



## Pastor Lynn's Update

*July 26th, 2020*

Grace and Peace to you in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Five months ago, we were meeting in person as a congregation sharing word and song, prayer and communion, fellowship and hugs, and most importantly, our love for Jesus Christ. As we move into our sixth month of physical separation from meeting in our sanctuary, we can take courage that we are still sharing in God's message of hope, peace, and love. And, we are still a strong and vibrant United Methodist congregation! Though there are many challenges we are faced with, we can find comfort in the fact that we as a congregation have stuck together through them all.

The apostle Paul gives us this encouragement in Ephesians 4:4, "there is one body and one Spirit, just as you were also called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all." So, although we feel the strain and longing of not being physically together, we must remember that we are still intrinsically connected by God's Spirit in and through us all. In Christ, we are one.

Just this week, our Re-gathering Task Force has presented LBUMC's Plan of Action to our church council, which will be sent to our District Superintendent once our Bishop agrees to review plans for reopening. Right now, these are on hold. But please know, we are still active in ministry!

This is Vacation Bible School week! Our theme is FOCUS: Finding all the ways we can FOCUS our lives on God. And we have more children signed up than we did last year! Hooray and Hallelujah! Many of those

attending are new to our church. So, we are meeting God's mission for us to reach out into the community with the knowledge of God's all-inclusive love.

Additionally, we have raised well over the \$1000 we committed to Urban Kids Camp. But because they need \$12,000, we will continue raising funds until the end of August. It would be incredible if we could double our original commitment. Please pray and ask God what he would have you do. I and our Outreach Team are so grateful for your generosity to this important cause for inner-city children and youth.

Friends, as we are not formally gathering, let's all be thinking creatively about how we can BE THE CHURCH in new and formerly unimagined ways. Let's all continue to find ways to share God's message of hope for the future, and God's spirit of love and inclusivity. Please join us online every Sunday and invite your friends and family too!

In Faith, Hope, and Love,

Pastor Lynn