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If you'd like to receive the newsletter by e-mail,
(and help us save postage), please call the church
at 440-576-4561 or drop us a line at
jeannie@jeffersonumc.com

Office hours are from 9:00 to 2:30. Monday thru Friday

**Our Mission: To make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of
the world.**

February 24, 2021

Volume 81



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

"You, God, are my God, earnestly I seek you: I thirst for you, my whole being longs for you, in a dry and parched land where there is no water. I have seen you in the sanctuary and beheld your power and your glory. Because your love is better than life, my lips will glorify you. I will praise you as long as I live, and in your name I will lift up my hands. I will be fully satisfied as with the richest of foods: with singing lips my mouth will praise you. On my bed I remember you; I think of you through the watches of the night. Because you are my help, I sing in the shadow of your wings. I cling to you; your right hand upholds me." **Psalm 63:1-8**

"In the Pandemic Cave"

In my daily/weekly devotions and times of quiet reflection, I often turn to selected verses from the Bible to meditate upon. During this time of the virus life coupled with the season of Lent 2021, I especially have found comfort in various passages in the Psalms.

Recently I reflected upon the words of Psalm 63 (as printed above). This Psalm was written by David when his life was in danger from Saul and he was hiding in the Desert of Judah, probably living in a cave. His words speak to us of loneliness and deep, deep longing that only God can satisfy.

Bible commentary on this Psalm reminds us also that night was divided into three watches. When verse 6 says: "On my bed I remember you: I think of you through the watches of the night." David is talking about a sleepless night.

Have you ever had a sleepless night? There are lots of different reasons that we may have a sleepless night and lots of suggestions on how to get back to sleep. But here's an idea that you may want to consider. Turn your sleepless night into a time of worship and reflection thinking about how God had guided you and helped you in your life. Maybe even listen to some hymns or soft Christian music and "sing in the shadow of your (God's) wings" and let God's right hand uphold you. Something to think about.



Be Blessed,

Pastor Doug

SUSANNA'S CUPBOARD

Who can put items in the cupboard?

ANYONE can! YOU can! If you run across a great sale, perhaps spare a few and give them to Susanna. When you bring things, just park them in the cupboard and be happy. If you would prefer to drop them off and have us load it, please leave donations in Lee Dey Ermand's Mission Office.

What items can we accept? Canned foods, especially things with protein, chicken, beef stew, tuna, (canned plain beans not so much) shelf-stable milk, trail mix, cereal, tea bags, cereal bars, cocoa mix, popcorn, fruit juice, seasonings, rice, noodles, pasta and sauces, pouches of stew, pouches of mashed potatoes, toiletries, baby diapers, adult briefs, paper towels and toilet paper. We cannot accept toys, clothing, or damaged, open, or out of date packages. We have received used clothing items. These rightly should go to Spider Web. We do accept, and indeed hope for, new hats, gloves, and socks. Any brand-new socks are wonderful, but for the homeless the greatest favorite is men's white crew socks.

Thank you! Thank you! We are almost keeping up with the demand because of your faithful donations! Just about the time we fear the worst, you come through and deliver groceries to the cupboard, or donate money, or bring groceries to be stocked later. We appreciate every bit of it.

Gifts of Bibles! We were recently given a donation that will enable us to resume offering Bibles in Susanna's Cupboard. To date we have given 17 Bibles and will soon receive a shipment of 9 more. THANK YOU!



COMMUNITY OUTREACH TEAM

Your community outreach team is asking for help in locating anyone you know who is homeless. We do have homeless people in Jefferson. If you meet someone who is homeless, please tell them about **Susanna's Cupboard**. We want them to know there is help at JUMC, and that we care about them. No strings! We are currently looking into additional ways to help the homeless. Any suggestions you have are welcome.

YOUR JUMC LIBRARY

We receive fresh magazines each month on issues in Christian Living. Stop in and see what we have.

All three books recommended by Pastor Doug in his sermon on Sunday, Feb. 7 are in your JUMC library.

We already owned The Hole in Our Gospel, and Half Time and The Will of God was recently added. They will be on the desk in the middle of the library for the first ones who want them.

Easter books are now on display.

STORY SESSIONS HAVE BEGUN!

