

The Inman Informer

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



The Steadfast Love of the Lord (Lamentations)

The short book of Lamentations is a difficult book to read. These five short chapters are filled with deep sorrow and lamenting. According to Biblical accounts, the people had not responded to Jeremiah's plea for them to repent and turn towards the Living God. They instead organized an armed resistance which was met by the Babylonian army invading Jerusalem a second time in 586 B.C., but this time completing destroying the city, killing thousands of Jews, burning the Holy Temple to the ground and then taking more exiles. The king at that time had to watch his two sons being killed before his own eyes were gouged out. From now on, the last sight forever etched in the king's memory would be their deaths. How could the author of Lamentations write a description like this, how could one ever write a light-hearted, upbeat account of what took place.

It's difficult for us to identify with such a bleak description of lost hope and crushed dreams as described in Lamentations. That is until 9/11. In seeing the Twin Towers crumbling to the ground on live news coverage, which we learned afterwards had killed over 3,000 people, we were able to get a glimpse of what the author of Lamentations had witnessed in Jerusalem. The impact of 9/11 was similar in nature to other events like the J.F.K assassination in which many Americans years afterward remembered exactly where they were and what they were doing when they first heard the tragic news. The author is lamenting of all that has taken place. He writes that all the things he had hoped for in the Lord are suddenly eradicated and gone. It would be a mighty depressing picture if the author ended here. But he goes on. There is a difference between lamentation and cynicism. Both lamenting and cynicism sound rather negative and downbeat. Those who are cynical will look at the harsh things that take place in life and conclude there is nothing anyone can do. It reminds me of the Psalmist who is lamenting to God that others are mocking him by saying, "Where is your God now?"

Lamenting carries a glimpse of hope. The author of Lamentations writes, "**But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope; the steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end**" (Lam. 3:22-23). The words we read is that our whole world may seem to be crumbling before me, but I will still trust in the Lord whose love and mercy never comes to an end. God's love is steadfast; it does not waver because of life's circumstances. This love can never be defeated as Paul reminds us in Romans 8:31, "Nothing in all creation, not even death can separate us from the love of God through Jesus Christ our Lord"

If we truly believe that Paul's words bear truth, then we can be assured that God will bring us through every storm of life that we face; the present corona virus, times of grief over the loss someone dear to us and any other circumstance that may come our way. God does not gloat over our misery. God identifies with our suffering. This is why we have the cross as the symbol of our faith and not a bed of clouds. God came to us in Jesus to show us the way to life through suffering and death.

When we come to those moments when life seems unbearable and we wonder where God may be hiding we can turn to the One who knows us so completely and who says to us in Matthew 11:28, "Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens and I will give you rest."

In Peace, Pastor Tommy

Prayer Practice

The ancient tradition of *lectio divina* has offered Christians a way of seeking and experiencing God in creation. We often turn to scripture when we want to know God more deeply, using *lectio divina* as a way of praying the scriptures, allowing the words to speak to us in new and revelatory ways. If we turn to scripture because it shows us the truth of God's divine movement in creation, then it follows that we should also feel free to seek that truth in our own lives and experiences. If you remember, we looked at *lectio divina* last month in the April Newsletter.

The *lectio divina* process is applicable to more than scripture. It can be used with many and different life experiences and art. Over the next two months we will be looking at different ways to use this form of prayer

Lectio on Life

1. Pick an event in your life ~ it can be something that has happened recently or a memory from long ago. Choose an event or memory that touches your heart in the same way that a word or phrase would in scriptural *lectio divina*.
2. As you recall this event, what aspects of it stand out to you? Think about the setting and the circumstances. What is your initial reaction to this memory?
3. Ask yourself where God was present or absent in this experience. Did you feel God's presence at the time? or was it not evident until later?
4. Offer the event to God and rest in the silence and peace of God's presence. How is God calling you forth into doing or being through this experience? Allow God to use this encounter to touch you, shape you in your life today.

Before you return to your activities, spend a few more moments in meditation. If you keep a journal, make some notes about this time with God. When you are finished, go in God's peace and love.

Trustees

During the current Covid-19 crisis, we have been able to accomplish several maintenance projects in and around the Church. The pews in the sanctuary have been cleaned and treated, the vinyl floors in the fellowship hall, kitchen, bathrooms, and hallway have been cleaned and waxed. On the outside of our buildings, the bushes and trees have been trimmed and all the gutters have been cleaned.

We were also able to find a contractor to repair and cover the parsonage carport ceiling with vinyl which has been an ongoing problem for several years. A special thanks to everyone who volunteered and financially supported these and many other maintenance projects.

Also, we have many other maintenance issues that can be accomplished while maintaining "social distancing.": if you have free time, we can put you to work. Call, text, or e-mail Linda Wagner or Ed Roehm for more information.



