

COLEMAN & BUTTONWOOD CHURCH NEWSLETTER


MONDAY MAY 13TH, 2021

“NATIONAL OLDER AMERICANS MONTH”

Senior Pastor Lawrence Pelham & Reverend Gail Stallings-Minor

The More Things Change, The More They Stay The Same

By Reverend Gail Stallings Minor



Just about everyone knows the story of Goldilocks and the Three Bears. But did you know that story was a modified version of an early tale? The Story of the Three Bears is a 19th-century British fairy tale of which three versions exist. The original version of the tale tells of a badly behaved old woman who enters the forest home of three bachelor bears. She has been sent out by her family because she is a disgrace to them. She's bad, foul-mouthed, messy, dirty, her behavior is criminal, and she is deserving of a stint in the House of Correction.

Upon arriving at the forest home, she looks through a window, peeps through the keyhole, and lifts the latch. Assured that no one is home, she walks in. She sits in their chairs, eats some of their porridge, and sleeps in one of their beds. When the bears return and discover her, she wakes up, jumps out of the window, and is never seen again.

Twelve years after the publication of Robert Southey's tale, Joseph Cundall transformed the antagonist from an old woman to a blonde-haired girl in his version called the Treasury. This, the second version, replaced the troublesome old woman with a sweet, innocent little girl named Goldilocks.

And the third and by far best-known version replaced the original adult bear trio with Papa Bear, Mama Bear and Baby Bear. Why did the story keep changing? Well, the setting and character make up may have changed, but the framing of the story remained intact. The changes occurred to reflect the community and cultural understandings of the audience targeted in that era. British novels and stories of the 19th century frequently featured middle-aged and older women. That was a dominant thing then. But as times change and culture changes, those changes are voiced in several ways.

In our Tuesday lunchtime Bible study session, we are looking at an evolving story within the Bible. The message has been the same since Adam and Eve. As we have begun to read the Book of Judges, a powerful realization surfaced about our human condition. Judges showed how the people of God existed in a cyclical behavioral pattern. There was first the disobedience or pushing away from God, then came hardship because of the disobedience and straying from God's will and protection. This is followed by a crying out by the people to God to be rescued and delivered from the hardship. Then God rescues and delivers. This is followed by a return to disobedience and the cycle continues generation after generation. While the structure and main points of the story remain, another generation comes into the story, as well as a new generations way in which it is told, and the characters involved may be different. And that is the point.

We were created in God's image. Our disobedience distorts our image to the degree that it is hard to tell we are his children. But God desires to correct that and heal us, save, and rescue us. He wants us spiritually healthy, recovering our original make up to look like our parent, God.

The way we interact with each other, the creatures of this planet and even our environment shows if we look like our maker or not. God wants us to understand we are his children and have his spiritual genetic make-up dominant in us, just like the folks in the Bible from yesterday.

The other important thing to note is that It doesn't matter what our address, our nationality, our language, our height, our weight, or our economic status. The details of our lives, like the lives of those featured in the different versions of The Three Bears, may be different, look different from those in the Bible or even our neighbors down the street. But the framing is the same. We share the same God DNA. We share the same human condition. We are all sinners. The moral of the story is the same. We all need Jesus. No matter what version of lifes story we are featured, we all sing from the same song sheet whose chorus reads, "We are all sinners saved by the Grace of God. We all need Jesus and Jesus' blood saved us all equally."

There is a saying. The more things change, the more they stay the same. Such is the story of all of God's children.

Blessings,

Pastor Stallings-Minor

Return to In-Person Worship Service

We have begun phasing back to in person services at Asbury UMC. However, our current capacity limit is 40 parishioners. Temperature checks and social distancing protocol will be in place. Service starts at 11:00, we are asking that you arrive at least 15-20 minutes prior to start if service to avoid interruption of the service. God bless and we look forward to seeing you all back in the building!

Asbury is located at 300 E. Basin Rd, New Castle DE 19720

Feel free to call, email or message us with questions!

**IN-PERSON
SERVICE
UPDATES**



COLEMAN & BUTTONWOOD CHURCH NEWSLETTER

Rebuild/Renew Building Update

The restoration and renewal of our Church building continues. The new roof over the kitchen is nearly completed, and the new pulpit is being built.

The work in the kitchen and utility areas are on hold while we investigate piping and utility lines under the floor, to determine if we can save significant amounts of money in those two areas by not having to demo the floor.

We have an excellent group of contractors that are scheduling work in a busy season. Our insurance company continues to work with us as the cost of wood and materials have risen substantially over the past year.

We have begun work on the parsonage. The mold that had developed throughout the basement has been removed and the surfaces treated. The asbestos tile flooring in the basement has also been removed.

Thank you for your continued patience and financial support. We expect that both of these projects will be completed sometime this summer and will keep you informed.

Pastor Pelham



Rear Building siding is completed

& Pulpit/Choir loft is under-way.



