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Reverend Effie was still on vacation as of press time. Instead of her "Living in Hope," here's a short reflection relating to our upcoming stewardship campaign.

## Outside My Own Little World

"Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves." --  
Philippians 2:3

It seems the world these days teeters between those who seek to protect "their own" and those who dare to declare that all are worthy of compassion and care. We are encouraged to get out of ourselves and our "own little world". As we prepare to go outside our comfort zones and into the vast possibilities of the Reign of God—to pledge our support, our presence, our energy, and our resources to the next year of ministry. We are encouraged to live and love deeply, to expand our worlds, to expand our relationships. We bless each person for the commitment and pray mightily for the work of the church as a whole.

--from the Worship Design Studio

## Stewardship

November is our annual stewardship campaign. Each week will feature a different way of thinking about our missions and ministries locally, in New England, and the world. Please tune in, think about how your gift can make a difference, and make your pledge at the culmination of our campaign on the 29<sup>th</sup>.

- 11/8 – How the church works in the world
- 11/15 – The church's mission in the New England Conference
- 11/22 – What does Shepherd of the Valley mean to me?
- 11/29 – Consecration Sunday and the receiving of pledges

## Shepherd of the Valley United Methodist Church Vision Statement

We are Shepherd of the Valley United Methodist Church, a multi-generational Christ community seeking to sing God's spirit into the world by inviting all, serving all, loving all.

Shepherd of the Valley United Methodist Church, 604 Seven Mile Road, Hope, RI 02831

Worship via Zoom (see inside for details), Sunday, 10:00 a.m.

Office currently closed—use information below to get in touch with us

Phone: 821-8217 • Fax: 826-7787 • E-mail: office@sovumc.org • Web site: sovumc.org

Rev. Effie McAvoy

### To Shepherd of the Valley

*I'm not sure if you appreciate your impact, but as of October, Shepherd of the Valley is almost caught up on Mission Shares! That hasn't been true at this time of year in a while. Despite not meeting in person in months, and with a pandemic raging, your generosity has allowed us to meet our commitments to the conference and to the wider church.*

United Methodists are connectional. If we want to give money beyond our local church and local community needs, the first place to look is our mission share system. Together we do more.

November, our fall stewardship campaign, is the time when we traditionally take stock of our blessings and consider how we will support Shepherd of the Valley's ministry and missions for the coming year. This year is especially important as many have had their lives disrupted by the effects, direct and indirect, of COVID. Often in times of trial, the church is where people turn. We want to be there for them. Through our Food Pantry, our outreach, our prayers, just being there for people.

During the month we will hear from individuals with first-hand experience about some of the ways that Shepherd of the Valley makes a difference in the world, in New England, and in our own community. As we go through this month, we ask you to prayerfully consider how you will support Shepherd of the Valley in the coming year.

Our individual gifts of support make us a better church for the sake of God's world. Your pledge is important!



Circuit Rider Information Due  
November 15<sup>th</sup>  
(Please note revised due date)

### Remember These Easy Ways to Give

- **Electronically**—Use this link: <https://www.sovumc.org/give-now/>
- **By Mobile**—Use the GivePlus Mobile app: <https://www.sovumc.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/GivePlus-Mobile-How-its-Works.pdf>  
**Note:** The church pays a small fee for Vanco services (our online giving provider), which you are given the opportunity to cover on each transaction—every little bit helps!
- **By Cash or Check**—If you normally give by cash or check on Sunday mornings, please mail your contributions to the church (604 Seven Mile Road, Hope RI 02831) or save the stamp and use the link above (use the “General Fund” category). Repeat transactions can be selected when paying by credit or debit card.
- **Electronic Funds Transfer**—Another option is to have your contribution deducted from your checking account; to set this up, contact the church office (401-821-8217). Also contact the office if you would like to increase your regular gift during this time or need to decrease it.

*Thank you for your continued faithful giving!*

## Office Notes

### Upper Room

Copies of the *Upper Room* are available in the box outside the Hope Room.

