Christ United Methodist Church

400 Penman Road, Neptune Beach

904-249-5370

Worship with us online at www.christumcnb.org. Sunday at 10:15 am

APRIL , 2020

EASTER SUNDAY

HE IS RISEN

Christ United Methodist

Easter!

Worship Booklet

April 12, 2020

GREETINGS:

Welcome to Easter worship! It may not feel like Easter – but aren't you glad that God's truth is bigger than that? No matter what goes on in the world, Christ has conquered the grave, sin, and death and Easter is a time for us to come together and loudly proclaim who Jesus is and what he has done for us!

If you are worshiping along with us online, please fill out an online connect card, you're encouraged to do this each week. You can comment in the chat of the live stream. Join us today, you are encouraged to participate. Sing loud. Answer back in chat or out loud.

If you are worshipping at home, you should have received a connect card in the mail with this booklet. Feel free to mail it back to us, or just call, to share your connect information. Now more than ever it is important that we find ways to connect!

CALL TO WORSHIP:

Voice one: Run from fear and darkness! Hope is on the move!

All Voices: Run to tell the world, Christ is risen!

Voice one: Do not be afraid. Jesus has conquered death!

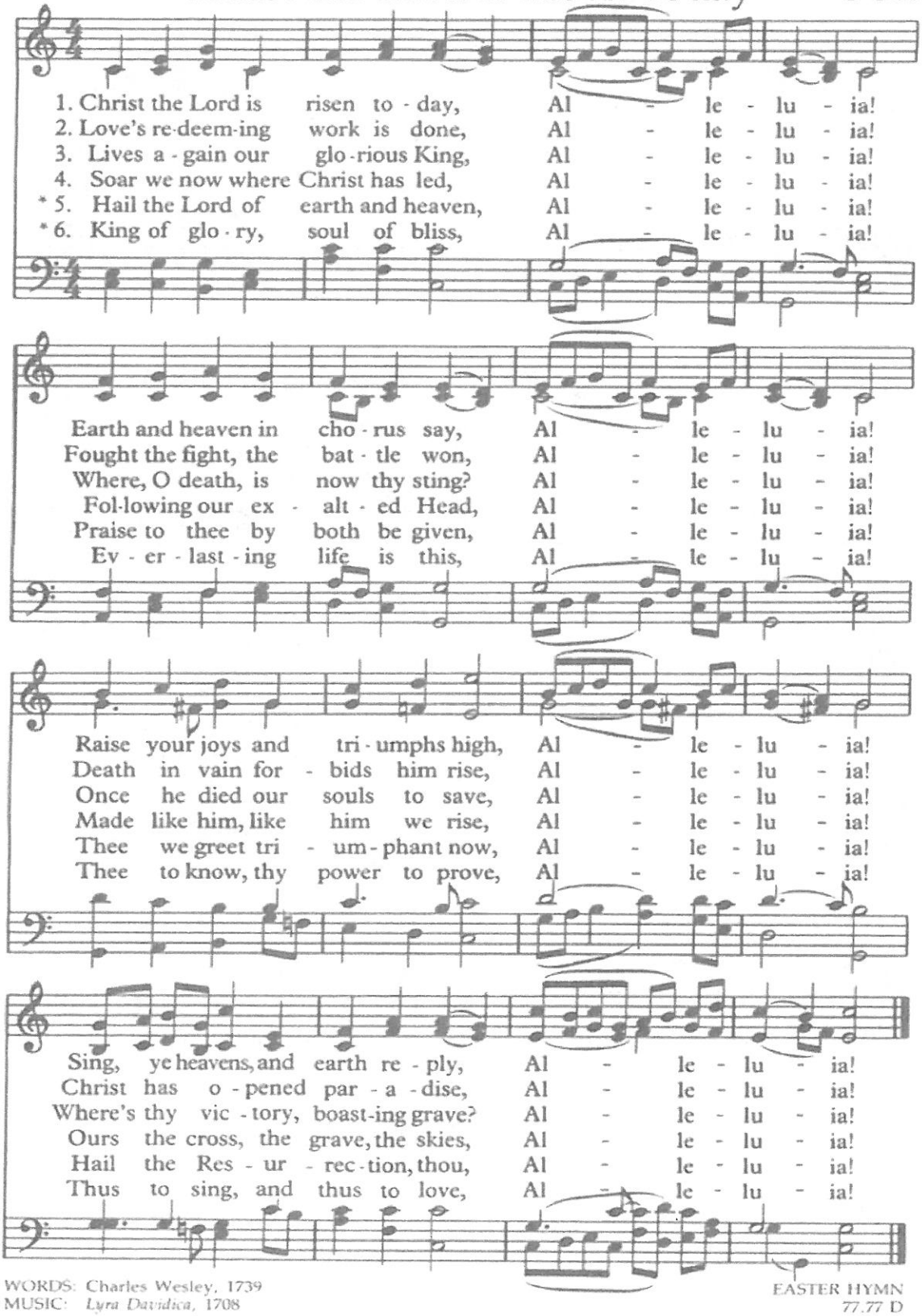
All Voices: We can proclaim with great confidence that God's love rules.

