It isn’t unusual for me to write a different Anchor article than the one I planned. In fact, I have a file on my computer I call “Anchor Discards” so that I can come back to an earlier idea. Often, I will ditch an article because the idea is half-baked, or because I realize part way through writing it that there is a better plan. This month, COVID-19 changed my plans. We have moved from a distant threat to a present state of self-isolation, which has made all of us ask questions we have not asked before. I’ll share with you some of the thoughts I have had in the hopes they might be helpful to you:

**Is cancelling worship giving up on faith?**
I admit it — I initially balked when Bishop Lewis asked us to cancel services. She is the Bishop, and I normally follow her lead, but for a few moments, I considered ignoring the directive. What changed my mind was realizing that I have a duty to protect people, especially those most vulnerable, who will follow my lead. COVID-19 (Coronavirus 19) is more dangerous than we thought and, even though most people who develop it will recover, it can have life-long repercussions even for those who recover. It can overwhelm our health systems easily, and lives can be lost needlessly. We do not have the Hippocratic Oath, but we have something similar — Wesley’s first general rule: “First: By doing no harm, by avoiding evil of every kind.” If I asked people to gather for worship, I could literally do harm. At a minimum, I am setting a bad example that might lead to other kinds of harm. Fortunately, our audio-visual team had set up livestreaming capabilities more than a year ago, so we had an alternative from the start.

**What about pastoral care?** This decision follows from the first. Pastor Tommy and I had some brief discussions and determined the best course of action to be to use our phones for pastoral care because of the risk to life. Added to this, as it has been pointed out to me, not only is Tommy in a high-risk group, but by virtue of Type 1 diabetes, I am probably also in a higher risk group as well. I am not a fan of the phone, but it is a valuable tool, and right now, an invaluable tool.

**What about finances?** Even though most, if not all, meetings and groups are now cancelled for the time being, we still have bills as a church and, if we are not meeting, people are less likely to be giving. I have no easy answer for this question, and I am praying for insight and your help. Long and

*Continued on Page 2*
What more? We are just learning at this stage — please bear with us, pray with us and, where you can, offer your insights. This has to be the strangest and least expected period of ministry I have ever experienced. I am grateful for the wisdom others have shared with me, and I am grateful for the support each of us is giving to others. It may not be likely, but it is possible by the grace of God, that we emerge stronger after the self-imposed quarantine is lifted. May we stay safe, pray hard, stay healthy, and watch out for each other!

Your fellow servant in Christ Jesus,

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Holy Week: April 5-12

Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday on April 5. We then move to a Maundy Thursday service (7 p.m., location to be determined) on April 9. On Good Friday, beginning at 6 p.m. April 10, we will observe the Stations of the Cross by walking up and down Salt Ponds Road. We will then celebrate Easter Sunday together on April 12. You are encouraged to experience as much of it as you can and, whenever you can’t be present, catch the live-stream!

Holy Week version 2.0 — We may or may not be back to worshipping in person by Palm Sunday (or even by Easter). If we can’t meet as a group, we still plan to livestream services, and, possibly, to do our Good Friday stations, perhaps in shifts or via livestream. Please check weekly bulletins, Facebook, email, and our webpage, and listen for updates as the situation around COVID-19 evolves.
## Church Calendar for April 2020

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this calendar is subject to change. Please check with group leader before attending event. Check bulletin calendar and weekly emails for updates.

