

The Inman Informer



The Newsletter of Inman United Methodist Church
Fayetteville, GA 30215 July 2020

Striving for the Extraordinary

“Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.”
(Romans 15:7, NRSV)

I like going to relatively new restaurants. The employees and management seem pumped up. Everyone tries harder to make your experience positively memorable. The food is typically above average and always good. It seems like they make extraordinary service and food normal or customary. I leave wanting to go back.

Regularly, though, over time something happens. Routine service becomes average. Management loses the spark that was there when the restaurant first opened. The food somehow degrades to mundane, or worse, unreliable. What is now customary is no longer extraordinary; customary becomes mundane, or worse, mediocre. I no longer want to go back. What is needed is a radical step to reclaim that excitement, that original enthusiasm, that initial energy. Something like what happened to Truett’s Luau after the TikTok explosion online a few weeks ago. Radical means a significant departure from the usual or customary, and a radical move is needed particularly when usual or customary is no longer motivated by striving for the extraordinary.

I believe that Christ calls the Church to be radical; to reclaim its extraordinary nature, its enthusiasm, its energy. I believe Jesus calls us to be radical with our faith and our relationship with Christ. Just like great restaurants learn how to keep being radical and keeping customary extraordinary, we can do the same with our faith, our relationship with Jesus, and the nature of our church community. As we move forward and start to open our doors, we, Inman United Methodist, will need to be radical and extraordinary for the Kingdom of God.

So, be radical! God is. You will be in good company.

May God’s love, grace, and blessing be upon you,

Pastor Tommy

Prayer Practice

Lectio on Injustice

It's easy to get overwhelmed by injustices in the world. We hear about the suffering and we want to shut down, feeling that we can't do anything that will help. As we travel together through this challenging topic, you are invited to engage in a spiritual practice we are calling Lectio on Injustice. A form of Lectio Divina, this practice invites you to engage injustice in an attitude of prayer, listening for God's word and God's promptings. It is a way to process the story or experience in a prayerful way, letting God guide you and form you.

First, pick out the item you would like to use as the center of your prayer. This could be: an article, prayer, or poem from this issue (or any issue) of the magazine, a story from the news, an experience of injustice that you have witnessed. If you are using a current event, from the news or from your experience, write down a short summary that you can read or recall when you are prompted during the exercise. If it is easier for you, visualize the event as if you were watching a video. You will read or remember the article (or poem, experience, story, etc.) three times, listening each time for a different insight.

Steps for Lectio on Injustice

1. Clear away distractions and prepare the space around you for prayer. Light a candle or put on some reflective music. Pray this prayer: God of Justice, be present with me in this time of prayer. Open my eyes and ears that I might hear and see what you would show me. Be present, Loving God. I am yours. Amen.
2. As you read or remember this first time, listen for the word, phrase, image, or sound that leaps out at you. What word, phrase, image, or sound calls to you or sticks in your memory? As you recall, gently take it into your heart, held in the safe and compassionate heart of God. Silently recite or ponder what you have noticed during a minute of silent reflection.
3. As you read the text or remember the experience this second time, meditate on the word, phrase, image, or sound that speaks to you. Let it interact with your thoughts, your hopes, your memories. Consider how the word, phrase, image, or sound is touching your life today. (Take a minute of silence for this reflection.)
4. As you read the text or remember the experience this last time, consider how God is calling you forth into doing or being through these words or this experience. Allow God to touch you, to shape you in your life today. (Reflect on this during one minute of silence.)
5. Take some time to reflect on what you have heard or experienced. Make a few notes in your journal or share your reflections with a spiritual friend. Spend some time in prayer, thanking God for the gift of presence. If you are feeling any anger, distress, or anxiety, offer those feelings to God and ask God to give you guidance on how you should respond.
6. When you are finished, go in God's peace and love. If you feel comfortable, share your experience with another person.

Trustees

We may be in unusual times, but there is never a shortage of projects for the Trustees. Did you know our church property has 11 HVAC units? As summer continues to heat up we have dealt with aging and temperamental air conditioners resulting in two units needing repairs and monitoring and we have changed the air filters in 10 out of 11 units. We are hopeful and cautiously optimistic that the air conditioners will make it through another hot summer.

Other than trying to keep our staff from having to work in a sauna, our main focus has been on preparing to re-open the church for in-person worship services. We have reviewed your feedback on the survey about returning to worship and we have studied recommendations from various sources on how to effectively sanitize the church facility and what the safest courses of action are for keeping members of the congregation healthy while in the building. We will continue to monitor our progress in this area and map out the best practices going forward and looking to the future and getting back to more of the fellowship activities we are accustomed to.

