



# The Fowler Flashes

Hello, my friends, I hope and pray that this letter finds you safe and healthy, even during these most unusual of times. Last Monday I had sent you all part of the letter we received from our Bishop, in case you missed it, here it is one more time.

As bishop of the Greater Northwest Area of The United Methodist Church, I am extending the suspension of in-person worship in United Methodist Churches and other ministries and the closure of church facilities to all but essential services throughout the Alaska, Oregon-Idaho and Pacific Northwest Conferences through May 30, 2020, until and unless state government and health officials lift restrictions based upon their published criteria for re-opening. This date may be reconsidered as circumstances change.

*Bishop Elaine JW Stanovsky*

So, it looks like we will have at least another 4 weeks of online worship before us. I hope it is enough to keep you connected until we get back. I promise to try and keep it fun and surprising as well as serious and thought-provoking. I pray that God would use our services to speak to each of you with truth and power.

Diane found a FB post the other day that intrigued me, she wanted to share it with you all, but when I read it, I pocketed it, lol. I thought it might be a great starter for my article in the flash for May, plus it deserves to go a little deeper than it was. So, here it goes...words used from Facebook are in bold.

**The Latin root of the word "quarantine" is "forty".**

We know that there are several instances where 40 is used...

**The flood lasted 40 days. 40 years Moses fled Egypt.**

**40 days Moses stayed on Mount Sinai/10 Commandments.**

**Exodus lasted 40 years. Jesus fasted for 40 days. Lent is 40 days.**

**A group of theologians thinks the number 40 represents "change". It is the time of preparing a person, or people, to make a fundamental change.**

I thought that the number forty meant until it was finished, for whatever it was that was happening at the time, but I never thought about adding the word "change" to the equation. But it really does seem to fit very well, there was a definite change component involved when we see the number forty used. Interesting, kind of makes you look at that number forty a little different. So, I was thinking about other numbers we can find in the Bible, especially in the prophetic books of Daniel and Revelation. Of course, let us remember that most Bible scholars agree that while some of the numbers might possess literal significance, others are used more for symbolic purposes. So, let us not get too carried away with them. Our list is not exhaustive but simply an example of numbers used in the Bible.

**One**

**The number one denotes absolute singleness.**

"Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one." (Deut. 6:4, ESV)

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## **Two**

### **The number two symbolizes witness and support.**

Two witnesses establish truth (Matthew 26:60).

The disciples were sent two by two (Luke 10:1).

## **Three**

### **The number three signifies completion or perfection, and unity. Three is the number of Persons in the Trinity.**

Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." (John 2:19, ESV)

Jonah spent 3 days and 3 nights in the belly of the fish (Matt. 12:40).

Jesus' earthly ministry lasted three years (Luke 13:7).

## **Four**

### **The number four relates to the earth.**

Earth has four seasons: winter, spring, summer, and fall.

There are four primary directions: north, south, east, and west.

There are four earthly kingdoms (Daniel 7:3).

Jesus' parable had four types of soil (Matthew 13).

## **Five**

### **Five is a number associated with grace.**

There are five Levitical offerings (Leviticus 1-5).

Jesus multiplied five loaves of bread to feed 5,000 (Matthew 14:17).

## **Six**

### **Six is the number of men.**

Adam and Eve were created on the sixth day (Genesis 1:31).

## **Seven**

### **Seven refers to the number of God, divine perfection, or completeness.**

When you buy a Hebrew slave, he shall serve six years, and in the seventh, he shall go out free, for nothing. (Exodus 21:2, ESV)

On the seventh day, God rested after completing the creation (Genesis 2:2).

God's Word is pure, like silver purified seven times in the fire (Psalm 12:6).

Jesus taught Peter to forgive 70 times seven (Matthew 18:22).

Seven demons went out from Mary Magdalene, symbolizing total deliverance (Luke 8:2).

## **Ten**

### **The number ten relates to human governments and law.**

And he [Boaz] took ten men of the elders of the city [as judges] and said, "Sit down here." So they sat down. (Ruth 4:2, ESV)

The Ten Commandments were the Tablets of the Law (Exodus 20:1-17, Deuteronomy 5:6-21).

