



Glassboro First United Methodist Church

Gumwrapper June 2020



What It Means To Be Essential

For the past few months while we have been living through this pandemic, there has been a word that we keep hearing in news reports, on social media, and even in the church. It is the word “essential.” At the start of this crisis only essential workers were to be on the road after 8:00 p.m. Only essential stores could be open. Only essential medical and dental procedures could be done. Even my poor dog couldn’t have her vet visit because it was not essential. Although I think she is just as happy since like her owner, she can suffer from white coat syndrome.

And as the weeks have gone by and things have improved, the argument has grown louder, political, and even brought the physical structure of the building we call the church into what is deemed essential. So, out of curiosity, I went back to good old Webster and looked up the definition of essential, which used either as a noun or adjective means “absolutely necessary and extremely important.”

Well of course as one who is a clergy and has had the blessing of helping a congregation build a beautiful new building, I would agree and even argue that the church is essential. But what is the church? And for that answer I went back to my third grade Sunday school class where I remember singing the words, “I am the church. You are the church. We are the church together. All who follow Jesus, all around the world! Yes, we are the church together!” The church is more than the stained glass windows we find so attractive, the altar where we kneel for communion, the pew into which we were dragged each week by a parent, or even any other room where we enjoy youth group, bible studies, knitting, singing, or just quiet reflection.

Simply put, the church is the body of Christ assembled to worship, follow, and live out the teachings of Jesus Christ. That means the church building helps facilitate the work but does not fulfill the role of being the church.

This week as we celebrate Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit was poured out on the disciples and Peter preached a sermon where many gave their lives to follow Christ, we remember the church was born. They began fulfilling the role and teachings of Jesus Christ as they prayed, helped the poor, cared for the sick, shared their blessings with others, and proclaimed the gospel message. That is exactly what we have been doing since we had to exit a physical structure back in March. People have been gathering on social media, zoom, and even on cell phones to pray, encourage, and share the love of Christ. Food is being handed out to the needy, face masks purchased for first responders, doors opened for blood drives, pastors have been doing the hard tasks of being there for families in times of grief as well as creative in leading the body of Christ in a new time of worship.

All this to say, we don't need society or some political arena determining when, how, or if we are essential. Jesus made us essential the moment he said, "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember I am with you always, to the end of the age." That is what makes us essential: "absolutely necessary and extremely important." So, keep following Christ, keep being essential, keep being the church!

Glenn J. Conaway | Delaware Bay District Superintendent

Welcoming the Holy



Abraham and Sarah welcomed three strangers who turned out to be the Lord. Jesus said, "If anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones who is my disciple," the giver will be rewarded (Matthew 10:42, NIV). An ancient Jewish proverb asserts: "Hospitality is one form of worship." A Russian Orthodox monk is said to have told a younger one, "Sometimes I see a stranger coming up the road and I say, 'Oh, Jesus Christ, is it you again?'" And an old Gaelic poem declares, "Often, often, often, goes the Christ in the stranger's guise."

Sometimes we think we must do something big to serve God. Today, when you smile at someone on the street, take time to entertain a child's question, bring cookies to a new neighbor, thank a server or clerk ... know that you are serving Jesus, that you are worshiping God. —Heidi Mann

Highly esteemed

After returning from a lengthy mission trip overseas, John Huffman and his fellow passengers were held up in customs for two hours. When he finally made it to the packed airport lobby, Huffman realized it might take a while to find his family. But suddenly his 3-year-old daughter ran toward him yelling, "Daddy! Daddy! That's my daddy!" and launched into his arms.

"What a welcome," he writes. "I have never felt so loved and acknowledged in my life." Perhaps that's how God feels when we call on his name in worship and prayer, acknowledging him as our heavenly Father — and honoring him above all else. — Borrowed from the NewsletterNewsletter

Seeing stars

The stars shine over the mountains, the stars shine over the sea,
The stars look up to the mighty God, the stars look down on me;
The stars shall last for a million years, a million years and a day,
But God and I will live and love, when the stars have passed away.

—Robert Louis Stevenson



Dear Church Family,

Regarding the President's call to reopen churches, I want to share with you what we are doing at First UMC Glassboro to prepare for the day we reopen our facilities.

