

Thursday June 11, 7pm – Where Do We Go From Here?

Devotion by Joy Toll-Chandler – @00:04 “Being Afraid” EGBDF = Expect God’s Blessings Don’t Fear; Philippians FACE = Freely Ask Christ for Energy, Enthusiasm, etc. Prayer by Howard Thurman “Open Unto Me”.

FL FUMMWA: @8:38 Grant K. Pullen Music Scholarship for \$2,000.00 presented to Mitchell Johnson.

Tom: Mitchell is a terrific pianist who has since March has been every Sunday at Northwood Presbyterian helping run the technical aspects of our livestream along with four other members of his family. We appreciate his dedication.

(Editor insert) If you would like to donate to the Scholarship fund, you may do it at <https://www.floridafummwa.org/virtual-workshop-recap.html>!

FL FUMMWA: @11:05 Introductions: David Bone, Moderator; *Panelists: 1) Leigh Anne Taylor; 2) Dakota Hill; 3) Michael Ekbladh

Beth passed the torch to Michael to Chair Workshop for the next two years.

The following questions were asked by David Bone, and each panelist responded. Their responses can be found:

- QUESTIONS:
- 1) @16:35 What is one thing that most people do not know about you?
 - 2) @18:50 What would be your elevator response if you were riding with someone and they asked you where do you think we are going from here?
 - 3) @38:30 There is a lot of grief, and lament, and the difficulty of dealing with change that is happening right now. How can we begin to honor that, to acknowledge that, to engage with that so we can help our congregations move through that in ways that are helpful and enhance our ministries?
 - 4) @45:00 How do we address including both the people in the live space and online when we do “go back”?
 - 5) @59:17 What is your greatest fear about the coming months?
 - 6) @1:01:02 What are you looking forward to in the coming months?

- FL-Betsy Marvin: The artist Christo, who recently died, was known for doing art installations that illustrated the PROCESS of "Art". Like Job, the question is not WHY has this happened to.... But the question is now - how do we respond with joy and thanksgiving.
- Matthew Lewis: How do we balance the joy and thanksgiving response with lament and emotional authenticity?
- Marcie Samuelson: I don't think that we're going to go "back" ...we need to go FORWARD! So, what does FORWARD look like? I think everyone's view is different there.
- Keith Dyer: NYTimes Two Days ago... "When Will We Be Able to Sing Together Again?" <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/06/09/arts/music/choirs-singing-coronavirus-safe.html>
- Thom DeLessio: "my life flows on in endless song.... how can I keep from singing?"
(Editor insert) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nxi4SDc48og>
- K-AZ: "Forward" has never been especially popular with congregants--at least not in comparison to "the good old days".
- Marcie Samuelson: Folks have a hard time with "change". And the church is that familiar place where people feel at home without being at home. And now... church has been at home, literally.
- Barbara Thorick: So many want to go back to what was. I think this an exciting time to help form what is to come.
- Marcie Samuelson: And how awesome it is that we get to help create that!
- Joan Estus FitzGerald: It (moving forward) is about our worship needs, not our worship wants.
- Austen Wilson: I am planning to have what is to come being even better than what was.
- K-AZ: Yes, but there's a great deal of "excitement" in American life right now. Many of our congregants want LESS "excitement"--and not even just the elders. My undergraduate students have gotten very nostalgic for last year!
- FL-Betsy Marvin: It's about the relationships.
- Kathy Nolasco: Music has been the unifying medium to welcome new folks into our groups. (The desire to sing comes first, then the relationship comes next.) How do we draw the circle wider - welcome new people - in our ministries when we aren't singing together?
- Florida FUMMWA: Kathy, "Draw the Circle Wide" was going to be our theme this year, so now we are saving that for next year



