

The Pastor's Post

Beam

With this newsletter, we are close to the end of Lent. Did you give something up or add a Means of Grace to your spiritual practices? In some ways, my spiritual life improved over these past few weeks, and in other ways I have to say they did not improve at all. My guess is that you feel the same.

In this next series, we are going to look at the 10 plagues God inflicted on Pharaoh and the Egyptians, and how God's judgment against them and the Israelites might in some way be similar to what we face today. I am not saying that everything bad that happens to us is a judgment from God, but some of it could be.

What I know is that God promises to us include absolution and a restoration to glory, if His "people, who are called by His name (Christians) will humble themselves, and pray, and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, I will hear from Heaven and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land."

It seems that would be a pretty good starting point for us. Let's rekindle a deeper prayer life as we begin this series through Exodus. This is a call to deeper prayer, more meaningful prayer, and maybe the first time some of us have considered that maybe, just maybe, God will hear and answer our focused and united prayers.

This season, let's be bold, let's dare God to answer our prayers. ARE YOU PREPARED FOR WHAT GOD MIGHT DO? BE DARING!

Pray that God would be glorified through our prayers.

Pastor Dave



Bible verse to remember ...

Proverbs 15:29
The Lord is far from the wicked, but hears the prayers of the righteous.
(NIV)

What's your favorite Scripture Verse? Tell me.

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What about the church split?

Churches continue to vote to disaffiliate, and others have determined to remain in the auspices of the United Methodist Church. Interestingly, a judge in Georgia has blocked that state's UM churches from disaffiliation until after the 2024 General Conference. With the ability and guidelines that have always been in our Book of Discipline to disaffiliate, and separation of church and state, I don't know how that judgment is even possible.

As I wrote in the last Pastor' Post, I continue to pray for God's guidance on this issue and I am still instructed to follow the guidance of our current BoD and offer Christ to ALL. Whether it is this season of church split or any of the other previous breaks, God was, is, and will always be on His throne.

Galatians 3:28-29 – *There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. 29 If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.* We are ALL one-in Christ.



Streaming Message

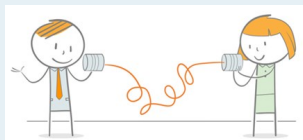
Our online presence is growing, but I feel we are falling short in some of our outreach.

Online worship is for shut-ins, those out of the area, and as a way to "check us out."

The problem is we sometimes get lazy in our evangelism and forget we still need to be invitational to our family, friends, neighbors, and co-workers.

Make a friend, be a friend, bring your friend to Christ!

Contact Clif Smith at tech@cenewark.org



We say we believe God is omniscient; yet a great deal of prayer seems to consist of giving God information. CSL

THIS SPOT SAVED FOR YOUR MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENT

Here's a question: if you couldn't fail, what ministry do you have a passion and longing to try? What's stopping you. Let's try it together.

If you think it, let's talk about it.

There's a mission that God has given you a passion for and a mission that He has enabled you to accomplish for His glory. There are people waiting for your response, not alone, but with all of us serving with our own particular talent.

None of us has to do it all. We serve best, when we serve together. I'm all EARS!



Think about this,

"The function of prayer is not to influence God, but to change the nature of the one praying."



You never know when you'll be called upon to pray.

It was just a day like any other.

I am not trying to capitalize on the tragedies and traumas of life, but this picture will continue to haunt me for a long time. Do you remember the photos from 9/11, the Challenger, JFK riding in the open-top limo in Dallas? Photos have a way freezing a moment in time, whether good or bad. This is not about gun violence or gun control; it's not about mental illness, politics or ANY hot-button issues.

This is a call to prayer. Whatever race, creed, or faith, political party, beliefs on gun rights, marijuana legislation, or the church split; this is about prayer. What would it look like if we stopped asking God to agree with us, and asked Him to help us agree with HIM? What if we asked God: "Lord, I do not know what is right anymore. The media, politicians, and my friends all point out where and why I am wrong. Lord, guide and help me to do what is right in YOUR eyes."

We pray the Lord's Prayer nearly every Sunday. We pray, "Thy kingdom come, THY WILL BE DONE." Do we mean it? Do we really want God's will to be accomplished? My guess is that we do unless it is different than the outcome we had hoped to receive.

