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THE OPEN DOOR

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April/May 2020

Dear Friends,

I hope you are doing well in these unusual days. This edition of the Open Door will be a bit different since there are no normal church activities right now. I hope that it will still be a source of information and joy and a way to stay up to date with prayer concerns. Thank you all for the ways you have reached out to me and each other to offer support and care. I am grateful to be part of such a generous and caring faith community. I am also grateful that you continue to join me for worship via Facebook Live. It is not a perfect forum by any means, but it has allowed most of us to worship and allowed for many Bethel folks in far flung places to join with us too. I look forward to the day, though, when we can safely return to worship and I can see your faces as you sit in your regular pews.

When we first had to suspend normal church activities, I just jumped in to do Facebook live without any experience and practically no knowledge. Along the way, I have figured out how high my laptop needs to be so you see my face straight on. I have tweaked the lighting in my home office and sought to add worship elements to the bookshelves that serve as the backdrop to our worship services. I have thought about what is important for worship and what we can let go in these unusual days.

My first and foremost thought all along has been to NOT try to make this worship normal. I have continued to celebrate worship from my house because you are also in yours. I don't wear my robe because I know that many of you are likely in your pajamas. I have included hymns because for me singing is an element of worship that we can't let go of. I'm grateful to have music to accompany our singing, and I know it's weird to sing from your couch. I'll share it has tested my vulnerability tremendously. It's one thing to sing with the kids, but it's another all together to sing with my very imperfect voice for the whole world (practically) to hear.

Technology has allowed us this opportunity to continue to live in a rhythm of worship. Technology is also imperfect. April 19 proved that for sure. As I was unaware that the worship had stopped, I kept on preaching, singing, praying - clueless that you were no longer with me. I was TERRIBLY frustrated when I learned what happened. And for a moment I thought about how I could record worship so maybe it wouldn't happen again that you were cut short. But for me worship is an act of the gathered community, one worth the risks of technological mishaps in order to know you are worshipping with me. It is hard to see my face looking back at me each Sunday, but I can do it because I know your faces are on the other side of so many screens looking back at me too. And that is gathered enough for me in these moments.

My colleagues around the presbytery and beyond are all doing what feels best for them and their congregations. Some services are recorded and professional. Others are on Zoom instead of Facebook live. Some aren't doing services at all but simply preaching. We are all doing the best we can in the moment. What is working for us wouldn't work for another church and vice versa. And all of us know that there are some among us who are and will be left out no matter what or how we worship. My heart grieves that reality in these days. It makes me thankful for phone calls and snail mail to keep those off the internet grid still connected and part of the larger community of faith.

Friends, thank you for your patience and your willingness to jump in new waters with me these days. Until we can gather in the sanctuary, know I'll do my best to keep tweaking worship to be meaningful and am grateful each Sunday to know you are sitting on your couches worshipping with me.

Grace and peace,
Wendy

Weekly Wednesday Devotionals

Continue to join us for Weekly Wednesday Devotionals each Wednesday at noon and worship each Sunday at 11am on Facebook Live:

https://www.facebook.com/479418245526/live/

Click on a few minutes early each time so you can settle in. And you do not have to have a Facebook account to join the live feeds. This link will get you to the devotionals and worship.



Fair Trade

May Fair Trade Orders will be gathered through Sunday, May 10th. Also, we still have mini Easter Chocolate Eggs available from Divine Chocolate for \$5 a bag. Available in milk chocolate, dark chocolate or speckled (candy coated). All ordering for May will be done via email or phone. To reserve by email: bethelpcusa@gmail.com or call 865-850-4801 to reserve by phone. You will be notified when orders arrive to the church. We will have the orders available for pick up in the church library or Mandy will be available to meet you at the church for order pick up, as well.



