

THE CHALLENGE

Bethlehem United Methodist Church

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

The story below is long but it offers a wonderful reminder of how relevant Scripture can be.

Craig Barnes is now president of Princeton Theological Seminary, and he wrote this reflection called *Finding God at the Bottom*.

"My father was a preacher who believed it was important to memorize verses of the Bible. On Mondays he'd give my older brother and me a verse written out on a little white card. We were expected to recite it from memory by dinner at the end of the week when our father would point to one of us and say something like "Romans 8:28." If we didn't start chirping away with 'For all things work together for good for those who love God,' we'd have to leave the table.

By the time I was a teenager, I had memorized a lot of the Bible, not out of love for the sacred text but because I didn't want to be dismissed from Saturday evening dinner. I never paid attention to the words. But they were still in me. When I was not quite 17, my parents' marriage broke apart. My mother left our home on Long Island and went to live with her sister in Dallas. My father left the church he had started and just disappeared. My big brother dropped out of college, got a construction job, and helped me finish high school. I got an after-school job at a gas station. Together we got by.

Oddly, my brother and I didn't talk about how our world had crumbled. This wasn't just because we weren't good at sharing our feelings. Mostly it was because we couldn't afford emotion. We were too worried about the next meal and a place to stay.

The following Christmas my brother and I decided we would go to Dallas to visit my mother. We didn't have the money for a plane or bus ticket, so we did what young people sometimes do when they're not thinking clearly. We decided to hitchhike from Long Island to Dallas.

By the end of the first day we were somewhere in the Shenandoah Valley in Virginia on Interstate 81. It was snowing hard, the sun was long gone, and we stood on the entrance ramp with our thumbs sticking out. As the snow got heavier, there were fewer and fewer cars. After two hours, we finally saw a pair of headlights pull over in front of us. It was a Virginia state trooper. We were expecting a lecture about how dangerous, not to mention illegal, it was to hitchhike. Instead he told us that the highway had been closed for two hours and that after attending to an accident up the road he would come back for us and take us to a diner that was still open.

We stayed put on the side of the dark highway in the blizzard. After months of hustling our way through the immediate issues of making life work, my brother and I were finally forced to talk to each other. We took a stab at describing our situation, but it didn't go very well after I mentioned that we were basically disposable to the people who were supposed to love us. We tried to pass the time by quizzing each other on sports statistics. Neither of us had ever been very good at that.

Then my brother pointed to me and said, 'Romans 8:28.' We spent much of that night asking each other to recite the verses of the Bible we had memorized but never truly heard. At one point I found myself saying the precious lines of Isaiah 43: 'Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you... Because you are precious in my sight, and honored, and I love you.' By the time I finished reciting those words, I was crying.



Our Mission at Bethlehem UMC
Is to share the love and spirit of
Christ, be a welcoming
fellowship for all, nurture followers
of Jesus and send them, as
servants, into the world in need
of God's grace.

Pastor

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Jane Reddick

Pianist

Laura Cranfill

Child Care Director

Position is Open

336-674-9879

Custodian

Ovido Sorbito

Webmaster

Debbie Brady



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bethlehemumc.org

That night a passage about the sustaining love of God cast out fear that was too deep for me to even acknowledge became the turning point in my life. And at the bottom, I found the relentless love of God who was with me and always will be, no matter how deep the waters."

Though we may not find ourselves in a blizzard, we have certainly found ourselves in unprecedented times and in need of hope from God. Isaiah 43:1-3 is just one passage that gives us such hope: *"Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine. ²When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze. ³For I am the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior."*

My prayer is that you will find some time to read and memorize some Scripture. After all, you never know when the Holy Spirit will lay that passage upon your heart to bring you through a difficult time in life.

I'm truly grateful for each one of you and look forward to gathering each Sunday to praise the Lord and glorify His name, whether that be in cars in the parking lot or in the sanctuary inside the church building.

