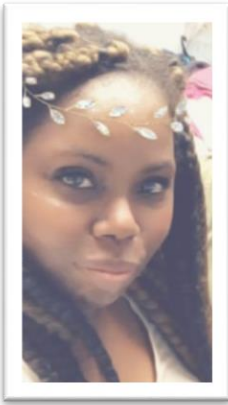


CONNECT To GOD

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October 2019

Paula's Pondering



Seven years ago, Asia Townsend called me and asked about starting a clothes closet at the church. Her idea was that people would donate clean, gently used clothing, and anyone needing clothing could come and pick out as much as they could use. She also wanted to have a book exchange – people could donate a book and receive a book. The Leadership Council gave their okay, and the Community Clothes Closet was born. In its 7 years, it has helped thousands of people be clothed and well-read.

During that time, the clothes closet has faced some growing pains. We quickly learned that 1 room upstairs in the church would not be enough. We needed another room for sorting and hanging the donations and for storing donations until they could be sorted. We also needed space for the unused hangers and someplace to process the necessary paperwork. So, the unused Sunday School room next door to the clothes closet was pressed into service.

This worked well for a while. We had plenty of volunteers, so donations were processed and hung up quickly. But then the seasons changed and suddenly we had a lot of winter clothing that needed to be pulled and stored for several months to make room for the summer clothing. At first, Asia simply donated the out-of-season clothing, but that meant that inventory would be very thin at the beginning of the season when people were looking for the new season's clothing. So another unused classroom was pressed into service as long-term storage. Meanwhile, the clients increased as word got out, but the number of volunteers steadily decreased. That meant donations weren't being processed and hung as quickly, and donations were stacking up in storage.

Undaunted, Asia recruited family and friends to help with the sorting, hanging, and displaying clothing, as well as pulling and storing the out-of-season clothing.

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In addition, she accepted the responsibility for heading up the food pantry as well. For nearly 5 years, she was the director of both the food pantry and the clothes closet. This was in addition to heading up the annual Easter Egg Hunt for the church and working part-time as the church's administrative assistant.

Earlier this year, Asia quit her job as administrative assistant and accepted a full-time position for Quiktrip. While she tried to continue her volunteer work at the clothes closet and food pantry, it became clear that it was just too much. Last month, Asia stepped down as the director of the food pantry and the clothes closet. **Heidi Maurice has agreed to direct the food pantry and Mela Hale, a long-time volunteer, has agreed to head up the clothes closet.**

I know you join me in thanking Asia for her many years and countless hours of service to the church and the community. I hope you will plan to join us after church on October 20 for a come-and-go reception for Asia. I also hope you will support our new directors by volunteering to help out occasionally.

Blessings,
Pastor Paula

[P.S. Last Sunday \(9-22-19\) I announced my intent to retire at the end of this appointive year, which ends in June of 2020.](#)

Upcoming Events

- 10/6 Communion
- 10/6 Charge Conference (2-4pm)
- 10/19 ... First UMC Fall Festival
- 10/26 ... Herbal Workshop

Sunday Sermons

- 10/6..... When I Grow Up: Patience, Kindness & Goodness Gal 5:22-23; John 15:4-5
- 10/13..... When I Grow Up: Faithfulness, Gentleness, & Self-Control Gal 5:22-23; Matt 25:21; Eph 4:29; Rom. 7:20, 24-26
- 10/20..... Learn of Me Matthew 11:28-30
- 9/27..... Imitators of God Ephesians 4:25-5:2

Birthdays

September

- | | | | |
|-------|----------------------|-------|-----------------|
| 10/1 | Craig Bolen | 10/14 | Rebecca Brison |
| 10/9 | Joseph Hoeshele, Sr. | 10/19 | Linda Roberts |
| 10/10 | Charlotte Faris | 10/23 | Rhonda Whitaker |
| 10/13 | Ruth Payne | 10/26 | Flora Costanza |
| 10/13 | Joshua Brison | | |



Phone Prayer Chain

If you know of a member going to the hospital, have a need, a concern, or a joy, please call someone on the following list, starting at the top, if possible. Call any time, day or night. If the person you call is not at home, leave a message or call the next person on the list.

- Pat Townsend 373-3915 or 225-9459
- Rosemary Garten 427-5725 or 519-8500
- Carol Marcks 427-5725 or 560-5627
- Marilyn Berry 796-5789
- Lucille Bolen 560-5131
- Mary Branstad 796-9659 or 868-3752
- Ann Fiene 257-5214
- Jackie Leffingwell 257-1123
- Linda Roberts 650-5131 or 853-3398

Prayer Chain



- Carol Buhle 796-3630 or 225-8174
- Shirley Weaver 461-9224 or 716-1184
- Chris Pauley 571-3922
- Gayle Elliott 257-9655
- Arletta Cahill 600-9203
- Flora Costanza 914-8034
- Sandy Bower 373-5603
- Anna Inman (660) 232-1221
- Jackie McMenemy 461-7577



Bread Of Life Food Pantry

The Food Pantry and Clothes Closet are open **Wednesday from 3–5pm and Saturday from 5–7pm**. No appointment needed!

