

March 17, 2020

Dear Hamilton Park Family;

It was wonderful to have so many of you tune in to FB Live for our Sunday worship service. I want us to feel connected even though we are physically apart. We will worship on FB live this Sunday, March 22, 2020, at 10:00 am CST. Please share our service with others.



Thank you for your continued online giving Text To Give (972-362-6962), Cash App (\$TheParkUMC), and the checks that you mail in. The fact that you remember your church in the midst of the pandemic is so heartwarming.

If you have not given and would like to, please know that we can come by your home and pick up offering. If you'd like to begin to give online, the process is quite simple. It starts with clicking the "Donate" tab at the top of our website. From there the "Online Donation" screen appears. Once you are there you may make a onetime donation or sign up for recurring donations. There is even an option for "Text to Give."

A few housekeeping matters, there will be no meetings, rehearsals or services at the church until further notice. The office staff and I work only a few hours, and we maintain social distancing. Our primary means of communication is via email.

We realize that all of our members do not have email. Please check in regularly with those persons to keep them in the loop. Also, please check on our senior citizen members.

Most of all remember that we are not defeated. As believers, we have access to supernatural prayer power. We are going to attack the virus with prayer!!

Join us on Thursday, March for an hour of call in prayer from 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm. CST. Please call 605 475-3200, and use 168199# as the passcode. Invite family and friends to join us.

Your Pastor,
Dr. Sheron C. Patterson



Psalms 91: 1-2 & 7& 9 (KJV)

- 1 He that dwelleth in the secret place of the MOST HIGH shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.
 - 2 I will say of the LORD, He is my refuge and my fortress: my GOD; in HIM will I trust.
 - 7 A thousand shall fall at thy side, and ten thousand at thy right hand; but it shall not come nigh thee.
 - 10 There shall no evil befall thee, neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling
- We shall pray our way through the pandemic!!

Bishop McKee: Be The Church Our Communities Need

As a pastor for 30 years, I never canceled a worship service. With ice and snow on the ground, a small group of people and I would gather to worship wherever I served. Last week was the first time in my ministry I have been part of canceling worship services. It was necessary and wise in order to help prevent the coronavirus from spreading.

As Jesus tells his disciples in Matthew 18:20, "For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them." This is a vivid reminder to us all that church isn't simply the building where we worship on Sundays or conduct programming throughout the week. This could be a time when we create even more new spaces.

On Sunday throughout the North Texas Conference, we saw proof that the spirit of God is alive and well where it matters most: in the hearts of all United Methodists and in our communities. I commend our pastors and lay leaders for putting together quality worship experiences for our congregations despite the conditions brought about by the coronavirus and COVID-19.

We saw instances of churches – of all sizes – that never before offered a livestreamed worship component find ways to connect their congregations virtually. As I was looking at many of these worship services, the imagination, innovation and dedication were evident. I thank God for you, and I am proud of you.

During the ensuing weeks, we will be living in a new and difficult reality ... not only for churches, but for schools, restaurants and any number of places where people gather. This is a challenge for all religious communities, but it also affords the United Methodist churches in the North Texas Conference opportunities to be in ministry with those who have been – or will be – affected by the quarantine that will be taking place.

Many of you have begun preparations to meet the needs of children and people who are vulnerable to the virus. Others want to find ways to become involved. It is my hope that, together, we can identify new opportunities to be the church that our communities need at this time.

As more becomes known, I will gladly share that with you. In the meantime, I encourage you to visit the coronavirus resources page on the North Texas Conference website for information pertinent to your ministry.