Shalom, Pastor Debra

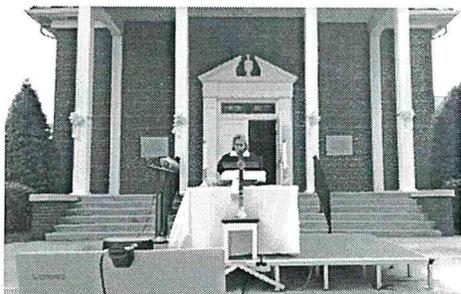
WORSHIP MINISTRY

Drive-In
WORSHIP SERVICE

Join Us!

Through May, and possibly for part of June, worship will be as follows:

Sundays @ 10AM – Drive-in/Facebook Live.



The video of this service will be posted on the Church's Face Book page immediately following the live service.

Children's/Family Ministry

VBS has been postponed until a date to be determined in the fall. Stay tuned for more information.

Youth Link

Our CCC trip this year hasn't been canceled but we are doing a new thing called **CCC Local, July 12-18**. We'll be staying in the area and doing projects within our community. That being said, we are in need of meals provided Mon. thru Thurs. night (July 13-16). If you or your Sunday School class or group might be interested in providing a meal, please reach out to me (rebaelamb@yahoo.com). Thanks, Reba Lamb, Youth Director

Prayer Ministry

Our Prayer Concerns:

Ongoing

Vicky Alexander
Martha Boren
Jack Bowman
Suzie Branch
Edna Coble (Morningview)
Jane Dunham
Ronda Faggart
Cory Fields
Kelsey Garrett
Nancy Golden
Ruby Hockett
Alice Jones
Jimmie Jones
Wayne & Ruby Kirkman
Larry Knight
Clyde Land
Marjorie Mabe
Lucille McClintock
Kenny McGinnis
Dennis McGee

Ongoing Continued

Mildred Moser (Clapps Asst rm 103)
Jamie O'Daniel
Betty Wilkins
Our Homebound
Immediate
Phyllis Alley
Rev. Ed Armfield
Nancy Beeson (Lois Snow's sis-n-law)
James Brownsfield (Marjorie M./friend)
Evelyn Churchill

Brad Fields
Betty Hull
Dicky Parks
Preston Ryan
Mike Underwood
Ernest Wicker
Gail Williams

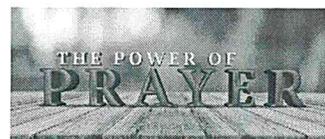
Military

Matthew Jones (Friend of Londa Parks)
Robert Russell (Kylie Spencer's boyfriend)

Keep Looking for upcoming Prayer Events

such as:

Prayer Walks, Labyrinth, Etc.



Other News and Events

CONGRATULATIONS to High School Graduates Leah Fields, Will Fields, Clark Hinshaw and Parker Robb. We wish you the very best on your future endeavors. If you know of other graduates, please let the church office know. Email name of graduate (you can also include school) to bethumclimax@gmail.com or call (336) 674-0155.

HONORARIUMS & MEMORIALS

Acknowledgement: *Since the last newsletter publication, the following gifts have been made in honor/memory as listed. BUMC gratefully acknowledges each gift received.*

Honorariums

In **Honor of Arlene Stokes Circle**
By Jerry & Karon Monnett

In **Honor of Buddy & Judy Fields**
By Jane Snead

In **Honor of Michael & Michelle Hinshaw**
By Jane Snead

In **Honor of Stacy & Lucille McClintock**
By Angie Routh

In **Honor of Jerry & Karon Monnett**
By Wayne & Phyllis Alley

In **Honor of Ruth Rowland**
By Charles & Lorene Wells

In **Honor of Kylie Spencer**
By Jim & Beverly Culbertson

In **Honor of Bette Weatherly**
By Wayne & Phyllis Alley

Memorials

In **Memory of Worth & Mary Allred**
By Margaret Royal

In **Memory of Dalton & Boys**
By Louise Bowman

In **Memory of Roland & Lorraine Brady**
By Michael & Debbie Brady

In **Memory of David Coble**
By Linda Duncan, Kim & Cindy
By Charles & Evonne Parks

In **Memory of Ann Holder**
By John Holder

In **Memory of Carolyn Johnson**

By Kelly & Betty Fields
By Dave & Mary Beth Winfree

In **Memory of Clem Royal**
By Margaret Royal

FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE

EMAIL ADDRESSES - If you have not received a test email from the office and would like to have your name listed among other church contacts to receive group emails, please forward your email address to bethumclimax@gmail.com. We would like to have this list current for use during the Covid 19 pandemic. Thanks!