- Rani Woodrow: Love the "Draw the Circle Wide" theme.
- Rani Woodrow: Part of our challenge is that we are also having a pastoral change in the midst of this - after 7 years together.
- Austen Wilson: Rani I'm in the same boat. Senior pastor retired May 3 and the next senior pastor (1-year appointment) starts in August.
- Judi Hurst: That makes it even more difficult when leadership is either absent or in transition. The "boat" doesn't know which way to go! That makes it even more important that we do all we can to hold things together and stay the course.
- Marcie Samuelson: How can we incorporate music in services without singing? I have found an amazing outlet in movement with the music!
- Barbara Thorick: Many of you are musicians. I am also, but I'm also involved in the theater arts. Singing is only part of the arts. Instrumental. dance, mime, clowning. The list goes on. Drama, monologue, puppetry. Maybe this is a time to introduce more of these arts.
- Marcie Samuelson: And using the "virtual choir" is still achievable! [Easychoirmusic.com](https://www.easychoirmusic.com) offers help with the virtual choir if you need that.
- (Editor insert) <https://www.easychoirmusic.com/pages/virtual-choirs>
- Janice Wisinski: One of my choir members suggested taking pieces we may sing weekly, such as the Gloria Patri and the Doxology and teaching the congregation how to sign these songs using signs for basic words and projecting it on the screen so they can follow along. This way they can be participants.

- Barbara Thorick: That is great. Signing is an art in itself!
- Matthew Lewis: Yes, we are doing a signed doxology! This is the easiest signed doxology (95) I have found <https://youtu.be/Omb12i0uryA>
- Janice Wisinski: Sacred dance is another idea.
<https://content.yudu.com/web/2tzc/0A2tzd6/WAAprilMay2020/html/index.html?page=18&origin=reader>
- K-AZ: I'd like to hear more about how we can minister to the "grief" in our congregations about what they perceive as has been lost. Just saying "it's going to be a great new thing" doesn't really do that.
- Joy Toll-Chandler: And how do we deal with that grief in our lives too?
- Carol Miller: We miss the physical connections, but when we think about all those that are experiencing worship on-line, it is amazing. God's word is going out to many that might never have come through our doors. Once we can really open up, I believe we will find a lot of people really excited about worship. That is my prayer.
- Cindy Huffman: Presbyterian Women's Bible Study for the coming year in is all about laments. It appears to teach us how to lament and express ourselves to God. So timely! God's timing. It was chosen at least 3 years ago.
- Keith Dyer: <https://www.presbyterianwomen.org/current-bible-study/> *The 2020–2021 PW/Horizons Bible study, Into the Light: Finding Hope Through Prayers of Lament, art and text by Lynn Miller and Suggestions for Leaders by Dee Koza, revives lament as a proper theological response to the difficult situations of our world.*
- Joan Estus FitzGerald: The current issue of WorshipArts has an excellent article on Lament Only members can read WorshipArts online, so be sure to get your FREE 6-month membership first. <https://www.umfellowship.org/Invitation>
- (Editor insert)
<https://content.yudu.com/web/2tzc/0A2tzd6/WAAprilMay2020/html/index.html?page=6&origin=reader> .
- Marcie Samuelson: Providing video that incorporates pictures of the past and reassurances of the future helps to bridge that grief for what was and helps to heal those hurts in the reminiscing
- Kathy Nolasco: Our online viewership started out really high but has been steadily declining each and every week. However, even now, we are still comparable to our in-person worship experience (pre-pandemic).
- Karen Forrester: Kathy, I've been noticing this on the services I am watching

