



DEALING WITH THINGS WE CANNOT CHANGE

I enjoy listening to Christian Radio. My local station features a short program called "Confectionately Yours". In the show, the host weaves a short spiritual meditation around food; two of my favorite things! I learned recently that the show's host lives in Dayton, Ohio where I currently live. I'd like to meet her some day. The latest program I heard deals with the Serenity Prayer.

The Serenity Prayer, authorship attributed to Reinhold Neihbur, is a well known prayer that speaks to our need to choose the most efficient course of action in this world of craziness. In the prayer, we are encouraged to do something about the things we can and reminded that there are things beyond our control. Finally, the short version ends with the request for the ability to discern between the two.

What I didn't know, is that the poem continues with some practical strategies and outcomes for living out that first part of the poem. This poem is a perfect follow-up on the theme of my last meditation on appreciating the blessings of the NOW and a very nice discussion lead-in to a reprised sermon I watched on-line this Sunday. That sermon dealt with the reality that our crown is only won through endurance, overcoming persecution and trial, and by giving up ourselves to the will of God.

Maybe there is something you'd like to do in your life and a viral pandemic has shut down movement and society as we know it. I know this is an unlikely scenario...but just go with me on this one. Perhaps there has been death in the family, gossip and discord in the church, you had a fallout with a friend or your spouse. Well...you cannot change the past, you cannot change how others are offended or their behavior in response. You CAN change your own way of looking at the situation and adjust your own behavior and accept your own culpability. The most efficient and peaceful way of changing a bad situation is for YOU to become the change you want to see

I invite you to take time and meditate on this poem and the spiritual principles it highlights. Perhaps we can find a space to chat about what it says to you and how these principles might be applied in our lives. Of course, we can have that conversation respecting the appropriate distancing in lieu of the current pandemic...but let's get together! Be safe...and be blessed!

The Serenity Prayer (Original Full Version)

God, give us grace to accept with serenity
the things that cannot be changed, Courage to change
the things which should be changed,
and the Wisdom to distinguish the one from the other.
Living one day at a time,
Enjoying one moment at a time,
Accepting hardship as a pathway to peace,
Taking, as Jesus did,

This sinful world as it is,
Not as I would have it,
Trusting that You will make all things right,
If I surrender to Your will,
So that I may be reasonably happy in this life,
And supremely happy with You forever in the
next. Amen.

Submitted by Jose' Jones

BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS

Robert (Bob) Davis	April 1	Mary Moorman	April 12
Shaquell Cooks	April 1	Sophia Robinson	April 14
Johanna Griffin	April 1	Josephine Laury	April 14
Bev. Holland	April 2	Marisol Boyd	April 15
John Salazar	April 3	Terrance Winfrey	April 15
Jane Beal	April 4	Patricia Johnson	April 18
Marjorie Baker	April 4	Karen Jones	April 19
Breia Watson	April 4	Marquita Knight	April 19
Helyn Waddell	April 7	Daniel Peters	April 21
Marlena Jenkins Siller	April 7	William Givens	April 24
Jeffrey Hawk	April 9	Reanna Dawson	April 30
Erin Jerae Foster	April 10		
Tina Drake	April 11		

PRAYER LIST

Family of Bill and Rose Allen
 Terrence Boyd
 The Bragg Family
 Betty & Jan Brecht
 Marco Antonio Camacho
 Derrick Daniels/Family
 Paula Drake & Family
 Vicki Eason
 Doris Evans
 Janet Fahlen
 Don Gaskins Family
 Isabella Green
 Hilario Antonio Gutierrez
 Diann Harris & Family
 Obie Harris
 Andrea Hirtle
 Chante Johnson
 Jose Jones Family
 Pastor Robert E Jones Family
 Michael Love



Jackie McKenzie
 Bob Moore
 Carolyn Moore
 Filomena Nicacio
 Misael & Olivia
 Margaret Oglesby
 Charles Peterson
 Bernetha Pulliam
 Melanie Shoop
 Kiffany Stargell &
 Parents
 Mary Steele
 Nelson Stone, Sr.
 Dorris Thompson
 Gerry Thompson
 Jimmy/Sue Thompson
 Ronals Todd
 José Vidal & Family
 Pastor Darryll & Rev.
 Karen Young

Thanks to those of you are gave me feedback on the new system of distributing the newsletters. Please feel free to give me feedback anytime. Let me know if there is something you don't like, would like added or would like me to change.