NO CALENDAR INSERTS – With activities up-in-the-air due to the Coronavirus, we have not included calendars in newsletter. Please know that all activities, reunions, birthday parties, and any other events are canceled through May, and most likely into June. Therefore, the church building will be closed to visitors and activities until we are given the all clear from the state.

REMINDER – THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED on **Monday, May 25th** in observance of *Memorial Day*.

BIRTHDAYS

	<u>May</u>		<u>June</u>
5/2	Allison Eanes Ruby Hockett	6/1	Judy Fields David Peele
5/5	Lore Lambert	6/2	Asher Garrett
5/6	Mark Wilkinson	6/4	Robin Bunton Betty Fields
5/7	Wendi Lowe		Alan Thornton Jenahlee Young
5/8	Tim Parish		Sid Fields Marguerite Fields
5/9	Jana Fields John Holder Barry Norris Alan Wilkinson	6/6	Amanda Fields Jeanette Fields Chad Garrett Joyce King
5/11	Mildred Moser	6/9	Sherri Bowman Margaret Royal
5/13	Wayne Kirkman Jeannie Suggs	6/10	Doug Nance Phillip Jones Deena King Dale Austin
5/16	Kelly Fields	6/12	Glenn Getner Michelle Hinshaw Reagan Owens
5/17	Caleb Windsor	6/13	Carol Fields Cindy Fields Jennifer Young
5/19	Kelsea Owens	6/14	Brenda Fields Fran Getner Craig McClintock
5/20	James Evans		Jonah Owens Kennedy Waugh Annabel Bunton
5/22	Eutha Bowman Nancy Golden Brittany Ingold Taylor Martin	6/17	
5/24	Betty Wilkins	6/20	
5/26	Adam Garrett Joy Massarelli Lowell Suggs	6/21	
5/27	Doris Kirkman	6/22	
5/27	Faye Fields Debbie Waugh Londa Parks	6/23	
5/28	Gilbert Suggs	6/26	
5/29	Christal Owens Karen Barbone	6/28	
5/31	Mike Hinshaw	6/30	

The Boy Scouts have Pine Needles for sale. To purchase, please call Eddie Wilkinson @ (336) 420-0237.

The following checklist was compiled by Ken Braddy, Jr. - LifeWay's Director of Sunday School, Manager of LifeWay Christian Resource's Adult Ongoing Bible Studies & Adult Trainers, education pastor 20+ years, author, conference leader, and blogger Check out his blog and website at kenbraddy.com

24 Questions Your Church Should Answer Before People Return

Don't let the excitement of finally coming back together cloud your judgment or cause you to ignore the "new normal." Let's think through 20+ things that we must think about before the church returns to the building:

1. **What if your worship gathering is initially limited to no more than 100 people?** Never happen, you say? Remember that we've been limited to gatherings of no more than 10 people in the recent past. Take my church, for example. Pre-COVID 19 we averaged 350 in worship (two services). Should we be planning on adding a third service, reducing the time to 45 minutes with a 15 minute "passing period" so that worshipers can either go to Bible study or go home? One friend in ministry has said, "My church runs 2000 people in worship – we can't have 20 worship services all weekend long! What will we do?" If we are limited to a smaller number of people by our government leaders, what's the plan at your church to provide a place and time for them to worship?
2. **What adjustments will you make to the Lord's Supper, baptisms, and your choir ministry?** Do you believe you can conduct communion like you have in the past? Your church's tradition may involve passing a plate of elements, or it may include drinking from a common cup in some denominations. Will you use the self-contained juice and cracker cups? What about baptism – it's going to be impossible to practice physical distancing in a baptism pool. And as one reader said, "What do I do about my church's choir program?" He realizes that people standing side-by-side won't be practical.
3. **Are you canceling camps and VBS, or delaying them until later this summer?** This is a big question on people's minds. One church leader asked me, "May I return \$6000 of VBS materials we've purchased?" There are alternatives, and I know many churches that are delaying VBS until August, using it as a big back-to-school event. Other churches are using their VBS materials in backyard Bible clubs (so that groups are smaller). Other churches are going to do VBS over 5 weeks, one day a week (such as Sunday night), or they plan to use VBS resources during Fall Break. [Click here to read an article by LifeWay about VBS in the wake of COVID-19.](#)
4. **Is a physical "pass the plate" offering a thing of the past?** How would you feel if you were the 100th person in a worship service to touch the offering plate that 99 other people just touched? Would you be worried about COVID-19 transmission? Sure you would. So how will you take up your weekly offering? Will you install boxes at the doors of the worship center, and perhaps place some of those in the lobby, so that worshipers can slide their envelopes, cash, or checks into those secured boxes?
5. **What are you doing now to sanitize and sterilize your church building?** Now is the time to wipe down all classrooms (especially those where children meet because of the toys and other items they touch during the course of a Sunday or Wednesday class experience). Have you sprayed pews and chairs with disinfectant? Who is wiping door knobs and handles? Have you had carpet cleaned and disinfected? Now is the time for all this to take place, not the week of the "you can go back to church" announcement by government officials.
6. **Are you going to continue offering children's church?** Can you guarantee moms and dads that their children will be absolutely safe in a room in which dozens or hundreds gather for a kids' worship time? This is going to be a top concern for parents of younger children. They may view kids' worship as a Petri dish into which they are throwing their children. As an alternative, is it time to encourage family worship as the primary option in these COVID-19 days? Should parents take their kids to worship, practice physical distancing, and keep a close eye on their little ones?
7. **Are you going to continue hosting special events?** Will your church continue to host weddings? How about funerals? Revivals? Dramas? Bible Drill events? Children's programs/choir? You get the idea – there are a number of special events that our churches might host. Which ones will continue, and which ones will be put on hold? And how will you explain which ones continue and which ones don't?
8. **Are you continuing to provide coffee stations on campus?** Many churches have invested serious dollars in creating a coffee shop experience. My church has a coffee station in the center of our foyer (a self-serve station). Is that a good idea anymore? Tables and chairs may need to be placed in storage so that people don't congregate within a couple of feet of one another.
9. **Will you continue offering virtual online worship?** Some churches may think of their recent foray into Facebook Live as a means to provide a worship experience for their people a thing of the past – a stop-gap measure during some really strange days. Happy they can meet together again, Facebook Live services may give way to worship experiences on campus. But is that the right strategy? I have heard of church after church whose leaders tell me their worship attendance and group attendance are up – significantly – because people are finding them online. It was reported that one Hispanic church in Las Vegas, Nevada, had 1300 people watch their service online a few weeks ago. Why is that a big deal? They normally average 100 on campus.
10. **What is your plan when volunteers step down?** I'm already hearing that older volunteers are telling their church leaders they aren't coming back to teach their preschool and kids' classes until a vaccine is readily available – it's just too risky for them because they are most at risk from COVID-19. Will you be able to fully staff your classes like you did back in February? If you can't find enough volunteers (younger families may be hesitant to return because of the fear of exposing their children to COVID-19, which means their parents won't be leading younger children's groups), what will you do?

