



April and May 2020

Grace and Peace to you from our Lord!

Dear Bradley Memorial Family,

As we try and adapt and live into this strange season of COVID-19 and its ever-changing landscape, I have been in prayer for you. As I try my best to navigate my life at work and at home with a full house, it occurred to me in my prayer time that we're all going through this experience together -- just by ourselves.

I had a good chuckle as I imagined what some of your lives may look like in your homes these days. Parents working from home, and children and youths out of school. One big happy family. Everyone trying to share the same space and re-learn what it means to spend personal time together. But my heart also went out to those individuals who may feel alone and isolated. Without the usual ways of getting together, and even Sunday church services being suspended, it could be harmful for some of us. We are social beings after all, and we all are most happy when we are connected with others.

I imagine us holed up in our homes and feel like we're on lockdown. Some of us may be getting a little stir crazy. Others of us may be anxious as to what's to come and what we're to do. With all of that comes heightened fear and stress.

We're coming up on Holy Week and Easter, and I believe the Good News is still operative in our lives --even today. We're told in John's Gospel [John 20:19-23] on the evening of that first day after Jesus' resurrection, the disciples were gathered in a house with the doors locked because of fear... (And) *Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you."* No matter how we're feeling at this moment, whether confused or anxious, in fear or depressed, Jesus desires to come in and be with us. Despite our locked doors and isolation, Jesus continues to speak to us words of courage and peace. And the disciples rejoiced having seen the Lord.

Bishop Leeland in his latest update (included in this newsletter) has asked us to *please... discontinue services until further notice*. We're in uncharted territory and the usual ways don't seem to apply as much. But I want us to find multiple ways to connect even while we practice social distancing and sheltering at home. I am grateful to our College Students and David Rhyne for physically delivering Worship guides for the past 2 weeks to some of our church family.

Continued under Worship Ministry

WORSHIP MINISTRY

Continued from front page

The SGB and Worship Team are working on trying to take our Worship online in the coming weeks. With Easter just up ahead, we are hoping to find some way of coming together in a real but new way.

During this time, we hope you will be mindful of the need to continue to support our church's ministries through prayers, presence (in spirit), gifts (including financial support), service, and witness. All are still important and needed to sustain and strengthen our ongoing mission.

Love in Christ!

Pastor David

We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair.

[2 Cor. 4:8]

"How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!" (Rom. 10:15)

Not pictured Banks Bradley



ACOLYTES ROTATION

April 5	Spencer Hamilton
April 12	Kendal Hollingsworth
April 19	Abby Campbell
April 26	Aubree Allen



Children's Sermon Rotation

April 5	Pastor David
April 12	David Rhyne
April 19	Chuck Allen
April 26	Preston Pruitt

If you have a schedule conflict, please contact Dana.



Nursery Servants Rotation

April 5	Linda Glenn & Bobbie Holland
April 12	David & Sandi Rhyne
April 19	Mitch & Katie Allen
April 26	Todd & Kathi Hamilton

If you have a schedule conflict, please switch with someone and inform Dana.



Greeter Ministry Rotation

April 5	Emily Styers
April 12	Chuck Allen
April 19	Kelly Sutton
April 26	Eric Lensgraf

If you have a schedule conflict, please contact Brenda Ratchford.

PRAYER MINISTRY

Prayer Teams

Prayer as we have seen and experienced,
is more powerful than we can ever
imagine.



➤ Sunday Prayer Team –
Last Sunday each Month
after worship
upstairs Prayer Room

➤ Wednesday Prayer Team –
Last Wednesday each Month
7:30 pm in Parlor

Please feel free to join any group that fits your
schedule. ALL are welcome.



Bradley Church expresses sincere sympathy and
prayers to Mary Lou Hord & Diane Wood on the
death of their nephew, John Patrick III who passed
away February 3, 2020.

Bradley Church expresses sincere sympathy and
prayers to Nell Connor on the death of her brother,
Ray Costner who passed away March 10, 2020.

Bradley Church expresses sincere sympathy and
prayers to the family of Faye Spencer who passed
away March 10, 2020.

*Thank
you* 

Dear Friends of Bradley,
I would like to thank you for the cards I received for
the passing of my sister. Your kindness is greatly
appreciated. *Patricia Adams*

IN MEMORY OF

Brandon Alger

By: Gladys Lambert, Lisa Prather

Jane Whitesides

By: Bobbie & David Holland, Clyde Wright Class

Wes Styers

By: Bobbie & David Holland, Clyde Wright Class

John Patrick III

By: Clyde Wright Class

Faye Spencer

By: Marshall & Carol Old, Donny Dutton

IN HONOR OF

Rick Powers

By: David McCarver

Daniel Henderson

By: David McCarver

Mary Lou Hord

By: Clyde Wright Class, Joyce Clark

Nell Connor

By: Clyde Wright Class

Lafon Spencer's Birthday

By: Betty Ballard, Joyce Clark

Diane Wood

By: Joyce Clark

Betty Ballard

By: Joyce Clark

Neil & Emily Styers

By: Dana, Brad, Blake & Brandon



from The Staff at Bradley Memorial UMC

Pastor David

Kim Pruitt

Ashley Dixon

Dana Grant

OTHER MINISTRY

GOODTIMERS

Saturday, April 4th 12:00pm

NarroWay Productions in Fort Mill to see
"The Fourth Cross".

Wednesday, May 27th 11:30am

Covered dish lunch & game day in the fellowship
hall.



