

# The Messenger

June 2020

*First United Methodist Church*

*446 Camden Avenue, Moorestown, NJ 08057*

*856-235-0450 [www.meetwithGod.com](http://www.meetwithGod.com)*



We look forward to worshipping with you again:

Saturday, 5:30 pm | Sunday, 8:30 am | Sunday, 9:30 am | Sunday, 11 am



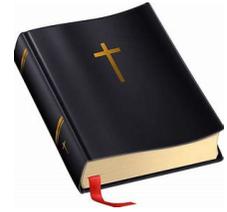
*As a father has compassion on his children, so the Lord has compassion on those who fear him. - Psalm 103:13*

Rev. Tom Korkuch, Pastor  
Kathy Clawges, Director of Youth  
Norm Dorrell, Co-Music Leader  
Devika Gill, Director of First Light

Rev. HeyYoung Horton, Associate Pastor  
Donna Banes, Co-Music Leader  
Doug Hamilton, Maintenance Coordinator



# From Pastor Tom



## **“Be a Witness”**

*But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you;  
and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.*

• Acts 1:8

Usually, when we think of the word “witness,” what comes to mind is a crime scene or a courtroom – something out of those “CSI” type television shows. “Witness,” however, has a very different meaning if you count yourself as a follower of Jesus. You may remember how in the early days of the church, Christian “witnessing” often meant that you were willing to give your life rather than renounce your faith. The Greek word for “witness” – *martyre* – speaks to this extreme level of witnessing.

Thankfully, our understanding of “witnessing” has changed quite a bit since the days when Christianity was illegal – although we should never forget that there are parts of the world where martyrdom is still a reality. Still, as Christians living in the United States, we “witness” in very different, but no less powerful ways today. As United Methodists, our “witnessing” often takes the form of mission and service. As a matter of fact, within the past several years, our denomination has been emphasizing four focus areas of mission and ministry – two of which (engaging in ministry with the poor and improving global health) are directly related to our “witness” to the world.

But this isn’t just a denominational effort. When new members to our church, for instance, take vows of membership, they promise to uphold the church through their prayers, their presence, their gifts, their service, AND their witness. In addition, at the local church level all of us at First Church share in the greater “witness” through our contributions to denominational efforts such as the World Service Fund, as well as through our direct involvement with many outreach ministries. This is “witnessing” at its very best!

I encourage all of us, especially in this time of “physical distancing” and the challenges brought about by the pandemic, to reflect on the ways that both our church and our lives can “witness” further to the good news of Jesus Christ – and how we can impact the lives of others through our commitment to the mission and ministry that we’ve been called to. We’ve a story to tell to the nations, as the hymn says, friends – and everything we do should be a reflection of that story. So, don’t be shy! Get creative in this challenging time and be a “witness!”

Grace, Peace & Stay Safe!

Pastor Tom

**The life of the church depends on your giving. While the church is closed,  
our ministry must continue. Please consider electronic giving.**



### **ELECTRONIC GIVING OPTION**

If you would like to use your mobile device to make an electronic donation to FUMC Moorestown, just scan this QR code and you’ll be connected to our mobile giving page!



# A Note from the Missions Committee



With the daily deluge of bad news on the Covid-19 pandemic death rate, it is understandable how some people have become depressed, weak and fearful while worrying they too may end up as a statistic. Though there are many heroes in our community helping the sick, the poor, and broken hearted (i.e. first responders, health professionals, food and delivery personnel, etc.), we are also mindful of the hardships that many have endured. There is no doubt that when this pandemic is over a large number of people will need guidance and counseling to help them better cope with their losses. This includes the death of a loved one, a job loss, or the yearning to go back to a life the way it used to be as our life of normalcy has been shattered. Some may question God on why He has allowed the virus to play havoc with our world while some question themselves on their own faith in God during these challenging times.

As Christians we should not be surprised what Jesus said in John 16:33 that in Him we may have peace and that even though we will have trouble in this world, we are to take heart that Jesus has overcome the world! It is true that no Christian is immune from enduring hardship. However, if we are really honest with ourselves we probably have questioned God why something bad is happening in our lives while wondering whether it was the result of something wrong we did in the past. The Apostle Paul takes it a step further in Romans 5:3. He tells us to rejoice in our sufferings because suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; character, hope and hope does not disappoint us because God has poured out His love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom He has given us.

Paul recognized that even though he was weak and was suffering from the many hardships in his life, such as being beaten, thrown in prison, shipwrecked, hungry, and disowned by his Jewish people, Paul knew God wants everyone to lean on Christ and come to Him for help and strength. Paul recognized that the Holy Spirit was not only his source of strength to continue on toward fighting the good fight and being a testimony for Jesus, but also the reason for his inward joy he felt while facing hardship. Paul was far more effective as a missionary for Christ by relying on God's strength than on his own. The late Dr. Charles Spurgeon said that "God does not need your strength. God has more than enough power of His own. God

asks for your weakness so He can use it as an instrument in His own mighty hand."

One of the most interesting verses of scripture that can be perplexing to some is found in 2 Corinthians 12:10 where Paul says that he delights in his weaknesses, in his hardships and difficulties; "For when I am weak then I am strong." Paul knew that he was totally reliant on God for his strength so he could be bold enough to be a testimony for Christ even at the point of risking his own life. Yet even after praying to God three times to take his pain away, God did not remove his hardship. God answered Paul and said "My grace is sufficient for you for my power is made perfect in weakness." You might be wondering how is God's power made perfect in our weakness? The answer is through the Holy Spirit that guides us to want to help and love people unconditionally, all in the name of Jesus, even when we are going through disappointments and hardships ourselves and we don't understand why. Like Paul, perhaps you have prayed to God and did not receive the answer you wanted to hear from our Lord?

