

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

May and June 2020
Rev. Tondala Hayward, Pastor

A Note from Our Pastor



A Time for Everything

There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens:

a time to be born and a time to die,
a time to plant and a time to uproot,
a time to kill and a time to heal,
a time to tear down and a time to build,
a time to weep and a time to laugh,
a time to mourn and a time to dance,
a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them,
a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing,
a time to search and a time to give up,
a time to keep and a time to throw away,
a time to tear and a time to mend,

a time to be silent and a time to speak,
a time to love and a time to hate,
a time for war and a time for peace.
Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

As I sat at my kitchen table contemplating on this month's newsletter article, I thought about the 6th chapter of the Gospel of Matthew. As I was reading the Sermon on the Mount, I focused on verses 25-34 because Jesus was teaching about worry. I wanted to reassure you and tell you not to worry about this pandemic because God has everything under control. These verses remind us to seek God's kingdom first and the righteousness of God. It tells us not to worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

As I sat and continued to meditate over the Gospel, the Holy Spirit guided me to Ecclesiastes 3. I read chapters 1 through 12. While reading Ecclesiastes, I was astonished about the validity of the words of Solomon to today's world.

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Let's take a look at the story of Solomon...

Solomon is King David's son. He was his father's successor. One day Solomon summoned the nation's leaders to a ceremony in Gibeon. He sacrificed 1,000 burnt offerings to the Lord on the bronze altar in front of the Tabernacle. That night God appeared to Solomon and said to him, "Ask for whatever you want me to give you." Solomon answered God, "You have shown great kindness to David my father and have made me king in his place. Now, Lord God, let your promise to my father David be confirmed, for you have made me king over a people who are as numerous as the dust of the earth. Give me wisdom and knowledge, that I may lead this people, for who is able to govern this great people of yours?" God said to Solomon, "Since this is your heart's desire and you have not asked for wealth, possessions or honor, nor for the death of your enemies, and since you have not asked for a long life but for wisdom and knowledge to govern my people over whom I have made you king, therefore wisdom and knowledge will be given you. And I will also give you wealth, possessions, and honor, such as no king who was before you ever had and none after you will have."

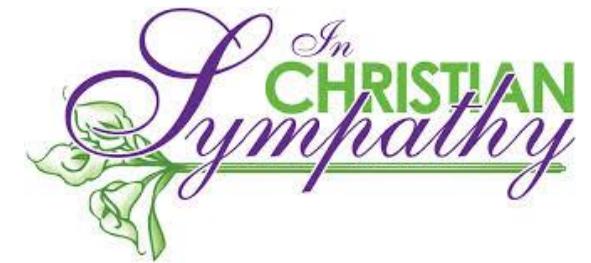
2 Chronicles 1:7-12 (NIV)

Solomon was very wealthy. He was the wealthiest king who ever lived. Leaders from other nations came to learn from him. God wanted him to build the temple instead of his father, King David. He built it with the most

expensive materials - cedar, pine, bronze, gold etc. to worship God and to house the Ark of the Covenant, which contained the gold jar of manna, Aaron's staff that had budded, and the Ten Commandments. Unfortunately, Solomon disobeyed God by intermarrying women from foreign nations. God told the Israelites intermarrying was forbidden because foreign women will try to get them to follow their gods. But Solomon was obsessed with foreign women. He had 700 wives who were princesses and 300 wives who were concubines. In his old age, the women convinced him to follow their pagan gods. Thus, Solomon didn't follow God wholeheartedly like his father. His actions angered God. Later in life before his death, he reflected and wrote about his life experiences. In Ecclesiastes he taught us money, knowledge, pleasure, work, and popularity won't give us a meaningful life. Solomon believes true satisfaction comes from working to fulfill God's purpose for our lives. Solomon concluded Ecclesiastes with these verses: "**Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter: Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the duty of all mankind. For God will bring every deed into judgment, including every hidden thing whether it is good or evil.**" Ecclesiastes 12:13-14 (NIV)