Thank You - Jan Brecht

I want to thank everyone who contributed an article to this month's newsletter. It is very much appreciated.
 Jan Brecht

For those of you who were unable to attend Dr. Rev. Robert E. Jones funeral service, you may access it on Darrell Jone's Facebook page. Just click on Bob's photo on Darrell's March 28th post. It may also be accessed on YouTube by typing in "Rev. Robert E. Jones Funeral Service".

The Trump administration has ruled that gun shops are considered "essential" businesses that should remain open as other businesses are closed to try to stop the spread of coronavirus. I do not understand why gun shops are considered "essential". Do they think if people buy guns, they can shoot the virus away? Is it so that due to the deaths caused by the virus, deaths from guns will decrease? I see no reason why this is essential. I worry that people who are in despair over the isolation, lack of resources for rent & food may become so anxious and despondent that they may consider self harm or harming their entire family. Please contact your Senators and Congressmen/women to voice your disapproval of this decision.

An Elder or Deacon will be available to pray individually with anyone who desires prayer immediately after the worship service at the front of the church in the choir stand. Say a special prayer for our sick and shut-ins & those in need of improvement in their health.



Jorge Herrera's Minute for Mission "Spring Break Testimony"

I am in the final year of my tenure as an undergraduate, majoring in History, at Wilmington College in Wilmington, Ohio. As a college student, Spring Break is always a welcomed time-off from study and the rigors of college life. Many students head for some beach resort or spend time in frivolities and mayhem. Not me. This Spring Break, before the limitations imposed by the Covid-19 pandemic, I traveled to the Southern United States with members of the Multicultural Affairs Office on a tour of the Civil Rights Museums and landmarks in Georgia and Alabama.

The trip down South was focused primarily on visiting places of historical significance relating to the Civil Rights Struggle of the 1960's. The trip definitely had an impact on all who took part. The museums in Georgia and Alabama helped remind many of the African American students of the struggles their ancestors went through. It served to remind everyone of the terrible things humans are capable of doing. The experience definitely allowed for all on the trip to feel much closer to one another regardless of race. As an Hispanic, I was able to empathize with my peers and was emotionally touched by the history as it was presented. We were all brought together on this trip so that we may understand that the world we live in today is far different than that of the 1960's.

Not everyone on this trip was acquainted with one another and there were different types of people mixed in within the group, but despite those differences no one felt separate or isolated during the trip. We traveled together for hours and very quickly felt comfortable around one another. Not too long into the trip, we began to interact with each other like we were family. During the toughest times where we found it hard to keep our composure, we were by one another's side ready and willing to lend a hand or a hug.

Having the freedom to travel together in the Deep South definitely leaves me feeling overall happier. The moments when we were travelling and joking were beautiful and helped to form new friendships. Those friendships were deepened by the empowering walk over the Edmund Pettus Bridge and the silent, emotional journey through The National Memorial for Peace and Justice. This Civil Rights trip has touched my heart and informed me. It leaves me with an appreciation of all that has been done to combat discrimination and racism in this country and a realization of how much is still left to do. All in all, this year's Spring Break trip was inspirational!

To my peers at College Hill Community Church who aspire to go to college or who are already there, my advice to you is to take full advantage of your time in college. Learn all you can, get to meet and know people from all walks and faiths. Understand how only in appreciating our differences can we come to know and share God's love for all individuals in all places. This is a lesson I learned at College Hill and which continues to help me as I go out into the world as a young adult.

