God and the Pandemic │ Sundays @ 7:15 pm
Beginning Today, Pastor Megan will lead this 6 week on-line group. The book, "God and the Pandemic: A Christian Reflection on the Coronavirus and It's Aftermath" addresses important questions many of us have wondered during this time: is God punishing us (or someone) with the pandemic? Why is this happening? What should we think about God during this time? How can we recover from this? Join us as we engage with this book and each other and find spiritual guidance for these turbulent times. If you are interested, please contact Pastor Megan, 706-499-2209, after this service.

Blood Drive │ Monday, February 22 │ 2:30 pm - 7:00 pm
Bethlehem First UMC will host a blood drive in the Fellowship Hall on tomorrow, Monday, February 22nd. Please schedule an appointment at www.linktr.ee/bfumc, or on the American Red Cross Blood Donor App, or by calling 1-800-RED-CROSS.

Lenten Lunch Lifts │ Wednesdays │ 12:00 pm
Join us each week during Lent at 12:00, noon, for a mid-week devotional. Find the Lenten Lunch Lifts on our Facebook page and YouTube, which are linked on linktree, www.linktr.ee/bfumc.

Candy Donations Now Being Accepted
We need candy, non-melting, wrapped, for our spring Fling Egg Hunts. Donation bins will be located in the Stars Café and the Narthex.

February 21, 2021 │ 11:00 Worship
First Sunday in Lent

We all wrestle with doubt from time to time in our lives, but is that really a bad thing? In Mark 9:14-29 a desperate father brings his son to Jesus’ disciples filled with faith, trusting that they can heal him; but when they fail, he begins to doubt. When he finally encounters Jesus he acknowledges his doubts, “I believe; help my unbelief!” It is a commonly held belief that doubt is the opposite of faith, but that’s not entirely true. In order to doubt we first must believe. Doubt can actually be a catalyst to our faith, doubt can drive us to a deeper, richer faith. The truth is uncertainty and doubt are a certain part of life, and when we embrace the uncertainty and doubts in life we can actually be transformed. Faith is not the absence of doubt but the embracing of it and ultimately the transformation of it into a deeper conviction. The tension between belief and unbelief, faith and doubt, certainty and uncertainty in life is not a bad thing. Struggling with our doubts, wrestling with our uncertainties can ultimately lead to a stronger faith that will enable us to develop a confident assurance in the certainty of God’s loving presence in our lives.

Complete announcement details are printed each week in The Bethlehem Happenings, which is emailed church-wide Friday of each week. If you are not receiving this email, please contact the church office at info@bethlehemfirstumc.com.

WWW.BETHLEHEMFIRSTUMC.ORG
Sometimes we wonder how we have gotten through some of the difficult situations and circumstances we've faced in life; especially during this past year.

God has been with us, lifting us up and comforting our spirits.

But even as people of faith we still struggle and worry, often we find ourselves filled with anxiety, doubt, worry, and uncertainty.

Yet, through it all God's loving presence has sustained us and continues to strengthen us.

This morning we gather together to begin our Lenten journey and listen for God's call to us.

Lord, we are listening and seeking your guidance. We acknowledge that while we believe, we still have doubts.

We do good and yet we continue to sin. We are imperfect but we are still beloved by God.

Though we are full of trust and full of doubt, we are here.

Speak to us, God!

Inspire our hearts. Enlighten our minds. Guide our actions. We yearn for a new way, a new perspective, a clear path, and to trust you even more. We believe Lord. Help our unbelief. Amen.

Compassionate and faithful Lord, we are grateful for your continual and certain abiding love and grace. We come to admit this morning that during recent months our faith has faltered from time to time; our trust of your promises has grown too thin, our love for you has been crowded out by our selfishness, our hold on you has not been very firm, and alongside of our belief there is persistent unbelief. We come in our weakness and ask for your grace. Please forgive us for the sake of Jesus Christ your Son. And hold us firmly in your grace. Amen.

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord: who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Just As I Am (V. 1) UMH 357

Mark 9:14 - 29 Fran Bower

“The Uncertainty of Faith” Rev. Bernat

Nothing But the Blood (Vv. 1,3, 4) UMH 374

Rev. Bernat

Katie Wilson