



The Fowler Flashes

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Wow, as I sit in my office thinking about the last couple of weeks, wondering what I want to say to you all. I have to laugh, we have dug in the dirt and we have Hooky Pookie'd together, and yet there was a third Sunday...God is good?

Jen and I want to thank you again for your incredible hospitality, cake and potluck and cards and hugs, this transition could not have gone much smoother from our side. We are both grateful and thankful to have the opportunity to walk side by side with each of you as we look ahead to see what the future might hold for Fowler UMC. The King James Bible reads in 2 Timothy 1:7 For God has not given us the spirit of fear, but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.

Over these next few months we will be calling on each other and challenging each other to use this power, to share this love and use our sound minds to find a vision, search for direction, and create plans to move forward making the Kingdom of God a reality right here and right now.

This is not a time to be fearful, but a time to be filled with the strength of Jesus, cause all things are possible through him...

This is not a time to say, we've never done it that way before, or, nope, already tried that. But rather a time to walk by faith and not by sight...

This is not a time to give up. But a time to pick up that rock and take down that giant.

So let's together, united as one body move forward and see what plans God has for us...peace, Rene'

The Virus & The Church

Hello, my friends, it is my prayer that this note finds you all healthy and in good spirit...I have spoken to many of you over these past couple of months and I share in your pain, this is **really hard**...and it is taking much longer than many of us thought. Please take comfort in the fact that we are not alone in this. Of course, God is with us, but so is every church in existence. I found a great article where pastors share about how their churches and how they are dealing with this virus. It is my prayer that you may find hope and encouragement by their stories.

It has always been the genius of the church to speak hope into uncertainty, and certainty into hopelessness. It is no different today. **THE HOLY TASK OF LISTENING**

In this era of livestreaming and social media, none of us would have imagined that a simple phone call could save our church. When the COVID-19 virus wreaked havoc on our weekend gatherings, churches of all sizes scrambled to take advantage of advanced technology to connect with their scattered and scared flocks.

At New Life, we have certainly used our HD cameras, Facebook Live,

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YouTube and Roku to broadcast songs, sermons and prayers. However, the most powerful moments have happened on personal phone calls between our teams and our church. We decided during the first week of the pandemic to simply pick up the phone and call everyone in our church. Weeks later, we're still getting messages from our members retelling those sacred exchanges.

We rediscovered the power of personal conversations. We listened to their stories, heard their concerns and fears and ended every phone call with pastoral prayer. We realized, again, that shepherds must know and nurture the sheep. As it turned out, our modern technology was not enough. Our church needed outbound phone calls. We needed to rediscover the holy task of listening.

Calling thousands of people in a short time was a daunting assignment, but we had extra time because all other programming came to a sudden stop. We had time to linger with people, time to cry with them, to chronicle and respond to their practical needs. Turns out, people needed to know we cared before they cared about our online content.

—*Brady Boyd - New Life Church, Colorado Springs, Colorado*

LET'S PRAY MORE FOR OUR MINISTRY THAN OUR MISERY

I am not saying to stop praying for God to take this misery away. I am not super spiritual—when there is misery in my life, I ask God to take it away. But we need to pray more for our ministry, that we would be light during this time. I don't like going through trials, but they shouldn't stop our ministry. When do you see the light better, outside in the daylight or at night? It is the same light no matter what time it is, but you will see the light in the darkness in amazing ways.

We need to have a kingdom dream that says, God, it's not about the quality of my life anymore; it's how I glorify you. And if I shine brighter in dark times, I will pray for darkness to end, but I will pray more for my ministry.

If we redefine the "good life" as simply glorifying God, then life will never be bad. But if we define it as health, wealth and prosperity, most of us won't have a good life during this time. If our definition of good life is "I get to glorify God," I promise you this season won't be bad. In fact, it might be one of the best seasons we've ever been through. We can shine, and people will note that we've been with Jesus.

