

The Centenarian

From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Centenary UMC Family,

²³ The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

² He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.

³ He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

⁴ Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

⁵ Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

⁶ Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

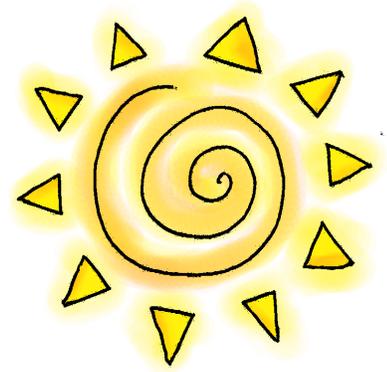
The Tuesday Bible studies have focused on the book of Psalms. The Psalms are poetry, prayers, laments, and praises. They are expressions of people to God during the living of their days. We just discussed this Psalm last week, and I have preached on this text for our recorded church services on May 3rd, the 4th Sunday of Easter. This Psalm is meant for the corporate body of worship, and yet it is so very personal for many. It provides the truth of the situation of the writer, but couched in a positive, trusting light.

The members of the Bible study reflected on each line of the Psalm, reflecting upon the times which we are all enduring in quarantine and away from our church family and friends.

We agreed that the first line, The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want, reminded us of God's protection and providence for our lives in all situations. We can live with what we have, not necessarily our wants. The Lord does provide for us. We also acknowledged that there are people for whom their needs are not being met. That is where we as the church come into play. We are to help be God's hands and feet in the world for our brothers and sisters without.

"He maketh me to lie down in green pastures; he leadeth me beside the still waters". This reminded us that God is our Creator, and one of the blessings during this time has been the ability to get out and enjoy God's creation. People have begun prayer walking their neighborhoods, being good stewards of their lawns, and taking time to reflect upon the beauty around them.

"He restoreth my soul; he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name sake". During the time of quarantine, there have been times of freight, depression, grief, loneliness, and anxiety. However, it is an opportunity for us to sharpen or even began some spiritual practices: time of prayer, Scripture reading, journaling, studying theology, making prayer shawls, making prayer beads, coloring as prayer, talking weekly with a spiritual friend



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or covenant group, listening to differing ministers through television, blogs, podcasts, or varying means on the computer.

“Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.” We have always been aware that God is our Comforter, Protector, Healer, Teacher, Guide, Creator, Sustainer, Savior, Redeemer, and Friend. Every aspect of God has been called upon during this time. We grieve for all who have lost their lives, who are sick, who have lost loved ones, who feel so isolated, and for all who struggle with any issue. The Financial and economic strain is great, and unemployment is at an all time high. Food scarcity, especially for children, is especially heart wrenching. All the problems put us face to face with our own mortality and truly how precious each day of living, and being gifted breath is. Gratitude is on the increase, and respect and help for others should be as well. God alone can comfort, but through Jesus, God commissions all to be witnesses in the world in speech, action, and attitude.

“Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.” This line of the Psalm reminded us during this pandemic how much we miss gathering as a church to partake in the Sacraments. The memory of our church coming forward – men, women, youth, children – of all ages, nations, and races, to receive the feast of bread and wine from their host God. To then go to the altar for a time of prayer consisting of confession, absolution, direction, and gratitude. We discussed that our prayer is that after our time apart that when we gather all people will have a new respect and comradery for one another. The enemy may be less than the friends. People will have differences, but not mean-spirited personal preferences, attitudes, or actions against another. We were also reminded of the waters of baptism, which represent to us a cleansing of our sins, and a uniting of the one body in Christ. God’s grace allows our lives to be filled with hope, faith, and love.

“Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.” It was so interesting that during our discussion of the Psalm, overwhelmingly, the last line brought the most comfort to most of the readers. The concept of goodness and mercy not only following people but pursuing people – all the days of their lives was so hopeful. It reminded us that even in our darkest nights, joy comes in the morning, at least eventually. The promise of always having a place to dwell with God is a constant comfort. The Scripture from Romans 8:34-39 is echoed here: ³⁴Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. ³⁵Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? ³⁶As it is written: “For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.” ³⁷No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, ³⁹neither 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.” There is not any event, situation, or circumstance which will separate us from God’s love in life, in death, in life beyond death. That is the Good news.

It is difficult being apart. The church family misses one another greatly. May we as a congregation, read a Psalm daily as our prayer to keep us connected. Use it to reflect and pray about your personal relationship with God, as well as our corporate missions and ministries of Christ in the Church.

We are the church. We are not housed in a building but bound by the unconditional love of Jesus Christ. Please know that you as a church family are missed greatly. I pray for each of you daily. Please do not hesitate to let me know, 336-285-5081 or call the church 336-299-9643, if we can assist you in any way – a prayer, a need, a listening ear, or to share a laugh.

