

Memorial Methodist Messenger

Memorial United Methodist Church, Norman Ramsey, Pastor

P.O. Box 9, 403 Court Street, Appomattox, VA 24522 (434)352-5705 memorialumc5705@gmail.com

Our Mission is to help others grow in the love and joy of Jesus Christ

April 2021



Where the season of Lent stresses the importance of repentance for our sins, Easter or Resurrection Sunday, gives emphasis to new life, which is the passage from death to life and from condemnation to salvation. It is a time of hope, faith, and love, because the Lord Jesus has reopened the gates of Heaven and has overcome the powers of darkness. It is also a time of forgiveness, healing, and reconciliation with God, ourselves, and all others. It's a new beginning! Nurturing this new life, however, requires daily surrender to the Holy Spirit to remain "in Christ."
(Russell Cheatham)

The earth shook with the news.

**HE IS NOT HERE;
HE IS RISEN!**

And in that moment,

joy REPLACED DESPAIR

hope PUSHED PAST FEAR

life CONQUERED DEATH

not just that day, but for eternity.

We celebrate the *resurrection* of Christ

for what it meant then and
what it means for us every day;

a sacrifice

that brings

FORGIVENESS, RENEWAL, AND PEACE

to any of us
who put our *faith* in Jesus.



The Hope of the Resurrection!

**9:30 am – Worship in the Sanctuary
(Overflow in Legacy Hall)**

April 1, 2021: *Maundy Thursday Service, 7:00pm*

April 4, 2021: On Trial for the Hope of the Resurrection. (Acts 23: 6)

Easter Sunrise Service, 6:30am

Holy Communion following our 9:30am service.

April 11, 2021: I Have the Same Hope (Acts 24: 14 – 16)

April 18, 2021: A New Birth and a Living Hope (1 Peter 1: 3)

April 25, 2021: Our Inheritance in the Resurrection (1 Peter 1: 3 – 4)

**Church Council Minutes
Memorial United Methodist Church
Wednesday, March 17, 2021
ZOOM Meeting**

Those in attendance were Mitch & Sue Eggleston, Leeann Robinson, Sheila Webb, Norm Ramsey, Marie Milton, Rodney & Donna Deaner, Tom Hall, Debby Long, Angie Dillon, Nathan & Brenda Putney, Bobby & Sue Waddell.

Sue Eggleston called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm.

Debby Long led devotions....St Patrick's Breast Plate.

February 2021 minutes were approved.

Kinkle Robinson (Finance)...Finance committee met on March 15th. This was the first in-person meeting of the year. Reports were reviewed by Nancy Dawson. Nancy reviewed the general fund account balance. In keeping the General Fund balance at \$60,000....the committee agreed to use any excess funds above this number to pay off more of the building loan balance. Building loan balance was paid down \$21,944.66. Tim Garrison told the committee that he would create a schedule for offering collection since we are meeting again in-person.

Sheila Webb (Worship)...This committee met on March 10th. Nick reported about the MUMC YouTube account. Easter events were discussed...there will be a Maundy Thursday, Sunrise, and an Easter service. Lighted flower cross will be put up the night before Easter in front of the church.

Norm Ramsey (Pastor)...Church will shut down for 10 days following Norm's positive covid test. Should be able to meet again in-person on 3/28. District Superintendant said we can still have small groups meet.

Sue Eggleston (CC Chair)...Looking for leadership for Evangelism. Will hold off on planning a retreat. Day Care has now joined in on our OneCall phone messaging system.

Marie Milton & Debby Long (Congregational Care)...We have formed several teams to help those in our church needing assistance on a variety of things. Two caravans are scheduled for this month, one to senior members and the other to the children...will be delivering Easter gifts and messages. A new small group has started meeting weekly, and others will be started as the need arises. Future plans include offering CDs of sermons, honoring mothers and fathers, starting Super Seniors up again, and collecting items for "Cheer Baskets".

Angie Dillon & Cindy Ranson (Methodist Daycare)...MDC is doing great! Harry White is working to keep the gravel on the playground from washing away. Nancy plans to spend rest of grant money on the playground.

Sue Waddell (Missions Committee)...Plans are to meet on 3/18.

Nathan & Brenda Putney (Prayer Ministry)...Prayer meetings were held on 2/22 and 3/8. Thanks to all who attended. Praying for God to continue to bless our church, community and the world, as His will is done.

Dawn Elliott (Children's council)...Easter Egg Hunt on the outside lawn following worship on 3/28. On 3/27 there will be a Sunday School kids party at Bounce About at the mall.

Harry White (P & G)...Had a small HVAC problem repaired in Legacy Hall. Boiler repair should be finished in the next week for Daycare. A dusk-to-dawn light controller for Legacy Hall has been repaired.

Norm Ramsey closed in prayer.

Sue Eggleston adjourned the meeting at 7:46 pm.

mle

BOUNDARIES -- JESUS STYLE

The need to set healthy boundaries is a common topic during our weekly C/R meetings. The question came up recently if Jesus set boundaries. The simple answer is yes. Are you surprised?

So you ask, what are boundaries? They are like property lines that let you and everyone know the limits of your property. Here, the boundaries outline who you are, what you value, and how you feel.

Why build boundaries? Boundaries set your limits. Without limits, you will eventually become emotionally depleted and stressed, feeling like you have no input into your life.

