



Bethel United Methodist Church

11:00 a.m. May 3, 2020

Reflections on Romans 5:1-11

Greeting and Announcements

Call to Worship:

L: God comes into a world filled with uncertainties and darkness.

P: **“But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”** Romans 5:8

L: God seeks out the voids of belief and conviction.

P: **“We boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God”** Romans 5:2

L: God embraces the wounded and broken.

P: **We know our sufferings produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and Hope does not disappoint us.**
Romans 5:3-4

L: God is the One who makes all things new.

P: **“Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God’s wrath through him!”** Romans 5:9

Opening Hymn

“How Great Thou Art”

by Stuart K. Hine

Solo: Bridget Knutsen; Guitar, Paul Faircloth

Opening Prayer:

by Peter K. Perry, United Church of Canada

*Loving God, Whose touch can heal the broken places of life,
touch us today...*

*God of peace, Whose Spirit of peace can quiet our spirits of confusion and despair,
reassure us today...*

*Forgiving God, Whose call to repentance promises grace upon grace,
place your mercy in our souls today...*

*You Who heal the sick and liberate the imprisoned, Who brings justice in the midst of oppression and
strength in the midst of weakness,
pour out Your Spirit of power upon us today.*

*Open our hearts to new faithfulness, redirect our waywardness,
and hold us gently in Your goodness.*

*We confess our need to You, and we turn to You with hope filled hearts
remembering the promises You have made to us.*

May Your name be glorified in us and through us.

We ask through Christ Jesus, Who has taught us to pray...

The Lord's Prayer: *Our Father, Who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for Thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.*

Joys & Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

Gospel Lesson: *Romans 5:1-11 (NRSV)*

Ray Davis

"Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ² through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. ³ And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, ⁴ and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, ⁵ and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

⁶ For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷ Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. ⁸ But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. ⁹ Much more surely then, now that we have been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. ¹⁰ For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. ¹¹ But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation."

This is the Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Message: *"Timed Out"*

Pastor Baker

Closing Hymn: *"Amazing Grace / My Chains are Gone"*

by John Newton, Chris Tomlin, Louie Giglio
Solo: Bridget Knutsen; Guitar, Paul Faircloth

Postlude

Joyce Mentzer

Participating in today's service: Nick Mentzer, Camera; Todd Mentzer, Sound & Streaming



Live Streaming: Bethel will continue to Live Stream a service each Sunday at 11:00 a.m. and record the service for those who want to view it later. To access the service go to our website, www.bethellewes.org. At the top of the page click on 'Virtual Bethel.' There you will see three choices, 'Virtual Kids' 'Virtual Youth' & 'Virtual Worship.' For the live service, click on Virtual Worship. For Sunday School click on Virtual Kids. For Youth Ministry click on Virtual Youth.



Prayer Link: Need prayer? You can now get prayer requests to the pastoral staff, or if you choose, add a prayer request to our Prayer List. Just go to our Website www.bethellewes.org Across the top of the home page, click on 'Prayer Request' a screen will open for you to enter your prayer request, and whether it is private, or can be shared with our prayer ministry.



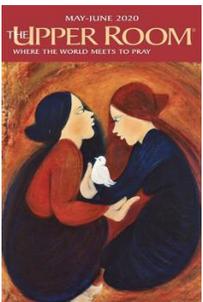
Online Survey: We surveyed the congregation to find out how the Covid-19 pandemic was affecting people's jobs and income. We also inquired to learn what kind of financial help the congregation might give.

146 surveys were completed.

- 37 households reported a negative impact on their income
- 8 expect to have difficulty paying for basic living expenses
- 1 family is likely to face a disconnect or loss of housing (Disconnect)
- 5 families are sure they will face a financial need,
- 19 families are not sure if they will need help, or when.
- Of the five families who have a certain need, 1 will need help in May, and four in June.

- 131, families indicated that they are likely to donate to help others at this time.
- 83 families estimated their gift would be less than \$100
- 62, families felt they could give more than \$100
- One family plans to donate their Government Stimulus check.