Note from the Food Pantry

Thank you to Keith Buhrlé for picking up Festival of Sharing offerings. We received 2,485 items! Thank you!

Thank you to all of the helpers who helped unload! Plastic sacks are always needed, if you have any to share. Please consider donating. Thanks!

2019	FAMILIES	PEOPLE	ITEMS OUT	ITEMS IN
AUG	28	97	637	450



Website: <http://stmumc.net/outreach-ministries/food-pantry-clothes-closet/>

UMW Minutes

Seven (7) in attendance for **September 4** meeting. August minutes were approved. Treasury balance is \$2,877.75.

UMW voted to change the meeting time to 7:00pm due to meeting of 6:30pm choir practice.

Annual Thanksgiving dinner will be Saturday, November 2 from 4–7:00pm. Cost of dinner will be \$9 for adults and \$5 for children age 10 and under. Menu will include turkey, ham, dressing, green beans, sweet potato casserole, mashed potatoes & gravy, cranberry sauce, rolls, and assorted dessert.

Lunches were packed at Harvesters on Saturday, September 14.

Natural Beauty Herbal Workshop

By Kenna Leslie

Date: Saturday, October 26, 2019

Time: 1–2:00pm

Cost: \$20

Learn how to make natural beauty products. We will be using a variety of dried herbs that can easily be found amongst our green spaces or grown in your gardens and natural ingredients that can be found in our kitchen cupboards or easily/cheaply bought at your local grocery store.

We will be making a variety of products including lip balms, infused oils, bath salts and smile brightener. It's perfect to make for yourself or to give as gifts.

The workshop is hands-on. So you will have a whole variety of products to take home with you along with detailed handouts.

Please call/text/email today to reserve your spot, or you can sign up here! Feel free to invite your friends!

KennaLeslie@protonmail.com

816 651 6792

Abusing God's Patience

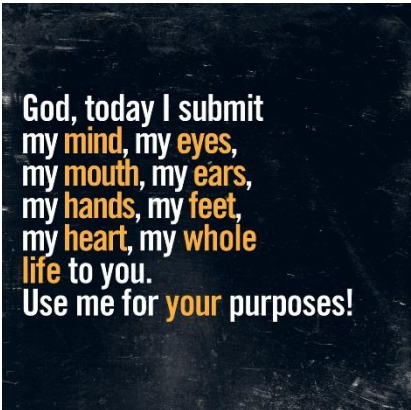
Romans 2:4–5

Have you ever ignored a nagging sense of conviction in your heart? Maybe you rationalized wrongdoing with the thought that if God were really upset, He'd put a stop to things by disciplining you. Psalm 50:21 reminds us that the silence of heaven does not mean approval. Remaining in sin is an abuse of the Lord's patience.

When God seems slow to react, we might hope He's overlooking our transgressions—we'd like to continue in sin because the momentary pleasure is more appealing than obedience. But thankfully, the Father knows our weaknesses, our innate carnality, and the state of our spiritual growth, and He therefore measures His response. Motivated by love and a desire to gently restore His children to righteousness, God refrains from instantly doling out punishment. Instead, He waits for the Holy Spirit's proddings to impact the believer's heart. The weight of conviction is actually an invitation to turn from wrongdoing and return to godliness.

However, we're a stubborn people. There are times when we persist in sin because the sentence against an evil deed isn't executed quickly (Eccl. 8:11). In this dangerous situation, it's possible to immerse ourselves in sin and harden our heart against the Lord. Then the Holy Spirit's call to repentance falls on spiritual ears rapidly going deaf.

As we learn and understand more about God and His ways, we are increasingly responsible to live righteously. Our heavenly Father is not slow; He's patient. But don't abuse that patience with callous disregard for His statutes. Repent and be holy in the sight of the Lord.



God, today I submit
my **mind**, my **eyes**,
my **mouth**, my **ears**,
my **hands**, my **feet**,
my **heart**, my **whole**
life to you.
Use me for **your** purposes!

Submission: The Way to Blessing

Romans 6:15–23

If professing believers were really honest, many would say their lives bear little resemblance to the Christian life described in Scripture. They struggle repeatedly with the same sins, feel that God rarely answers prayers, and wonder why He hasn't given them the desires of their heart. How is this possible?

The problem may be a lack of submission to Jesus Christ. People often want the forgiveness of sins and the promise of heaven but are not willing to place themselves under the lordship of Christ. Therefore, they are disconnected from what He wants to do in their life. In refusing to submit, they forfeit the blessings that come to those who know Christ as Savior and Lord.

As today's passage states, "You are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin resulting in death, or of obedience resulting in righteousness" (v. 16). Although we strongly dislike the concept of slavery, that is the reality for every person who enters the world: We are all born as slaves of sin. Thankfully, that doesn't have to be the final word. Anyone who turns to Christ in repentance and faith is set free. However, this is not freedom to simply do whatever we want. In fact, doing so would naturally head us back to our old slave master of sin.

Avoiding submission to God results in wasted years of chasing after His blessings through our own cunning. True freedom and blessing are found only in being a slave to God, who is always good, wise, and loving. In obedience to His will, we find freedom from sin, answers to prayer, and new desires that come from a changed heart.