

Lightshine! is published weekly in the service of our Lord by the Dalraida United Methodist Church, 3817 Atlanta Highway, Montgomery, AL 36109-3625.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



*Matthew 5:16
Lightshine!*

Dalraida United Methodist Church
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Every Sunday:
8:30 & 11:00 a.m. Worship Services
9:30 a.m. Coffee Fellowship
9:45 a.m. Sunday School

Visit our Web Site
www.dalraidaumc.com

Pastor Emeritus
Leonard Shults: 334-273-9804

Each Sunday through
September 20th



Lightshine!

Dalraida United Methodist Church

Making new disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.



Volume 44
August 26, 2020

Message from Pastor

This is our 10th Sunday hosting in-person worship and we are so grateful. As other churches start reopening their doors, the same question surfaces in everyone's mind: *who will be around?* This is a tough one to answer. A nervous longing exists in many church leaders for things return back to something certain. Several months of most watching online at home makes it difficult to know who is left, who is still on board, who has drifted, or who the new people are. With what we have faced, so many unknowns, much more we are not able to gauge, I have to agree with my colleagues that "opening is much harder than closing."

Weekly polling done by the Barna Group reveals that, leading up to Easter, online worship attendance surged 49% to 59% over former in-person worship attendance. Since Easter, that number has dropped. Why? A study facilitated by GLOO displays very little consensus around when people will feel 'safe' to regather in public. The bottom line is that if the normal (as we understood it) is gone, then we must figure out a way to move forward with greater agility. People still need to be cared for and nurtured spiritually, just in a different way. Agility, in today's world, translates into ability. In other words, we should not be focusing on getting back to "normal" so much that it means forcing the past into the present.

Our engagement with other people online has not stopped. I continue to receive emails from online viewers that have never physically been "part" of Dalraida UMC. The key is to continue moving toward engagement with a fury. Tim Keller suggests that churches with the largest impact will think of themselves as digital organizations with physical expressions rather than physical organizations with a digital presence. As much as we need physical connection with one another, broadcasting worship was never an attempt to make anyone feel bad. We love you, and we know these changing days have affected everyone. For many, it boils down to fear and the loss of control. I have certainly felt it. Maybe those feelings are God's queue for us to strengthen our trust in him? He has, and will always be, in control. Historically speaking, the Church has always been at its best when under pressure. So, if God is doing a new thing, let's embrace it. Let's begin prayerfully seeking God's direction for tomorrow instead of forcing ourselves to reshape what used to be. The next moment may prove to be an incredible blessing.

Grace & Peace,
Brother Mike

All Youth Events will require masks to be worn and social distance will be maintained. If you need more information on any Youth Event please contact Jimmy Barnes at 334-655-1470 dalraidaumcyouth@gmail.com or visit Facebook



*Craft Pre-Sale is August 30th and Craft Sale is September 5th. I need for everyone to sign-up at the following link so I will know how much lunch to get:

Sign-up here: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfDqrYbPi1PSnkFk1mWORcEJZ6TzOm3p_KJedrMSQf9cPZsmA/viewform?usp=sf_link

*Messenger Rooms will be every Wednesday night at 7:00pm. Check the group chat and FACEBOOK page for the link!

*Every Friday night for 9th grade to 25y/o. This is a contemporary worship service. Invite a friend and come join us FRIDAY's at 6:30pm. Eat before you come!

*Life Skills Class Every Sunday after worship service, we meet in the Fellowship Hall. Come check it out!

*We are in our 4th week of the Fish Bowl for Loose Change and we have already collected \$189.40. Gather up all those pennies from your room, house, car, school, purse, etc. and bring next Sunday to drop in the bowl.

*Game Night September 11th after Friday Night Worship. UNO, Spades, Monopoly, Sorry, and more. Come join us!

