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July 2020

Segments from Sarah

Welcome to the middle of my favorite season, Summer! I am so excited to be here at St. Mark's UMC. I can't wait to meet each of you and get to work being Christ's hands and feet here in the community. I hope you are enjoying the sunshine and warm weather, even if you're stuck inside or sheltering "in place." This season always reminds me of my childhood, when it seemed like the days would never end and school was months and months off. Of course, it isn't like that now—the last I heard, Summer School was slated to start 7/6, and go for the month of July. Of course, if school then resumes for the Fall semester in August, things will really be different, won't they?

Change is at hand for all of us, whether we like it or not. I am sure some of you don't like change—very few people do—but as I always tell my own kids, everything has to change to grow. Beyond the obvious reference to Ecclesiastes 3 (there is a season for everything...) the fact is that change is healthy—it's good to change! If we never change, we never grow. I once saw an illustration where someone never wanted to change, so he didn't—and he became a "baby man"—couldn't walk, couldn't work, etc. The point is that change is part of life and we—humans, and the congregation—are living and must change.

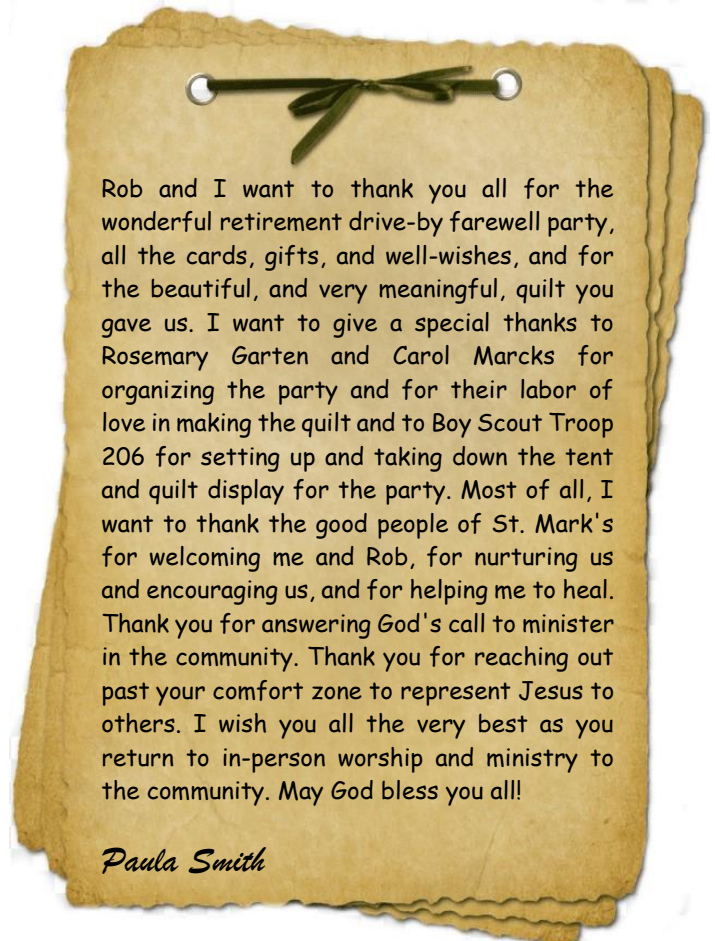
I hope you will join us when we reopen our doors 7/5/20. We're going to be celebrating not just our nation's birthday, but the opportunity to make new friends and renew old ones. You may see folks you haven't seen in months! See you soon!

Blessings,

Rev. Sarah Schofield-Wimberley

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Rob and I want to thank you all for the wonderful retirement drive-by farewell party, all the cards, gifts, and well-wishes, and for the beautiful, and very meaningful, quilt you gave us. I want to give a special thanks to Rosemary Garten and Carol Marcks for organizing the party and for their labor of love in making the quilt and to Boy Scout Troop 206 for setting up and taking down the tent and quilt display for the party. Most of all, I want to thank the good people of St. Mark's for welcoming me and Rob, for nurturing us and encouraging us, and for helping me to heal. Thank you for answering God's call to minister in the community. Thank you for reaching out past your comfort zone to represent Jesus to others. I wish you all the very best as you return to in-person worship and ministry to the community. May God bless you all!