11. **What's your strategy to clean and sanitize your church in real time?** It's one thing to prepare in advance of people's return to the church building, but how will you keep the place clean and disinfected on a Sunday or Wednesday? Does this give rise to a new team of people on campus whose ministry it is to walk around wiping door knobs and other surfaces? Who is going to clean restrooms throughout the morning or evening? Remember you'll have hundreds (some of your churches may have thousands) of people touching things while they are on campus.
12. **Do door greeters do their jobs differently, or at all?** Not have door greeters? Seriously?! We've always had door greeters. But in a COVID-19 world, do you really want a door greeter holding the door open while a parishioner walks by within a foot or two of them? That's not in line with good physical distancing practices, is it? The new normal may be for greeters to stand back six feet, inside the church building, and welcome people verbally without opening the door for them. You experience that at big box stores now. A greeter is there to say hello, but they don't make you pass within a foot of them! Welcome to the new world COVID-19 has created.
13. **Is this the time to end your church's "meet and greet" time?** Because of physical distancing rules, it is. This practice has been on the decline in recent days, and many churches have already abandoned it because of its ineffectiveness with guests, not because of COVID-19 concerns. Thankfully my church eliminated this about 18 months ago, so we're ready. How about your church?
14. **Because people may return very slowly to church, how will you count attendance and effectiveness?** The question has already been raised about should we or should we not take attendance during online worship and online group Bible studies. It's almost a sure thing that worship attendance on campus will not be what it was pre-COVID-19. You need to decide now if you're going to count on-campus only attendance, or merge and add online attendance, too. And how will group leaders take a count in their online groups and go about reporting that?
15. **Should you add and/or shorten worship services to allow for social distancing?** I touched on this in #1 above, but let's drill down a bit. If physical gatherings are limited in size, you have a few options: (1) offer more services (2) encourage people to continue worshipping online (3) remove chairs from your worship center to help people avoid close contact (4) block off pews so that people no longer sit right behind someone, reducing the chances of them sneezing or coughing directly into the back of the person in front of them. If your church reopens with the "worship only" option, you'll have to decide these things now.
16. **What are you going to do about larger Sunday School groups?** Let's get real for a moment – no one is going to want to sit in a crowded room for Bible study, yet so many of our classes have been allowed to grow to have very large attendance. Do you feel good about letting 25 or more senior adults meet in a room that holds, well, 25 or 30 senior adults? Not me. If you have space to start new groups, now is the time – help people spread out. But if your church is out of space, like mine is, what's the next step?? One option is to start another hour of Sunday School. For my church, we'd go from two hours to three. Yours might go from one hour to two. Or another option is to place some groups online while others remain on campus. There's not going to be a quick and easy solution to this.
17. **What's your plan for Sunday School curriculum?** Most churches have provided print products – we call them Personal Study Guides (for group members); some adults still refer to them as "quarterlies" because they are distributed at church at the beginning of a new quarter. But because of social distancing and the new emphasis on virtual groups, should you keep print products but add digital ones for those groups meeting off campus? Thankfully, my company, LifeWay, creates digital versions of all its ongoing Bible study products, so we can meet whatever demand the church has. I have been providing print products at my church, but I'm about to add digital so my groups can be flexible in meeting on or off campus.
18. **Will you reopen the doors of your church with a "worship only" strategy?** I am hearing of more and more churches that are choosing this option whenever we are allowed to meet again on campus. They are adding services, removing chairs, practicing social distancing, and focusing on regaining momentum in worship. Bible study groups will remain online for safety in the short-term, and will be added back to the on-campus experience in time.
19. **Do you have a plan for reducing expenses if your church's offerings don't rebound?** This is the time for a "budget scrub" – while offerings are still decent and expenses have been lower because of reduced activities. Churches need to be thinking, "What if..." – what if our offerings don't hold steady because of rising unemployment of members? Before the church returns to the building, every church needs a "plan B" strategy just in case giving drops in late summer or early fall. I have friends in ministry that I deeply respect who believe we (the church) have not felt the financial impact of COVID-19 like we will in the days and months ahead. I think they may be right.
20. **How will you deal with the rise of COVID-19 related addictions?** One mental health expert said in a webinar meeting last week, "I'm hearing that porn sites are giving away free memberships during COVID-19...just what people don't need." In that same webinar last week on mental health, the presenter assured the audience that substance abuse is on the rise, too. Alcohol sales are soaring. He cautioned us to be ready to do lots of counseling and referring of people to professionals in our post-COVID 19 reality.

