



The May Communion offering will go to OIMC - the Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference.

Online Services will continue at least through May 17 and possibly longer.

See letter from Bishop Nunn (below)

Prefilled Communion cups and wafers for May 3 are available at the church or you can use what you have at home.

J.D. and Cali are splitting May: He will deliver sermons on the first and last Sundays; she will take the middle three weeks.

May 3 and 10 will have traditional service. Mother's Day is May 10.

May 17 and 24 will be contemporary services. May 17 will be the Sunday we celebrate our graduating seniors.

A decision about Pentecost Sunday, May 31 will be made later. See paragraph in Cali's Corner.

Sermons and Scriptures

May 3--Fourth Sunday of Easter

"We May Have Life!" John 10: 1-10

May 10--Fifth Sunday of Easter

"The Way, The Truth, The Life" John 14: 1 - 14

May 17--Sixth Sunday of Easter

"The Gift of the Spirit" John 14: 15 - 21

May 24--Seventh Sunday of Easter

"A Prayer for the Church" John 17: 1 - 11

May 31--Pentecost "Receive the Holy Spirit"

John 20: 19 - 23

Congratulations to Our High School Graduates



- Emma Bruce**
- Paige Jones**
- Anna Langert**
- Chase Linville**
- Noah Paul**
- Anieca Valentour**

More about these young people on page 5.



To: Pastors and Congregations of the Oklahoma Conference

From: Bishop Jimmy Nunn Date: April 23, 2020 Re: Memo 3 - Covid-19

Greetings in the name of our Risen Lord!

We last wrote to you on March 25th. Since then, you have celebrated Easter without gathering as a congregation in a church building. We want to affirm again all the ways you are reaching your churches, extension ministries, and communities in creative, inspiring, and engaging ways. Keep up the good work!

As we all know, information about COVID-19 and appropriate responses to its spread are complex. It is understandable that you and your ministry leaders would have many questions about relaunching in-person worship and reopening your churches and ministries. We all want to make responsible decisions as we transition from our current status of having no meetings of more than 10 people at safe distances from one another to a graduating increase in public gatherings with fewer restrictions.

Guided by our faith and informed by medical experts as well as national, state, and local government officials; the Cabinet has been considering the best ways for us to respond to this ever-changing situation. While this letter is full of information, we pray you will digest it and reach out to your District Superintendent should you have questions.

Continued on pages 3 and 4

Reflections
from



Last month I encouraged you to ask God this question:

“What can I learn from this time of being at home and doing less?”

Let me share some things that I have learned.

I have learned that I miss being with my church family.

I have learned that I love my church family very much.

I have learned that I am thankful to be the pastor at New Hope United Methodist Church and I am not ready to retire.

I have learned that the people of this church share my love for this church.

I have learned to be very thankful for Luisa Medina, Amy Aita, Kevin and Emily Wilkinson, Tyler Stone, Cali Eck, Matt Miller, Cody Johnson, Lois Medina, Jose Medina, Jackie Dawes, Kaye Merriam, Greg Wells, and Dave Matthis. We are blessed to have gifted and giving people serve our church.

I have grown in my gratitude for my wife, my kids, my grandkids, and my home.

I have grown in my gratitude for those who take care of us when we are sick.
God bless the health care workers and first responders!

I have grown in my gratitude for those who work in retail. God bless those who deliver the necessities of life, those who stock the shelves, and those who assist us in the stores!

I have been reminded that God is always with me and that God's presence and power are more than enough!

I have been reminded that maintaining the spiritual disciplines of prayer, Bible study, and worship are essential to my spiritual and emotional well-being.

I have been reminded that I need to take care of myself because I am precious to God.

I have been reminded that I need to be a wise builder when it comes to living my life.

Hearers and Doers — Matthew 7: 24 - 27

²⁴“Everyone then who hears these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock. ²⁵The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on rock.

²⁶And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not act on them will be like a foolish man who built his house on sand. ²⁷The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell—and great was its fall!”

Trip to the Holy Land from Chris Porter

We now have a new date! We have moved the date to next summer. The new date will tentatively be **June 5 -17, 2021.**

This will allow everything that is going on in the world to settle down a bit and we can recruit more people for our tour.

