



The Messenger

August 2020

First United Methodist Church

446 Camden Avenue, Moorestown, NJ 08057

856-235-0450 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



Let's Gather to Worship Outdoors!

All are welcome to an outdoor "revival" type worship service on Sunday, August 16 at 10:00 AM on the church grounds. Masks and social distancing will be required. Please feel free to bring lawn chairs to sit on as well. Umbrellas would also be advisable. If there is inclement weather, a new date will be announced. A simple order of worship will be sent to the congregation in advance.

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
Joan Flamini, Office Administrator



From Pastor Tom



“Doing Something of Sacred Worth”

28-30 “Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to me. Get away with me and you’ll recover your life. I’ll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me and work with me— watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won’t lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with me and you’ll learn to live freely and lightly.

- from *The Message*

This beautiful invitation from the paraphrase of scripture called *The Message* especially speaks to us during the summer months when we’re trying to find some rest and relaxation from the normal work-a-day pace of life, even when life proves to be anything but “normal” as it has over the past few months. This is particularly true for us as Americans. It’s said that Americans are notorious when it comes to not getting enough rest. Some of us literally work ourselves to death – and it starts with us never taking enough vacation time.

But when Jesus speaks of “weariness,” and “burdens,” and the need for “rest,” as he does in Matthew 11, I don’t think he’s talking about the type of exhaustion that might initially come to mind. Actually, I think he’s talking more about a “beat-down-by-life” type of exhaustion that can come from not having any real purpose or direction for your life. Because nothing will exhaust you quicker than trudging through your daily existence without being involved in something of significance – something of real meaning that can make a real difference in the world.

This has been a real challenge for us as we’ve tried to maintain our role within the congregation and outside the four walls to the community at large during the pandemic. We are so used to having connection with people as followers of Jesus that this isolation that we’ve been experiencing leaves us not knowing how exactly to proceed at times. And yet, as we all know, this is why the continuing work of the church during this time of pandemic is so vitally important. Having meaning, and significance, and relevance is just plain old good for the soul. It’s also what we’re called to do.

When Jesus says “take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls,” maybe what he’s saying is that when we align ourselves with his way, we’re able to tap into an energy and a power that comes from being a part of something that’s greater than any one of us. We find purpose, and meaning, and significance for our lives – and that brings us peace of mind as well as peace of spirit. I think that’s what Jesus means when he promises “rest for our weary, burdened souls” – not that we “rest” by sitting around doing nothing – but instead that we “rest” in the knowledge that we are doing something of sacred worth.

Have you discovered that “something of sacred worth” that you’re doing in your life that’s energizing your spirit and giving you purpose, and meaning, and direction, especially during this time of isolation?

Grace and peace,

Pastor Tom



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!

SHARING
GOD’S
GIFTS

A Note on Missions

The Impossible Dream... when I think of this phrase, the song from the Broadway hit show *Man of La Mancha* always comes to mind. This is because while growing up in the early 70's my mom would frequently play this song on her record player sung by Robert Goulet. With all of the turmoil that has been going on the past few months in our country between the pandemic, the protests and riots stemming from the police brutality and killing of George Floyd and other African Americans, having these problems ever be resolved could be construed as wishful thinking and even an *impossible dream*. And yet all of us are aware that these problems ultimately stem from people's unwillingness to treat everyone with respect, dignity and fairness while seeing the value of everyone's self-worth like our Lord sees in every human being.

It shouldn't be a surprise that these same problems are rooted in prejudice, social and economic injustice, bigotry and slavery which was established well before the inception of our country. Sadly throughout the course of history there have been many acts of inhuman injustices dealing with discrimination, favoritism, lack of respect that continue to be present in our world today. The driving force of this problem is our sin which began through Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. It is through sin where some people truly believe they are better than other people based on their appearance, beliefs, origin, etc. There is no way our country will ever reach this impossible dream until everyone truly loves one another the way God commands us to do.