21. **Are you going to decrease the fellowship time between on-campus worship services?** Some churches that have multiple services and Sunday School hours schedule up to 30 minutes of time between those events because they value the opportunity to gather, have coffee, and fellowship. In a COVID-19 world, it is a good idea not to let that happen. Shorter times between worship services, and the elimination of coffee bar areas (yes, I know....it's sacrilege to think about not having coffee stations around the building!) will help keep people moving to their next destination, a worship service or a Bible study group, and it will help reduce the "let's hang out and give each other COVID-19."
22. **Are you going to cancel mid-week Wednesday night services, meals, and Bible studies?** This won't be a forever thing, but in the near future following the return of the church to its buildings, will you continue a virtual, online prayer meeting and Bible study time? Can you find volunteer workers to support a Wednesday night strategy on campus? Do you want to put many people around tables for the traditional mid-week meal on Wednesday nights?
23. **Should you be investing in new digital equipment right now?** Yes, we've all hopped online and used Facebook Live to broadcast our worship services. Some of us are doing that with iPads and other devices, but is this the time to admit that online worship is probably here to stay? If yes, then it makes sense to invest dollars now so that cameras and other equipment can be purchased that will help the church be more professional in the new online world of worship.
24. **Will a new staff or volunteer position emerge from COVID-19?** Because the church has permanently moved online now, could it lead to the adoption of a new position of leadership? Will churches turn their attention to a Virtual Pastor whose job it is to oversee the technical aspects of the new digital frontier? Will they become responsible to develop groups and strategies to reach people online? It's highly likely that this is going to take place; the role may first be added to a staff person who is currently serving the church, but when it is possible to split that role and afford a new person, churches may hire online pastors.

Thank you all for the cards, messages, calls, and prayers you offered since my cancer diagnosis. They have done so much to give me peace and strength during this time. It is a blessing to be a part of such a thoughtful and loving church family. God Bless You All, Gail Williams



NOTES

Thank you everyone for the lovely retirement reception given for me in February. It meant so much to me. God Bless, Jackie Smith

A Great Big Thank You is extended to Earl Fields & Mike Hinshaw for all their work in making the Good Friday Cross. Unfortunately we were not able to use it this year due to the coronavirus outbreak. However, it will be used in the future. God Bless, Pastor Debra

Looking Ahead

Annual Conference 2020 - The Western N.C. Annual Conference has been postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Instead of a three-day event, a one-day Annual Conference session will be held on the afternoon of **Saturday, August 8** at Lake Junaluska.

Additional details about the gathering and plans for the clergy session and the ordering of ministry service will be announced soon. Stay tuned for more information.

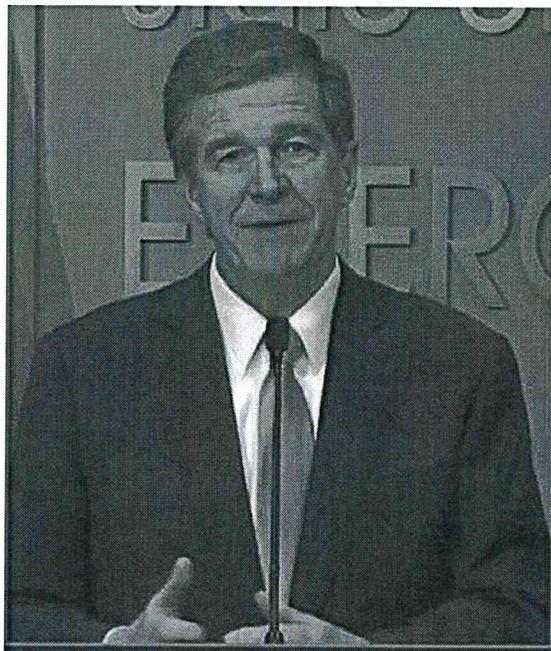


The Commission on General Conference has tentatively scheduled **General Conference for August 31st – September 10th in Minneapolis, Minnesota.**

ACTIVITIES/EVENTS LISTED WITHIN THIS NEWSLETTER ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE, DEPENDING ON THE COVID 19 PANDEMIC. PLEASE CONTINUE TO STAY IN TOUCH WITH THE CHURCH OFFICE FOR UPDATES.

