



AUGUST 2020 HIGHLIGHTS

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The Pathfinder

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CLERGY ANNOUNCEMENT

As the Cabinet met yesterday in our now weekly check-ins, we looked at the number of cases in each of our counties and districts, and prayed. It seems the numbers across our state continue to rise, and it's disheartening. Ballad Health Systems reports an increase in patients as well as the need to increase the ICU and bed spaces available for COVID patients. It's alarming and a scary time.

And there is a rising frustration that I keep hearing. People want to be able to gather for worship just like so many other churches are, and I understand. I know the desire to be together with our brothers and sisters, to praise God TOGETHER, to lift our voices in prayer TOGETHER, and to feel some semblance of normalcy in a time of upheaval. Please know that I hear you and honor that frustration.

And yet our numbers are rising. Unicoi County cases have almost tripled in a week! Washington County and Carter Counties are in the red (high cases) category of our metric. Because of these numbers and the rise in cases, the following counties need to be closed to indoor and outdoor worship for the next two weeks:

Carter, Greene, Sullivan, Washington (TN), and Unicoi Counties

Our task force is meeting today to look again at outdoor worship. They know of the requests I've received and are taking those under advisement as they also work with medical professionals and one of the directors for the Department of Health.

I continue to be thankful for all that you are doing to adapt in this time, to care for your congregants, to preach a word of hope and faith, and to serve Christ in such a time as this. I pray for you each daily, and value you all.

Blessings,
Lauri Jo
July 28, 2020

What have your staff members been up to?

Since we have not been able to be together since the middle of March, I wanted to share with you just a few of the amazing things your church staff have been doing to help keep our church connected.

CARLA – our fabulous administrative assistant – has been in the office all during COVID. She has continued to be the face of the church, doing her job plus many others. When COVID started, our church became the hub for our JAMA Food Pantry. Carla has fielded many phone calls; set up volunteers and helped move a lot of food. She has also helped people with technology issues, like helping people to use zoom for Bible study. Thank you, Carla!

MIKE – our new youth director – has kept our youth engaged with one another through Zoom Youth meetings on both Sundays and Wednesdays. He has also been responsible for all the technology end of our worship services and comes every Saturday morning to help us prepare for our live-stream services on Sunday (along with Matt and Andrew) Thank you, Mike!

MATT – our sound man – has been so flexible and helpful through all of this “new way of doing worship.” He has helped us figure out sound issues, rearrange our sound equipment and has also been here every Saturday helping us prepare for our live-stream service. Thank you, Matt!

JACKIE – our children’s director – has been in contact with parents and children through weekly emails; she has prepared Sunday school lessons for parents to pick up; she’s prepared VBS packets to share with our kiddos; and she stepped way outside her comfort zone and did a children’s sermon just a couple of weeks ago. Thank you, Jackie!

ANGIE – our assistant children’s director – has been helping us in many ways. She, too, has done a children’s sermon; she’s been working on our Scripture verse collages and she sent each of the children a big hug (huge paper cut out arms they could wrap around themselves) in the mail. She has also helped with our live-stream worship service, as well as helping Mike with engaging our youth. Thank you, Angie!

LAURA – our toddler and two teacher - has done two children’s sermons, with some great help from her kiddos, lifted her kids in prayer and checks on her precious toddlers whenever she can. Thank you, Laura!

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ERIN & JEWEL – our nursery workers - have missed caring for the babies of the church. They miss loving on them, rocking them, and playing with them. They are keeping each child and family in their prayers and look forward to when we can all be back together again. Thank you, Erin and Jewel!

SHARON – our Music Director – has helped arrange special music for Sunday morning worship services; has played for worship; has kept in contact with the choir through email; and has recently sent music note masks to all our choir members with a prayer. Thank you, Sharon!

DOUG – our pianist – has been so faithful to play every Sunday during our live-stream services; to come every Saturday to rehearse and prepare for worship; and to spend many extra hours working with all the different soloists or duet groups in rehearsal. He also has been a huge help at the JAMA food pantry, stacking shelves and preparing boxes on Tuesdays. Thank you, Doug!

JOHN – our organist – has also been so faithful to play on Sunday mornings and I think we would all agree that the organ has added so much. He has spent extra time at the church learning more about the organ and using many of the different features during worship. He also comes every Saturday to prepare for worship. Thank you, John!

JANE – our parish nurse – has been checking in on people through phone calls, emails, texts and “snail mail.” During this time of not being able to visit, she has been creative in how to keep up with our church family. If you’d like a “phone visit” from Jane, please let us know. Thank you, Jane!

HANS – our janitor – has done an amazing job cleaning our building throughout the pandemic. He worked tirelessly when it all first started to clean all the surfaces in the church. When that was finished, he shampooed the sanctuary carpet. When that was done, he shampooed all the pew cushions. He continues to keep our building clean and safe and for that we are so thankful. Thank you, Hans!

ANN – our assistant janitor – has done the same type of thing in our other three buildings making sure everything has been cleaned and sanitized and safe for when we can get back together again. We are so grateful. Thank you, Ann!

I’m sure you’ll agree, we have a wonderful staff, all of whom are working diligently to help keep us all safe and well.

Pastor Karen

CHILDREN'S PROGRAM

Wow! This has been a wild and crazy summer, hasn't it??!! All of you have really been missed at church. Hope everybody was able to get their VBS bags and listen to the great songs, do crafts, worksheets, read stories and lots more. We will have VBS in 2021 for sure!!