| Wednesday, April 1 | 9:30 a.m. | **Cancelled** — Soul Sisters Wednesday Morning Bible Study |
|                    | 2:00 p.m. | **Cancelled** — Sing-alongs |
|                    | 6:00 p.m. | **Tentative** — VBS Planning Meeting (Tri-X) |
|                    | 6:00 p.m. | **Cancelled** — Wesley Bell Choir |
|                    | 6:30 p.m. | **Cancelled** — Karate for Christ |
|                    | 7:00 p.m. | **Tentative** — Wednesday Night Bible Study (ESR) |
|                    | 7:00 p.m. | **Cancelled** — Chancel Choir |
| Thursday, April 2  | 11:00 a.m. | **Cancelled** — Reunion Group |
|                    | 5:00 p.m. | **Cancelled** — Young People’s Praise Band |
|                    | 5:30 p.m. | **Cancelled** — MOPS Meeting and MOPS Kids |
|                    | 6:30 p.m. | **Cancelled** — Youth Life Groups |
|                    | 6:30 p.m. | **Cancelled** — Young Adult Life Groups |
| Friday, April 3    | 6:30 p.m. | **Cancelled** — Karate for Christ |
| Saturday, April 4  | 7:00 a.m. | **Tentative** — District Prayer Team (S) |
| Sunday, April 5    | 8:30 a.m. | **Online** Worship |
|                    | 9:45 a.m. | **Online** Sunday School/Small Groups |
|                    | 11:00 a.m. | **Online** Worship |
|                    | 6:00 p.m. | **Cancelled** — Youth Fellowship |
| Monday, April 6    | 1:00 p.m. | Daylight Bible Study (Tri-X) |
| Tuesday, April 7   | 10:00 a.m. | Shawl Makers (ESR) |
|                    | 10:30 a.m. | Staff Meeting (Tri-X) |
| Wednesday, April 8 | 9:30 a.m. | Soul Sisters Wednesday Morning Bible Study (Tri-X) |
|                    | 10:00 a.m. | UMW Wednesday Morning Circle Meeting |
|                    | 6:00 p.m. | Wesley Bell Choir (S) |
|                    | 6:30 p.m. | Karate for Christ (FH) |
|                    | 7:00 p.m. | **Wednesday Night Bible Study** (ESR) |
|                    | 7:00 p.m. | **Cancelled** — Chancel Choir (S) |
| Thursday, April 9  | 11:00 a.m. | Reunion Group (Pastor Tommy’s Office) |
|                    | 5:00 p.m. | Young People’s Praise Band (S) |
|                    | 6:30 p.m. | Youth Life Groups |
|                    | 6:30 p.m. | Young Adult Life Groups |
|                    | 7:00 p.m. | **Online** — Maundy Thursday Service |
|                    | 7:00 p.m. | **Cancelled** — UMW Thursday Evening Circle Meeting |
| Friday, April 10   | 6:00 p.m. | **Online** — Stations of the Cross |
|                    | 6:30 p.m. | Karate for Christ (FH) |
| Saturday, April 11 | 7:00 a.m. | District Prayer Team (S) |
|                    | 2:00 p.m. | **Cancelled** — Easter Egg Hunt |
| Sunday, April 12   | 8:30 a.m. | **Online** Worship |
|                    | 9:45 a.m. | **Online** Sunday School/Small Groups |
|                    | 11:00 a.m. | **Online** Worship |
|                    | 6:00 p.m. | **Cancelled** — Youth Fellowship |
| Monday, April 13   | 1:00 p.m. | Daylight Bible Study (Tri-X) |
|                    | 6:00 p.m. | Girl Scouts Troop 1062 Meeting (B201) |
|                    | 6:15 p.m. | Children’s Activities Team (PP) |
|                    | 6:30 p.m. | Finance Committee (ESR) |
|                    | 7:00 p.m. | **Online** — Church Council |
| Tuesday, April 14  | 10:00 a.m. | **Cancelled** — UMW Wesley Circle Meeting (PP) |
|                    | 10:00 a.m. | Shawl Makers (ESR) |
Wednesday, April 15

Anchor Newsletter Deadline
9:30 a.m. Trustees Meeting (ESR)
9:30 a.m. Soul Sisters Wednesday Morning Bible Study (Tri-X)
12:00 p.m. Women’s Fellowship of Circumstance
3:00 p.m. Wednesday Afternoon Book Club (ESR)
6:00 p.m. Wesley Bell Choir (S)
6:30 p.m. Karate for Christ (FH)
7:00 p.m. Wednesday Night Bible Study (ESR)

