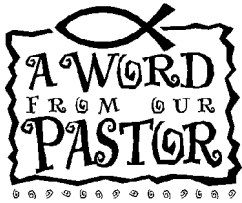


# THE MESSENGER

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APRIL, 2020



We face continued uncertainty with the Coronavirus, COVID-19. We have all been asked to keep our distance and yet, as I write, there are no cases in

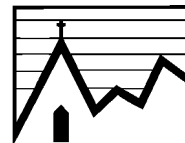
Okeechobee. None of us know how long this state of emergency will hold or how long we will keep virus free. There has been such uncertainty and fear, but though we don't know what lies ahead we can be certain that God is with us!

Romans 8: <sup>35</sup>Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? <sup>36</sup>As it is written, "For thy sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered." <sup>37</sup>No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. <sup>38</sup>For I am sure that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, <sup>39</sup>nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

I have generally left out verse 36 because it seems in such contrast to the verse before and after it. And it is. People who were dying were nevertheless encouraged that nothing could separate us from the love of Christ. If we get hit by the virus or if by some miracle we are spared, nothing can separate us from the love of Christ. We will weather this time and we will come out of it all the stronger.

Pastor Don

**SCHEDULING UPDATE:** All meetings including UMW and UMM have been cancelled for the month of April. Until the restrictions are lifted we will continue to live-stream our worship service on Sunday at 8:30 a.m. via Facebook. That service will also be available to watch on youtube.com anytime after 10:00 a.m. To view the service on youtube.com search Okeechobee First United Methodist scroll to and click on the video.



**Church FINANCES** During the next few weeks and months as we deal with the Coronavirus uncertainty, please remember your church giving. Most of our expenses will continue, regardless of our church services and attendance. The Conference is making adjustments to its budget and is trying to cut as many expenses as possible. You can mail your tithe or drop it off at the Church Office. Your continued support, especially during this trying time, is most appreciated.

Although we are not currently meeting together, your Security Team has continued with their training. A special thanks to the City Police Department for their wonderful training. Lt. Justin Bernst and Detective James Pickering volunteered on a Sunday to conduct the session. Additional training will be scheduled at a later date.





**FROM PARISH NURSE DIANA SAUM, RN: (From CDC) Our lives have been turned upside down by a new virus that causes a disease that is called COVID-19. It is extremely dangerous at this time by the nature of being brand new. We have no immunity at all to it, we are unsure how to treat it, and we have no vaccines against it. The disease's illness ranges from mild or no actual symptoms to very sick with cough, fever, shortness of breath (pain or pressure in chest) to possible death. We know it likes low temperatures and high humidity, but will it fade out in the spring as the flu does? We become infected by droplet. It is estimated that the virus can live on inanimate objects for 4-5 days, but no one is really sure as it is too new to have any real data on it. The people most vulnerable with increased risk are the elderly and those with chronic medical conditions such as heart disease, diabetes, dialysis, lung disease. Does it cross the mother/child barrier in pregnant women? We don't know for sure yet.**

**How can we protect ourselves? The CDC does not recommend face masks or respirators as protection. Masks should be worn by people who suspect they have or know they have the virus, COVID-19 to protect others. Prevention comes down to hand washing, covering your cough and staying home when you are sick. Cleaning common items such as door knobs, grocery carts, phones, computers, toilet handles, faucet handles, remote for TV, etc. When you cough or sneeze throw the Kleenex in a lined waste basket. Wash hands immediately with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap is not available, clean your hands with alcohol based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol. Disinfect all areas with bodily fluids - blood, urine, stool, sputum. If you call 911 notify the dispatcher if you may have or know you have COVID-19. They need to know before they come in to help you.**



- 3<sup>rd</sup> - Judy Mattern, Alysa Comfort
- 9<sup>th</sup> - Priscilla Rhodes
- 10<sup>th</sup> - Doc Thrift, Judy McCutchan
- 11<sup>th</sup> - Elsie Close, Ethan Kersey, Darleen Bradford, Pat Klapper
- 12<sup>th</sup> - M/M Aubrey Burnham
- 13<sup>th</sup> - M/M Clifford Matson
- 14<sup>th</sup> - Lauren Raulerson
- 15<sup>th</sup> - Caitlyn Gaucin, Kendall Harrison
- 16<sup>th</sup> - Chad Clark
- 19<sup>th</sup> - Shaina Ragamat, Tom Yackamouih
- 20<sup>th</sup> - Janice Mohr
- 22<sup>nd</sup> - Ray Fuller, Ruth Watford, Elwin Kessler, Carl Holcomb, Judy Russ
- 23<sup>rd</sup> - Nicole Plant
- 25<sup>th</sup> - Clifford Matson, Linda Austin
- 26<sup>th</sup> - Evelyn Cherry
- 28<sup>th</sup> - Jackie Flood
- 29<sup>th</sup> - Ernestine Robertson, Carolyn Sweatt, Judy Simpson, Martha Gillette
- 30<sup>th</sup> - Chelsea Walker

**If your birthday or anniversary is incorrect or has been omitted, please contact the Church Office.**