Aren't boundaries selfish; I thought it wasn't nice to say no? No. Why? Your boundaries are based on self-awareness and self-definition, giving you a greater capacity to offer empathy and care. A stable foundation built on good boundaries allows you to care for others while avoiding being overwhelmed. People with no boundaries have trouble saying no. With no ability to set limits, you are more likely to be drawn into trying to rescue people. Attempting to rescue others often leads to selfish or irresponsible behavior in the very person you are trying to help.

Ok, so how did Jesus establish boundaries? Jesus' personal boundaries had many forms. He took time away from his ministry to be alone with God. To accomplish this, Jesus had to answer requests with a no. In fact, Jesus was able to tell people no in many ways, although always in love. For example, at a wedding in Cana, Jesus told his Mom no. Another time, Jesus would not let his Mom and brothers interfere with his work. So let's look at the ways Jesus set boundaries.

Jesus instituted personal limits. He ate healthily, relaxed, took naps, walked regularly, and slept. (Matt 26:18, 20; Mark 1:16, 3:23, 4:38; Luke 7:36; John 10:40, 12:2). Jesus allowed his friends to help him. (Matt 26:36-38). When required, he had no problem changing his schedule. He relied on God for his support when facing Satan and people who hated him. (Mark 14:32-42)

Jesus said no without guilt. He told his followers no when he needed alone time. (Luke 5:15-16). He protected himself from hurtful people. (Luke 4:28-30). Jesus stood his ground when the religious leaders tried to trick him. (Matt 21:23-27, 22:15-22). He said no to Herod's demand to prove he was the Son of God. (Luke 23:8-9). The response to Peter's suggestion that Jesus takes the route of being the earthly king was NO! (Matt 16:23).

Jesus voiced his opinion in love when he disagreed with people. He cleared the temple of the money changers. (Matt. 21:12-17, John 2:12-16). The rich young ruler was told to give away the money that was controlling him. (Matt. 19:16-21). The disciples were told to stop keeping the children away. (Matt. 19:13-15).

Jesus expected others to do their part. Two blind men on the road to Jericho were told first to trust and then tell Jesus what they wanted. (Matt. 20:29-34). At the Sheep gate, Jesus challenged the invalid's feeling of helplessness and told him to take part in fixing his problem. (John 5:1-14).

Jesus offered grace and truth according to a person's need. To the woman caught in adultery, he offered grace and truth. To proud and self-righteous Pharisees, he listened and then confronted their pride and scapegoating with the truth. (John 8:1-11)

Jesus' examples of how to. Personal prayer should be alone. (Matthew 6:6). Jesus tells us to be honest, direct without pressuring people. (Matt. 5:37). He instructs us to set priorities. (Luke 16:13). Jesus' direction is to focus on pleasing and obeying God, not people. (John 5:44). (Matt. 21:28-31).

Looking at Jesus's life, you will see far more stress, pressure, and responsibility than any of us face daily. Despite this, he was relaxed, blissful, and charitable to people. How do you set boundaries? First, know yourself. Knowing yourself takes introspection; read these Bible verses and think about how they apply to your life. Next, ask Jesus to help you understand your path through prayer. Lastly, don't be afraid to look for help; at C/R you will find a group of like-minded friends.

Hope to see you on Tuesday nights!



Celebrate Recovery - Appomattox

Call us -- Cheryl Gowin 434-808-2637 or Dennis Gowin 434-808-2426
like CR-Appomattox on Facebook @celebrate.recovery.appomattox

*Join your Fellow Mountain Climbers on
Tuesday at 6:30 in Legacy Hall
for a Life Renewed*



Youth United for middle and high school students meets at the church every Sunday from 4:00 to 5:30 PM. Call or text Tori Rothgeb at 434-664-7272 to be added to the text reminder list.



**NEWSLETTER
DEADLINE:
DEADLINE FOR
THE MAY
NEWSLETTER WILL
BE APRIL 22nd.**



MONITOR OPERATORS

4/4	Joe Davis
4/11	Kathy Dickerson
4/18	Joe Davis
4/25	Kathy Dickerson



Worship Assistants

4/4	Debby Long
4/11	Mitch Eggleston
4/18	Marie Milton
4/25	Becky Henderson



1 April	Penny Mongold
2 April	Butch Thomas
3 April	Donna Deaner
5 April	Freddy Lawson
7 April	Laura Lawson
11 April	Tracey Anstey
14 April	Amy House
14 April	Leah Davis
15 April	Gerald Wilbun
15 April	Hilda Ferguson
18 April	Barry Jones
18 April	Pam Robinson
18 April	Ava Lydon (2016)
20 April	Connie Bass
24 April	Mary B. Curry
25 April	Donna Nash
25 April	Carolyn Bergdoll
27 April	Eloise Thomas
27 April	Nathan Putney
28 April	Al Sears
28 April	Andy Coles (2006)
29 April	Ken Milton
30 April	M.J. House
30 April	Ashley McDowell
30 April	Tim Garrison
30 April	Matt Frady



7 April	Todd & Dana Garrett
11 April	Blair & Lisa Smith
18 April	Jeannie and Gene Beverley
28 April	Sue and Mitch Eggleston

ARE YOU GETTING "ROBO-CALLS" FROM MUMC?