### Announcements and Prayer Lists

Please have your announcements sent to Pam no later than Tuesday for the following Sunday. Announcements should be brief (expanded versions should be sent to Hannah for the Circuit Rider.) Names for the Prayer List should also be sent to her with a notation for those who are long-term.

### Zoom and Room Scheduling

Requests for use of the church's Zoom account should be sent to Sandy Knapp at [sknapp719@icloud.com](mailto:sknapp719@icloud.com). Room schedules for small groups should be scheduled through Pam in the church office.

## Upcoming Events

### Trunk or Treat

Trunk or Treat will happen on Friday October 30<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m.! To keep the number limited and keep us safe, we are making it an event for ONLY families in our church. Please be sure to let me know who is coming in your family so we can plan for candy and for contact tracing. As said before, we will be practicing social distancing guidelines, we will only be outside for the event and everyone MUST wear a mask! Thank you and we are very excited we can provide this event for our kids!

Lisa Marciniak  
(518) 330-6093  
[lhardgrove@yahoo.com](mailto:lhardgrove@yahoo.com)

### Women in Spiritual Harmony (WISH)

WISH is going to do *Sent: Delivering the Gift of Hope at Christmas* by Jorge Acevedo. The product description is as follows " God sent Christ at Christmas. In turn, Christ sends us into the world to be his hands and feet, head and heart. Dynamic pastor Jorge Acevedo leads us on a 5-week Advent journey to discover how, where, and why we are sent. Joining him on the journey are four young clergy including Jacob Armstrong, Rachel Billups, Justin LaRosa, and Lanecia Rouse, who challenge us through story, art, and Bible study." Members should purchase their own books, available through Amazon or bookstores..

### Wednesday Wisdom Seekers

The Wednesday Wisdom Seekers meets via Zoom on Wednesdays from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. Our study is "Living the Questions ProFuture Faith: The Prodigal Species Comes Home." The series looks at how we've squandered our inheritance on profligate living, making us a "prodigal species." Join us!

### Parent's Night In: Zoom Style!

On Friday, November 13<sup>th</sup> starting at 8:30, parents can meet up on the church's zoom link for some social time. It's our version of Parent's Night In from Family Fun Night. Hope to see you there!

Lisa Marciniak

### Advent is Coming!

Advent starts on November 29<sup>th</sup> this year and though no one is sure what the holidays will bring, we are planning to make them as special as possible here at SOV. Pastor Effie, Sandy Knapp, Lisa Marciniak, Steve Haunschild and the Adult Choir, the Worship Committee, and others have been working hard to bring you some special events and including the Christmas Cantata, possibly a Children's Pageant, and other surprises. Keep your eye on the announcements and December *Circuit Rider* for more information.

## Regular Events

*Editor's Note: SOV has a number of regular meetings and events, listed below. Unless otherwise noted, these will occur via Zoom (see the "Zoom Information" article for details). If you have something you'd like included in this section, please email me at [belllomb@cox.net](mailto:belllomb@cox.net). Also please note that some groups are still trying to figure out how best to meet given COVID restrictions. Keep your eye on this section in future editions as the listing may change.*

*Hannah Bell-Lombardo*

- **Sunday Worship**—Sunday worship will continue to be held via Zoom. Pre-worship gathering starts at 9:30, worship starts at 10:00 a.m. The order of service will be emailed in advance. Please contact the office if you would like to be included on this email.
- **Sunday School** - Sunday School meets in person from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. on Sundays. The kids will meet in the sanctuary and then will be led to either the Hope Room for the younger kids, the nursery for the youngest kids and either the Library or the sanctuary for the oldest kids. Parents may socially distance in the fellowship hall for some Parent Recharge or come back at 2pm to pick up their child(ren). Please remember, we cannot serve any food but we will have juice boxes and water for after Sunday School. Thank you and see you there! Any questions/concerns, please contact Lisa Marciniak at [lhardgrove@yahoo.com](mailto:lhardgrove@yahoo.com) or (518) 330-6093.

