

December 7, 2020

Cloister thoughts...

“Comfort, O comfort my people...”

As a kid I loved playing in the wilderness. There were miles and miles of woods behind my house and my buddies would meet me there after school and we built forts and set up camps in that wilderness during the summer months. We loved the wilderness. It brought us closer to God and each other.

That was not the case for folks in ancient days. The Israelites were afraid when in the wilderness, and with good reason. It was dangerous. Thieves and robbers, variable temperatures, lack of food and water – who would choose to live that way? The Israelites would never choose to be there; they would be driven there...the wilderness was never home.

Isaiah proclaimed comfort to the people while they were in exile in Babylon. Israel had known privilege, had had the opportunity to experience the headiness of position and power but it became too much. In her desire to assert her independence, Israel had defied and disobeyed...and had ended up in exile...in the wilderness.

The Israelites came to some self-understanding about their situation...and the prophet Isaiah reminds them that God has not abandoned them but moves to comfort and redeem them. Israel's future will be as good as the past...even better.

2020 has felt like the wilderness. People have been lamenting that they will be glad when this year is over! So many natural disasters. So much division. There is homelessness and hunger and all of this with a Pandemic. There is wilderness all around. Many have lost loved ones during this season. Individuals have lost jobs. Marriages have failed and life is turned upside down going in a totally different direction. Susie is lost in the

world of Alzheimer's, and Frank is lost in trying to help her. Cancer invades lives and it affects the entire family.

We hold one another in our losses, in our struggles, in our deaths – we hold on to one another and pray through the wildernesses.

There are those who, when in despair, say, “God must have some reason for doing this to me.” There are others who say, “God did not do this to me, but will be with me as I journey through it, offering comfort and leading me to wholeness.” I do not believe that God tosses us into the wilderness to teach us. Wildernesses come because of our own actions, because of our choices, or someone else's choices. Sometimes bad things just happen to other people and to us. For no apparent reason. But I do believe that God is with us in the midst of it and will never leave us. God will offer comfort and hold us close.

***We hold one another
in our losses,
in our struggles,
in our deaths –
we hold on to one another
and pray
through the wildernesses.***

Sometimes Christians are encouraged to pretend that the wilderness does not exist. I do not believe that you can fully engage in life – be aware of your own life and the lives of those around you...and say that everything is fine - when it is not fine! Life in the wilderness is real. We can enjoy Christmas carols and lights and decoration and shopping and wrapping and the life with and love of a great family – and also acknowledge that the wilderness is real and we are not out of it yet. To be fully alive is to claim both of those as my reality. I can acknowledge pain and loss even as I claim God's good to me and look to a future of hope.

Seeking the light of Hope, Rick



Holiday Share

Make a gift in honor or in memory of a loved one.
hbumc.org/advent

Alliance Medical Ministry

Daniel Center

The Encouraging Place

Family Promise

The Green Chair Project

Hearts and Hands for Haiti

Interfaith Food Shuttle

Meals on Wheels Wake County

Methodist Home for Children

Neighbor to Neighbor

Oak City Cares

A Place at the Table

Grace Home

– Prison Aftercare Christian Ministries

Rise Against Hunger

Round Table of Pullen Baptist

SafeChild

Society of St. Andrew (SoSA)

Step Up Ministry

Urban Ministries of Wake County

Wee Care

Welcome Home CBF Advocates for Refugees

Wheels 4 Hope

The Women's Center

ZOE

Do you want to grow your faith and discipleship?

Are you looking to meet like-minded Christians? Now is the perfect time to join an online covenant group or small group! Join Pastor Molly for a conversation about small groups on Wednesday, December 9, at 7:00pm via Zoom. It's not a commitment - just an interest meeting. Email Pastor Molly at mwhite@hbumc.org for the Zoom link!

Thanksgiving Food Box Abundance

There was extra money in the Thanksgiving Food Box Fund this year, so we are giving that money to Inter-Faith Food Shuttle (specifically to help Backpack Buddies) and to Overflowing Hands. The goal of this ministry continues to be to help with food insecurity for children and families in our community.