Voice one: Christ is risen!

All: CHRIST IS RISEN INDEED! AMEN!

HYMN #302 "Christ the Lord is Risen Today"

Christ the Lord Is Risen Today 302



WORDS: Charles Wesley, 1739
MUSIC: *Lyra Davidica*, 1708

EASTER HYMN
77.77 D

Invocation:

Living God, rejoicing in this day of resurrection, we have come to this time to celebrate the strength of your love—a love that triumphs even over death. As we exult in the miracle of your incarnate love, we thank you for the opportunity to encounter the Risen Christ here in our midst, in our homes, in our connections – digital, spiritual, familial, and all the ways we are able to connect in this time of distancing. Amen.

Children's Moment:

During the online streaming Pastor Bridget will share the Resurrection Story using resurrection eggs. If you are unable to join in the online streaming and have the chance to share in a children's moment with your children, grandchildren or others share your own retelling of the resurrection – bring in as many tactile elements as possible.

Passing the Peace – in a digital world

1 Peter 1:2 says, "... May God's grace and peace be multiplied in you." Today no matter where you are or what you may be facing may God's grace and peace be multiplied in you. May God who rose Jesus from the dead be at work in you today and always.

The peace of Christ be with you. [And also with you.]

As that grace and peace are multiplied within you today be sure to share that grace and peace with those in your home and all you come in contact with whether distanced or not.

Message in Music: "The Holy City"

Scripture Reading: Matthew 28:1-10

After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other
Mary came to look at the tomb. 2 Look, there was a great earthquake, for an angel from
the Lord came down from heaven. Coming to the stone, he rolled it away and sat on
it. 3 Now his face was like lightning and his clothes as white as snow. 4 The guards were
so terrified of him that they shook with fear and became like dead men. 5 But the angel
said to the women, "Don't be afraid. I know that you are looking for Jesus who was
crucified. 6 He isn't here, because he's been raised from the dead, just as he said. Come,
see the place where they laid him. 7 Now hurry, go and tell his disciples, 'He's been
raised from the dead. He's going on ahead of you to Galilee. You will see him there.' I've
given the message to you."
8 With great fear and excitement, they hurried away from the tomb and ran to tell his
disciples. 9 But Jesus met them and greeted them. They came and grabbed his feet and
worshipped him. 10 Then Jesus said to them, "Don't be afraid. Go and tell my brothers
that I am going into Galilee. They will see me there."