Until we meet again – May God’s grace bind us together in love.

Grace and Peace

– Kelley

Mission & Outreach Opportunities

- ◆ **Greensboro Urban Ministry** Please continue to support Greensboro Urban Ministry with your donations of non-perishable food items, because they have increased the number of times a year a family can receive assistance. You will need to take donations to their Food Pantry Loading dock (drop off location) is 1002 S. Eugene Street, Greensboro, NC, 27406. Donations may be dropped off Monday-Friday from 8:00 AM—5:00 PM
- ◆ **UMAR** is in need of financial assistance during the pandemic. Their Friends of UMAR luncheons, a major source of funding, have had to be cancelled. Mail a check to UMAR Services, Inc., 5350 77 Center Drive, Charlotte, NC 28217, so that they may continue their mission of quality programming for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities.



Centenary UMC has a heart for food scarcity. We are unable to participate in our Free Community Breakfast and Clothes Closet, at this time, so the Ad Council has decided to use the money allocated for our Community Breakfast for the month of June, \$250.00, to be sent to Out of the Garden Project. We would also like you to consider sending a donation, above and beyond your usual monthly pledge, to support Out of the Garden project. You may make your check payable to Centenary UMC and put Out of the Garden Project on the memo line. They are able to reach the most vulnerable in our community – the children. We will be focusing on this mission throughout the month of June. We thank you for your consideration of this community project, along with our continued mission to feed the hungry in our local community.

THANK YOU so much to everyone who donated to the food drive I recently participated in, A Simple Gesture, a local food bank program in Greensboro. I collected about 30 or so bags of food and I am so grateful for your generosity! I belong to the best church! Whenever there is a need, we all respond.

Much love to all,
Emily Lawing

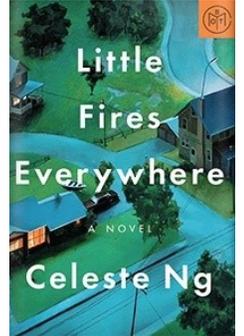
**A Simple
Gesture**



Centenary Starlight Book Club

The Centenary UMC Starlight Book Club will meet on Wednesday, June 17 at 7:00 PM via Zoom. You can participate via phone or computer. Email Kelley to receive your Zoom invitation kgroce@wnccumc.net. Our book discussion for June will be Little Fires Everywhere by Celeste Ng.

From the bestselling author of Everything I Never Told You, a riveting story set in meticulously planned Shaker Heights that traces the intertwined fates of the picture-perfect Richardson family and the enigmatic mother and daughter who upend their lives.



In Shaker Heights, a placid, progressive suburb of Cleveland, everything is planned—from the layout of the winding roads, to the colors of the houses, to the successful lives its residents will go on to lead. And no one embodies this spirit more than Elena Richardson, whose guiding principle is playing by the rules.

Enter Mia Warren—an enigmatic artist and single mother—who arrives in this idyllic bubble with her teenaged daughter Pearl, and rents a house from the Richardsons. Soon Mia and Pearl become more than tenants: all four Richardson children are drawn to the mother-daughter pair. But Mia carries with her a mysterious past and a disregard for the status quo that threatens to upend this carefully ordered community.

When old family friends of the Richardsons attempt to adopt a Chinese-American baby, a custody battle erupts that dramatically divides the town—and puts Mia and Elena on opposing sides. Suspicious of Mia and her motives, Elena is determined to uncover the secrets in Mia's past. But her obsession will come at unexpected and devastating costs.

Little Fires Everywhere explores the weight of secrets, the nature of art and identity, and the ferocious pull of motherhood—and the danger of believing that following the rules can avert disaster.

Summary from www.bookofthemoth.com

Bible Study

Our Bible study on the Psalms are continuing each Tuesday at 10:00 AM and 6:00 PM. These will take place through June 30. You may join the Bible Study over computer by asking for a link (kgroce@wnccumc.net) or by phone. Please let Kelley or the church office know if you wish to join. You may come for as many sessions as you wish, or simply one. The invitation is always open.



June Birthdays

- 2nd Adam Sensel
- 3rd Lindy Hutchison
- 5th Jean Brincefield & Suzy Swindell
- 8th Phoebe Swing
- 10th Becky Bettini
- 11th Jim Singleton
- 12th Jon Clark
- 16th Duilla Harkins
- 17th Andreas Daiber
- 23rd Kelley Groce
- 27th Jean Farabee
- 28th Diane Stanley
- 29th Aaron Snider

If you, or a loved one, have been left off the birthday list, please contact Lisa Bunch at 336-299-9643.

Homemade Food—Delivered!

