

AUGUST 2022 | ISSUE 8



ENGAGE

Go beyond to lead people of a hurting world into new life through Jesus Christ.

Greetings from Pastor Bee

Dear Colonial Park Family,
What a wonderful warm welcome Niels and I have received. Thank you so much for the reception, flowers, gifts, cards and food. We feel blessed and welcomed.
THANK YOU!

Have you seen the pictures?!? I am talking about the pictures from the James Webb Space Telescope. Seeing the Webb telescope images of light from just-post-Big-bang, 13 billion-years-ago galaxies, a friend reminded me of this fragment from Meister Eckhart, 13th century Christian mystic, about God being in all created things:

“Apprehend God in all things, for God is in all things. Every single creature is full of God and is a book about God. Every creature is a word of God. If I spend enough time with the tiniest creature – even a caterpillar – I would never have to prepare a sermon. So full of God is every creature.”

Continued on next page...

THIS MONTH'S FEATURED ARTICLES

Greetings from Pastor Bee
God at Home



Greetings from Pastor Bee continued

Honestly, I do not have words to describe what this telescope is showing us, except awe for God's creation. Through this I am reminded of what the Psalmist wrote in Psalm 8:

Psalm 8

1 O Lord, our Sovereign,
how majestic is your name in all the earth!
You have set your glory above the heavens.
2 Out of the mouths of babes and infants
you have founded a bulwark because of your foes,
to silence the enemy and the avenger.
3 When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars that you have established;
4 what are humans that you are mindful of them,
mortals[a] that you care for them?
5 Yet you have made them a little lower than God[b]
and crowned them with glory and honor.
6 You have given them dominion over the works of your hands;
you have put all things under their feet,
7 all sheep and oxen,
and also the beasts of the field,
8 the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea,
whatever passes along the paths of the seas.
9 O Lord, our Sovereign,
how majestic is your name in all the earth!



There is so much more between heaven and earth than we will ever be able to comprehend. When I see these pictures of God's creation, and how it stretches far, way far beyond the most powerful telescope, I am reminded that God is so much bigger than what I can ever even try to wrap my mind around. And when God can create this amazing sky filled with stars and moons and who knows what else out there, I am filled with awe and deep respect for what God is able to do. It is so exciting, and it makes me excited for what God has in store for us together here at Colonial Park.

Hope you see you Sunday,
God's Grace & Peace,
Pastor Bee

OUTREACH MINISTRIES

WHERE IS GOD?

I was watching the news the other night and it occurred to me how the reported news is so full of chaos and turmoil. I guess the world we live in is just so broken. Then I wondered, "Where is God in all these situations?"

I continued to watch a report on the Ukrainian War which is so hard to watch and wrap my head around. The violence and senseless death is heartbreaking. The question that kept running through my mind was, "Where is God in all of this?" Well, then a story came on about an older couple in Czechoslovakia that had reached out to three teenage girls displaced by the war. This couple had taken the girls in to live with them as part of their family. THIS is where I found God in this horrible situation!!

I started to think about other situations that we have all seen or experienced, like a multiple car wreck that we rubberneck to see. Do we notice the folks running to help the injured or calling 911? They are there and so is God.

My point is that we can find God in every situation in our lives and in this world. We just have to stop, look, and listen. He is there and many times it's in another person or even in ourselves where we find Him. Reaching out to help our neighbor or serving someone in need is where we find God. God is Love and to Love others is to know and see God.

Think of a time in your life that you would consider to be traumatic. Where was God? Actually look at any situation that you find yourself in and ask, "Where is God in this?" You will find Him if you look. The Whys, Wheres, and Hows are on God's time. I don't believe in coincidences, so where you are is where you are supposed to be. God is right there with you.

Peace be with You,
Gary W. Vaughn



U-Can Ministry will be collecting the following items for the month of August:

- canned soup
- canned green beans
- chicken or beef broth
- instant potatoes

Mark Your Calendars!

8/4: Mobile Food Distribution
8/7: Back to School Bash
8/10: An Evening with Pastor Bee
8/11: J.O.Y. Luncheon
8/11: Equipping Night
8/13: Men's Breakfast
8/18: Mobile Food Pantry Distribution
8/27: Spanish with a Mission

DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRIES

We're 8 months into 2022. How do you feel the year is going?

I'm heading into August with a desire to reflect on the changes and assess where God has placed me. Many new ministries have been underway which present a wonderful opportunity to assess their kingdom impact. We've welcomed a new pastor which is challenging me to communicate and refine the work I do in a way that people can understand and witness. I just took maternity leave to welcome a second boy into our family. The timing of all these transitions has been a blessing and an opportunity to reflect on where things stand in all areas of my life.