Paula Smith



Upcoming Events

- 7/2.....Leadership Council Meeting (Zoom)
- 7/5.....Communion
- 7/5.....IMPACT Youth
- 7/12IMPACT Youth
- 7/19Leadership Council Meeting (Zoom)
- 7/26IMPACT Youth



Birthdays

July

- 7/1 Mary Morris
- 7/6 Rob Smith
- 7/7 Joseph Brison, Sr.
- 7/8 Joseph Hoeshele, Jr.
- 7/11 Beckie Stark
- 7/20 Glenda Price
- 7/31 Carol Marcks

Four area UM churches (St. Mark's, Mt. Washington, Northern Boulevard, and First) are involved in IMPACT Youth. They meet every Sunday. For details, contact Sarah Wimberly at 816-509-5450.

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
- Linda Roberts 650-5131 or 853-3398
- Carol Buhrle 796-3630 or 225-8174

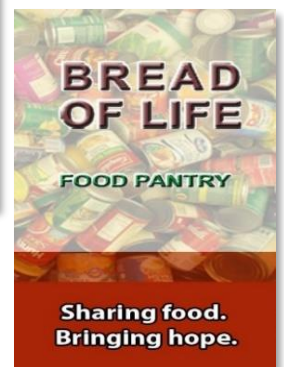
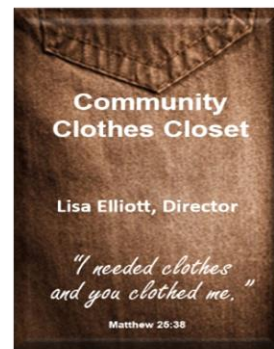
- Shirley Weaver 461-9224 or 716-1184
- Chris Pauley 571-3922
- Gayle Elliott 257-9655
- Arletta Cahill 600-6203
- Flora Costanza 914-8034
- Sandy Bower 373-5603
- Anna Inman (660) 232-1221
- Jackie McMenemy 461-7577
- Pat Prins 461-9226



Outreach Ministries

The Food Pantry and Clothes Closet have been temporarily closed due to the virus pandemic.

	MONTH	FAMILIES SERVED	PEOPLE SERVED	ITEMS OUT	ITEMS IN
Food Pantry	MAY	MINISTRIES TEMPORARILY CLOSED. NO REPORTING.			
Clothes Closet	MAY				



Visit our website for updates!

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



Suffering a Spiritual Failure

Romans 6:15–23

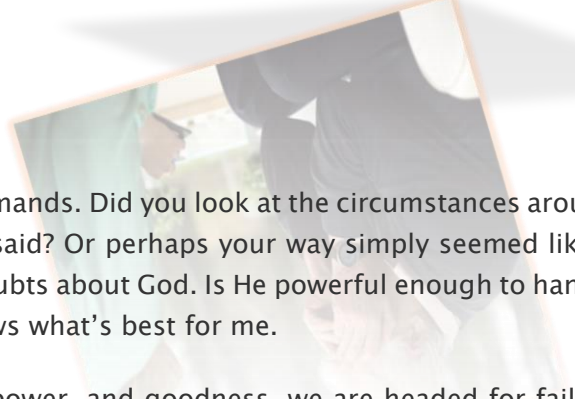
No one likes to fail at anything, and a spiritual fall is particularly distressing. The word failure immediately drums up uncomfortable thoughts of a blemish on our walk with God. Try as we might, however, we simply cannot and will not go through life without missing the mark from time to time.

Most troubling to believers are those instances when we know the right thing to do but don't do it. That's what happened with the Israelites, who refused to enter the land God had said to conquer and possess. They allowed fear to short-circuit their obedience to the heavenly Father. But the ultimate reason for their disobedience was a lack of trust in God.

Think about a time you failed to follow one of the Lord's commands. Did you look at the circumstances around you and conclude that it was too risky to do what God had said? Or perhaps your way simply seemed like a better approach. In both cases, the temptation began with doubts about God. Is He powerful enough to handle the circumstances if I follow Him? I'm not convinced He knows what's best for me.

