

Madison Heights Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
149 Main Street
Madison Heights, VA 24572

MADISON HEIGHTS MESSENGER

No. 6

April 13, 2022

George B. Harris, Minister

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Pam Hubbard
Music Director

Brenda Harris
Administrative Assistant

God Gives the Best Gift Possible

It was Sunday evening around 10:30pm when the call came in from the switchboard of Memorial Hospital in Martinsville. I was the on-call chaplain. I thought that I was prepared for most anything that could come my way but when the operator informed me that there was a fifteen year old DOA. I looked at Brenda and said "I don't know if I can handle this." I prayed to God to give me strength, wisdom, and the right words to say. However, the right words to say never came my way.

While I was in seminary I took a class on pastoral care. The lessons of that class emphasized some things that I had already learned and experienced. It is important to be calm when others are anxious. You join them in their struggle. Your presence reassures others that they are not alone. There is no one right answer or one right thing to say. We are faced with realities that are beyond our comprehension. There is nothing that can be done or said that can make their pain go away. The one lesson that really hit me, the one I really needed was - often there is nothing to say. I had felt so inadequate I questioned my skills and ability and finally learned that there are times when silence fills the void of trauma and there is nothing to say. The greatest gift we can bring to the relationship is our presence. We show them that they are not alone, that they are loved, and that they are cared for.

I once read a story about a young pastor that went to visit the family of the first church member to pass during his tenure as the pastor. He felt so inadequate. He visited the family at their home but didn't know what to say. He thought about reaching out to the family and apologizing to them for his inability to find the right words to say during their hour of need. About ten years went by and he came across one of the family members who said "thank you so much for coming by when my daddy died, it meant so much to us that you were there to help us." That was what he needed to hear; that made all the difference in the mindset of the pastor. He then began to realize that the greatest gift of all is presence.

As a teenager I drove a motorcycle and one afternoon I went around a 90 degree turn, down shifted to second, missed it and the bike went into natural. This prevented me from slowing down enough to make the curve, when I hit the brakes it was too late and I slid into the curb. When I came to, my uncle James was there kneeling beside me. Man I sure was glad to see him! I don't remember the crowd that had gathered or anything anyone said or did. But I remember him being there. When I had surgery to remove my thyroid, I don't remember everything, but I remember the one elder that came to see me. I don't remember what he said or did but I remember he was there for me. Presence means more than anything else.

When I think about the special moments when someone else was there for me, I realize that is exactly what God has done for us. God gives to us the gift of presence. In all of creation, in all of history, the greatest thing of all is that God is with us. Where is God in our pain and suffering? God is right there with us. God gives us Jesus. God comes through the cosmos to be with us. God comes to us. God is here for us. God is present in our broken relationship. Our God gives us the best gift possible - God's presence.

George

PRAYER REQUEST

Members & Faithful Attendees

Pat Abbitt, Frances Butler, Kenneth Carwile, Maxine Clements, David Dudley, Helen Dudley, Linnie Dudley, Gayle Lauenders, Kathleen McGinnis, Dewey McIvor, Clayton Minnick, Phyllis Minnick, Doris Sechrest, Patsy Smith, David Stokes, Kandace Tatlock, Brenda Young.