- **Communion Sunday** – Pastor Effie will be offering communion during worship via Zoom on the first Sunday of each month. If you would like to participate, you can pick up some grape juice and some kind of bread which she will bless during worship. If you have questions, please feel free to contact Pastor Effie.
- **Women in Spiritual Harmony**—Wednesdays from 9:30 to 11:00 a.m. via Zoom.
- **Wednesday Wisdom Seekers**—This group will continue to meet via Zoom on Wednesdays from 6:30 to 8:00.
- **Men’s Breakfast**—The Men’s Breakfast will continue every other week (November 13<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> this month) at Phenix Square Restaurant in West Warwick. Social distancing and masks required.

## Zoom Information



In this time of social distancing, most upcoming church meetings and gatherings will continue to be held via Zoom at least for the foreseeable future.

Joining information is as follows:

MEETING LINK:

<https://zoom.us/j/97102295116?pwd=amQrMU1laFlZlZlZGtHMzJlVXVuQT09>

Meeting ID: 971 0229 5116; Password: 544806

DIAL IN: Dial 1-646-558-8656. At prompts add Meeting ID 97102295116#; Participant ID 0#; Passcode 544806#

For help, go to <https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/201362663-Joining-a-meeting-by-phone>.

Please note that this Zoom “room” is also available to church members who do not have a Zoom account and want to connect with other members, family, or friends. Please check with the Pastor Effie, Sandy Knapp, or the church office to be sure nothing else is scheduled.

## United Methodist Women (UMW)

### Shepherd of the Valley UMW

The SOVUMW group met on Sat. October 17th and decided to not meet for the next few months. The New England Conference UMW has not been able to set up a Seacoast District of UMW that we would be accountable to at this time. We look forward to meeting again and will keep you advised of our future plans. Thank you all for your support over the many years that UMW has been important to the life of our church.

Blessings, Barbara Walz

### Please Help!

As the United Methodist Women aren’t meeting or holding fundraising events, we are asking the congregation if you are willing to help us pay some of our mission budget of \$3,450. Our active members have contributed \$1,000 toward our budgeted amount of \$1,200 for our district. This money will be forwarded to our conference, combined with all other UMW organizations. The conference leaders will disburse this money nationwide to help support women, young adults, youth and children in need. We also support Camp Aldersgate, Red Bird Mission, and Aldersbridge Communities (formerly United Methodist Elder Care). Any donations, regardless of the amount will help those less fortunate. If you care to donate, please send your contribution to: Martha Bower, Treasurer, 21 Set n Sun, Hope, RI 02831.

### Prayer and Self Denial

The UMW commits themselves every year to sending a donation to help change the lives of women, children and youth throughout the world. This offering will go toward educational and economic development opportunities to underserved and marginalized women, children and youth. Projects will include child development and afterschool programs: GED and ESL programs; job readiness, life skills and livelihood training; scholarships and microenterprise projects.

(United Methodist Women continued)

### World Thank Offering

This is another annual donation that we make. We as an organization are rooted in shining a light on issues that are often overlooked, such as human trafficking to domestic violence, injustices like economic inequality, mass incarceration, threats to the climate, and maternal and child health care issues.

Our call to be the hands and feet of Jesus to eradicate these injustices in the world is a weighty task. But we can begin to chip away at the impact of these injustices one person at a time. Every gift we share has an immediate impact, and we can rejoice in knowing that in every moment we have the opportunity to change the lives of women, children and youth around the world.

You can designate where you would like your offering to go, to one project or hopefully to all of the above. We thank you immensely for reading these articles and for your generous donations.

## In Person Small Group Meetings

As we inch back to “normal” in-person small group meetings will be allowed with strict guidelines. At the present time the church is allowing groups with no more than 20 attendees; meeting times must be reserved in advance; groups must stay in their assigned meeting locations; masks must be worn at all times while in the church. There are individual folders in the narthex for each group using the church to assist with contact tracing. (Have each attendee sign in with a phone number and email and then return the sheet to either Pam’s box in the hallway or place on her desk.) Contact Pam to reserve a date, time and location for your meeting. All Zoom meetings will continue to be scheduled through Sandy Knapp.



