



The Edison Light

Building disciples; Growing in faith; Serving in Christ's Name

Edison Memorial UMC – July Newsletter 2020

Dear Friends,

Summer Greetings—in this summer that is shaping up to be unlike any other! The typical things we enjoy in summer: July 4 picnics with family and friends, not to mention fireworks, lazing at a beach, summer trips to see loved ones or to sightsee, our own annual church picnic, and all other things we love about those “lazy, crazy, hazy days of summer” (as the old pop song put it) have now become difficult, if not impossible. If we are mindful of pandemic protocols, we are wearing masks, social distancing at least 6 feet from anyone beyond our own household, and rethinking everything we do in light of viral spread. We are faced with reinventing all the simple summer things we can usually take for granted. It is exhausting!

In light of all of this, I find myself asking, “What am I/what are we learning through all of this?”

We have learned a lot of new things associated with viral protocols: how to wear a mask while grocery shopping/getting a haircut/keeping appointments, how to stand 6 feet apart while waiting in a line at a store or office, how to wash our hands more thoroughly than ever before. Some of us have learned how to order groceries, or library books, or household repair items on line and to use pick up procedures. Lots of us have learned to use Zoom for meetings and Bible Studies. Above all, as a church family, we’ve learned how to do drive-in church!

That’s been my biggest learning in the last few months. After the initial work of getting all the equipment set up (I can’t say often enough WHAT a debt of gratitude we owe to Rex Stanforth), and figuring out how to broadcast to our car radios, drive-in church has taught me these things:

--Worship is more of a weekly adventure than I ever knew! Leading worship outside means a lot more variables to be dealt with—weather, breezes, dripping trees, wind noise in microphones-- all things one doesn’t need to think about from our pulpit. No two services are ever alike.

--Being gathered together in community for worship, even when confined behind car doors and windshields, is tremendously important! It means more than I ever realized. Every week our members tell me how much it means to them to be able to go to church, even as we social distance, as opposed to simply watching a church service on the computer.

--In order to preach and lead worship, I depend and rely on you, the Body of Christ more deeply than I ever have in all my decades of ministry! From the weekly set-up and put-away help to make a worship center on the sidewalk, to the helpers distributing bulletins, communion cups, and receiving offerings—all in masks in gloves, to the driver in the car parked closest to me who gets pressed into service to give me musical cues (I can’t reliably hear the service’s music from the sidewalk, to the sound engineers inside making it all work, I marvel each week at all the many hands it takes to make church happen.

So, we will continue this weekly adventure called “Drive-In Church” throughout the summer, into September. Who can say what new things God will teach us along the way? I’m grateful to be learning with you!

Yours, in Christ,

Pastor Barbara

*Congratulations to Nicko and Renee Smith
on the birth of their daughter,*

~ Harper ~

on Friday June 19, 2020

*Harper weighed 7 lbs, 12 ounces, and was 20" long.
She joins big brother Hayden.*

*The proud grandparents are
Michael and Shirlean Smith.*

Blessings to all!



Dedication of Our Church Parlor in Memory of Easter Jones

Through a very generous gift from Charles Lindecamp in memory of his dear and special friend, Easter Jones, our church parlor has been totally refurbished. It now has a new floor, new furniture, and a new custom-made kitchenette area.

We will be dedicating the parlor in Easter's memory on Sunday July 19 after drive-in worship. Due to COVID pandemic protocols, we are limited to a small number of people inside the building for the dedication. But we will also broadcast the dedication over our 91.1 FM radio station. All who wish to participate in the dedication are invited to remain after worship and to tune in via their car radios.

Thank you!

Mr. Charles Lindecamp



Our Backpack Program has been extended through July.

We are grateful that we can continue serving the 60 students of the Edison School system at risk for being food insecure. But we do need help to keep our pantry full for them! If you can help by donating money (Checks preferred. Please make checks payable to Edison Memorial UMC with the note "backpack program" in the memo line), or by donating food items (single serving sizes of: juice boxes, shelf stable milk, mac'n'cheese, instant oatmeal, canned vegetables, canned pasta, fruit), we gratefully appreciate it!



