



HUMC January-March Caller

Pastoral Letter

by Rev. Diana Wingeier-Ray



Courage doesn't always roar. Sometimes courage is the little voice at the end of the day that says I will try again tomorrow.

May Anne Rademacher

2020 was a difficult year. It was a year full of uncertainties, death, loneliness, and hope. Thank God for those who survived it and eternal peace to those in heaven.

2021 is a new year full of hope and new horizons. The 2021 word for our congregation is "courage," because we need to be courageous to do God's mission amid this pandemic.

It is our hope to keep carrying out God's vision in a year that still is threatening our lives and dreams. But in the midst of fear to the unknown, we can feel, see, and picture a new beginning. We see hope throughout the efforts of vaccinating all vulnerable people, broadcasting worship services, Zoom bible studies and weekly food distribution.

Hughes UMC is a well-known and respected church in the city for the immense love demonstrated during this pandemic by not closing its doors but opening them widely to serve the vulnerable. Thank you to all our volunteers! You do a magnificent job. Thank you to our brave seniors who come every Thursday to pack boxes and to serve on distribution day.

We distribute food to 600+ families every week and we now have two social workers paid by the County serving the community. We are partnering with 45 non-profit organizations. We have a women's sewing cooperative, Youth

Development Center (MoCo), and we are also preparing anew vegetables garden in our premises, a partnership with Montgomery Youth Development Center.

God is calling us to a new challenge. To keep moving forward to prepare for life-post COVID, we are called to have the courage to look our past with grateful memories and to look our future with courage. We have been running a budget deficit (faith gap) and making up the difference with our endowment draws. It will take courage to Hughes UMC to transition from mere survival to a thriving community of faith. Knowing the love you have for this church, I believe we can all do it!

This year challenges are to move forward to be the outside church that serves God's people. With the pandemic we all are becoming closer to God, family, and neighbors. We are a mission-minded congregation and understand that Hughes UMC exists for such a time as this.

Even though our church is doing magnificent outreach ministry and our doors are open, we do not receive enough tithes and offerings to cover our expenditures; we continue with the fact that our finances are in red numbers. Therefore, it is necessary to continue to pray for discernment as we have conversations about the affordable living project "A Place Called Home," a project



that reflects the mission and vision of our church. In the next few months, we will have open congregation conversations regarding this project.

Finally, on February 23rd we start Lent Season small groups studies. "Purple Theory" will be taught by Dr. Philip Wingeier-Rayo and Pastor Diana. The study will be taught via Zoom on Tuesdays at 7:00pm. We will also make it

accessible via phone by dialing this number 301 715 8592 and meeting ID #: 821 2884 6855 (You can hear and be heard). Please register either calling the church office 301-949-8383 or visiting our website: www.hughesumc.org

If weather permits, on Sunday April 4, we will celebrate an **outdoor Easter worship service** at 11:00am (English) and 12:30pm (Spanish).

A "Yelling" of Blessings amid COVID Food Distribution

by Diana Wingeier-Rayo

God has many ways to connect its people.

Our distribution days were tiring, exhausting, and sometimes fearful to getting exposed to people.

It was on a shiny sunny morning that we saw a car with a little boy inside literally yelling:

-God bless you!

-God bless you!

-Thank you!

-God bless you!

At first it was like: -Oh well, it is just a little boy who is incredibly grateful for the food we provide. Even though he always wore his tiny mask; we could see him from afar. He was chubby, happy, and always with curious eyes! His mom, who had a sweet voice, was pregnant. They both smiled at us. We could see it in their eyes! Their mask could not hide their gratitude!

After several weeks, it was just so familiar to hear him yelling:

-God bless you!

-God bless you!

-Thank you!

-God bless you!

The truth is that we started to feel really blessed as we experienced less fear and tiredness! We just needed to hear him every Tuesday morning. Some of us started to get small gifts for this little boy and all the kids that came in their cars with mom or dad. One day we had candy. Another day we had chicken toys with candies inside or cookies. The volunteers just came up with different ideas for each week!

One day, the little boy did not come. We missed him. Another week passed and he did not come again. We got worried. We decided to call mom and find out if everything was okay. Mom did not sound to be doing okay. With a horsing and breakable voice, she said: -We have been infected with covid-19. I am worried, she said, because I am eight months pregnant. Please tell the volunteers to pray for us.

I shared with the volunteers the mother's request. We all prayed for two weeks even during the Sunday English service. We also immediately, started to deliver them food and essentials as they needed to get through. We were sad. We even cried for this little boy. We called his mom very often to know about his health.

One night I received a text from mom telling me to pray for her as she was alone in the hospital with pregnancy complications and the baby girl sister was to be born earlier than expected. I called to all my lady friends to join in the prayer vigil for the mom and baby girl's lives.