Thursday, April 16

11:00 a.m. Reunion Group (Pastor Tommy's Office)
2:00 p.m. Communications Team Meeting (Tri-X)
5:00 p.m. Young People’s Praise Band (S)
6:30 p.m. Youth Life Groups
6:30 p.m. Young Adult Life Groups
7:00 p.m. Nominations Committee (Tri-X)
7:00 p.m. Thursday Night Book Club (ESR)

Friday, April 17

6:30 p.m. Karate for Christ (FH)

Saturday, April 18

7:00 a.m. District Prayer Team (S)

Sunday, April 19

8:30 a.m. Online Worship
9:45 a.m. Online Sunday School/Small Groups
11:00 a.m. Online Worship
6:00 p.m. Youth Fellowship

Monday, April 20

1:00 p.m. Daylight Bible Study (Tri-X)
7:00 p.m. UMM Dinner Meeting (FH)

Tuesday, April 21

8:00 a.m. Facilities Team Breakfast and Work Day
10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting (Tri-X)
10:00 a.m. Shawl Makers (ESR)
1:00 p.m. Bagging for Food Pantry
7:00 p.m. PPSRC (Tri-X)

Wednesday, April 22

9:30 a.m. Soul Sisters Wednesday Morning Bible Study (Tri-X)
12:00 p.m. Food Pantry
12:00 p.m. Men’s Fellowship of Circumstance

Thursday, April 23

11:00 a.m. Reunion Group (Pastor Tommy’s Office)
5:00 p.m. Young People’s Praise Band (S)
6:30 p.m. Youth Life Groups
6:30 p.m. Young Adult Life Groups

Friday, April 24

6:30 p.m. Karate for Christ (FH)

Saturday, April 25

7:00 a.m. District Prayer Team (S)

Sunday, April 26

8:30 a.m. Online Worship
9:45 a.m. Online Sunday School/Small Groups
11:00 a.m. Online Worship
4:00 p.m. ODS Concert with Donnie Cook (S)
6:00 p.m. Youth Fellowship

Monday, April 27

1:00 p.m. Daylight Bible Study (Tri-X)
6:00 p.m. Girl Scouts Troop 1062 Meeting (B201)
7:00 p.m. UMW Executive Board (ESR)

Tuesday, April 28

10:00 a.m. Shawl Makers (ESR)

Wednesday, April 29

9:30 a.m. Soul Sisters Wednesday Morning Bible Study (Tri-X)
5:00 p.m. Yard Sale Set Up
6:00 p.m. Wesley Bell Choir (S)
6:30 p.m. Karate for Christ (FH)
7:00 p.m. Wednesday Night Bible Study (ESR)
7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir (S)

Thursday, April 30

11:00 a.m. Reunion Group (Pastor Tommy’s Office)
5:00 p.m. Yard Sale Set Up
5:00 p.m. Young People’s Praise Band (S)
6:30 p.m. Youth Life Groups
6:30 p.m. Young Adult Life Groups
I KNOW MY REDEEMER LIVES

JOB 19:25
Martha's Ministry Notes

Thank you to all the ladies and team leaders who generously give their time and love for the wonderful Martha's Ministry program that this church provides to grieving families and friends. Please consider joining one of our teams. If you are interested, please contact Marilyn Eubank.

April/May

Team Leader: Evelyn Boone
Members: Holly Blackmon, Nancy Browning, Kathy Day, Amy Johnson, Mary Plum-Hogge, Jo Ann Smith, Linda West, Joyce Wilson, and Beverly Stanley

Food Pantry Needs Expand During COVID-19

Our lives are being disrupted because of the coronavirus. Children, who were once fed while they were in school, are home now because their schools are closed. Service businesses are closed forcing mass unemployment and loss of income. More and more people are going to need assistance with basic essentials, such as food. The FUMC FH Food Pantry is here to help meet that need.

