

Greetings FUMC Bryan Family,

I am grateful that we can continue ministry on campus, but I miss seeing so many of you at worship. I urge you to make wise choices in caring for yourself and others. I realize that each one of you have different circumstances and different levels of comfortability. I'm thankful for our staff, all of them, who have worked very hard to offer various ministries including worship online. I am thankful for our lay leadership who carry on their ministries both on campus and through virtual media. I'm also thankful that the death rate due to the Coronavirus is declining.

The times we are living in are astonishing. Who would have thought that 2020 would have brought a worldwide virus, looting and planned riots in many major cities, exacerbated racial division, as well as blatant disregard for law/order and the officers who enforce it? Who could have imagined the fear and hopelessness that has led to an increase in suicides? Who could have imagined the sudden, permanent loss of thousands of jobs and businesses? And who would have believed that many states would prohibit the free exercise of our first amendment rights to freedom of worship and peaceable assembly?

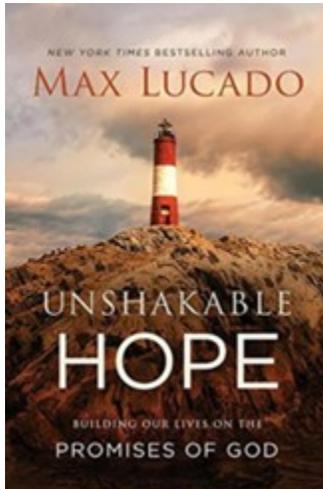
I encourage you to continue to be in prayer for our nation, her leaders, the election on the horizon, and for our churches. Our hope is in Jesus our Lord. Paul, the Apostle of hope, wrote to the church of Thessalonica: "But let us who are of the day be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and *as* a helmet the **hope** of salvation." [1 Thessalonians 5:8](#)

With all hope, we are going to resume our Wednesday night First Family Dinners and bible studies beginning Wednesday, September 2. BYOM-Bring your own mask or we will have them available if you need one. Mary Lou will have dinner ready to eat by 5:30 p.m. In order to physically distance in a reasonable way, we ask that youth, children and their parents eat in the gym. Adults who will be gathering for the adult bible study and any other adult who wants to eat, please go to the Heritage Room. Food will be prepared by our chef, Mary Lou, and placed in foam containers. Your dinner will be available at the kitchen window (both sides). Adult, youth and children's bible studies will begin at 6:30 p.m. and should be concluded by 7:30 p.m. If you plan to eat, then we need to know you are coming each week by Monday. So, please email LeeAnn ([leeann@fumcbryan.org](mailto:leeann@fumcbryan.org)) the number people coming so Mary Lou can purchase food accordingly. We'll always have a little extra food, so please invite guests.

The Lord has laid it on my heart to encourage all of you to remember that our hope is in the Lord as we stand upon the promises of His Word. On Sundays (beginning in late August) I will be preaching a sermon series for the rest of the Christian year (through Nov. 22) entitled "**Unshakable Hope.**" The sermon series will mirror the Wednesday night adult bible study based on the book by Max Lucado entitled "*Unshakable Hope: Building our Lives on the Promises of God.*" If you desire to be part of the adult bible study that I will lead, then I ask that you purchase the book and the study guide through christianbook.com (the book is \$13.99 and

the study guide is \$7.49). You will need only one book per household, but you may need two study guides if you attend as a couple. This study is not offered virtually, but you can still purchase the book and follow along as it parallels the sermon series.

Grace and peace,  
Pastor Rick

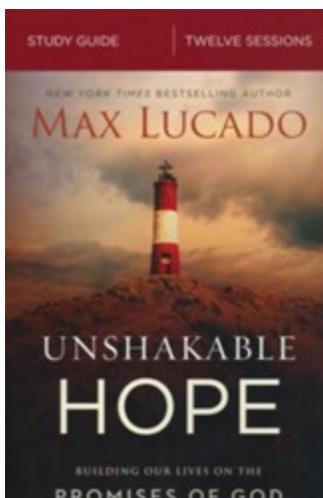


*Unshakable Hope: Building Our Lives on the Promises of God*

Max Lucado

Stock No: WW096140

\$13.99



*Unshakable Hope Study Guide*

Max Lucado

Stock No: WW092094

\$7.49