- 4 Jeremy Copeland
Laura Windhausen
6 Mary Kathryn Willett
9 Bill Sides
10 Cathy McDowell
13 Sherry Burchfield
17 Chuck Brumley
19 Clay Landers
Sheryl Stadnik
22 Dolores Sandmel
23 Sophie Crocker
27 Sarah Applegate
David Choate
Joni Morgan
28 Nancy Braski

Giving

Even though we cannot gather for worship and other church activities, the session has committed to continuing the salaries of all employees and continuing our benevolent and mission giving. And of course, the mortgage payment must still be made. Susan checks the mail box each day, so feel free to continuing your giving by mail, if you are able. There is also a donate button on the church website where you can give online if you would prefer. Thank you to everyone who has been giving by mail or online. Your gifts are greatly appreciated.



- 1 Avery Parish
2 Jennifer Vandever
4 Bram Hyder
5 Jane Pickel
6 Joe Coen
7 Samantha Rybka
8 Nidia Crocker
Mike Skinner
9 Rachel Dailey Gallaher
10 Nancy Maynard
11 Erick Crocker
12 Celia Simon
16 Jim Hines
18 Linda Gerth
19 Maggie Dungan
20 John Carter
Loftin Gerberding
23 Chuck Bunch
24 Marianna Oonk
26 Mark Patton
Jane Walsh
28 Jackson Gerberding
Robert Vickers
29 Donald Cross
30 Julie Bunch Barber
Karen Hart
31 Vernon Law

Condolences

Please continue to remember Kelly and Aaron Maddux with the passing of Marianne Shadden. May they find peace during this time.

A memorial service will be planned for later this year at Bethel.

Graduation Parade

Because we cannot have our annual Family Supper Graduation party for this year's graduates, we are planning a Parade. Come in your car, Saturday, May 9 at 10:30am to the large parking lot Bethel shares with KUMC. The graduates will be spaced safely apart so that we can drive near them and share our congratulations and good wishes. There will be boxes near the church offices for you to drive by and leave cards if you wish. Each grad will have their own box. We will all remain in our cars as we honor and celebrate our high school grads: Henry Coen and Pablo Crocker and our college grads: Maria Vanegas and Rebecca Hettrick. Rebecca won't be present but you can still leave a card for her and we will package and mail them.



Annual Ladies Lunch:

Unfortunately we have to cancel the annual ladies lunch to celebrate mothers. This year we will celebrate our mother's and those women who are like mothers to us from afar. May you all feel much love on May 10.



Celebrate 50 years of Earth Day, April 22

As we celebrate Earth Day, contemplate what we can accomplish as "called Individuals" to care for the world that God loves so much. May we each consider our part in the mission to be loving and caring stewards of all of God's creation.

Earth Care Pledge

1. Our **worship** and discipleship will celebrate God's grace and glory in creation and declare that God calls us to cherish, protect and restore this earth.
2. In **education**, we will seek learning and teaching opportunities to know and understand the threats to God's creation and the damage already inflicted. We will encourage and support each other in finding ways of keeping and healing the creation in response to God's call to earth-keeping, justice and community.
3. Our **facilities** will be managed, maintained and upgraded in a manner that respects and cherishes all creation, human and non-human, while meeting equitably the needs of all people. In our buildings and on our grounds we will use energy efficiently, conserve resources, and share what we have in abundance so that God's holy creation will be sustainable for all life and future generations.
4. Our **outreach** will encourage public policy and community involvement that protects and restores the vulnerable and degraded earth as well as oppressed and neglected people. We will be mindful that our personal and collective actions can positively or negatively affect our neighborhood, region, nation and world. We will seek to achieve environmental justice through coalitions and ecumenical partnerships.

Minute for Mission Kingston Lakeside Market

Many, but possibly not all of you, have heard that there is going to be a Farmer's Market in the city parking lot behind the church. The market's opening date is May 23. It will be open every Saturday morning from 8:00 to 11:00 AM.

The idea of a market grew out of our commitment as an Earth Care Congregation.

So what is our mission? Why will this market exist?