Ten tribes made up the northern kingdom (1 Kings 11:31-35).

## **Twelve**

### **The number twelve relates to divine government, God's authority, perfection, and completeness.**

It [the New Jerusalem] had a great, high wall, with twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and on the gates, the names of the twelve tribes of the sons of Israel were inscribed -- on the east three gates, on the north three gates, on the south three gates, and on the west three gates. And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb. (Revelation 21:12-14, ESV)

There were 12 Tribes of Israel (Revelation 7).

Jesus chose 12 apostles (Matthew 10:2-4).

### **Thirty**

**Thirty is a time frame and number associated with mourning and sorrow.**

Aaron's death was mourned for 30 days (Numbers 20:29).

Moses' death was mourned for 30 days (Deuteronomy 34:8).

### **Forty**

**Forty is a number associated with testing and trials.**

And Moses was on the mountain forty days and forty nights. (Exodus 24:18, ESV)

During the flood, it rained for 40 days (Genesis 7:4).

Israel wandered in the desert for 40 years (Numbers 14:33).

Jesus was in the wilderness 40 days before being tempted (Matthew 4:2).

### **Fifty**

**The number fifty holds significance in feasts, celebrations, and ceremonies.**

And you shall consecrate the fiftieth year and proclaim liberty throughout the land to all its inhabitants. It shall be a jubilee for you when each of you shall return to his property and each of you shall return to his clan. (Leviticus 25:10, ESV)

The Feast of Pentecost was celebrated on the fiftieth day after Passover (Leviticus 23:15-16).

Fifty days after Jesus Christ's resurrection the Holy Spirit-filled believers on the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2).

### **666**

666 is the number of the beast.

The number or mark of the beast is the sign of the Antichrist (Revelation 13:15-18).

And looking at life today...our Facebook writer writes...

**Remember we are in the year 2020, and  $20 + 20 = 40$ .**

I must ask the question. Are we going through a time of testing or trials?

**Also, 2020 is the year of the United States Census. Jesus Christ, the savior of the world, was born during a census.**

Scholars remain cautious about assigning too much importance to the meaning of numbers in the Bible. Such usage has led some groups to believe numbers can reveal the future or uncover hidden information. That is dangerous territory and can't lead to anything good.

**Lastly, 2020 is a perfect vision.**

She also wrote a beautiful prayer to fit her theme...

**May our sight focus on the Lord and living according to His perfect vision for us knowing He holds us in the palm of His hand.**

**May these days of "quarantine" bring spiritual liberation to our souls, our nation, and our world.**

**The best is yet to come.**

**Trust in the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit!**

Beautifully said anonymous, I wish I could give you credit, but we could not find you. So hereby, we thank thee for opening our minds and hearts, God knows who you are, and I am positive the ultimate credit is yours.

Thank you all, please stay safe and healthy...peace, pastorRené

Dick Thompson  
Lay leader

I do wonder why many people of all races and all financial ability do not take the Free Gift of salvation of Jesus Christ. But is this really FREE, is there something I have to do, I believe the answer is yes but I can't put dollars in the bank.

I can look at all of us churchgoers every Sunday crowding into buildings to hear the same message every week, which can look like a waste of time to many. Let's look at this another way, why are we doing this, I'm I missing something in my life they have and I don't.

I think we can all agree on that I don't control when I was born and what parents I have or the place and time I will die. I guess what I am saying: The time between life and death that's what I control, then to realize God is in control of everything even my worldly birth and death, giving me the Free Will to do what I want, hoping they want is to serve people and Him, Jesus starts to make sense. I need God to live a complete and eternal life through Jesus Christ. A church is a place to assemble to worship God the creator and to thank Him for Knowing and Saving me.

Scripture: Gods word "States"

John 3:16-18 CEB

16 God so loved the world that he gave his only Son so that everyone who believes in him won't perish but will have eternal life. 17 God didn't send his Son into the world to judge the world but that the world might be saved through him. 18 Whoever believes in him isn't judged; whoever doesn't believe in him is already judged, because they don't believe in the name of God's only Son.