I know this is more than a year out, but this is the best option for us. We will have meetings in the future. I would also recommend you start setting aside some money now for lunch and souvenirs for the trip.

We will probably get a new brochure and website made to reflect the new date for the trip. I will send an e-mail out with that information once I get it.

Thank you all very much for your patience during this trying time. Chris



Helping Hands
Food Pantry

In light of Covid19 concerns, our food pantry is handling things a bit differently. There are temporarily new volunteers for various jobs, keeping safe those who are most at risk because of health concerns.

Apologies if someone's name was left off the list but these were some who helped fill sacks ahead of the April date and take food to cars: Teresa Coffman, Jonathan Eck, Leah Medina, Mickey Miller, Donna Kaiser, Cali Eck and Luisa Medina. Thank you all!

The pantry will only be open once this month - the second Tuesday, May 12 from 1 until 3 p.m.

Future dates will be decided later.

First, we are guided by:

- *The Greatest Commandment: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind' and 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'" (Matthew 22: 36 - 40);
- *Paul's words to the Philippians, our 2020 Annual Conference theme: "Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others." (Philippians 2: 4);
- *Wesley's Three General Rules – "Do no harm. Do good. and Stay in love with God" These texts and rules for Christian life are the guiding principles of our response.

Second, we recognize the unique position churches and pastors find themselves in, navigating our relationship with the state while appreciating the separation afforded by our Constitution. This did not escape the teachings of Jesus. When asked about paying taxes, Jesus responded, "Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God's" (Matthew 22: 15 - 22). What we want to provide you with is a way to keep people safe and comply with the governmental guidance while recognizing that our ultimate allegiance is to God's kingdom.

Third, we uphold what our Social Principles affirm: "Stewardship of health is the responsibility of each person to whom health has been entrusted. Creating the personal, environmental and social conditions in which health can thrive is a joint responsibility – public and private" (§162V).

How will we respond together? By following Wesley's three general rules.

First, by doing no harm:

* Always follow the guidance provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention regarding the size of crowds which can be together. Currently, that is 10 people or fewer who are practicing social distancing of at least 6 feet.

* Recognize that these guidelines will likely change over the next few weeks. As they change, you will want to stay current and communicate updated expectations.

Second, by doing good:

*Continue to reach out to your community in safe ways.

*Make vulnerable populations a priority. Urge church members to check on their neighbors and make sure they have what they need, including care for body and soul.

Third, by attending upon the ordinances of God:

*Offer online worship, discipleship opportunities and appropriate pastoral care.

*Offer the sacrament of Holy Communion as you see fit for your context.

(See our [pandemic resource page](#) for further guidance on this.)

* Engage your church leadership team in Christian conferencing as you plan and prepare for next steps. There will be a time when you will have some clearance to reopen and you will want to be ready. If you need assistance in doing this, please communicate your need with your district office

It is our expectation that all United Methodist Churches remain closed and that staff work from home as much as possible. We do not recommend that any in-person gatherings take place for any reason except for recording worship services and messages of devotion and encouragement and small groups to provide for community needs. As a reminder, the guidelines are 10 people or less who are practicing social distancing of at least 6 feet.

Will our guidance change?

In a Wednesday, April 22 press conference, you may have heard the Governor's office saying that churches could reopen as early as May 1. While we deeply appreciate the desire to re-gather in-person, we will continue to follow the CDC guidelines and expect United Methodist pastors, churches, and ministries in OK not hold public services until Bishop Nunn gives specific instruction for when and how to do so. We will follow closely how Oklahoma moves through this phased reopening and we will communicate any updates to this communication after May 17. We have noticed so many of you who are fulfilling the ministry to which you are called using safe practices. Thank you! If you or your church need support in this difficult time, please contact your District Superintendent.

Letter from Bishop Nunn

When will we communicate with you?

For the foreseeable future, we will be communicating with you via email each Friday. These regular Friday communications will allow you to know when to expect any updates.

