



August 2020

## Segments from Sarah



Welcome to August! As I write this, the Weather Channel is saying that we are in a heat advisory and there are dangers of record heat across the country. By all means, STAY SAFE AND HYDRATED! It's important

to be careful, whether you work inside or out, whether you have a good cooling system or not. But while you are practicing good self-care skills, don't forget to also do safe distancing, as we try to all avoid catching the pandemic virus. Sadly, the numbers of people effected by the heat and by the virus continue to rise.

I hope you are participating in worship as we continue doing our virtual worship services-- they are on Facebook at the page "[Current Pastor](#)" and then posted online on our [church website](#). Our worship team is really stepping up to provide you with the closest thing we can get to being in-house for worship. Granted, you can't hug everybody when you're sitting in your house, but we ARE still gathering!

These days are strange, but one thing remains constant: God is in charge and active in our world, our lives and our community. I realize that I haven't yet met many of you, but we will eventually meet-- and in the meantime, you can be supporting your church, with prayers, gifts, tithes, and witness, even if you can't be there with presence. Our worship team appreciates the prayers and support given by everyone. Another way you can support the church is to be gathering food for the Food Pantry, once it reopens.

Our leadership team has decided to wait until we see what happens with the pandemic in our area, but that doesn't mean we can't start building up the food stores! There are going to be many people in need once the "all clear" is given again-- people have been out of work, but some receive the stimulus, while

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others have been given unemployment. The utility companies have held off shutting off people's electric, gas and water during this time also, but rest assured that once the temperatures cool and the city gives the signal, those who are unable to pay for their utilities will be shut off. While you may be thinking that they should "know better" or "think ahead," the sad thing is that many of those most directly affected will be low-income older adults and children. So, the body of Christ will need to look after it's brothers and sisters!

For all we know, God may be going to surprise us-- remember, God said, "See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?" ([Isaiah 43:19](#), NIV) In this world God pronounced as "good" we're smart to just open our eyes watch!

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*

# Upcoming Events

- 8/2 ..... Communion
- 8/2 ..... IMPACT Youth
- 8/9 ..... IMPACT Youth
- 8/13 ..... Leadership Council Meeting (Zoom)
- 8/16 ..... IMPACT Youth
- 8/23 ..... IMPACT Youth
- 8/27 ..... Leadership Council Meeting (Zoom)
- 8/30 ..... IMPACT Youth



## Birthdays

- 8/6 Dale Armstrong
- 8/9 Linda Hoeschele
- 8/11 Pat Townsend
- 8/17 Heidi Maurice
- 8/19 Carolyn Sorensen
- 8/24 Anna Inman
- 8/27 Shirley Weaver
- 8/28 Asia Townsend
- 8/30 Bev Crabtree



# Sunday Sermons

- 8/2.....YOU Do Something.....[Matt 14:13-21](#)
- 8/9.....Little Faith .....[Matt 14:22-33](#)
- 8/16.....Power of Labels .....[Matt 15:21-28](#)
- 8/23.....The Rock .....[Matt 16:13-20](#)
- 8/30.....How Not to be a Stumbling Block .....[Matt 16:21-28](#)

# 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

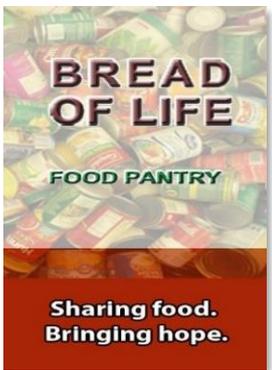
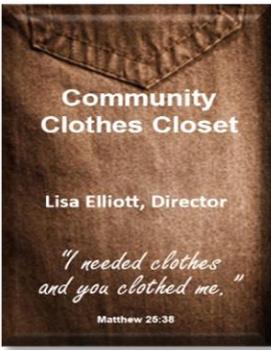


- Shirley Weaver .....461-9224 or 716-1184
- Chris Pauley ..... 571-3922
- Gayle Elliott ..... 257-9655
- Arletta Cahill ..... 600-6203
- Flora Costanza ..... 914-8034
- Sandy Bower ..... 373-5603
- Anna Inman..... (660) 232-1221
- Jackie McMenemy ..... 461-7577
- Pat Prins ..... 252-0210

# Outreach Ministries

The Food Pantry and Clothes Closet have been temporarily closed due to the virus pandemic, but we are taking food donations.

	MONTH	FAMILIES SERVED	PEOPLE SERVED	ITEMS OUT	ITEMS IN
Food Pantry	JUNE	<b>MINISTRIES TEMPORARILY CLOSED. NO REPORTING.</b>			
Clothes Closet	JUNE				



Visit our website for updates!

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

## IMPACT Youth

IMPACT news-- "IMPACT" is the name of the combined youth group of the northern Independence UM churches, which is for all kids, ages 5th grade through 12th grade. IMPACT stands for "Inspiring My Peers As a Christian Teen," and was chosen by the youth. Each of the churches, including St. Marks, Mt. Washington, First Independence and Northern Boulevard has youth in this fun group. It is led by Rev. Sarah Schofield-Wimberley and Tad Whitmire, a ministry candidate from First. Each church has provided adults to help supervise when we are at that church, and when we rotate from church to church during the school year, the host churches serve as the lunch site. Parents are always welcome to come! We're glad any time youth bring their friends as well!