Romans 10: 8-9 CEB

8 But what does it say? (The word is near you, in your mouth and your heart (that is the message that we preach) 9 Because if you confess with your mouth "Jesus is Lord" and in your heart, you have faith that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

I am so thankful I do church

P S

I so miss my friend Howard but I know I will see him again because that's the promise

### **May Birthdays & Anniversaries**

2nd - Mugisho Raphael	4th - Carol Kennedy	9th - Robert & Linda Hammer
11th - Laura Velonza	12th - Matthew Cannata	13th - Josmin Niyukuri
16th - Katie Laurier	16th - Zoey Kopelman	17th Amiri Mohamad
20th - Lance & Lisa Laurier	22nd - Mary Mwange	23rd - Ryan Reeves
23rd - Susan Walker	25th - Beni Mwange	26th - Bryan Blair
26th - Tom & Judy Knutson	27th - Marie Mwange	

Wishing our friends a "happy...," a "Congrats...," a "best wishes...,"  
and a "blessings...," for their special day.

# Fowler UM Women

My dear ladies,

This is the last time I will be addressing you as your president. I am canceling the May meeting. We will install the new officers at the September meeting. I want to thank you for your support, your help, and your understanding during these last two years. I began as a true neophyte, to the church, the community, and the United Methodist Women's Group. Although I knew about it from my past, I had never been involved in it directly. As it became a steep learning curve to me, so did it become a learning experience for you, allowing me to be your president. I made many mistakes, some of them silly and unimportant and some of the more serious. I apologize if I stepped on toes. It was never my intention to hurt anyone or any idea. I never was able to conquer the Roberts' Rules of Order. With God's help and your forbearance, I muddled through. Thank you.

Where I feel I succeeded was, adding songs to our meetings the first year, and getting you ladies to give Response and book reports. I, also, feel I was able to get good feedback and conversations going on reports, ideas, and even controversy. Presently, we are going through unprecedented times. However, it is not just us. The entire world is experiencing this horrible virus. We are all in peril due to our inability to stop this insane flu epidemic. However, we United Methodist Women, can bear and even overcome our concerns, fears, the anxiety of ourselves, our church community, and our local community with God's help and each other's support. I went looking in the bible for some sources that might help us cope during this time. Freedom from fear comes as individuals trust in God who protects them.

Zeph 3:15. The king of Israel is in your midst, you shall fear disaster no more.

2Tim 1: 7 Christians are no longer slaves of fear for Christ has given them... a spirit of power, of love, and of self-control.

Isa 54:14 In righteousness... you shall not fear... terror, nor shall it come near you.

Finally, the most cited reference is:

Ps 23:4 Even though I walk through the darkest valley I fear no evil for you art with me...

I pray to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ that He will keep us all safe as we continue to keep ourselves safe through distancing and isolation.

Again, I thank you all for your love and support now, and throughout the spring and summer. I especially want to thank Faye Sanford, Judy Knutson, Sharon Stovall, and Maureen Lickteig for checking up on all of you ladies during this crisis.

Connie Lanzinger



## May Music Notes from Nathan

Greetings friends, as I write this short letter it is now a full month since we have all gathered together for worship and our weekly church activities. We are all finding our way through this global pandemic as it has directly affected all of us. I am writing this note to let you know of a recent music shift I have made to help us through this time and as another way to help keep us connected in our faith.

Beginning this week I am offering a bi-weekly music program for each of you entitled, "Songs of Hope." I felt an inner call to craft a bi-weekly piano-based music program to send out to each of you in the hopes of helping lift your spirits and reminding you of the songs of our faith and songs of hope. Pastor Rene' will be sending you an email with a simple link for you to click and that's all you need to know for now! Simple and direct and from my heart to yours...

So, watch your inbox for a message from Pastor Rene' entitled, "Songs of Hope." And if you have any suggestions or requests for future songs that help to lift your spirit then feel free to reach out to me and I would LOVE to play them for you! Keep taking good care of yourselves and one another.

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." Romans 15:13

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# **FAITH**

## **IT DOES NOT MAKE THINGS**

# **EASY**

## **IT MAKES THEM POSSIBLE**

**LUKE 1:37**

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