According to Mary McAnally, the Food Pantry thinks that they will be having higher numbers to the pantry due to the numbers of persons not working / not getting an income — probably more in April, than in March. The longer the physical distancing goes on, the more need there will be with more persons looking to food pantries.

Useful items to donate include canned fruit, jelly, boxes of cereal or oatmeal, granola bars and NutriGrain bars, taco dinner kits, canned pasta (Spaghettios and Chef Boyardee), canned soup (Chunky and Progresso), canned chili, beef and Brunswick stews, Hamburger/Tuna/Chicken Helper, canned tuna and chicken, Vienna sausages, pasta and rice sides, and instant quick cook rice.
April Birthdays

Leslie Eubank 4/1
Salvatore Nicosia 4/1
Laura Sagaser 4/2
Leigh Loyd 4/2
Judy Taylor 4/2
Jackie Ehrlich 4/3
Steven Cato 4/3
Joanne Holley 4/4
Julie Allen 4/4
Catherine Westphal 4/4
Dennis Lee 4/4
Ella Miskelly 4/4
Tony Clement 4/4
Woody Wilson 4/5
Laura Dudley 4/5
Ann Hays 4/5
Michael Cole 4/5
Paula Malinowski 4/5
Tyler Dison 4/5
Jennifer Mitchell 4/5
Charles Bullock III 4/6
Cassie Ardern 4/6
Kathleen Leary 4/6
Madeline Ridout 4/6
Elizabeth McCabe 4/6
Dick Haight 4/6
Doug Fisher 4/6
Lisa Brooker 4/6
Marcia Quinn 4/7
Jo Ann Johnson 4/7
Ann Drummond 4/8
Chris Leary 4/8
Brittany Williams 4/8
Alexander Brady 4/9
Daniel Holcomb 4/10
Tristen Lauffer 4/10
Dick Poinsett 4/10
Ruby Gilbert 4/11
Sara Benham 4/11
Jessie Fisher 4/12
Mimeo Soriano 4/13
Nelson Franklin 4/13
Danielle Tatum 4/13
Jason Seely 4/14
Ed Colton 4/15
Katrina Taylor 4/16
Casey Smith 4/16
Jessie Hodges 4/16
Nathan Savage 4/16
Carroll Honeycutt 4/16
Mary Savage 4/16
Yousif Ridha 4/17
Debbie Green 4/17
Julie Williams 4/17
Reagan Carper 4/18
Bonnie Hulton 4/18
Sara Currin 4/19
Carrie Barroso 4/19
Bruce Milne 4/20
Destine Fowler 4/20
Brent Bunting 4/20
Jessica Burns 4/21
Lisa Hite 4/22
Al Francis, Jr. 4/22
Bob Helms 4/23
Elaine Topping 4/23
Brian Phillips 4/23
Grayson Sandford 4/24
Chad Williams 4/24
Dick Royster 4/24
Delia Davis 4/24
Kenny Ward 4/25
Tashaun Brown 4/25
Caedmon Sixbey 4/25
Karen DeShetler 4/26
Kathy Jo Carey 4/27
Randy Godwin 4/27
Robert Cross 4/27
Shantae Bowen 4/28
Janet Gross 4/28
Laine Welch 4/29
Madison Ward 4/29
Larry Sturgeon 4/30
Charles Galay 4/30
Kelli Townsend 4/30
Lauren Chitman 4/30
Meribeth Maxey 4/30
We extend our condolences to John and Jean Pickin in the death of their nephew, Gregory Link, on Friday, February 21.

Military Appreciation

We are updating the PowerPoint military presentations shown on Memorial Day and Veteran's Day weekends which honor/remember church members who have served in branches the U.S. armed forces.