You are probably aware that we have worked with our staff on several projects during the time you have been away. Projects such as cleaning and waxing the floors in the Fellowship Hall and Youth house, cleaning the chairs in the Fellowship Hall, and cleaning and polishing the floors in the Sanctuary and sound room. We are now up to working on painting and staining projects that will include the Acolyte room, the vestibule, and the doors to the administrative offices.

If you run out of projects around your home and you're looking for something to do, feel free to get in touch with us and we will put you to work!



Children & Youth Ministries

Summer Fun in the Sun



Each Tuesday morning for the remainder of the summer, all youth & children are invited to join us behind the play ground from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Each week we will do a different activity and learn about a Bible super Hero. We will observe social distancing and ask that children are accompanied by an adult. Bring your own towel and sun screen. We will have special treat to end the day. Bring your own towel and sun screen. We will have a special treat to end the day! Please let us know you are coming! Contact Dena Anderson at 770-576-5019 or youth@inmanmethodist.org. If you would like to donate your time or materials to help support this outreach it would be greatly appreciated!

- 7/7: Painting rocks to share and to place in our rock garden.
(Lesson - Friendship/David & Jonathan)
- 7/14: Planting our own little herb garden.
(Lesson - Respect/ Ruth and Naomi)
- 7/21: Pick your own craft day!
(Lesson - Kindness/ Jesus.)
- 7/28: Bubble fun & make your own moon dough! (Lesson - Honesty/Daniel)
- 8/4: End of the summer water balloon fun!

Backyard Youth Group

Calling all youth: dust off your lawn chair and bring your Bible each Sunday evening at 6:00 p.m. for the rest of the summer for faith building & fellowship! We will be observing social distancing while we gather.

- 7/5 - The Ross's front yard
- 7/12 - Starkey's back yard (movie night, too!)
- 7/19 - Youth house back yard
- 7/26 - Anderson's front yard
- 8/2 - Minter Farm





K.I.T Ministry

As many of you know we started a new ministry in April to help support our families at Inman UMC. Each week a Keep In Touch packet has been delivered to 19 youth & children & included their Zoom Sunday School, youth Bible study, & TeamKid lessons, devotions, & prizes to support their young hearts & minds.

We will continue to assemble and deliver these packets until we can meet again in our building. If you have a child age 2-18 that would like to be included in these K.I.T packets please contact us with the name, age, and address and we will gladly include them! If you would like to donate o help support this outreach it would be greatly appreciated! Please mark your donation as KIT Ministry!

We would like to give a special thanks to The Minters who have graciously allowed us to use their farm for our Children's Moments each week! You both are a blessing!

Technology Team

From our conversations with you over the past 16 weeks, we are aware that some of you in our congregation do not have Internet or smartphones or computers in your home. We are excited to announce we are experimenting with a new system that allows you to just dial a phone number from any type of phone and hear the Sunday Service. Just dial 770-528-5691 to hear the most recent Sunday's service. We are doing a trial run with this over the next 3 months and will be very interested in your feedback as to whether you will continue using this service. Also, if you know of someone that could benefit from this new way to hear the Sunday service, please give them a call or visit and let them know this is available.



As we return to in-person worship, we also plan to continue doing the livestream services for those that cannot join us for whatever reason. We started doing this in November, prior to the pandemic and shelter-in-place, for our shut-ins, and for those in the hospital, etc. We will look to keep that going moving forward, even after we all get comfortable being in worship together down the road. I want to thank you for all of the feedback and positive comments as we have learned over the past 7 months of doing this. I have learned that it has meant a great deal to many to keep us in touch and worshiping in a fashion together.



**Thanks
for Your
Support!**

Finance Committee

Thank you so much for your continued financial support during this time. Your generosity has simply been amazing. As we return to in-person worship, we want you to know that we will not be passing the offering plate during the service as we normally would. Instead, you can drop your offering in the collection plates at the front of the church or drop them in one of the marked collection boxes at the hand sanitizing stations in the Administrative Office hallway near the entrance door or at the doorway to the Treasurer's office. We will also continue to accept offerings as we have been during this time - online, in the mail or by dropping them in the outside box by the administrative office door.

The Finance Report for May is shown below. So far, our expenses have been on the low side due in large part to the pandemic and the fact that we have not been using our facility. However, now that summer is upon us and we are opening the church back up to in-person worship, our expenses will start to go back up. (Just in the last few weeks alone, the summer heat has given our air conditioners a workout and we have already had to have two of them repaired!)

We will continue to keep you updated on the financial status of the church and again, thanks to all of you for continuing to support Inman UMC!

