



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

I pray that you all are safe through the storm! I know you join me in praying for the Dominion Energy workers, Police, Firefighters, EMTs, and all Emergency Responders who are tirelessly working to help others recover from the storm's damages.

If you need help because of damage from the storm, please let us know! Feel free to call/ text me at (804) 930-7627 or email me at betha@ccumc.net.

This Sunday we continue our sermon series, "Margin: Creating Space for what Matters Most" as we focus on how we make the best choices. How do we actually build space for what matters most? Our culture is intoxicated by busyness and yet Christ calls us to live with radical intentionality. How do we live Gospel shaped lives where we make our choices, our plans, our spending through wise Christ-centered discernment? What does that even look like?

Last week I shared with you how I was praying about this sermon series as I was driving (praying with my eyes open). As I was praying about this series a car merged in front of me whose license plate said, "Margin."

Here is the picture:



How do you create margin? You merge into it. You create it. You cut in and you set the limits.

How do you make space for what matters most? You choose what is most important first.

Our scripture lessons for this Sunday are [James 4: 13-17](#) and [Luke 10:38-42](#). In our Gospel lesson, Mary and Martha both have a choice to make. Jesus “Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things; there is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her.” If we are going to create space for what matters most, we must develop skills to discern the best choices. I'm glad we don't have to figure this out on our own, let's learn from Jesus together!

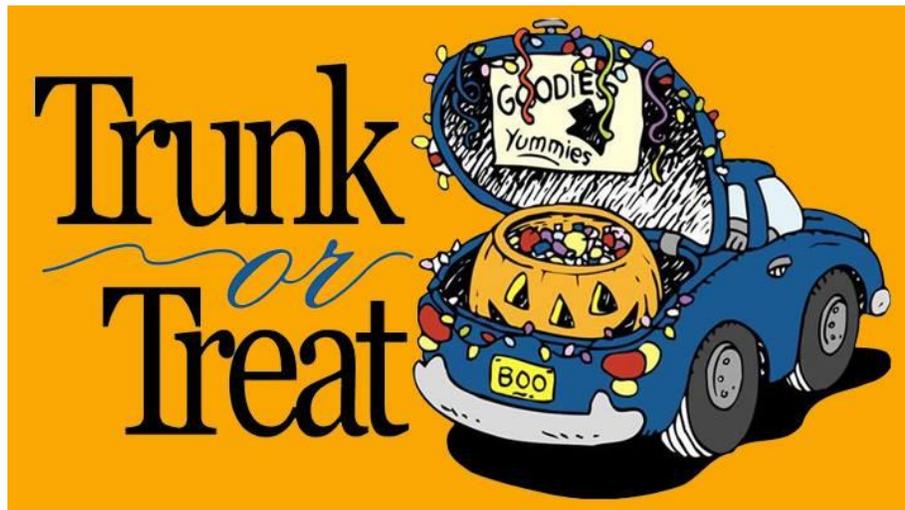
got junk?

Dispose of
Clothing and Shoes
Papers and Documents
Electronics

Clean Out Challenge
Saturday Oct 13th
9am-12pm

We will have our Clean Out Challenge tomorrow!

Bring your paper for shredding, your electronic recycling, and any other items you need to clear out so you can make space for some margin in your life!



Come join us for **Trunk or Treat** on Saturday, October 27th from 5:00-7:00.

Outside we will have decorated trunks and people passing out candy. Inside we will have food, games, and a photo booth. Wear your costume and bring something to collect candy! Sign up this Sunday!



Courthouse Community UMC has begun an exciting journey in a three-year process called Next Level Innovations!

What is Next Level Innovations?

NLI is an investment in churches that have a recognized potential for reaching more people in their community and inviting them to become disciples of Jesus. These churches have healthy and coachable leadership (clergy and lay).

NLI is based on similar programs in other UMC conferences, such as Missional Church Consultative Initiative (MCCI) out of West Ohio Conference and Healthy Church Initiative (HCI) from the Missouri Conference.

Like the above mentioned programs, NLI has multiple components including a foundation of prayer, monthly clergy training, two to three laity training events, an intensive weekend of church study, a detailed report and recommendation for innovations specially developed for the church, and follow up coaching for a year or more.