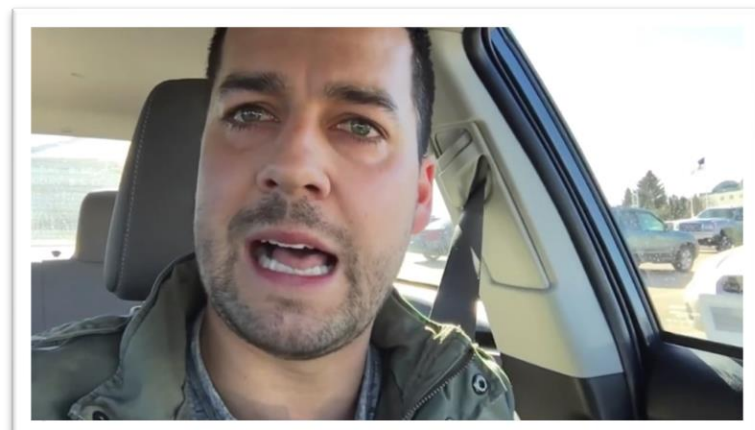
Every time we trust in ourselves and doubt God's wisdom, power, and goodness, we are headed for failure and its aftermath. Although He always forgives us when we come to Him with a repentant heart, we may still face the consequences of our self-willed rebellion.

The Lord wants us to have enough confidence in Him that we choose to follow His directions and thereby avoid the pitfalls of self-reliance. Remember that the God who calls us empowers us to obey whatever He commands.



Church Parking Lot Road Rage Rant

Click or copy to browser: <https://youtu.be/fYVX-aQDPH8>



Now we've all witnessed road rage on the highways...but in the church parking lot? John Crist shares his frustrations at church and possibly saying many things that we want to... but haven't... or have we?

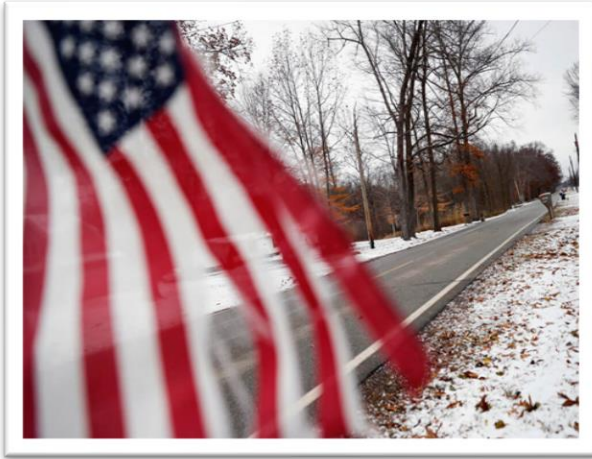


Bible Word Search

Q N O M M A S W K E D E S H K
 L T W Z E U Z H F V A V U U Q
 V K K D P O T G L Q N G L F Y
 I H U M A N C M C W R N A M C
 S J Y R I R J E Y U Y H O N G
 S L W R R L S D P Y M T D I M
 O R O E N O V I R O S O I S U
 S C N D U H M T U M I C C N I
 H P I O L X N E S S I C E U G
 E R M M U W G R A K G U A M E
 E R A H B I P R B C P S A I H
 P X J V E P D A D L D I Y D R
 B I N W Z I O N I B R A Y I A
 V A E T N M L E N Y A B E A S
 R R B I G E S A S R R E L I H
 R Y A Y A T H N L E I H L S D
 L M O R L T G A B D T S A S O
 Y I S U O O K I X T A R V U D
 D I G G W L N T V E Y E H S J
 I R L V Z E J S H M H E Z I J
 A O C T U H E I O P T B N R M
 G D O N J T R L R L U P E U G
 K A S A M E I I M E R U I X E
 S D M E X B C H A M B D B A L
 J B T Y T G H P H E O K E E M
 E D A S T A O F N R Y U D F I
 R A R E F R R X E W S A V M A
 U M A R N B M H I O E V A G R
 S A R P A K R L P L M C O D H
 A S A E Z J D S I U E E T N P
 L C W N A E T G R D E R F K E
 E U N T R A W H O W F H J T H
 M S U N E A G N T S H I L O H
 Y G E K T T I M K O R A Z I N
 U S C J H A I T P U R A M A T
 S V K M V S I A S M R E X R R
 S U Q W T R T S P Q U U Z J S
 O A I R A M A S P E R S I A A
 K L O G O V C P A N T I O C H
 F Y U S K D T J Q G X T D Y O



