



# Wilmington Island Witness Celebrating New Life in Jesus Christ

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER MAY 2020

## Thank You!

It seems like yesterday...or the day before that...that I was asked as a college student to help out with the youth at my home church. That was forty-six years ago.

I am in my 33<sup>rd</sup> year under appointment in the United Methodist Church.

Gayle and I will be celebrating 40 years of marriage in August.

Our two boys, Josh and Jacob are 32 and 29. Jacob is now married to Kirsten.

We have served in six churches, lived in 12 residences, and will move into our 13<sup>th</sup> next month.

I have served with some wonderful pastors, nine in all. Three have passed. I have been blessed to serve with so many gifted staff and awesome college interns.

I have been asked to serve as pastor in two wonderful churches.

My greatest gift was to witness so many say yes, to Jesus' invitation to follow him.

I've also been gifted to see so many experienced a call in their lives to serve God in full-time service.

Time has flown by.

Our lives have been made full because of you.

Thank you!

Because of Christ,  
Rob and Gayle

## Church Events

**May 3** - Online worship and communion; **3:00pm Clean the church**

**May 5** - Worship Band practice; Hand Bells practice

**May 6** - **P.A.C.K. food drive**  
**10:00am - 5:00pm**; Choir practice

**May 10** - **Mother's Day**; online worship

**May 11** - **Trustees Meeting 7pm**

**May 17 & 24** - **In person worship** (if the Bishop's guidelines don't change); **Confirmation Sunday**

**May 18** - **Finance Meeting 7pm**

**May 25** - **Memorial Day**; Office closed

**May 26** - **Church Council 7pm**

**May 31** - **Fifth Sunday combined worship 11:00am**; **Lunch to follow**

Ladies, Check with your circle leaders to find out when your meetings will resume.

**We will NOT host Family Promise this month.**



## MUSIC NOTES by Angie Carr



Back to rehearsals?? YES, but things may look a little different for a while. WE WILL RESUME ALL MUSIC GROUPS REHEARSALS beginning May 5<sup>th</sup> for Band and Bells and May 6<sup>th</sup> for Choir!! Please know if you're not comfortable with this, we understand and respect your decision to not be here. We can still use Zoom and / or Facebook live so you can still be part of the rehearsals. Band and Bells will still meet in their regular places, as there are not as many in these groups. Choir will be meeting in the Sanctuary so we can spread out and practice social distancing a few more weeks. I'm looking forward to it, and hope to see you soon!

### EXTRA MUSIC REHEARSAL MAY 30<sup>TH</sup>

We will need a little extra preparation for our music on Sunday, May 31<sup>st</sup>, (Bro. Rob and Gayle's last) so, here's our rehearsal schedule for Saturday, May 30<sup>th</sup>, to make that happen: Hand Bells – 9:00 a.m., Choir – 9:45 a.m., and Praise Band – 10:30 a.m. Please make plans to be here for this important day of rehearsals!!

**Thanks to all you music folks who have endured through this time of creative rehearsals and chats on Zoom! We will continue doing some of that for a while, for folks who are not as comfortable getting out just yet. Continue to read emails and texts for information! You're the BEST!!!**

**See you in Worship soon,  
Angie**

## PRAYER REQUESTS



**Church Family** - Evelyn Curry; Emily Hook; Glenn Hook; Debi Larsen; Jarvis and Madison Ward; Don and Tina Pope; Peyton Fogle; Lenore and Leon

Campbell; Jade Sampson; Belinda Estabrook; Alice Martino; Elton Hoffman, Sue Roe; Ted Hightower; Mary Jo Crowe; Laurel, Cole and Chloe Cavern

