



# Pittman Park

NEWSLETTER OF PITTMAN PARK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

MAY 20, 2020

## Ways to keep connected

During this time of CoVid-19 we are learning new ways of coping and communicating. We are supporting all of these forms of platforms to keep us connected and updated.

Church directory—if you do not have one we can mail one to you. If you have internet/cell service you can download the directory straight to your cell phone and/or computer. Contact the church office and they can send you the instructions.

Email—From time to time we send out informative emails. Make sure the church office has your updated email address.

Facebook—Pittman Park UMC

[www.facebook.com/groups/157559850988111](https://www.facebook.com/groups/157559850988111)

Instagram—Pittman Park UMC

<https://www.instagram.com/pittmanparkumc/>

Instagram—The Journey (youth)

[https://www.instagram.com/ppumc\\_youth/](https://www.instagram.com/ppumc_youth/)

## Prayer Requests

Our Church family: Tommy Palmer, Glenda Reddick, Randy Edenfield, Will Mackiewicz, Hazel Garner, Becky Scott, Robert Cooper, Becky Woodard, Kathy Kicklighter, Hubert Clark, Jack Kindig, The Flake Family, Marilyn Hale, Marcie Applebee, Marcie Applebee

Other family & friends: Debbie Keenan, Sharron Ward, Amris Bedford, Robert Boudier, Tal Callaway, Grey Cammack, Jeff and Melanie Reddick, Harold Barr, Kaden Brown, Charlie Christmas, Judy Jarrell, Ember Schoch, Nancy Scott, Arley Brinson, Mary Cotten, Ovella Turner, Brad Lanier, Tommy Strickland, Jade Ainsworth, Walt Nussbaum, Cristall Harkins, Bobby Joe Cason

*If you have a prayer request, call the church office 912-681-3213 and/or email [ppumc@nctv.com](mailto:ppumc@nctv.com)*

# A Letter from our Senior Pastor

Dear Pittman Park family,

I must admit that I had imagined we would be back together in-person by now. We are approaching our 11th week of social distancing here at Pittman Park. It was hopeful thinking that left me believing we would be meeting in our worship spaces once again by Easter ...and if not, surely by Mother's Day. These Sundays have now come and gone as we try to figure our way through the new terrain created by this virus.

I am reminded of the many biblical accounts of the reshaping of faith community. God has a way of taking the worst of circumstances and redeeming them for good. Do you remember the story of Jacob's son Joseph? His brothers despised him to the point that they sold him into slavery and reported to his father that he must have been killed by a wild animal. But God was with Joseph! Throughout his very difficult circumstances, God not only rescued Joseph ...but also Joseph's brothers. Joseph finally perceived that something bigger was at play. When he revealed his hidden identity to his brothers, he remarkably forgave them and said, "What you meant for evil, God meant for good!"

I'm still wrapping my mind around this virulent thing we call the coronavirus. Strange as it may seem, I am coming to believe that God will redeem this too. It was about 10 years ago when some leaders within the UMC developed a new ministry focus which was simply entitled "Rethink Church". It was designed to help us remember that church is not just a place we go, but an identity we share in Christ ...a way of life! We all know that social distancing has pushed the edges of this. Yet, the church is still the church! In fact, sheltering in place has been a stark reminder of this important fact. Have you sensed the Holy Spirit moving in our midst to keep us connected with each other? Slowly but surely, God is helping us to rethink church and I suspect this is for the world's good! If you too are suspecting that God is up to something, let me share that I think so too. Creating, redeeming and sustaining community is obviously how God loves us ...and how Christ becomes real within our lives. Do you remember, the risen Christ shouting to his disciples from the shore, "...cast your nets on the other side!" He was helping them rethink church!

Let me thank you for allowing God's love to flow through every bit of who you are during these days - ...for daily prayer and reflection to which many of you have found renewed commitment, ...for kindness expressed to the most vulnerable in our community, ...for phone calls that help us stay connected as a church, ...for your participation in small groups and Bible studies in online meetings, ...for taking on the role of encourager particularly to those who are emotionally worn down, ...for joyfully and generously sustaining ministry through your tithes and offerings, ...for faithfully participating in online worship as an expression of your love for Christ! How beautiful it is! God is rethinking church through you!

Bishop Lawson Bryan is offering guidance as to when we will be able to begin what he calls a "rolling restart" with in-person gatherings on our church property. Out of an abundance of caution, he is advising that we begin onsite worship no sooner than June 21st. In addition, he is encouraging churches to take every precaution by not quickly returning to a full slate of programs. He advises slowly resuming use of our buildings in ways that sustain the safety of all who enter that space. (using masks, sanitizers, disinfectants, social distancing, etc.) Already we are making preparations for the return to some level of in-person gatherings on June 21st. In addition, consideration is being given to an interim plan of hosting a short 9:00 - 9:30 a.m. "drive-in" worship in our church parking lot beginning May 31st - which happens to be Pentecost Sunday. Talk about rethinking church!! We will share more details on this soon.

