

For I know the
Plans
I have for you,
declares the *Lord*
Plans to *Prosper* you
and not to harm you
Plans to give you
Hope and a *Future*
-Jeremiah 29:11

Centenary United Methodist Church

2300 W. Friendly Avenue, Greensboro, NC

June 14, 2020

Reverend Kelley Groce, Pastor

Anita Trumpler-Rich, Director of Music

Announcements for Missions and Ministry

Choral Call to Worship *Shout to the Lord*

Call to Worship (inspired by Psalm 146)

Leader: Happy are those whose hope is in God, of heaven and earth –

People: for God keeps faith forever!

Leader: God executes justice for the oppressed and gives food for the hungry.

People: God sets the prisoners free and opens the eyes of the blind.

Leader: God lifts up those who are bowed down.

People: God watches over the strangers and upholds the orphan and the widow.

Leader: People of God, sing praise to the One who is your help –

People: for God keeps faith forever!

Leader: Let us pray:

Lord of Love and Light, shine through our darkness, bringing us hope. Open our hearts for the journey, our eyes for the light, our spirits for the peace which you bring. Fill our mouths with laughter and speech with shouts of joy that we shall reveal the love with which you surround us. We offer this prayer in the name of the One who is coming into the world bringing your hope, love, peace, and joy, Jesus Christ. Amen.

— written by Nancy Townley, and posted on the Worship Connection page of the [Ministry Matters](#) website.

Hymn *To God Be the Glory*

98 UMH, verses 1 and 3

To God be the glory, great things he hath done!
So loved he the world that he gave us his Son,
Who yielded his life an atonement for sin,
and opened the life-gate that all may go in.

(refrain) Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the earth hear his voice!
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the people rejoice!
O come to the Father thru Jesus the Son,
And give him the glory, great things he hath done!

Great things he hath taught us, great things he hath done,
And great our rejoicing thru Jesus the Son;
But purer, and higher, and greater will be
Our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see.
(refrain)

Joys and Concerns of the Congregation

Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Recognition of Graduates

We Worship with God's Tithes and our Offering

Prayer of Dedication

Offertory *I Love You, Lord*

Scripture Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19; Psalm 40:1-3

Sermon - H.O.P.E. "I'm Holding Onto Your Promises Each Day" Rev. Kelley Groce

Affirmation of Hope

I believe in God. The God of all creeds, with all their truths.

But, above all, in the God that rises from the dead to become part of life.

I believe in the God that accompanies me along every step of my path on this earth, many times walking behind me, watching me and suffering with my mistakes, other times walking beside me, talking to me and teaching me, and other times walking ahead of me, guiding and marking my pace.

I believe in the God of flesh and blood, Jesus Christ, the God who lived in my skin and tried on my shoes, the God who walked in my ways, and knows of lights and shadows. The God who ate and starved, who had a home and suffered loneliness, who was praised and condemned, kissed and spat on, loved and hated. The God who went to parties and funerals, the God who laughed and cried.

I believe in the God who is attentive today, who looks at the world and sees the hatred that segregates, divides, sets people aside, hurts and kills, who sees the bullets piercing the flesh, and the blood of innocent people flowing on the earth, who sees the hand that dips into another's pocket, stealing what somebody needs to eat, who sees the judge that favours the highest bidder, the truth and justice of hypocrites, who sees the dirty rivers and the dead fish, the toxic substances destroying the earth and piercing the sky who sees the future mortgaged and man's debt growing.

I believe in God who sees all this...and keeps on crying.

But I also believe in God who sees a mother giving birth – a life born from pain, who sees two children playing - a seed growing, who sees a flower blooming out of the debris - a new beginning, who sees three crazy women clamoring for justice – an illusion that doesn't die who sees the sun rising every morning - a time of opportunities.

**I believe in God who sees all this...and laughs,
because, in spite of it all, there is hope.**

— written by Gerardo Oberman, Argentina. From [Prayers for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2004](#), posted on the [World Council of Churches](#) website

Hymn *Sent Forth by God's Blessing* 664 UMH, verse 1

Sent forth by God's blessing, our true faith confessing,
The people of God from this dwelling take leave.
The service is ended,
O now be extended the fruits of our worship in all who believe.
The seed of the teaching, receptive souls reaching,
Shall blossom in action for God and for all.
God's grace did invite us, and love shall unite us
To work for God's kingdom and answer the call.