Sign-up if interested: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScFloGPalsGfYafwJXslS5TzhtYM96t2JezJdy2TcNEf2w91Q/viewform?usp=sf_link

“Dismantling Racism: Pressing on to Freedom During a Pandemic Health Crisis through Prayer, the Church, and Community Support”

Since March 19th, we have faced difficulties ranging from the Covid-19 pandemic, job loss and layoffs, riots and protests over racial injustice, all testing our faith. As we try to understand and interpret the pain, anger, and hatred within our communities, as Christians we remember that our source of comfort and refuge is God, in whom we seek the strength to endure hardships and the courage to confront injustice. *“Learn to do good; seek justice, correct oppression; bring justice to the fatherless, and please the widow's cause”* (Isa. 1:17).

The United Methodist Women’s Charter for Racial Justice states, “Racism is a rejection of the teachings of Jesus Christ and that all women and men are made in God’s image and are equally valuable in God’s sight.” Hence, racism is not of God nor should it be characteristic of Christians because it involves oppression based the superiority of one race over another. The United Methodist Church General Secretaries of Boards and Agencies recently issued a statement calling for Christians to take urgent action to dismantle racism in the United States and the Church. With disproportionate death rates from Covid-19 among African American and Native Americans as well as recent killings of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and Ahmaud Arbery, we must offer fervent prayer and honest reflection about the content of our own hearts so that unity and unconditional love would remain our highest goal.

Faithful works in the community and our church exemplify the living body of Christ! As we welcome and bring a diversity of people into the life of our church, treating all with the same lovingkindness and respect, God heals and transforms us while demonstrating to the world that He is with us. May we continue candid but humble dialog as we seek solutions for seek Christ above all. For additional resources and information, visit the following: <https://www.umc.org/en/how-we-serve/advocating-for-justice/racial-justice/united-against-racism>, <https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/>.

In Christ,
Mrs. Nancy Travis,
UMW Social Justice Advocacy.



- Nancy Buck-2
- Nancy Deabler-6
- Jimmy Gunn-7
- Amanda Cobb-10
- Virginia Shamburger-11
- Sara Gross-20
- Dot Messick-28
- Betty Berry-28
- Hazel Phillips-29



- ◆ River City 4th Saturday Serve Day–September 26th.
- ◆ Sunday Music Special Coming Soon.
- ◆ You’re invited to join us on Zoom for Sunday School at 7 p.m. on Sunday nights. Call James Messick at 279-9059 for information.
- ◆ Food Bank will be temporarily closed till January 6, 2021 due to shortage of food supply from the Montgomery Area Food Bank.
- ◆ September 19th, UM Men drive-thru BBQ pickup, plates \$5 each. BBQ chicken, potato salad, baked beans, banana pudding. Call church office to place your order.
- ◆ September 26th Annual Conference. Must contact AWFUMC.org for a personal Zoom link.
- ◆ November 2nd Charge Conference via Zoom. All conference forms must be turned in no later than October 15th.

Prayer Requests

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| Jean Pegram Mary Wilson Leonard Shults Martha Callahan | Caroline Conner Dot Messick Sara Gross Betty Morgan | Ed Deabler Shirley Milligan Our nation during this pandemic |
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Condolences

To the family of Marjorie Whitaker. Ms. Whitaker passed away July 30th.

Dear Dalraida Family,

Thank you for the many cards, calls, texts, emails, and prayers extended to me after my Daddy's accident and death. The last 5 months have brought many changes for all of us. First, COVID-19 interrupted so many of our church activities and then my family faced my father's accident, surgeries, hospital stays, rehab, Home Health, Hospice and final Home Going. It has definitely been a challenging time but what has sustained us has been God's unfailing Love, Mercy, and Grace and the continued support of my church family. You cannot know how much you have helped us during this time. Please know how important you have been whether we are seeing each other face to face or only in thoughts and prayers. With gratitude and love, Rosanne Tidwell

Newsletter

The next monthly mail out for the Lightshine will be September 23rd please get any events or news to office by 10:00 a.m. Tuesday, September 22nd.