I hope so! We have been using the "One Call" system for a good while now and it has been a wonderful tool to communicate church information with our church family and friends. It has been extremely valuable in communicating last-minute weather cancellations, service reminders, etc. If you are NOT receiving these calls, please contact me so that you can be added to the system (or correct your information in the system). You can call me at 434-664-7325 or email at sueeggleston918@gmail.com. Thank you!



“So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith” (Gal 6:10).

It's your congregational care team leaders, Debby Long and Marie Milton! We are so excited that we have been able to start reaching out to our congregation with our caravan visits (and there are more planned) and a few surprises to come for all of you! We have a card ministry going full force (thank you, Virginia Williams), and a team of our church members are checking up weekly on our senior members!

As we are reaching out to our members, we are learning of various needs they have, and we are now asking for your help! We are the hands and feet of Christ and have been instructed to love one another and serve one another. And we have so many different talents in our congregation, yes, we are very blessed!

Here are the areas in which we need help and we want to form teams of people whom we can call on as needed. The more people on the teams, the lighter the load for any one person.

Transportation team: To drive people to doctor appointments or rehab therapy or other places they need to go.

Technical assistance team: to help people with technical issues, maybe how to work a new tv, hook up a new computer, how to use a new remote, etc.

Manual labor team: to rake leaves, to move heavy things, to change light bulbs, a lot of possibilities here.

Maintenance and repair team: to fix small jobs, maybe squeaky door, loose door knob, those little odds and ends that some people can't fix on their own.

Run errands team: to run to the post office, to pick up medicine, little errands.

Meal Train team: to fix meals for the sick when the need arises.

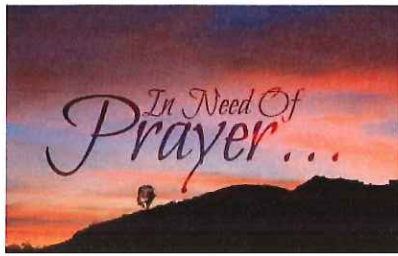
Would you prayerfully consider volunteering to serve on one or more of these teams? Your church family needs you! Presently we have at least two needs! 1. To move out an old refrigerator and move in a new one 2. to hook up a new computer and set up a Roku tv. Could anyone volunteer for those jobs asap?

Contact Debby Long (dhoniglong@gmail.com or 804-310-4979) or Marie Milton (mcmorgan112@gmail.com or 434-665-4875) or Sue Eggleston (sueeggleston918@gmail.com or 434-664-7325) if you can help or if you have questions! Thank you, and God bless you all!

Debby Long and Marie Milton, Co-chairs of Congregational Care
Sue Eggleston, Church Council chairperson

Philippians 4:13





Betty Jo Smith & family due to the death of her aunt, Lucille Lewis
 Sue Woodruff – surgery went well PTL! Pray for quick recovery
 Dot Coleman (neighbor of Betty Jo Smith), pneumonia & heart issues
 Chuck Nepage, 945 Reddy Spring Rd, Spout Spring, VA 24593
 Judith Mays (friend of Armstrongs) recovery
 Mary Jo (Donna Irvine's sister) – Treatment (MRI/Surgery)
 Elsie Ranson – Runk & Pratt, Liberty Ridge, Room 335-Elsie Ranson,
 30 Monica Blvd., Lynchburg 24502
 Gayle Williams, injuries from a fall/transition to rehab
 Ashley Noble (Janet Noble's grandson's wife) – recovering from surgery
 Louie Quinio (Julie Cheatham's brother) – surgery/broken hip
 Brenda Wilkerson (friend of Ashly Noble) – breast cancer spreading)
 Billy Torrence (Sue Eggleston's brother-in-law), surgery
 Miranda Nash (Karen Ramsey's niece) abscess in abdomen
 Stan (Virginia Williams' brother) Recovery from back surgery
 Steve (Virginia Williams' brother) Lung cancer surgery Feb. 9
 Tommy Bryant (Beverly Davidson's brother-in-law)
 Susan Mankad (friend of Dickersons), young mother, cancer
 Brenda Sidley, cancer diagnosis (Penny Mongold's cousin)
 Butch Taylor, early Alzheimer's, (friend of Pastor Norm)
 Wayne Smith, heart issues (Relative of a friend of the Bergdolls)
 Judy Ferguson & family (aunt of Dawn Elliott)
 Kindlee Faith Evans (friend of Kelly Coles)
 Bobby Garrett, testing for spot on lungs
 Bethany Nadolson, Targeted Cancer treatments
 Greg Knight (Francis Knight's son)
 Darlene Clark (Gerald Wilbun's cousin- heart attack)
 Jennifer Tucker (friend of Cindi Williams, breast cancer)
 Frances Parsons (Bob Parson's mother)
 Doug Doss Jr. (Father of Melissa Doss)
 Brandon Coles (Kelly Coles' brother)
 Robin Parsons (daughter of the Parsons- cancer)
 Patricia Wallace (Melissa Doss' aunt)
 Timothy Lloyd (Skeeter & Betty's Grandson)
 Carrie B. Lloyd (Rick & Mindy Blake's daughter)
 Carina Bergdoll – leg issues (Daughter-in-law of Bergdolls)

Please send prayer requests and praises for 2021 to our new account at PrayerChainMUMC@yahoo.com. Our chairpersons for this year, Nathan and Brenda Putney, will be monitoring this email account and contacting prayer support as needed. You may also call the church office at 434-352-5705 with prayer concerns.