If you anticipate having a financial hardship, contact pastor baker at pastorbaker@bethellewes.org right away. Your identity and information will be kept confidential. Limited assistance is available. Until we have a better sense of the resources we will need, we are not asking for donations. When that time comes, we will ask that donations be to Bethel Church, and directed to the Pastor's Discretionary Fund. Gifts for the 'Covid Relief Fund' will be tracked for accountability purposes. Thank you!



Upper Room Daily Devotion: Copies of the Upper Room for May & June are available by contacting Sandy Stough, our Office Manager. She will be happy to send you a copy. Please let her know if you need Large Print. Call the Church Office at 302-645-9426 and leave a message, or email sandy at office@bethellewes.org Thank you.

Free Online Edition: The Upper Room is making the May-June edition free on-line.

<https://www.upperroom.org/special-editions> When the page opens, click on **English**, then you can download it to your computer, or even print it.



Signs of Hope are springing up around Bethel Church. Everyday hundreds of Beebe employees and first responders drive past Bethel's Church and Parsonage Meeting House.

Since last Saturday they are seeing signs of hope created by our members that show the support, appreciation, caring and prayers of the Bethel Family for them. We thank everyone who has made a sign, but have room for more. This can be a good family activity.

Feel free to encourage the many first responders who pass by Bethel as well. Once your sign is complete, you are free to plant it in front of the Church or Parsonage Meeting House. Thank you.



Charge Conference Report: The Called Charge Conference on April 16th was attended by twenty-five people of which 19 were voting members. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss and vote on whether to seek a forgivable loan through the Payroll Protection Program that was recently passed by Congress as part of the CARES Act.

Introductory remarks by Debbie Dawson (Chair of Church Council), Donna Fleischauer (Lay Leader) and Bob Monti (Associate Lay Leader.) Reports were heard from three standing committees. Ron Mead, Chair of the Staff Pastor Parish Relations Committee reported they voted unanimously to pursue the PPP Loan. Ed Emmett, Chair of the Finance Committee reported a unanimous vote from Finance, and also a vote by the Finance Committee to put the loan in a separate bank account to ease our reporting to the government. Alison Parsell, President of the Board of Trustees reported that they too, had voted unanimously to move forward with the loan.

Cindi Clavette, Treasurer, filed the loan application. She said we could request 2½ months of our average 2019 monthly payroll which is \$28,631 per month. We requested a forgivable payroll loan of \$71,577. The motion was approved unanimously. In addition, a motion to open a bank account to hold these funds was approved unanimously.

Pastor's note: The application was promptly delivered to our bank, on the day the \$349 billion allocation ran out, just before our application was approved. On April 22nd Congress allocated an additional \$--- Billion. We are monitoring to make sure our loan request makes it to the front of the line of applications. Many thanks to all our Committee Chairs, and to Cindi Clavette for gathering all the needed information in such a timely manner.



Food Drop Off: The Food Bank of Delaware has responded to this crisis with Drive-Thru Mobile Pantries where prebagged boxes of groceries are placed in the trunks of cars at no cost. Donated food, and financial donations are both appreciated.



Save the Date: The Staff Pastor Parish Relations Committee is in the very early planning stages of organizing a retirement party for Pastor Earle. Please clear your calendars for 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, June 20th to join the Bethel Church Family and others as we come to say goodbye and celebrate Pastor Earle's 40-year career of service to God and The United Methodist Church. Obviously, this assumes that the large group restrictions that we are currently experiencing have been lifted by then. If they are still in place, an alternate

date will be scheduled. Please look forward to more information in future announcements as we approach Pastor Earle's retirement.



Next Sunday is Mother's Day

Pastor Baker offers some helpful tips for honoring your mother, even if you are not able to be together. Next Sunday's message is "Five Ways to Love Your Mother."



Thank You for Your Financial Support

Thank you for your weekly support. We thank everyone who has provided funds to keep Bethel's ministries going. Donations during the last two weeks of March were 75% less than our weekly need. April has looked much better. Our treasurer reports we have 14 new 'e-givers.' We hope you will enjoy the simplicity of that. Bethel's leaders thank each person who has made a contribution. We are not asking anyone to increase their giving, but as you are able please continue donating at your former level.