We meet each Sunday currently, and send out a text message the day before with the specifics of the meeting and time. We always eat lunch together and have a devotional and fun. The youth are amazing-- they have done so much mission work, but are also great friends and witnesses to others of the love of Christ.

When the pandemic is over, we will be going on a mission trip-- last year we went to Wilderness Camping and Retreat Center to help with Baby Grace Camp, and another time to help with various work needs. If you know of a youth who might be interested in joining our group, please contact Rev. Sarah or Tad and we will include that youth in our text message group!



## Can God Use You?

### [Exodus 3:1-12](#)

Do you want to be used by the Lord? I hope so because that is His will for every believer. As we saw last week, [Ephesians 2:10](#) says God created us in Christ to do good works that He planned for us beforehand. If we are going to become useful to Him, there are three questions we must consider.

Who is God? In Exodus 3, the Lord used a burning bush to get Moses' attention (v. 2), and then He introduced Himself as the God of Moses' forefathers (v. 6). The future liberator of the Hebrew slaves needed to know the identity of the One calling him into service. In the same way, we, too, must be sure that we're serving the only true God. Otherwise, all our efforts and sacrifices will be in vain.

Who am I? Once Moses knew who God was, he was overwhelmed with his own inadequacy and asked, "Who am I?" (v. 11). The Lord uses humble people who reverence Him. Although Moses knew he was insufficient for the task, the Lord assured him by saying, "Certainly I will be with you" (v. 12).

Why am I here? God told Moses his obedience to the assignment would culminate in worship (v. 12). [Romans 12:1](#) says we worship God when we offer ourselves as living sacrifices. In other words, we surrender totally to Him so that He can use us for His glory. We exist to glorify Him by the way we live, speak, and love.

Serving the Lord isn't something that we design and plan. It has nothing to do with our will but instead requires that we know and submit to the Father, humbly relying on His strength to do His will for His glory.

## When We Doubt

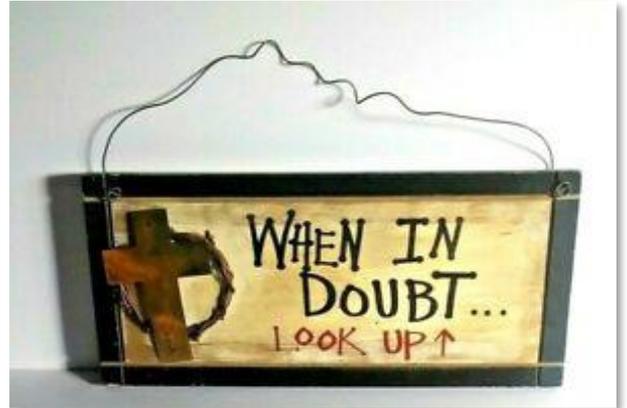
[John 20:24-31](#)

Have you ever doubted God? At some point in life, every one of us could probably answer yes. Doubts come when our expectations are not met—for example, when we believe that God will act a certain way, but He doesn't. Then we start to question His love and wonder whether He truly has our best interest at heart.

The most famous doubter in the Bible is Thomas. He wasn't with the other disciples when the resurrected Jesus appeared to them. Later, when they told Thomas that they had seen the Lord, he refused to believe. He'd left everything to follow Jesus, but the crucifixion had dashed his expectations of a glorious messianic kingdom. In his doubting state, Thomas demanded proof before he would believe.

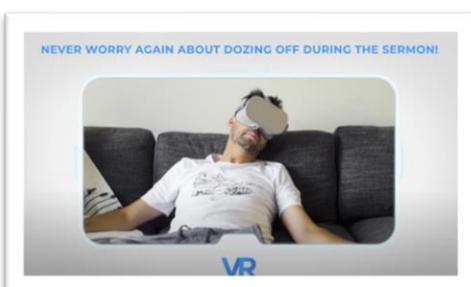
Have you ever considered how bold Thomas's ultimatum was? No human being has the right to demand anything of the Son of God. Yet the following week, the Lord appeared to the doubting disciple and graciously offered the proof Thomas wanted. Jesus knew this wasn't a case of rebellious unbelief, because Thomas belonged to Him ([John 18:9](#)).

When we are the Lord's, we never have to fear that He will cut us off. Remember Scripture's words of assurance: "If we are faithless, He remains faithful, for He cannot deny Himself" (2 Timothy 2:13). Our doubts should be a reminder that we have much more to learn about God. So let's think of them as a challenge to dig deeply into His Word to discover why our expectations have led us astray. The more we grow in our knowledge of our Lord, the more we'll trust Him.



## Virtual Reality Church – John Crist

Click or copy to browser: [https://youtu.be/R\\_bkNkrWdz8](https://youtu.be/R_bkNkrWdz8)



Tired of having to get dressed and drive across town? Don't want to wear a mask? Would you like to customize your own church service? Introducing "Virtual Reality Church!"