Our prayer ushers have been praying for you at our bi-weekly Monday night prayer times. All are invited to attend these meetings. The next prayer time will be April 5th.

Norman Ramsey
 Karen Ramsey
 Sue & Mitch Eggleston
 Donna Elder
 Ralph & Ruby Inge
 Coach Doug Smith
 Patsy Moore
 Brian Thomas
 Carolyn & Tom Jolly
 Betty Guthrie
 Francis Knight
 Andrew Nitzel
 Cheryl Skipper
 Tanner Campbell
 Bob Dunnam
 Bobby Waddell
 Joanne Burger
 Gary Lindsey
 Cassidy Richardson
 Cathy Bates
 Phil Bass
 Deb Stacey
 Sharee Whitmer
 Skeeter & Betty Armstrong
 Susan Book
 April Mela
 Rick Blake
 Danny Dickerson
 Rev. Bob Weeks

Dear Church Family,

Thank you so much for your Extravagant Generosity in helping Matt Messner with his dental problems. After the opening evaluation appointment, Matt has now had 2 big appointments, pulling 2 teeth at the first visit and 3 at the second. Each time, we had collected the right amount of money to cover his bills. Praise the Lord!! Matt's next appointment is on April 19 where he is supposed to get 4 fillings at a total cost of \$940!! Any contributions you can make, big or small, will be appreciated. Matt is overwhelmed by the love from his church family.

If you're lead to help, please send your check to church (PO Bx 9) and earmark it for Matt Messner.

God bless us, everyone.

Continuing Concerns:

Ruth Smith, The Summit, Room 119, 1400 Enterprise Drive, Lynchburg, Virginia 24502
 Anne Weakley, Babcock Manor, 4151 Pumping Station Rd. Appomattox, VA 24522
 Lorene Lucado, Babcock Manor, 4151 Pumping Station Rd. Appomattox, VA 24522
 Estaline McCraw- c/o Ann Smith 4132 Suck Mountain Trail, Bedford, VA 24523 (at Babcock Manor)
 Mary Martin, Valley View Retirement, Room 401A, 1213 Long Meadows Dr., Lynchburg, VA 24502
 Daphne Jackson, Bentley Commons, Apt. 227, 1604 Graves Mill Rd., Lynchburg, VA 24502
 Nelwyn Smith: Pearls of Life at Liberty Ridge, Room 43 – Nelwyn Smith, 107 Monica Blvd., Lynchburg, 24502
 Frances Rogers, St. Joseph's Home, 1503 Michaels Road, Henrico, VA 23229
 Sara Baine, 160 Virginia Ave., Appomattox, VA 24522
 Victor & Susan Vernon, 126 Ceocia Lane, Stuarts Draft, VA 24477
 Manning & Myrt Harrell, 78 Woodline Dr., Concord, VA 24538
 Anna Johnson, 276N Main St., Amherst, VA 24521
 Cheryl Skipper, 193 Parkview Lane, Appomattox, VA 24522
 United Methodist Church, All Bishops and Conference Leaders, Va. Conference Bishop Sharma Lewis,
 Bishop District Superintendent Denise Bates, Pastor Norman & MUMC Leaders, Youth United, MUMC
 College Students, Members of our Armed Services stationed overseas and here at home, Police Force &
 Special Agencies, President Biden, World leaders, The United States of America, All refugees

WANT SOMEONE TO PRAY WITH YOU?

Our prayer ushers haven't left you! We still want to pray with you even though church may look differently now! We encourage you to contact us by phone or email and we will be delighted to talk with you and pray for you! Romans 8:38-39 tells us "For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor principalities, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord." We are still the body of Christ even though we aren't physically together. God still loves you and so do we! So, do you wish for someone to pray with you? Then please contact one of us!

Anne Robinson	434-248-6924	arkindon@aol.com
Cindy Ranson	434-665-8837	rranson@jetbroadband.com
Janel Noble	434-352-7461	mrsray777@gmail.com
Joan Holt	434-426-4197	bojoappo@hotmail.com
Marie Milton	434-665-4875	mcmorgan112@gmail.com
Mitch Eggleston		mitcheegg1031@gmail.com
Nathan Putney	239-821-2905	nputney52@yahoo.com
Norman Ramsey	540-309-1776	normanramsey@vamuc.org
Penny Mongold	434-352-7023	
Rodney Deaner	434-664-7831	rdeaner@jetbroadband.com
Sue Eggleston	434-664-7325	sueeggleston918@gmail.com
Sheila Webb	434-352-7333 or 434-390-2602	appwebbtr@aol.com
Steve "Bear" Nadolson	740-507-0717 or 434-352-7598	bear@soarr.com



To the kind people who left the fruit at our door: thank you so much for your thoughtfulness! Besides enjoying baked apples and the other goodies, we especially appreciate knowing that someone was thinking about us.

ALSO: - Thank you to Marie Milton & Debby Long for the caravan visit and goodie bag! - Sara

Thank you! Sara & Rena Baine

Dear Church Family,

We want to thank Marie, Debbie, and Pastor Norman for coming by to bring us the nice "Love Package" from all of you. It is always nice to be remembered. We enjoy seeing them.

We especially appreciate your prayers for our family.

It's nice to know you're there even if we can't be.