—*Chris Brown - North Coast Church, Vista, California*

GOD IS WORKING FOR A NEW FUTURE

This virus comes on the heels of some of the worst failures of the church in our lifetimes in North America. And now COVID-19 is forcing us to stay at home, be local, tend to God's working among people in their lives. But if we ground ourselves in God, who is present and working among us; if we lead one another via his great presence in faith and trust; if we do the little things of cultivating kingdom in small, interactive spaces; I believe God is birthing something new.

—*David Fitch - Peace of Christ Community Church, Westmont, Illinois - Northern Seminary, Chicago*

BE SHEPHERDS

We have a mailing list of over 20,000 people who would have connected with Grace in some way. One of our practices during this difficult time is taking that list and calling through it individual by individual. We are simply asking if we can pray for them, help them or serve them in any way. The response from our folks has been overwhelming, because they are scared,

hurting and facing a high degree of uncertainty. It's been a phenomenal time to simply pastor and shepherd them through these uncharted waters.

—*Jeff Bogue - Grace Church of Greater Akron, Ohio*

DON'T LOOK BACK

The COVID-19 pandemic is likely to have lasting impact not only on the economy but on the church. Many of the changes that we are putting in place now may impact the way we view ministry in the future, and many churches may emerge healthier than before the crisis. A crisis is an ideal time to focus on the things that really matter, and to consider our true priorities as the body of Christ.

Like any pastor, I would be lying if I said I wasn't stressed. But I would also be lying if I said I wasn't strangely hope-filled.

The point here is not to radically rethink our mission (for this has always been to make disciples who make more disciples), but to rethink our ways of engaging in the mission. What if, for instance, we began to measure success based on the number of people we mobilized weekly on mission instead of the number of Sunday attendees or even the amount of money in our coffers? What if we moved from lecture and classroom-based discipleship to one-on-one relational discipleship? What if we detoxed from our addiction to come-to-us events and began to think in more localized, incarnational ways regarding being church and spreading the gospel? And what if, when all this was over, we didn't look back?

If you are a pastor or church leader, take heart and get creative. God's Spirit has always led God's people to creativity at key moments in history, and the moment we are in will possibly define existence for generations.

You may feel busier than ever making pivots in strategy during this time. Take time for prayer and reflection with your leaders to consider how your church might function differently after the pandemic passes.

Under the Assyrian and Babylonian empires, God's people lived in exile, separated from their place of worship, their traditions and, in many cases, their own families and communities of origin. Many struggled to maintain devotion to God, to perform meaningful worship and to live out of their convictions instead of the prevailing culture.

For many in the church, today is perhaps our "exile moment." We are reminded daily that God does not reside in a building made of brick and mortar. We struggle to find connection and meaning with uprooted lives and routines. We are surrounded by idolatry—from people calling for financial stability over the lives of neighbors to the embrace of hoarding increasingly scarce resources.

This is a moment for the church to shine and for our faith to shape our own living. Loving God and loving our neighbors have always been radical. However your church shifts and however you remain faithful in this crisis, don't look back.

—*Jonathan Davis - Beale Memorial Baptist Church, Tappahannock, Virginia*

STAY OUT OF THE BUILDING

While we look forward to some sense of normalcy to return to our lives—including meeting in the same room with our church family again—going back to normal can't mean business as usual.

We've been through too much. We've lost too much. And we've learned too much.

We left the building because we had to. Then we did what we needed to.

In churches of all sizes, pastors and care teams checked up on their people. They brought food

and medicine to at-risk friends. They offered prayers of reassurance to frightened people. Many of you counseled church members and their families through illness and death.

And we did it all outside of our church buildings. Being able to gather in our buildings again is important. But for the sake of our people, our community and the God we serve, our strongest ministry needs to stay outside our church buildings. That's where lives are changed. That's where Christ needs to be seen. That's what will fuel the fire for gathering again. Because that's what Jesus called us to. May it not take another crisis for us to keep doing what we should have been doing all along.

