. 31-Sept. 10, 2021.

NIC 2020 Annual Conference session has been postponed. New dates are still in discussion.



May

- | | |
|----|-------------------|
| 1 | Eleanor Pagulayan |
| | Cailla Abarro |
| 5 | Wes Diener |
| 6 | Willard Skaer |
| | Peachy Octava |
| 7 | Tim Kim |
| 11 | Lucas Depante |
| 12 | Jeff Lin |
| 13 | Doris Larsh |
| 14 | Fumi Hodonou |
| 16 | Chelsea Octava |
| 21 | Janet DeLongo |
| 23 | Eric Denby |
| 25 | Lois Pence |
| 27 | Rose Mills |
| 30 | Bill Fox |
| 31 | Willy Octava |

June

- | | |
|----|-----------------|
| 2 | Ray Veselsky |
| 7 | Alex Zhao |
| 8 | Ignacio Alagano |
| | Bob Mitchell |
| 11 | Elaine Lin |
| | Raymond Musni |
| 13 | Linda Denby |
| | Danel Corre |
| 15 | Lola Nelson |
| 17 | Bill Miller |
| 18 | Brooke Denby |
| 21 | Kristen Bair |
| 22 | Hope Alcantara |
| 27 | Rita Bair |