- Keith Dyer: Grief is not a linear process. The stages of grief sometimes occur out of order and recur without notice.
- Matthew Lewis: We do a weekly Taizé service (The style of Christian worship practiced by the ecumenical **Taizé** community in France, characterized by the repetitive singing of simple harmonized tunes, often in various languages, interspersed with readings, prayers, and periods of silence.) Lots of space for prayer, silence, slower meditative music.
- K-AZ: Every church I've ever served in has actively run away from any expression of lament--many pastors saying, "We can't have that--that's not why people come to church."
- Marcie Samuelson: If lament and hope can have a partnership... then I think those grieving can see past the hurt to the possibility of the future
- Keith Dyer: We use prayers of intercession each week. My new hobby is editing visuals to illustrate those prayers both lament and praise.
- Barbara Thorick: Kubler- Ross used to be the source we turned to for stages of grief.
(Editor insert) <https://www.psycom.net/depression.central.grief.html>
- Beth Green: An idea - Our children's ministry is making cards and we are sending those to members who live alone
- Janice Wisinski: Our office manager sends out sermon outline notes to all those who do not have technology, and that will continue once we are back in person.
- Rani Woodrow: I have learned I don't have the attention span for anything longer than 30 minutes if I'm not participating in person. Perhaps shorter services would be of use to others.
- Carol Miller: We discussed at a meeting today that with the masks, many people will not be able to sit for an hour with the mask on, so we will be having shorter services. Many of our members, like many of your congregations, are older individuals who need each other and the fellowship, but can't be too uncomfortable.
- Karen Forrester: Many people in our South Ga Conference have found live streaming is not working due to the bandwidth in areas. Having to do pre-recorded. We are having trouble here (Bainbridge, Ga.) at the 11 o'clock hour with so many churches on livestream at the same time.
- Judy Weaver: Our church has asked for pictures or videos of elements of the "normal" service and we are broadcasting those. For instance, we had the Lord's Prayer, with different members of the congregation sending a phrase each, which was edited together to make a lovely whole.

- K-AZ: I think we need to just acknowledge that the two (in person and online worship) are different things. A play is not a movie, and vice versa. If you film a play, it can make a boring film!
- Blaine Russell: Our staff has been doing four videos a week - a story with our Christian Ed. Director on Mondays, a musical offering on Tuesdays, a Pastor Chat on Wednesdays, and a "wild card" on Thursdays.
- Janice Wisinski: Our church asked people to write devotions one month, the next month people did video devotions Monday-Friday, and now we're doing an early Monday morning prayer time and a late Friday afternoon online prayer time.
- Marcie Samuelson: We've been pre-recording, and it's been in a more intimate setting: our liturgist films from his flower garden, our Children's message is filmed from the rocking chair of the gentleman who does that... the singers leading worship film from their living rooms. It's like we've invited everyone into our homes!
- Rani Woodrow: We also need more tech resources for small churches...
- Joy Toll-Chandler: Agreed Rani - The small churches have trouble making all these things happen. But there's lots of love and caring there - just have to figure out ways to share it.
- Keith Dyer: We've been able to slide in some "contemporary" musical moments as we select for online worship.
- Thom DeLessio: As the token, or one of the only Catholics attending, here are a few thoughts from that perspective: A sense of local parish is currently confused, but I'm seeing people searching for live-stream worship that has maybe best preaching, best music, etc. This is both bad for community but also good for challenging our homilists and musicians. Ecumenism is alive and well in the hearts of the people and particularly musicians!
- Joy Toll-Chandler: We keep the chat going during worship and people are connected in that way- they love it... trying to figure out how to do that when we "go back!"
- Karen Forrester: I have enjoyed the chat part of a church I am watching in our conference. Feel more connected.
- Rick Holdsworth: Our folks use the chat on Sundays to see who is worshiping with them.
- Keith Dyer: St. Luke's Orlando has a pastor online during "worship time" even though everything is pre-recorded.
- K-AZ: Our online services are chat-enabled, and it's been really interesting although, because we use Facebook live, it does prohibit those who are not

“on” Facebook from participating in that way. I suppose we need to use a universal platform to which people don't have to "belong" to fully participate.

Matthew Lewis: K-AZ you could do a zoom rebroadcast of the Facebook service!

Janice Wisinski: Thank you Jeff for the Virtual Notebook and all the updates!

Carol Miller: Thank you Jeff for the Virtual Notebook and all the updates! I probably could not have figured out how to bring up all the chat saves and the attachments. This has really been great.

