

Ginter Park United Methodist Church Announcements *for January 17, 2021*

In-Person Worship will continue this Sunday at 10 a.m. in the Sanctuary.
Instructions to return can be found on our webpage GPUMC.org

ONLINE WORSHIP SERVICE for Sunday, January 17, 2021 will be available on Sunday at Ginter Park United Methodist's Facebook page and on the Youtube link:
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCqzmlpYKx3vaXvAjBPpbKhw> beginning at 9 a.m. **Please share this video with your friends and family.** Donations kindly accepted at www.GPUMC.square.site/donate

GRATEFUL AT GPUMC ONLINE COURSE: Faithlead.org

ID: Ginterparkumc@ginterparkumc.org **Password:** **GPUMC1010**

We invite you to take time to reflect on the first lecture and respond in our Facebook group Grateful at Ginter Park so we can share as we cultivate gratitude in our lives. Have you felt strongly grateful this week?

SECOND CUP OF COFFEE SUNDAY SCHOOL: You are invited to join us. We are using The Great Courses entitled Understanding the Old Testament. Our next lecture is "Abraham, the Father of Three Faiths". We meet in the Scott Walford Room on Sunday mornings at 10 am. Come in through the front of the church to be screened and join us downstairs.

PRAYER CONCERNS: Jennifer and David Ford, Chris Bennardo, Nancy Langford, Dev Renn, Lorna Payne (friend of the Lipke family), Bailey Moro, Michelle DeBardeleben (Vonda Crane's daughter), Jim Gray, Jean Taylor, Theo Brown (Isabelle Brown's Brother), Bev. Samford, Cora Matthews, Anne E., Horace and Barbara Ford's daughter-in-law / Jennifer's father, Bill Fulcrod, Eleanor Kensinger (sister of Alice Gray), Jakob Fedele (Liz's nephew), Jesse Richardson, Cheryl Roberts, Claude Cheeley, Nik, Teddy Sears, Joyce Forcke, Frankie Irons, Shirley Oversreet, Judy Wilkinson, Jane Whitlow, Cindy White, Jennifer Maitland, Isabelle Brown, Barbara Jessup, Richard (Ruth Plott's brother-in-law)

FINANCIAL REPORT: November: \$15,593 received \$21,686 spent

SCRIPTURE READING THIS WEEK:

John 1:44-51

New Revised Standard Version

Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. 45 Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth." 46 Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." 47 When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him, he said of him, "Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!" 48 Nathanael asked him, "Where did you get to know me?" Jesus answered, "I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you." 49 Nathanael replied, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" 50 Jesus answered, "Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these." 51 And he said to him, "Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."

Dear Friends,

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ! When I said “goodbye” to a tough and difficult 2020 plagued by COVID-19 and post-election arguing, there was no indication that so early in 2021 all of us here in these United States of America would be facing such terrible scenes on our television screens from Washington DC as those appearing on January 6th, 2021 and afterwards. I have spent much time flipping channels between CNN and FOX news. Emotions continue to be high and most people have strong feelings at this time. What I saw as the US Capitol was invaded is both shocking and appalling and must be condemned in the strongest way.

Dale and I left the Food Pantry early on Wednesday, January 6th to go home and prepare for a small celebration in Mechanicsville for our grandson Jacob’s sixteenth birthday. None of us will ever forget that day! Growing up in South Africa, we lived under a constant and continual state of tension and confrontation between citizens and government. Terrorist attacks; riots and bombings as well as police raids, brutality and violence were commonplace. During the post apartheid Truth and Reconciliation Commission there was accountability for what happened under apartheid. There must also be accountability for January 6th, 2021 here in the USA.

In the United States of America peaceful protests have happened often and serve the purpose of allowing citizens to express their opinions and views. Sometimes violence erupted but this has usually been prepared for and quickly contained. Not so on January 6th.

We will never all agree on everything. That has not happened and is impossible. The larger the group, the greater the disagreement. This is true in all circles of life. When I counsel engaged couples during their pre-marriage months we discuss five approaches to managing conflict: accommodation, compromise, avoidance, competition and collaboration. Usually individuals employ one or more of these methods to reach settlement of an issue.

In our lives each of us must learn to live peaceably with those with whom we disagree. When the seeds of anger are sown, they must quickly be controlled and removed before they become mature trees bearing ugly fruit. Here is what I suggest we should do as Christians at this time: -

- Pray
- Try to understand what is going on
- Be part of the solution
- Pray
- Be reconcilers
- Be facilitators of peace not agitators for war
- Evidence humility
- Try to understand those with whom we disagree
- Keep the rhetoric calm
- Pray

Let us ask God for healing, peace and understanding during these turbulent times.

In Christ, Dennis C. Lipke

