

Longstreet United Methodist Church
5268 Airways Blvd.
Memphis, TN 38116



“WORKS OF THE HEART”

Longstreet United Methodist Church

5268 Airways Blvd.
Memphis, TN, 38116
901-346-0552

April 2020
Rev. Tondala Hayward, Pastor

A Note from Our Pastor



Light in the Wilderness

Then the Spirit led Jesus up into the wilderness so that the devil might tempt him. After Jesus had fasted for forty days and forty nights, he was starving. The tempter came to him and said, “Since you are God’s Son, command these stones to become bread.” Jesus replied, “It’s written, People won’t live only by bread, but by every word spoken by God.” After that the devil brought him into the holy city and stood him at the highest point of the temple. He said to him, “Since you are God’s Son, throw yourself down; for it is written, I will command my angels concerning you, and they will take you up in their hands so that you

won’t hit your foot on a stone.” Jesus replied, “Again it’s written, *Don’t test the Lord your God.*” Then the devil brought him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. He said, “I’ll give you all these if you bow down and worship me.” Jesus responded, “Go away, Satan, because it’s written, *You will worship the Lord your God and serve only him.*” The devil left him, and angels came and took care of him. (Matthew 4:1-11 CEB)

Right in the midst of Lent, God allowed the world to experience a serious and even fatal virus Coronavirus or COVID-19. It’s amazing to me how God’s timing is always perfect because we are in the season of Lent, which means we are praying, repenting and fasting to grow into a deeper relationship with God. I hope the pandemic hasn’t deterred you from your time of self-examination and self-reflection. It’s important to still honor Lent in the midst of chaos because it helps us to become better disciples.

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This pandemic has allowed us to experience what it feels like to be in the wilderness. Recently, Vernon Spence took me on a nature walk in the woods behind the church. We were looking at the orange property line markers the developers tied on the trees and placed in the ground. He showed me a creek, deer tracks and beautiful wildflowers. We looked at the path the developers cleared from Holmes Road to Robert Roop's property. When it was time to journey back to the church, I stood for a few seconds and looked around. I told Vernon, "I see why hikers make sure they know landmarks while hiking in the woods." I made that comment since the markers showed me the way back to church. Vernon knew the way because he knew the layout of the property. I only knew the layout of the orange boundary markers. But if the orange markers weren't there, I knew Vernon would get us back to the church. I trusted Vernon! Therefore, I wasn't worried about snakes or other creepy crawlers. I believed Vernon wouldn't lead me to dangerous territory. When we got back to the church, I noticed my shoes and pants were muddy, but I didn't care. I had a wonderful nature walk with my brother in Christ Vernon. Thanks!!

Why did I share this story with you? Jesus is always with us shining his light in the wilderness. Our Heavenly Father watches over us in the wilderness and will send angels to take care of our needs. So, let's praise God

during these times of uncertainty. Because the one thing that is certain is — GOD IS WITH US! God will never leave or forsake us. That's why, we have to be strong and courageous in the wilderness. Sometimes it takes a wilderness experience for parents to have meaningful conversations with their children. Sometimes it takes a wilderness experience for spouses to find ways to resolve conflict and/or find ways to express and cherish their love.

Sometimes it takes a wilderness experience for us to become better stewards of our finances because of unemployment, decreased work hours, or the realization of needing to save money.

Often, it takes a wilderness experience for us to develop ways to connect with each other so that we can worship and give glory to God. The wilderness experience should help us journey into a deeper faithful relationship with the Lord. And like Jesus, we need to rebuke Satan - worship the Lord our God - and serve God only! In doing so, The Lord will lead us out of the wilderness. Thus, while being "Safer at Home" - let's pray for a safer home, city, state, country and world. Let's remember the sayings of Jesus "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life." (John 8:12) As the light of Jesus' shines on earth and in heaven, Lord help us to walk by faith and not by sight!

Singing the lyrics to "*Great is Thy Faithfulness*" may give you peace beyond your understanding:

"Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness!

Morning by morning new mercies I see;

All I have needed Thy hand hath provided—

Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!"

May the Lord be with us,
Pastor Tondala



Church Office Hours

During this time of uncertainty, the church office will be closed until the mayor of Memphis lifts the mandate of working from home. I will be checking in at least once each week to get mail and take care of bills that are due, as well as helping with the Food Pantry on Wednesdays. I will check phone messages from home each day, so if there is anything I can help you with just leave a message on the church phone and I will get back with you as soon as possible.



Our deepest sympathy goes out to Jerry Crutcher and the entire family, on the passing of Nina Crutcher on Saturday, March 14th. Please keep this family in your thoughts and prayers as they go through this difficult time. Nina would have been 97 years old on April 24th.



April Birthdays

Melissa Gooch	April 4
Virginia Green	April 12
David Carson	April 14
Dana McCrady	April 17
Jared Rawlings	April 30



Longstreet UMC Prayer Ministry

Call the church office to add to the *E-mail* or *Phone Prayer Chain*, or call Martha McCrady (901-517-5667) to add to the *Phone Prayer Chain*.

Prayer Cards are in the pew racks for your use.

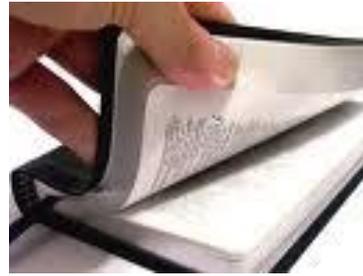
Prayer Room

The Longstreet Prayer Room is located in Jones Family Life Center and is now open for you to have a quiet place for a time of prayer. Please contact Norma Coughran or Martha McCrady if you have any questions.