AND HE WALKS WITH ME AND HE TALKS WITH ME

Most of you know my mother has dementia and lives in a nursing home. I've visited her everyday from noon until after I put her to bed in the evening. That was until May 13th. On that day, I was reading to her old cards from her 70th birthday celebration when the Activities Director came and told me they were locking down the facility in about ½ hour due to the virus and I would no longer be able to come in the facility until the ban was lifted.

Mom didn't quite understand what I was telling her before I left. She took it well but I was in tears when I said goodbye. She thanked me for coming, thanked me for all I've done and told me she loved me. I felt like she was saying a permanent goodbye. Mom's favorite hymn is "In the Garden". Because she usually begs me not to leave at night I always tell her "you won't be alone, God will be with you. He walks with you, he talks with you and he tells you, you are his own". Then I tell her goodnight - I love you. This is the last thing I told her before I left. Tears streamed down my cheeks on my drive home and I cried on and off most of Friday and Saturday. Sunday I thought about the Serenity Prayer, "God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change; courage to change the things I can; and wisdom to know the difference." I realized I couldn't change the visitation ban, but I could change how I dealt with it. Since that time, I've written mom a letter every day. I include a memory from the past that she can discuss with the staff person who reads it to her. I've stood outside her bedroom window several times talking to her on the phone. The first couple of times she hardly looked up at me and mumbled so I could barely understand her. When I saw her Monday morning she looked up at me, gave a big smile and said "Jannie". She was much more alert and I thanked God for the wonderful gift.



The staff at the facility have been more than wonderful. They call and let me talk to mom several times a week. Staff go in and sing with mom. Prior to the ban after lunch or before supper every day I pulled several of the residents together and we sang for about an hour. Last week, staff did a 'flash dance up and down the halls singing 'YMCA' and the 'The Macarena'. While they are not ready for prime time yet, it sure lifted my spirits and I'm sure mom loved it.

Residents are confined to their rooms but the Activity Staff wheel residents one at a time through the hallways. I appreciate the staff more than they will ever know. Next Wednesday, the Presbyterian Women and I are going to sponsor a 'Thank You' pizza party for all the staff. I want to thank the Presbyterian Women for their kindness. They are also doing the same for Mary Scott,

Today, the Administrator called and told me the Corporate office said starting today, no one may come on the property. I understand a family member came this morning and behaved very bad - so bad they had to call the police. Now, I'm going to start e-mailing my letters to the Administrator and look and talk to mom on Zoom.

I know this has been a difficult time for everyone, but our faith in God will see us through. There are so many people to thank and keep in our prayers during this time. A big thank you to first responders, medical staff, the police, firefighters, grocery store clerks, people that stock the stores, and so any more that are putting their health at risk to help others. I also have to tip my hat to Governor DeWine for his daily press conferences. I think he has made good decisions - better than our national leader - to slow down the virus in Ohio. His press conferences are very informative and my sister and I love Dr. Adkin's input.

Roman's 12:12 tell us "Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer."

Philippians 6 says, "Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. ⁷ Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus."

SHELTERING IN PLACE

Hello College Hill Church Family and Friends. I hope you are all staying well and sane.

I, like so many of my friends, started this quarantine with a mental check list, and the best intentions, of projects to do around the house. I have done two things on that list. The Hallmark Channel beckons everyday between 11-3:00 when I have to then pry myself away from the TV and rush around to get things tidied up and dinner started before Michael gets home.

Through lots of prayers for patience, Michael, Isaac and Noah are still alive and well. There has been peace between the boys and me I think because I don't ask them to do anything and we are only in the same room together for short periods of time.

But all kidding aside, we are all getting along wonderfully. I know that after dinner they would rather retreat and play video games, but instead when I ask them to stay and play a few rounds of cards or board games, they do. Whether this is out of love or just to keep the peace, I'll take it. Because I am truly, truly blessed to have us all well and under one roof.