The Commissioner

Offering Freely...Christ, Community, and Compassion

We are so thankful for all who pledged on October 25th, Commitment Sunday. Not being able to celebrate this stewardship season in person, your continued generosity and commitment to the Kingdom work here at HBUMC is needed. As families and as a community, we are hopeful in our prayers that 2021 will bring our communities, friends, church and work "together" again. As we plan, so does our church need to plan as well. Over the holiday, please prayerfully consider your pledge as we continue to develop a budget for how to grow, enhance and continue to accomplish the Lord's work here in 2021.

Looking ahead to 2021, we have high hopes for meeting again in person. So, in the meantime, your church will continue to offer the same excellent online options of study and worship. These are opportunities for children and youth in small groups, for our community Communion services, and of course for the Advent and Christmas traditions we love so much.

Thank you for offering Christ, Community, and Compassion in so many ways. Visit hbumc.org/give to learn more, or contact Russell Wilcox at rwilcox@hbumc.org or 919-832-6435 x1118.



Hayes Barton's Creation Care



Caretakers

Healing God's Earth
 For more information,
 contact Ruth Bryan:
rhb465@bellsouth.net
 or visit
umccreationcare.org

Creation Care Tips

- ✦ A leaky faucet that fills a coffee cup in 10 minutes will waste an estimated 3,000 gallons of water per year.
- ✦ Improperly sealed or caulked windows can account for up to **25% of total heat loss** from a house.

12/07/2020



Offering Christmas Drive-by event

Visit with the pastors and staff, receive your cradle gift for celebrating the light of hope on Christmas Eve, see the stable, and hear music of the season on Sunday, December 20 or Monday, December 21, 3-6pm
REGISTER at hbumc.org/advent

Advent at Hayes Barton

hbumc.org/advent

Preschool: Wednesday night Advent candle lighting, prayer, and song sent to families

Elementary: Ongoing: Family Advent activities December 1-25; Daily Advent devotions

Youth: Ongoing: Study of C.S. Lewis' The Screwtape Letters; Weekly Advent online devotions
December 6: Day for Others; December 13: Secret Santa

Worship and formation

Pastors' Advent Study on Facebook Live each Sunday in Advent at 10am

Community Communion each Sunday in Advent at 11am on the patio,
sign up at hbumc.org/signups

Women's Advent Study with Pastor Molly, Wednesday mornings from 9:30-11:00am,
sign up at hbumc.org/advent

Wednesday night online opportunities

Emailed each Wednesday evening

December 9: Elementary Christmas Story pageant

December 16: Light of Hope concert

December 23: Community table blessing by church members

Advent online

Emailed to you and on Facebook

December 13: Keyboards at Christmas with Stephen Aber - Messiah Excerpts

December 21: Longest Night Service

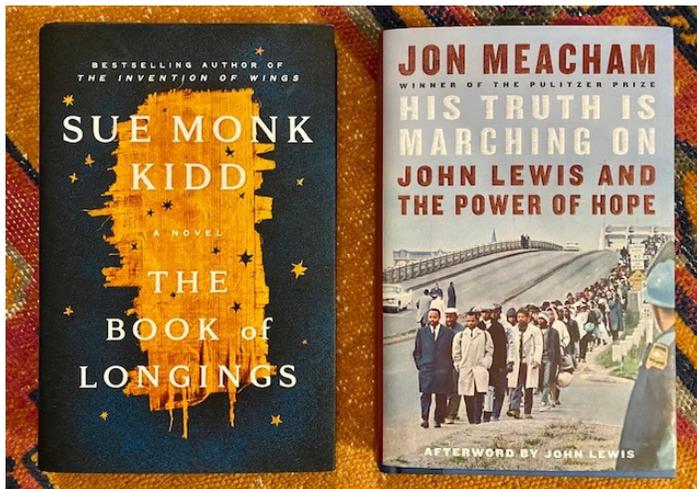
December 22: Keyboards at Christmas with Stephen Aber - Carols and Keyboards