How can we help? **Today, we are launching a new web hub called "[Resources for Relaunch](#)." These resources will help church leaders and pastors facilitate conversation and make plans amid uncertainty.**

We highly recommend that those of you who will be relaunching worship services watch the video produced by Path 1 (Discipleship Ministries) and use the accompanying discussion guide. A guide for creating a relaunch team is also provided. We believe that every congregation and ministry can benefit from doing this strategic work together.

You can expect more resources will be added including reconnecting with your community in mission. We will include links in the Friday updates along with alerts as the web hub is updated with new information. We pray that these resources are a blessing to you and your leadership teams.

A Call to Prayer

We want to close our letter inviting you to pray without ceasing (1st Thessalonians 5: 17).

Let us be in prayer for each other, our churches and communities as well as leaders at all levels of our government. Let us remember those who have contracted this terrible illness and the families of those who have died. Let us intercede for those who have to work on the front lines and in the sectors of public safety and healthcare. Let us lift up those who have lost their jobs and have nowhere to lay their heads at night. Pray for this and so much more.

Questions? Should you have questions, need clarification or simply want to discuss how to proceed in your own context, reach out to your District Superintendent.

In the words of Paul to the Philippian church, we "thank God every time (we) remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of (our) prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. (We are) confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ" (Philippians 1: 3 - 6).



Cali's Corner

I sit at home once again, trying to understand how to be together and separate. We are living in a very trying time. Many have lost their jobs. Some are afraid of losing their homes and livelihood. I am not old enough to remember living through something like this. I have heard some beautiful stories of communities coming together through adversity. I hope we will look back and see that here as well. However, right now, there is an uncertainty that almost seems overwhelming. May is usually a month that we begin to think about freedom and life springing forth, and yet we are locked in our homes and overwhelmed with the number of deaths that this virus is responsible for. I hope we are beginning to see the light at the end of this tunnel, yet returning to something normal still seems a long way off.

We have begun to seek ways to come back together safely. The church leadership has put together a task force to discuss and plan when we will be able to worship together and what it will look like to relaunch in-person worship, Sunday School, nursery care, and youth and children's ministries. We want you to know that we will do all we can to continue to provide a safe place to gather. My prayer is that we will seek the best for one another without fear or judgment concerning decisions made. We are going to continue to worship online this month. Please be in prayer for our church and leadership as we navigate uncharted territory.

We are continuing to find creative ways to love one another and get together. We have Sunday School classes that continue to meet through Zoom. Our children and preschool ministries are finding innovative ways to connect with families. Our youth are attending online as well. Thanks to everyone who is reaching out to one another.

We are continuing to offer online Zoom Bible studies. If you would like to be a part of one of the studies, please contact me, and I will get you plugged in. We have a new study starting May 6th at 6:30 p.m. on the book of Acts. I will be leading it. We will spend 6 weeks looking at the themes of Acts and the work of the Holy Spirit in the early church. *There is not a book to purchase for this study, just your Bible and questions about what you read.* I am looking forward to it.

In Christ's Love, Pastor Cali



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Paige Jones will graduate from Yukon High School.

She is the daughter of Chris Douglas and Stacee Hoyo Douglas and David Jones.

Paige currently rows for OKC Riversport Junior Crew. She is a member of the National Honor Society and volunteers for Diabetes Solutions of Oklahoma.

Paige plans to attend the University of Central Oklahoma where she will study Nutrition Science and row for UCO. She is also looking forward to being a sponsor for middle school youth!

Anna Joy Langert graduates from Yukon High School. She is the daughter of Ken and Keri Langert. While at Yukon Anna participated in four years of Speech and Debate, Theatre, and was in National Honor Society.

Anna was named Academic All-American, received the State Superintendent's Award for Arts Excellence and was invited to page for the State House of Representatives.

Anna will attend Oklahoma State University where she plans to major in Political Science.

Emma Bruce graduates from Putnam City North. She is the daughter of Jason and Jacque Bruce. She was a varsity cheerleader for four years and cheer captain her senior year. Emma was a member of the National Honors Society two years, Student Council class representative three years and Parliamentarian her senior year. She was Link Crew leader and member of the Wrestling Homecoming Court. Emma was delegate to the Leadership Development Institute three years and on the planning committee this year. She was also cellist in orchestra three years.