- To bring together local farmers, growers, and artisans by providing a marketplace for their produce and products.
- To strengthen the local community by providing a place for social interaction between neighbors in order to build a foundation of trust regardless of race, gender, religion or nationality.
- To promote a healthier community and world by supporting a just, local and sustainable food system.
- To provide educational opportunities for all ages for the sustainability of a healthy world and the protection of web of life that makes it possible.

What we have so far:

- Great group of *volunteers*: Such as Dan McDowell, Laura and Ellen Daily, Jan and Alf, and many more
- Exciting *vendors*: such as the Midway High School Future Farmers of America.
- *City Support*
- A *webpage*: kingstonlakesidemarket.com, and a facebook page by the same name

What you will see at the market:

- Kiwi truffles, custom blended teas, cut flowers, honey, duck and chicken eggs, custom crafts, chicken and pork, and maybe plants
- Many varieties of bread and jams, etc

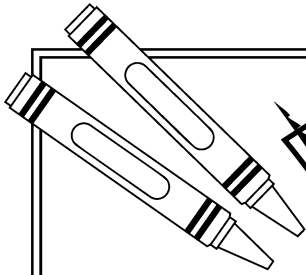
What will you not see:

- Wholesale products that are purchased for resale

What we need to make it work:

- *Shoppers*: Just like Uncle Sam, the market need YOU! We want our vendors to feel like their time is worthwhile.
- *Ideas* about advertising, vendors, things you would like to see
- *Volunteers*:
 - Maybe you know a musician or a musical group that would be willing to perform,
 - folks that love art and would occasionally have a craft stand for the children
 - folks to help the vendors and customers
 - Volunteers inside the church





PUZZLE

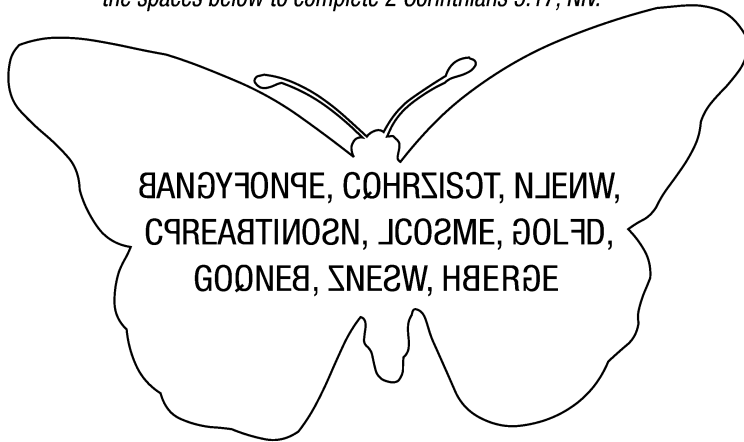
Transformation **POWER**



Just as the caterpillar becomes a butterfly,
God transforms us from old to new.



Directions: Cross out the backward letters. Write the remaining letters in order in the spaces below to complete 2 Corinthians 5:17, NIV.



Therefore, if _____ is in _____ ,

the _____ has _____ :

The _____ has _____ ,

the _____ is _____ !

2 CORINTHIANS 5:17, NIV

Answer: anyone, Christ, new, creation, come, old, gone, new, here

CHANGED!

Make this cute puppet to show and tell the amazing story of metamorphosis.



What you need:

- Needle and string
- 12 small pom-poms
- Wooden craft stick
- Scissors
- Googly eyes
- Glue
- Coffee filter
- Markers

What you do:

1. Sew pom-poms together to make a caterpillar body. Tie off that string.
2. Thread another string up through the first pom-pom, leaving 12 inches to dangle. Repeat with the ninth pom-pom, leaving two dangling strings.
3. Wrap those strings around opposite ends of the stick, adjusting their length to about 6 inches. Tie in place.
4. Glue on eyes.
5. Flatten the coffee filter and draw a symmetrical design on it. Pleat in the center to create wings.
6. Move the caterpillar puppet by holding the stick. Glue on the wings as you describe the transformation into a butterfly.