Benediction

Choral benediction *Go Now in Peace*

Our Sympathy to Jack Cole on the death of his nephew, Charles Connolly, on Tuesday, June 2 in Mebane. Charles was the son of Blanche Volza, Jack's sister. Margaret Turnage's neighbor, June, sympathy on the death of her son.

The Prayer Chain has received requests to pray for the following people: Bianca York's mother, Rachel Flores, will have a procedure on June 17. Abbie Samuel's surgery was successful, and she is doing well at home. Barbara Grey, Teresa John's mom, was hospitalized this past weekend. She is home now and doing better. Frank York is at Friends Guilford for 14 days. Prayers for Dan Curran, Isaac Smith's best friend's father, who had a stroke. Betty Durham's sister-in-law, Paulette Lewis regarding a job. Sally Goin undergoing chemotherapy treatments; Pat Gunn is scheduled for carotid artery surgery on June 25. Prayers for Trudy Sillmon, Pat Stevenson, and Lori Johnson.

If you have a prayer concern, please contact the church office at 336-299-9643 or call Kelley at the parsonage. Let us know if the concern may be shared with the congregation or only with the pastoral staff.

Ad Council – Zoom meeting at 4:00 on Sunday, June 14. An email with link for the Zoom video and phone number for call in will be sent to council members the day of the meeting.

Additional Birthday! In the most recent *Centenarian* is the list of June birthdays. We forgot Betty Pleasants, who celebrated her birthday on June 12.

Kiorpes Variations – Enjoy some beautiful music! James Esterline's piano video is now available on the [Centenary UMC – Greensboro YouTube Channel](#). Or, go to our website, www.CentenaryUMCGreensboro.org to find the link on the home page, under News & Events.

Bible Study – Tuesdays at 10:00 AM and 6:00 PM using Zoom we are studying the Psalms. Send an email to kgroce@wnccumc.net to receive an email invitation to Zoom. You may also listen in by phone. Contact the church if you would like to participate 336-299-9643.

June Mission Focus - Centenary UMC has a heart for food scarcity. We will be focusing on this mission throughout the month of June. We would 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. You may do this in honor or in memory of a loved one. Mail your check to Centenary UMC, 2300 W. Friendly Ave., Greensboro, NC 27403.



The Power of Prayer

From Pentecost through Labor Day we want to lift up the church in prayer. There are three ways to participate, besides your own personal prayer time:

1. If you would like to be a part of the prayer group by phone or Zoom meeting on your computer – please call Kelley at 336-285-5081 or e-mail at kgroce@wnccumc.net . The group will convene each Wednesday from 5:00-5:30 PM. A time of prayer for church.
2. Kelley will send out a prayer through phone tree and e-mail each week.
3. Kelley will say a prayer on Facebook each Wednesday

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

July Centenarian Deadline – If you have an announcement for the *Centenarian* newsletter, relevant to the church and Centenary UMC's congregation, please contact Lisa Bunch in the church office by Thursday, June 18. Email Lisa@CentenaryUMCGreensboro.org or call 336-299-9643.

[A Pastoral Letter to United Methodists of the Southeastern Jurisdiction](#) and A Summons to Witness, Protest & Promise is available online to read. They will also be in the July *Centenarian*.

Congratulations

CLASS OF 2020 GRADUATES!

Harris Billings – Washington & Lee University

Phi Beta Kappa, Summa Cum Laude

Future plans: Medical School

Parents: Harold (Bo) Billings and Jeanette Billings

Grandparents: Harold & Linda Billings

Amy Coffee - Strayer University

Master's in Business Administration

Jack Gardner – Mount Paran Christian School (Marietta, GA)

Future plans: University of Georgia

Parents: Richard & Laura Gardner

Grandparents: Harold & Linda Billings

Rob Hurin – Graduated to the Coast Guard Honor Guard

Parents: Alex & Julie Hurin

Chloe Johnson – East Forsyth High School

Future plans: High Point University in the fall on an academic scholarship

Grandmother: Lori Johnson

John Liles – Page High School

Future plans: GTCC

Parents: Sharon & Jason Shuman

Grandparents: Harold & Linda Billings