Mission Opportunity



Sis. Monica Benson and the Mission's Team are continuing their collaboration with the Food Bank of Delaware hosting a food distribution in the



Coleman Memorial UMC parking lot on

Saturday, May 22nd, 2021 from 11:00 am to 1:00pm
or until food is gone.

We anticipate another blessed day!!

To volunteer or ask questions contact Mission Chair-
Monica Benson at laws_monica@yahoo.com or any
member of the mission team.



eliminating racism
empowering women
ywca

**STAND
AGAINST
RACISM**

STAND AGAINST RACISM: TAKE THE PLEDGE

YWCA is on a mission to eliminate racism, empower women, stand up for social justice, help families, and strengthen communities.

STAND AGAINST RACISM PLEDGE

Mindful of the continuing affliction of institutional and structural racism as well as the daily realities of all forms of bias, prejudice and bigotry in my own life, my family, my circle of friends, my co-workers and the society in which I live, with conviction and hope:

I take this pledge, fully aware that the struggle to eliminate racism will not end with a mere pledge but calls for an ongoing transformation within myself and the institutions and structures of our society.

I pledge to look deeply and continuously in my heart and in my mind to identify all signs and vestiges of racism; to rebuke the use of racist language and behavior towards others; to root out such racism in my daily life and in my encounters with persons I know and with strangers I do not know; and to expand my consciousness to be more aware and sensitive to my use of overt and subtle expressions of racism and racial stereotypes;

I pledge to educate myself on racial justice issues and share what I learn in my own communities even if it means challenging my family, my partner, my children, my friends, my co-workers and those I encounter on a daily basis.

I pledge, within my means, to actively work to support public policy solutions that prominently, openly and enthusiastically promote racial equity in all aspects of human affairs; and to actively support and devote my time to YWCA, as well as other organizations working to eradicate racism from our society.

YWCA USA is on a mission to eliminate racism and empower women. I join YWCA in taking a stand against racism today and every day.

***This pledge has been adapted by YWCA USA from the Pledge to Eliminate Racism in My Life, YWCA Bergen County which is an adaptation of the Pledge to Heal Racism in My Life, Interfaith Communities United for Justice and Peace, April 10, 2006.**

Older Americans Month: Communities of Strength

May 2021

In tough times, communities find strength in people—and people find strength in their communities. In the past year, we've seen this time and again in Wilmington, DE as friends, neighbors, and businesses have found new ways to support each other.

In our community, older adults are a key source of this strength. Through their experiences, successes, and difficulties, they have built resilience that helps them to face new challenges. When communities tap into this, they become stronger too.

Each May, the Administration for Community Living leads the celebration of Older Americans Month (OAM). This year's theme is *Communities of Strength*, recognizing the important role older adults play in fostering the connection and engagement that build strong, resilient communities.

Strength is built and shown not only by bold acts, but also small ones of day-to-day life—a conversation shared with a friend, working in the garden, trying a new recipe, or taking time for a cup of tea on a busy day. And when we share these activities with others—even virtually or by telling about the experience later—we help them build resilience too.

This year, we celebrate OAM by encouraging community members to share their experiences. Together, we can find strength—and create a stronger future.

Here are some ways to share and connect:

Look for joy in the everyday: Celebrate small moments and ordinary pleasures by taking time to recognize them. Start a gratitude journal and share it with others via social media, or call a friend or family member to share a happy moment or to say thank you.

Reach out to neighbors: Even if you can't get together in person right now, you can still connect with your neighbors. Leave a small gift on their doorstep, offer to help with outdoor chores, or deliver a home-cooked meal.

Build new skills: Learning something new allows us to practice overcoming challenges. Take an art course online or try a socially distanced outdoor movement class to enjoy learning with others in your community. Have a skill to share? Find an opportunity to teach someone, even casually.

Share your story: There's a reason storytelling is a time-honored activity. Hearing how others experience the world helps us grow. Interviewing family, friends, and neighbors can open up new conversations and strengthen our connections.

When people of different ages, backgrounds, abilities, and talents share experiences—through action, story, or service—we help build strong communities. And that's something to celebrate! Please join Coleman Memorial UMC in strengthening our community – by doing an act of kindness for someone that you don't know.

For more resources, visit the official [OAM website](#), follow ACL on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).



COLEMAN & BUTTONWOOD CHURCH NEWSLETTER



Reverend Lawrence Pelham is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom Bible Study.

Time: Every Wednesday at 6:30 PM; this is a recurring meeting. Join Zoom Meeting—CTRL Click here: Time: 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84853174183?pwd=UWZnUHFmVzFTR0c0bGE2SUVU0QjF5Zz09>

Meeting ID: 848 5317 4183
Passcode: 450340
Dial by your location
+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)
+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

Prayer Request

If you or someone you know is in need of prayer, please email your request to the church Secretary, Sister Mary Trotter at cmumcde@gmail.com

Please provide your name, email address & your prayer request.

- Please note if you **do not** want your request to be included in the weekly newsletter, if not noted it will be included for the entire congregation to pray for you.



