

## WHERE ARE THE HOLY PLACES.....CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

Study via Zoom, etc.), we must broaden our opportunities for you to be involved. So, over the next month you will begin to see more chances to exercise your faith muscles. For example,

- We would love to include any of you in the congregation who are comfortable to assist in worship by reading scripture. We record worship on Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m. You can come at that time and we will record you leading the Prayer of Illumination and then sharing the scripture, just as we used to do when worship was in-person. The Prayer of Illumination is already written, and we will send you the Scripture passage ahead of time so you can practice if you need to. We will record your part of the worship service first, and then you would be free to go while we record the rest of the service. If this is something you would like to do, or ask more questions about, please contact me at [ross@frontstreetumc.org](mailto:ross@frontstreetumc.org). We would like to start this as soon as possible.
- We have been offering the *Men's Breakfast Bible Study* and the *Coffee & Bible Study with a Pastor* during the day. For those who can't participate during the day, we will begin offering at least one Bible study by Zoom during the evening. Either Patrick or I will lead it. Also, we would love for anyone else who feels called to lead another study to contact me ([ross@frontstreetumc.org](mailto:ross@frontstreetumc.org)). We have three Zoom accounts at the church, and can set up the weekly meetings very easily for you.
- The Missions Committee has come up with a great idea of having a different missional focus each month. Each focus will include something you can do to be involved. This is in response to the felt need that many of us have right now to be engaged in the lives of others in our community. The pandemic has kept us isolated, but these activities will provide us safe ways to engage and serve others in the name of Christ.

You get the idea. It's time for us to find and embrace the holy in the midst of a time that doesn't feel very holy. We can't wait. God is calling us right now. He is still working in our midst, and still wants to work through us – to help us grow as disciples through worship, study, and service.

So, how will you choose to get involved? Watch out for opportunities coming soon!

Grace and peace,  
Ross



*My Dear Front Street Family,*

*I am very grateful for the outpouring of love I have received after the recent passing of my younger brother, Steve.*

*Thank you for the calls, cards, gifts, and especially the prayers. I have truly felt the comfort of God during this time. I am trying to focus on all the joy my brother brought to my life.*

*Our 90 year old Dad is now living in Chicago with my sister, Thea (a retired nurse) and her husband. Dad is slowly adjusting to all of these changes. My older brother Mike will be coming to live with me soon. Please continue prayers.*

*Gratefully,  
Teresa Brand*

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*Front Street UMC,*

*Thank you so much for your generosity and support of the Salvation Army and our community. You make serving so much easier. Thanks!*

*The Salvation Army*

## FRONTLINE

Focusing on the life and ministry  
of Front Street UMC



February 18, 2021 Volume MMXXI No.4

### WHERE ARE THE HOLY PLACES RIGHT NOW?

What? Another article having to do with the pandemic?!  
Yep. Kind of.

In March 2020, I thought this COVID-19 thing would be gone by the end of flu season. Boy, was I wrong. It's now 2021. There seems to be light at the end of the tunnel since people are now being vaccinated. However, life as we used to know it may not return for quite a while. And while we might have a tendency to engage in ministry with a tentative mindset, we think it's time to embrace where we are and seek the holy in the midst of the trial.

Pastor Patrick's last newsletter article invited us all to think about ways we can pursue lives of discipleship in the midst of the pandemic lifestyle. I think that's important for us as we strive every day to live and grow as Christian disciples. Now, I don't have all the answers to what that might look like. Just like you, I've never navigated my faith life, much less the life of a congregation, through something like this. But over the past number of months we've learned a great deal. And two of the things I've learned are: 1) It's very easy to have other activities eclipse your faith life; and, 2) many of us are longing, even more than in pre-covid times, for ways to be involved with church life.

Since the virus is still a reality, we must be reasonable and smart about what we do. But we have got to begin to ramp up a bit more so that we find holy places and times in the midst of our present reality. What can we do?

Well, in addition to the activities that we are already offering (e.g., Sunday School via Zoom, Prayer Ministry via Zoom, Bible continued

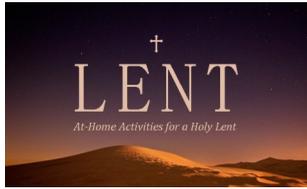
# A LOOK AHEAD:

## GROWING IN CHRIST

### THE UPPER ROOM

The March-April issue of The Upper Room is available. Please feel free to stop by the church and pick up a copy. Copies are located in the Welcome Center.

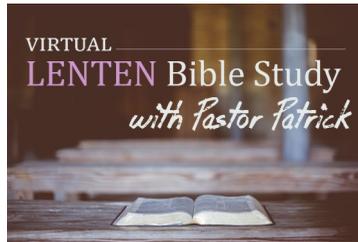
### LENT LITERATURE



We have available some literature to share containing suggestions that are designed to help you observe a holy Lent at home. The literature is available on the church website and in the Welcome Center.