Easter Egg Hunt

Scheduled for Saturday,
April 11th **HAS BEEN CANCELLED**



Gastonia Street Ministries will meet
Saturday, April 18th 6:30pm and
Saturday, May 16th 6:30pm.



BackPack Weekend Food Program, Inc.

ATTENTION BACKPACKERS: Thursday, April 23rd
10:30am we will be packing backpacks.

**The N.O.W. Committee is hosting "A Poverty
Passion Program" Sunday, April 26th 5:00pm** in the
fellowship hall. Dinner will be served. We need 35-
40 people to attend. We ask that our members
please prayerfully consider attending.



MEN'S BIBLE STUDY meets every other
Thursday in the conference room 6pm-7:15pm.
Join us Thursday, April 2nd, April 16th, April 30th
and May 14th, May 28th.
We invite and encourage you to come check us
out.



UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

will meet Sunday, May 3rd after
Worship in the fellowship hall. Lunch provided.

Other News and Events



HONORING ALL WOMEN OF BMUMC

Please plan to join us on Sunday, May 10th 10:20-
10:50am in the fellowship hall as we honor all the
women of Bradley Memorial with lite refreshments.



Youth will meet April 5th, April 19th and
May 3rd, May 17th. Dinner 5:30pm in the
fellowship hall. Program 6:00- 7:00pm.

PHONE NUMBER FOR PASTOR DAVID

336-552-0434



WE NEED YOUR HELP

If anyone is interested in volunteering to help
operate the sound system on Sunday mornings,
please contact Robert Metcalf.



GETTING FIT TOGETHER

No cost! Mondays and Thursdays 6:15-
7pm in old downstairs fellowship hall. Please see
Susan Hooper or Kelley Ratchford if you have any
questions.



The church office will be closed
Monday, May 25th in observance of
Memorial Day.

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Kacy Nichols 4/2
Vickie Miller 4/4
Pat Adams 4/6
Erin Metcalf 4/8
Bill Kemp 4/8
Linda Pendleton 4/12
Pat Stoneburner 4/16
Marshall Dilling 4/18
Karen Jenkins 4/18
Brian Mullinax 4/20
Kelsey Hooper 4/21
Gladys Lambert 4/21
Kris Metcalf 4/23
Page Bumgardner 4/26
Scott Alger 4/26

MAY BIRTHDAYS

Brandon Griffin 5/1
Abby Campbell 5/2
Ryder Bradley 5/4
Roland Jenkins 5/6
Katie Allen 5/8
Ann Pappas 5/10
Barbara Mullinax 5/12
Lincoln Lee 5/14
Forest Rogers, Sr. 5/14
Chuck Allen 5/14
Greg Barker 5/14
Sue Rhyne 5/15
Kim Pruitt 5/16
Nikki Barker 5/17
Steve Jenkins 5/18
Garrett Sutton 5/20
Lindsay Alger 5/23
Rick Powers 5/25
Jesse James III 5/26
Norman Jenkins 5/27
Holly Alger 5/29
Joanne Holland 5/30
Susan Hooper 5/31

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Gastonia, NC

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Email: bmumc@bellsouth.net
bradley Memorialumc.org

Return Service Requested

COVID-19: Letter from Bishop Leeland and Other Resources for Preparedness

March 24, 2020

Dear Western North Carolina Conference UMC Family and Friends,

The decision to suspend all in-person worship and gatherings is an effort to assist in halting the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19). This change certainly creates a new set of challenges for all of us. We really are *building the bridge as we are walking across it*. One new challenge we are facing is addressing ministry needs in situations that are different from our traditional ways of doing ministry. Our District Missional Networks are needed more than ever to meet the needs of your community, to collaborate on virtual offerings, and to provide care for one another. This letter will provide suggested guidelines that should prove helpful.

Please know that your Bishop, Conference Staff, District Superintendents, Vitality Associates, District Administrators, and support staff are all available to assist and help. While we are available by email or phone, we want you to know that all in-person meetings at the Conference and District levels are either postponed or being held virtually. We strongly urge all our WNCC churches to do the same as we follow the advice of the Center for Disease Control (CDC). **Please continue to discontinue services until further notice. We will monitor the CDC's recommendations and will let you know when it's appropriate to gather in person for worship once again.**

During this unprecedented time of a global pandemic, the Church is more important than ever. Each church and ministry have a unique opportunity to serve as channels of grace, mercy, and love, as we do what Christ has commissioned us to do. If possible, please continue to offer food pantries and other resources following the guidelines of the CDC as well as [these](#) from Second Harvest Food Bank. God put us in our communities to offer Christ, especially in times of testing and crisis, and to be a shining beacon of hope in these dark times.

As difficult as it is to suspend in-person worship and to practice social distancing, it is necessary to do so to protect the larger community and therefore save lives. As we hear the news of increasing cases of infection throughout our state, it becomes more apparent that these prevention measures will not end quickly. Thus, churches need to plan creative ways to worship and share the good news. We give thanks for the many other ways we can connect while being physically apart. The CHURCH has never been the buildings in which we worship.

By now you have heard the news that the Commission on General Conference has released a statement announcing the postponement of General Conference 2020. Please pray for Commission members as they work to schedule new dates. It is premature to make any decisions about our own Annual Conference at this point. We will offer further information regarding the WNCC Annual Conference by May 1, 2020. I will be meeting tomorrow, March 25, via conference call, with the College of Bishops to

discuss plans regarding the rescheduling of General Conference and other events.

God bless,
Bishop Paul L. Leeland