

March 31, 2020

Hi FPC families,

This email is simply to share more resources via email and available at [fpc1793.org](http://fpc1793.org). Miss Marsha has been writing and recording Children's Sermons from home, and we are excited to be able to share them with you. Technology is serving us well, even when we cannot be together for Kids' Night and Junior Church. Marsha and I hope that your family enjoys listening to these stories together. There are also some simple craft ideas that relate to the message and hopefully don't require you to shop for supplies. If you've found activities, videos, etc. you'd like to share, I'd love to learn what's working for your family and share it with our community! Another email will be in your inbox on Friday, focusing on Palm Sunday.

Many blessings to your family!

Jenna



Palm trees made from hand cutouts: <https://www.christianitycove.com/hand-print-palm-tree-palm-sunday-craft/4782/>



Handprint Easter cards: <https://www.thebestideasforkids.com/easter-handprint-cards/>



Dozens more handprint craft ideas here: <https://www.simpleeverydaymom.com/handprint-art-crafts-for-kids/#nature-themed-handprint-crafts>

**Vital Signs: Children's Sermon**  
**A Digital Children's Sermon Written and Presented by Marsha L. Nolf**  
**March 2020**  
**First Presbyterian Church 1793, Washington, PA 15301**

*Isaiah 49:16: "Jerusalem, I can never forget you! I have written your name on the palms of my hands."*

Boys and girls, I find inspiration for children's messages in all sorts of situations—some of these situations are scary; some are emotional; some are unexpected; some are funny; however, I have found that most of the time my inspirations are in simple day-to-day occurrences. The following is one such occurrence:

I want to tell you about a visiting nurse who has been coming to my home for the past six months. Her name is Dana. She is kind, competent, gruff, efficient, and funny. I have grown to like her as a health care professional and as a person.

I want to tell you about one “quirky” thing that she does. Every time she visits, she takes my vital signs and measures the healing wound on my left leg. What does that mean? She takes my blood pressure—127/84; my oxygen level—97; my temperature—98.6; my heart rate—76. She then measures the width and height of my wound in centimeters [not inches].

Guess what she does with this information? She writes it on her arm with a ball point pen. One time, I said: “Dana, I have lots of paper around my house. I'd be glad to give you some paper so that you don't have to write on your arm.” She replied: “Thanks but it's much easier to write on my arm and then put your information into my computer.” Sometimes, she has another patient's information on her other arm!

For some reason, I found the fact that she was writing my health information on her arm comforting. I just could not figure out why. Then one day, as she was jotting down my vital signs on her arm, it dawned on me. Dana's actions reminded me of one of my favorite scripture verses: “Jerusalem, I can never forget you! I have written your name on

the palms of my hands.” [Isaiah 49:16] In this story in the book of Isaiah, God is telling the people of Jerusalem that he has not forgotten them.

The phrase denotes the constant care and concern of God for the protection and safety of His church and His people, in this case, the citizens of Jerusalem. The people of Jerusalem were worried. They thought: “The Lord has deserted us; the Lord has forgotten” us. Then He reassured them: “But even if that were possible, I would not forget you! See, I have written your name on the palms of my hands.”

Boys and girls, we are living through some scary times right now. It helps me to think about the fact that God has my name—Marsha Leslie Nolf—written on the palm of His hand. Not only does He have my name, but He has each of your names, your parents, your grandparents, your brothers, your sisters, your neighbors, your friends, etc. In fact, it reminds me of one of my favorite folk songs: “He's Got the Whole World in His Hands.” The last verse goes:

♪♪♪ “He's got everybody here in his hands. . . . He's got the whole world in his hands.” ♪♪♪

Boys and girls, the next time that Dana writes my vital signs on her arm, I am going to tell her: “Dana, you were an inspiration for one of my children's sermons.” She will probably say: “Stick your arm out so I can take your blood pressure, but I know that she will be pleased.”

**Closing prayer:** Dear God, when we are worried, scared, or anxious, please help us to remember that our names are written on the palms of Your Hands. Help us to remember that you have not forgotten us. **Amen.**