Who is Invited to Participate?

District Superintendents have carefully studied and selected potential church participants. Churches selected have met size, health and potential growth requirements. Leadership, both clergy and lay, should be teachable and ready to lead change.

What is the Church's Commitment?

NLI churches commit to a number of activities over a period of three or more years. Each NLI church supports their pastor's participation in monthly training.

Each church forms an NLI team that works with the pastor to implement the training they receive.

Most importantly, the church commits to a practice of daily prayer for the ministry of their church.

This has been our prayer:

Dear God, may your Holy Spirit fall on us like a mighty rushing wind, opening our eyes to see the wonders you are already doing in our church and community. Remove our current limitations that prevent us from being the Church that you desire us to be. Fill our hearts with awe, like the first disciples, as we discern the work that you are calling us to do so that we can be the Church to all people. (based on Acts 2)

Will you join us in praying this prayer daily for our church?

Here at Courthouse Community UMC our NLI Team is made of:

Next Level Innovations Team

The Next Level Innovations Team is a team committed to leading our church through a three-year process to strengthen Courthouse Community UMC and reach more people in our community so that they may become disciples of Jesus Christ and transform the world. This three-year journey is designed to improve the health, vitality and strength of our congregation's outreach, witness and impact. Our church is one of seven on our district participating in this endeavor. NLI has multiple components including a foundation of prayer, monthly clergy training, two to three laity training events, an intensive weekend of church study, a detailed report and recommendation for innovations specially developed for the church, and follow up coaching for a year or more.

NLI Team Chair Jennifer May

NLI Team Member, Pastor Rev. Beth Anderson

NLI Team Member Lay Leader Mike Amos

NLI Team Member Greg Anderson

NLI Team Member Dave Smith

NLI Team Member Caryl McBride

Church leaders participate in training events designed for clergy and laity around issues such as breakthrough prayer and stewardship.

Church leaders and attendees participate with a consultation team and mentors in a weekend long intensive study of the strengths and weaknesses of their church, and the best potential innovations to move forward.

Upon receipt of the NLI report and recommended innovations at the end of the weekend, the church will hold a series of gathering meetings to decide whether or not to proceed with the innovations. If the innovations are accepted, the church then works with their mentor to implement the innovations. If the innovations are not accepted, the mentoring, peer groups and laity training come to an end.

You can find additional resources here on the NLI website:

<http://www.nextlevelinnovations.org/>

So, what does this all mean for all of us right now?

First, I ask you to pray for this powerful experience to help us make disciples of Christ!

Next, I want to invite you to learn more about the power of breakthrough prayer!

All churches on our district are invited to a workshop on Breakthrough Prayer led by Rev. Sue Nilson Kibbey who is the author of "[Flood Gates: Holy Momentum for a Fearless Church](#)" and the Director of the Office of Missional Church Development for the West Ohio Conference.

The workshop will be TUESDAY, OCTOBER 30 with Rev. Sue Nilson Kibbey.
10 AM TO 3:30 PM

OAK GROVE UMC

472 N Battlefield Boulevard

Chesapeake VA 23320

\$20 - FOR SPEAKER, MATERIALS, LUNCH

However, for NLI church laity and clergy, there is no charge!

I hope you will consider coming to this wonderful workshop if you are able!

You can register here:

[Register for Breakthrough Prayer Workshop](#)

Be sure to check the box "NLI Laity" when registering.

If you are unable to attend this workshop, I want you to know that as an NLI church, our NLI District team will come and do a workshop on Breakthrough Prayer for our congregation onsite in November!

Prayer makes a difference and changes things. Even in the church. What if God's people joined together in intentional prayer for the church?

Participants will be introduced to the different kinds of intentional

breakthrough prayer and explore how to use breakthrough prayer as a vehicle to create urgency for change.

Clergy and laity will participate in a breakthrough prayer and be encouraged to create their own breakthrough prayer initiative for their congregation.

We have an awesome God who is doing amazing work for the kingdom through all of you!

I thank God for each of you!

I hope to see you tomorrow for the Clean Out Challenge 9-12 and look forward to worshipping with you on Sunday!

In God's Love,

Pastor Beth