Peace & Love, Lynn Hulbert



"The new "sheltering in place" is not as hard for me because since Jean's passing, I've done that to a greater degree. The experience can have some benefits. Many times of the day or night, I can easily meditate, or even commune aloud with God, knowing it's only between God and me. But during this time, I am tackling some long delayed tasks. And what a blessed trip down memory lane that's proving to be! In cleaning just one drawer, I discovered a stash of quarters, my dad's wedding rings, driver's license, and Social Security card, and an aged photo of my brother.



Decluttering is becoming something to anticipate. Moreover, increased phone calls have connected, or reconnected, me with family and friends with messages of joy and celebration of such things as remission of cancer, and offers of friendship and support. Also, thoughts of love ease my loneliness, sadness, or anxiety about the suffering caused by the Pandemic. Repeatedly, I recall the physical and spiritual love I experienced so recently at Bob's "Celebration of Life." Bob's magnificent example of a life so dedicated to, and rewarded by, God's love, coupled with memories of the smiling faces, hugs, words during, and after the service, bring me immeasurable gratitude, comfort and joy. Similarly, examples of the numerous selfless people working to heal, protect, serve, or uplift us during this tragic time bring me positive thoughts and

feelings. I daily uplift prayers of thanks and safety for them, affording me an opportunity to be not only blessed, but a blessing."

Gerry Thompson

SHELTERING IN PLACE

"For me "Sheltering in Place, is not that difficult, because I tend to spend a lot of time at home anyway. I do miss some of the opportunities I was having with Darlene to pick up food and deliver it to those in need. Looking forward to that gives me a hopeful attitude. I don't tend to get lonely. I keep busy but I pace myself. I have things I am committed to doing daily such as exercise and meditate and try to prevent a build up of house work. For example I used to have to keep everything spotless all the time. I still clean-up up along the way and put things back in place, but I stretch out bigger jobs by planning just one project per day, and am willing to set it aside if need be. In fact when you called today, I thought you might be calling for help, and I was ready to accept. The most important thing that helps me in this time of anxiety and stress is relying on 'God's promises . I've experienced losing loved ones and other disappointments or losses. But God has blessed me richly in many ways. I listen to all the terrible news about COVID -19. But I don't allow it to get me down, depressed, or excessively worried about what might come. I know God will be with me, no matter what.



Remaining trustful and hopeful keeps me centered and able to follow what I am accustomed to doing. I do hope when we get to the other side of this terrible world wide experience, people will have a better appreciation for the gift of life, and the value of each of us. May those who are the haters and want to divide us, have a change of heart for the better."

Susie Grierson:

An advertisement for Vote-by-Mail ballot request. It features a red and white flag icon at the top left. The main text is in blue and red: "Have you requested your Vote-by-Mail ballot yet?". Below this, it says "Find out how at VoteOhio.gov". At the bottom left, there is a deadline notice: "Deadline to request your Vote-by-Mail ballot is April 25. Ballots must be postmarked by April 27th or dropped off by 7:30pm at your county board of elections on April 28th." On the right side, there is a black mailbox. At the bottom right, the name "Frank LaRose" is written in white, with "Ohio Secretary of State" underneath it.

Have you requested your **Vote-by-Mail ballot yet?**

Find out how at **VoteOhio.gov**

Deadline to request your **V**ote-by-Mail ballot is **April 25**. Ballots must be postmarked by **April 27th** or dropped off by 7:30pm at your county board of elections on **April 28th**.

Frank LaRose
Ohio Secretary of State

The new deadline to request an absentee ballot for the April 28th primary election must be post-marked by April 25th.) Ballots must be postmarked by April 27th or dropped off at the county Board of Elections by 7:30pm on Tuesday, April 28th.