If you know of any church members (living or deceased) who are not currently in one of these presentations, please get in touch with Lisa Hite at hitelw@gmail.com or 757-851-0956. Please provide the person’s name and branch of service and, if available, a photo (it will be scanned, then returned to you). Thank you!

Church Camping

A church-wide camping trip is being planned for the last weekend of June (26-28). Those interested should contact Tom or Lisa Hite at hitelw@gmail.com or 757-851-0956. All are welcome for a fun, relaxing time with friends and nature. Additional information will be forthcoming.
Pastor Tommy’s Reflections Upon the Obvious

Strength. What’s with strength? Some go to the Y and lift weights for developing their “Strength.” Another way to use the word is when we talk about moral Strength. Perhaps that is the way that we must talk about the word strength today. “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.” This popped up twice during devotions this morning! We talk about the strength of Christ who shares his strength with us that we can do anything that the Lord directs us to do because of it. We have the strength to live righteous lives because of what Jesus has given us. So we can rely on what the Lord gives us. The world needs strength to trust God and pray for the end of the coronavirus. What do you need strength for today?

Reflection

Our scripture reading for this reflection is Joshua 1:1-9. From Joshua 1:8 we determine our text for the day: “Keep this book of law always on your lips, meditate on it day and night.” Today we can consider the whole Bible as “the book of law.” In the day in which Joshua refers, he was referring only to the first few books of the Bible. But now we have the whole of the holy writings, which contains not only the original “law,” but also the history of God’s interaction with humankind. The most important thing we find in the Bible is the story of Jesus and what he did that we might have eternal life. Keep it on your lips. That is to say, read it, memorize it, share it, talk about it, pray it, and let it become you! To meditate on it day and night simply means to read it before bedtime, upon arising, and during the day. Portions of it will pop into your mind, and you can recite them to yourself.

God’s promise to Joshua that “I will never leave you nor forsake you” applies to each and every one of us!

Looking Forward to the Next 50 Plus Gathering

The next (barring continued physical distancing) 50 Plus outing is on Sunday afternoon, June 21, to enjoy the always fun “Sister Act” performed by The Williamsburg Players.

When disco diva Deloris Van Cartier witnesses a murder, she is put in protective custody in the one place the cops are sure she won't be found: a convent! Disguised as a nun, she finds herself at odds with both the rigid lifestyle and the Mother Superior. Using her disco moves and singing talent to inspire the choir, Deloris breathes new life into the church and community; but, in doing so, she blows her cover. Soon, the gang is giving chase, only to run into Deloris and the power of her newfound sisterhood. “Sister Act” will leave audiences breathless with powerful gospel music, outrageous dancing, and a moving story. A tribute to the universal power of friendship, “Sister Act” gives audiences a reason to rejoice! Afterwards, we’ll stop for dinner. Cost is just $17 plus your lunch.

For questions or reservations on any of our outings, contact Anne or Bill Bryan at 757-851-0748 or by e-mail to abandbb1@cox.net.
**Joys and Gratitude**

Dear Friends,
Thank you all so very much for all the Get Well wishes and beautiful cards. They certainly made each day a little brighter.

— Carroll Honeycutt

I would like to thank my church family for helping me out during my recent fall. It was so gracious to receive calls, cards and food that was brought by for me. It meant so much for the outreach that I received. I love my church family. You’re all special, special people. God bless you all. I thank God every day for having this Church/Congregation pass through my journey in life! Blessings to you all!

— Darlene Hayden

Thank you to the congregation for your great support of the Food Pantry, in consistently bringing in dry goods and placing in the red Food Pantry tub. It seems that, every time it is passed, there are new products in it and, once emptied, more new products arrive. This support by the congregation helps the Food Pantry out tremendously as well as minimizes the shopping done at the Food Bank (which uses church funds).

Many thanks — you all are amazing!