Through grace God is redeeming this difficult situation! We are the church - perhaps more than ever! With much love and affection, *Bill Bagwell*

# Finance Report

Contributions Received through 4/30	\$230,992.05
<b>2020 Operating Budget</b>	
2020 Budget	\$716,000.00
2020 Budget to Date	\$238,666.68
Budget Given to Date	\$230,992.05
Budget Spent to Date Actual	\$188,994.80
<b>2020 Amount Pledged to Date</b>	<b>\$168,500.00</b>
<b>2020 Pledges Given to Date</b>	<b>\$163,956.91</b>

# Zoom 101

Since March 15th, who would have guessed we would be thrown into a Zoom World. This program has definitely kept us connected with community. Pittman Park has an average of 10 meetings a week, not to mention our staff has meetings with the South Georgia Conference a couple of times a week, as well. We as a staff are excited that we can be connected in this way, it is so nice to see faces and hear voices. But we also need to remind you that on all platforms, not only Zoom, can be “Bombed” by outsiders. We have come up with some guidelines for you and we **STRONGLY** recommend you to follow these. Please read below.... And if at anytime you have questions or need assistance with Zoom, just call the church office.

1. There needs to be an administrator of the group meeting.
2. Enable the waiting room and require each person to have a name attached.
3. If you do not recognize a name, face or voice the administrator has the ability to “Remove” the unknown person.
4. Once you feel like all of the attendees are in the meeting, you can lock the meeting where no one else can slip in.
5. Do not set up recurring meeting, use a new link each time.
6. Email or text your participants directly.
7. **DO NOT PUT A LINK ON SOCIAL MEDIA!!!!** Facebook, Instagram, snapchat, etc.
8. Do not forward a meeting request to others or friends, contact your host and let them send out the correspondence.
9. Update your Zoom account every time it asks. Security levels are always being enhanced.
10. (A personal request) For the next couple of months, change your email password monthly... A lot of people are being hacked or duplicated.

# Volunteers needed...

In the roll out phases of returning to “in person” worship. We have several projects that need to be completed. If you have the time and the desire to help, we need closets cleaned out, boxes moved, sanitizing areas, set up for worship, etc. We are requesting households or individuals to keep within the guidelines for social distancing. Call the church office to set up times.

# Giving at Pittman Park

## Giving at Pittman Park

Some of you may have a question on how do we give without our coming together on Sundays. Here are three options for you...

1. Give online. <https://pittmanpark.org/giving> you will have the option of giving by credit card or bank account information. There is NOT a fee to pay online.
2. Mail a check to the church office. Pittman Park United Methodist Church  
1102 Fair Road Statesboro, GA 30458
3. Church Office is open from 9:00am - 5:00pm Monday thru Friday. We will be here to accept checks in a protective manner.

# Charles Black Scholarship

Once a year Pittman Park selects high school graduates and college students to receive a Charles Black Scholarship award. This scholarship was established several years ago by Garland and Grace Black in memory of their son, Charles, for the purpose of providing funds for the continuation of education beyond High School. If you are a high school senior, already in college or vocational school, you are invited to apply for the scholarship. Call the church office and we will email or mail you an application. 912-681-3213

# Community Info...

- As many of you already know, Pittman Park has partnered with You Are Not Alone Ministries, to feed children through the Back Pack Buddies program. In the process of learning more about this community they have some additional needs. Babies clothing (especially boys), Crib, Food—can goods, diapers (newborn sizes and up to size 6), Pull-Ups for toddlers, Baby Wipes, kids clothes (2T - up to 14.) If you are interested in donating you may drop off at the church office.
- May is Mental Health Awareness Month and you have the opportunity to celebrate the month with Evidence-based training. PPUMC member Pam Worrell-Carlisle is a coordinator of free online training to be prepared to recognize the warning signs of a suicide crisis. If you are interested in this training, please contact Pam at [pworrellcarlisle@georgiasouthern.edu](mailto:pworrellcarlisle@georgiasouthern.edu), ASAP, classes have started this week. Please see the below promotion.
  - *Are you prepared?...* QPR Gatekeepers is a national, evidence-based suicide awareness and prevention training where participants will learn “how to recognize the warning signs of a suicide crisis and how to question, persuade, and refer someone to help”. The training is designed for anyone who may encounter an individual considering suicide. Gatekeepers are not trained to counsel but to intervene in an emergency situation and refer an individual to a mental health professional.