Reflection:

Well, if you didn't already know let me reassure you – Easter is not cancelled! Nothing stops us from celebrating the risen Lord! I feel the need to tell you this because it seems that everywhere I turn people are echoing the sentiment that Easter is cancelled. I think what they mean is that it's not Easter as usual. And perhaps what is better to say, is the secular form of Easter really is cancelled. This year, Covid-19 has stripped away many, if not most of the things we've *made* Easter to be over the years. It's taken away the public Easter egg hunts with bouncy houses. It's taken away Easter

outfits and bonnets when you can worship in your pajamas in the privacy of your home. It's taken away public gatherings that include over-the-top music with fanfare. All of those things began with good intention and they will probably be back next year.

But this year, we have an Easter more akin to the first Easter. The first Easter there were no bunnies, no baskets, no bonnets, no hams to be had. There were Jesus' followers who were hiding in their homes. Afraid. There were people mourning and weeping because of loss. There was a sense of unease and unknowing at what comes next. Scholars call that sense liminality – a sense of being in between what was and not knowing what will come. The old is gone – as 2 Corinthians says – but we are not yet in what the new has brought when we are in this liminal state. And before those loud reassurances of "HE IS RISEN" were shouted – and actually for the first few days thereafter there was much of this - this liminal state.

What is it like in this liminal state for you? Odds are by now – week 3 or 4 of being "stuck" inside, of having life as you knew it altered: you probably feel disoriented and are having trouble keeping up with the days; you may move through the stages of grief (denial, anger, bargaining, depression, acceptance); isolation and loneliness are of course common; but there are also positive feelings as well – as sense that positive things can come out of this; creativity and innovation. We try to maintain a sense of normalcy, perhaps still rising every day at the same time, maybe still dressing, doing life as normal. For some that provides comfort, for others that only adds to the sense of unease, uncertainty, and sense of in-between in which we find ourselves. Even those who are essential workers – it's just not the same. Traffic is less. Places are empty or closed. Which if any of these do you resonate with?

We see the disciples in all of this at the resurrection account. The 11 have isolated themselves in the upper room – literally locked themselves away. We'll see Thomas go through denial. We'll see bargaining – in John's gospel Mary says to the person she thinks is the gardener – "if you just tell me where he is I'll go get him." We see depression. We see the Marys also trying to go about life as normal – going to the burial site on the first day. This was customary. Part of what one does when they lose someone who is close. You go and continue to anoint the body, taking care of the body for several days – the family was the embalmers.

But, here's the good news, friends. We are not a Good Friday people. We are thankful for the cross and what Jesus did on the cross – but we don't stay there. And we are not a Holy Saturday people – we don't stay in this place of liminality for ever – this place of waiting. Yes – this is an Easter unlike any other and we find ourselves where the first disciples found themselves – huddled in our homes.

But we ARE AN EASTER PEOPLE. And I want you to hear the good news that the angel told the Marys at the tomb – "He's been RAISED FROM THE DEAD." Christ is risen. What we face now will not last forever. Morning will break. The light will come. Jesus is risen. And we can face whatever life brings us because we are an Easter people and that means that because of what Jesus did – conquered death – we have the ability to face THIS LIFE and the NEXT LIFE unafraid. Because we are an Easter People! And he doesn't leave us at the tomb wondering where he is. He goes ahead of us – that's what the angel told the women at the tomb. And as they went on their way to tell this good news JESUS himself met them on the road.

Are you a part of this Easter People? Are you cowering in fear? Or are you staying home out of a sense to save lives? There is a difference! Social Distancing is about

helping to stop the spread of the virus. But it can quickly turn into a sense of panicked isolation. We can let our fears rule us. OR we can hear the voice that continues to tell us – DO NOT BE AFRAID. Why? Because Jesus has conquered death. In this time of liminality – we have a chance to remind ourselves that the darkness does not last forever. That the stone will be rolled away. That Jesus rose from the dead. That he conquered death and brings life and that in him we have hope for this life and the next. That because of EASTER we can move beyond Good Friday and Holy Saturday and live into this moment – this Easter moment – even in the waiting. Because we know – we know, it's darkest just before the dawn, but the sun rises each day and the SON rose and so shall we.

