

Aurora First United Methodist Church

April 2022

Heart to Heart, House to House, Town to Town, One Kingdom to Another

I have enjoyed spending time together during our special Lenten study this season and have been encouraged through worshiping together and our discussion around hearing from God. I'm thankful for the opportunity we have had to connect in a different way each Wednesday to learn and grow.

The conversation in our weekly Zoom call has been encouraging and life giving. I have enjoyed hearing your personal stories of hearing from God and the guidance that God has given you. You may be skeptical about God speaking to you, but this group has affirmed for all of us the regular presence and activity of God in our lives.

We have been reminded through the writing of Dallas Willard in his book, *Hearing God*, that, "As we seek to learn how God speaks to us and guides us – this must be sought only as a part of a certain kind of life - a *life of loving fellowship with the King and his other subjects within the kingdom of the heavens. We must **not** make our primary goal "to hear the voice of God." But rather our goal is to be mature people in a loving relationship with God."*

We are not seeking God's voice as people approach a fortune teller or Ouija board! We are seeking God and are thankful the guidance that is provided as we grow in our relationship with God.

I want all of us at Aurora First to grow in maturity and in a loving relationship with God! I hope this season of Lent has helped us all to be more sensitive to God's voice and God's activity in the world. God really desires relationship with us, and it really is possible! God spoke to Moses, little Samuel, Elisha, Ananias, Peter, and God can do the same for us. In fact, the Bible indicates that God's purposeful communication with believers was a regular and normal experience for the early church (1 Cor. 14:26), we should expect the same today.

From Lent, into the season of Easter and beyond, let's continue to mature and grow. Let's continue to pray for our faith to grow, and to experience God in the same way those believers we read about did.

I love being your pastor. I am thankful for the privilege we have to serve Jesus together and I am excited for what the future holds for all of us we grow each day to be more like Jesus.

Love, Joy, & Peace,

Pastor Ryan

In our thoughts and prayers... Let us share our concerns and blessings with the Lord...

Prayers for our NATION, the CoVid pandemic, racial tensions, increasing unrest, Christian Unity. Prayers for our Cities, our Counties, our State, our Country, Our Police, Firemen, EMTs, ALL MILITARY men, women and their families. Prayers for ALL Healthcare workers; First Responders; Chaplains; Missionaries; Pharmacists; Grocery workers; Mail Carriers; Delivery workers; Undertakers; Clergy, churches and families; Teachers & Students; BusDrivers.

Prayers for those fighting for their lives; for those who have lost loved ones; for families; for individuals in financial distress...

Our prayer list of friends and families... Mike & Kelley Davis, Noah Hessig, Kristine Popma, Abigail Devers, Jerry Kent, Lanny Lee, Paul Taflinger, Hudson Goode, Lou Ann and Danny Martin, Randy Turner, Marlene Manford, Rollin Manford, Mary Helen Applegate, Dennis Busch, Heather Weaver, John Dunnette, Morgan McCamon, Priscilla Ferguson, Mike Peters, Janice Chipman, Linda Bushman, Wayne Dunbar, Charles Tschaen, Rev. Bill Helms, Jennifer Robinson, Lester Goode, Ellaine, Jack Jenkins, Janet Giffin, Jerry Doenges, Kim, Jane Gribben, Lorna Caudill, Matt Nocks, Penny Searcy, Amelia, Cody, Bentley

Childers, Patty and Jim Bloom, Chrystal Schings, Harry Hughbanks, Kelsie Lainhart, Melanie Hensley, Christie Brown Litchfield, Patty Wheeler, Joe Wheeler, Brent Rutemiller, Bentley Hussung, Nancy Giffin, Rev. Ted & Linda Hamrick, Kaiser Wyllys, Betty Mericle, Hailee Perlman, Dave Reidel, Isaac Cyboron, Bill Butte, April, Malia, Pam Deaton, Jerome Wigner, Tim Shannon, Rene Goode, Tami & Rob Coombs, Dan Hurley, Dave Giffin, Abby David, J.D. Giffin, Faye Martin, NancyLou Ross, David Bowling, Rachel Schuler, Bill Level, Lisa Turner, Linda VanCleaf, Michael Renner, Keith Bangert, Kathy Robinson, Meredith Carp, Jaxson Salisbury, Mike Ross, Jeremy Beard, Nielen Hanson, John Palmer, John Cox, Angela Shaw, Tim Bennett

Praise: John Hubbard, good blood test results

All those in Nursing Homes & Assisted Living... Paul Filter, Patty Rullman, Donna Dean, Doris Spencer, Martha Kaiser, Pat Clark, Kevin Adams, Carol Sue Chapman, May Ball, Opal LaFollette, Shirley Meyer, Marie Hizer

Shut Ins... Wilma Beyer, Jerry Stonebraker

Sympathy to the families of... Chris McGraw, DoisGivan, Mary Jane Hayman

PRAISES:

Local Missions... AA, NA, CASA, Heart House, St. Vincent dePaul, Clearinghouse, YES Home

United Methodist Missions: Red Bird Mission, Mountain Mission, UMCOR

WE ARE SERIOUS ABOUT PRAYER... **To help us keep our lists current... If you see a name that can be removed PLEASE let us know! If you would like for us to add a name please let us know!**

Some names have been on our prayer list for many months... If you know of a change or you have a concern and would like to add a name you can call the church with the information, mail a note, email Pastor Ryan (ryangoode1@gmail.com); Janet Hart (janbuschur@yahoo.com); Janet Petty (jhpetty41@gmail.com)

April Calendar

Happy Birthday

4/4... Lauran McHenry
4/11... Trent Morehead
4/18... Asa Goode

Happy Anniversary

4/3... Jack & Kathy Prarat
4/8th... Mike & Kelley Davis

Special Days

3/1... Mardi Gras; Shrove Tuesday
3/2... ASH WEDNESDAY
3/4... World Day of Prayer
3/13... DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME
3/17... St. Patrick's Day
3/20... SPRING EQUINOX..
(SPRING your Clocks AHEAD 1 hour)

Did you know that...

March is National Nutrition Month?
National Celery Month?
National Craft Month
National Peanut Month?
Red Cross Month?
Women's History Month?
March flower is Daffodil?
Birthstone is Aquamarine?
Astrological signs are Pisces (1st-20st) Aries (21st- 31st)
3/1 is World Compliment day?
3/10 is Middle Name Pride day?
3/23 is National Puppy Day?
3/27 Academy Awards & Emmy Awards,
3/29 Vietnam War Veterans Day

April Fool

The devil knew it was a trick, a trap,
but couldn't help himself. He had to try -
to seize the opportunity to fry
the Son of God. He knew that God
could snap
the trap at any time, and change the map,
so Jesus would go free. To crucify
God's chosen one would mean he'd
won; defy
the odds, and give Almighty God a slap.
Then Easter dawned; an empty tomb!
Praise God!
The devil lost again. He'd hoped he'd won,
but, no, his evil scheme had come
undone.

Oh, what a trick God played on him - a nod
from God to call him "April Fool." Ah, 'tis
an April Fool the devil was, and is.
Again, Happy Easter, all season long!

— **Doug Bidley**
Cambridge, MD