North Carolina's Three Phase Plan

To move from phase to phase, the state must see **14-day decreases in the percentage of positive tests and the number of coronavirus-like cases** identified by surveillance methods. It also requires a decrease or sustained-leveling of the number of lab-confirmed cases and hospitalizations. Cooper told reporters Phase One could start on May 9 after the extended order expires — but **only if** the state's indicators continue to move in a positive direction.



Phase 1

Stay At Home order remains in place, people can leave home for commercial activity

Those retailers and services will need to implement social distancing, cleaning and other protocols

Gatherings limited to no more than 10 people

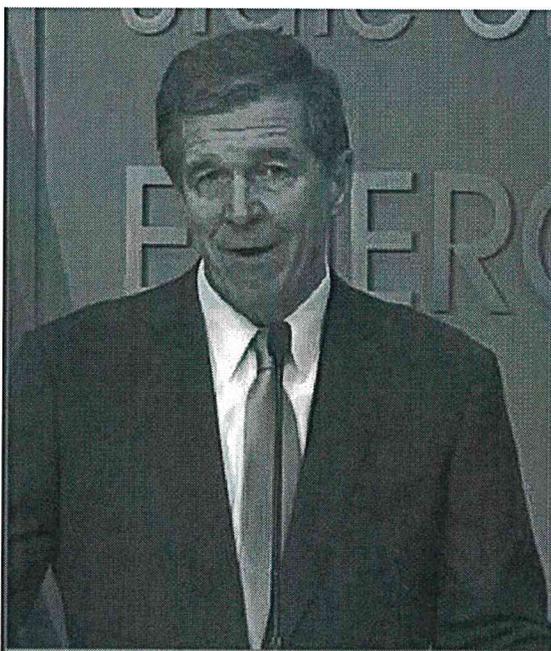
Parks can open subject to gathering limits

Face coverings recommended in public

Restrictions remain in place for nursing homes and other congregate living settings

Encourage continued teleworking

UNC TV



Phase 2

At least 2-3 weeks after Phase 1

Lift Stay At Home order with strong encouragement for vulnerable populations to continue staying at home

Allow limited opening of restaurants, bars and other businesses that can follow strict safety protocols (reduced capacity)

Allow gathering at houses of worship and entertainment venues at reduced capacity

Increase in number of people allowed at gatherings

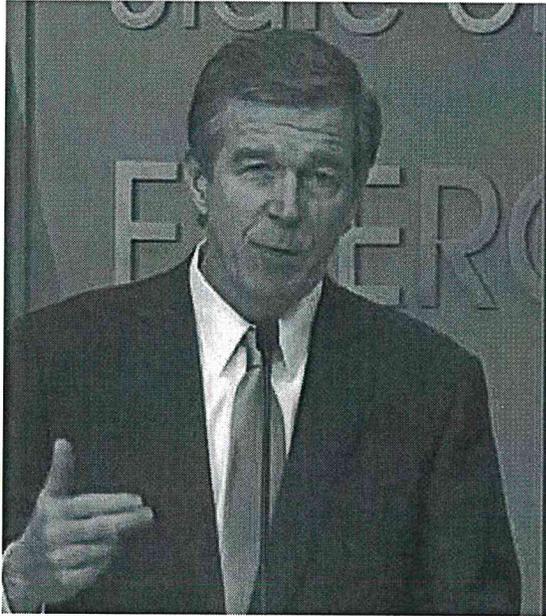
Open public playgrounds

Continue rigorous restrictions on nursing homes and congregate care settings

UNC TV

After four to six weeks of Phase Two, if the state continues to hit those benchmarks, Phase Three will begin. Phase Three lessens restrictions for vulnerable populations, though those people would be encouraged to continue practicing social distancing. Restaurants, bars and houses of worship could increase their capacity. The mass gathering ban will increase to allow more people, Cooper said.

“As we move through these phases, **if our infections spike or trends move in the wrong direction, we may have to move back to a previous phase,**” Cooper said.



