

Linden Letter

October 2020

Zephaniah 3:17 (NRSV) The LORD, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing.

The prophet, Zephaniah, preaches a message of judgement to the people of God. He condemns their boasting, haughtiness, and self-centered ways. He calls them to a place of humble repentance where they put their trust in God and depend on God and not themselves. In the passage above, the prophet offers assurance to those who seek God and strive to live as God asks them to live. Zephaniah speaks of God's people rejoicing in God's presence, but he also speaks of God rejoicing over the people.

Think about that for a moment. When you turn to God, God rejoices. God is so pleased when we gather before God that God exults and sings over us. Imagine what God might sing over you today. Perhaps God sings thanksgiving that you have decided to be obedient to God's voice today. Perhaps God sings of God's forgiveness over you today. Perhaps God showers you with songs of love today. Whatever it is that you need to hear, when we turn our attention and our hearts to God, God sings over us the exact song that we need to hear.

Thanks be to God for God's great love and for God's song.

Pastor Alicia

In this edition of the Linden Letter you will find the following

- * An invitation to prayer and fasting for our nation
- * Information about Operation Christmas Child
- * News about Trunk or Treat
- * Updates on our mission and outreach
- * An invitation to meditate on the scripture and art now on our front lawn
- * Worship information
- * Copies of the power point that talks about the policies and procedures developed by our task force for in person worship and gatherings.
- * Some information about the pastor taking time off.

An Invitation From our District Office to join in Prayer and Fasting for our Nation

We are living in difficult times and are facing a momentous decision this coming November. The environment in which we make this decision is fraught and our national dialogue has become increasingly unhealthy. Recognizing this reality, we in the Baltimore Suburban District invite you to join us in a practice of fasting and prayer as we head toward the November general election to help us refocus on that which unites us all. Our spiritual discipline will be to

fast and pray on every Tuesday before the election, as well as to pray every day at 11:03 am every day leading up to the election.

Some of you may not be familiar with fasting. Traditionally it means abstaining from a meal, or two meals, for one day. Some prefer to fast from a specific beverage or type of food. Others prefer to fast from activities that draw them away from God. You are invited to do whatever feels right to you. I hope that you will join me in fasting and praying for our nation this season.

Operation Christmas Child Time is Here!!

It is that time of the year again! Because of the pandemic, we will be changing the way we collect and fill our Operation Christmas Child boxes. On Friday October 16 from 10-11: 30am and Saturday, October 17 from 1-2pm on our church parking lot, our shoeboxes will be available for pickup. We ask that you take a box or two, choosing to fill your box either for a boy or girl, also, mark the age of the child in the space on the top of the box. Please fill your box with your choice of any of the items on the list included with your shoe box. Because we will not be checking the boxes, purchase and donate only the items on the list. Enclosing a personal note to the child receiving the box will be a special treat for him or her also!

We will be collecting the filled boxes on Friday, November 6, 10-11:30am and -Saturday November 7, from 1-2pm, on our church parking lot.

Monetary donations will be accepted as well, please mark Operation Christmas Child and send to Linden Heights UMC.

Thanking you for blessing the lives of children around the world!

Reminder: Do not include: candy, toothpaste, bubbles, liquids or lotions, war related items.

Questions? Contact Ruth Snyder at 410-227-6824 or 410-592-8417

Trunk or Treat

We are pulling together a team of people to discuss some possibilities for a modified covid-19 style trunk or treat event. If you would be interested in helping design and run this year's trunk or treat, please let Pastor Alicia know!

Mission & Outreach

Thanks to your generous contributions we were able to provide the students and staff at Pine Grove Elementary School and Parkville High School with the materials that they requested. As the year moves forward, we will let you know if they have any other needs!

Our mission focus for October will be sending cards to the residents of Woodlands Assisted Living facility. Visitation has been restricted for many months now due to the corona virus. We are hoping to brighten people's day with a card letting them know that someone is thinking about them. If you would be interested in sending a card, or cards, let us know and we will get you names and an address. You can contact the pastor at alicialhumc@verizon.net, sign up through sign up genius (a link will be out shortly), or contact Connie Simmons. (Her contact information is in the church directory)

Our November mission focus will be on the residents at the Easter Regional Family Center. More details will be sent later this month.

Scripture and Art Meditation

Some of the artists in our congregation have created art based on a passage from the Psalms. The Psalm and the art are now on display on the front yard of the church. You are invited to walk the grounds and meditate on the scriptures and the art. (Please keep social distance in mind!) Feel free to invite friends and neighbors to stop by!

Worship Information

Through the month of October, we are continuing to have worship virtually through the zoom platform. Here is the link and phone information.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83148539664?pwd=ZHhtNGpzNVZ6QjVBb08zeHBONW9EUT09>

Meeting ID: 831 4853 9664

Passcode: 599815

One tap mobile

+13017158592,,83148539664#,,,,,0#,,599815# US (Germantown)

Dial by your location

+1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown)

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83148539664?pwd=ZHhtNGpzNVZ6QjVBb08zeHBONW9EUT09>

Also in October, we are having in person worship in our parking lot. We do ask that people sign up to attend this service. You can do so through the sign up genius links sent out every week or by calling the church office or the pastor. Before you come, please familiarize yourself with the procedures for gathering in person created by our re-entry task force. They are attached.

Starting in November, assuming the corona virus in our area remains the same or decreases, we will begin having limited in person worship in our sanctuary. Attendance will be limited, and you will need to register to attend the service. Again, you can do that through sign up genius or by contacting the office or the pastor. The second half of the re-entry information in the attachment explains what you can expect if you come to an in-person worship service in the sanctuary.

We will continue to offer virtual worship throughout the year. Specific times for the zoom and in person service beginning in November have not yet been finalized. We will let you know as soon as we have worked out all of the details!

Pastor Away

I will be taking some time off October 8th-15th to do work on my doctoral thesis. I am available for emergencies and I will answer emails one a day. If you have a need, please don't hesitate to reach out! Pastor Alicia