Our church council and I take seriously our responsibility to ensure everyone's safety, especially in regards to COVID-19. We have formed a Reopening Task Force (RTF) to put policies and practices in place throughout our church to reduce risk, protect everyone's health, and provide a welcome environment for all people. The RTF includes people representing all areas of our church and people with valuable experience from the frontlines of this pandemic. The RTF has already made progress in defining certain measures and plans to present a comprehensive policy to council for approval at the council meeting on Monday, June 15th. Once approved, our leaders, committees, and groups will work tirelessly to have everything in place prior to our reopening. We will make sure you are informed of what to expect well in advance so you can prepare for the day we gather again in person.

Please see Bishop John Schol's response to the President's statement for details on the Conference's requirements for reopening churches safely. Until all the requirements to reopen our facilities are met, we will continue to worship and meet online exclusively.

In Romans 12:10-12, the apostle Paul said

Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves. Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, and faithful in prayer.

Would you join me in praying for our Reopening Task Force, our congregation, and our Conference as we strive to serve God, honor one another, and remain faithful stewards of each other's well-being?

Thank you.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor John

Getting a glimpse

Marital love is a blessing but not necessarily “easy,” even when both spouses are Christians. When issues inevitably arise, couples who cling to one another and to God can benefit from that “threefold cord” (Ecclesiastes 4:12). During joyful times, changes, challenges and other adventures, married followers of Jesus can support one another while knowing that Jesus supports them both.

In *The Meaning of Marriage*, Timothy Keller describes falling in love as looking at another person, glimpsing what God is creating in their life, and then proclaiming: “I see who God is making you, and it excites me! I want to be part of that. I want to partner with you and God in the journey you are taking to his throne. And when we get there, I will look at your magnificence and say, ‘I always knew you could be like this. I got glimpses of it on earth, but now look at you!’” – NewsletterNewsletter



- June 2 Whitney Huston & Todd Barta
- June 2 Steve & Karen Heiser
- June 2 Whitney Huston & Todd Barta
- June 6 Bryan & Danielle Strockbine
- June 10 William & Lorraine Outlaw
- June 15 Fred & Nancy Tomlin
- June 16 John & Nancy Dannenhauer
- June 19 Stephen & Sallie Straga
- June 24 Al & Chickie Mathis
- June 26 Bill & Ruth Doran
- June 26 Ronald & Sharon Mickle



- June 2 R. Jeffery Cooper
- June 2 John Madigan
- June 2 Ronald Mickle
- June 4 Evangeline Boudouris
- June 5 Nancy Lee
- June 5 Kevin Palmisano
- June 7 David Bruynell
- June 9 Stephanie Longley
- June 12 Justin Dickerman
- June 13 Susan Dillard
- June 16 David Walters
- June 17 Denise Norton
- June 17 Zachary Winter
- June 18 Jeremy Anton
- June 19 Chickie Mathis
- June 21 Melodie Norton
- June 23 Caryn Murtha
- June 24 Daniel Price
- June 27 Angelina Saggiomo-Williams
- June 29 Wayne Bernard
- June 29 Dana Fuscia
- June 29 Kimberly Hoppe

New dates!!
New theme!!!



Vacation Bible School

2020

August 9-13

- ✓ For all children entering grades K-6
- ✓ Evening (exact time TBD)
- ✓ **Must** be pre-registered by August 2nd

FaceBook/glassboroumc
www.glassboromethodist.org

- ✓ Safety protocols in place



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Sign up now because space is limited.

<https://2020.cokesburyvbs.com/glassborofumc/register>



Worship

FROM YOUR COUCH

Each Sunday at 10am
[Facebook.com/glassboroumc](https://www.facebook.com/glassboroumc)

First United Methodist Church Glassboro
Bringing HOPE to a world that so desperately needs it

Latest Upper Room issue available for free download

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Since churches are unable to meet and gather safely in their buildings during the coronavirus pandemic, The Upper Room is offering the May/June 2020 issue, as a free, [downloadable PDF.](#)



POWER HOUR SUNDAY SCHOOL

Get ready to learn, be amazed, and explore how God's Love is OUT OF THIS WORLD!!!

CHECK THE FACEBOOK PAGE AND EMAILS FOR WEEKLY UPDATES



welcome video

WE WANT TO SEE YOU!

Send your 10-15 second welcome videos of you and your family to Brian.

Contact Brian at bmickle@glassboromethodist.org



THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR CONTINUING MINISTRY IN THESE CHALLENGING TIMES

Ways to Give

ONLINE
[Glassboromethodist.org/give](https://www.glassboromethodist.org/give)

DOWNLOAD
 and use GivePlus app for Android or Apple (Search "Glassboro" after opening the app)

MAIL
 to First UMC Glassboro
 60 State St. Glassboro, NJ 08028

First United Methodist Church Glassboro
Bringing HOPE to a world that so desperately needs it

Dear Church Family and Community,
We are missing everyone so much and we are praying for you all each and every day that you are staying healthy, safe & well. We have a lot of updates to some of our programs over the next few months and wanted to keep you informed.