K-AZ: Yes, the updated notebook is great--and it's an innovation that EVERY online conference should enable!

Keith Dyer: QUESTION - Is it possible to have a monthly national Fellowship online event?

What are Some Concerns You Have?

Keith Dyer: My greatest fear is that some will pressure us to go to live worship before it is safe.

Kathy Toole: Premature push for gathered worship. New pastor coming

Cindy Huffman: That we will lose connection with some current members and as well as lose connection with new non-members.

Kathy Nolasco: That our folks, especially our younger families, will say church isn't vital and won't come back.

Tasha Lohman: The current rise of COVID numbers

Judy Weaver: I would love to have the opportunity to be at Workshop in the coming years, since I will not be able to leave my parents to go to Music Camp for the foreseeable future

Robert Jackson: Loss of interest in church.

Joan Estus FitzGerald: That my church will make the decision to have congregational singing and maybe even choir and that I will have to make a decision about my response to that.

Janice Wisinski: I'm concerned too about ongoing engagement of my musicians and the congregation.

Jim Sheldrake - St. Peter's UMC, Wellington FL: Too much in person too soon.

Joy Toll-Chandler: Two things - That I won't have enough energy, and that my church will fall apart because of the distancing.

Susan's iPad: Education of young children and loss of community, connectedness.

Marcos Daniel Flores: My Fear: People feeling they can't worship God as they have done for all their lives, especially at this stage of their lives...

Carol Miller: My main concern is keeping everyone healthy and not hurting people's feelings when they need to follow the rules. We, like so many, have many older individuals, and it is a concern.

K-AZ: I also fear a great deal of attrition. Several of my choristers already have found that this enforced hiatus has crystalized unorganized thoughts they'd been having about moving on from active participation in the choir.

Sharon's iPad: My fear is that we all won't be returning. This could possibly disassemble our entire music ministry. I know it will never be the same, but I feel the burden to make it better, and that's a scary thing!

Barb Kelly: I tend to be very optimistic, so I have great hope for the future, and we will come out of all of this better than ever.

Rani Woodrow: Fear of the continued divisions in our society.

Janice Wisinski: Will our congregation feel so strange with this new way of engaging in in-person worship that they stay away?

Austen Wilson: New senior pastor, rise of COVID numbers, and racial injustice.

Kathy Toole: Yes, racial injustice and figuring out the best way to respond.

Milton Rodgers: I was a part of a Peaceful Protest on Tuesday with several clergy and our Bishop. It was 50% white: 10% Asian and Latino and 40% African American. It was Spirit-filled, Not a negative thing happened! All of the passers-by were excited about this. This was about 10 miles from the White House!! God is working!!

Marcie Samuelson: I'm worried about how to keep as many people connected in worship to keep that "buy-in" so they're invested in the church

Marcos Daniel Flores: Another Fear: politics dividing our congregation...

Thom DeLessio: I think loss of funding at our cathedral could reorient us away from fully paid staff to a reminder that all have the baptismal call.

Keith Dyer: Our congregation has focused on new outreach that can happen during quarantine.

K-AZ: Selfishly, I also fear time saturation. The biggest crunch for figuring out a new way to worship has coincided with the end of our academic year. I will NOT be able to spend the kind of time I'm spending on church when I must go back to being a faculty member and administrator!

Judy Weaver: I'm concerned that a lot of elderly folks have no access or sometimes just don't know how to use the technology they do have to be able to be "at church".

Tracey Birch: Have any of you tried asking youth to help older members with setting up their technology for virtual worship?

Keith Dyer: We don't have many youths but have a small geek gang for those needing technology help

Sharon: The ideas for reaching those without technology are most helpful! The ones with technology can and are tuning in, but those who are more isolated, and won't be back in person for a long while, if ever, are one of my top priorities/concerns for the future of my church. Thank you all for your input about visitation, communication, and not leaving those folks out!

Some Good Things We Have To Look Forward To

Barb Kelly Florida: Getting back to choir and singing again.