Pastoral Prayer:

Let us pray: *God who created the world with darkness and light we learn from the times of darkness that the light still comes. We learn that though it gets dark, the light is not extinguished by the dark. We learn that when it looks like all is lost, when it looks like evil has won, looks can be deceiving. Saturday was dark. But it's Sunday – it's Easter – it's the day we remember we celebrate that you raised Jesus to new life and you will raise us also. We have access to that light, to that life now – not just one day but now. Help us to be an Easter people to experience the joy, the hope, the light, the life, and the victory of this glorious day. Not today only, God, but every day. Each time we see the sun rise remind us of light's victory over darkness. Remind us of your work within us – how you pull us from our own graves into new life each day as we grow as your disciples. It's as your disciples we join our voices and pray as Jesus taught us to pray:*

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our

trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil for thine is the kingdom and the glory and the power forever.

Amen.

Affirmation of Faith #889 From 1 Timothy 2:5-6; 1:15; 3:16

There is one God and there is one mediator, Christ Jesus, who came as a ransom for all, to whom we testify.

This saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance: That Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners, and was manifested in the flesh, vindicated in the Spirit, seen by angels, proclaimed among the nations, believed in throughout the world, taken up in glory. Great indeed is the mystery of the gospel. Amen

Offering:

We continue to be grateful for your generosity. Because of your generosity we are able to continue to be the church throughout the pandemic – and maintain a worship service – virtually. We are able to make an impact in the beaches community. We are able to be and make disciples through the Reach, Relate, Raise Up, and Release ministries of the church. Because of your generosity we are able to be the church dispersed through this time, and are able to continue to make a positive influence for God's kingdom here in the beaches community and through the United Methodist Church and our mission partners we make an impact globally as well.

You can do so through the "DONATE" button on the website, or by mailing your offering to the church.

Mailing address is: 400 Penman Rd. Neptune Beach, FL 32266.

Church website is: www.christumcnb.org:

Praise Song this week: "Because He Lives" by Matt Maher

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PBvU7arNhQs

I believe in the Son / I believe in the risen One / I believe I overcome /
By the power of His blood

Amen, Amen / I'm alive, I'm alive /Because He lives / Amen, Amen /Let my song join the one that never ends / Because He lives

I was dead in the grave / I was covered in sin and shame / I heard mercy call my name
He rolled the stone away

Amen, Amen / I'm alive, I'm alive / Because He lives / Amen, Amen / Let my song join the one that never ends

Because He lives / I can face tomorrow / Because He lives / Every fear is gone
I know He holds my life my future in His hands...

Prayer of Thanksgiving:

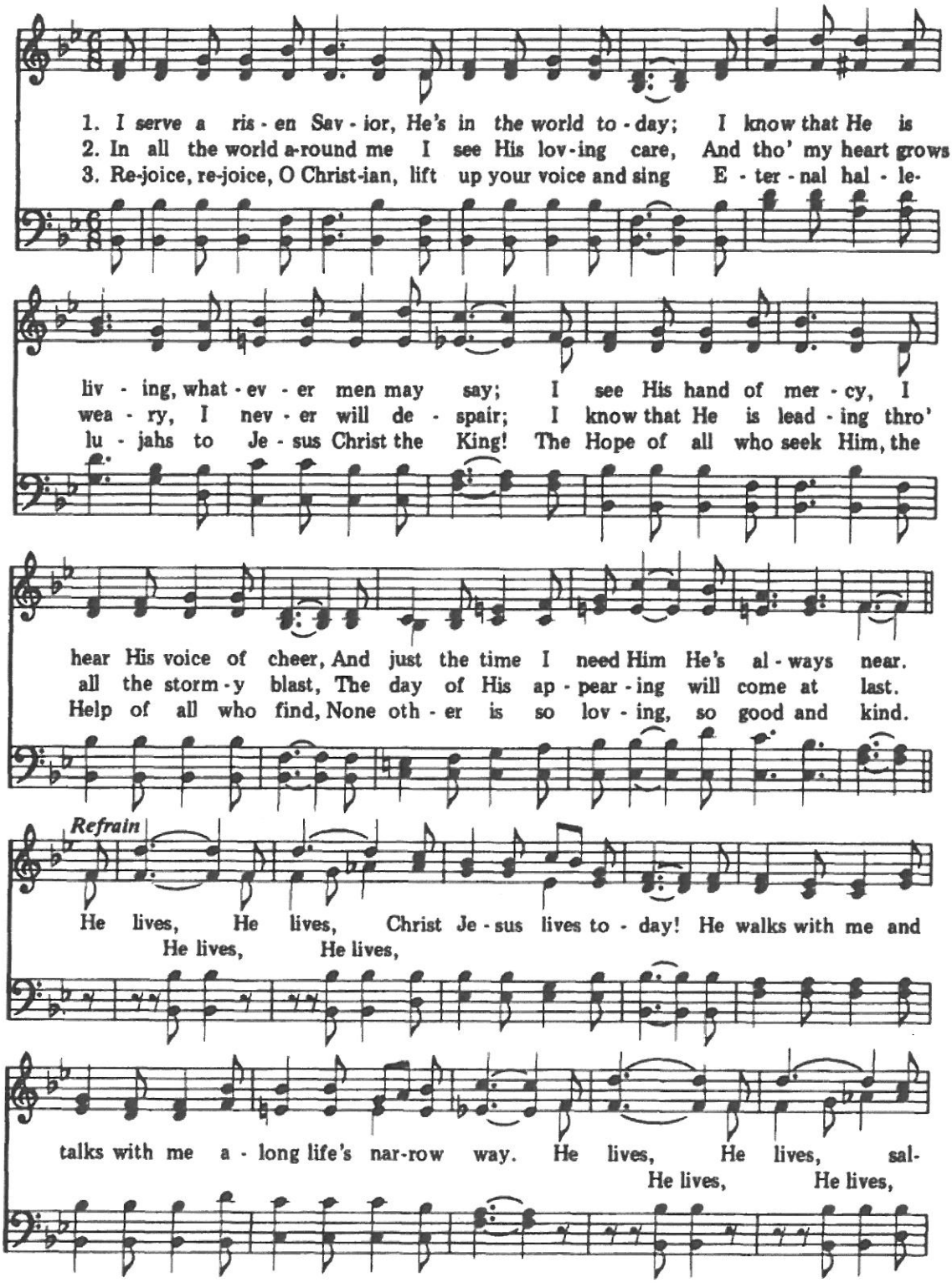
Thank you, God, for the gift of this amazing day of resurrection! Our hearts are overflowing with the joy and excitement of Easter. We pray that you will take our exuberance and use it to bring light and hope to those trapped in darkness and despair. Use these gifts and offerings to make an impact in the lives of those here at the beach, for your glory, for your kingdom. We offer our very selves as well. Use the gift of our very lives to empower our calling to carry your Incarnate Love into the world. We pray this with the boldness of those who have encountered the living Christ. Amen.

Closing Hymn: #He Lives

285 He Lives

...That I may know Him, and the power of His resurrection. Phil. 3:10

ALFRED H. ACKLEY ALFRED H. ACKLEY



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Benediction:

Easter People – rise from your darkness and come into the marvelous light. He is Risen, he goes ahead of you and calls you, to go in the name of the Father, the grace of the Son, and the power of the Holy Spirit to share the good news – Christ is Risen, he is risen indeed!