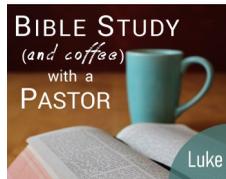
### LENTEN BIBLE STUDY WITH PASTOR PATRICK (VIA ZOOM)

All are invited to walk through the book of Ruth this Lent with Pastor Patrick from the comfort of your own home. The ancient story of Ruth tells of an outsider, a migrant facing uncertainty in a strange land, a vulnerable female in a foreign culture; yet Ruth draws out generosity and justice and is herself the gift by which God will shape a new future for the people she chose as her own. This study will meet via Zoom on Thursdays at 7:00 p.m. **beginning February 18.** Look for the Zoom link in Tuesday's *Front Street Happenings* email.



### BIBLE STUDY AND COFFEE WITH A PASTOR

Join Pastor Ross on Wednesday mornings at 10 a.m. via Zoom for a Bible Study. This study is ongoing with Pastor Ross hosting the gatherings in February and March. Look for the Zoom link in Tuesday's *Front Street Happenings* email. If you would like to participate but are unable to join us on Wednesday mornings, these gatherings are recorded and posted on our website and available to view at a time that suits you.



### UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

United Methodist Women Circle #1 is collecting supplies for Hillcrest Elementary School. Facial tissues (i.e. Kleenex), paper

towels, baby wipes, Clorox wipes, pencils, dry erase markers, and alcohol swabs (single sized alcohol pads) may be left in Room 305 if you would like to contribute to this project. The final date for donations is **Wednesday, February 24.**



### SHARING CHRIST

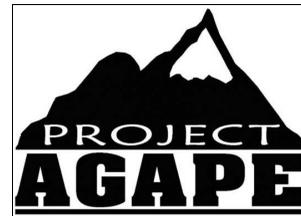
#### BLOOD DRIVE

Front Street will have a blood drive on **Saturday, February 27,** from **8:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.** in Aldersgate Hall. Donors can sign up online at [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org), sponsor code: Front Street. Also, donors may text or call Gene Fonville at 336-260-8114 (cell) for more information or to schedule your appointment.



### PROJECT AGAPE: PREPARING FOR ARMENIA SHIPMENT 2021

Our Conference has supported vulnerable persons in Armenia for over 25 years. After the most recent military conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan, Project Agape was forced to shut down its operations in the town of Berdzor. Many of the families that Project Agape has helped over the years were forced to abandon their property at the same time.



The Western NC Conference and our Conference have been asked to help our friends in Armenia by sending supplies by the end of March 2021. These are items that are very hard to find in the mountainous areas of Eastern Armenia. The following is a list of needed items:

- New bed linens, pillows, and blankets
- New or like-new children's clothing (up to age 16)
- New shoes (old shoes cannot be shipped)

Donations may be dropped off in the Welcome Center. If you prefer to make a monetary donation, please send a check to the church office with Project AGAPE noted in the memo line. The deadline for donations is **Friday, March 19.**

## Prayers

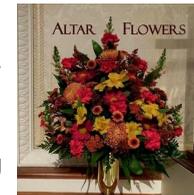
- **Elizabeth Fonville** who is recovering at home from an inflamed pancreas and liver
- **Mark and Ann Hauser and family** upon the death of his mother, Velma S Hauser, on 2/13
- **Phil Minton** who is recovering from surgery on his broken leg
- **Doris Stadler** who is recovering from knee replacement surgery
- **The family of Vivian Stanfield** upon her death on 1/25

#### Continued prayers:

- **David Hedgecock**
- **Tina Manning**

### SANCTUARY FLOWERS

Flowers are indeed an enhancement to our worship space, whether services are in-person or online. It is also a wonderful way to honor someone you love and appreciate, or to remember a departed loved one. The following dates are available:



**February 28 and March 7, 14, and 21.** Simply contact Linda Paul at 336-543-5081 (cell) or [kpaul5@triad.rr.com](mailto:kpaul5@triad.rr.com) (email) to reserve the Sunday you wish to put flowers in the church.

### FINANCIAL GIVING UPDATE FOR 2/12/2021

YTD Actual Giving - \$157,110.26  
YTD Budgeted Giving - \$209,858.96

#### STAFF

**Senior Pastor**  
Ross Carter

**Pastor of Discipleship**  
Patrick Murphy

**Youth Minister**  
Chris Huneycutt

**Director of Children's Ministry**  
Marcy McAdams

**Minister of Visitation**  
Leslie Peavy

**Organist/Director of Music**  
Matt Brittain

**Choirmaster**  
Laura Sam

**Director of Aldersgate Music**  
Clay Stevenson

**Finance Manager**  
Tammy Page

**Administrative Assistant**  
Pamela Shields

**Communications Coordinator**  
Joanna Strelow

**Building Superintendent**  
Jackie Long

**Maintenance**  
Joe Peloquin  
Zach Mace

**Playschool/Babies Morning Out Director**  
Rebecca Hurdle