The new law only allows for limited in-person voting on April 28th. In-person voting will only occur on April 28 and only at boards of elections early vote centers, not at precinct polling locations. In person voting will only be available for individuals with disabilities who require in-person voting and those who do not have a home mailing address.

This is an important election. Exercise you right to vote.

SHELTERING IN PLACE

Life in Coronatimes

In these moments when we don't have casual chatting times in church or at fellowship, I was asked to reflect on what my life is like as we're forced to be mostly at home and physically away from others.



Our cat has loved more lap time, and Karen and I have enjoyed daily or even twice daily walks in our neighborhood and at Aullwood Gardens seeing children, parents and dogs reveling in early spring. A bagpiper even strutted down the street the other day. I greatly miss singing. We check in with friends and family. Sundays we listen to several churches' virtual services.

Work with the presbytery has continued—even intensified—in the past weeks. Meetings go on but with the added challenges of arranging Zoom connections. Daily there are new recommendations arriving by email, including ideas for virtual worship or electronic session meetings, guidance on how to do communion without being together, updates on General Assembly or the Synod, and possible opportunities for churches to comply with or take advantage of new legislation. The question for staff is, what do we highlight and proactively send to all our churches? What do we post on our presbytery web site? What do we leave to civil authorities and health officials to promote?

Coping with information overload was a challenge before this virus. Now do we risk stoking greater fears and anxiety by oversharing? Yesterday I got a helpful guidance sheet from the denomination with 52 online links embedded in it. I didn't know where to start!

So how reduce anxiety? With more mealtimes together, Karen and I agreed that we would end each supper with a reading and reflection as a spiritual discipline this Lent. We started out first with a Walter Brueggemann book that wasn't right for this purpose, but then began to use J. Philip Newell's *Celtic Treasure: Daily Scriptures and Prayer* (Canterbury Press Norwich, 2005). I had first met Philip thirty years ago on the Isle of Iona in Scotland, so reading his words during these troubling days has been a special blessing. Last night, for example, he had us light a candle and welcome the Trinity's presence; reflect together on the text of Psalm 51 ("Create in me a clean heart, O God,"); and then pray giving thanks for the gift of this day and praying for the life of the world. These days, these are not short prayers.

We concluded with this prayer based on the day's reading: "Grant us open hearts, O God, open to you and open to one another, open to the splendour of the earth and open to its pain and the pain of its people. Grant us open hearts, O God." Each day, as the candle is extinguished, we close with this blessing: "The blessings of heaven, the blessings of earth, the blessings of sea and of sky. On those we love this day and on every human family, the gifts of heaven, the gifts of earth, the gifts of sea and sky." Amen and amen.

By Larry Hollar

ZOOM IN TO JOIN PALM SUNDAY SERVICE AND OTHER EVENTS

During our social isolation, many of you have been hearing of **Zoom**. Zoom is a free app that allows groups to meet with one another on the internet. Here is how to sign up and use Zoom.

1. Go to **Zoom.us** on line
2. The first page will ask you to enter your email address.
Once you type in your address and hit enter,
Zoom will send you a confirmation e-mail.
Go to your email and follow the instructions to click on the “sign in” box
3. This will take you back to Zoom where you will be asked to create a password.
4. Once you are signed in you will see on the top right menu of the page: ‘**Join a Meeting**”
Click on this.
Enter the meeting ID that has been shared by whoever is holding the meeting.

The Palm Sunday service will be shared on Zoom this Sunday.

Stan Hirtle is using Zoom for **Adult Sunday School** at 9:45am. He will post on Facebook an ID before the meeting, and those who want to “join in” will use that ID to be a part of Sunday School.

Marva Gray is using Zoom for the 6:00pm Wednesday Bible Study. She will post on Facebook the ID before the meeting, and you may join in if you wish.

If you do not use Facebook, call the person holding the Zoom meeting and they will give you the ID. Also, IDs may be shared in group e-mails so watch for those.