AMMON	MOAB
ANTIOCH	MYRA
ARARAT	NAZARETH
ASHDOD	NUMIDIA
BABYLON	OLYMPUS
BEERSHEBA	PATMOS
BENJAMIN	PERSIA
BETHEL	PHILISTIA
CORINTH	REUBEN
CYPRUS	RHEGIUM
DAMASCUS	ROME
EDOM	SAMARIA
EPHRAIM	SARDINIA
EUPHRATES	SERPENT
GILEAD	SHEEP
GOLGOTHA	SHILOH
HAZEROTH	SIN
HERODIUM	SMYRNA
HORMAH	SUCCOTH
ISRAEL	SYRIA
ISSUS	TAMAR
JERUSALEM	TEMPLE
JERICHO	THYATIRA
JUDEA	TROY
KEDESH	UGARIT
KORAZIN	URUK
LAODICEA	VALLEY
LYDIA	WILDERNESS
MACEDONIA	ZEBULUN
MFEDITFRANFAN	ZOAR



America's Perilous Position

Hear the call on the people of America to account for sowing seeds of immorality, pride, and greed. While we do live in dangerous times, there's still hope—and God has provided a way out of spiritual darkness, if only we return to Him. While there are many aspects of American life we love, currently our nation is in a perilous position.

However, many people are unaware of this truth. Some can't see the danger, while others deliberately ignore the warning signs or just don't care what happens to our country. It's easy to be lulled to sleep because change happens slowly. Then suddenly

we wake up and realize that America today looks nothing like it did in the past. By comparing its earlier state to its present condition, the dangers that await us if we continue down this path become painfully obvious.

The Principle of Sowing and Reaping

Nations and cultures change, but biblical principles don't. We can't keep doing whatever we want in this country and expect the Lord to continue blessing us. In **Galatians 6:7-8**, we are warned, "Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap. For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life."

Each of us must consider what kind of seed we are sowing in our personal lives, our churches, and our nation. Are we expressing and standing courageously for our beliefs? Do our biblical convictions determine how we vote, relate to people, do our jobs, and worship God? Are the messages in our churches based on the truths of Scripture, or are they merely insubstantial sermons without any biblical foundation?

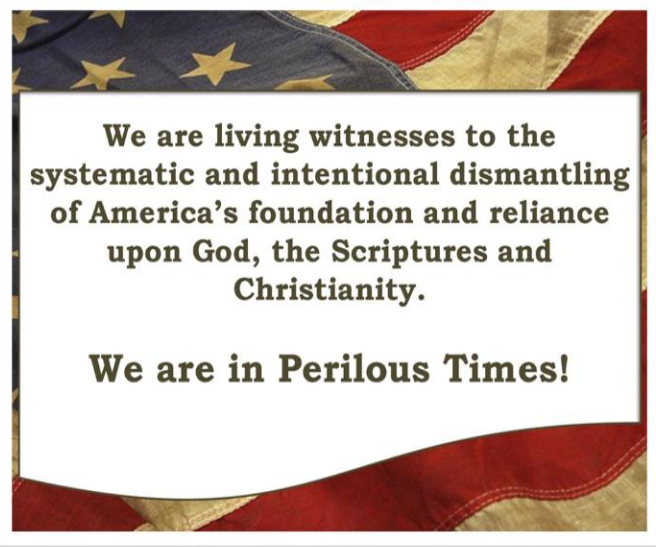
The principle in Galatians 6 guarantees that we will reap what we've sown, more than we've sown, and later than we've sown. No longer can we take for granted all the blessings of the past, because the harvest is near. Our nation is continuing to turn from righteousness to wickedness, sin, and deception. In the past, we would never have imagined that we could someday tolerate and accept so much evil and call it right and good. The future does not look promising for the next generation who will reap what we have sown.