Next day in the morning, I received another text.

"Pastor, thank you for praying for us. We are doing fine."

Of course, we celebrated it on Tuesday morning with a prayer of thanksgiving!

Three days later, I called mom and asked if she was home. She responded very happy: "Yes, were are home."

Then she said:

-Hold on. My little son wants to say hello.

Oh, my! Here it was the sweet and loving greetings!

-God bless you pastor!

-God bless you pastor!

-I am wearing my captain America costume! I have a little sister! She is the wonder woman!

I cried. I gave thanks. I cried again. I was grateful.

One thing I had learned. He likes to talk a lot! So, I named him: Mi pequeno griton! (My little screamer!)

On January 29th he turned 5. Of course, we sent him a Captain America pinata...with candies in it!

By the way, his name is Jahir. Enjoy the photos of his beautiful family:



A Letter from our New Staff Parish Chair

Dear Hughes United Methodist Church Members

As we start a new year, as chair of the Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC), I am pleased to introduce the Unified Board for calendar year 2021:

Hughes Office and Other	SPRC	Trustees	Finance
Diana Wingeier-Rayo, Pastor	Mark Weaver (Chair)	Sharon Skinner (Chair)	George Kilpatrick (Chair)
Ingrid Figueroa, Church Administrator	Adda Baldizon	Tim Gartrell	Marie Bunting
Rosalba Guevara, Ministries	Linda French	Josafat Montano	Dwight French
Dania Lopez, Youth Ministries			Magdalena Saavedra
Shawn Magnuson, New Disciples Director			

Effective as of the February 15 Board Meeting, Sharon Skinner is Chair of the entire Board and Linda French is the Recording Secretary.

Below are the goals that Hughes church would like to accomplish during the upcoming year.

- * Organize the Unified Board
- * Appoint 3 new virtual small groups with new members
- * Introduce an English Contemporary Worship Service
- * Introduce Diversity Dinners on Fridays
- * Host an International Festival
- * Increase attendance by 3%
- * Launch plan for an affordable living project ("A Place Call Home")
- * Continue serving the community through the County Hub

In addition, Hughes will continue to serve our community with the weekly food distribution and other COVID-19 related activities. All positions are funded by Montgomery County. We are currently in the process of negotiating a budget for July 2021 through June 2022. Hughes is in the process of receiving a grant that will help to enhance the church property.

Listed below is our current staff:

Hub Coordinator	Aranzasu Gasca Chable,
Assistant Coordinator	Elizabeth Portillo
Driver/Assistant Logistics:	Josafat Montano
Part-time Assistant & Partnership Coordinator/Grant Writer/ Community Connection/ Social Media Coordinator	(Currently Open)

If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to reach out to the church office.

Sincerely,

Mark Weaver, SPRC Chair



February 17 at 7:00 PM -Self-examination-Psalm 51:6-12

Thursday, 2/18 – Job 6:24-25a

Friday, 2/19 – Psalm 139:23-24

Saturday, 2/20 – Matthew 7:1-5



Join us for the

PURPLE THEORY SMALL GROUP SERIES

Beginning Tuesday 23 February at 7:00 p.m

Click here for video: <https://youtu.be/Lj8DBEmFc5Y>

Click here to register: <http://bit.ly/purpletheory>

Habits and routines help us stay on track in many areas of our lives – whether it's our physical, mental, or emotional health. They can help us grow in our spiritual lives too. In this series, we will explore several spiritual disciplines, or faithful habits, that can help us deepen our relationship with God. Lent is the perfect time to commit or recommit to a spiritual discipline, as we enter a season of self-examination in preparation for Easter.

