

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Epworth connects and equips
 all kinds of people to
 seek, serve, and share Christ.

The Four Things That Matter Most


One of the most compelling books I have read recently was one of those impulse purchases I wasn't sure would amount to much. While accompanying Nicholas on an "official" visit of Columbus State University, we were spending some time in the bookstore waiting for a main campus tour. We wandered the shelves of books aimlessly, noting the exorbitant costs of some of them. As we were getting ready to leave, one book caught my attention. The name was catchy — *The Four Things That Matter Most*.

I happen to think I am someone who knows what is really important in life, so I began to thumb through the pages. I wondered if I'd have to read the book to figure out the "four things." Turns out, the author was far more forthright than I expected. There they were in simple black and white. The author, an emergency room and palliative care doctor, wasn't hiding anything. The four things are actually more or less "words" that need to be said, expressed, and communicated for relationships to be complete and healthy in this life. Dr. Ira Byock has discovered that in order for families and terminally ill patients to find lasting peace and resolution of the chaos of this life there are four expressions that must be communicated with authenticity and they are:

- Please forgive me.
- I forgive you.
- Thank you.
- I love you.

I have found that these four "words", however simple, have the power to change lives and to create eternities of consequences. As I read the book, clearly written from a secular perspective, it began to occur to me that the truths "discovered" by this doctor are actually not all that secular. In fact, Jesus had a lot to say about these expressions and the substance of these acts. It should not surprise any of us who seek to live after the example of Christ that these qualities would be life-giving. These are some of the most profound expressions of holiness affirmed throughout the scriptures and in particular by the life and ministry of Jesus Christ. Mutual forgiveness is so key to life together in the faith that multiple parables and even the Lord's Prayer express this crucial means of grace. Gratitude is the foundation of our response to Christ's grace and it is the opposite of self-centeredness and pride. Love is the cornerstone of our relationships with one another and with God. The great commandment tells us to love God and our neighbor. Expressing love in words and action embodies the very grace of Christ in visible and tangible ways.

Join me in this journey through *The Four Things That Matter Most*. These are powerfully Christian ways of living life together. It shouldn't surprise us that a doctor who specializes in patients with terminal illness would discover that leading those who are dying to the very marks of abundant life in Christ brings peace and resolution to persons nearing heaven's gates. These things matter most not only to the dying, but also to those of us who are seeking full and overflowing living.

In Christ,


The sanctuary flowers are given to the glory of God and
 in memory of Matilda Smith by Bobby Smith.

OUR CHURCH STAFF

Children's Ministry DirectorLindsey Fossa
 Choir Director.....Lyn Pharris
 Church Administrator Susan Snider
 Contemporary Music Director..... Kayla Moss
 CustodiansMartha Conklin & Barbie Webb
 Interim Youth Minister.....Kristii Daniel
 Media & CommunicationsDawn Wilson
 Music DirectorBob Lee
 Nursery Worker..... Martha Conklin
 Pastor.....Tony G. Crosby

CONTACT US

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THIS COMING WEEK & BEYOND

Sunday, February 25
 4:00 p.m. Lenten Study - *He Chose the Nails*
Monday, February 26
 6:30 p.m. Church Council Meeting
Tuesday, February 27
 5:15 p.m. Rose Hill Feeding Our Neighbors
 6:30 p.m. AA Group Meeting
 6:30 p.m. Youth Meeting
 7:00 p.m. Reachers UMW Meeting
Wednesday, February 28
 6:00 p.m. Praise Team Rehearsal
 6:00 p.m. Supper
 6:30 p.m. Lenten Study - *He Chose the Nails*
 7:00 p.m. Epworth Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, February 29
 9:30 a.m. Adult Bible Study
 12:00 noon Prayer Team Meeting
Saturday, March, 3
 Open Door Classic Walk/Run-See bulletin
 5:00 p.m. AA Group Meeting
Sunday, March 4
 9:00 a.m. Contemporary Worship Service
 10:00 a.m. Sunday School
 11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship Service
 12:00 p.m. Children's Volunteer Meeting
 4:00 p.m. Lenten Study - *He Chose the Nails*
Sunday, March 11
 UMCOR Sunday