Updates & Announcements

Coronavirus and Church closing from Pastor Tommy

Dear Inman Church Family,

It saddens me to write this message to you to you in our Newsletter. I was filled with hope when we got word to reopen on May 13th and we would be able to continue worship. Our Bishop has made a statement that changes the date for reopening. Bishop Sue wants to remain on the safe side of caution to follow one of our core actions of the Methodist Church, "Do no harm." At this time her recommendation is to remain closed until June 22nd. This will keep Inman UMC closed through Father's Day. I know that many of you are wanting to get back to a normal way of life but due to rising numbers of COVID-19 and the safety of our congregation we will be following the guide of our Bishop. She has provided some guidelines and information about reopening. We will be considering these guidelines and taking the steps to make sure that the church will be ready and safe for continued worship. Thank you for understanding.

In Prayer, Pastor Tommy

Until further notice, ALL worship services will be available online only and we are working to deliver the best possible worship experience we can through online methods. Unless otherwise noted, ALL online worship services will be available at 11:00 a.m. on Sunday mornings. Most of you are already receiving the link to these online worship services, via email and/or SMS text. If you are not getting them, please email membership-care@inmanmethodist.org.

We will be continuing to conduct our worship services as livestreams on [Facebook](#) and Youtube (search for InmanUMC) until we are able to be together in person again. We have been getting incredibly positive feedback as we learn to do these worship services this way, and have been introducing more each week. Be sure to "Like", "Follow", and "Subscribe" to those pages to be sure to be notified when new services are posted.

Worship Bulletins are available online for services. A link for the bulletin is on the homepage of our [website](#) and is sent out with the weekly service information text and email.

Online Greetings: We need your help as we move forward. We want to see you! We are all missing our church friends and we encourage you to send us a picture or short video of yourself saying hello. Don't like to be on camera? Send us a picture of something that is bringing you joy right now - a favorite pet or perhaps some spring flowers, for example. Please send photos/videos to sound@inmanmethodist.org or to our Facebook page.

Mother's Day: In the past, the UMW have had you submit for Mother's day the names of your loved ones remembered and honored to be posted in the bulletin. This year, due to being able to only live stream our worship, we are asking for participation from you in the Congregational Connection segment of the online service on Mother's Day to honor or remember those special moms in your life. Please submit a photo of your mom, or let us know their favorite flower or Bible verse that we can display along with their name during the service. We need your submissions by Wednesday, May 6th. Your photos, etc. can be sent to sound@inmanmethodist.org or membership-care@inmanmethodist.org or you can contact Joni Janssen or Brad Wagner with the name of your loved one you would like included in the service. There is no charge to have your loved one recognized during the service. During the online Sunday service on Mother's Day all submitted names and photos will be shown during the live stream to remember and honor your loved ones.



Youth Spotlight

Emily Wagner

We have been closed for a number of weeks due to the Coronavirus and we have seen the effects it has caused to our normal worship and fellowship. We have been trying new things for worship and trying to find a new normal to online worship and social distancing. Many of you have been enjoying the online services that we have been doing here at Inman UMC. Many people think that this kind of production just happens, and we just hit record and it goes live. This is not the case and there is one individual that has taken on the role of producer and editor of our service. You also might think it is an adult that has taken on this huge responsibility and stress. In fact, it is Emily Wagner one of our youth. Emily is in the process of finishing her freshman year at Whitewater High School. During this pandemic, on top of all her other responsibilities at home and school, she spends many hours in the sound booth and at home working on laying out and preparing for worship every Sunday. We are very thankful for all that she has been doing and her dedication to be here every Sunday morning to help us with our service. We could not be where we are today with online worship if it was not for her determination to help spread the love and word of God to others. When we have a chance to meet again after this pandemic please give your gratitude and thanks to this wonderful person in our church. She has gone above and beyond to make sure we have worship on Sunday mornings.



Father's Day: Honor or remember your father in the Congregational Connection segment of the online service on Father's Day. Please submit a photo of your dad, or let us know their favorite flower or Bible verse that we can display along with their name during the service. We need your submissions by Wednesday, June 17th. Your photos, etc. can be sent to sound@inmanmethodist.org or membership-care@inmanmethodist.org or you can contact Joni Janssen or Brad Wagner with the name of your loved one you would like included in the service. There is no charge to have your loved one recognized. During the online Sunday service on Father's Day all submitted names and photos will be shown during the live stream to remember and honor your loved ones.



Finance Committee

Thank you for your continued generosity to Inman UMC during this difficult time. Below is the Finance Report for March of 2020. At the present time, we have eliminated all but basic, necessary expenses for items such as staff payroll and related expenses, utilities and similar operational expenses, basic administrative expenses, and church apportionments.

Given our current situation of online worship services only, passing the offering plate around on Sunday morning is obviously not an option right now. In place of that, however, we have 3 ways you can continue to bless the church with your offering:

Online - Go to our website at www.inmanmethodist.org. We have added a new link on our homepage that says, "CLICK HERE if you would like to submit your offering online."

Mail - You can mail your offering directly to the church.

(Please DO NOT send cash through the mail.)

Bring It To The Church - A secure mailbox that we are checking on a regular basis has been installed next to the office door. Simply stop by and leave your offering there.

We are thankful to everyone for all of their support and generosity during this time. We will be keeping you updated on our financial status through the weekly online service bulletin. Please don't hesitate to contact Linda Wagner at 770-861-0109 or Linda Price at 404-375-7205 if you have any questions. Thank you!