**Extended Family and Friends**- Justin Bianca (friend of Tamara Sampson); John Mitchell (former pastor); Bonnie Benson (mother of Bruce Benson); Barbara Wilson (daughter of Mattie Cocke); Nita Brown (sister-in-law of Gail and Jack Brown); Linda Jaudon (friend of The Fogles); Paul & Cherie Peters (friends of The Jernigans); Chris Prokop and family (friend of The Skeltons), Ann Taylor, Barbara Young, Beth (requested by Tamara Sampson); Libby Rann (daughter of Belinda Estabrook); Johanna Matthews (friend of Stephen & Christy McLain); Dianna Berry (sister-in-law of Pam Anderson); Alice Carpenter (daughter-in-law of Vic and Charlotte Carpenter); those affected by the coronavirus (requested by Todd and Donna Naugle); Joe Powell (father of Jeff Powell)



## YOUTH NEWSFEED by Nick Zichettella

Hey everyone. Hope you had a great Easter. I wanted to take a second and update everyone on where we are schedule wise.

-The church office and the church building are still closed. All meetings and activities are cancelled at least through May 13th. I know that our Governor has begun to reopen things here in GA. We are still being cautious, and will follow guidance from the South GA Conference.

-MYF is still meeting via Zoom. We meet Sundays at 4, and Tuesdays and Thursdays at noon. Login credentials are sent via text message and email. They are the same credentials we have been using for the last several weeks.

**-IMPORTANT INFO FOR GRADUATES:** We still intend to celebrate each of you during worship on Sunday morning. I don't know what that will look like yet, but we have tentatively scheduled Graduate recognition for **Sunday, June 7<sup>th</sup>**.

**Our 2020 graduates are Chloe Cavern, Cate Lamas, Logan LeCates, Michael Lunn, Alexa Morrison, Leah Powell, Ben Restel, Macy Sheley, Josh Tillman, Chloe Toder and Billy Vaselaros.**

That, of course, could change. In the meantime, please send me a copy of your Senior yearbook photo. You can email it to me, or drop it by the church office. Even though we are closed, someone is usually here during the day. Also, Morgan and I would like to offer all of our graduates a 15-20 minute graduation photo mini session free of charge. This will be available to schedule beginning May 11<sup>th</sup>. Call me or text me to schedule a date and place for your photos.

-As of right now, I don't know what our summer schedule will look like. **M-Fuge** has been cancelled, and won't be rescheduled. We are also cancelling **Hinton**, but will try to do some local mission projects instead.

As things change, I will keep everyone updated. If y'all need anything from me, I am just a phone call or text away.

Nick



**Rev. Doug Walker and his wife, Lynn**, have been appointed to serve Wilmington Island UMC. They will be moving to the island on **Wednesday, June 24**. Their first Sunday will be **June 28**. Please reach out to Doug and Lynn. Doug's email: [doug.walker.75@gmail.com](mailto:doug.walker.75@gmail.com) More details will come in our June newsletter.



## FROM THE PULPIT

### MAY SERMONS

**May 3 - Online worship - "Love Feast" style of communion. Isaiah 55:6-8 "Why?"** We don't understand why things happen the way they do. How do we exercise faith in these times?

**May 10 - "Mother's Day!" Online worship - 1Kings 17:7-18 "Suffering"** Elijah and the Widow of Zarephath. God answered her plea for help.

**May 17 - ??Maybe In-person worship?? Times to be announced. - Psalm 22:1-11, 21 "Silent Prayers"** God does hear.

**May 24 - Romans 12:1-2 "God's Will"** Are we open to be led by God in all circumstances?

**May 31 - Romans 8:28, 31-32, 35, 37-39 "Nothing..."** God's love wins out every time.  
**Fifth Sunday combined service at 11:00.**

**Please remember to maintain your tithes, your gifts and your offerings.**

**May God's grace surround us all.**



### **KID'S CORNER by Kellie Jernigan**

April brought about fear, concern, sadness and struggles for many. We prayed diligently for clarity. With the unknown still before us, we just Praise God daily for safety and patience.