Alex and Julie Hurin have been busy in the church kitchen with some new creations! They have been making and delivering Brunswick Stew, Chicken Pot Pie, Shepherd's Pie, Cheesy Beefy Noodle Bake, Chicken Cordon Bleu, Chicken Vodka Penne Bake, Peach Dump Cake, Apple Crisp, and Chocolate Brownies to members of the congregation and

the community. Each delicious entrée is \$6, baked desserts are \$4, and brownies are \$1.50. If you would like to have one delivered to your door, contact Alex at 336-457-0130 or email him at ajlman@aol.com



Coming into the Church

If you need to enter the church building, to pick something up or drop something off, we ask that you please wear a mask and use hand sanitizer or antibacterial wipes on door knobs and surfaces that you touch. If you have any questions call the church office at 336-299-9643 and leave a message for Lisa Bunch.

Directory Additions

Please add the following people to your Centenary Directory

Ann Kinard (336) 202-3360
lkubardjr@triad.rr.com

Patrick & Margaret Miller (336) 299-5057
925 New Garden Rd Apt 2208
Greensboro, NC 27410-3323

John Pugh (336) 299-8302
411 Northridge St
Greensboro, NC 27403-1459

Suzy Swindell (336) 500-8740 (home) (252) 339-5311 (cell)
1 Iron Carriage Ct Unit A
Greensboro, NC 27410-4058
sswindello5@gmail.com

Centenary UMC Ad Council

The Ad Council met via Zoom on Sunday, May 14. As per the WNC Conference, the consensus of the Council was to not resume in person worship until further notice. There needs to be some specific cleaning and safety practices put in place. The congregation will be kept aware of all developments, and the process to resume in person worship when possible. Thank you for your understanding. We want to follow the command of Jesus to love one another, and by social distancing, wearing masks, and being apart at this time, we are doing that. The Ad Council will meet again on June 14 at 4:00 PM, via Zoom or telephone. We will then have further guidance from the WNC Conference, as well as NC State Guidelines and Recommendations. A big thank you to Abbie Sammuell, Dr. David Sillmon, and Shari Saunders for helping us with the medical knowledge for making these informed decisions on the Ad Council.

Financial Update

Year-to-Date Giving/Expenses—Ending 5/27/2020

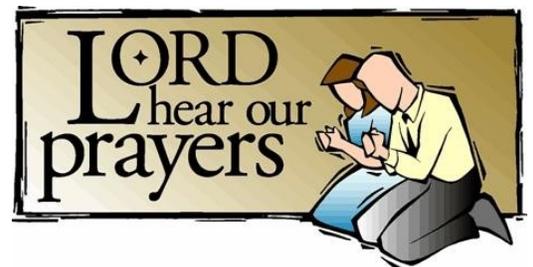
Revenues	\$ 149,879
Expenses	\$ 129,688
Profit or (Loss) for 3 months	\$ 20,191
Unrestricted cash available for operations:	\$111,149

Pentecost Word Search

O	U	A	E	M	D	Y	L	R	U	T	S	A	T	PENTECOST
P	E	N	T	E	C	O	S	T	S	P	P	W	I	GOD
O	D	E	Y	L	D	U	S	S	O	O	S	O	R	LORD
I	N	D	E	A	N	S	D	K	S	T	E	L	I	JESUS
S	I	S	E	S	S	S	E	T	E	O	R	S	P	PETER
T	W	S	S	U	N	U	L	S	D	N	I	I	S	APOSTLES
P	E	T	E	R	D	E	S	R	I	G	F	G	Y	HOLY SPIRIT
S	L	R	N	E	S	L	F	E	S	U	F	N	L	SIGNS
F	L	T	A	J	N	E	G	D	J	E	E	S	O	WONDERS
J	L	O	R	D	T	P	O	N	G	S	F	P	H	FIRE
L	I	K	G	U	E	S	D	O	S	S	S	O	I	TONGUES
I	D	P	D	O	E	O	O	W	E	P	T	N	N	JERUSALEM
O	E	E	G	C	T	G	S	O	T	E	R	E	J	GOSPEL
P	W	N	E	N	S	E	Y	E	D	E	L	E	G	SPOKE
														WIND

Prayer Concerns

The Prayer Chain has received requests to pray for the following people: Sally Goin chemotherapy treatments; George Cranford for toe issues and sympathy on the death of his good friend, Freddy Murphy, from COVID-19; Becky Ensign's father-in-law, Chuck Sartore, who fell and is now in rehab; as well as Becky's husband, Steve Sartore. His rotator cuff surgery went well. Sympathy to Mike Crabtree in the death of 3 uncles. Please pray for Frank Hinshaw's brother and sister in law – Gary and Patsy – who were involved in a car accident. Sympathy for Brenda Wilson on the death of her mother, Louise Price, on Sunday, May 24. David Lucas' mother, Sue Lucas, breast cancer. Pat Gunn is scheduled for carotid artery surgery on June 25. Suzy Swindell's neighbor, David Scott, is having trouble with his eyes. Suzy Swindell's friend, Nancy Mill Spaugh, is hospitalized with COVID-19 in Indianapolis. The Stanley's friend, Rebecca Mull Temple, is having breathing problems. The Stanley's friend, Jimmy Hartman, is dealing with brain and lung cancer. Prayers for Trudy Sillmon, who had back surgery on May 29.



