

The Connection

HUNTINGTOWN
United Methodist Church

October 22, 2021

God Burns Without Burning Us Up

“Moses saw that though the bush was on fire it did not burn up. 3 So Moses thought, “I will go over and see this strange sight—why the bush does not burn up” (Exodus 3:2–3).

At the end of last week’s message, Moses was living in a place of exile and failure. He was a murderer, and he was rejected both by the Egyptians and by the Israelites. He fled to Midian, far away. He is living as an alien in the foreign land.



Orrente, Pedro; Moses and the Burning Bush

There is a bush fire on the mountain which catches Moses’ attention. The bush is burning, but is not consumed. When we first read the story of the burning bush, we see it as a way that God attracts Moses’ attention so that God and can speak to him. But the burning bush is more than a plot device. It shows us the God of Scripture who is a fire that does not consume.

God shows his presence. In Genesis 15:17, God sealed his covenant with Abram by passing through the animal sacrifice as “a smoking firepot with a blazing torch.” During the Israelites’ exit from Egypt, the Lord would appear “by night in a

pillar of fire to give them light, so that they could travel by day or night” (Exodus 13:22).

God purifies us. God is a refiner who brings his people “through the fire” in order to “refine them as silver is refined” (Zechariah 13:9). Fire is a purifying agent in people’s lives. In Proverbs 17:3, “The crucible is for refining silver and the smelter of gold, but the one who purifies hearts by fire is the LORD.” This is the fire that burns but does not consume.

God calls people to service. In the book of Acts God reveals himself as fires that do not consume: the flames which appear above the heads of each of the disciples on the day of Pentecost. The flames cause them to burn with passion – with love for God and for others.

God appeared to Moses in the form of a burning bush on Mount Sinai to get his attention and to call him to ministry. For biblical authors, when God appeared as fire he was showing His presence, purifying power, and protection over his people.

Pastor Corey

In-Person and Live Stream Worship

Sunday, October 24, 2021

Moses: Following God into the Unfamiliar

Answering God’s call is not always safe and predictable. Once a prince in Egypt and a fugitive from justice, Moses became a prophet, miracle worker and priest. He led God’s people out of slavery, through the desert and to the promised land. Like Moses, we won’t always feel prepared for the task, but somehow God has equipped us for it.

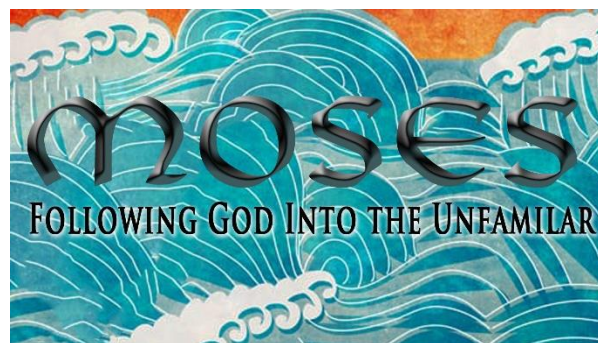
Message: Doubts and Weakness

Pastor Corey

Worship Leader: *Shelley Polko*

Children's Message: *Pastor Corey*

Scripture Telling: *Debbie Weir*



In-person Worship: Two in-person worship experiences! Masks encouraged.

At **9 am**, we'll engage in a traditional worship with hymns, in the Sanctuary.

We'll worship in Celebration Hall, with contemporary music, at **10:30 am** on Sunday.

EVERYONE IS ENCOURAGED TO
WEAR A MASK



Per new CDC guidance, face masks
are recommended indoors regardless of vaccination status

*Recognizing the virulence
of the new COVID strain,
it is Church Council's consensus to
encourage the congregation to wear
a mask when entering the building. We
are not mandating them at this time.*

At-home worship: If you prefer to worship at home, we've got you covered!

