



# The Good News of Sharon

*"Sharon shall become a pasture for flocks..." - Isaiah 65:10*

Spring 2020

**A Praying  
Church,  
Loving People  
to Christ**

Sharon United  
Methodist Church  
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## SUNDAYS

8:45 AM Contemporary  
Worship  
(also on Facebook Live)  
10:00 AM Sunday School  
11:00 AM Blended Worship

## A Hill's View

(Pastor's Letter)

*"The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. "The Lord is my portion," says my soul, "therefore I will hope in him". - Lamentations 3:22 -24 NRSV*

In a recent conversation, someone spoke to me about the "new normal" in reference to the various new social restrictions and regulations. Another person, in a different conversation, stated there are "more I don't know than I knows," again, referenc-

ing the many uncertainties that are such a part of our current existence.

Travel plans have been put to the side because there is no way of knowing the duration of the restrictions. Businesses have closed their doors and jobs have been put on hold. Students and teachers, as well as the formal education process they are part of, remain in a "wait and see" status. Much of what was once considered a regular part of our American way has been postponed, rescheduled, or left to be determined. We cannot go out to eat, watch a live ballgame, or even go to the beach.

Yet, while so much seems strange and unfamiliar, several individuals have expressed words of hope to me. There have been words of optimism, that we, as a society and a civilization, will come out on the other side of this better...that maybe we will be more grateful and kinder, and that, overall, we will become a "more gentle" world.

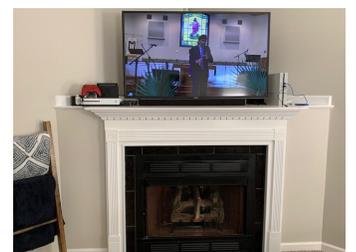
These past few weeks have certainly proven unique for me as a pastor. Preaching to a nearly empty sanctuary on Sunday mornings has certainly taken some acclimation. Visiting our shut-ins and sick through phone calls rather than in person leaves much to be desired. Doing virtual mid-week devotions, when I would normally be

leaving to pick up the King's Kids is a different kind of outreach. Trying to determine what is allowed and what isn't related to worship and gatherings brings with it a whole new set of parameters and guidelines.

But, even as the world seems so uncertain and different, God is still God and God's love knows no end. Even as we do ministry in different ways and utilizing new tools, ultimately, it is the same God to whom we give testimony. And as we spend time in God's presence, wherever or however, this momentary pause in the normal brings with it the possibility of a deepening of our faith and a new enrichment of our spiritual journey.

My friends, this current situation will come to an end. The various parts of our "normal" will resume. And just as I am certain of these things, I also know that life is constantly bringing with it a variety of "news." Loved ones pass away, leaving our lives changed forever. Other diseases rear their ugly heads, leaving us shaken and feeling vulnerable. Yet, even though there will be valleys that we must travel through, we can do so with the assurance that there will also be mountaintops. We will welcome new lives into this world. Our paths will cross with the paths of others and new love will be found.

Almost 100 years ago, Thomas O. Chisholm drew from the scripture shared above and put to paper the words of the hymn "Great Is Thy Faithfulness." Since that hymn was written, a second world war has raged, claiming countless lives. Society has experienced a variety of upheavals. There has been a long list of discoveries and inventions, as well as changes in styles and adjustments to what might have been considered normal. Yet, even as all of these "news" have come into existence, God has remained steadfast. And to borrow *from* Chisholm's lyrics, it is because of God's great faithfulness and our understanding that God's compassions fail not, that we are given "strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow." My friends, because of God's great faithfulness, "morning by morning new mercies" we see. I pray that this Easter season will bring with it a peace that endures and that we will all come to know the steadfast love of God that never ceases.





# April

BIRTHDAYS

Lauretta Graham	1
Ansleigh Taylor	2
Lois Norris	6
Michael Sellars	6
Trevor McDonald	7
Tracy Hibbard	8
Carolyn Simpson	8
Jamie Bolinger	9
Sylvia Ludlum	11
Ruth Fiesenthaler	16
Maggie Flanagan	17
Christine Casto	18
Bob Price	18
Dora Abernethy	18
Reese Graves	23
Kimberleigh Strain	25
Chuck Wilson	26
Daniel Wright	26
Daniel Gore	26
Rebecca Johnson	27
John Tolar	27
Wesley Gore	28
Rifton Johnson	28
Willis Bonkemeyer	29
Waydell Bowen	30
Wanda Cobb	30
Leslie Carnathan-Robinson	30



