



Good Hope Union United Methodist Church

Go14680 Good Hope Road

Silver Spring, MD 20905

(301) 879-8100

Rev. Dr. Tori C. Butler, Pastor

May 19, 2020

Dear Good Hope Union Family and Friends,

I pray that it is well with your soul today and that you feel God renewing your strength from the inside out. This past Sunday, there were 84 households who joined on Zoom, 36 people who joined via Facebook Live, and as of today there are 137 views of the message. Therefore, on a Sunday when the message was focused on serving a God who came and pitched a tent among us and who has consistently moved where God's people are, we are witnesses to the power of a tent dwelling God. Our ministry reached Montgomery County, Baltimore City, Texas, Oklahoma, and even Japan. We serve an amazing God who desires for us to reach the masses any way we can. In this season of Corona Virus, I truly believe that God is challenging us to live into the commission He gave to the early church in Acts 1:8 that says, "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." In other words, I believe that God is calling us to channel the power we were given at our baptisms to share the gospel and impact the lives of others by writing an encouraging card, donating food to the local food bank, making masks for health care workers and those who are vulnerable, tutoring children who are being homeschooled, sending inspirational text messages, making encouraging videos or simply being available to listen to others on days when things simply are not ok.

Brothers and sisters, our time of quarantine is continuing. Currently, we do not have a solid end date. Montgomery County currently has the highest number of cases and death rate in the state of Maryland. County Executive Marc Elrich has extended the Stay at Home order at this time. Therefore, the physical building of Good Hope Union will continue to be closed. We as a church will continue to pray, worship, study the Word of God, and fellowship virtually until it becomes safe for us to gather in-person. We encourage everyone to stay connected. We encourage everyone to continue to give so that we can meet our current obligations and meet new ministry needs.

I want to thank everyone for hanging in there through the ups and downs of technology updates. I want to thank those who have been diligently checking on members and friends of the congregation. I want to thank you all for being the body of Christ and for continuing to be lights in the midst of darkness. I want to thank God for not leaving us in quarantine but, entering into it with us. Good Hope Union, we will get through this. As the old saying goes, "a family who prays together stays together." And we will weather this storm together and prayerfully be stronger and better on the other side.

I love you family and there's nothing you can do about it!

Pastor Tori

AKA

Rev. Dr. Tori C. Butler

P.S. Only go out for essentials, practice social distancing, do not gather in groups more than 10, wear a face mask in public, and of course wash your hands!