- Prayer for the Rebuild & Renew & our General Contractor & workers.
- Continue to pray for all the bereaved families.
- Pray for peace for all the families affected by COVID-19
- Pray for our Pastor (s).
- Pray for Pastor Gail's friend who lost a child.
- Pray for all the children.
- Pray for the success of the Capital Campaign, and return to church.
- Pray for the Coleman & Buttonwood Congregations.

Sunday Worship

Live Streaming Sunday Worship Service. Tune in at 11:00a.m. on Facebook.

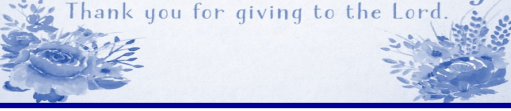
To log into the service go to the Coleman Facebook page or ctrl+ click on the link, <https://colemanmemorialumc.com/>

If your able, call someone without access to live streaming and place the phone next to your computer microphone so they can listen in.

Service will be uploaded to YouTube which anyone with a phone should be able to see within 24 hours. If you miss any sermons go to our website and click on "Sermons" A written copy of the sermon will be emailed out to those we have email addresses for the following week.

Tithe & Offering

Thank you for giving to the Lord.



Coleman Memorial

Giving methods: Pay by mailing a check to the church address- Coleman Memorial UMC 465 ½ Anderson Dr. Wilmington, DE. 19801- mail is being picked up, or via Vanco using the web address below, or if you prefer, through your banks online Bill Pay.
<https://www.vancopayments.com>
Or CashApp @
\$ColemanMemorial

Buttonwood

Giving methods: pay by sending a check to P.O. Box 407 New Castle, De 19720 or if you prefer, through your banks online Bill Pay.

National Calendar Observances

“National Do Something Good for your Neighbor Day”

May 16th, 2021



This day each year encourages individuals and organizations alike to be neighborly to each other.

A neighbor is defined as:

1. a person who lives near another.
2. a person or thing that is near another.
3. one's fellow human being.

Our neighbor's our precious, and it is important to show them gratitude at every opportunity. This day is a reminder that we are all neighbors, and that we should treat each other with love and respect.

HOW TO OBSERVE

#DoSomethingGoodForYourNeighborDay

Celebrate by displaying acts of kindness to your neighbors, friends and anyone who crosses in your path. It's simple to do. By being mindful of other's needs we become more aware of the world around us.

- Help a neighbor bring their garbage bin to the curb on garbage day.
- Offer to weed a flower bed.
- When running errands, ask if there's anything a neighbor needs.
- Invite them over for a cup of tea or coffee. Visits are always nice!
- Drop a note in the mail just letting them know you're thinking about them.

What will you do to celebrate this date?

**Share your plans by emailing me at vdorsey315@gmail.com
Even the smallest gesture counts!!**



COLEMAN & BUTTONWOOD CHURCH NEWSLETTER



OPPORTUNITY NEWSLETTER

Senator Darius Brown
Second District

Hello friends and neighbors,

Thanks to the incredible progress of Delaware's vaccination program combined with the warmer weather of spring, we have seen [a steep decline in new COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations and deaths](#) in recent weeks – leading to some major upcoming changes to public health restrictions statewide.

[Getting vaccinated has never been easier](#). More than 55% of all Delawareans ages 16 and older have now received at least one dose of COVID-19 vaccine, while nearly 43% are fully vaccinated. That includes 88% of seniors over the age of 65 who are or soon will be fully vaccinated.

Last weekend, the 7-day average of new cases in Delaware also fell below 200 for the first time since early November while hospitalizations and deaths are also on the decline.

As a result of the improving outlook, Governor Carney recently announced he and the Delaware Division of Public Health are lifting or reducing several major restrictions.

[Starting on Friday, May 21](#), all capacity restrictions will be lifted inside restaurants, retail shops, other business establishments and all houses of worship. Masks will continue to be required indoors, but social distancing requirements will move from 6 feet of space to just 3 feet.

The Delaware General Assembly is reducing some restrictions, as well.

Starting tomorrow, Senators will begin meeting for floor votes in person at Legislative Hall for the first time in nearly 16 months – a small but meaningful step toward normalcy.

Live video of the proceedings will be broadcast on the General Assembly website and the public can continue to join committee hearings virtually, but space restrictions inside Legislative Hall – one of the smallest legislative buildings in the country – mean we will not be able to open the building fully just yet.

Please continue to take precautions and hopefully we can see each other again soon. Get tested regularly, practice responsible social distancing, wash your hands frequently, always wear a mask in public and – please – get vaccinated as soon as possible.

Go to [**de.gov/coronavirus**](https://de.gov/coronavirus) for additional information on Delaware's reduced COVID-19 restrictions

- Changes to Delaware's vaccination program
- Testing sites near us
- Delaware's accelerated learning plan
- Food resources and rental assistance
- Delaware's upcoming school board elections And more!

Be well and stay safe,

Darius Brown

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Darius Brown".

Senator, 2nd District