Emma received an AP Scholar Award and was an Academic Scholarship recipient from UCO. She plans to attend University of Central Oklahoma and will major in Nursing. She plans to attend graduate school to become a Physicians' Assistant specializing in Pediatrics.



Anieca Valentour graduates from Yukon High School. She is the daughter of Mark and Tammy Valentour and D'Ann Hartpence.

Anieca has enjoyed volunteering at the Regional Food Bank and Manna Pantry in Yukon. She works at Taco Bell and is training to be a shift leader. Anieca has not yet decided on a career but she loves art and animals so perhaps one of those will be a path of pursuit.

Anieca's family is very proud of how hard she has worked to accomplish her goals and feel confident she will find success in her future.



Noah Austin Paul is the son of Curtis and Robin Paul. He graduates from Yukon High School.

Noah received the Clara Luper Scholarship and will be attending Oklahoma City University. He has not decided on a major but interests and possibilities are political science, psychology and American sign language.



Chase Michael Linville will graduate from Piedmont High School and Canadian Valley Vo-Tech. Chase is the son of Mike and Renee Linville.

Chase currently works for the City of Piedmont and plans to be employed in the welding industry.



Anniversaries & Birthdays in May

Chris & Stacee Douglas
Melvin & Margaret Lawson
Robert & Linda Tennyson
JD & Karrie Ward
Denning & Vita Crowe
Gary & Virginia Roller
Terry & Jean Brittenham
Bob & Donna Kaiser



Delores Garver
Linda Roberts
Carter Hayes
Kristal Osborne
Ivory Morgan
Sue Reynolds
Norene Valentour
Annette McGahee
Graham Rains
Kahlene Christenson
Jayden Raska
David Reynolds
Greg Wells
Barbara Gayle
Darlene Chaney
Garrett Johnson
Brycen Christenson
Earl Baker
Tray Coffman

Lura Fink
Roseanne Wells
Harrison Echohawk
Lindsey Fagan
Don Peterson
Leroy Saiz
Larry Buchanan
Drew Van Sickle
Amelia Rose Kwok
Donna Kaiser
Ann Detwiler
Regina Bookout
Max Stewart
Seth Day
Stephanie Saunders
Earline Baker
Bob Devonshire
Susan Smith
Gary Roller

Ed and Erma Wise celebrated their 69th wedding anniversary in April and had signed up to bring altar flowers. Since there weren't services at the church, we want to offer best wishes and congratulations here.

Sympathy & Love



Our hearts are sad for those in our congregation who have recently lost loved ones to illness.

Please keep in prayer Melody Beard in the loss of her dad Dale McElfresh and Teresa Coffman whose dad Vincent Foxhoven died.

We hurt with the Christensen family as Randy Christensen, husband to Martha and dad of Christi Wetzel, Marti Marrs and H.L. died recently. H.L.'s wife Amanda works in our CDO. She had lost her father Larry Gales just the week before.



A note to you -

"Elaine Pierce wishes to thank everyone for the many cards and expressions of

sympathy received upon the death of JC.

Your thoughtfulness is certainly appreciated! What would one do without a church family for love and support?"

It is unknown when our groups will again meet at church. Watch for news of **Men of Hope**, **Mary Martha** and **Ruth** Circles. **UMW** will not meet until September 17. This group usually takes the summer off.



Higher Education and College Congratulations

Our favorite New Hope organist **Tyler Stone** will receive the degree of Master of Music and Conducting from Oklahoma City University!



Sierra Jordan Paul is the daughter of Curtis and Robin Paul. She graduates from Oklahoma City University with a BA in Theater and Performance/ Education. Sierra hopes to teach in Oklahoma for a few years before moving out of state.

Greetings, Children!

May is here and usually this month would be filled with all the fun end of school things. I know we are all still grieving the loss of the "usual", but I am loving seeing all our families adapt and make lemonade out of lemons.

When we will be able to be back together for in-person class and worship is still very much up in the air. I will be sure to let you all know whenever I know!