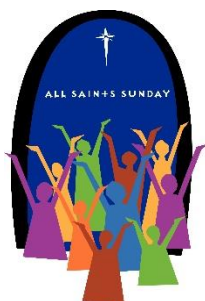
We will continue to live stream worship every Sunday at 10:30 am.

Facebook:

https://www.facebook.com/huntingtownunitedmethodistchurch/live_videos/

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC-ZdxKQPKFEekkBgIuJDXfQ>

All Saints Sunday



November 7 is All Saints Sunday, when we remember all who have completed their earthly lives in faith. We will be reading the names of those who have died since the 2020 All Saints Sunday. If you lost a loved one during that time, please contact Pastor Corey by Thursday, November 3. We will include their name in the service.

Moses Church-Wide Study



The church-wide study began last week, but it's not too late to join a small group! We still have four weeks left.

We had some great discussion sessions last week, centering on the first two chapters of Exodus. Next week, we'll focus on Chapter 3 and 4 as Moses is called by God to free the Israelites. All you need is our study guide and a Bible to join with your

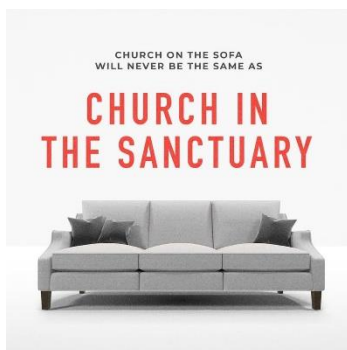
fellow congregants at HUMC. Some groups meet in person, others via Zoom only, and yet others are "hybrid" – join in person or by Zoom. If you need help learning to use Zoom, we are here to help. Zoom meetings can be accessed with video, via a computer or smartphone. You can also join a meeting by voice (no video) with a phone.

If you would like to join a study group, please contact Debbie Weir at dweir440@comcast.net for a listing of our groups.

In-Person Worship

Why in Person Worship is Essential: Fewer Distractions

Facebook and YouTube are good tools for the sick, the home bound, and immunocompromised, but they are no replacement for in-person worship.



True worship glorifies God through the giving of ourselves. It is an encounter with God, not just a duty or something that makes us feel good. Online worship makes this hard. Distractions in our environment impede our ability to pay attention to church on the screen. Worship can become like the rest of our online activities, rather than something set aside as sacred.

Get Ready for Project Warm

Clean out your closets and support our missional partners Shirley's Place and Project ECHO.

It is that time of year when our friends and neighbors who need a permanent place to call home need **WARM winter clothing**. This year the need is even greater. COVID continues to impact those who are homeless. Shirley's Place is still not open to their clients except by appointment only for laundry service or to take a shower. That means they have no warm or safe place to go. Many of our friends and neighbors are still having to sleep outside as shelters are full or many do not want to risk potential exposure to COVID in the shelters.

You can help our missional partners by donating **new or gently used WARM winter clothing**.

Items in need include:

Winter coats	Sweatshirts	Long Sleeved T-shirts
Raincoats	Sweatpants	Short Sleeved T-shirts
Hats	Scarves	Mittens
Gloves	Socks	Boots
Towels	Blankets	

NOTE: Men and women clothing only. No children's items please.

Collections will run from Sunday November 7th through Sunday November 28th

Drop off dates and times:

- Sunday mornings if you are already attending indoor church service.
- Mondays from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 pm
- Tuesdays from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 pm

Blessings,
Marijo Cosmas
Katie Zinkgraf

"...I needed clothes and you clothed me..." "The King will reply, Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." Mathew 25:36,40.

