



FAITH UMC NEWS

August

There are so many ways for us to look at what's going on in the world. We can be angry at injustice. We can be frustrated at division. We can be baffled at the spread of illness. But I want to suggest another way of looking at our current world situation. I want to suggest that there is a better way—a way that leads us forward. What if instead of living in anger, frustration, confusion, and fear, we chose to believe that God is giving us an unprecedented (in our lifetime) opportunity?

I think we must come to terms with the idea that we are not going to “go back to normal.” We find comfort in the familiar, and we're apprehensive about things unknown, but I think we all know that continuing to do things the way we've always done them in a world that is changing rapidly will lead to disappointment. The great good news--that the Kingdom of God has come near; that Jesus Christ, the Son of the Living God, has brought about forgiveness for our sins through His shed blood; that by Jesus' death and resurrection we have been invited into the Kingdom of God—is timeless. But the ways in which we share that great good news have changed profoundly over the years, and while the current changes may be happening so fast as to leave us breathless, they offer no less an opportunity to reach the people of the world.

In a sense, though, our current circumstances do allow us to go back—not to the way things were six months ago or a year ago—but to the way things were in the early church. Worship is important. Gathering together as God's people allows us to worship God in unity and solidarity. It allows us to be strengthened and energized. In it we receive the grace of Almighty God through song, word, and especially through Holy Communion. But real discipleship doesn't happen if the sum total of our faith life is an hour on Sunday morning. Our present circumstances push us to consider that our homes are where so much of discipleship happens, or at least where so much of it is intended to happen. When we look to the early church, we see people who came together in their homes to worship God, to pray, to study scripture, and to live a life of faith together. With so many of life's distractions put on hold because of the pandemic, what better time—what better opportunity—can we have to re-engage in our own homes?

The challenge for each of us is in making the most of this opportunity. How can we as God's people offer hope in the midst of such circumstances? How can we serve? How can we respond that will show the world something different, something better?

My prayer for each of us is that we will stop spending time and energy longing for the way it used to be and start pouring ourselves into the way things can be going forward.

Grace and peace,

Brandon

August Birthdays

- 8/7 Norman Odeneal
- 8/15 Martha Sargent
- 8/16 Emily Rodgers
- 8/22 Matt Hobby
- 8/20 Cheryl Capouya



September Birthdays

- 9/5 Tina Strickland
- 9/17 Mike Lucia
- 9/17 Joseph Jones
- 9/18 Melinda Varner
- 9/18 Alex Strickland
- 9/18 Bernie Scott
- 9/21 Doug Varner
- 9/23 Skip Kittrell

Distribution of the USDA food boxes will resume at a date to be announced in September

The Blessing Box has been a tremendous success in helping families in our area. Please remember to bring your contributions so that we can continue to serve others.

A Bible study on The Sermon on the Mount meets in the Fellowship Hall on Thursdays at 6:30. This study is being facilitated by Polly McClure

Youth will start meeting n Wednesday night @6:30 at Faith UMC in August. September meetings will be at Clay UMC

North Alabama Annual Conference postponed until September 26

Prayer Requests

Jim McKee

Jeanne McKee

Elaine Carmichael

Tammy Kittrell and family

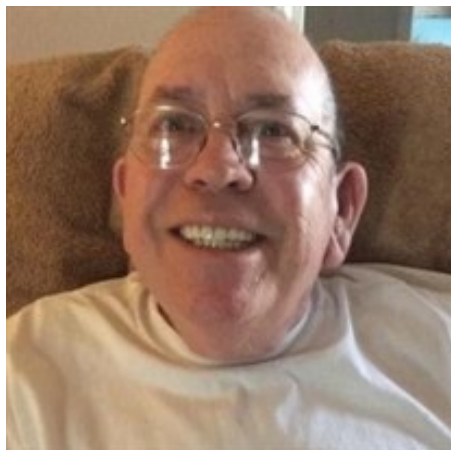
Pam Bailey and family

Teann Yeager

Glen Colvin

Catherine Bright (Eric's grandmother)

Send your prayer requests to prayer@faithumcinclay.org



In Memory

Larry Eugene Bailey

01/13/1945—08/01/2020

Larry Eugene Bailey of Trussville, AL went to be with the Lord on Saturday, August 1, 2020 at the age of 75. He was a loving and devoted husband, father, grandfather who was very much loved and will be greatly missed. He was a member of Faith United Methodist Church. He was preceded in death by his parents, Andrew Jackson Bailey, and Flora Belle Bailey; two sisters Mryt Hollis and Cel Taylor; one brother Roy "Bull" Bailey; one daughter Debbie Lynn Turner. He is survived by his wife of 56 years, Pamela Jane Bailey; his daughter Janet Lawrence (Wade) and a son, Danny Bailey (Leigh); his beloved grandchildren Brandon Tucker, Nathan Trull, Nick Trull, Chase Turner, Ethan Bailey, Cheza Tucker, and Carson Bailey.

Condolences can be mailed to Pam Bailey at 100 Trellis Circle, Springville, AL 35146.