

Tunnel Hill United Methodist Church

The Messenger

February 2021

God's Faithfulness During Trying Times

One of my all time favorite hymns is "Great is Thy Faithfulness" by William Runyan. Here is the first verse and chorus:

*Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father, There is no shadow of turning with Thee
Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not, As Thou hast been Thou forever wilt be*

*Great is Thy faithfulness, great is Thy faithfulness, Morning by morning new mercies I see
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided, Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me*

I've always loved this hymn because of the way it describes our God. It gently reminds us of His incredible faithfulness. As human beings, we can be fickle and changing. We want to be consistent and faithful but we aren't always able to pull it off. Our God, on the other hand, is always faithful. He is faithful in the way He loves us. He is faithful in the way He forgives us. And, He could not be more faithful in the way that He provides for us.

I felt led to write about God's faithfulness here in the newsletter this month because He has been so extremely faithful to our church over the last year. Like all families, our church family had to figure out how to adapt and move forward in the midst of a raging pandemic.

Back last spring, I met with THUMC's leaders on a regular basis to discuss ways we could continue to worship and minister as a church in spite of the virus. We had to temporarily suspend our Sunday School Classes and our Small Group Ministries but we put many safety procedures in place so that we could continue worshipping.

We decided to add a second worship service at 9am so that we can safely accommodate more people on Sunday mornings. We also installed equipment that has enabled us to live stream worship online. I share all of this to say, I continue to be so proud of how our church continues to minister and navigate through this incredibly difficult and painful season that we're in.

Now, back to God's faithfulness. Early last year, as we were going into the pandemic, we were concerned about our ability to meet our financial obligations in light of the fact that a lot less people were able to attend worship. Last spring, THUMC's Administrative Board even approved using a portion of the church's savings to cover payroll or bills if that became necessary. I am proud to say that we never had to take that step.

Here is the amazing thing that is a real testament to our God's faithfulness. THUMC's overall giving only decreased 1% in 2020 as compared to what was given in 2019. Total giving to THUMC in 2019 was \$262,851 and total giving to the church in 2020 was \$260,425. Isn't that incredible? We continue to be able to offer every ministry that we can safely provide.

As your pastor, I'm overwhelmed by your continued commitment to this church and also by God's incredible faithfulness. It is as if He is saying to us as a church, "You have enough to worry about right now. I've got this. Just keep doing all that you can to worship me and to spread the gospel and I will provide for you."

It really is true, "All that we need, His hand provides. Great is Thy Faithfulness, O God our Father."

Grateful,
Jay



OASIS NEWS

Hello church family! If you know a student 6th-12th grade that is ready for in person Bible study, please send them our way. OASIS continues to provide a place for our students to gather together for worship and to learn about Jesus. I encourage you to continue to pray daily for all our students as they navigate the wonders of online, hybrid, and in person learning while also being in and out of quarantines. Time is slipping, so be on the lookout for information regarding the youth summer retreat to Epworth. Also, parents of students, if you have not already done so, please fill out a new youth permission slip and registration package and return it to the church as soon as possible. We are diligently trying to get current information on all of our students and their families. If you need a package please let me know. Thanks. *- Adam Tankersley, Youth Pastor*

NEW AUDIO EQUIPMENT INSTALLED

We are excited to announce that a new audio board/mixer has been installed in the sanctuary. This equipment will greatly improve the audio quality of our worship services (both in person and online). It was donated in loving memory of Glenn and Geraldine Knight by Steve and Tracy Knight. We are very grateful to the Knights for their generosity and for helping THUMC to take this step.

DONATIONS FOR HOSPITAL STAFF GOODIE BAGS

Tunnel Hill UMC, Tunnel Hill First Baptist Church, and Salem Baptist Church are partnering to provide Goodie Bags for the 200 Staff Members at Hamilton Medical Center who are on the front lines fighting Covid 19. These bags will contain snacks, drinks, goodies, and a thank you card. The bags will be assembled and delivered in about three weeks. If you would like to make a financial donation to help purchase items for the bags, you can use this link, <https://app.securegive.com/sbcdalton/salem-baptist/donate/category>. If you would like to donate with a check, make your check payable to THUMC and write, "Hospital Gift Bags" in the memo section. The deadline for donations is Sunday, February 14th. Please see Delyn or Jennifer Lusk for more info.



SUNDAY SCHOOL ONLINE

The Friendship Class is meeting online every Sunday at 10am using the Zoom Website/App.

To participate go to <https://www.Zoom.us> and sign on with this info:
Meeting ID: 729 7056 5806 / Password: 012815
Everyone is invited to take part!



SMALL GROUPS FOR CHILDREN & YOUTH

Journey Land (kids PK-5th grade) meets in the Glow Kids room upstairs on Sundays at 9:00am

Children's Sunday School Classes (PK-5th) are meeting upstairs at 10:00

Oasis Youth Group (6th-12th grade) are meeting on Wednesdays from 6:15pm-7:30pm in the Fellowship Hall



UPCOMING MEETINGS

Administrative Board – February 1st, 7:00pm via conference call
Scout Committee – February 8th, 6:30pm in the Friendship Class



Please note: Prayer requests remain on the church's prayer list for four weeks. If a request needs to stay on the list longer than four weeks, please let us know. To add or remove a friend or loved one, please contact the church office at (706) 673-4022 or thumc@optilink.us.
Thank you!

THUMC Family:

Butch Middleton, Ginny Horne, Thomas Blackwell, Joe & Vicki Kauffman, Norma Burroughs, Chet Dreschel, Carl Bonifacious family

THUMC's Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts

Extended Friends & Family of THUMC:

Marla Barbaree – Bill & Carolyn Watkins' daughter
Seth Monk – Anne Monk's son
Agee Martin – Valerie Cleaver's father
Keith Fauscett – Jeanine Clark's brother
Tabitha Williams & family – Jeanine Clark's asst.
Laurel & Fred Browning – Lois Bradford's family
Elaine Hankins – friend of Judy Lusk
Melissa Foster – niece of Susie Webb & Bob Ault
Nancy Cotton – Joe Kauffman's sister
Erin & Doug – Fehd's daughter & son in law
Julie Fox – friend of Judy Middleton
Marshall Wilcox – Judy Hill-House's son in law
Patty Shepherd – Valerie Cleaver's cousin
*Rev. Mark Atkins – friend of Julia Davidson
*Katie Hasty – friend of Tammy Horne
*Wayne Whited – Megan Teems' father
*Jordan Garcia – friend of Liz Dennis
*Barry Henderson – Gene Henderson's cousin
*Keith Locke – friend of Barry Gilley
*Frank & Carol Dubee's cousin
*Frank & Carol Dubee's former pastor & wife

(*Denotes new additions)

STEWARDSHIP REPORT

Weekly Budget Needed: \$5,130

Total Giving for November

GENERAL BUDGET: \$20,762
OTHER DESIGNATED GIVING: \$3,173

Total Giving for December

GENERAL BUDGET: \$23,240
OTHER DESIGNATED GIVING: \$5,339

Total Giving for January through 1/26

GENERAL BUDGET: \$15,681
OTHER DESIGNATED GIVING: \$1,457

