



April 2020

I am the church! You are the church! We are the church together!

~Avery & Marsh

As we enter April of 2020, we find ourselves facing a crisis that the people of this world haven't experienced for generations. As this generation moves through uncharted territory, let us be mindful of our spiritual disciplines. For those with faith, this will help us stay centered on what is important. For those seeking answers, spiritual discipline can bring those answers about.

As I write this letter, I am faced with making many decisions, many with no clear direction or with any clarity on the impact those decisions will have on us as God's Church in Voorheesville. I was recently reminded by a friend that when stuck between a rock and a hard place, that it is then that God is most real.

Over recent months, I have preached and taught on the need for all Christians to engage in spiritual disciplines. I have found this especially helpful for me over the past couple of weeks. When things seem to be spinning out of control, these disciplines remind me who I am, and Whose I am. These disciplines bring about a sense of purpose and direction. So I share with you now something I posted online a couple weeks ago (with some additions) and pray that it may help you as it has helped me.

Consider these daily practices:

At least ten minutes of prayer or meditation. Maybe take a prayer walk to include physical activity. Doing this three to four times a day will help to keep you centered.

Reading at least one chapter of scripture. It isn't as hard as it sounds. Not sure where to start? Try the Gospel of Mark. Write down a question or two as you read . . . if you want them answered, send the

question to me . . . but don't be surprised if I answer your question with another question!

Engage with others in fellowship. Obviously during this crisis, in person meetings are not the best option, but phone calls are definitely encouraged. You might even consider using computer apps such as Zoom or Facebook messenger to video chat with multiple people. You can still have your Monday morning breakfast group, just online . . . and, when you are together, pray together.

Continue to be generous. I have had multiple members of the congregation contact me asking what they could do to help those in our congregation and community that are especially vulnerable to the Coronavirus. This is an act of love and generosity. Generosity goes beyond money -- though money is important. Remember to support your church and other charities, even if we aren't present together. But maybe even more importantly, remember to support your friends and neighbors. They may need help with child care, financial assistance, or just an ear to bend and a shoulder to cry on.

Stay in connection with God and one another through Worship. I know this is difficult, given that we have not been together in the church building for a couple weeks, but we can be together in worship and small groups through technology.

As people of faith, we are living in a time when it is more important to be the church than it is to go to church. I am the church! You are the church! We are the church together! We have the power to love and share as Jesus loves and shares . . . and the world desperately needs to experience that love. Be disciplined in love - I promise it will change the world.

~Pastor Gary





Become Part of *Our* Church Family

Let's celebrate the following people who joined our church in the month of March.

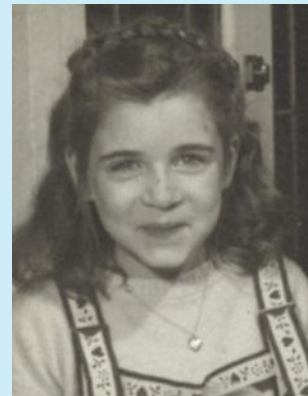
How might we recommit ourselves as disciples?

Andy Bell	1982
Susan Bell	1982
Richard Berger	1961
Robert Cureau	1965
Christopher Dandashi	2013
Steve Dudek	1995
Lynn Kohrs Dudek	2001
Nancy Farley	1977
Virginia Fisher	1946
Richard Frohlich	1958
Ken George	1953
Steven Lysenko	2001
Laurie Lysenko	2001
Glen Pfleiderer	1980
Dorothea Pfleiderer	1980
Shirley Schenmeyer	1949
MaryLou Shedd	1953
Ronald White	1977
Nancy White	1977

Who's Next?

Watch for a Holy Week and Easter worship schedule in a future e-mail as we navigate the pandemic.

JUNE HUNTER STILL HAS THE EXACT SAME LOVELY SMILE!



Thanks for playing, June!

Generosity Matters — Now more than ever! *By Pastor Gary*

Together as God's church, our generation is moving through a time and circumstance we have never experienced. Our community, like the greater world, is experiencing a crisis, and it will most likely get worse before it gets better. It is moments like this that the church was made for!

As I keep an eye on news, and my finger on the pulse of our local community, I understand that this crisis is going to have drastic effects not only regarding health, but also economically. As we practice social distancing, we are being asked to stay away from public places. In fact, the state government has asked that restaurants, bars, and other non-essential businesses close their doors to discourage people from going into public places.

These drastic measures are being put in place with the hope of slowing down coronavirus so that we can stay healthy and so that the medical facilities across the world can find ways to keep up with the number of people becoming seriously ill. While these measures are necessary, they also bring about an unwanted consequence.