—*Karl Vaters -Cornerstone Christian Fellowship, Fountain Valley, California*

Rebooting of our heroes. When I visited Haiti following the catastrophic earthquakes of 2010, I was very moved talking to the children about their hopes and dreams. Even those as young as eight expressed their ambitions to become doctors, nurses and teachers. I have seen this echoed a little already here in the media. Suddenly celebrities and sports stars are no longer the central focus of public attention but rather health workers, scientists and good neighbors. This could have an effect on a whole generation growing up. If churches are seen to be part of this frontline crisis response, then we are laying foundations for a new generation of active, engaged disciples.

Reintegration of mission. Even when our churches can't be physically together, and we are reliant on digital communication more than at any other time in history, it is encouraging to see the reintegration of mission. The word and deed to the church's mission is coming together in profound ways. There is sacrificial service and there is clear articulation of the gospel. This balance offers us as the church an exciting way forward into life beyond the pandemic. We will continue to live and speak the good news. We will continue to love and to challenge. We will continue to offer compassion and a call to repentance.

—*Krish Kandiah -Home for Good, United Kingdom*

CALENDAR/NEW BIBLE STUDIES

Two Bible Studies starting in September.

What is your favorite Bible Verse? - That is the title of our new Wednesday morning Bible study. Together we will explore the meaning of a verse and what it means to us. Join me on Zoom and lets find out more about the Bible. September 2nd from 11-12 am. Please call the office to get the Zoom link.

The Rest of the Story - This is a Continuation of Pastor René's class. This meeting will held on Thursdays from 1 - 2 at Audubon Park . The first meeting will be September 2nd at 1pm.

August

4th - Staff Meeting

27th - Calling group meeting 11am

August Birthdays & Anniversaries

3rd- Debbie Knutson
4th - Lance & Janet Abernathy
5th - Christopher Walker
7th - Jade Hendrickson
9th - Mike Payson
10th - Shelly Foster
11th - Brittney Bryan
13th - Dawn Fisher
 Jennifer Devantier
14th - John & Carol Vrolson
18th - Melissa LaFrance
 Eleanor Duckett
 Dave & Cadie Olsen
20th - Larry & Sindie Price
22nd - Jeni & Cory Sherman
27th - Lance Abernathy
30th - Clareen Hooper
31st - Dan & Wendy
 Montgomery

Wishing our friends a “happy. . .”,
a “merry. . .”,
 a “best wishes . . .”,
 and a “blessings . . .”
for their special day.

If you or your loved ones
are in need of prayer,
please contact the office
to be added to the
prayer list.



HEALTH/HEALING

Lois Tipple

Lance Abernathy – Shoulder surgery recovery

Judy Looper – Tumor on her liver – Friend of
Shirley and Dick Thompson

Special prayers of healing for the Heimbigner
family

Jayme – Niece of Shelley Barton

Prayers for health issues in the Barton Family.

Art and Lorraine Stokes – Serious health problems
- Friends of Tom and Judy Knutson.

PRAYERS OF CONCERN:

Linda and Robert Hammer

Please Lord, stop the insanity in this world; the
violence, the hatred for one another and the
starvation of our fellow beings especially infants
and children.

Our love reaches out to Jack, Joan and the Schuman
family.

The family of Faye Sanford at her passing

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING

Enya LaFrance – As she goes through basic training
may God bless her and keep her safe from harm.
Granddaughter of Dick and Shirley Thompson.

“Father, our world is filled with chaos and confu-
sion, and a pandemic. We pray that you come into
our lives and those who are troubled and sick.
Please Father, watch over all of us, heal us, and
bring peace to our nation and world once again.”

Amen

Lay Leader Dick Thompson

The writer of 3 John 1 is writing to his friend Gaius . I would like to use his words to you my Fowler family. 3 John 1: 1-8 CEB

1 From the elder to my friend Gaius, whom I truly love, 2 Dear friend, I'm praying that all is well with you and that you enjoy good health in the same way that you prosper spiritually.

(Dick) We are trying to return to opening the church and I'm sure that a large number of us have been following the guide lines of State and Federal. A Committee was put together and small groups were started in parts of the Church Hall.

(Let's read on)

3 I was overjoyed when the brothers and sisters arrived and spoke highly of your faithfulness to the truth, shown by how you live according to the truth. 4 I have no greater joy than this: to hear my children are living according to the truth.

