Don’t fret or worry. Instead of worrying, pray. Let petitions and praises shape your worries into prayers, letting God know your concerns. Before you know it, a sense of God’s wholeness, everything coming together for good, will come and settle you down. It’s wonderful what happens when Christ displaces worry at the center of your life.  
~Philippians 4.6-7

We are called to be people of prayer. We have been so pleased at the reaction to the repurposing of our Bonfils Chapel to offer you a sacred space for prayer, reading, and walking our labyrinth. People from several denominations from across the city have found this precious place to nourish their spirits.

Over the last few weeks, several clergy from congregations in the South Plaza area have been joining via Zoom once a week to pray together. It has become a really important time for me. Just knowing that those people are praying with me and for me; we are connecting on a level that we just don’t with casual friends. So I hope that you will join me in making this new or renewed commitment to prayer.

During the coming months, we will be offering several additional opportunities to help you grow in your prayer life. The first is by signing up for a prayer partner. We know many of you are missing engaging in conversations of faith that you so often have in and around our worship services on Sunday mornings. Having a prayer partner will allow you to check in at least once a week with the same person and ask a simple question, “How can I pray for you today?” Here’s the catch... read the question carefully. We too often tell people how they can pray for our kids or our family members but this invites you to consider what YOUR spirit needs. This level of vulnerability can be difficult and even a little scary for some people. We are hoping that it will be a chance for us to draw closer to God and to one another and to our own spirits. You might choose to just connect over the phone or via text. Others might FaceTime or Zoom or even have a socially distanced prayer meeting in a park or driveway (on a day cooler than this one). Lots of options!

Click here to fill out the Google form if you’d like to be matched with a prayer partner. We’ll have the first round of prayer partners assigned by Tuesday, September 8, which will be the same day we kick off our congregational Psalm reading. Every day we’ll invite the
entire congregation to read the same Psalm and pray a short prayer. This will be a part of our September worship series, Together in Community. We'll be exploring new ways of weaving our spirits together - even while we are apart. Watch for the details on that in next week's email.

The next two Sundays of worship are going to be a little different and we hope they'll be super fun! This Sunday, we'll be singing a wide variety of the Songs of our Soul. So many of you have shared your favorite songs with us and we are going to try to sing as many as we can in about 90 minutes! Then on Sunday, September 6, we'll have the Back to School Blessing! This is a back to school time unlike any other, so we pray this will be a powerful and important service. Then, on Sunday, September 13, we'll not only begin our new worship series, but we'll also begin an intentional exploration of our Life Together (to steal the title of the spiritual classic book by Dietrich Bonhoeffer). I know that it's discomforting to think about continuing without gathering in-person as Community; however, your staff is working on some really creative ways to be even more intentional about keeping us connected. I'm honestly excited about some of our plans - don't misunderstand - I'm not excited about this pandemic continuing and disrupting our Life Together but I am excited and inspired by the “new community of love” we are creating.

We’ve got lots of information about all that’s happening in our Community below but I look forward to seeing you on Sunday as we join together to celebrate the Songs of our Souls!

Rev. Shanna

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**Week of Compassion**

As we keep all those impacted by Hurricane Laura in our prayers, we also want to support their recovery efforts with a special offering for Week of Compassion (WOC). Earlier this month, our Justice and Mercy Team sent a special gift of $1,000 to WOC as a response to the derecho that swept across Iowa. We want to match that amount with this special offering! Consider donating what you can to make sure our ministry partners at WOC have the resources to respond to hurricanes, wildfires, and more in real time. Thank you for your generosity and for being part of this effort! [Click here to donate.]

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**Masks Matter**

On Sunday, Rev. Shanna emphasized our belief in the belovedness of each human. We have an opportunity to live that out with our commitments to wearing a mask. Our Community masks "speak for themselves" telling each person we encounter, "You are beloved. I honor the image of God in you and I will protect it by wearing this mask."