There's a little girl looking out of a school bus window who needs prayer today, and for many days I imagine. Don't let her down, don't let God down. Pray for God's will in all circumstances; pray without ceasing.

You were created for that place, that time, and that situation. Don't pray to not be called upon. Pray for God to equip you for the moments He calls upon you. He's counting on you!

Anniversaries & Birthdays

Robert Smith	Apr. 1
Debbie Palm	Apr. 7
Todd/Robin Martin	Apr. 21
Walt/Marge Gemmell	Apr. 25
Leah Williams	Apr. 29

Dave/Annette Pagura	May 16
Robert Williams	May 18
Marge Gemmell	May 24
Walt/Marge Gemmell	May 25

Michelle Williams	Jun. 8
Clif Smith	Jun. 10
Mike Johnston	Jun. 12
Bill/Becky Westerfelt	Jun. 14
Mike/RaeJeanne McKee	Jun. 22
Marsha Wallace	Jun. 23
Phoenix Carr	Jun. 27

The Book of Discipline

Did you know there's a United Methodist Church policy on PRAYER? P. 164(F)

We offer our prayers for those in rightful authority who serve the public, and we support their efforts to afford justice and equal opportunity for all people. We assert the duty of churches to support those who suffer because of their stands of conscience represented by nonviolent beliefs or acts. We urge governments to ensure civil rights, as defined by the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to persons in legal jeopardy because of these nonviolent acts.

Our Book of Resolutions also has much to say on the topic. ... WE STRONGLY OPPOSE AN EXCLUSIVE RELIGIOUS IDEOLOGY OF ANY FAITH THAT FAILS TO RECOGNIZE THE HUMANITY OF ALL PEOPLE.

Wow! Who knew?

Christian Endeavor UMC Pastor's Deeper Dive Bible Study

A Prayer for Our Day

*"God and Lord of Life,
You who call forth from
the darkness of death all
those who love You, we
rejoice, this Easter, in the
resurrection from the dead
of our Lord, Jesus Christ.*



Dear Lord:

We thank You for having revealed Yourself on Earth in the midst of sin, need, and oppression. To You be praise and thanks. Our hearts leap up with joy in You and Your deeds. Grant that we may be faithful to the end, victorious in all things through Your Spirit, who helps and blesses us on our way. Grant Your help to all who call to You and who long to rejoice in You. Amen!

The studies usually last about an hour or so. We dive deeper into the subject from the previous Sunday's Scripture reading and message.

Monday evenings at 6:00 PM , online. Contact Clif Smith at **TECH@CENEWARK.ORG** for connection details.

Wednesday at 10:30 AM in the church sanctuary.

If there are other questions you have about Scripture or a current topic, don't hesitate to contact me. I may not have all the answers, but I'm sure we can have fun trying to figure it all out. **dapagura@insight.rr.com** or **614-204-3349**

Scripture that Speaks: The Word of God for the People of God

Psalm 33:22

We wait in hope for the Lord; He is our help and our shield. In Him our hearts rejoice, for we trust in His Holy Name. May Your unfailing love rest upon us, O Lord, even as we put our hope in You. NIV

SERMON THEMES and Schedule; April—June 2023

STAR TREK SERIES

April 2	Luke 19:28-40	If These Stones: Palm Sunday
April 6	Matthew 4:1-11	If These Stones: Maundy Thurs.
April 7	Matthew 27;50-60	If These Stones: Good Friday
April 9	John 20:1-18	If These Stones: Easter

