

Pastor's Greeting

Greetings to the AUMC Family!

July 2020

God never ceases to amaze me. I see the creator God in the green hills, the flowering plants, and the lightning storms. I see a loving God provide for me, comfort me, and lead me. I see a generous God bless our church family even during times of illness, times of grief, and times of trials. I see how God has blessed His people in the past, in our present unprecedented situation, and in whatever the future holds. God is always present, always amazing, and always loving.

Our church has been blessed during the COVID-19 pandemic. Those who were able to remain financially faithful were able to maintain the reserves of the church budget. Ministries such as the Food Pantry and the Ramp Guys that had to be put on hold are beginning to move forward again. Our investment in audio/visual technology allowed us to continue sharing the Word of God without missing a beat. I extend a special thank you to Ron and Cindy for all their time and effort in making our YouTube videos during this quarantine. They both do a lot for the church at any time, but their extra help in recent months is especially appreciated.

The Disciple Bible Study will conclude at the end of August. It is a rigorous study, but there is much we have learned from the Bible, the study manual, and one another. We have had great discussions that ranged from basic Christian beliefs to theological questions that no life-long scholar can adequately answer. I thank those who have been so dedicated to this study. It has been another exciting adventure!

Beginning in September Wednesday nights will become something new. My plan is to offer a Wednesday evening service that is part worship and part Bible study. It will include some relevant music, a time of prayer, a lesson or video, and a discussion time. We will follow thematic series rather than the Lectionary used on Sundays, with our first series being "What Do We REALLY Know About Heaven." We'll meet in the Narthex with more of a coffee house atmosphere. An alternative worship was one of the goals that grew out of our Strategic Planning a few years back. It will offer people a chance to worship when they can't attend Sunday mornings, and it will be unique so that some people might worship twice a week!

Finally, a reminder about Right Now Media. This is a FREE GIFT to our congregation and friends. Visit rightnowmedia.org/Account/Invite/AvocaUMC to access over 20,000 studies, programs and children's content. It is available on any device that has access to the internet.

God is good, All the time—No, God is Great!

Pastor Barre