We hope kids have been listening to the church services, especially the children's sermons. Thanks to parents for sending in all the pictures for children's sermons – everybody has really enjoyed them. Have the kids been reading or listening to the Bible verses Mrs. Angie and I have gone over the last two weeks in July? They were: Matthew 5:16 and Psalm 23 – go back and read them if you haven't. Mrs. Angie will be sending out another Bible verse in a few weeks like she did for Matthew 5:16, so get ready to make those signs.

We hope and pray things will get back to normal really soon. Remember all of you are loved very much!! Hugs to all.

*Love,
Miss Jackie*

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Even though we haven't been able to meet, the work of our district and conference women continues. Two virtual meetings are planned in the near future.

On Saturday, August 8, 2020, there will be a social action event called Living Wage & Child Maternal Health. The Holston Conference United Methodist Women's Annual Meeting will be a virtual meeting on September 26, at 1 pm. There will be more information to follow on both these events.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Ruth Grapperhouse for her recent service as treasurer of our unit. She and Gene are moving away to be closer to family. Unfortunately, she fell prior to the move and sustained some injuries. We will continue to pray for them. Thank you, Ruth, for a great job!

Since our usual joint meeting is in September, and we don't know if we'll be able to get together, we will decide at a later date when we will meet.

Jane Turner, President

JOTS FROM JANE

Who would have thought we'd find ourselves still dealing with this Corona virus in August? That wearing a mask would be considered a part of our everyday wardrobe? That being able to wrap our arms around our loved ones in nursing homes is still prohibited? That using social media to communicate is how we have to reach out to our friends and family? But ... it is what it is. We continue to pray for guidance and protection from this virus so that our lives will become somewhat normal again.

Please do wear your masks when you go out. We still have masks available for anyone who needs one. Every day we hear about the cases in our area and need to continue our vigilance against being exposed.

When you are enjoying the sunshine, always be careful to use sun screen and to drink plenty of water.

Stay well and protect yourselves!

*Blessings,
Jane Turner, Parish Nurse*

Psalm 46:1 "God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble."



SCRIPTURE VERSE

Romans 5:13

May the God of hope fill you with joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

AUGUST MONTHLY MISSION**JAMA Food Pantry**

For the past several years, we have been hosting a Rise Against Hunger event where we pack over 11,000 meals in about two hours. It's a wonderful blessing to be part of ending world hunger and to do this mission together.

With COVID-19 and the uncertainty of when we can gather together to do another meal packing party, we have switched our monthly mission to again support our JAMA Food Pantry. We've been blessed to be able to help so many people during this crisis, with our numbers served increasing by 25%. We're also adding an additional night — one Thursday a month when the pantry will be open for working people.

Your love, support and prayers mean so much to all of us who work the food pantry and everyone who receives food from us. You'd be amazed how many thank yous we get when people receive their food boxes.

To support this mission, please make your checks payable to the church and mark JAMA Food Pantry in the memo line. We thank you in advance for your generosity.

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

(If you have news of births, deaths, awards, etc., which you would like to have included here, please contact the office with the details.)



Our thanks and prayers go out to all our military veterans and their families. Your service and sacrifice are greatly appreciated.

Barnard Davis (US Army) - Susan Miller's nephew

Caleb Wade (US Army) - Rupe & Ella Billions' grandson

Cody Hallberg (US Air Force) - Lee & Nancy Hallberg's grandson

Todd White - (US Army) - Doug & Donna Barnes Bennett's son-in-law

Mickey Teasner (US Navy)

Lauren Bennett (US Army Reserve)

Jake DeMatteo (Army)

Steven David Hunt (US Army Reserve)

Brian Ehlschlager (US Army)

Shawn Allison (US Marines)

Eric Bull (US Air Force Reserve) - Don & Barbara Bull's grandson

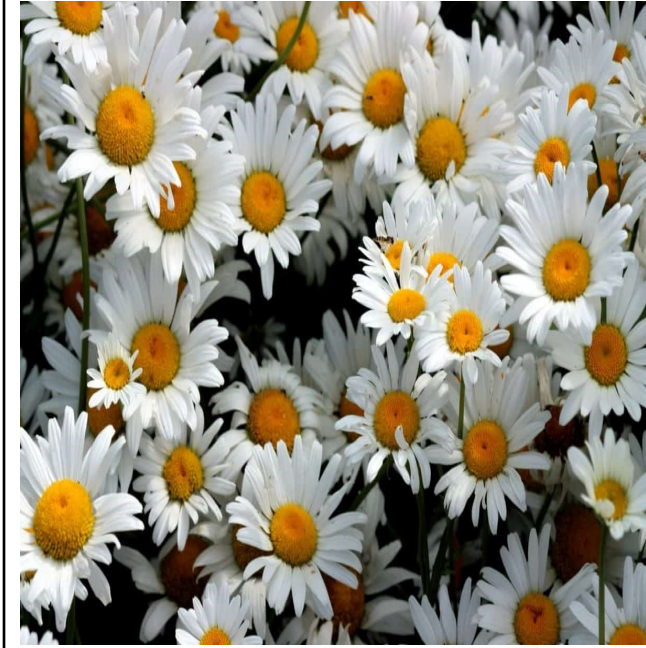
Cheyenne Pandar (US Marines)

Johnathon Daffron (US Marines)

Jon Cochran (U.S. Ranger) - Billy & Gail Lewis' cousin

Michael Fritz (US Army) - Mary Ann Clark's son-in-law





**JAMA Item for
AUGUST**

Canned Fruit



Please give generously
to

Jonesborough Area
Ministerial Association

Jonesborough United Methodist Church
PO Box 115, Jonesborough, TN 37659