Thanks to everyone who has purchased masks we only have three adult masks left! If you are still interested in receiving your own mask, let us know ASAP so we can reserve one for you. If you weren't able to get one and would still like one, please let us know so that we can decide if we need to place a second order! What a great problem to have! You are doing great, church! Remember to send us a picture or tag us on social media as you're wearing your new mask!
**Community in the Community**

Election Day will be here before we know it, so now is a great time to make a plan for how you're going to vote! Community member Liz McCullough is a notary public in Jackson County, and is offering her services to notarize mail-in ballots. If you need your ballot notarized and don't feel safe going to get it done, she is happy to arrange a time to meet on your front lawn. Just make sure to wear a mask, bring a pen, and have a photo ID with you if Liz doesn't know you personally. You can reach Liz at 785-317-0790 or eamccullough41@gmail.com.

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**Connect with Community**

Our virtual book clubs have continued to be a popular way for Community members to connect and grow together during this time. The Sunday afternoon book group is currently finishing "We Were Spiritual Refugees" and will conclude the book with a conversation with the author, Rev. Katie Hays. Their next book will be another non-fiction but is still TBD. Our Thursday night book group will read, "Book of Longings" by Sue Monk Kidd. This is one of Rev. Shanna’s favorite reads from her vacation stack! It is a fictional book about the wife of Jesus. Nope, it's not who you might think of either. It's a celebration of holy imagination. Let Rev. Shanna know if you’re be interested in joining. This group will resume after Labor Day!

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**People of Prayer**

Many of you have already taken advantage of the opportunity to be in our Bonfils Chapel space to pray, read, or walk the labyrinth. There are sign up times available almost every day, and with enough notice, one of our clergy can be available to pray with you. We also have two videos available to share ideas about how to walk a labyrinth. There’s no wrong way but Rev. Suzanne and Rev. Shanna both offer some ideas for adults, kids, and families!

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**Hymnal Check Out**
Do you miss singing along to hymns from your hymnal? We have a large collection of hymnals that aren't being used. Instead of allowing them to stay at the church and collect dust, we'd like to offer them to you to check out. You can reply to this email or let any of our staff know if you would like to borrow a hymnal during this time when we are still worshiping 100% online on Sunday mornings, and we will find a time when you can come pick one up.

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**Online Giving**

If you’d like to give offering donations to the church during this time, you can mail donations to the church. Mail is still being checked daily and your gifts are gratefully received. If you’d like to give online, you may do so in one of two ways:

- Text the word "Give" to 816-484-3433 and follow the instructions that are sent to you. The first time you text to give you'll have to set up an account, but from there on out your information will be stored so you can easily text to give.

There will also be a QR code shown during livestreamed worship that will take you directly to the website listed above to donate. Links can also be found in the livestreamed worship comments and on our website.

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**Connect with us online throughout the week!**

**Sunday**
- 9 a.m. Sunday School for all ages on Zoom  
- 10 a.m. Piano prelude with Jonathon Antle on Facebook and YouTube
- 10:30 a.m. worship on Facebook and YouTube

**Monday**
- 12:10 p.m. Musical Monday Meditations on Facebook and YouTube

**Tuesday**
- 10 a.m. Storytime with Rev. Suzanne live on Facebook and Zoom  

**Thursday**
- 10 a.m. Five(ish) Minute Fun, Faithful Family Devotional on Facebook and YouTube
- Newsbulletin email will be sent

**Friday**
- 5 p.m. TGIFFF - Thank God It's Friday Fellowship via Zoom  

**Saturday**
- 8 a.m. Saturday Sit with Shanna on Zoom  

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**Prayers of Sorrow and Thanksgiving**

Please hold the following members of our Community in your prayers:

- **Rex Wiant** on the passing of his mother on August 22; **Mike Nolting**, cousin of Kara Strickler; **David Anderson; Mary Buren; Peter Voss**, great-nephew of Donna and Scott Duschen; **Phillip Kellerman**, father of Cindy Kellerman; **Carol Dollar; Dick and Lura Cayton** on the passing of their granddaughter, Courtney Rocheleau; **Jeanne Martin**, on the passing of her brother Morris Martin.