

FEAR NOT CONTINUED FROM FRONT COVER

thoughts should be characterized by the victory of the resurrection of Christ. But also, you and I have a hope *in the next life* that others don't possess. While we're being assured that most people who are exposed to this coronavirus will recover, some will not. But remember, when we cease to exist in this life we claim with joy that we will live forever in the presence of the Triune God.

You might disagree with me, but I believe that in these modern days, we have almost turned the idea of life on this earth into a god. We spend extravagant amounts of money, time, and worry, not only on preserving life, but on preserving our youth as long as possible. I dare say that many of us are afraid to die.

Now don't get me wrong, I'm not offering to lead a load of folks to heaven right now. I like being alive, and I have a lot I want to do. I want to see my girls find godly men and make families for themselves. I want to spend more years with Sarah. And there are an abundance of places in the world that I would like to see before I die. But with that said, I must face the possibility of death with the hope that has come to me through the Gospel of Jesus Christ. I am called to face life ... and death ... with the hope of the resurrection burning brightly inside my soul.

The bottom line is this: In the face of fearsome realities, it is natural for us to experience anxiety, even fear. And while the Scriptures tell us ... even command us ... to "fear not," those words come to us not to chastise us, but to point us toward our hope. We are pointed toward the God who comes to us in the midst of the chaotic darkness and says, "I am the Light of the world. Don't be afraid of the darkness, for I have overcome the dark forces of this world, and I have purchased through the sacrifice of my body and blood, a hope for you that is beyond your imagination. Trust me, for I will never leave nor forsake you." So, do what you are able to do, and are called by God to do, in the midst of something like our present crisis. Allow God to use you in unexpected ways. And at the same time, remember to be *not afraid* for God is with us in this world, and in the next.

Grace and peace,
Ross

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FRONTLINE

Focusing on the life and ministry
of Front Street UMC



March 19, 2020 Volume MMXX No. 6

FEAR NOT

I've never counted myself, but I've heard it said that the phrase "Fear not" occurs 365 times in the Bible. How interesting that it occurs once for every day of the year. No matter what's happening, we are encouraged to be *not afraid*. Why is that do you think? I think it's for a couple of reasons.

Let me begin by saying that God wouldn't communicate the message to be *not afraid* unless we had a propensity toward fear in the first place. So, if you're scared. Don't feel bad. What I have to share isn't meant to shame you; it's meant to encourage you.

As you and I encounter life circumstances, we are bound to come across some that are outside of our control – like the COVID-19 virus that's going on right now. It's normal to experience uncomfortable feelings when something like a pandemic confronts us. We're able to take some positive action, like social distancing, but none of us is in complete control of the present reality. But fear not, God is in control. God knows our needs better than we do, and he is highly skilled in the art of redemption. As you read this, God is working in and through people in our own community and across the world to accomplish good out of this seeming chaos. We need to make sure we are not panicking, but keep a reasoned mind, so that we can make ourselves available to God for his use; and, then also watch for the Christ-like behaviors in others, and give God praise for them.

Here's another idea equal in importance to the one above. You and I do not live as a people who are without hope. We live in the light of the resurrection. In the life that we live each day on this earth as Christians, our actions and

continued

A LOOK AHEAD:

KNOWING CHRIST

LENTE RECITAL

Front Street is hosting a Lenten Recital featuring Matt Brittain, organ and Amy Marsh, cello on **Friday, April 3** at **noon** in the Sanctuary. The recital will last between 35 and 40 minutes. There is no charge to attend. Invite a friend and join us.



Lenten Recital

Holy Week at FSUMC



Palm Sunday ❖ April 5

8:45 a.m. Aldersgate and 11 a.m. services only

No 8:45 am Traditional Service

11 a.m. worship will be supported by Carolina Brass

Maundy Thursday ❖ April 9

Service at 7 p.m. in the Sanctuary including Holy Communion and the stripping of the altar

Good Friday ❖ April 10

Worship Service at 7 p.m. in the Sanctuary

Easter Sunday ❖ April 12

Services at 8:45 (Traditional & Aldersgate) and 11:00 a.m.

A nursery will be provided for all services.

GROWING IN CHRIST

EVENT CANCELLATIONS

Family Life Ministry Pizza and Movie Night (3/27) and the Dominican Republic Mission appreciation luncheon (3/29) are canceled. If they are rescheduled we will publish those dates.

EASTER EGG HUNT

Everyone is invited to come out for a morning of fun and games, including an Easter Egg Hunt, on **Saturday, April 4**, 11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at Lake Mackintosh (Burlington). The egg hunt will begin at 11:15 a.m. Lunch will be provided. Come and check out the many fun activities inside and out, including crafts and kite flying. There is no cost to attend this event. Invite your friends and neighbors! We look forward to seeing you there!



How can you be involved?

- Fill a dozen eggs with candy by **March 30**.
- Make a dessert and drop off at the church by **April 3**.
- Help hide eggs, with craft activities, and clean up on **April 4**, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Please contact Marcy McAdams if you are able to volunteer.

SHARING CHRIST

LENTE SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE

There is still time to shop for the *Classroom Closet* which supports our local educators. This drive will run through **April 10**. Visit our website or the Welcome Center for a list of items and more information. Please drop donations in the Welcome Center.



SAVE THE DATE



Front Street Playschool will have a community yard sale on **Saturday, May 2** at Front Street UMC. Parking spaces will be available to rent. Start saving your household items to sell, or mark your calendar to come shop and enjoy the children's Spring fling. More details to come.

Prayers

- **Dr. Jim Hayes** who is recovering from a fall
- **Joe and Lee Ann Michael** upon the death of his father, John Revell Michael, on 3/14
- **June Reid** who is recovering from several strokes
- **Alice Thompson** upon the loss of her sister-in-law, Christine "Teeny" Joyner, on 2/18 and her cousin, Iva Payne Porter, on 3/4
- **Linda Weavil** who is recovering from knee replacement surgery

Continued prayers:

- **John Glosek**
- **Willard Haggins**
- **Mike Mitchell**
- **Margaret and Kyle Younger**

Congratulations

Jake and Brittany Harris welcomed a baby girl, Emorie Jones Harris, on March 4. Proud grandparents are Gary and Marianna Harris.

CEREAL SUNDAY

Don't forget **April 5** is Cereal Sunday at FSUMC! Please deposit cereal or other canned/dry goods in the tubs in the cabinet in the Welcome Center. Thank you for helping stock the food pantry at the Salvation Army.

FINANCIAL GIVING UPDATE AS OF 3/16/2020

YTD Actual Giving – \$265,902.87

YTD Budgeted Giving - \$316,005.69

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