For most, we hope that it has given families the ability to spend quality time with each other. I have heard stories of family dinners, praying together, family walks, movie nights, game nights, cleaning house and many more things that as families, has not happened for a long time. Many parents are learning to be teachers. These are the positive sides of the new normal for several weeks. We pray that these times will help us realize we need to slow down, enjoy each other and enjoy God's beauty.

It was a great month of working on our technical skills. We have zoomed with several families doing virtual scavengers hunts, slumber parties, would you rather game, and reading stories. Busy bags have been given out a few times equipped with lessons, crafts, games, worksheets, and snacks. 300 Easter Eggs were stuffed and delivered. It is so nice to be able to see their sweet faces from a distance. During Zoom, they get so excited to see their friends. We were able to laugh through these times. We will continue to do these things over the next couple of weeks. Praying that May 17th will bring us all back together.

Oh what a day of rejoicing it will be when we all are able to get together again. We have missed seeing these children and their families. Praying that we all stay safe and get back into a routine soon.

**Philippians 4:13** I can do all this through him who gives me strength. Thanks be to God.

Kellie Jernigan

Children's Ministry Director



PreSchool  
News

### **PRESCHOOL UPDATE by Wendy Amerson**

In April the learning continued at home even though the preschool was closed. Our wonderful teachers held Zoom video calls with students several times a week and stories were read online to help keep the students engaged and learning. Preschool packets were also sent home or delivered for several weeks, so the kids would have activities at home just like they would have at school.

We are hoping to be back up and running for summer MMO and the 2020-2021 classes for preschool and MMO are still registering. Many of our classes are now full, but we do have a waiting list option as well. Often times during the summer, spots will open up and the best place to be is at the top of the list. Since the school remains closed the best way to get information is by visiting the preschool website at [www.islandmethodist.com/preschool](http://www.islandmethodist.com/preschool) or by emailing Wendy Amerson at [preschool@islandmethodist.com](mailto:preschool@islandmethodist.com).

### **STAY SAFE**

Bishop Bryan has asked churches to refrain from in-person gatherings until after May 13. It is at that time more guidelines will be announced.

In anticipation of our return to worship, **spring cleaning will take place Sunday, May 3, 3:00 p.m.** Come help if you are able.

Please bring your **wipes, gloves and masks** as we wipe down every pew, door handle, coffee pot, light switch, pulpit and altar rail. We can spread throughout the building, so social distancing can take place.



*"Making disciples of Jesus Christ by inviting, incorporating, nurturing, and serving."*

Wilmington Island United Methodist Church  
195 Wilmington Island Road  
Savannah, GA 31410  
(912) 897-2835

## UPCOMING EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **P.A.C.K. FOOD DRIVE**

#### **(people of action caring for kids)**

The preschool is organizing a SNACKS for **P.A.C.K. food drive** and we NEED your help. We will be collecting individual sized items on **May 6th** from **10AM-5PM**. Please mark your calendars and drop off suggested items from the flyer at the **preschool door** on that day. This will be a **contactless** food drive, but we will have volunteers there to help direct you.

You can also donate directly to this wonderful organization by going to <https://www.packsavannah.com/>  
<https://www.facebook.com/events/577271046251627/>  
1 in 4 children in South Georgia live in homes where having enough food is a struggle every day. P.A.C.K. is committed to packing and delivering over 10,000 bags a month to children in Chatham County and the surrounding areas.

#### **Individual snack size items needed are:**

Juice Boxes	Teddy Grahams
Pop Tarts	Applesauce
Cereal Bars	Food Pouches
Gummies	Cracker Packs
Goldfish	Oatmeal
Mac & Cheese	Granola Bars
Peanut Butter	Boxed Craisins
Boxed Raisins	Nutella
Beef Sticks	Boxed Cereal

**Thank you for your support of this mission for the children in our community. If you have any questions, please email the preschool [preschool@islandmethodist.com](mailto:preschool@islandmethodist.com)**

**Wilmington Island UMC, 195 Wilmington Island Rd.**