## Music Notes



We’re excited that (as long as the governor allows during this pandemic) we are able to meet periodically to record contributions to our Zoom services and to prepare to record our Christmas Cantata for the Sunday before Christmas Day. Please let Steve Haunschild, SOV Music Director know at [shaunschild@verizon.net](mailto:shaunschild@verizon.net) if you want to and can participate with us.

All the best in these troubled times.

Steve

## Help Wanted

### Trustees

The trustees are seeking people interested in caring for the physical structures and the grounds of Shepherd of the Valley property. You don't need to own a chainsaw or be able to run one, but you might recognize tree work that needs to be done and organize a cleanup crew or engage a tree removal company. You don't need to be an electrician, but you might arrange to meet with one to discuss electrical repairs or supervise electrical upgrades. You don't need to be a roofer or a painter, but recognizing when a roof needs replacing or when something needs painting and soliciting bids from contractors for project completion could be how you serve. You don't need to be a plumber, either, but maybe you 'know a guy' who can repair a leak or update a system. Of course, if you want to paint, saw, repair, fasten, shovel or beautify, there are abundant hands on opportunities, too. Feeling inspired? Talk to Jerry Crosby, Pastor Effie, or another trustee.

Thank you.

Art Searle

### Project Outreach Food Unloaders

Project Outreach at Open Table of Christ is in need of some strong backs to help with receiving our weekly food delivery from the RI Food Bank on Tuesdays from around 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon. You do not have to commit to a weekly presence. Unloading is done outside, and social distancing and mask wearing is practiced. If you

can help, please contact Donna Faria at [dffaria@msn.com](mailto:dffaria@msn.com) or 401-828-5355

### Project Outreach Snacks

As a token of appreciation, the board is providing snacks such as drinks, bars, finger foods, etc. to its volunteers. Help is needed bringing these snacks to the volunteers at around 11:00 a.m. on Tuesdays. Please contact Donna Faria. 401-828-5355 or [dffaria@msn.com](mailto:dffaria@msn.com), or Theresa Squire 401-647-1510 [squirekt@gmail.com](mailto:squirekt@gmail.com) if you're interested.

## Caring and Sharing

### Thanksgiving Baskets

Thanksgiving will be here before we know it and we're giving Thanksgiving baskets to our neighbors in need. This year we are supplying non-perishable items and giving gift cards for the turkeys, rolls and pies. Grab a few items to give today at [www.PerfectPotluck.com/MMEH6648](http://www.PerfectPotluck.com/MMEH6648). We're also accepting cash and \$20 grocery store gift cards. Bins will be outside the Hope Room for your items. Everything is due by November 15. Thank you for your generous donations,  
Barbara Bicknell

### Shepherd's Pantry

With school in session and extra government assistance runs out, we have seen an uptick in requests for the food pantry. We can always use the staples: soup, mac & cheese, pasta, pasta sauce, canned vegetables and fruits, snacks, jelly, rice, and tuna fish. **Boxes are also needed!** Gift cards are always welcome. Thank you for your continued support of this vital ministry. Food Pantry bins are under the overhang at the entrance to the Hope Room.

### Shut-Ins

We have a number of shut-ins who could use a phone call, card, note, or delivery. Contact Pastor Effie or the church office if you can help.

### Magazines Needed

Please save your old magazines. AJ, one of our church children, relieves stress by tearing magazines and needs more given the increased

tension of these times. Please drop your magazines off outside the Hope Room door (where the food pantry bins are located). We will be sure to get them to AJ.

### Social Media

Social media sites, such as Facebook, are becoming an invaluable way to connect with others during this time of self-isolation and social distancing. To join (even if only during the current situation), go to [www.facebook.com/r.php](http://www.facebook.com/r.php), input the appropriate information, and click "Sign Up." Use the search function to find the Shepherd of the Valley page and follow what we're posting.