Financial Report for May 2020

Income	<i>May</i>	<i>Year to Date</i>
Gifts & Tithes	\$ 18,430	\$ 91,491
ASP	\$ 200	\$ 5,113
Other Designated Funds	\$ 220	\$ 1,992
<i>Grand Total Income</i>	<i>\$ 18,850</i>	<i>\$ 98,596</i>
Expenses	<i>May</i>	<i>Year to Date</i>
ASP	\$ -	\$ 1,137
Committee Expenditures	\$ 118	\$ 290
Operational Expenses	\$ 1,214	\$ 15,708
All Other Expenses	\$ 4,791	\$ 58,665
<i>Grand Total Expenses</i>	<i>\$ 6,123</i>	<i>\$ 75,799</i>

Our Prayers

For healing from health concerns

Jayne Akeman
Carlos Allen (Gloria Reid's brother)
Angus Anderson
Sara Ballard
Roger Barnhill
Michael Barb
Ray Barday (Charles Cox)
Liz Beardon (Judy Becco's sister)
Gene Benton (Sandy Mathis)
Glenda Berman (Dixie Berner)
Jack Brannon (Jeff Wedge)
Henry Cawthorn
Cheryl Chance
Darleen Cornelison
Kay Cox
Lane Cox (Lyn Wheeler)
Karen Glessner (Kay Cox)
Brenda Harp
Nicole Henry
John Kozisek
Zena Locke (Jeff Wedge)
Tammy Mardies (Mary Jane Fortner)
Tommy Mask
Karen Millman
Joanne Minter
Eugene Pritchard
Gloria Reid
Miriam Schmidt
Scott Smith (Melanie Wagner)
Ruth Sitton
Jane St. Amour
Claire Starkey
Roger Starkey
Katy Swanger
Marvin Tidwell
Lee Wagner (Brad Wagner's father)
Luz Webster (Gloria Reid)
Jeff Wedge
Rhonda Wheeler (George & Lynn Wheeler)
Kathey Young

For healing from cancer

Ben Akeman
Roger Allgood
Tim Barnes
Gail Bloomer
David Booth (Martha Kozisek)
Brandon Brown (Claire Starkey)
John Bullard
Tim Casteel (Dena Anderson)
Billy Bob Cheek (Donna Stilwell)
Jackie Clayburn
Nancy Cox (Cox's sister-in-law)
Walter Delia (Martha Kozisek)
Dan Dudley (Pat Pratt)
Mary Lee Giddings
Bill Haleday
Sig Hall (Ed Roehm)
Katie Hart (Arthur & Terrie Hart)
Leigh Hawkins
Daniel Houghton (Martha Kozisek)
JL Houze (Charles Cox)
Burl Hurley
Jean Jones (Nancy Allgood)
Luke Key (Mary Jane Fortner)
Matt Kirkindall
Carol Kline (Linda Chaffin)
David Lowe (Martha Kozisek)
Kay Robertson (Karen Millman)
Katie Schmidt (Brenda Schachle)
Joey Shelton (Deborah Morris)
Bobby Smith (Tammy Cox)
Ann Talant (Caroline Akeman)
Brent Taylor (Jim & Karen Blue)
Earl Terry (Charles Cox)
George Wheeler
Bobby Williams (Rick Minter)
Louise Woods (Ann Hembree)
Kay Young (Forrest & Sara Ballard)

For Those Mourning the Loss of These Loved Ones

Paula Hicks
Kay Robertson
Agnes McChargue

The Informer is a publication of
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United Methodist Women

We are excited to announce “Christmas in July! Our mission for July is UMCOR Christmas Shoeboxes. Since we are unable to have the members fill the boxes due to COVID-19, the LAF Circle has provided all that is needed to pack the boxes.

PACKING PARTY

We will be “packing” the shoeboxes in the Fellowship Hall at 10:30 (schedule below). Due to social distancing we are allowing only 10 volunteers per day. Please call Joni Janssen at 770-468-8947 or email at bjam5@gmail.com to schedule which day you wish to volunteer.

- Tuesday, July 14 - fill boxes for ages 2-4 & 4-6
- Wednesday, July 15 - fill boxes for ages 6-8 & 8-10
- Thursday, July 16 - fill boxes for ages 10-12

Updates: We have no future monthly meetings scheduled at this time.

Blessings to all of you,
Joni Janssen, President



Inman Staff

Rev. Tommy Ross, Pastor
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Dena Anderson, Children & Youth Coordinator
(770) 576-5019

youth@inmanmethodist.org

Anna Baker, Church Secretary
(770) 461-2123

secretary@inmanmethodist.org

Jolynn Stevens, Director of Music
music@inmanmethodist.org

Ace Edwards, Pianist



Pat Pratt	July 1
Sue Mahaffey	July 11
Ken Sandberg	July 14
Debi Creel	July 18
Jolynn Stevens	July 20
Linda Price	July 22
Moody Elliott	July 23
Leigh Ann Hicks	July 24
Gayle Harp	July 26
Karen Millman	July 30

If you see that a birthday is missing, please notify the church office so that we can make the correction in our records.