Big Tent Begins New Study on Sunday



The Big Tent group begins a new study on Sunday, Oct 24th. The group meets **every other** Sunday at 4 PM. Come in person, or join via Zoom. The study, led by Marcia Monnet and Phil Logan, will address the book, *Feed the Wolf*. If you would like to join, please contact Marcia Monnett at: mm.limberlost1@gmail.com

Project ECHO Ministry



October 1st - October 31st

**Please place sock donations
in the bin at the church.**

Usher Ministry

*"Whoever receives you receives me,
and whoever receives me receives the one who sent me" (Mt 10:40)*



In the Gospels Jesus teaches us to be hospitable to one another and to our guests just as we would to Him. Ushers serve on the "front lines" in the creation of a spirit of hospitality and warmth for all who gather for worship, making everyone feel comfortable and at home. If you can assist with this vital ministry, please contact Shannon Barley at shannon.barley@gmail.com

Spiritual Discipline Challenge – Prayer

A-C-T-S Prayer Model

Week 1 – A – Adoration

Week 2 – C – Confession

Week 3 – T – Thanksgiving

Week 4 – S – Supplication

Only God can do anything, so we should always call on Him for whatever we need. Of course we can still call the doctor because God has created people in His image and given them knowledge and skill to care for His world. But let us also remember to pray and ask God to help us with everything we need, because He has promised to hear and answer our prayers. There's a big word for ask that we are going to use to finish our acronym today: Supplication. Supplication means to ask for something earnestly.

Prayer is an amazing privilege where we get to bring our concerns to God, knowing that He hears and responds. We get to praise God for who He is, confess our sin to Him, and rejoice that He forgives and restores us.



Father, we do pray for Your kingdom to come and Your will to be done here on earth as it is in heaven. Help us love Your glory more than our own. Cause us to trust in You and Your good and perfect will. Pour out Your Spirit into our hearts and help us grow in love for You and Your ways. Make us people of prayer who are quick to take our own needs to You as well as the needs of others. Amen.

3rd Grade Bible Presentation



Third grade is a special year in Children's Ministry as we celebrate the milestone of gifting children with their very own Bible. Studying Scripture is one of the most important ways we learn about God.

We celebrate the tradition of presenting Bibles to our third-grade students (and 4th & 5th graders who are new to HUMC) as a gift from the congregation. It is our prayer that this gift will be a starting point for a deeper relationship with God through Christ, enhanced through the study of God's word. This year, we will present Bibles on **November 21st** during the 10:30 Celebration worship service.

Following the worship service, **ALL 3rd-5th** graders are invited to stay for our Bible Exploration Retreat from 12:00-2:00 p.m. This experience is where they will learn about the Bible, how it's arranged, and practice using their new Bibles in interactive and fun ways.

If your child is in third grade (and 4th & 5th graders who are new to HUMC) and would like to receive his or her Bible and/or they are in 3rd – 5th grade and would like to attend the Bible Exploration Retreat, please register them on our kids' website at <https://www.kids.huntingtownumchurch.com/children/> or contact Sheila Isaacson at sisaacson.humc@comcast.net with any questions by November 14.

HUMC is honored to celebrate this special event with your family. Thank you for registering.



Back by popular demand is our Tween Time group which is open to all 3rd – 5th Graders. This is going to be a time where we explore the Bible and mix in some fun and fellowship. These special gatherings will be on the 1st Sunday of each month from 12:00-1:30 p.m. We ask our young explorers to bring a snack to eat and

request they bring their Bibles. (A full schedule for the 2021-2022 year is currently available.)

We hope you will mark your family calendars now for the first Sunday of each month and plan to bring your kids, grandkids, and neighbors kids to Tween Time.

Our first gathering for the 2021-2022 year is scheduled for Sunday, November 7th!

Sunday, October 31st @ Noon



Movie Details:

We will kick-off this event eating pizza together and in a time of fellowship. This will be followed by watching the movie: "It's the Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown".

Reverse Trick-or-Treat Family Mission:

Instead of handing out candy on Halloween, we are going to load up bags of treats and then engage in a reverse trick-or-treat by knocking on our neighbor's doors and giving them bags of candy for Halloween. Families will either be able to take a few bags home with them to pass out to their neighbors and friends OR you can join a small group going to some local neighborhoods of the church.

Please register by October 30th, so we know how much pizza to order. Thank you!
<https://huntingtownum.breezechms.com/form/0944a892147821869241152731>