Financial Report for March 2020

Income	Actual
Gifts & Tithes	\$ 17,555
ASP	\$ 800
Other Designated Funds	\$ -
Grand Total Income	\$ 18,355
Expenses	Actual
ASP	\$ 5,100
Committee Expenditures	\$ 109
Operational Expenses	\$ 5,744
All Other Expenses	\$ 12,653
Grand Total Expenses	\$ 23,606

Calling all children to join us for
Virtual Team Kid each Wednesday evening at 6:00 p.m. Please contact Dena

at youth@inmanmethodist.org

for a ZOOM code. Be ready to play games with your friends and learn

more about God's Love for us. Don't forget to invite a friend!



Children's Sunday School continues each Sunday morning at 10:00 a.m. on ZOOM. Remember as a safety measure our codes change each week so if you haven't joined us before or are not part of our email/text messages and would like to join, text Dena at 770-576-5019. **Parents, don't forget to grab your kids and drop by our Inman Facebook** for weekly. family devotions, printables, games, and opportunities to win prizes!

Camp Shoreline Cancellation of all Summer programs for 2020

It is with great disappointment that I share the Staff of Shoreline Camps for this summer have made the decision to cancel. For ninety-five years they have placed the safety of our campers, staff, and church partners at the forefront of all they do. That priority for physical and emotional safety is one of the fundamental reasons their programs are so effective and why they have become so trusted by generations of families and church partners. We look forward to when we can get together again!

Dear Inman Families,

We are so thankful at this time of physical separation we can still fellowship and learn alongside each other using technology. Continue to be on the lookout for weekly care packages for the Youth and Children at Inman UMC . These include curriculum and materials needed for our youth, Bible study, Sunday School, and Team Kid lessons as well as crafts, Livestream service notes, and family activities.

Please know you are each loved and missed. We are here for you all and are available to come alongside you. See you on ZOOM!

In His Service, Dena Anderson
Children and Youth Coordinator

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
Darleen Cornelison
Kay Cox
Lane Cox (Lyn Wheeler)
Madge Cox
Karen Glessner (Kay Cox)
Brenda Harp
Nicole Henry
Paula Hicks
John Kozisek
Zena Locke (Jeff Wedge)
Tammy Mardies (Mary Jane Fortner)
Tommy Mask
Karen Millman
Sara Jane Overstreet
Eugene Pritchard
Gloria Reid
Miriam Schmidt
Scott Smith (Melanie Wagner)
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)
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
David Lowe (Martha Kozisek)
Agnes McChargue
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)

Other Concerns

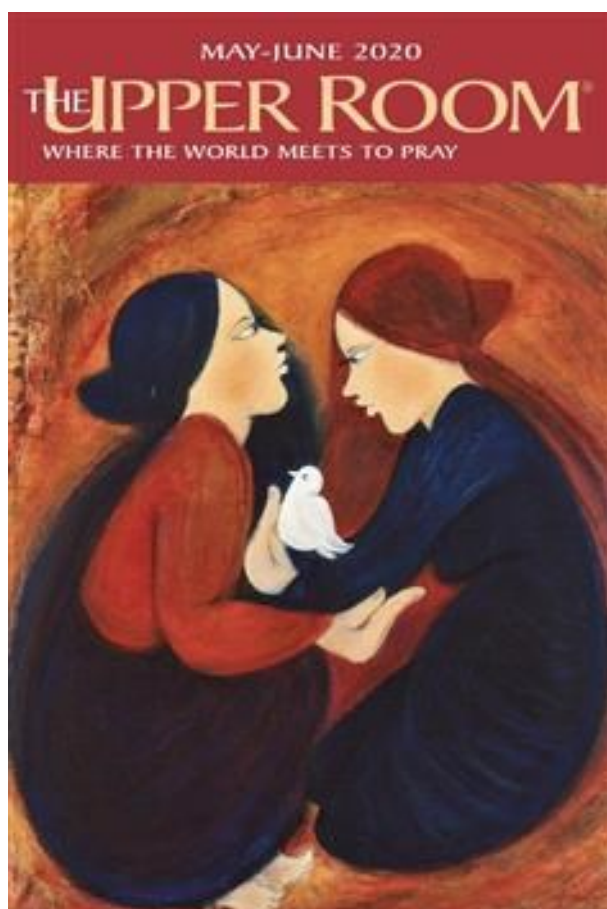
For the children/youth programs of Inman
Unspoken prayers of the congregation

The Informer is a publication of
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Upper Room Devotionals

The Upper Room Devotional Books for May/June are available. If you would like to receive one, please contact the church by phone or email and let the secretary know. A regular or large-print version can be mailed to you.



Inman Staff

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Jolynn Stevens, Director of Music

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BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH

Jeff Creel	05/01
Brad Wagner	05/03
Courtney Allen	05/09
Katy Swanger	05/12
Deborah Morris	05/13
Sara Ballard	05/19
Linda Wagner	05/25
George Wheeler	05/28

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