Fasting or Dedication Ideas—Not just for Lent, but anytime!

- Fast one or two specific days a week to reflect on what Jesus gave for us.
- Give up caffeine as a way to remember our sole dependence on God.
- Get up an hour early every day to spend time in prayer.
- Give up eating out/coffee runs and instead donate the money to a good cause.
- Give up TV or Social Media and use the time to invest in relationships.
- Read through the four Gospels and focus on the themes of repentance and forgiveness.
- Find one possession a day that you don't need and donate them all
- Prayer Walk- Walk with God, lift up your prayers, concerns, and praises to Him while out in His beautiful creation.
- Memorize Scripture—Get some index cards and write out scripture verses to memorize.
- Listening—Spend 5-20 minutes in meditation and Listening to God
- Giving Your Time—Give Extra Focus on loved ones, reach out to those around you with genuine care and attention.

See more ideas at <https://cometothefountain.com/lent-ideas/>

Pentecost Challenge: The Gift of the Holy Spirit and the Power of Prayer

May 31, 2020 is the day when the Church celebrates the gift of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit empowers us as Pentecost people to do as God would in the world through acts of love and service. The main way which the Holy Spirit empowers us is by unifying our thoughts, actions, and attitudes through the power of prayer. I (Kelley Groce) joined a Zoom conversation with about 30 other ministers and we discussed uniting our Methodist Churches from Pentecost through Labor Day in Prayer. Each church will spread the prayer through differing means – some through virtual prayer groups, through e-mail prayers, and phone trees. We are going to do all three.

1. If you would like to be a part of the prayer group by phone or Zoom computer – please call Kelley at 336-285-5081 or e-mail at kgroce@wnccumc.net. The group will convene each Wednesday from 5-5:30 PM. A time of Prayer for church.
2. I will send out a prayer through phone tree and e-mail by each Wednesday.
3. I will say a prayer on Facebook each Wednesday (the one which has been sent out by phone or e-mail)

We are the Church. We are Christ's people. We are people of Prayer. Let us be Pentecost People of Power and Prayer.

New Doorbell Technology

Many thanks to Adam Sensel for installing Centenary's new video doorbell and monitors. This project started well before COVID-19 stay-at-home orders, but has proven to be helpful in the age of social distancing. With this safety measure, our volunteers and business manager (when they return to the church on a regular basis) are now be able to communicate with visitors and see them on the monitor, before allowing anyone into the building during business hours.



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Visit us online!

<https://www.CentenaryUMCGreensboro.org/>



Our Mission:

To experience God's life changing love and take God's love into the world.

Our Vision:

To be a church where everyone is involved in ministry.

Gifts for the Budget: April 29—May 27, 2020

Mother's Day gifts for UMAR

- In Honor of Emily Lawing's mother, Sally Wagoner
- In Honor of Emily Lawing's mother-in-law, Janice White
- In Honor of Emily Lawing's mother-in-law, Karen Lawing
- In Honor of Alvin Eaton's mother, Georgine Eaton
- In Memory of Lori Eaton's mother, Lorene Clewis
- In Memory of Barbara Wolfe's mother, Cleatie Caudle Fulp
- In Memory of Jim Turnage's mother, Evelyn Turnage
- In Memory of Margaret Turnage's mother, Dorothy Burton
- In Honor of Kelley Groce's mother, Jean Greene
- In Honor of Kelley Groce's sister, Paige Boyd
- In Honor of Kelley Groce's sister-in-laws, Amy Dyer and Laura Greene
- In Memory of David Groce's mother, Betty Groce
- In Honor of Betsy & Fred Wampler, from the Pittard Sunday School Class

In Memory of Betty Causey

- Polly Bowman
- Paul & Dawn Long

In Memory of Mildred Rives

- Paul & Dawn Long

In Memory of Larry Swindell

- Tom & Ann Mikan

In Memory of Ella Ryan Roach

- Gayle & F.P. Raspberry

In Memory of Mary Roach

- Gayle & F.P. Raspberry

In Memory of Myra Roach Burgess

- Gayle & F.P. Raspberry

In Memory of Margaret Roach

- Gayle & F.P. Raspberry

In Memory of Betty Burgess Avery

- Gayle & F.P. Raspberry

In Memory of Catherine Burgess Avery

- Gayle & F.P. Raspberry