SUNDAY SCHOOL AT 10:00 AM

The Children's Classes
Kindergarten - 5th Grade: Needed

The Youth Class
6th - 12th Grade: Kristii Daniel

The Friendship Class
Study: The Good Fight of Faith
Teacher: Barbara Stubbs

The Genesis Class
Study: Have You Ever Seen a Hearse...
Teacher: Leslie Morris

The Joy Class
Study: I Love Growing Older, but...
Teacher: Class

The Nathan Patterson/Wesley Class
Study: Genesis 8
Teacher: Bobby Smith

The New Connections Class
Study: Being Honest with Each Other
Teacher: Doug Franks

The Pathfinders Class
Study: Wired Word
Teacher: Suzy Revell

The Questors Class
Study: What You Don't Know About the Bible
Teacher: Gary Tomlin

The Seekers Class
Study: Wired Word
Teacher: Lillian Wooldridge

SERVANTS NEEDED

If you feel led to volunteer or would like more information, please contact the church office.

9 a.m. Acolytes: All Sundays

9 a.m. Ushers: 1st, 2nd, 3rd Sundays

Children's Sunday School: 4th Sundays

Children's Church: 9 a.m. - 2nd Sundays

Children's Church: 11 a.m. - 4th Sundays

Nursery 11 a.m.: 4th Sundays

Turn Key: 1st and 5th Sundays

There are other ministries within and outside the church where you may feel led to volunteer. For more info on these ministries, contact someone from the Missions Committee.

THOSE WHO SERVE FEBRUARY 25, 2018

9:00 a.m. Worship Service

Greeter: Mary Lee Crews
Usher: Shawn Jandreau, Steve Sawyer
Acolyte: Usher
Children's Church: Anne Wilson

11:00 a.m. Worship Service

Greeter: Suzy Revell
Ushers: Janie Nellums, Carole Zimmerman
Acolyte: Eva Cherai, Emma Knight
Children's Church: Suzy Revell
Nursery Volunteer: Needed
Financial Secretary: Bryan Pruet
Turn Key: Baron Conklin

OUR STEWARDSHIP

February 18, 2018

Tithes & Offerings:	\$2,466.00
Received To Date:	\$33,333.55
Needed To Date:	
Building Fund:	\$0

ATTENDANCE:	
Sunday School	74
Worship: 9 a.m.	36
Worship: 11 a.m.	<u>77</u>
	113

YOUTH

Youth Meeting - Tuesday, February 27, at 6:30 p.m. Join us and bring a friend!

Youth Fundraiser - SaveAround coupon books with over \$5,000 in savings in the Columbus/Phenix City area and coupons that can be used nationally when travelling. The books are \$25 and a portion of the sales will go directly to support the 2018 youth summer mission trip to Indianapolis, IN. To see what the book has to offer, contact Kristii Daniel or go to www.savearound.com/collections/georgia-coupon-books/products/savearound-columbus-phenix-city-ga-2018-coupon-book

MISSIONS

Mission Focus for February - Open Door Classic, Saturday, March 3. Registration: 7:30 a.m. for the run and 8:30 a.m. for the walk. Donations will go to support Open Door programs of ministry. If you would like to join the Epworth team, sign up at odch.org (password: devons2400) or see Becky Britton or the church office. There is a minimum donation of \$25 to receive a t-shirt and you must be present. To donate, mark your offering envelope with "Open Door."

Feeding Our Neighbors at Rose Hill UMC - We will provide supper on Tuesday, February 27. Preparations will begin at 5:00 p.m.; serving at 5:45 p.m. If you want more information about serving or helping to prepare the meal, contact Debra Johnson or Becky Britton.

Can Recycling - Leave aluminum cans outside the back kitchen door. They will be picked up and recycled by the HIS Group.

Volunteers Needed for Magnolia Manor - Rev. Vickie Scott, the chaplain at Magnolia Manor campus in Columbus, is seeking to increase the presence of United Methodist churches in our senior adult ministries. Contact Theresa Mullican if you are interested.

A Taste of Epworth Cookbooks - Pick up your copy(s) from the welcome center for \$5 each. Proceeds support missions.