Zoom may be used on your computer and/or on your cell phone.

EASTER AROUND THE WORLD

Easter traditions are important, but they vary widely. While Americans dye hardboiled eggs, Kenyans carve soapstone eggs and present them as gifts in banana-fiber boxes. In Bermuda, locals fly homemade kites on Good Friday — a tradition that began when a teacher illustrated Christ’s ascension to heaven using a cross-shaped kite.

Ethiopian Christians observe a 56-day fast from meat and all animal products. On Easter, they dress in white to worship in churches decorated with handmade fabric. Then they feast with non-Christians on roast chicken, goat and rice.

In France, church bells are silent between Holy Thursday and Easter to observe Jesus’ Passion. According to legend, the bells grow wings and fly to Rome to be blessed, returning on Easter with chocolate and presents. In one town’s main square, chefs make a giant omelet with 4,500 eggs to feed 1,000 people!



It is important to keep your spirits up during this "sheltering in place" time. Photos of children always lift me up. I hope these photos help raise your spirit as well.



SEE NO EVIL



**DEAR GOD PLEASE
GIVE ME PATIENCE
AND PLEASE HURRY!**



**HOW OLD DO I HAVE TO
BE TO RUN FOR
PRESIDENT?**



**CONGRESS COULD TAKE
A LESSON FROM US**



**PLEASE - PRETTY
PLEASE!**



**LET ME SHOW YOU
THE REST OF THE
HOUSE**



The way we celebrate Easter may be different this year. If Jesus conquered the grave, surely he can conquer an earthly sickness. Not only will Easter be a celebration to ground us in what is most important, but it deserves our attention, no matter what is going on around us. During this 'sheltering at home' period, take time and read the Gospels. Take time to read the scriptures about Holy Week. Take time to read the Easter story. Read the verses as though you are reading them for the first time. Read the verses as a child with wonderment of learning about Jesus Christ for the first time. Think back to the first time you heard the story.

It is Easter. This is a season when we reflect on the suffering, sacrifice, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Emily Belle Freeman

Easter is a time when God turned the inevitability of death into the invincibility of life. Craig D. Lounsbrough

Let's walk with him. Let's see how Jesus spent his final days. Enter the holy week and observe. Feel his passion. Sense his power. Hear his promise that death has no power. Max Lucado

He paid on the rugged cross to have you and I cleansed of our guilt and sins. For it was during Easter that Jesus Christ re-wrote the story of mankind. Francis Okumu

If Jesus forgave those who nailed Him to the cross, and if God forgives you and me, how can you withhold your forgiveness from someone else? Anne Graham Lotz

Whatever you are facing right now, remember the empty tomb: Jesus is alive, and because of that, we win in the end! Sheila Walsh

This week, whatever you may be facing, remember that in three short days, the disciples and family of Christ went from hopelessness to hopeful - from devastation to celebration, from defeat to victory! Because of the cross and the tomb, you have a hope in Christ! Sheri Easter

Christ has not only spoken to us by his life but has also spoken for us by his death. Soren Kierkegaard

The great gift of Easter is hope - Christian hope which makes us have that confidence in God, in his ultimate triumph, and in his goodness and love, which nothing can shake. Basil Hume



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Jan Brecht - Newsletter Co-Editor
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DATES TO REMEMBER

April 5-12 Holy Week
April 5 Palm Sunday (service on Zoom)
April 9 Maundy Thursday
April 10 Good Friday
April 12 Easter
April 28 Primary, (Absentee Ballots must be
Postmarked by April 27)
Sunday Mornings at 9:45am on Zoom
Bible Study - Wednesdays at 6pm on Zoom

THE MISSION STATEMENT FOR COLLEGE HILL COMMUNITY CHURCH

We are a family of Christians who intentionally include all God's children as we live in faithful obedience to God's command to love one another and seek justice, using Jesus as our example. We strive to serve God's people and connect to each other personally, spiritually and socially.