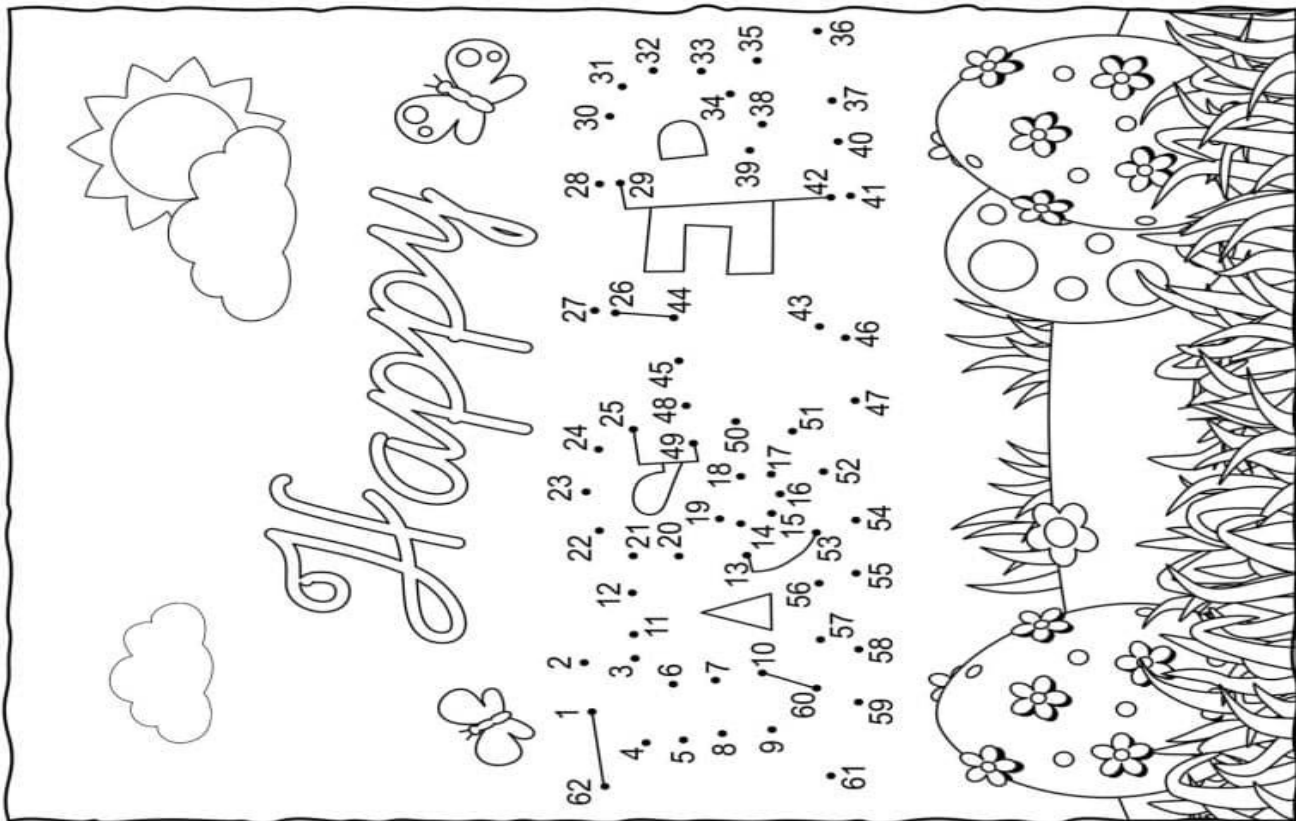
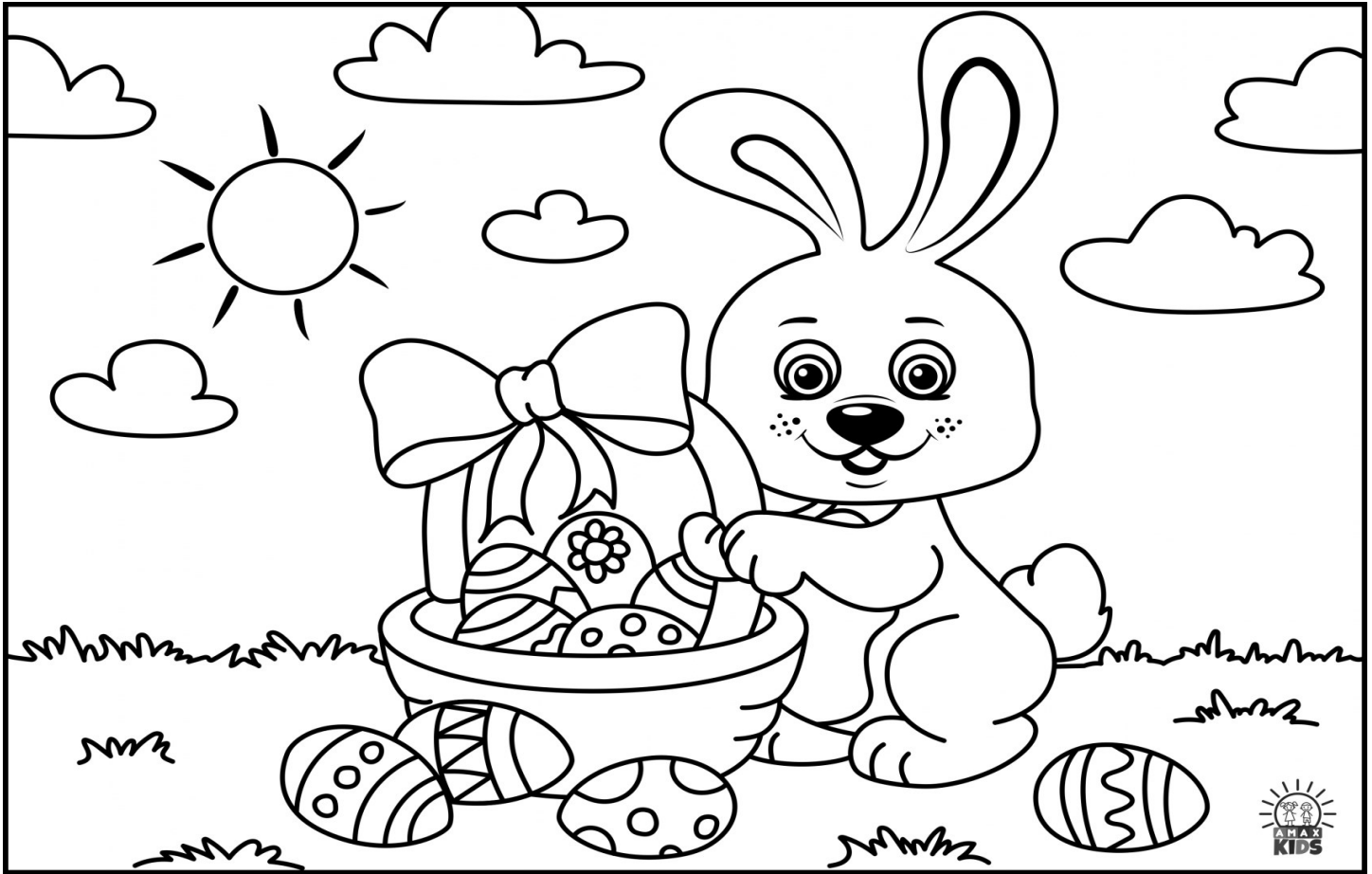
EXODUS: The Plagues of Egypt