There are five ways you can get your gift to Bethel:

1. **Drop off your donation** through the mail slot in the front door of the Parsonage Meeting House at 130 W. Fourth St.
2. **Mail donations** to BUMC, 129 W. Fourth St., Lewes, DE.
3. **E-giving:** Thank you for strong e-giving in March. If you would like to begin giving electronically, go to Bethel's Website www.bethellewes.org and at the top right of the home page and click on the word, 'Giving.'
4. **Text Giving** is a new option for donations, using a cell phone or hand-held device. Call (302) 202-6625, text the word "GIVE"
5. **IRA Distribution.** Those who are over 70½, can donate part of their mandatory distribution to Bethel. To receive a tax deduction, the donation must move directly from your financial institution to Bethel, without going through your Bank. Please speak to your financial advisor to learn more about this option.

Here are some ways you can help others in the Bethel Family:

- **Be a Tech Buddy:** People who do not have a smart phone or the internet are even more socially distanced from the Bethel Family than society in general. As a Tech Buddy we would ask you to relay information to someone who isn't on the web over the phone; or by printing it out for delivery. Your help will be greatly appreciated
- **Transportation Aid:** If you need someone to pick up groceries or medications for you, please contact Jane Lenkner (302-645-9426) volunteers are available to help. If you need transportation, contact Jane Lenkner at the church jane@bethellewes.org. so that we send a transportation volunteers Thank you.

Community Needs in the Cape Region:

- **Donate Blood:** Blood supplies are critically low. Make an appointment to donate in either Salisbury or Dover. Call 888-824-6638 or go to www.delmarvablood.org/give-blood
- **Make Protective Masks for Beebe Healthcare Workers:** Sewists are needed to make protective masks. Contact Pam Smith at piecefullypam@gmail.com who will show you completed samples, safety guidelines, and online tutorials.



Congratulations: To Norma Adams who is celebrating her 92nd birthday today.

Joy: Nurse Paula: Covid-19 test results were negative, has returned to work

Illness:

- **New Requests:** Phyllis Brown, Steve Chacon, Lorraine Chavez
- Covid-19 Related Requests: Marge Alia, Dee Denby, Brian Brengel, William Hickman,
- Layla Hickman, Wilz Hickman, Susan Leighton, Wayne Leighton, and Everyone isolated in Hospitals, nursing homes and continuing care communities, as well as the staff.

Sympathy to:

- Over **240,000** families worldwide, **65,000** in the United States who have **lost a family member to Covid-19**
- **Family and friends of Allen Riley who was promoted to the Church Triumphant on Sunday April 23rd. Because of restrictions on large gatherings, Allen's life celebration will be scheduled at a later date.**

Addresses for Sympathy Cards

- Family of Cindy Gromofsky; 37 Harborview Road, Lewes, DE 19958
- Jim Gastner on the death of his mother; 27172 Buckskin Trail, Harbeson, DE 19951
- Family of Allen Riley, P.O. Box 118, Lewes, DE 19958

We need your Feedback

- ✚ If you're a Tech Buddy, let us know who you are assisting. Email Jane Lenkner at jane@bethellewes.org
- ✚ If you need a DVD or CD of Sunday services, email Jane at jane@bethellewes.org so we can get one to you.
- ✚ If you anticipate needing assistance from the Covid Relief Fund, contact pastorbaker@bethellewes.org

Staff Contact Information:

- Earle Baker, Pastor pastorbaker@bethellewes.org 302-841-1305
- Joyce Mentzer, Director of Music jkmentzer@bethellewes.org 645-9426
- Ray Davis, Director of Youth and Family Ministry ray@bethellewes.org 645-9426
- Sandy Stough, Office Manager, office@bethellewes.org 645-9426
- Jane Lenkner, Administrative Assistant, jane@bethellewes.org 645-9426

For a complete list of Bethel's Staff, visit our website: www.bethellewes.org.

Click on 'About' then click on 'Staff'

Bethel: "A Beacon of Hope at the Beach Since 1779"