Local businesses are being hurt by this. Many hourly workers are being hurt by this. I have heard of several people who work in restaurants as cooks and servers who have been laid off from their jobs until this crisis is fully navigated. We don't know how long that will be! It could be a few months before these businesses re-open and people get back to work. How are they going to pay bills? How are they going to support children?

We are in a position, as God's people, to live into our mission to develop deeply committed Christians by sharing the love (Good News) of Jesus Christ with everyone! Jesus frequently spoke of money and

how it might best be used. The best way to use money is for love. So, for the love of Jesus, I am asking for God's people to live into the spiritual discipline of generous giving.

This giving needs to happen in two ways. First, I am working with our finance team to create a line in our budget to track donations that will be used specifically for the Covid-19 Crisis. Any funds donated to the church with this designation will be used to help people with the purchase of food, to supplement bill payments, and to otherwise help those in need because of health or economic strife caused by the coronavirus.

The second way that this giving needs to happen is in your continued support of our general ministry budget. While we are away from the building, and our normal schedule of worship, study and small group meetings is disrupted, we still need to financially support all our ministries.

If you haven't already done so, please either mail in a donation to the church so that we might have the means to continue our current ministries and, even more importantly, develop new ministries that will help our congregation and community weather the storm of this crisis; or make arrangements with me for your donations to be picked up if that is preferable. I will also be working with our finance team to consider setting up a way to make donations electronically.

The way we give isn't as important as the "why" we give. We are a community in need, and we are a Christian community that has been called to the sacrificial love of Jesus. Please give what you can for the Glory of God, and the good of our community!

Peace, Pastor Gary

But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation. 1Thessalonians 5:8



Prayers are Requested for:

Team Vital
Zoe Brewer
Loretta & Thom Cammer
Schyler Castle
Rosemary Charlton
Carmella Childs
Dylan Dunney
Scott Garke
Jean Kohrs
Lexi Lane & family
Linda Lee & Devin
Chris Lysogorski
Bob Maclin's family
Edward Murtaugh
Marie Nichol森

Osterbauer Family
Norman Parks
Lynn Paska
Pearce Family
John Pittz
Sherry Pittz
Matt Ramsey
Ashley Rickles
Jacqueline O'Brien Robinson
Romand Family
Glenn Schultz
Catherine Schwabe
Veronica Soeller
Tracy Starczewski
Jennifer Robinson-Steipp

Malik Thomas
Alex Martinez Tidd
Griffin VanLare
Nancy White
Lochlan Woodard
& his Family
Doris Wyley
Euni Yang

In Military Service
Jacob Adams
Ariel Burns
Luke Burns
Adam Ellis
Nick Frandsen
Scott Matthews

If you want someone put on or taken off the Prayer List please contact Dianne Luci, 518-765-4536.

Now Offered Year Round!



"If telemarketers call, invite them to church."

Due to increased popularity, we are pleased to announce that our Free Community Lunch Ministry will now be held year round on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month.

Congratulations to Pat Klose Hammond and Judy Douglas for making this ministry such a huge success!



Blackbird Paradise Garden needs Gardeners

*A chance to showcase FUMCV's
commitment to community*

Spring is in the air and I hope all of you are as excited as I am to be looking forward to being outdoors, especially when this crisis is over. Many of us enjoy digging in the dirt and planting flowers or vegetables.

Some of you may know that in 2009 the Elementary School began The Blackbird Paradise Garden. Trish Putnam led the way, along with the Good Eats program at school.

The garden gives all the kids in the school a chance to plant and watch the garden grow. However, volunteers are needed throughout the season to help with various tasks, such as harvest, maintenance, planting and cleanup at the end of the season.

I'd like to get two groups of 4-5 people to volunteer twice a month. The months involved would be June through October. This is another way to have our church name and its members out in the community.

Please send me an email, dluci820@gmail.com or call me at 518-765-4536 to let me know you're interested. The commitment is minimal — and flexible too. Thanks!
~Dianne Luci, Trustee

Cleaning Crew

Thank you!



Many thanks go out to Kelly Blakeslee, Sharon Trossbach, Wendy Lancor and Judy Douglas for cleaning out the kitchen cupboards and washing them inside and out. We appreciate your help so much!
~Dianne Luci, Trustee



Angel's Corner

*As angels, we are
miracle workers.
Heavenly-charged
souls, glowing
with the fires of
truth and love to
warm each other
on cold days.*

Gary M. Kubitz, Lead Pastor
pastor@fumcv.org

Tuesday-Thursday, 9:30—12:30 pm
Fridays by appointment

Noel John, Associate Pastor
naeemjohn2019@gmail.com
Wednesday, 4:15— 8:15 pm

Carolyn Barrett, Church Administrator
office@fumcv.org
Tuesday through Friday, 9am — noon

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