Our theme for the month of May is "Join the Party!" If your child has been to Sonshine camp in the last year, then this particular theme will be familiar. Each week of May we will have a different scripture focus and we will send out ideas for crafts, games, and other activities.

If we get to have worship together soon, then I will have activity bags for each week for you all to pick up during worship.

If not, then I can prepare bags for pick up from the church at your convenience!

Week 1 - You Are Invited! Join the Party!
Luke 14: 7 - 24

Week 2 - See What God Has Done! Join the Party!
Luke 2: 8 - 20

Week 3 - Welcome Back! Join the Party!
Luke 15: 11 - 32

Week 4 - Make a Joyful Noise! Join the Party!
Psalms 100

We will continue to offer Children's Church online on Sunday mornings at 11 a.m.

We also Zoom call Sunday evenings at 5 p.m. where we are continuing our lessons on "Bold People of Faith."

Our Wednesday nights are for Mid-Week Pause. These videos will feature different Children's Ministry volunteers sharing short stories and thoughts.

It does not look like camps will happen this summer but.....if they do open, here are the camps we would attend:

*Sonshine Camp – For 1st-2nd graders –
Camp Canyon June 27 - 28*

*Growing in Grace Camp – For 3rd-5th graders –
Camp Canyon June 15 - 17*

*6th Grade Camp – For incoming 6th graders –
Camp Canyon June 15 -1 9*

We should know more regarding camps in the coming weeks. I will send out updated information when I receive it from the conference.

Keep an eye on our church website, social media sites and your emails as we figure out what reopening will look like and when that will be able to safely happen! I look forward to seeing you all real soon!

Blessings, Luisa



CDO and Preschool Ministry

CDO staff are currently posting craft ideas and audiobooks on the CDO Facebook page for families to use. We are basing craft ideas and books off the letter and theme tied to lessons we would have if we were in regular classes.

Since CDO is currently closed, the staff and families came together for a drive-through parade on Saturday, April 18th. It was a very special time for everyone while maintaining social distancing. It was so good to see the kids and families!

Our roster is very full for our summer session with great things planned if we are able to have summer CDO. Decisions are not yet made.

Preschool Ministry:

Christi and I are hosting Zoom meetings with the preschoolers every Sunday afternoon. It is so good to see their sweet faces and talk to them!

We are currently working our way through some curriculum called "*Hero Training: A Character Challenge for Kids.*"

Each week there is a character trait, such as helpfulness, that the kids work on. There is a superhero with each character trait to help the kids remember it.

They can memorize a Bible verse, do different activities and a craft, and earn a character badge once they have completed the lesson.

The character traits for May are attentiveness, diligence, truthfulness, patience, and joyfulness.

Acolyte Schedule - Although we aren't having services at the church, thought the Acolytes should at least have their names listed here.

	9:45	11:00
May 3	Harper Day Carly Smarra	Camden Wetzal Christian Plender
May 10	Kamden Goff Jacob Williams	Zayna Snipes Brooklyn Eck
May 1	Brian Johnson Cole Wigley	Laura Langert Owen Attebery
May 24	Landon Aita Jacob Williams	Jacob Miller Jackson Koeneke-Moore
May 31	Allie Johnson Landon Aita	Jacob Williams Brian Johnson

New Hope

May, 2020



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					May 1	2
3 Sermon scripture: John 10: 10	4	5	6	7 10:00 - AA and Al-anon	8	9
10 <i>Mother's Day</i>  Sermon scripture: John 14: 1 - 14	11	12 1 - 3 Pantry Open	13	14 10:00 - AA and Al-anon	15	16
17 Sermon scripture: John 14: 15 - 21	18	19	20	21 10:00 - AA and Al-anon	22	23
24 <i>Memorial Day weekend</i> Sermon scripture: John 17: 1 - 11	25  <i>Office closed</i>	26	27	28 10:00 - AA and Al-anon	29	30
31 <i>Pentecost</i> Sermon scripture: John 20: 19 - 23	June 1	2 CDO resumes June 2 --- <i>if we have a summer session</i>	3	4 10:00 - AA and Al-anon	5	6