Thank you for your faithfulness. Next Sunday, I will worship with many of you as you proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Ways to Give: Text, CashApp, Online or USPS Mail

A PRAYER REGARDING THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

Righteous Father, we thank You for being the Lord God who heals all diseases. Thank You for Your protection and for keeping our bodies healthy. Thank You for strengthening our immune systems and helping us to ward off infections and viruses. We sing praises to You and Your Name. We will sing loud praises to You, the One who rides the clouds. Your Name is the Lord; we rejoice in Your presence. We praise You Lord, our Savior. Each day, You carry us in Your arms. Sovereign God, You save us and rescue us from death. Lord, we are like olive trees, thriving in Your house. We will always trust in Your unfailing love. We will praise You forever for what You have done for us. We will trust in Your Name in the presence of Your faithful people.

Eternal Father, we declare that the Name of Jesus is greater than any name in this earth, including the Coronavirus. Jesus, You desire that we be in good health, as it goes well with our souls. It is Your will that our lives are peaceful and filled with hope, not dread. We expect Your Word to operate in all our lives. We declare that our immune systems are healthy and strong. Jesus, you personally carried our sins in Your body on the cross so that we could be dead to sin and alive to righteousness and by Your stripes, we were healed. Therefore, by faith, we stand on Your Word and we declare healing and total restoration for those who have contracted the Coronavirus (or any virus). We rebuke the spirit of fear that is creating fear and panic throughout our country and around the world. We cancel the assignments of the devil to create global disorder and unrest. We command peace be still!

Holy Spirit, please help doctors and scientists to identify effective vaccines and medications for the Coronavirus. Accelerate the research and testing process so that the vaccine can be administered before the projected dates. Protect those health care workers who are caring for patients and keep them safe. Please strengthen the bodies of those whose immune systems have been compromised. Show them the necessary steps they need to take to protect themselves and their loved ones. Remind our citizens to wash their hands frequently and thoroughly, using alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available; cover their coughs and sneezes with a tissue that is put in the trash. Help them to remember not to touch their eyes, noses or mouths with unwashed hands; and to stay home when they are sick. Touch the hearts of people to help their neighbors and those who may not have adequate resources or food.

Please protect our children and elderly and keep them safe from all sicknesses and diseases. Holy Spirit, please reveal a cure for the Coronavirus. Show the U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the World Health Organization (WHO) and all other health organizations ways to end the spread of this disease. Pour out Your wisdom, knowledge and understanding to our leaders, government officials, healthcare professionals, scientists and other professionals who are responsible for addressing this crisis. Holy Spirit, help us to trust God for protection.

Beloved Father, forgive those who are using the Coronavirus as an excuse to speak against people from other countries. Forgive the US media for stirring up fear, confusion and chaos. Forgive those who are trying to benefit from the fears of our citizens. Forgive us for all acts of sinfulness, including not seeking Your counsel first about this pandemic. Forgive us for poor eating habits and lack of exercise which have resulted in compromised or diminished immune systems. Holy Spirit, remind us all of those we need to forgive and help us to be quick to forgive.

Thinking of You
With Love and Prayers

The Census Protects Your Personal Information

The Census Bureau keeps your personal information safe and secure. By law, it cannot be shared with other government agencies, law enforcement, or landlords. **Complete your 2020 Census with peace of mind.** Click on the link below and watch it to learn more!



THE UPPER ROOM
DAILY DEVOTIONAL GUIDE
Using your smart device
DOWNLOAD *The Upper Room*

The Park UMC Partnering With
transformation
Empowering individuals, families, and communities to further themselves through home ownership by providing financial education and debt management. 1-800-249-2227

Newsletter

Have any news for "The Park" newsletter?
Email Rev. Nerissa Grigsby,
Intern Pastor @
ngrigsby@theparkumc.org

Prayer Concerns

Tom Smith - Minnie Hester Johnson - Lindorf Blakely - Chief Justice Carolyn Sanders - Louise Byse - Mamie Johnson - Ruth Robinson - Kim Pullin - Virginia Nwoke - Nakia Demming - Janiaca Wheeler - Marla Hartman - Earnest Fuller - Curtis Smith - Karen Hill - Shirley Pleasant - The McRae Family - Fred Marsh & Family