(Dick) It was great to see and hear how our walk with the Lord has been these last few months sharing our stories of how we were doing and sharing disappointments along the way but still keeping faith in things to come.

(Let's read on)

5 Dear friend, you act faithfully in what ever you do for our brothers and sisters, even though they are strangers. 6 They spoke highly of your love in front of the church. You would do well to provide for their journey in a way that honors God, 7 because they left on their journey for the sake of Jesus Christ without the support from the Gentiles. 8 Therefore, we ought to help people like this so that we can be coworkers with the truth.

(Dick) In reading this I know that the writer is thanking his friend Gaius on how he has opened his house to traveling preachers of the word of God.

We at Fowler are trying to do same the for our congregation and community. God has a plan for Fowler and we need to be patient and continue to support in prayers and tithes so we will be blessed on the other side of this time.

God Bless Thank You for your Love, in Christ Jesus

The members of Fowler United Methodist church and the local unit of United Methodist Women are grieving the passing of Faye Sanford, truly one of the saints going before us. Remember her family in your prayers. A Gift in Memory will be sent to United Methodist Women in her name to further our mission of faith, hope and love in action.



At this time of being in quarantine, there are some ways to stay in touch with UMW at home. Try the conference facebook page, <http://pnwumc.org/umw>. There you will find information about the national, jurisdiction, conference and district events; leaders, newsletters and more. Other UMW websites include: www.unitedmethodistwomen.org, [facebook.com/UMWomen](https://www.facebook.com/UMWomen), [facebook.com/pnwumw](https://www.facebook.com/pnwumw), [Instagram.com/UMWomen](https://www.instagram.com/UMWomen), www.wjumw.com, [Pinterest.com/UMWomen](https://www.pinterest.com/UMWomen), [Flickr.com/photos/UMWomen](https://www.flickr.com/photos/UMWomen), [Twitter.com/user/UMWomen](https://www.twitter.com/user/UMWomen).

There are also many books in the church library available from the UMW Reading Program. It is not too late to read a few books before our annual meeting, held on ZOOM this September. Contact our program resource person, Joan Grater, for more information.

If you go online and find the list of books from the reading program, you will find that some of the books are available at your local library. One of the books available is also very timely. "So You Want to Talk About Race" by Ijeoma Oluo. This is also available on kindle.

Stay well, stay home,

Sharon Stovall





August Music Notes from Nathan

Summer greetings to all of you in the name of Christ's unconditional love...Our family thinks of each of you often and we yearn to have some sense of normalcy return to our lives in the midst of this global pandemic than just seems to have no immediate end in sight. In the midst of this reality, our family decided to move ahead with our vacation plans to caravan to the Oregon beaches for a week in July with Tamara's parents and her brother and his kids. The beach provided a much needed lift to be in the midst of such immense beauty and calm...We all enjoyed walks on the beach, constructing a huge sandcastle, hiking, and our evening campfires on the beach with yummy smores! We are now safely back home and next week I take my other set of vacation days to do my annual backpacking trip with my three brothers near Leavenworth, Wa. This year's hike is a BIG one...we are hoping to "chew" off nearly 25 miles and 5000' of elevation within one monstrous day of hiking through the Enchantments. Yikes!

Life at Fowler right now is obviously much different and it seems as though each week we are readjusting to a new reality of how we can safely be together in community. Rene' and I anticipate our online worship to continue through August and perhaps into the fall and I am working on fresh ways to have different groups of musicians contribute to our worship. We have upcoming worship services that will give opportunity for new faces to offer their musical gifts and our marimbas will make a comeback with a few songs on the horizon. My hope is that these musical offerings will help to bring a little ray of sunshine to your days as we anticipate being back together in person to worship our Lord and Saviour.

Be well and continue to take good care of each other in our "time apart, yet together in Spirit,"
Nathan KG

YOUTH & CHILDREN NEWS



Hi Youth!