— The Food Pantry Team

**More Joys and Gratitude**

I would like to thank several members of our congregation for going above and beyond during this time of COVID-19. Last Sunday, although the nursery was closed, the nursery staff (Lynn Landrum, Jessica Burns, and Samantha Chong) used the time to clean and sanitize the entire nursery section of the church.

Zachary Struhs, in his capacity as Night Watchman this week, has spent each evening cleaning and sterilizing all door knobs and handles.

— Susan Compton

**UMM Yard Sale Tentatively Set**

The United Methodist Men’s Yard Sale is scheduled for the first Saturday in May. However, there is the possibility of postponement or cancellation of the event due to Covid-19 concerns. If the yard sale takes place, the UM Men will be receiving sale items at the church from 5 until 8 p.m. on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, April 29- May 1. More information will go out to the church membership at a later date, as we have a better handle on the situation.

**Scouts BSA Schedule**

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<tr>
<th>Tuesdays — Weekly — Offsite in April</th>
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<td>6:30 p.m.</td>
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<th>Fridays, April 10 &amp; April 24 — Offsite in April</th>
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<th>Tuesday, April 21 — Tentative</th>
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Financial Fundamentals

This report briefly addresses finances at First United Methodist Church Fox Hill. The latest weekly and year-to-date information is in the weekly bulletin.

WOW! This has been a challenging year for all of us in so many ways, and our church finances are certainly one. January and February were light on giving, but we have covered one month of our Virginia Conference Apportionments while paying all of our bills. We have made our monthly mortgage payments and ended February with an outstanding mortgage balance of $204,025.

Clearly, our challenge at this time is how to cover our continuing expenses while operating with pews that are empty for the safety of all. We know that this is a stressful time for everyone and that stress includes finances for many, including our staff. While God provides for each of us in different ways, to the extent that you are able, we urge you to keep up, or even increase, financial support of your church. Do that by mailing your checks to the church or by making your donations electronically. Simply go to the church web page at www.firstumcfoxhill.org and click on the Donate to FUMCFH button. Your contributions can be made from your checking/savings account or by using your credit/debit card. They can be one-time, weekly, or monthly donations. We greatly appreciate your support for our continuing work and for our staff. Thank you!

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<th>Total One Fund – Through February 2020</th>
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<tr>
<td>Income For Planned Expenses¹</td>
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<td>Total One Fund Expenses (excludes pass through²)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pass Through Income²</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pass Through Expense²</td>
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<td>“Pay-It-Forward” Contributions</td>
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¹Includes regular and memorial contributions, building use income, interest, etc.

²This item represents funds contributed, but passed through to non-budget items, e.g., flowers, Advocate subscriptions, special mission programs, etc. [Some pass through income was received in 2019; paid 2020.]

This is tax time, and you may soon be receiving a tax refund or a “stimulus” check. You may want to consider using part or all of those funds to support FUMC Fox Hill.

Be generous with what God has provided. Your gifts help others in many ways and are used to spread God’s word.

If you have any concerns or questions about FUMC FH finances, please contact our financial staff through the office or Bill Bryan, Finance Chair, at 757-851-0748 or by e-mail at billb-1111@cox.net.

All submissions for the Anchor need to be received no later than the 15th of each month to be included in the next newsletter.
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH FOX HILL
1 SALT POND ROAD
HAMPTON, VA 23664

TO BE REMOVED FROM OUR MAILING LIST, PLEASE CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE.

CURRENT RESIDENT or
MAILING ADDRESS
LABEL GOES HERE

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
FOX HILL

Sunday Worship: 8:30 & 11:00 a.m. • Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.
Can’t be here in person? Livestream us from our website

www.firstumcfoxhill.org • www.facebook.com/firstumcfoxhill
churchoffice@firstumcfoxhill.org • 757-851-6302

Pastor: Brian Sixbey • Assistant Pastor: Tommy Markham
Youth Director: Josh McNutt • Music Director/Organist: Mark Biondolillo