- We are still offering Sunday school lessons for each of our grades including some of the adult classes. Emails are being sent from each of your teachers.
- Our partner at Cokesbury Kids is offering a virtual Sunday School class each Sunday at 10:30am for everyone to join! Click this link and join in each Sunday! <http://www.bigmarker.com/commnuities/cokesburykids/conferences>
- We will also be posting weekly videos from Deep Blue on our No Limits Facebook Group Page. You can ask to join by clicking on this link <https://www.facebook.com/groups/178000069679070/?ref=share> . We will also be sharing other multiple programs for children to stay connected through this page.
- We will be offering a virtual scavenger hunt soon to have some fun while enjoying our time inside with our loved ones.
- Our youth group is also meeting as well as our college and young adults all through virtual sessions through zoom!
- We are still offering many Grow Groups for adults via zoom. You can find these meetings through our church e-newsletter, our church Facebook page and website which is www.glassboromethodist.org
- We are also offering livestream worship services each week at 10am through our Facebook page and YouTube page. <http://www.facebook.com/glassboroumc>
- Our Kids Night Out will be done VIRTUALLY sometime in June.
- Our VBS program is still scheduled for August 9th to 13th and this year's theme is a Beach and Sea Theme. There may be some changes that we will be making to the way VBS looks but we are excited to offer at this opportunity in August. REGISTRATION IS OPEN by clicking [here](#) or the VBS picture below.
- Bible Sunday and Teacher Appreciation Sunday are still in the planning stages and more information will be sent out soon.
- CFM Saturday morning check-in each Saturday at 10am. Join Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/95290837889?pwd=aXVhVkpLTWJiWGU4M01pVFZHQ3dzUT09>
Meeting ID: 952 9083 7889 Password: 358381

As you can see, we remain active and committed to bringing “church” to you and your family the best we can. If you ever need an ear to just talk to, email me at bmickle@glassboromethodist.org or reach out to any member of our CFM team listed below. We are all in this together and we WILL get through this together as a church family through His mighty power and strength. I look forward to seeing you all again very soon.

In His Service,
Brian Mickle, Director of Children & Family Ministries

Children & Family Ministries Team:

Brian Mickle, Director of CFM
Ruth Doran- Sunday School Superintendent
Jodi Chowning- VBS Co-Director
Terri Ganderton- Grow Group Coordinator
Darlene Simmons- Secretary
Melodie Norton- Director of Young Adults
Julie Balkenhol, Cindy Thompson, Barbara Nitowsky, Alan Gansert, Katie Preto,
Jennifer Longley, Whitney Huston



Dear Church Family,

We are looking for some members to volunteer to do some gardening around the Church, Bell Tower and Fellowship

House. It involves some weeding and planting. Social distancing can happen and if members are of the same family it is even better. Please contact Chris McGuigan @ 856-362-1750 or by email at robinchris@comcast.net



Please keep the Samaritan Center in mind. When we our church reopens your donations can be brought in for distribution. Weekly Grocery Mission! You can make a difference every time you go shopping! Pick up an extra box of cereal, can of soup, or jar of jelly for the Samaritan Center. Collection bins are in the Grounded coffee house!

Hey Glassboro Church Family! Many of us are feeling a little helpless. We want to help someone somehow but don't know what to do. If you are able why not reach out to some of our local businesses that have helped us in our mission work. Maybe this can be our mission; to help them! Unfortunately, some of the businesses are closed at this time, but those that are open could use our help. Let them know that you are helping them as they have helped us.

Here is a list of those businesses that have supported us:

- Little Sicily's
- Italian Affair
- Duffields
- Peking Buffet
- Jimmy John's
- Pancheros
- Peter and Sons Little Jims, Clayton
- Dawn to Dusk
- Ry's Bagels
- Salad Works
- Shop Rite
- Nicks Pizza
- Ginos Pizza





FUMC Weekly Lifeline is emailed to members to ensure we stay connected. A huge shout out to Terri Ganderton for her work in creating this easy to navigate newsletter that has links to take us to where we need to go!

Watch for the Zoom information coming soon to join!



Special dates

- Trinity Sunday, June 7, 2020
- Flag Day, June 14, 2020
- First day of summer, June 20, 2020
- Father's Day, June 21, 2020



Our Staff

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