

Daily Bread: Nourishment and Info from Your Pastors
March 30, 2020

Devotion

1 O Lord, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens.

3 When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars that you have established;

4 what are human beings that you are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them? Psalm 8:1, 3-4 (NRSV)

As I walked our dog Ellie last night, I was struck with how clear the heavens were. We've had a long string of cloudy and rainy days and nights. But last night the stars and Jupiter were just brilliant. I turned a corner and looked up and there was Orion with his dog Sirius right behind him. He is chasing the 7 sisters (the Pleiades) and Taurus with his red eye is interceding on their behalf.

As Ellie and I walked along, I suddenly felt very small. This light I'm seeing was generated many years ago; probably before I was born. And this light traveled millions of miles to be witnessed momentarily by me and anyone else who happened to be looking up at these constellations at the same time. My sense of insignificance seemed overwhelming.

The scale of a global pandemic is also overwhelming. When secluded in our homes, only to briefly escape to the grocery store or other places offering the essentials for our existence, it is very possible to feel very small.

But, if we read Psalm 8 carefully, we realize David was not inspired by God to write this Psalm so that God could point out our insignificance. Instead, God gave these words to David to remind us how important we are to God. A God who can create this vast universe with his fingers (v. 3) is also the God who is mindful of us and cares for us.

Yes, if all I focus on is the physical size of either the universe or the pandemic, I will be overwhelmed. However, if I also focus on God's infinite power, wisdom, love and care, I know my relationship with God in Christ will empower me to do "all things in Christ who strengthens me" (Philippians 4:13). We are not alone, nor are we insignificant. "For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works."

Last week a colleague of ours wrote that these coming days are an opportunity to learn and/or remember that the church is not a place, a structure. But the church is people...you and me...God is mindful of us...God cares for us. We are God's handiwork created to be Christ's hands, feet and voice until he returns.

Blessing (by Teresa of Avila)

Christ has no body now but yours.

No hands, no feet on earth but yours.

Yours are the eyes through which he looks compassion on this world.

Yours are the hands, yours are the feet,

Yours are the eyes, you are his body.

Christ has no body now on earth but yours.

Praying for you and asking for your prayers.

Grace and Peace,

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No In-Person Worship Services Throughout April. In accordance with the Federal Government's extension of "social distancing" through the end of April, Faith UMC will not offer any in-person services through April 30.

BUT...Our Facebook viewership is through the roof! As of this writing, yesterday's worship service has reached over 1,100 people (nearly double last week's reach number). Thanks to those who are sharing this service with their Facebook friends. The number of persons viewing our webpage and watching the service there was also up significantly.

Worship at Faith UMC: Though we will not be having worship services in our centers, we are glad to report that there will be a worship service available through our radio ministry (Sundays, 10:30 am on KHBT. 97.7) and on our website (fumcfamily.com) and church Facebook page (search for Faith United Methodist Church – Humboldt County). The online versions will be available by 5 pm Saturday evening. And, a big THANK YOU to the 8 volunteers who came out to record these services. *When you watch, please hit "Share" and more folks will be able to experience our worship. What an easy and painless way to invite others to church!*

Ideas and Information:

- *Could we make this happen?* By Easter, could we have some videos from as many of our church families as possible. It is not advisable to have folks come to the church to record a video. Could your family make a 30 second video using your phone or tablet? On that video give several “shout outs” to people you miss and maybe an example of how you are passing the time; and don’t forget to wish everybody a Happy Easter. Including pets in the video is also fun! If you are unable to record something, call the office and one of the pastors will record your greetings from your porch. Email videos to: jdisburg@gmail.com.
- A photo scavenger hunt is coming!! Stay tuned. Beginning later this week, we’ll post on the church Facebook page as well as in our *Daily Bread* something for you and your family to take a picture of. Some of the items will be things you’ll find in your home. Others will require a little drive (an excuse to get out of the house for a bit!). You can then post your photo on our Facebook page or email them to Pastor Jon and he’ll post them.
- Here’s a very helpful article about mental health during this time of social distancing. This article is by our Conference Wellness Coordinator, Kae Tritle, R.N. jaumc.org/newsdetail/e...