April 16	Exodus 4	God had no beginning
April 23	Exodus 5	God has no end
April 30	Exodus 6, 7	God is absolute reality
May 7	Exodus 7-14	God is utterly independent
May 14	Exodus 7, 8	Everything depends on God
May 21	Exodus 8, 9	Nothing compares to God
May 28	Exodus 9, 10	God cannot be improved
June 4	Exodus 11, 12	God sets the bar
June 11	Exodus 13, 14	God always does right
June 18	Exodus 15-17	Nothing is worth more than God

The Gospel According to Winnie-the-Pooh, Milne (3 week series)

June 25	Proverbs 22:1-17	Today is a gift from God
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Blessings to all of God's kids, of ALL ages!



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Are You Looking for Answers?

SO ARE WE! Let's search for them together.

There's so much we don't know or understand about the Bible, ourselves, society. Have you ever thought, "I believe God really is good, I just don't why He allows evil." Ever ask yourself, "I want to be better; so, why do I keep stumbling over the same stuff all the time?"

We're just everyday people, just like you. Why don't you join us at Christian Endeavor UMC, 11:00 AM this Sunday. You can offer up a prayer concern or check us out online first if you'd like: **CENEWARK.ORG**.

Contact Pastor Dave at **dapagura@insight.rr.com** or **614-204-3349**.

Pastor's Post

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PLACE
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