Reflection: Solomon was like his father, King David - a man after God's own heart. But he turned away from God because of pleasures. During that time, he learned valuable lessons. The most important ones were the last two verses of Ecclesiastes that I mentioned above in bold print. Yes, we should enjoy life! But, we should also commit ourselves to God even in the midst of a pandemic. God is and will take care of us. There will be a time when Covid -19 won't be as destructive. There will be a time when we will be able to gather and embrace each other. There will be a time when we will witness to others about how our relationship with God grew during a pandemic. This time of isolation should give us opportunities to seek life's purpose and meaning so that we can strengthen our faith in God. In doing so, we should fear and obey God. All of us will have to stand before God and be judged for our earthly actions. We can't allow the evil in this world to keep us from making the right decisions. Solomon learned that late in life. But as the old proverbial saying goes: "It's better late than never."

May the Lord be with us,
Pastor Tondala



Our deepest sympathy goes out to Jackie Collinworth and family, on the passing of her mother, Mildred Perry. Please keep this family in your thoughts and prayers.



May Birthdays

Martha McCrady	May 7
Stephen Fink	May 10
Nell Gill	May 12
JoAnn Winbush	May 12
Polly Dixon	May 13



June Birthdays

John Gyetvay	June 8
Randy Winbush	June 14
Rickey Winbush	June 18
Pearl Winchester	June 24



Worship in Sanctuary Returning July 5th

With businesses now reopening, and our government officials taking steps toward getting things “back to normal,” Bishop McAlilly has now said that we can begin gathering together for worship by the end of June. The first service to be held at Longstreet will be on July 5th at 10:00 a.m. Please take note of the stipulations stated by the Bishop for us to once again come together for worship. First, everyone who comes MUST wear a mask. This is mandatory, and no exceptions. We will have a couple of stations set up that everyone will have to go through before entering the Sanctuary. Someone will check your temperature, and you will also be asked a few questions as to if you have been sick recently or if you have possibly been exposed to anyone who has tested positive for Covid19. You will also be asked to use the hand sanitizer provided before taking your seat in the Sanctuary. Some pews will be blocked off, so please stagger yourself from members of other families. Ushers will be available to assist you if needed. We have been asked to not hug or shake hands with others at this time, and to refrain from gathering in groups

where you are closer than the 6’ distance required for proper social distancing. All hymnals, bibles, attendance pads, and other things we are used to having in the pew racks have been removed for now. We will not have a bulletin, but will provide all songs, scriptures, and liturgies on the screen at the front of the room. Children MUST remain with their parents. They cannot be allowed to greet others as they normally would do, and they will not be allowed to roam up and down the aisles due to the directions we have been given by the Bishop. We will not have a nursery until the Bishop lets us know it is ok to move forward with that step. We know this may be difficult for those who have young ones, but we must comply with the stipulations given to us by the United Methodist Conference. We will also not pass the offering plate, but will have stations toward the back of the room where you can leave your offerings as you enter or as you leave. It will be helpful if you bring your gift in an envelope from home, but if you don’t have one, we will have a few set out that you can easily get to.

This will be a very different way of coming together to worship, but at least it will be a start to getting things back to normal. Zoom and the Longstreet Cares Conference Call will still be available for those who are not quite ready to get out in a crowd at this time. This will also be a time of learning, and change, and we ask that everyone please be patient as we try and make things as easy as we possibly can.



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.

Free Community Dinner



Mark your calendar for our monthly Community Dinner on Tuesday, June 16th. We will continue to have this be a drive through and pick up your meals at least for the month of June. We will let you know when we will go back to eating together in Jones Family Life Center. The menu is BBQ chicken, slaw, baked beans and dessert. There is no charge for this meal, but we gladly accept donations to help cover the costs. Contact Lynn Rawlings if you would like to volunteer to help or if you have any questions.



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.

Summer Pastoral Intern

Eric Woods, a member of Heartsong and a pastoral student at Memphis Urban Center of Theological Studies, will be working with us for the summer as he is required to have 32 hours of pastoral assistance for his studies as he works toward going into the ministry. Eric has already joined us at the Food Pantry, and will also help at Community Dinner and other outreach events. Please take moment to say “hello” if you have the opportunity to meet him.