# May

BIRTHDAYS

Brian Cohan	2
Zayden Thatcher	3
Connor Cook	3
Nic Wilson	3
Everlee Caison	3
William Hess	4
Casey Benton	5
Linda Van Driel	5
Bill Estes	6
James Broyhill	6
Wayne Huffman	6
Christina Bradford	7
Teresa Anderson	8
Octobur Lamoree	9
Jack Purvis	10
Owen Long	11
Jamie Hobbs	14
Aubree Just	14
Mary Cook	15
Karen Bedsaul	16
Kathy D'Ambrosia	17
Brent Stokes	18
Belinda Dixon	20
Clyde Bowen	20
Lauren Sellars	27
Wanda Bilbrey	27
Sylvia Franklin	30



# June

BIRTHDAYS

Eli Holden	3
Susan Knight	4
Ronald Justice	4
Jimmy St George	8
Jayde Difloure	9
Erica Long	10
Jon Smith	10
Alana Miller	11
Amaya Anderson	12
Nancy Bollinger	13
Ryleigh St. George	13
Lexi Fulford	13
William Cohen	16
Chris Benton	16
Jim St. George	18
Briley Hewett	18
Sandra Flinchum	20
Pinki Spencer	20
Gretchen Verzinskie	23
Tommy Jones	24
Anne Wallace	25
David Tolar	27

**Be sure to check out our newly launched website !**



**Beginnings of Sharon's Community Garden!**



**Ready to hit the road again thank to Jody Taylor/Classic Color (paint) + Jerome Munna/The Sign Shoppe**



# Ponderings from the Porch

by Nita Gregory Hill

*"Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy." Proverbs 31:8-9*

Recent news in our community revealed horrid conditions in a local assisted living facility, one poorly managed by people who not only neglected and stole from the residents, but who failed to extend loving care during their time of great need. Many of the residents had special needs—or special abilities—and were already displaced from families from all over the nation, just to be abruptly moved again recently with basically the clothes on their backs and whatever they were capable of carrying.

Our church family cried together.

You see, we had opened our hearts, lives, homes, and church doors to many of the residents—along with others from the community—and they had become our precious friends as we worshiped, dined, learned, played, and danced together. We learned about great joy despite limitations. They learned about unconditional love despite great sacrifice. We all learned about the need for every single person to be embraced as creatures of great worth and to have a voice.

But, even if we didn't personally know Daniel, Ines, Mary, Tracy, Big John, and so many others, our hearts should still have been broken for God's children. If only we would see.

God's Word oozes with callings to see, care for, pray for, sit down with, walk alongside, and stand up for the marginalized. Oscar Romero said, "When we speak for the poor, please note that we do not take sides with one social class. What we do is invite all social classes, rich and poor, without distinction, saying to

everyone let us take seriously the cause of the poor as though it were our own."

As we move forward as a church family, we'll continue tracking down and communicating with our friends to not only help bring closure with our cards, gifts, and prayers we mail to them, but to help them understand they are not forgotten. May our eyes be opened every day to those without voices and choices.

*Nita's devotion was recently featured / published by the NC Conference of the UMC as part of the 40-day Lenten Journey.*

## Trustee Team



The new year welcomed several new members to the Trustee Team, including Chuck Chapla, Sharon Fulford, Van Fulford, Kenny Holden, and Kim Keech. We would like to thank our previous members for their service and especially our previous chair, Dave Keech, for his leadership. He'll remain a part of the team to see the completion of the education building renovation.

Our first meeting consisted of reviewing the trustee current actions and activities, followed by the election of new officers. Rich Rudnicki was elected as chair, Michael Sellers as vice chair, and Dave Keech as secretary. To familiarize the new trustees with their responsibilities, a tour of the church property was scheduled for January 25. The team toured the church property and conducted an inspection of all of Sharon's buildings. Nearly 100 items were identified as needing cleaning or repair and the list was prioritized with many items scheduled to be completed during our church cleanup days schedules for March 28 and April 4. (*Editor's Note: to be rescheduled due to COVID-19*).

The education building recently passed its heating, air conditioning, and electrical inspections, a major milestone for the project. Next up will be installation of insulation, completion of framing, and enclosing the walls with sheet rock. Please continue to prayerfully consider contributing to the capital fund to support this project.

**THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HAVE CONTINUED GIVING**  
(especially all the folks who are donating online)

**You can give the following ways:**

- **Website:** [www.sharonbythesea.com](http://www.sharonbythesea.com)
- **Mail:** 2030 Holden Beach Rd. SW, Supply, NC 28462
- **Text:** Text *sharongives* to 73256.
- **Realm:** <https://onrealm.org/sharonbythesea> download FREE Realm Connect in your AppStore





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**Please submit Monthly Calendar items to:**  
sharonadmin@atmc.net

**Please submit articles by the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month to**  
**Tracy Hibbard:** sharonadmin@atmc.net or  
**Nita Hill:** nitaghill@gmail.com.  
**Newsletter Team:** Gina Britton/Nita Hill/Tracy Hibbard

Call for a brochure/schedule or see the  
calendar for weekly & monthly activities.  
***Come Worship!***

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