Manning, Myrt, Connie, & Phil





The Missions committee of Memorial United Methodist Church exists to reach out to the needy and to spread the gospel. Its main focus is to involve the congregation in Missions. It is equally committed to local, national, and international needs. If you want to experience the joy of spreading the gospel and helping the needy, join us in one of our hands on Missions Opportunities! If you are interested in finding out more information or giving ideas on missions opportunities, please contact Sue Waddell at 434-660-0367.

Our Missionary Partners:

YoungLife (Appomattox, VA) Central Virginia VA27, P.O. Box 3543 Lynchburg, VA 24503-0543; (giving.younglife.org)

The Jesus Center (Appomattox, VA) P.O. Box 322 Appomattox, VA 24522

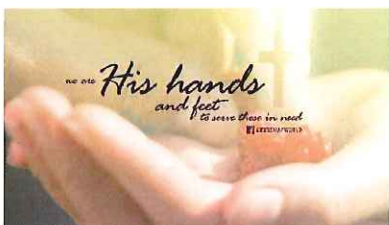
Clara Biswas, Street Children Ministries (Cambodia) clarabiswas@online.com.kh (advance.umcmmission.org/p-1509-biswas-clara-mridula.aspx)

Chris & Paula McNutt, Hope of Life, Mt. Comfort (Guatemala) 445 Abbitt Branch Rd. Appomattox, VA 24522 (passion4guatemala.com)

Charles & Becky Jackson, Generous Hands (Philippines) charlesbeckyjackson@msn.com

The Mathers, Stepping Forward Ministries (Romania) Stepping Forward Ministries, PO Box 20065, Salem, Oregon 07307

IMPACT 2021



“The missionary spirit is the spirit of Jesus, the spirit of the incarnation and the Cross.”

J. Hudson Taylor



Teddy Bear Brigade: During the month of April, the mission committee will have barrels at the entrances to the sanctuary, and outside the church office for the Teddy Bear Brigade for Gleaning for the World. You may donate slightly used or new stuffed animals to go to abandoned children, orphans, refugees, victims of natural disasters, or other children in tough life situations. These are children that may never have had a possession of their own or have lost everything. It seems like a simple thing, but it can make a big difference to children who have nothing. Our prayer is that these soft toys will bring some level of security and comfort to the children and to help them heal.

Update on the children we support in Guatemala:

The Hope of Life village in Guatemala has been decimated by a storm that caused flooding. Homes, the daycare center, the school – all was lost. They are rebuilding now.

Esperanza and her family are renting a small house in a nearby town while their house is being rebuilt.

Nancy and her family are living in a nearby town also.

Chris & Paula McNutt sent a newsletter describing the storm and the way God protected the people and is giving them hope and helping them as they rebuild.

The letter will encourage you to see how God protects and provides.

The mission committee wants us to help in some way and will let you know when we find out how best we can help as a church.



APPOMATTOX YOUNGLIFE

KEEP UP W/ ALL THE HAPPENINGS ON OUR SOCIAL MEDIA OUTLETS: INSTAGRAM (appoyl), SNAP CHAT, FACEBOOK (Appomattox YoungLife)



He Is With Us in the Storm

Greetings from Guatemala. We pray that you and your families are doing well and are in good health. Thank you for giving Paula and I the opportunity to follow the call of God to serve the people of Guatemala in and through any way He leads us to do so. We are blessed. We are grateful. We are thankful for your love, prayers and support.

He is with us in the storm. He has promised to never leave us nor forsake us. We don't always understand the reasons why God allows things to happen. However, God's ways are always perfect. Although storms and tragedies occur in our lives, His grace is sufficient to carry us through.

You have been a refuge for the poor,
a refuge for the needy in their
distress, a shelter from the storm and
a shade from the heat..." Isaiah 25:4

~ The LORD is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer; my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold. Psalm 18:2~

I begin this long awaited update letter with a heavy heart. A 22 year old young man from our village was tragically taken from us in a motor vehicle accident this past Thursday. He leaves behind a 3 month old precious little girl and a grieving family. His name was Jose Angel Amador Asmen. He had such a gentle and joyful spirit. His 6 siblings, mother and step father are heartbroken. This is a huge hit to an already struggling community. However, I know without doubt, God is with us in this storm.

It has been an incredibly tough year. Just under a year ago the world came to a screeching halt because of COVID-19. Loss of work, community, and spiritual connection with fellow believers has impacted this world greatly. Then for Guatemala would come the storm of all storms that would impact our families forever.



Who could ever imagine? We could not even have begun to fathom what would take place in the early evening hours on November 5, 2020. Paula had returned to the States for a week to bring Canastas that our artisans had made to fulfill Christmas orders. Early that Friday morning I had asked our scholarship students to come to the Daycare in the village to help me clean, paint and prepare a room for our new village social worker, provided through Passion 4 Guatemala. On this day, Ligia was beginning her first day of work with our families. It took us all day to prepare the Daycare and the students had a blast getting this project completed. We had no idea what was about to occur!

Eta, a Category 4 hurricane, was already reaching peak intensity east of Nicaragua early on November 3rd. Here in the desert region of Zacapa, Guatemala, it had been raining for a couple of days. The Jones river runs along side the Hope of Life/Cause Life Village. A few years earlier, the government had widened and reinforced the banks of the river, placing Volkswagen Beetle sized boulders all along the banks to reinforce the walls. Prior to the hurricane, the river was all but a trickle, however it had



He Is With Us in the Storm

now been raining for 3 days straight. At 5 p.m. when we finished preparing the Daycare, the river was still a good 20 feet below the top of the river bank on the village side.