Christmas Eve: The Light of Hope

December 24: The Light of Hope Christmas Eve videos emailed and on Facebook
All-ages Celebration of the Christ Child and Candlelight Sanctuary Service

Christmas Day: Offering Christmas to one and all

December 25: brief meditation and music emailed and on Facebook



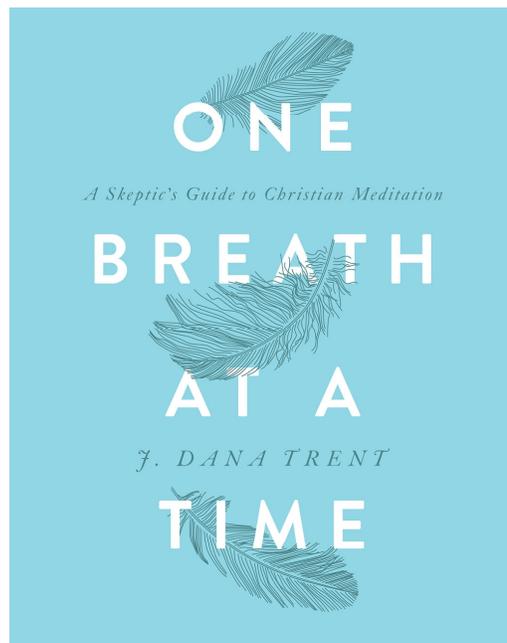
**Bread of Life:
Nourishment For The Lenten Journey**

with Rev. J. Dana Trent, author of *One Breath at a Time: A Skeptic's Guide to Christian Meditation*

Saturday, February 27, 2021

Zoom retreat from 9:00 am - 11:00 am

Details and sign-up information will be announced after the first of the year



Save the Dates

One-and-Done book gatherings of 2021!

The Book of Longings on January 12.

His Truth is Marching On on February 2.

Contact Pastor Molly for more details

at mwhite@hbumc.org or 919-832-6435 x1114!

Online Small Groups

Are you interested in being part of an online small group?

Join in an informational Zoom meeting on Wednesday, December 9th, at 7:00pm.

Contact Pastor Molly for details

at mwhite@hbumc.org or 919-832-6435 x1114!

DECEMBER PRAYER CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 World AIDS Day	2 Persons with COVID-19	3 Hispanic Ministries	4 Racial equity	5 Students, teachers, and school systems
6 2nd Sunday of Advent - Faith and the journey to Bethlehem	7 Serving members of the military	8 Charles Barrow, Home Missioner	9 Unemployed persons	10 Church and community food pantries	11 Scientists developing a vaccine for COVID-19	12 Ministry of Project AGAPE
13 3rd Sunday of Advent - Joy of the Good News	14 Incarcerated persons	15 Medical personnel	16 Reconciliation between God and humanity	17 Families economically suffering due to the pandemic	18 Alliance Medical Ministry	19 Ministry of the Society of St. Andrew
20 4th Sunday of Advent - Pray for peace throughout the world	21 Children separated from parents and detained	22 All who provide food to the nation	23 Families that mourn the loss of a relative	24 Families seeking refuge and safety	25 A Savior is Born!	26 Worker safety and fair wages
27 First responders	28 Missing persons	29 Persons fulfilling any leadership role	30 Janitorial staffs	31 Good will in the coming year		

Sympathy and Love to

- ✠ Jennie Hayman and family on the death of her husband, Wilson Hayman, on November 28. His service was held on December 3 at Hayes Barton.
- ✠ Eric Stevens and family on the death of his stepfather, Jim McElreath, on November 19. His service will be held on December 19 at Oak Hill Cemetery in Cartersville, GA.

Birth

Luke Andrew Realon, son of Andrew & Lauren Realon, was born on November 30.

Memorial Gifts Processed by December 3

In Memory of **Jesse Chappell** to the Music Ministry Fund by Robert W. Morrison, Jr.