For example, Equipping Nights were a new missional endeavor this year. They were developed as an opportunity to learn specific tools and practices for discipleship anchored in God's mission for the world brought to life in Jesus Christ. As a group, we learn, celebrate, stretch, and in the process, grow deeper in our discipleship. We have 7 classes under our belt and 4 remaining. We've talked about living a 3-dimensional life like Jesus and how to pray the Lord's prayer in fruitful ways. We've explored what to do when we hear God's voice and how to respond. We've discussed and challenged one another in being active participants in our discipleship journey and leading others in theirs. Our July class evaluated what we have learned so far and how God challenges us to use these new tools in differing circumstances. Over the next several months we will continue to explore additional discipleship tools.

One of which God presented to me while on maternity leave. My time off for maternity leave was a true blessing and a wonderful reminder of who God has created me to be. It's so easy for me to get caught up in the ways of the western world – a society that praises the overworked, overbooked, and overtired. I can very easily fall into that trap, but as I was off for six weeks, abiding in God and resting with my family, I was reminded about my true priorities. It was in the midst of healing, grieving, joy, anxiety, exhaustion, love, intimacy, and newness of being parents to two children, that I'm able to come back to work feeling motivated and inspired. It's in this place of healing and joy that I'm primed to produce good fruit for the Kingdom of God. (Conversely, think of the bland or rotten fruit born out of exhausted, overworked dirt. I certainly don't want to be like that.) The intentional time away prepared me spiritually, physically, and emotionally for what God has in store.

The tool I'm referencing (and teasing you with) is one of several that we will learn about in our Equipping Nights in the remainder of 2022. If you're looking at month 8 and feeling discouraged with where you are and have a desire to go deeper in your discipleship journey, I'd love to talk to you. It's never too late to seek God's guidance and allow him to speak a course correction into your life.

Mark your calendar today for the next Equipping Night on August 11 at 6:30 pm!

FAMILY MINISTRIES

GOD AT HOME

I recently read an article that said, "Studies continue to show that the singular most important factor impacting someone's spiritual formation is the way their parents live." – Becca Messman, *The Room Where it Happens*

If that doesn't get straight to the point, I don't know what does. Before I continue, this article is not meant to shame anyone, but to open a conversation about how we can help introduce a rhythm to talking about God at home.

Becca Messman's article continues with, "In my experience, if parents want to expose their children to the Christian faith by dropping them off at Sunday school...they are actually achieving the opposite result. Instead of instilling in them a set of values based on the life and teachings of Jesus, they are modeling that such beliefs are not interesting enough for a parent's time nor crucial for life. They are accidentally communicating that faith is a hobby or safe children's programming. The lesson burrows deep down below a child's conscious understanding and bears fruit once the child has space to make choices in high school or college."

So, what do we as parents do? I certainly don't want my children to think that being a Christian is a hobby and not a way of life, but I also know and understand how incredibly busy a life with children can be. Especially when school starts back!!!! Let's talk about what's next and how we can solve this problem TOGETHER!

Did you know that just like with our own quiet time, we can also create habits with our kids to help them to include God time into their routine? Those habits include, but are not limited to:

1. Singing praise songs with your kids on the drive to school.
2. Reading bible stories at the breakfast table.
3. Discussing a common thread between the events in their day and what the bible tells us.

Those are just a few of the things we can do to begin to nurture our children's spiritual relationship with God. I, by no means, have all of the answers, but I invite you to see how you can fit a little God time into your routine.

Additionally, as your Family Ministries Director, I want to provide you with tools that you can use at home. We currently provide a children's newsletter that is emailed out every Thursday. This newsletter is to inform parents about what we are doing in Sunday school, and it provides a jumping-off point to start discussions at home with your kids about what they learned. So maybe start by asking them if they know their memory verse for the month, or if they know what story they went over. All of the verses we use weekly are located in the newsletter if you want to read them again at home. Lastly, you can also discover an Up, In, and Out document within the weekly newsletter that gives applicable examples of how to bring some God time into your home time. There are so many ways we can add God in and He wants so badly to be included.



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Join us Sundays for In-Person Worship at 9:00 am for Traditional Worship, 10:00 am for Sunday School and 11:00 am for Casual Worship. Not ready to be in-person yet? Catch us on Facebook or YouTube at 11:00 am @Colonial Park UMC. Or you may call the worship service hotline at 901-329-6527 to listen from your phone.

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Scan the QR code with your smartphone to go directly to Easy Tithe. This is an easy way to remain faithful to the ministries of Colonial Park.

This is a newsletter of Colonial Park United Methodist Church. The newsletter is published monthly & mailed third class, and e-mailed weekly except holidays.

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