By 5:15 p.m. several family members were standing on the road that runs along the top of the river bank, looking down, watching as the waters rushed by. At 9:30 that morning, the families had been given a notice to pack a backpack in case the waters breached the bank and the families needed to be relocated to the medical center just above the village. I remember standing there, looking down at the river, thinking, "there is no way that river could breach this bank, no matter how much rain was falling, it's way too fortified". I tried to comfort some of the families that were standing there with me looking down. I told them, "God has this, don't worry, it's all in God's hands. He will protect us".

Between the hours of 5:15 p.m. and 6:00 p.m., behind the mountain the ministry is built on, the river winds around the mountain. Behind the mountain the river had been ripping away at the backside of the mountain. 3 rivers cascading down the mountains had now become one massive river. The banks of the river that ran alongside of the village were heavily fortified, it could handle the force and power of one river, however, it could not handle the massive 3 rivers that had become one behind Hope of Life. The waters carved out its banks on the side of the mountain of the ministry and was making a more direct path just above the medical clinic.

At 6:00 p.m. we got the notice that we would need to start rescuing the families because the banks on the backside of the mountain were destroyed and there was a potential for the river to breach this area. By 6:15 Carlos Vargas our founder and his team were rescuing families from the Causelife side of the village, while I was rescuing families from the Hope of Life side of the village. I must have made over 20 trips in our UTV, zipping in and out of the village, taking families to the school in Llano Verde to wait out the storm. Around 7:15 p.m. the last of the families had been safely evacuated to the school. I made one last trip around this time. I made it all the way to the gate that enters Hope of Life Village. One of the teenage boys, Carlos Abel, rode back down with me to make sure we didn't see anyone else that was left behind. He ran to his house to get his mom's small suitcase of clothing she had forgotten in the rush. Sitting there, I could see the other team finishing their last rescue, exiting Causelife Village. Sitting there, I will never forget the horrible sound of the river behind me, down the banks beside the village, the smell of the water and it's debris carries a unique scent I will always remember. At this point water had not entered the village. There was complete darkness lit only by the street lights and the porch lights left on in the homes. I felt peace knowing the families were safe, I remember thinking, "everything is going to be fine, God has this"! Sitting waiting for Carlos, alone on the Hope of Life village road, I was starting to feel a little anxious. Finally, Carlos got in the vehicle and we rode out of the village taking us up the hill into town and the school. I sat there and talked to some of the families, I could see the deep concern, their faces filled with uncertainty and fear. "God has this, you are safe, everything will be fine".

After talking to some of the families for a few minutes, I decided to drive to the top of the hill that descends down into HOL village, when I arrived families were screaming at me, "Chris, don't go down, it's gone, it's all gone. Don't go, it's not safe, you will be killed." A man named Ramon said, "Chris, my house is gone, there is nothing left". He was horrified. The massive river that surged behind the mountain found a two new paths to unleash it's force and power. These were directly through the village. The village was completely destroyed.

Early the next morning as I made my way down to the village, countless people from our town and the families of the village were trying to salvage what they could find. Upon entering the village, the massive horror was realized, I started to bawl, looking at the sheer and massive destruction. Rony, a young man from our town, saw me and ran over to me. He said, "Chris, keep it together, you have to be strong for them, don't let them see you cry, they need you"!

He Is With Us in the Storm

Pictures do not do it justice, you would have to see it first hand to realize the devastation. Ramon was right, his house was completely gone. There was no foundation, nothing. There were huge trees, boulders and mountains of sand that stretched the length of the village all the way to the highway which is a good half a mile away.