Every Friday a new story will be featured on the church YouTube channel. To watch the videos go to "Jefferson UMC Jefferson, Ohio" on YouTube or watch on the church Facebook page. The videos will remain on the page so your children can watch them multiple times if they wish.

If you would like to volunteer to read a story with a positive message, or even share a talent like singing a song, contact Kathy Housel at 440-487-0527, kmhousel1962@gmail.com, or leave a message at the church and we will contact you.

VERSE of the day

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.

- 1 John 4:7

VOICE of the day

Our job is to love others without stopping to inquire whether or not they are worthy. That is not our business and, in fact, it is nobody's business.

- Thomas Merton

PRAYER of the day

God, you have bound us together in a common life. Help us, in the midst of our struggles for justice and truth, to confront one another without hatred or bitterness, and to work together with mutual mercy, respect, and love.

- Adapted from the Book of Common Prayer

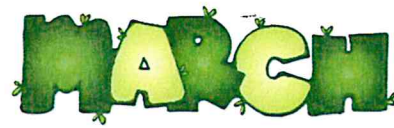
BOOK CIRCLE FOR 2021

UPDATED!! UPDATED!! UPDATED!!

March	<u>The Daughters of Erietown</u> by Connie Schultz
April	<u>Educated</u> by Tara Westover
May	<u>They Went Left</u> by Monica Hesse
June	<u>Across the Winding River</u> by Aimie K. Runyan
July	<u>Inspired</u> by Rachel Held Evans

This is the list of the books for the daytime book circle for the upcoming months. We decided to wait until at least March to continue our daytime book circle. If the weather is OK in March to meet outside, we will. Or, if we feel comfortable meeting apart in Angel Wing, we might do that. If not, we'll push everything ahead & start up in April. Since a few of our members can't do zoom, we will not consider that at this time.

Keep reading!



BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Ron Watson
- 2 Don Sotka
- 4 Dave Flaum
- 5 Mike Czayka
- 6 Christian Ward
Glenn Jackson, Jr.
- 7 Claire Loveland
- 9 Melissa Sowry
Joy Sirrine
- 10 Aubrey Waldo
Mark Sowry
- 11 Steve Miller
- 13 Marion Peck
Rick Zack
Linda Springer
- 15 Heather Sowry
- 16 Carol Bragga
- 17 Josh Arrington
- 18 Brittney Roden
- 19 Cliff Currier
Jo Buell
- 21 Gary Phillips
- 22 Thomas Gage
- 25 Alex Czayka
- 26 Tyler Locy
- 27 Ben Allen
- 28 Lauri Allen
- 29 Paul Bishop
- 30 KayAnn Brabender

(If you'd like your birthday listed, just call the church office.)

MANY WAYS TO GIVE...

- Through the generous contributions of our church family we continue to keep focusing on our mission to make and mature disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

There are many ways you can participate in the financial support of our church and its ministries:

1. If you are attending worship in person, bring your offering to the worship service – OR –
2. Drop off your contribution to the church office throughout the week – OR—
3. Mail your contribution to the church – OR –
4. Set up direct EFT (electronic funds transfer) payments from your bank account using the form available at the church office (there is no charge for this service) – OR –
5. Go to the church website www.jeffersonumc.com and click on the green “GIVE” button to give online. This provides a quick, easy method to make contributions to the work of the church on either a one-time or an ongoing (weekly, monthly, etc.) basis. The payments are processed by a company called VANCO, which has the approval of the East Ohio Conference of the United Methodist Church. The donations are made either by direct payment from a checking account or by charging to a credit or debit card. The church is responsible for processing fees of 1% for bank transfers and 2.75% for credit/debit card payments. The site offers an option for you to add those fees to your payment, but only if you choose to do so. The website is very user friendly. You can select the fund you want to donate to, the amount you want to contribute, and the frequency of the donations; and then enter your bank or credit card and contact information. After you sign in you will be able to track your online giving at any time.