In Memory of **Judge Robert (Bob) Farmer**:

- by Laura G. Crumpler, H. Duke & Brenda Fentress, Jane Johnson, Mrs. Thomas L. Norris, Jr., Eve & Sherwood H. Smith, Jr., Ashley Dawn Steele, Heather M. Thompson, Peggy Underwood, and G. Smedes York.

- to the Music Ministry Fund by Robert W. Morrison, Jr.

- to the Well Fund by Lou & Marcie Pucillo.

In Memory of **Wilson Hayman** and in Honor of **Jennie Hayman** by Andrea & Michael Seaton.

In Memory of **Wilson Hayman** to the Music Ministry Fund by Frank & Becky Brown, Poyner Spruill Health Law Section, and Jane Walz.

In Memory of **Betty D. Hunt** to the Wee Care Enrichment Fund by Ed & Wynn Schamel.

In Memory of **James Lowe** by Beth & John G. Thomas, Jr.

In Memory of **Mike Peterson** to the Nursery Fund by Eleanor Blackwell and Peggy Sharpe Thomas & Tim Thomas.



Community Communion Service

Sundays 11am
Hayes Barton back patio

masks required
learn more and register at
hbumc.org/signups



CHRIST
COMMUNITY
COMPASSION



Prayer Bookmarks: 11-29-20 & 12-06-20

Deaths

Wilson Hayman
James Hendricks "Jim" McElreath, stepfather of Eric Stevens

Birth

Luke Andrew Realon, son of Andrew & Lauren Realon

Ongoing Concerns

Mark Angelo	Robert Earl Phyllian
Richard Birtch	Jane Preiss
Kermit Braswell	David Robertson
Kent Burns	Rhumell Ross
Kim Collins	Barbara Smith
Mary Lou Goodrich	Nancy Stamey
David Hesmer	Phil Templeton
Finlay Carter Judy	Elvey Thomas
Margaret Lucas	Susan Wagner
Jo Ann Moore	Georgia Webb
John Phillips	

Our Church Leaders

Pastors Rick, Adam & Molly; D.S. Southern; Bishop Ward

Stephen Ministry Trainees

Our In-Crowd Members

Those Affected by Hurricanes and Wildfires

Church members who have suffered from COVID or are caring for those with the virus

Those grieving the over 275K who have died from COVID in the US

Our Leaders at All Levels of the Government



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Hayes Barton United Methodist Church
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Raleigh, NC 27608-2240

PERIODICALS
POSTAGE
PAID
AT
RALEIGH, NC

Stewardship Commitment: 3 Ways to Pledge

- 1) Pledge cards have been mailed. Complete your pledge card and mail or deliver it to Hayes Barton.
- 2) Email your pledge intention (amount & general fund designation) to rwilcox@hbumc.org
- 3) Pledge online at www.hbumc.org/give

Questions: Russell Wilcox, 919-832-6435 x1118

POINSETTIAS

While we have reduced the quantity of our beautiful live poinsettias for the Advent season, we have ordered enough to beautify our sanctuary and lobby. With the purchase of each poinsettia, we are helping Soroptimist International with their "Live Your Dream" program to help end violence against women and girls.

If anyone would like to add to the beauty of the church while honoring your loved one, send in your check for \$15 Each to the "Altar Guild Poinsettia Fund" by **December 10**. Please include the following:

Donor Name(s): _____

Donor Phone Number: _____ Amount Enclosed. _____

In Memory/Honor of: _____

Please print clearly and as you wish them to appear in print; mail to HBUMC, 2209 Fairview Rd, Raleigh NC 27608. THANK YOU!

DECEMBER 13: 3rd Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11
Psalm 126

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24
John 1:6-8, 19-28

DECEMBER 20: 4th Sunday of Advent

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16
Luke 1:47-55
Romans 16:25-27
Luke 1:26-38

WEEKEND WORSHIP ON VIMEO

Each weekend, the service will be available at noon on Saturday so that you can worship at a convenient time for you and your family.

Go to vimeo.com/hbumc to view the service, or previous archived services. For questions, contact Susan at:

919-832-6435 x1135
or sbaldwin@hbumc.org