

Pray for our Church Family:

Ken Carden, Joy Cole, Kay Huneycutt, Evan Huss, Don Matney, Bill Parks, Kitty Roberts, Gay Sharon Brothers, Terry Sink, Alan Sowers, Richard Williamson, Jerry Seivers and family , Maude Martin (mother of Joyce Carden) who is now in hospice care, and Pam Cregger (sister of Teresa Perry) who is also in the care of hospice

Remembering Members Who Find It Difficult to Attend:

Jennifer Beard, Jere Dailey, Dot Faircloth, Lou Utt, Dee Young

Pray for our Family and Friends:

Linda Bean (sister of Anita Hughes and Carol Tatum)
Freida Belcher (friend of Judy Duke)
Janice Blackburn (friend of Linn Parsons)
Caris Carswell (great-great niece of Dinah and Mel Howell)
Larry Cook (friend of Will Smith)
Jackie Cregger (niece of Teresa Perry)
Margo Ehlers (neighbor of Judy Duke)
Polly Fishel (aunt of Lynn Williamson)
Sam Freeman (neighbor of Judy Duke)
Nadine Haydon (relative of Kim Felton)
Ron Johnson (son of Bob and Judy Johnson)
Tami Kipple (cousin of Beth Basta)
David Langill (friend of Henry and Jean Pearce)
Tyler, Staci and Easton Matthews (friends of the Wonsavages)
John Noftle (brother of Randy Noftle)
Steve Parks (son of Bill Parks)
Louise Poindexter (mother of Janet Sowers)
Brenda Proffitt (friend of Becky Surratt)
Martha Riddle (friend of Jayne Parks)
Katie Schreiber (granddaughter of Joy Cole)
Patricia Vance Starbuck (sister-in-law of Kay Vance)
Clark Steed (brother-in-law of Teresa and Art Perry)
Kimberly Stewart (friend of Ashley Garcia)
Wells Vance (son-in-law of Rachel and Wayne Yancey)
Phyllis Wilcox (neighbor of Judy Duke)
Frank Wolfe and family (friend of Garcia family)
Nancy Yerigan (cousin of Kay Vance)

Serving in Missions: Andrew Craver & Jenna Nodine (Bethel, Alaska)

This Week's Calendar

Sunday, April 19 11:00 a.m. Worship (Live-stream)
Tuesday (4/21) 7pm Bible Study through Zoom (contact Brendan Garcia)
Wednesday (4/22) 7pm Unity "Happy Hour" via Zoom (watch your e-mail for the log-in)
Sunday, April 26 11:00 a.m. Worship (Live-stream)
Tuesday (4/28) 7pm Bible Study via Zoom (contact Brendan Garcia)
Wednesday (4/29) 7pm Unity "Happy Hour" (via Zoom)

April Birthdays

19 Nancy Jackson 22 Jessy Burcaw 27 Brenda Pugh & Brandon Noftle
20 Henry Fansler 23 Celeste Lowder
21 Don Harkness 26 Cam Lane

Sunnyside Ministries is not receiving clothes at this time... However, they are still distributing food, which is especially needed now! You may make a monetary donation through Unity Moravian, the Moravian Ministries foundation, or directly to Sunnyside Ministries.

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For online giving: You may use the "Tithely" application you downloaded on your smartphone, or this link:

<https://bit.ly/Unity-Gives>

And we now have the Moravian Ministries Foundation giving portal available to us at: <https://mmfa.info/giving-portal/>

As always, you may send a check via U.S.Mail to the church.

Links to viewing the services:

Live: <https://www.facebook.com/unitymoravian/live/>
Replay: <https://www.facebook.com/pg/unitymoravian/videos/>
Live: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oFcQPYnFgkl>
Videos: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC->

What's Happening at



8300 Concord Church Road
Telephone: 336-945-3801

Lewisville, NC 27023
www.unitymoravian.org

Sunday, April 19, 2020

Second Sunday of Easter

Livestream Worship at 11:00 a.m.

Scripture Text: John 20: 1—8, Luke 24: 1—12

Message: "The Four Marys in Jesus' Life"

Next Sunday, April 26, 2020

Scripture Text: Acts 2: 36—42, 1st Peter 1: 13—23

Message: "The Last To See"

Watchword Text for the Year:

Yes, everything is for your sake, so that grace, as it extends to more and more people, may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God.