JUMC “General Fund” Monthly Summary through <u>January 31, 2021</u>	
Monthly Budget	\$29,702
Average Monthly Contributions	\$19,961
Average Monthly Expenses	\$24,679
“Shared Ministries” (Conference Apportionments) Paid*	14.1%

**We are excited to report that thanks to everyone’s faithful giving we were able to pay 100% of our East Ohio Conference Shared Ministries obligation for 2020. Praise God!*



COVID TIPS AND HINTS



- **Bacteria versus viruses:** Germs are a catch all category that includes bacteria, viruses and fungi (plural of fungus). Many products now sold as sanitizing products say they kill 99% of bacteria – they don't say they kill viruses and they do not have an EPA number or language related to killing coronavirus. So, how is this important? Please keep reading.
- **Know that sanitizing is not the same as disinfecting.** Sanitizing (reduces the risk of illness by killing 99.9% of bacteria) usually takes less time — sometimes just 30 to 60 seconds — while disinfecting (killing 99.999% of germs) can take anywhere up to 10 minutes, depending on the product – read the instructions on the label. Before using any disinfecting product, start by reading the label to make sure it is registered with the EPA and to see what strains of bacteria and viruses it kills. The EPA registration number can usually be found in small type on the bottom of the front or back label, and the bacteria and viruses the product is effective against are also usually listed. Go to the official EPA web site to find their "List N" of products which are effective at killing human coronavirus. Employees in stores spray and immediately wipe so don't assume the cart handles have been effectively treated. Always read the label to know how much "wet" time is needed to kill the virus – it may be 30 seconds or 10 minutes. Refer to reliable sources (Dr. Fauci, CDC, EPA, FDA) for sound scientific information.
- **Vaccine protection:** Your best protection against the virus comes with 2 doses of the vaccine but it doesn't mean 100% protection. You could still contract the virus but would have a much less severe illness. CDC tells us to continue to act as if you haven't been vaccinated. Continue to wear a mask (double or triple layer woven cotton or medical grade surgical mask) covering mouth and nose. Gaiters and bandanas are not recommended but are better than no covering. Continue to maintain distance and wash your hands frequently.
- **Gloves versus handwashing versus hand sanitizer.** If you have access to soap and water, hand washing is always the first choice. The friction of washing for at least 20 seconds with non-bacterial soap and water effectively washes those germs down the drain. Anti-bacterial soaps help create germs that are resistant to antibiotics so they are not recommended. Hand sanitizers are great when away from home when hand washing is not easily available and should be 70%-100% isopropyl or ethyl alcohol to be effective. Remember that once you have worn gloves and touched anything, they are no longer "clean". Also, germs adhere to gloves more readily than they do to your hands and your hands are much easier to wash.

So, after reading all these things we have to also remember that spring is just around the corner - warm days, warm sunshine, Easter, flowers and more – I saw a robin last week (week of Feb. 1!).



Martha Haluszka, Health Ministry

Jefferson UM Church, Holidays in United States

Mar 2021 (Eastern Time - New York)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28 9:30am - Worship 6pm - Youth Group	1 First Day of Women's 12pm - Chamber Lunch 6:30pm - Ad Board	2 9am - Open Sanctuary 9:30am - Ministry Team 4pm - Christian Cafe @ 6:30pm - Cub Scouts	3 10am - Bible Study	4 12pm - Blood Drive 6:30pm - Lenten Study	5	6 8:30am - Stephen
7 9:30am - Worship 6pm - Youth Group	8	9 9am - Open Sanctuary 9:30am - Ministry Team 6:30pm - Cub Scouts 6:30pm - Trustee's	10 10am - Bible Study	11 3pm - Quilters 6:30pm - Lenten Study	12	13
14 Daylight Saving Time 9:30am - Worship 6pm - Youth Group	15	16 9am - Open Sanctuary 9:30am - Ministry Team 4pm - Christian Cafe @ 6:30pm - Cub Scouts	17 St. Patrick's Day 10am - Bible Study	18 6:30pm - Lenten Study	19	20
21 9:30am - Worship 6pm - Youth Group	22	23 9am - Open Sanctuary 9:30am - Ministry Team 6:30pm - Cub Scouts	24 10am - Bible Study	25 6:30pm - Lenten Study	26	27
28 Pam Sunday 9:30am - Worship 6pm - Youth Group	29	30 9am - Open Sanctuary 9:30am - Ministry Team 6:30pm - Cub Scouts	31 Good Friday 10am - Bible Study	1 7pm - Maunday	2	3 8:30am - Stephen