Janice Wisinski: The sound of singing harmony.

Marcie Samuelson: I'm enjoying the creative outlet for virtual choirs & ensembles

Matthew Lewis: Spilling outside to do some fresh air worship, finding some more good solo music.

Shelia sheliahuis@gmail.com: congregational harmonies

Tasha Lohman: a vaccine so we can be together again

Tracey Birch: I hope we are learning lessons and tools we can hold on to even when we return to in-person worship, to make it even more inclusive

Cindy Huffman: Watching to see what God has planned for us that is beyond our comprehension.

Austen Wilson: In-person bell choirs starting again.

Jim Sheldrake - St. Peter's UMC, Wellington FL: More creativity to praise God

Blaine Russell: I'm looking forward to seeing what people in our congregations come "out of the woodwork" with gifts and talents we never knew they had.

Kathy Toole: The Spirit moving in ways unanticipated. Being formed and re-formed.

Duane Toole: I'm looking forward to new things, like virtual ensembles, single-person quartets, etc.

Quinn Moss: Getting back to choir with small ensembles, although I'm enjoying finding new ways to make music.

Joan Estus FitzGerald: Utilizing our chime choir when we are back together and looking at ways that we can be creative & use other worship arts to worship.

Thom DeLessio: My last comment should have been here... wider community involvement in the building up of our parish and God's kingdom.

Barbara Thorick: Looking to hopefully discover new ways to worship,

Rani Woodrow: I will be beginning a new appointment in two weeks. The church I will be going to is small and rural. They have been doing "drive-in worship" and have recently switched to a service with physical distancing outside.

Marcie Samuelson: Thom I share your concerns... know that I'm praying for you.

Carol Miller: I believe that more people are being reached and I believe our communities will be reaching out for answers, and we have the best answer we can give - GOD. Getting people more involved. After not being able to meet, I hope we will not take the gathering of believers for granted and will make more of an effort to serve and worship. We have had to come up with so many different ideas that now we might be more courageous.

Marcie Samuelson: I hear Casting Crowns "Courageous" in my head with not only BEING Courageous, but to seek justice, love mercy, walk humbly with our God.

(Editor insert) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pkM-gDcmJeM>

Sharon's iPad: Personally, this time has been a revival of sorts for me...more prayer, The Holy Spirit speaking with me, and growth as a music minister! Our music ministry group is stronger as prayer partners, and I have seen Spiritual growth in those even Luke-warm past believers! Praise God!

Janice Wisinski: See our congregation become more united and more considerate of each other and of how decisions made to assist one service affect the other service (we have both contemporary and traditional). I see it as an opportunity for incredible growth.

Rick Holdsworth: THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HAD ANYTHING TO DO WITH PUTTING THIS WEEK TOGETHER... greatly appreciated.

Milton Rodgers: Thanks everyone!!

Donna Bott: Thank you for a wonderful week It was wonderful!

Carol Miller: Thank you so very, very much.

Marcie Samuelson: Fabulous work everyone!

Shelia sheliahuis@gmail.com : Thank you from Michigan for an amazing week!

Barb Kelly, Florida: Thanks to all the conference leaders. This was very enjoyable.

Tasha Lohman: Thank you

Rani Woodrow: Thanks so much!!!

Keith Dyer: Please don't forget to donate to the scholarship fund!
<https://www.floridafummwa.org/virtual-workshop-recap.html>

Susan's iPad: God bless all of you as we venture to the new future.

Sue Stewart: Thank you so very much! Wonderful and important information shared!

Janice Wisinski: I'm so grateful for this week and the encouragement it has been. My church could not have afforded for me to come this year, so I'm grateful that you've made it possible.

Judy Weaver: I am so very, very grateful for all the work y'all did to put this together for us! This has been a week of joy and love!

Joy Toll-Chandler: Thank you for a GREAT week of fellowship from afar - and for the support and encouragement from sharing... God be with you all.