Public Witness and Call to Action Virtual Worship Service

As the Vice Chair of Black Methodist for Church Renewal (BMCR) and as a member of an anti-racism group selected by the Bishop, I want you to be aware of this month's tasks and worship service that will be held to assist with denouncing injustice and promoting justice.

First by June 21, 2020, churches will gather for eight minutes and forty-six seconds to be a public witness against police brutality and injustices that have been inflicted on people of color. Longstreet will engage in this event on **Wednesday, June 17th, at 4:00 pm.** This day and time was selected because Patterson Warehouse employees are walking to the bus stop. It will give us an opportunity to offer a cold bottle of water to our neighbors so that they will know we love our neighbors. You're welcome to wear a shirt or hold up a sign to let others know that you believe in equality for all! A real time picture will be taken to put in a slideshow for United Methodist Church events.

Second on June 28, 2020, John Wesley's birthday, a Pan Methodist virtual worship service will take place at 3:00pm. We realized it's time to begin reconciling the Methodist denomination, since racism was the reason for the divide. This worship service will be prerecorded so that it can air without restrictions on social media streams. At the end of the worship, there will be Call to Action tasks for believers to embark upon. The "From Rebellion to Revolution" team believes it's time to not only have empowering words to denounce

the evil forces of the world, but it's time take action steps to thrust us in the process. Please try to make yourself available so that you can be a witness.

May the peace of Christ be with us,
Pastor Tondala



What's on Your Mind Conversations

The events happening in our nation have reminded many of the Civil Rights Movement. For that reason, people of all ethnicities who lived in that era are becoming weary, depressed, angry, lonely or confused. Additionally, the Coronavirus pandemic is increasing the mental health state of many near and far. That's why, it's vital we engage in fruitful honest conversations with each other and counselors. On Wednesday, June 24th, we will gather at 12:30 by conference call and in person to discuss "What's on Your Mind." If you will have a difficult time offering grace, mercy and forgiveness to those who may say something that you may think is atrocious, please don't join in the conversation. Please seek a professional counselor. We want this to be a safe and vulnerable space without post repercussions. For those who are attending, if additional assistance is needed, I will refer you to counseling. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Take care of yourself, Pastor Tondala



Project Transformation (PT)

The Project Transformation staff asked parents, site pastors and previous college interns: "What are your needs for this summer, since we can't have an in person literacy camp?" They gave staff the following needs: food for children, reading opportunities, fun and play. College interns wanted to stay connected and grow spiritually. After carefully discerning the needs of PT families and college interns, PT Tennessee decided to distribute grab and go lunches Monday through Thursday from 12:00 - 1:00 pm. Dylan Davis is our PT intern, and is at Longstreet Mondays through Thursdays to head up the distribution. In Memphis, these lunches are provided by Shelby County Schools. On Thursdays, students receive a PT in a Bag, which contains a new book, art supplies and activities. Churches provide these bags and volunteer weekly for distribution. Students will also engage in online academic learning and bible time with site pastors via videos as well as a pen pal program. College interns will have virtual bible studies to stay connected to each other and Jesus. If you would like to volunteer, please call the church office. Leesa will get you connected. Camp ends July 23, 2020.

Please continue to pray for all those involved in PT!

Longstreet Project Transformation
Coordination Team



Spring to Summer Cleaning

Many of us have worked tirelessly to upkeep the church. If you have anything of your own stored in the church buildings, please call the church to discuss pick up with Leesa. We're working to make all rooms purposeful and multifunctional. Please call Leesa by June 18, 2020 to identify your items. You can leave a voicemail. The deadline for pick up is June 25, 2020 at noon.



Most of you should have already heard the news that we will be losing our beloved pastor, Tondala Hayward, as of the first of August. Her last day to be with us for worship services will be on July 12th. We will have a special celebration that day to let her know how much we love her and appreciate everything she has done for the people and ministries of Longstreet United Methodist Church. So, mark that date on your calendar and watch for more detailed information in your July newsletter.