We are planning a fun easy day that will alternate with a service project. Special thanks to Matthew and Tamara who helped organize a walk in the evening on the Centennial Trail. It was relaxing and I loved just seeing everyone masked and social distancing. We are also supporting Gabriel Kennedy-Gibbens with projects around the church.

I am still visiting our Deer Park youth from a distance. It is amazing how God is providing ways to see each other. I miss out on little children! I am sending a few activities for them and a note that we love and celebrate them.

The world is difficult and messy. I'd like to leave you with a scripture that I lean on. I pray for you all daily and miss your smiles and hugs. We will be together soon!

"So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."

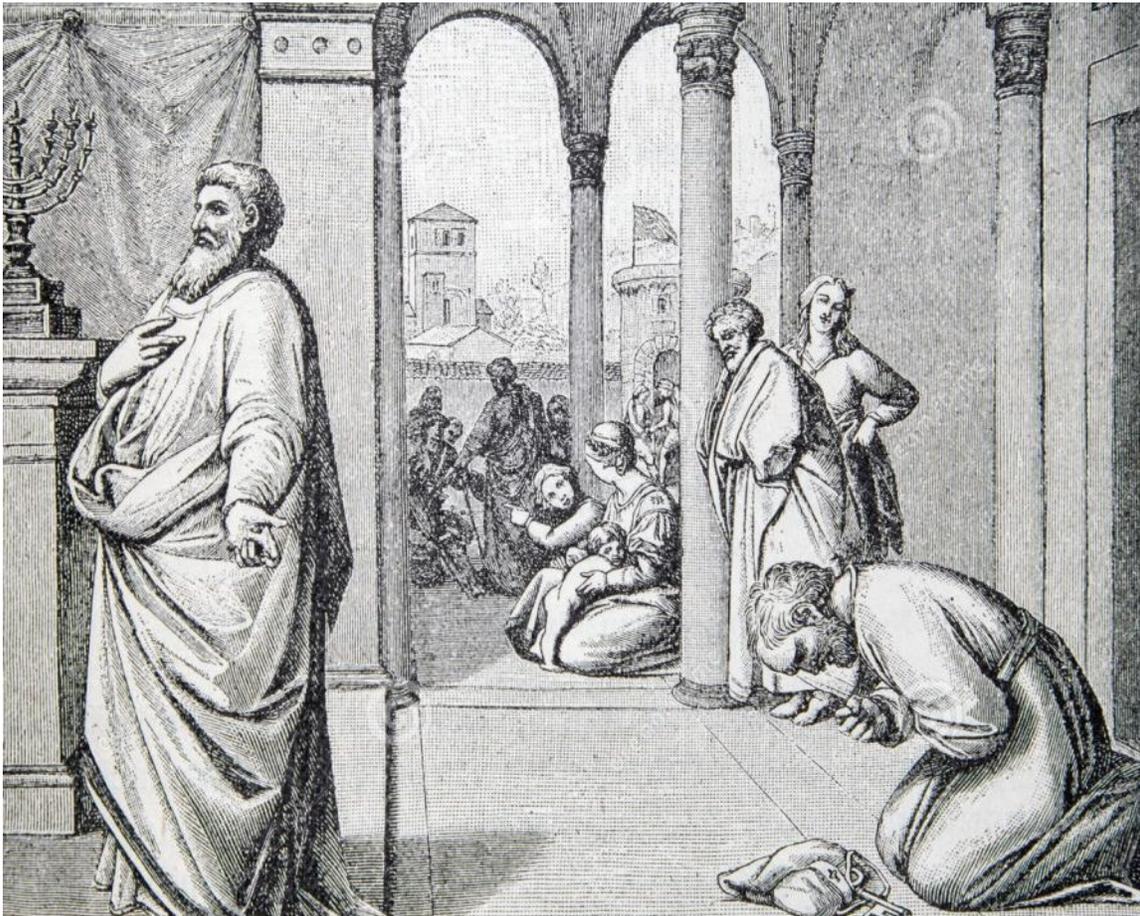
Isaiah 41:10

God bless you and may peace be your journey in Jesus name.

Lovingly,
Shelley

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