I am amazed how Christ has given every believer the gift of the Holy Spirit because the Holy Spirit is our comforter and our way to communicate directly to God. The Holy Spirit not only testifies that Christ is alive, He sustains us, gives us joy and peace, even when we endure frightening times such as what all of us have been experiencing these past few months with the pandemic. Dr. David Jeremiah said that "A life in Christ does not remove us from the world; it sustains us in it. One way of sustaining us is the gift of peace through the Holy Spirit."

We live in a world that demand answers. However, when it comes to our Lord, His ways may sometimes be mysterious and unpredictable, but they are always good. We should never get trapped into demanding answers for why God allows so much evil in the world. Instead, God is looking at our responses to the situation we all find ourselves in and wanting us to ask Him What can I do for you Lord? How can I be a blessing to someone out there and be a testimony for you Lord? Lord forgive us for doubting you during these tough times and thank you for the blessings you give us, and providing us with true joy, comfort, peace and strength through your loving Holy Spirit.

Allan Estrin, Missions Committee Member

# Prayer Support

A collaboration from Prayer Committee Volunteers

Submitted by Nancy Jerrell, Prayer Coordinator



Prayer of Saint Francis of Assisi

Lord, make me an instrument of thy peace!  
That where there is hatred, I may bring love.  
That where there is wrong, I may bring the spirit of forgiveness.  
That where there is discord, I may bring harmony.  
That where there is error, I may bring truth.  
That where there is doubt, I may bring faith.  
That where there is despair, I may bring hope.  
That where there are shadows, I may bring light.  
That where there is sadness, I may bring joy.  
Lord, grant that I may seek rather to comfort, than to be comforted.  
To understand, than to be understood.  
To love, than to be loved.  
For it is by self-forgetting that one finds.  
It is by forgiving that one is forgiven.  
It is by dying that one awakens to Eternal Life.



Do particular people come to mind? Do we recall incidences in which someone reminded us of God's love? Do we think of things that we would aspire to? Personally, there's only one additional quality I'd ask for. Not being particularly gifted with humor, I'd ask "that where there is tension (during quarantine), I may think of a joke!"

## **Hour Power Day of Prayer**

**Monday, June 15, 2020**

**You're Invited!**

Please join us in a Day of Prayer dedicated to gratitude for our church family. We will each choose an hour communing with our Lord. We cannot physically be with our church family now; but that does not mean we are powerless. It's still in "Hour Power" to pray together!

To schedule your hour, please call/text 609-841-0129, or email [nancyjerrell@yahoo.com](mailto:nancyjerrell@yahoo.com)

# Member Notes



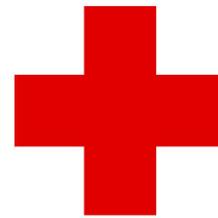
## *Entered Into God's Glory*

*Gordon Swezey on April 21, 2020*

*Richard MacRae on April 27, 2020*

*Ralph Adamson on April 28, 2020*

*Joan Moody on May 14, 2020*



**American  
Red Cross**

Now more than ever, your blood donation is essential! The next Red Cross Blood Drive will be Monday, June 29 in Fellowship Hall. If you are blessed with good health, please consider sharing that blessing with someone in need. To make an appointment and review the measures the Red Cross is taking to ensure your safety, visit [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org). You can also make an appointment by contacting Jen Dunne at [jendunne1@gmail.com](mailto:jendunne1@gmail.com) or 856-979-6329 . All donors will need to wear face coverings. If you come without a mask, one will be provided for you. Thank you for being a hero to someone in need.

## *Virtual Concert*

*of*

*Well Love Hymns for Piano & Organ*

*Music Ministry Sunday*

*June 7<sup>th</sup> at 3PM*

*Join us on*

*Facebook*

*&*

*You Tube*

# Congratulations to the Class of 2020!

*The LORD himself goes before you and will be with you; He will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged.*

*- Deuteronomy 31:8*



Katelei Clark  
Devin Conaty  
Gwynivere Horton  
Luke Horton  
Peyton Jagodzinski  
Stephanie Maines  
Cailin O'Donnell  
Anna Youse

## **Worship With Us Virtually!**

While we cannot meet together for worship in person at this time, remember that we are still worshipping virtually! Weekly “worship movies”, including sermon, scripture, prayer, and music are posted on the church’s Facebook and YouTube pages. You can watch when they are posted at 9:30 on Sunday mornings, or at any time afterwards. And don’t forget to look for Pastor Tom’s video messages, posted most weekday mornings!

## **“Can” You Help?**

If you are able, please remember those who will not have enough to eat as work-place shutdowns continue and our neighbors go without paychecks. Church volunteers have placed boxes outside the Pleasant Valley and Camden Ave. entrances for the collection of non-perishable items for the town’s food pantries. Diapers and men’s underwear are also needed. Donations will be collected every night and delivered in a timely manner. Thank you for your help!

## **Church Building Remains Closed**

During the ongoing shut-downs as ordered by the governor of NJ, the church building is closed except for essential business. Please **do not** enter the church building for any non-essential reasons. Thank you for your cooperation at this difficult time.