Friends, Relatives & Community Concerns

David Anderson (George Harris), Etrulia Beard (Joe Hedges), Jane Beard (Sue Christian), Hailey Belcher (Will Hamilton), Teresa Belcher (Alexis Hamilton), Stephanie Brown (Kathy Noel), Gloria Cannady (Paul Stober), Ruby Cash (Pam Hubbard), Billie Childress (Jan Hawkins), Lisa Curtis (Alexis Hamilton), Pastor Carlton Duck (Brenda Harris), Renea Dunn (Carla Reichard), [Rev. Mabel Finney \(Brenda Harris\)](#), Lillian Ford (Pam Hubbard), Fodie Fulks (Kristen Tatlock), Shelia Garren (Joy Flowers), Pam Gillespie (George Harris), Stephanie Grubbs (Joe Hedges), Jennifer Hatter (Carla Reichard), Daisy Hill (Kathy Noel), Charles Hubbard (Rick Hubbard), The David Hull Family (Eddie Wieringo), Zachary Hutcherson (Kathy Noel), Charlene Kapetanovich (Pam Hubbard), Jessica Kraus (Carla Reichard), Larry Lawhorne (Eddie Wieringo), Welton Lewis (Marie Carwile), [Coretha Loughridge \(Region\)](#), Avis Lovell (Pam Hubbard), Meagan McCane (Ray and Sue Christian), Peggy Meade (Pat Clements), Warren Mitchell (Michelle Marino), Bernard Moore (John Jennings), George Murray (Paul Stober), Bryan Phillips (Kanzada Phillips), Anita Price (Jana Terrell), Kim Pugh (Warren Childress), Dee Dee Ritter (Kanzada Phillips), Larry Short (Eddie Wieringo), Jimmie Smith (Kathi Glenn), Kim Stewart (Carla Reichard), Marilyn Taylor (Joy Flowers), Sandy Thornsby (Jan Hawkins), Steve Wade (Jana Terrell), Alice Walsh (Paul Stober), Brenda Wieringo (Eddie Wieringo), Walter Wright (Vicki Gillespie)

Military & Support Personnel

Sarah Harrell (deployed), Sarah Long, Michael Grubbs, Jr., Matthew Minnick (deployed).

[*New or updated additions](#)

PRAYER UPDATES

Rev. Coretha Loughridge, pastor at Fairview Christian, Lynchburg, will be undergoing major cancer related surgery on Friday April 15, 2022. Please keep this family in your prayers.

Rev. Mabel Finney, Martinsville, VA, is having cardiac symptoms. After falling ill last Sunday, she has learned that the back side of her heart has suffered extensive damage.

Rev. Carlton Duck has been moved to rehab.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

April 17 th	Easter
April 15 – 21	Meals on Wheels
April 20	Gateway @ 6:00 pm
May 1	David Alger guest speaker – Gideons
May 8	Mother's Day

A memorial service is currently being planned for Rev. D. Jack Hamilton on April 30, 2022.

Office hours	8:30-12:30 Mon.-Thurs.
Church telephone	(434)845-3855
Minister's telephone	(434)215-4846
email	mhcc16@yahoo.com

THANK YOU

Dear Members of the Congregation,

Thank you for your donation of \$250.00 to Meals on Wheels of Greater Lynchburg. Your support enables us to continue to meet an ever-growing need and serve some of the most vulnerable individuals in our area.

With Thanks and best wishes,
Kris Shabestar
Executive Director

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

Thank you very much for your generous donation to Neighbors Helping Neighbors of Amherst County, Inc. Your support allows us to continue our mission of assisting those struggling with food insecurity.

Sincerely,
Charles D. Foster
Treasurer

CELEBRATIONS

BIRTHDAYS

May 3 Julie Tyree
May 5 Becky McFall
May 16 Melanie Bryant
May 22 Kelley Dudley, Angela Quick

ANNIVERSARIES

May 20 Brenda and Jeff Young
May 26 Brenda and George Harris

SERVING SCHEDULE

ELDER

Linda Childress

COMMUNION PREP

Jana Terrell

DIACONATE

As needed

OUTREACH

HELPING HANDS-CHRISTMAS CHEER Canned meat, tuna, salmon, peanut butter, money

NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS Non-perishable food items, hygiene items, money

OUTSIDE FOOD BOX Non-perishable food items, snack items



Created by: GokorPeters to Butterflies, Nku Edwards

CHURCH CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 David Alger Gideon's Guest Speaker	2	3	4	5	6	7
8 Mother's Day	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16 Meals on Wheels	17 Meals on Wheels	18 Meals on Wheels	19 Meals on Wheels	20 Meals on Wheels	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29 Habitat Offering	30 Memorial Day Office Closed	31				