Phase 3

At least 4-6 weeks after Phase 2

Lessen restrictions for vulnerable populations with encouragement to continue practicing physical distancing

Allow increased capacity at restaurants, bars, other businesses, houses of worship and entertainment venues

Further increase the number of people allowed at gatherings

Continue rigorous restrictions on nursing homes and congregate care settings

UNC TV

STEWARDSHIP REPORT

Budget Results for March 2020

\$336,629.36 Total Budget Money Available March 1, 2020
+ 16,983.19 Money Received in March
- 27,605.55 Money Spent in March
\$326,007.00 Total Budget Money Available March 31, 2020

For the month of March, 2020, the Church Budget spent \$10,622.36 more than it received. For the year, the Church Budget spent \$12,451.19 more than it received.

Major Maintenance & Repair Fund – this designated money will be used to pay for major maintenance or repair projects to the Church building, parsonage or parking lot. The Board of Trustees must recommend all expenditures from this fund to the Church Council, and the Church Council must approve all expenditures from this fund. This is a perpetual fund and a minimum balance of \$2,500.00 shall be maintained at all times.

\$41,147.61 Total MM&RF Money Available March 31, 2020

Other Designated Gifts – occurs when the Church receives money for a designated purpose and the Church shall only spend this money for the purpose that it was given.

Camp Tekoa	\$ 781.88	Bible Study Books	\$ <72.67>
Food Pantry	\$ 1,916.60	Handbells	\$ 160.52
Discretionary Fund	\$ 4,447.73	Scholarship-Religion Ed	\$ 1,983.22
Records & History	\$ 581.56	Missions-Undesignated	\$ 20,437.69
UMYF	\$21,270.65	Christmas Shoeboxes	\$ 247.22
Family Ministries	\$ 1,479.51	Cemetery Fund	\$ 24,089.39
Helen Grady Endow.	\$ 800.00	Cemetery/Columbarium	\$ 32,562.88
Flowers	\$ 136.75	Columbarium Donations	\$ 14,612.06
Camp Meeting Fund	\$ <760.16>	Columbarium Niche	\$ 1,000.00
Choir Fund	\$ 1,004.46	Veteran's Memorial Pavers	\$ 6,696.31
Misc In/Out (fth paver)	\$ 50.00	Col/Vet Mem: Golf Tour.	\$ 2,338.01

Total Other Designated Gift Money Available March 31, 2020 \$135,763.61

\$101,800.00 **Perpetual Care Cemetery Fund**

In order to plan and provide the necessary funds for the care and upkeep of our cemetery, a Perpetual Care Cemetery Fund was created. This fund was a non-expendable trust fund in which the principle (donations) cannot be spent but the interest earned on the principle can be spent for the care and upkeep of the cemetery. The Perpetual Care Cemetery Fund was capped as of March 17, 2016 by the Church Council and is no longer taking donations.

\$54,484.78 **Helen Grady Endowment Fund**

The money was donated to our church from the estate of Helen Grady in 2007 to be used for improvements to the church, community, or the development of an individual. The money is at the United Methodist Foundation of WNC, Inc. and the amount that can be spent annually is 5% of the last three (3) years average end-of-year balance.

Frank Willis, Stewardship Ministry Chair

Bethlehem United Methodist Church
P.O. Box 56/6103 Appomattox Road
Climax, NC 27233

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Servant Schedule May & June 2020

Date	Altar Flowers (Contingent upon pandemic directives)	Opener/Closer for Month (Contingent upon pandemic directives)
May 3		
May 10 Mother's Day	Jim Smith	
May 17	Annie & Pam Jones	
May 24 Ascension Sunday	Ruth Rowland	
May 31 Pentecost	Lois Snow	
June 7 Trinity Sunday	NO FLOWERS/ *COMMUNION	David Fields (O); NEED CLOSER
June 14	OPEN	David Fields (O); NEED CLOSER
June 21 Father's Day	OPEN	David Fields (O); NEED CLOSER
June 28	OPEN	David Fields (O); NEED CLOSER

In order to comply with social distancing guidelines, we will not be using greeters for worship services.

*Dates for The Sacrament of Holy Communion may change as a result of the Covid 19 pandemic.

