



FAITH UMC NEWS



On November 1st we celebrated All Saints Day by remembering those saints among us who have finished their course and have run their race and have received their eternal reward. As part of our worship service we talked about the great encouragement and inspiration we can glean from recognizing that those saints who have gone before us have endured many trials and hardship and have nevertheless persevered. We used Hebrews 12:1-3 as our text for this discussion, and we find right in the middle of this text the word perseverance. 2020 has provided so many unexpected obstacles, and while we know that trials are just part of life, I think we can all agree that 2020 seems to have had more than its fair share. That is all the more reason for us to consider this text—and to find encouragement in it!

As I write this we have only 60 days left in this year. Let me encourage all of us to persevere. In fact, let me encourage all of us to do more than just hold on and survive. Let me encourage us to thrive in this season. As followers of Christ, in the midst of struggles and trials, we have the great privilege and joy of leaning into the arms of our Savior. We also have the great opportunity to let these uncertain times prompt us to a period of reflection—on the things we take for granted, the assumptions we make about ourselves and others, and perhaps most importantly, on the priorities in our lives.

Self-examination can be painful, but periodic, honest, and Spirit-inspired examination of our lives is a critical part of our faith walk. Soon we will be moving into the season of great anticipation and celebration, as we await the coming of our Savior. My prayer for each of us is that we would finish the year strong—in prayer, in self-reflection, and in study of Scripture. Let us use this time to let our roots dig deeply into the rich soil of our faith in the Triune God. We may not know what the next year will bring, but if we do these things, we will be ready for whatever comes our way.

Grace and peace,

Brandon

November Birthdays

11/3 Julie Rodgers
11/10 Cathy Bailey
11/13 Abbie Watson
11/16 Kerry Swickard
11/19 Ron Creamer
11/28 Joe Hobby



December Birthdays

12/2 Polly McClure
12/7 Mike Hosey
12/15 Molly Hall
12/23 Louise Scott
12/25 Norman McClure
12/26 Keith Tice

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.

SAFE SANCTUARIES TRAINING—Monday, November 9 @ 6pm in the Fellowship Hall.

Anyone who works with or has regular contact with children or youth needs to be at training.

CHURCH COUNCIL meets Tuesday, November 10 @ 6pm in the Fellowship Hall

CHARGE CONFERENCE—Due to the COVID pandemic, there will be one District-wide Charge Conference this year. It will be held by Zoom on **Sunday, November 15th at 2 pm.** We will send a link the week before the conference. In addition to the work of the Charge Conference, we will celebrate the hard work of our pastors and congregations, vote and recognize those called into candidacy in the UMC this past year, learn how your congregation could be a part of our District Celebrate Recovery ministry, and reflect on how we can observe and celebrate Advent and Christmas with our families.

Youth are meeting on Wednesday @ 6:30. This month, they will meet at Clay UMC.

Bible Study—Thursday @ 6:30 in the Fellowship Hall

ZUMBA will resume at the church after the first of 2021.

Please send prayer requests to: prayer@faithumcinclay.org