Therefore, we cannot continue to deny or ignore the situation, thinking that life will continue as normal, undisturbed by the perilous conditions around us. Denial reveals that we've failed to heed Paul's warning not to be deceived (v. 7). Every single one of us will be affected by the state of our nation. Although we as Christians may not have sown the evil that permeates our culture, the church has been too quiet about it. It's time for God's people to take a deliberate, courageous stand for the truth and show that we are genuine believers and not merely those who profess to know Christ.

Signs of a Compromising Nation

When a country accepts ways of life that are forbidden in Scripture, its society will be marked by the following characteristics:

- **Immorality.** The culture will be driven by a desire for sexual freedom and indulgence that mocks genuine sexuality.
- **Greed.** People will do whatever it takes to acquire wealth, including cheating, stealing, and lying.
- **Pride.** There will be a sense of false confidence. People will think they don't need God because they can get whatever they want without Him.





- **Indulgence.** They will search in vain for self-fulfillment and happiness because true satisfaction only comes in obedience to God.
- **Slothfulness.** People will become dependent, no longer striving to do their best, but expecting others to take care of them.
- **Ungratefulness.** Pride causes people to forget and take for granted all the blessings they've enjoyed by being a part of this country.
- **Irreverence.** Having laid aside God's Word, nothing is sacred anymore, and God is no longer revered.

The Danger of Judgment

Because we have chosen the way of sin rather than godliness, our nation is facing judgment. However, if we as the people of God stand up, speak up, and live out our faith and convictions with boldness, there is hope. We can no longer stay quiet and go our own way hoping that conditions will improve. The only way things will change is if we, the people of God, commit ourselves to live in obedience to Him and refuse to compromise our convictions. No matter what the cost, we must not yield to compromise by remaining silent.

America has become its own enemy, and its conscience has become dull and insensitive. Today truth is whatever each person wants it to be, and a sense of respect and reverence for the things of God has been lost. Although Christians believe God's Word and want to live righteously, the society around us has forsaken the Lord. The ideals and values upon which our nation was founded have been taken away from us. What was once righteous and good has been surrendered to the pursuit of freedom to do whatever one pleases. However, there is still hope if we will wake up, face the reality of our perilous condition, and stand for the truth just as the founders of this nation did.

Surviving Perilous Times

Second Chronicles 7:13–15 is God's promise regarding Israel's restoration after experiencing His judgment because of their rebellion against Him. Although this passage was specifically given to the nation of Israel, the principles in verse 14 can also be applied by Christians today. If "My people who are called by My name humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, will forgive their sin and will heal their land."

Humble ourselves. This means we acknowledge God as Lord of our lives, subject ourselves to His commands and principles, and ask Him to search our hearts.

Pray. We must begin to consistently intercede for our nation. Seek God's face. Coming before the Lord, we ask Him to show us His will for our nation and for every area of our lives so we can live as He desires.

Turn from our sins. As the Lord shows us issues in our lives that are not right, we must repent of these sins and turn back to Him in obedience. The responsibility of intercession rests on Christians. Repentance begins with us, not the world. We are the ones who must humble ourselves, pray, seek the Lord, and turn from sin so God can revive His church and heal our land.

Response

What signs have you seen indicating that America has turned away from the Lord? Has this reality motivated you to consistently pray for our nation? If not, what is distracting you? One of the requirements for answered prayer is humility and repentance. What would humbling yourself involve? What thoughts, attitudes, words, and actions should you discontinue to become an effective intercessor for our nation?

Philippians 4:6 CSB says "Don't worry about anything, but in everything, through prayer and petition with thanksgiving, present your requests to God." With this passage in mind, let us pray...

Dear God... As we face these uncertain times in our nation and the world, we ask you, Lord, to dwell among us. We are comforted by the knowledge that You alone are our Savior and Lord, and the ultimate Master of life. We trust our nation to Your loving care, Lord. Send Your Spirit to touch the hearts of our nation's leaders. Give them the wisdom to know what is right, and the courage to do it. Give us Your light and Your truth to guide us in our ways so that we may seek Your will in our lives and impact the world around us for Your Kingdom. In Jesus' Name we pray. Amen