Weekly Events

Sunday April 12 Easter Sunday	Sunrise and 10:15 a.m.	Online Worship- www.christumcnb.org
Monday April 13	10:00 a.m. 6:30 p.m.	Disciple Classes by Conference call
Tuesday April 14	7:00 p.m.	R Coordinator Zoom Mtg.
Wednesday April 15	5:30 p.m.	Youth Meeting via Zoom
Thursday April 16	10:00 a.m. 7:0 p.m.	Congregational Care Remote Mtg. Ramp Up Task Team Remote Mtg.
Sunday April 19	10:15 a.m.	Online Worship www.christumcnb.org

STAFF

PASTOR	Rev. Bridget Thornton REV.BET18@gmail.com **(904) 679-6629**
YOUTH DIRECTOR	Karen Kenjosian YouthLeader.Karen@gmail.com
CHOIR DIRECTOR	Ken Nolan
ACCOMPANIST	Lindita Kosova
TREASURER	Debbie Giroux cumcnbfinance@gmail.com
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT	Mona Ewest christumcnb@gmail.com
CUSTODIAN	Tony Ewest

- *The Administrative Assistant, Mona Ewest, is available during office hours, Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-12:00 p.m.*
- *The Church Treasurer is available by email.*
- *Office appointments with Pastor Bridget can be made by calling the Administrative Assistant, (904) 249-5370, EXT. 200.*
- *Any announcements or inserts are due in the office, in writing, by 9:00 a.m. Tuesday.*

CIRCLE OF CONCERN

OUR CHURCH FAMILY:
* Margie Cooper * Hanna Thomas * Sean Klein * Del Ware * Gigi Rice
* Debbie Santacrose * Peggy Lampros * Fred Boyd * Marilyn Porterfield

HOMEBOUND:
* Bob & Nell Webster * Mary Ann Belisario * Helen Rose * Tanya Roché
* Jean Edwards * Erma Christian

FAMILY AND FRIENDS:
* Dan Carpenter, brother of Debbie Santacrose—Heart
* Janet Gray, cousin of the Stuart's— RA, MRSA, and OA
* Ruby Jones, cousin of Debbie Santacrose, Cancer
* Simone Oleson, mother of Pastor Bridget—MS, COPD
* Jeanie Tombaugh, friend of Steffanie Stuart—Stage 4 Cancer
* James Hitch II, nephew of Bob Hitch—Melanoma
* Sue Wood, sister of Bruce Smith—Diabetic Complications
* Melanie Weisenborn, D-I-L of Paula—Health Concerns
* Joanne Conrad, sister of Joyce Bishopp—Stage 4 Cancer
* Family of Don Petty, Scout Master Troop 282—after his recent passing
* Ed Sherrill, husband of Virginia Sherrill—Cancer
* Carolyn Harkema, sister of Don Ames—Cancer
* Reece McNulty, grandson of Debbie Giroux—NICU
* April Brunner, mother of Aaron Brunner—Family concerns
* Karen Coughlin, friend or Margie Cooper— Foot Surgery
* Ellen Kartstein, cousin of Nancy Russell—Severe Pneumonia

OUR WORLD AND THE COVID-19 CRISIS

CONTINUING PRAYERS FOR

OUR PASTOR & LEADERSHIP
* Christ United Methodist Preschool
* Methodist Seminary in Cuba
* Mayport Coastal Sciences Middle School (faith partner school)
* Rev. Dr.s Cleivy and Leo Garcia, Quéssua, Angola
* Pat and Melenda Edmiston, Wycliffe Bible Translators

SERVING OUR NATION:
* Charles Berry — Navy
* Seth Buswell—Coast Guard
* Brandon Goodner, son-in-law of the Pauza's — Army
* Whitney Heer—Navy
* Vincent LaGrasso, nephew of Fred & Carol Boyd—Navy
* Roger Lee Parsons, brother of Amy Knapp — Air Force
* Jeff Ransom, son of Jim & Anne Ransom, Navy
* Timothy Rogers, brother of Drew Rogers — Army
* Christopher Sherrill, son of Virginia Sherrill — USAR
* Kelly Spencer, niece of Mike and Becky Chambers—Army
* James Wade, son of Lori Swann — Marines
* Cameron Watson, grandson of Larry Barz—Air Force
* Andrew Young, grandson of Larry Barz—USAR
* Our Police, Firefighters, and all other First Responders