Lenten Weekly Prayer Series

<p style="text-align: center;">Week 1 Prayer</p> <p><i>As we learn a rhythm of prayer, we become connected to God in new and exciting ways. Prayer is the breath of Christian life.</i></p> <p>SUN: Romans 8:26-27 MON: Psalm 103 TUE: Matthew 6:7-13 TUE: Psalm 150 THURS: Matthew 26:36-46 FRI: James 5:13-18 SAT: Mark 9:14-27</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Week 2 Scripture</p> <p><i>Reading and meditating on Scripture lay the foundation for Christian life.</i></p> <p>SUN: Psalm 1:1-13 MON: Hebrews 4:11-13 TUE: Colossians 3:1-17 TUE: Luke 10:38-42 THURS: James 1:19-25 FRI: Acts 17:1-12 SAT: Proverbs 24:30-34</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Week 3 Fasting</p> <p><i>Fasting is meant to change our hearts and deepen our relationship with God, yet sometimes we turn it into a diet or show.</i></p> <p>SUN: Matthew 6:16-18 MON: Isaiah 58:1-7 TUE: Daniel 10:1-14 TUE: Nehemiah 1:4-11 THURS: Esther 4:12-17 FRI: Acts 13:1-3 SAT: Joel 2:12-17</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Week 4 Confession</p> <p><i>Confessing our sins brings us out of the darkness of the world and into the light of living as a Christ follower.</i></p> <p>SUN: 1 John 1:5-9 MON: Psalm 51:1-4 TUE: Matthew 5:21-24 TUE: Mark 1:1-5 THURS: James 5:13-16 FRI: Proverbs 28:13 SAT: Hosea 14:1-7</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Week 5: Worship</p> <p><i>The spiritual discipline of worship is not (just) about showing up to church on Sunday! It is about weaving worship through our everyday lives in different ways.</i></p> <p>SUN: 1 Corinthians 10:31-33 MON: John 4:19-24 TUE: John 6:52-58 TUE: Revelation 5:6-14 THURS: Isaiah 6:1-8 FRI: Psalm 96 SAT: Psalm 148</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Week 6 (Holy Week) Silence</p> <p><i>When we practice being silent, we can deepen our connection with God.</i></p> <p>SUN: Mark 14:26-41 MON: Ecclesiastes 3:7-8 TUE: Proverbs 17:27-28 TUE: Proverbs 19:20-21 MAUNDY THURSDAY: Psalm 62:5-7 GOOD FRIDAY Exodus 3:4-5 SAT: Lamentations 3:25-26</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Week 7 (First Week of Easter) Gratitude</p> <p><i>Christ is risen! God's grace calls us to lives of gratitude.</i></p> <p>SUN: Luke 24:1-12; 52-53 MON: Psalm 118:1-6, 29 TUE: 2 Corinthians 1:14-16 TUE: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 THURS: Psalm 103:1-5 FRI: Philippians 4:4-6 SAT: Philippians 4:12-13</p>	

Our Church Family

Delores & Walter share their appreciation for the goodies they received during the Christmas Holidays:

Dear Pastor Diana,

We were delightfully surprised during the Christmas Holidays. A call from Sharon Skinner alerted us that she was on her way to our home with a package from Hughes. We were just about ready to make our every two weeks trip to Giant. Anticipation kept us home. Sharon arrived. Wow! It was a basket of Christmas cheer.

Our basket included fresh apples, oranges, and grapes surrounded by hard candies, sweet short bread type wafers, chocolate filled cookies, singles bags for hot chocolate with Christmas seasonal mugs for each of us, and a package of scented lip balm. We thoroughly enjoyed each morsel of the delicious edibles. The seasonal mugs will serve as a lasting memory.

A week later another call came and another package. This time it was a hatbox with a hat for Delores. We all know Delores relishes hats. She can barely wait for the Sunday to come when she can wear her purple hat with a black rose and veil to Hughes. Please know that we are extremely grateful for these gifts. We "thank you "and our Hughes family for the generosity. It certainly did brighten our holidays especially during this time of quarantine.

Sincerely,
Delores and Walter E. Varner



The pandemic has not stopped some of our Hughes ladies from remembering the children at two local elementary schools.

Dotty Anderson, Pat Beam, Marie Bunting, Barb Conklin, Helen Wilson, and Emma Wilson knitted and crocheted 160 sets of hats and scarves for the children of Glen Haven and Weller Road Elementary Schools.

Although the children are not in the school buildings, the hats and scarves are being distributed to them when they come to the schools to pick up food at regular distributions.

Many thanks Ladies!

Carol Whitney



All Saints Day Remembrances



Ralph M. Gartrell was born on June 29, 1933. He passed on June 24, 2020, five days before his 87th birthday. He had been a resident of Rockville Nursing Home for ten years, to the day. He had Parkinson's.

He joined Hughes Church in 1955 after returning home from the Service. He and Joan met at the Churches that fall and were married 63 years ago in September. He had two sons and a daughters-in-law, Tim and Kathie, Bob and Wendy and 2 grandchildren and a step grand son.

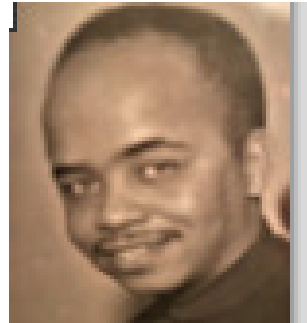
We want to thank all our Church Family who attended his Services at Parkland. It's was very nice of you all.

Joan Gartrell & Family

Grant White passed away on March 11, 2020. He was 85 years old.

A cheerful smile, a friendly word. A sympathetic nod. These are all priceless treasures from the storehouse of our God. Missing you.

Bobbie, Anthony, Karen and Thomas



Financial Picture

January 2021 Income \$26,535

January 2021 Expenses \$44,710

**The Caller is published four times a year. Articles can be submitted to
Caller Editor Marty Weaver at callereditor@gmail.com**