### Save Your Pop-Tabs!

All those beverages you're consuming while you're at home?? Save those pop-tabs. Bring them to church once we're back together and put them in the box in the kitchen. These tabs go toward helping with food, supplies, and utilities for the Ronald McDonald House in Providence.

## Church Council

### Minutes:

### September 28, 2020

Members of the Church Council present included Lisa Marciniak, Howard Gay, Shyla Dyl, Meg Davis, and Hannah Bell-Lombardo via Zoom; Theresa Squire, Sue Dyl, Barbara Walz, and Sandy Knapp in person in the Hope Room. Also present in person was Pastor Effie McAvoy, and via Zoom, congregation members Rob and Marti Bower.

Sandy opened the meeting at 7:03 p.m. with a prayer. In the minutes approval, Sue Dyl noted that she was not at the last minute. With this correction, the August minutes were unanimously approved. We also agreed to move the meeting time to 6:30 p.m. going forward.

Sandy asked that all group and committee chairs review the list of committee members and determine who is staying and who will be leaving. They were also asked to identify church members

who might be a good addition to their committees. Chairs are asked to let Sandy know their willingness to continue.

In reports:

- Theresa noted that we are still providing snacks to Project Outreach on Tuesdays, and Greg Thuotte helped with unloading. Project Outreach is currently serving about 350 families with its food bank.
  - For worship, Effie noted that there will be a meeting scheduled with Shyla and the committee. Having worship on the lawn was brought up, but it was noted that it would have to be a different format. As we return to in-person worship, options such as multiple services and technology needs need to be considered.
  - Lisa noted that Sunday School is going well so far. She is thankful for the teachers as well as the volunteers who responded to her request for coverage. She is starting to work on the Halloween Trunk or Treat event.
  - Rob is comfortable with the Vanco security for our web and on-line based giving. He noted that we should review, approve, and post our information security policy so the church is aware of it. He will forward it to council members and Pam for review before approval at the next meeting. Marti brought up the fact that we profess to be a welcoming church but visitors need a password to attend worship. This is a security issue based on “Zoom-bombing.” We will look at how to distribute the password and become more welcoming.
  - Hannah presented the finance report in John’s absence: General fund giving to Shepherd of the Valley continues to be strong, more than offsetting the shortfalls in Plate and Easter giving. Regarding expenses, utilities are significantly lower than budget as is reimbursement for pastoral expenses. Looking toward the remaining months of the year, we are still aiming to achieve our balanced budget. We will have shortfalls from our two fundraising efforts (Scituate Art Festival at \$6,000 and our own Holiday event at \$2,000). However, pastoral reimbursements should continue to be below budget as will utilities for
- the church. Continued faithful giving to the church by our members will enable us to maintain our ministries and fund all of our expenses.
  - In Hospitality, Sue brought up how to reach out to others when we can’t meet in person. The committee is looking at dropping stress balls with a saying like, “We know times are stressful, know that you are loved by SOV,” to congregation members in bags. Sunday School attendees might decorate the bags. Hospitality is also looking at how to celebrate Christmas and/or New Years.
  - For Stewardship, Howard noted that we are doing well financially and thanked all the SOV families for their generosity. He also noted that World Communion Sunday is coming up as is the annual stewardship campaign. This will take place in November and include a letter to the congregation during the first week, and then presentations on how the church works in the world, in New England Conference missions, in the local congregation (including what SOV means to its members) in the following weeks, culminating with Consecration Sunday, when we make our pledges, at the end of the month.
  - Barbara reported on the UMW, sharing that the group is trying to get their bearings between a new district, inability to fundraise, and not being able to get together in person easily. There will be a Zoom meeting on the 17<sup>th</sup> to discuss these issues and how to move forward.
  - Meg had nothing to share for lay leadership, noting that she and Jay are planning to alternate meetings.
  - Sandy is attending webinars in hospitality and worship, and working with Mike on how to create a more seamless worship using Zoom and other tools available to us.

Effie closed the meeting with a prayer at 7:35.

The next meeting is on 10/26 at 6:30 via Zoom.

Respectfully submitted, Hannah Bell-Lombardo