II Corinthians 4:15

Staff:

Pastor: Rev. Barry Foster barryf@unitymoravianchurch.org
Acolytes: Kim Felton timbokk@yahoo.com
Randy Noftle rnoftle@gmail.com
Organist: Donna Shore D1M2Shore@gmail.com
Choir and Band Director: Dennis Fort dennisfort@hotmail.com
Believers Music Leaders: Ruth Burcaw and Randy Noftle
Treasurer Lee Christensen Leec@unitymoravianchurch.org

FEAR

The phrase: “Do not be afraid” appears in the Bible 365 times—one for everyday of the year. That means that we can get up every morning of the year and recite this phrase. (Well, except February 29th during a Leap Year.)

And then, there is this great passage in Proverbs that states: “The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.” (Proverbs 9:10)

To have no fear, is much easier “said” than “done.” In fact, I don’t believe it is humanly possible to have no fear. This is how we are wired. Some psychological studies show that about 10 percent of adults suffer from one or more phobias. The real number is probably higher.

Most of us fear snakes, alligators, and grizzly bears – which makes evolutionary sense. We couldn't survive as a species without a healthy fear and respect for nature. There has been a wide acceptance for exposure therapy, which asks patients to come face to face with their deepest fear – over and over again– until it eventually helps to extinguish it.

I have done some research and gathered a few modern day phobias that caught my eye:

Agoraphobia: Literally translated from the Greek, as the fear of the marketplace or crowded places... today it might be called the fear of Walmart.

Rhytiphobia: Fear of getting wrinkles.

Homilophobia: Fear of sermons. (I know some who have this)

Ephebiphobia: Fear of teenagers.

Anuptaphobia: Fear of staying single.

Coulrophobia: Fear of clowns.

Catagelophobia: Fear of being ridiculed.

Nyctophobia: Fear of darkness.

Necrophobia: Fear of death.

There are two kinds of fear : Fear that is good, which keeps us from driving 100 mph, or other foolish things that you can think of. And fear that is harmful, like a phobia that paralyzes us and keeps us from doing things we could or should do.

Conquering fear is not simply a matter of self-determination, it is a matter of dependence on a power that is bigger than us, a power that is more powerful than our fears. And this power must be one that we trust and are willing to accept. We may not understand why God allows disease and evil to exist alongside of love and joy and happiness... but, as followers of Christ, we put our faith in what he said and how he lived.

When you think about it, Christians have a strange image of God: *A naked, bleeding man dying on a cross.*

Now, some might react to this and say that this is not their image of God. But, “Christ and him crucified” is our confession of faith. The symbol which the writer of Revelation uses, portrays Christ as a slain lamb that is alive. Which is basically illogical. But, symbols aren’t supposed to be logical—they are supposed to point to a message and at the same time, offer a hopeful identity to those who embrace the message. So how do we interpret this symbol? What question is God trying to answer by giving us a crucified man for a God? If Saint Paul is correct in his statement that Christ “became sin” to free us from “our sin.” What, then, is our sin? (Romans 8: 3)

One answer is: Our inability to deal with our fear – our fear of failing, losing, being rejected, suffering and dying. Often, in our efforts to conquer our fear, we convince ourselves that we are not as bad as “those other people”, but actually better. This can lead to seeing others as “less”, even to the point of agreeing to exclude them from society if it means we benefit. (Cain and Abel retold)

With the world gripped in the fear of the coronavirus and the fear of what we are losing because of it, we might be careful not to let our fears take over and look for blame wherever we think we can justify it. In our desire to be saved from our sin (fear), we might be careful not to scapegoat others, finding it easy to leave the most unfortunate ones behind.

Maybe that’s why Jesus says two things to so many that he healed and relieved of suffering:

First, “Your sin is forgiven.”

And second, “Your faith has made you whole.”

Saint Paul says to his congregation in Ephesus: “For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God.” (Ephesians 2: 8)

The way through is always much more difficult than the way around. Cheap religion gives us the way around by touting the sin of others, and elevating our status with the Almighty. True religion give us the way through. Jesus did not take the way around. Jesus went through and did not find blame either with God or with his perpetrators—he loved them.

Christian mystic, Saint Catherine of Genoa in her collection of “Spiritual Dialogues” wrote: “Why Jesus, is there so much pain on the earth? Why do people have to suffer?” And Jesus answers her: “Catherine, if there were any other way I would have thought of it a long time ago.”

Saint John says, “In Christ, love has been perfected among us, so that we may have confidence on the day of judgment; for in this world we are just like Him. There is no fear in love, but perfect love drives our fear, because fear involves punishment. The one who fears has not been perfected in love. We love because He first loved us.” (1st John 4: 17 - 19a)
May God perfect us in love, so our fear may be removed.