He Is With Us in the Storm

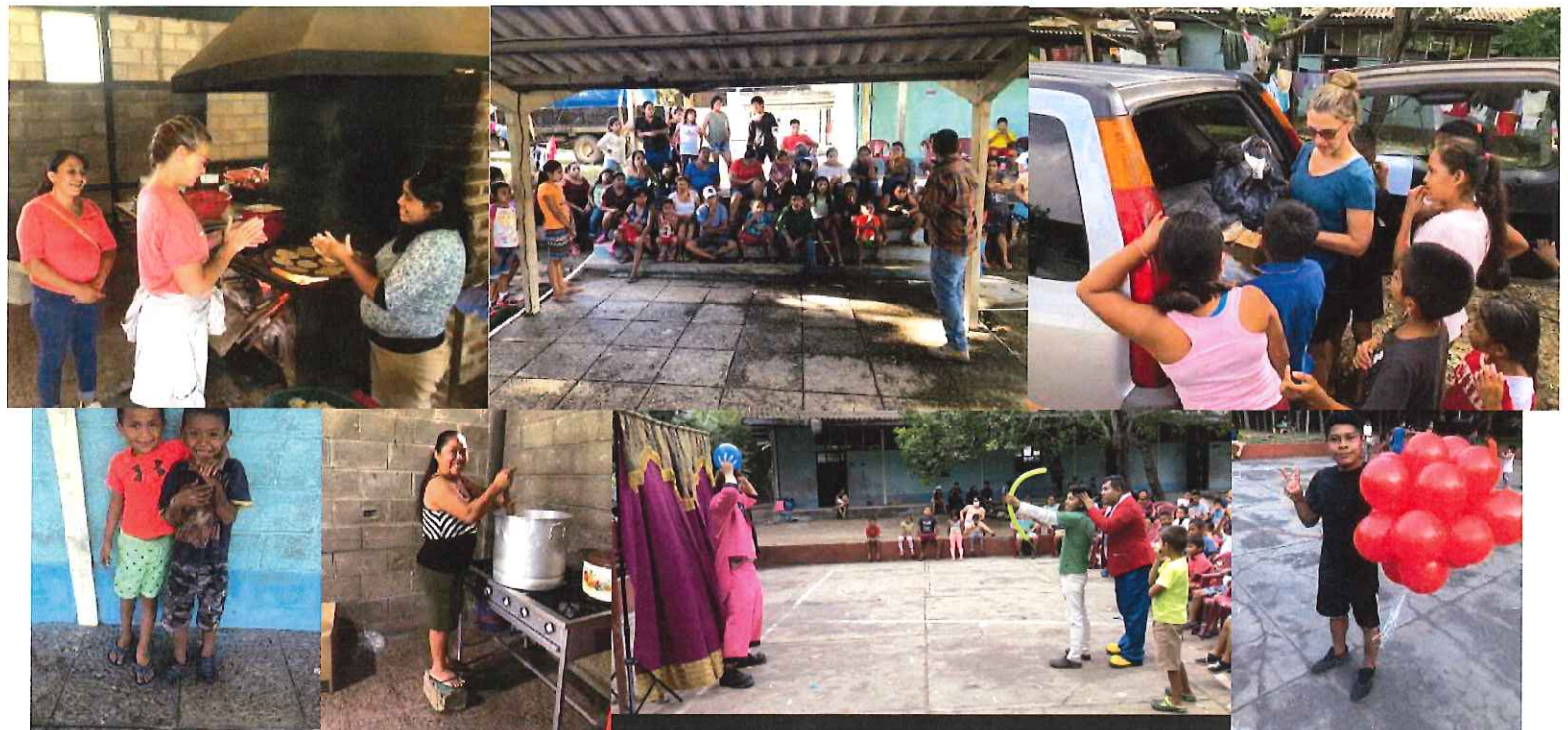
It was a true miracle that no-one was injured, no lives were lost and the families were safe. God was with us and he protected each one. Half of the families remained at the school in Llano Verde, while the other half were moved to a church in Pata Galana, in a neighboring village. The families remained there for several days until a better solution would present itself.

That night 50 homes and everything they had worked so hard to obtain, along with our church, daycare, leather shop, our supply of medicine, medical supplies, school supplies, shoes and clothing, and our future computer lab/library was all destroyed by the forces of the storm. Everyone was devastated and scared and the future was so uncertain.

By November 10th, half of our families had been slowly moving out of the school and church into rooms and homes they found to rent. The remaining half of our families who didn't have the resources to pay rent moved into an abandoned school down the road in Rosario. Everyday we could see God strengthening them and assuring them that He is with them.

The Mayor of Rosario opened the doors of the school for the remaining 24 families who needed a place to live. The families remained there until the end of the year. There was 3 buildings in the school. We had one building large enough for women and small children. A second building for the older boys and the men. The women would work in groups, taking turns cooking for all the families every day. The kids had a soccer court. We had a storage area for donations and a full kitchen. A large portion of the food that the families received during this time was supplied through your generous donations to Passion 4 Guatemala. Since the Covid pandemic in March 2020 and the closing of Guatemala's borders, businesses suffered greatly here and lead to a loss of work and shortage of food. Because of you Passion 4 Guatemala was able to stand in the gap and provide our families with bi-weekly food deliveries. Thank you to all who gavel!

I know many of you wanted to come and help during this time. Unfortunately it was impossible due to the difficulties of getting in and out of the country and the closing of Hope of Life. Your love, prayers and finances have helped tremendously and continue to do so to this day. It has also been wonderful to see the Guatemalan community reaching out to help during this time! Churches, families, restaurants, towns, businesses and individuals have come to the rescue. They provided food, clothing, mattresses, medicine, toiletries and toys! It was a blessing to see Guatemalans helping Guatemalans! They also brought entertainment!



He Is With Us in the Storm

Please also pray for how God is asking you to help. As the body of Christ, each of us plays an important role to do and complete the work He has set out before us. We are truly grateful for what each and every one of you have already done and we look forward to continuing our partnership with you in the future.

If you would like to sponsor a child, provide a scholarship or have questions about our ministry or how to help, please email us through: passion4guatemala@aol.com

If you would like to help us in our efforts to rebuild the community and/or provide necessities for these families, you can donate by check:

Passion 4 Guatemala
Send to: Passion 4 Guatemala
445 Abbitt Branch Road
Appomattox, Va 24522

Or visit our website at: www.passion4guatemala.com Click Donate to Passion 4 Guatemala under menu tab.

~Together we will not only be building homes and a new community, we will be building lives!~

Walking through the remains of the village the other day, I came across this Bible laying in one of the homes in the dirt and debris. I was curious to find what scriptures the flood left the pages of the Bible open to. I picked it up and began to read :



Psalm 91:9-13 If you say, "The Lord is my refuge,"
and you make the Most High your dwelling,
no harm will overtake you,
no disaster will come near your tent.
For he will command his angels concerning you
to guard you in all your ways;
they will lift you up in their hands,
so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.
You will tread on the lion and the cobra;
you will trample the great lion and the serpent. The Lord was
their refuge, no harm overtook them in the flood. Disaster came,
but they were not in their homes. He was with them in the Storm!

