

MID-WEEK MESSAGE FROM PASTOR LESLEY
Pine Bluffs United Methodist Church May 20, 2020!

“THIS TOO SHALL PASS”

We are in the season of Easter for 50 days. Christians remember that it was during those 50 days that the Risen Christ appeared before the disciples in many ways.

People didn't just look at Jesus and say, “Hey, there, Welcome back!” It was more subtle. The Bible says they “disbelieved for joy”. There was joy when they truly understood the new life happening right there in their midst.

With joy I share with you the new life happening even during this pandemic stay at home order.

~Your Trustees are implementing some projects around the church that have been in the works for a while such as installing new front doors with a push bar (they're beautiful) and putting in security cameras around the building. They have also contracted with Dave Steege to replace the windows in the church and he is making progress. Plans are also underway for contracting to put up fencing around the handicapped parking area and driveway. These are major improvement projects that were approved by church council and previously funded.

~Our treasurer, Sally Brelsford, has been looking after our funds and we appreciate your faithful giving for our ministries by mailing your tithes and offerings to her at her home at P.O. Box 334. She was able to get the Paycheck Protection Loan for our church by being so responsibility proactive! We encourage you to continue your financial support through this time of uncertainty and transition!!

~Our church custodian, Michael Short, has used this time to do some deep cleaning of the church and it is looking great, ready for our reopening!!

~The lawn at the church and parsonage is also looking wonderful and the flowers in front of the church sign given in memory of Glennis Harrison and Shirley Hall by Alice Theobald have popped up, waiting to do their thing!

~Your loving phone calls, notes, texts, Facebook postings, and special deliveries offering encouragement and connection with one another.

~A joy-filled live-streaming worship service each Sunday at 10:00am bringing us together virtually with each other and our Lord, made possible by our tech team: Joleen, Jessica and Greg Marquardt, Tyler Jolly and consultant Dave Crouse. We celebrate family, friends, and neighbors making NEW connections with Pine Bluffs UMC because of this never-before option of attending from the safety and comfort of our homes.

~Suggestions from a recent email from Bishop Karen and the Mountain Sky Conference for a “re-LAUNCH CHURCH, (re) considering church in a covid-19 world” with a Study Guidebook with Health and Safety Guidelines.

A leadership team will be meeting this week to look at these guidelines and figure out what works for our church and when we might implement these in reopening our church doors. In the meantime, I invite you to continue to offer signs of God's grace, love and new life during this month in the name of our Resurrected Christ. While our church *building* is closed, our Church, the Easter faith community of Pine Bluffs United Methodist is alive and well. We are the Church together and I am grateful for each of you. God IS with You 'til we meet again in person.

Blessings, Pastor Lesley