Ongoing Missions within Epworth - Communion homebound servers, Helping Hands Ministry, aluminum can recycling, Epworth cookbooks, Feeding Our Neighbors at Rose Hill, Open Door Showering Program, Prayer Shawl Ministry, collection of can tops for Ronald McDonald House, Box Tops, medical equipment and plastic caps and lids. Direct questions to Becky Britton, Barbara Stubbs or the church office.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Sunday & Wednesday Lenten Study - *He Chose the Nails*, by Max Lucado. The pastor will lead a study on Sundays at 4 p.m and Debra Johnson and Doug Franks will share in leading on Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. Study books are available in the Whitehurst Welcome Center for \$10 each. The next study is Sunday, February 25.

Church Council Meeting - Monday, February 26, at 6:30 p.m., in the Fellowship Hall. Please bring plans, dates and reports ready to share with the Church Council for approval. Also, the Finance Committee will submit the 2018 budget for approval.

Reachers UMW Meeting - Tuesday, February 27, at 7:00 p.m. in the Questors classroom.

Wednesday Night Supper - February 28, at 6:00 p.m. Sign up to make supper reservations on the information board. Menu: beef tips, rice, lima beans, corn, rolls, salad bar and dessert.

Upper Room Devotionals - March/April issue is available in the welcome center. Price noted.

Children's Ministry Volunteers Meeting - Sunday, March 4, at noon, in the Fellowship Hall. All volunteers and anyone who would like to volunteer are invited to attend. Come meet Lindsey Fossa, our new Children's Director.

UMCOR Sunday - March 11. United Methodist Committee on Relief shares God's love with communities everywhere after disaster, war or whenever relief is needed.

THANK YOU

Thank you for the use of the medical equipment and cards, calls and support from my church family during my husband's illness.

—Jan Shackelford

EPWORTH PRAYER LIST

Church Family

Fred & Emilie Carswell	Blount King	Gladys Plant	Trudy Harris
Vanessa Desoto	Ron & Betty Sawyer	Thrower Family	Kitty Crockett
Sibyl Wells	Keri McElvey	Shackelford Family	Kernodle Family
Judy Scanling	Barbara Watson	Joe Flynn	Lillian Wooldridge
Elsie & Jim Spanogians	Andrea Carbaugh	Glenn Griffin	Daniel Family
Anne Wilson	Jane Grandon	Jimmy Bridges	Henry Family

Extended Church Family

Steve & Carol Guilbeault	Michael Taff	David Olson	Doyle Adams
Dotty Baker	Ricky Clark	Robbins Family	Andrew Wade
Miranda "Randy" Jones	Laurie Osteen	Preston Silvernail	Dora Spires
Willie Ryles	Judy Patterson	Cassie Prochaska	Billy Hill
Kim Jordan	Kristy Stier	Dorothy Ogg	Bruce Chapman
Amanda Hay	Marilyn Buck	Danny Chidester	Beth Goodwin
Luby Family	Henry Dunn	Adams Family	Ginger Jarvis
Ralph & Sandy McGough	Diane Wiggins	Stephanie Bryan	Robin Grantham
McDaniel Family	Katherine Naegele	Al Fohan	Ellen Pilgreen

Assisted Living/Nursing Homes/Homebound

Calvary Community - Lou Williams	River Towne Center - Jerry Williams
Magnolia Manor - Doris Halouska, Cammie Van Over	Savannah Grand - Linda Coleman
Phenix City Health Care - Anne Whitehurst	The Lodge - Lorene Carlisle
River Place - Betty Cummings, Elizabeth Harbert	Wesley Glen (Byron, GA) - Nancy Hiller

(Please continue to pray for our homebound people. They would love a visit!)

*If the prayer list needs to be updated, please call, email the church office
or leave a note with updates. Help us minister effectively by
calling the church office about yourself or a family member. Thank you for your help.*



Saturday, March 3, 2018

Beginning at Woodruff Park along the Riverwalk

Time:

Runner registration: 7:30 a.m.
Run starts: 9:00 a.m.
Walker Registration: 8:30 a.m.
Walk starts: 9:30 a.m.

Route:

Along Riverwalk and through Uptown Columbus

Activities:

Walk, 5k Run, Live Music, Prizes

Music performed by:

Jonathan and Lisa Moore

Register online at:

www.odch.org
and

Join the Epworth Team!

A minimum donation of \$25 to receive a t-shirt and you must be present!

For more information call 706-323-5518.

All proceeds benefit the ministries of Open Door Community House