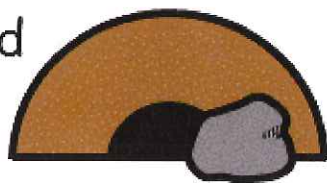
Blessings and Love,

Chris and Paula McNutt

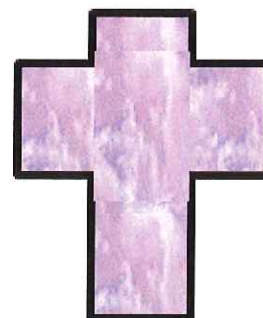
Easter Word Search

T H O R N S W Y S M L A P N G
 K R I S E N Y C E N O T S E C
 R E T S O O R D R K H O T V R
 B E L I E V E S E O N H B I U
 Y T P M E Z D X S Y S O C G C
 E C I F I R C A S E A S D R I
 E V I L A L N B M O T R B O F
 S I N U I N N A I L S C T F Y
 W V G F A E N P I L A T E E S
 B R E A D E Y A R P D I E D B

alive
 believe
 betrayed
 bread
 cross
 crucify
 died
 donkey
 empty
 forgiven







Gethsemane
 guards
 hosanna
 life
 nails
 palms
 Pilate
 prayed
 risen
 rooster



sacrifice
 sin
 son
 stone
 thorns
 tomb

2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
4  6:30 AM Sunrise Service, front of church 9:30 AM – Worship, Sanctuary 9:30 AM – Children's Sunday School 10:30 AM – Genesis Sunday School, LH	5 7:00 PM – Prayer Time, Sanctuary	6 8:30-9:30 AM – Exercise Class, Legacy Hall 9:30-11:00 AM – Church Office Staff Meeting 6:30-8:30 PM – Celebrate Recovery	7 5:30 PM – Handbell Practice 7:00 PM – P & G	1 8:30-9:30 AM – Exercise Class, Legacy Hall Holy Thursday 7:00 PM – Maundy Thursday service	2  Good Friday	3  Holy Saturday
11 9:30 AM – Inside Worship, Sanctuary 9:30 AM – Children & Youth Sunday School, enter above Daycare Entrance. 10:30 AM – Genesis Sunday School, Legacy Hall (all welcome)	12	13 8:30-9:30 AM – Exercise Class, Legacy Hall 6:30-8:30 PM – Celebrate Recovery	14 5:30 PM – Handbell Practice 7:00 PM – Worship Committee Meeting	15 8:30-9:30 AM – Exercise Class, Legacy Hall 7:00 PM – Missions Committee Meeting	16	17
18 9:30 AM – Worship, Sanctuary 9:30 AM – Children's Sunday School, enter above Daycare Entrance. (Youth in service) 10:30 AM – Genesis Sunday School, Legacy Hall (all welcome)	19 6:00 PM – Finance Meeting 7:00 PM – Prayer Time, Sanctuary	20 8:30-9:30 AM – Exercise Class, Legacy Hall 6:30-8:30 PM – Celebrate Recovery	21 5:30 PM – Handbell Practice 7:30 PM – Church Council	22 Newsletter Deadline 8:30-9:30 AM – Exercise Class, Legacy Hall	23	24
25 9:30 AM – Worship, Sanctuary 9:30 AM – Children & Youth Sunday School 10:30 AM – Genesis Sunday School, Legacy Hall (all welcome)	26	27 8:30-9:30 AM – Exercise Class, Legacy Hall 6:30-8:30 PM – Celebrate Recovery	28 9:30 AM – Newsletter Mailing Team 5:30 PM – Handbell Practice	29 8:30-9:30 AM – Exercise Class, Legacy Hall	30	

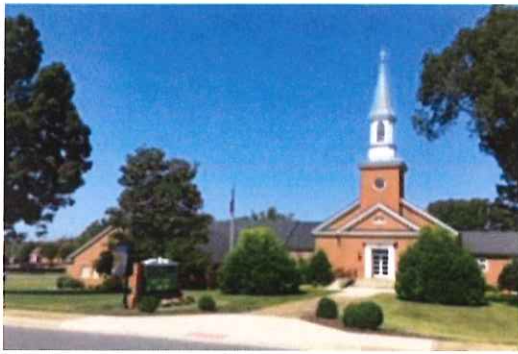


John

11:25-26 (niv)

"Jesus said to her, I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die."

Happy Easter!



Memorial United Methodist Church

Our Vision is to Help People Grow in the Love and Joy of Jesus Christ

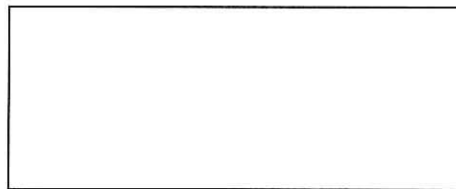


Sunday, in-person worship at 9:30 AM in the Sanctuary.

Enter at front entrance (Court Street);

Live-streamed in Legacy Hall

Also Online service at [MEMUMC.ORG/FB](https://www.memumc.org/fb)), or LISTEN - 89.3FM



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Permit #33

Return Service Requested
Memorial United Methodist Church
P.O. Box 9
Appomattox, VA 24522