One of the popular songs written in the 1960s that illustrates the point about loving one another is called "Get Together" sung by the Youngbloods. The chorus of this song had a nice jingle that said "Come on people now, smile on your brother everybody get together try to love one another right now." Though this song had a very positive message, it did not take root in helping our nation solve the racial injustices and inequalities in jobs, education and housing. As a result violent outbreaks resulted in many protest and riots in the late 60's which drew attention on these injustices directed toward African Americans.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s dream speech he delivered in front of the Lincoln Memorial in August, 1963 was deeply rooted in the American dream that our nation would rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed that all men (people) are created equal. Although our country's civil rights have improved since the 1960's, Dr. King's dream that a person would not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character has still not been met today. Sadly, Dr. King's "impossible dream" has not come to fruition almost 60 years later.

Christians know in their heart that in order for the world to achieve this *impossible dream* there needs to be an awakening, a revival in Christ in our country and world. Though God gave us His two greatest commands that we are to love Him with all of our heart, mind and soul

and to love our neighbors as ourselves, people are powerless to carry this out unless they have the love of Christ living in them through the Holy Spirit. With the Holy Spirit in control of our lives, God allows us to see how much He truly loves and values everyone including those who have not yet committed to a personal relationship toward his son. The Apostle John tells us in 1 John 4:20-21 that "if anyone says I love God, yet hates his brother, he is a liar. For anyone who does not love his brother whom he has seen, cannot love God, whom he has not seen. And he has given us this command: Whoever loves God must also love his brother". Having the world achieve this impossible dream by everyone loving their neighbors does seem like an impossibility. But with God *all* things are possible. To achieve this we will need every Christian to take up their cross and spread the good news and pray for revival.

As ambassadors in Christ we are to exemplify Jesus in everything we do in this world. Unfortunately sometimes we miss the mark in doing this because we don't see the whole picture and don't realize how critical we are to the body of Christ in sharing His love through our words and action. I think of a song that deals with this called "Give Me Your Eyes" where the singer Brandon Heath is pleading for Jesus to give him "His Eyes" for a second so he can see the big picture by what Jesus' sees and have the passion to do the things God wants him to do. Some of the lyrics are: "Give me your eyes for just one second. Give me your eyes so I can see. Give me your love for humanity. Give me your arms for the brokenhearted, the ones that are far beyond my reach. Give me your heart for the ones for guiding. Lord give me your eyes. I never thought I was wrong. I want a second chance to see the way you see the people all alone." Check it out on <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P5AkNqLuVgY>

What's your "impossible dream"? Whether you are going through the peaks or valleys in life, remember to keep your eyes fixed on Jesus and recognize that nothing can separate you from His love. One of the prayers of our Mission Committee is for the people of First Church to become more active in Missions by sharing the love of Christ to a hurting and hopeless world by words and actions. One way you can do this is by taking the **FUMC Blessings Challenge** by being a blessing to someone in need or has done something that exemplifies God's love to another individual. This is such a great way to bless others while telling the Mission's Committee and the rest of our church their story. By doing this you will not only be a blessing to that person but also bless everyone in our church who reads about this.

Allan Estrin
Missions Committee Member



Prayer Support

A collaboration from Prayer Committee Volunteers

Submitted by Nancy Jerrell, Prayer Coordinator



"My Grace is Sufficient for Thee"

When, sin-sicken, burdened, and weary
From bondage I long to be free,
There came to my heart a sweet message;
"My Grace is sufficient for thee."

Tho' tempted and sadly discouraged,
My Soul to this refuge will flee,
And rest in the blessed assurance;
"My Grace is sufficient for thee".

My bark may be tossed by the tempest
That sweeps o'er a turbulent sea--
A rainbow illumines the darkness;
"My Grace is sufficient for thee".

O Lord, I would press on with courage,
Tho' rugged the pathway may be,
Sustained and upheld by the promise:
"My Grace is sufficient for thee".

Soon, soon will the warfare be over,
My Lord face to face I shall see,
And prove, as I dwell in His presence:
"His Grace was sufficient for me."

--Author Unknown

my
grace is
sufficient
for you.
2 COR. 12:9

Several hymns and poems share either the same or a similar title "My Grace is Sufficient for Thee." It refers to 2 Corinthians 12:9 (KJV) And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

God Bless

Member Notes

United in Marriage

Tricia Michelle Halligan

and

Levi Charles Trout

on July 12, 2020



Entered Into God's Glory

Rita Allen

on July 3, 2020