

(Continued from page 1)

Perhaps from a spiritual perspective, we can think of this as a time to realize the frailty and uncertainty of life. Compared to many parts of the world we have been blessed and we have failed to realize it. For example, what if you were in refugee camp and the kovid-19 was spreading like wild-fire? Many have suffered decades of warfare in the Middle East and Africa. We have participated in warfare, but we have been spared the pain and agony it causes civilians, save for 9-11. I do note that members of the Armed services have been in harm's way.

Nevertheless, kovid-19 is among us and we Americans are not used to such an intrusion into our daily lives. We are rightfully alarmed. I do assume that it will be (and probably is) in Galax. A friend of mine posted on FB and I think it wise: Live as if you have the virus, that is, live cautiously among one another until this slows down or a cure is found.

Additionally, from a spiritual perspective, think of this an opportunity to do good and help even if it means keeping ourselves at home. When bad things happen, look for a way to do good amid the bad thing, event, or situation. It is there that the Holy Spirit works through us to bring about healing and wholeness.

This month is April. It is the month of Holy Week and Easter. We will have to wait until next year to celebrate it in our usual fashion but do celebrate it! A Sunrise Scripture Reading will be FB live as well as the 10:30 celebration of Easter. Also, there will be a Good Friday devotion and a reminder of the crucifixion of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Pastor Mark B. McFadden**



Join Pastor Mark live on Facebook  
Monday thru Thursday at 1 p.m.  
<https://www.facebook.com/FUMCGalax/>

Videos will be posted to our web page  
later in the day at:  
<https://www.fumcgalex.org/>



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Linda Richardson	04/11	William Sidney Senter	04/18	Lisa Adams	04/30
Donnie Ogburn	04/15	Alice Sweeney	04/18	Linda Burnette	04/30

**We've been doing a little cleanup of the church grounds and had to remove two dying trees, one on church grounds and one at the parsonage.**





**Daily Devotional**—Monday thru Thursday at 1 p.m. live on Facebook and posted later that day on our web page.  
(See page 2 for details.)



**Good Friday Devotional**—April 10<sup>th</sup> at 1 p.m. (Facebook live and posted at a later date to our web page.)



**Easter Sunrise Service**—(Sunday April 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:15 a.m. (Facebook live and posted at a later date to our web page.)

**Easter Sunday Service**—at 10:30 a.m. (Facebook live and posted at a later date to our web page.)



*INVITING—FORMING—SERVING*

**PASTORAL PONDERINGS**

March has been a time of uncertainty, confusion, and isolation. We did worship on Sunday, March 1, but not since then. We are playing our part in “flattening the curve” of kovid-19 cases. It has not been easy, but it has been necessary.

I live and work to be my “freshest” on Sundays. Sunday, March 15, felt very odd to me. I was at the parsonage and there was no Sunday worship. I did the regular posting of the weekly prayer and Sunday reflection, but it was not the same. I have adjusted as much as I am able and thanks to technology, I am able to live broadcast on Facebook (FB). I am still able to work on a Sunday sermon!

We are on FB Live at our regular worship time (10:30 Sunday mornings.) I have prayer, Scripture Reading, and Scripture Reflection/Sermon, and the prayers of the people. We are working on getting some music for Sundays. The FB videos are also posted on our church webpage for those who do not have FB.

During the week (Monday-Thursday), we have Daily Devotion on FB Live at 1:00 on. It is a time of prayer, Scripture Reading, and brief Scripture Reflection. It is a way for us to connect in Church, even if electronically. These are temporary measures until we are physically able to meet for worship and Sunday School. I think I may continue a devotion or two during the week and broadcast our Sunday service on FB live.

This is my first experience with a world-wide virus, and I imagine it is the same for you. Some of you have lived through difficult times from the depression, to WWII, to the Korean and Vietnam Conflicts. Today, we are learning ways to adjust to worldwide pandemic. Perhaps we forget how fortunate we have been to not have experienced a worldwide pandemic. This will help us prepare for future ones.

Is it God’s judgment? I do not think of it that way. I think it as a part of our biological existence. There are viruses that are potentially dangerous and deadly to human beings. There are times when a virus jumps from animals to humans as it appears in this case. When it happens we realize how helpless we can be. Technology and medical science cannot solve all our health issues, but technology and medical science has helped all of us at one time or another. It saved me from constant gall-bladder attacks so today I am “gall-less.” **(Continued on next page)**