Caring Caravan Update

Thank you to all who have participated in our Caring Caravans in June. We made trips after church on two Sundays, the first time with 15 cars, the second time with 10 cars. What a great response! Thanks to you, we were able to bring cheer and encouragement to four households who have been unable to get out to church. It was a lot of fun to greet members of our church family with waves and a "toot salute" of our car horns.

Due to some obstacles, in the form of road construction blocking the way to members' homes, our Caring Caravan program is taking a pause now until after Labor Day.

Stay tuned for our next Caring Caravan date in late summer.



Our deepest sympathies go to the family and friends of Evelyn Mills, who entered eternal life on Saturday, June 6 at age 94. We celebrated Evelyn's life on June 15 with her funeral in our sanctuary. Our hearts especially go out to Evelyn's sons Mark and Richard, and to their families. Evelyn will always be a cherished member of our church family.

"And I heard a voice from Heaven saying, 'Blessed are those who die in the Lord. Yea, 'saith the Spirit,' that they may rest from their labors; and their works follow them.'"



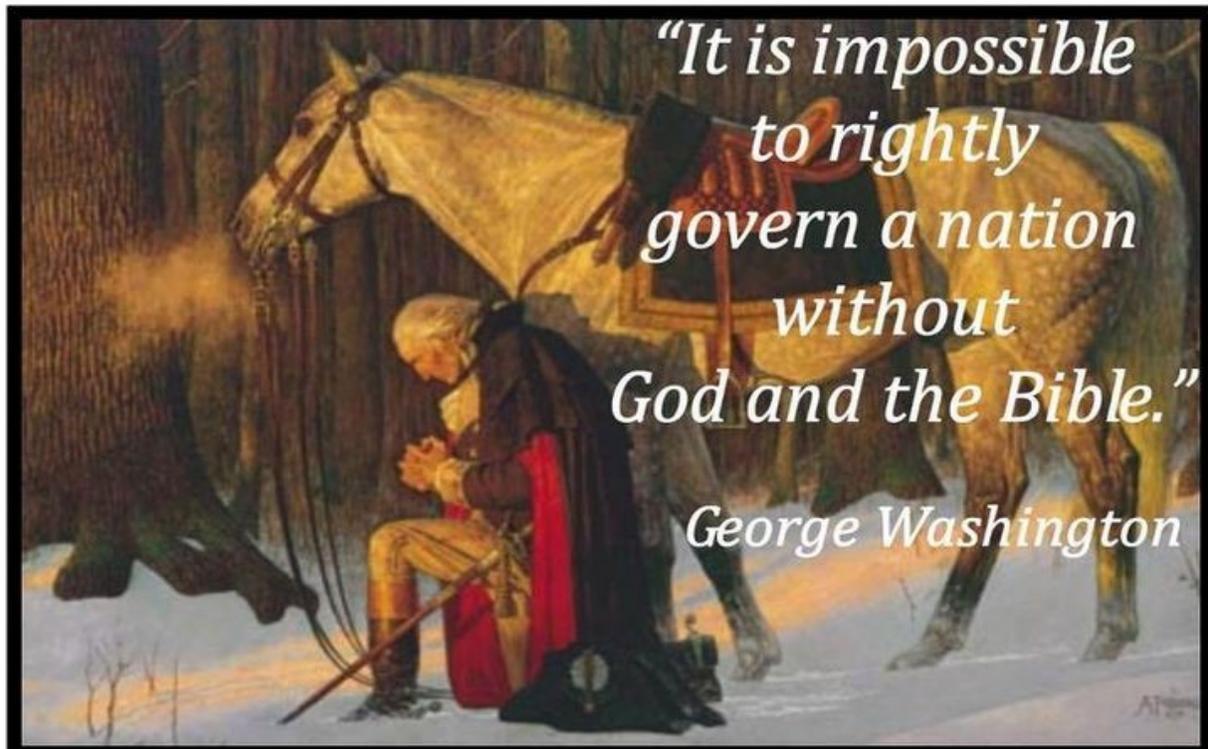
"He that
DWELLETH
in the
{*SECRET PLACE*}
of the
Most High
~ shall abide ~
under the shadow of the
Almighty."
Psalm 91:1

*Lord,
Hear Our
Prayer*





PRAY FOR
AMERICA



*"It is impossible
to rightly
govern a nation
without
God and the Bible."*

George Washington