Please make a note of the following new address:

Lynn Rawlings
453 Sullivan Drive
Memphis, TN 38109



Weekly Scriptures

Here are the weekly scriptures for the month of April. Pastor Tondala would like to challenge everyone to memorize these verses each week!

4/5 John 13:16
"Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him."

4/12 Philippians 4:8
"Whatever is true, noble, right, pure, lovely, admirable – if anything is excellent or praiseworthy – think about such things."

4/19 Lamentations 3:40
"Let us eXamine our ways and test them, and let us return to the Lord."

4/26 Matthew 5:14
"You are the light of the world – like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden."



Something to Consider

How many of you have considered your church when you made up your will? Many people are now remembering their church when putting their will together, leaving a part of their accumulated earnings to help their church with a financial gift. Please prayerfully consider adding Longstreet into your will. Your gift will be a legacy that will forever be remembered and will be used to help Longstreet remain on this hill for years to come, sharing the Love of Jesus throughout this community. If you have any questions you can talk to Pastor Tondala, or to Leesa Downs, our church Treasurer. Thank you in advance for taking this into consideration.

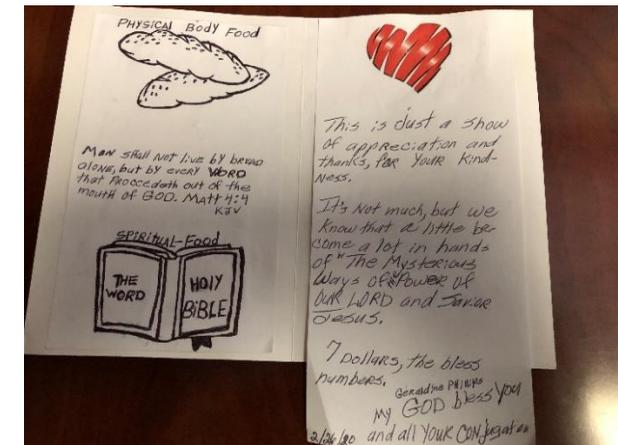


Lifeline Screening Cancelled

The Lifeline Screening event that was scheduled for Friday, April 3rd, has been cancelled for now. We will get with them when things settle down from the COVID19 quarantines to see if they can reschedule us for another time this summer. We will let you know as soon as we receive more information

Food Pantry Blessing

We had a new person come to our Food Pantry one Wednesday in late February. As she was filling out the required paperwork, she motioned for Pastor Tondala to come over to the table where she sat and handed her a small envelope. She said, "It isn't much, but I like to try and give back to those who are helping others in need." Pastor Tondala opened the envelope to find the following note, with 7 one-dollar bills enclosed.



After reading the note, she then brought the note and offering to me. It brought both of us to tears, as we were so touched by the generosity and sacrifice this woman had made. When I went to thank her, she said she knew it wasn't much, but it was all she had at the time. I then told her of our partnership with the Mid-South Food Bank, and how we had just filled the back end of my vehicle with food for only \$13. We let her know that her \$7 would go a very long way in providing food for those in need. We wanted to share this blessing with you, so you could also be touched by this very special lady!



Thursday Share Group

The Thursday Share Group meets every other Thursday evening at 6:30 p.m. in the home of Cindy Roseberry. During this time of quarantine, we obviously are suspending all group activities. But once things get back on track, this group will let us know their schedule, and would love to have you come join them. Please call Cindy Roseberry if you have any questions about this group (662-342-599).



IMPORTANT INFORMATION

The April newsletter contains articles that reflect us in this time of isolation. We of course are praying we will be able to resume normal activities soon. If the time of isolation is extended, scheduled activities will of course be cancelled or postponed. If you are in doubt you can call the church office and leave a message. We will do our best to check messages as often as we can.

Free Community Dinner



Our monthly Community Dinner will be held on Tuesday, April 21st. We will once again prepare meals-to-go that can be picked up at the door starting at 5:30. The menu for this month is pizza, salad, and dessert. There is no charge for this meal, but we do gladly accept donations to help us cover the cost. We will continue to have updates on the phone answer machine that will hopefully answer any of your questions. Please contact Lynn Rawlings if you would like to help her on the 21st.



Confirmation Class for 6th – 12th Graders

Confirmation class for 6th through 12th graders will be rescheduled from April and May until sometime this fall. This will be for 6th through 12th graders, and will be held on Sunday mornings during the Sunday School hour. Confirmation of those who attend will be held at the conclusion of the classes. Pastor Tondala will keep us updated as to when they will begin.

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Thank you for your faithfulness to God. Because of your faithfulness, Longstreet UMC has been in existence since 1847. We've experienced many JOYS on the hill! But as you know we struggle with our finances. That's why we included an "Estimate of Giving" card" with this month's newsletter. Pastor Tondala and the Finance Committee thought it would help all of us give the first fruits of our finances to the House of the Lord.

Malachi 3:10 says – *“Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this,” says the Lord Almighty, “and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it.”*

If God wanted the Jews to give a tenth of their earnings to the church to support it, God wants us to do the same. In doing so - hopefully, we will be able to decrease the 70% Equitable Compensation received from the Conference to pay our pastor's salary. We want to become less dependent on the Conference. With God's help and your faithful giving, we can decrease the amount of Equitable Compensation. The Conference wants us to work towards becoming self-sustainable. Therefore, it is with uttermost importance that we discern what The Lord wants us to give to the church.

May the Lord be with us,
Pastor Tondala
Finance Committee

What Does Faith Refer To

God says, “What does faith refer to? Faith is the genuine belief and the sincere heart that humans should possess when they cannot see or touch something, when God’s work is not in line with human notions, when it is beyond human reach. This is the faith that I speak of.”