Marcos Daniel Flores: Just like going through a hurricane interrupts our lives and make us spend time with our families and make us do sacrifices, I hope that this worldwide shake up will grant us new eyes and wisdom to revise our God's call and rethink about the things that really matter in life... AMEN!

Keith Dyer: https://hymnary.org/text/lift_every_voice_and_sing

Bonnie Linder: Episcopal hymnal 599 "Lift Every Voice"

David Bone: The words to this hymn, in reverse order, is our closing prayer.

3 God of our weary years,
God of our silent tears,
You who have brought us thus far on the way;
You who have by your might
Led us into the light,
Keep us forever in the path, we pray.
Lest our feet stray from the places,
our God, where we met you;
Lest, our hearts drunk with the wine
of the world, we forget you;
Shadowed beneath your hand,
May we forever stand,
True to our God, true to our native land.

2 Stony the road we trod,
Bitter the chast'ning rod,

Felt in the days when hope unborn had died;
Yet with a steady beat,
Have not our weary feet
Come to the place for which our people sighed?
We have come over a way
that with tears has been watered;
We have come, treading our path
through the blood of the slaughtered;
Out from the gloomy past,
Till now we stand at last
Where the bright gleam of our bright star is cast.

1 Lift ev'ry voice and sing,
Till earth and heaven ring,
Ring with the harmonies of liberty;
Let our rejoicing rise
High as the list'ning skies,
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.
Sing a song full of the faith
that the dark past has taught us;
Sing a song full of the hope
that the present has brought us;
Facing the rising sun
Of our new day begun,
Let us march on till victory is won.

Robert Jackson: AMEN!!!

Carol Miller: AMEN!!!

Kathy Nolasco: amen

Lynne Stallworth: AMEN!

Karen Forrester: Amen!

Marcie Samuelson: I love the reverse order!

Keith Dyer: Amen, Brother Bone!

Joy Toll-Chandler: amen - thank you David –

Shelia sheliahuis@gmail.com: Thank you David...

Joan Estus FitzGerald: Thank you so much David!

Keith Dyer: <https://musicartsweek.org/>

Kathy Nolasco: Will there be a list of this week's attendees with locations so we can reach out to people in our general area?

Quinn Moss: Thank you so much!! what a wonderful conference. Beautifully organized and I learned so much.

Janice Wisinski: Thank you for introducing us to this hymn. How it speaks to our situation.

Leigh Ann Taylor: David Bone, I will never want to sing that hymn in the normal order again!

Rani Woodrow: Thanks!

Joy Toll-Chandler: True, true Leigh Anne!

K-AZ: Thank you and farewell to all!

Michael Ekbladh: See y'all later! I'm celebrating my birthday!

Jackie Marschall: Sorry to ask this but could someone tell me where the virtual notebook is. I'm not very good with this technology.

Florida FUMMWA: It's in the document where you got the link to this Zoom session

Florida FUMMWA: You'll get another one this weekend

Carol Miller: I had the same question. So, we can get to it from the original email?

Florida FUMMWA: Yes, but an update will come this weekend

Carol Miller: Thank you so much :)

Mike S: Thx all, good night and stay well!

Keith Dyer: Notebook Link:
<https://www.dropbox.com/s/rfvvka2pk1phvvd/Virtual%20Workshop%20Notebook.pdf?dl=0>

Christopher: Thank you folks for a good week! We made history and it was a Success! Thank you for welcoming me and enlightening me.

David Bone: <https://www.musicartsweek.org>

Judy Weaver: It's been such a bright spot to see you all! Good Night!!

Carol Miller: Good night everyone

Christopher: Goodnight.

Keith Dyer: <https://musicartsweek.org/>

Jackie Marschall: Thank you to everyone who worked so hard to make this week happen. Your kindness and love for each other is so evident. I have always felt your love and support whenever I've been at Workshop. It's been good to see all of you! Thank you, Shelby, for always being so affirming.

Sharon's iPad: Thank y'all from the bottom of my heart...you all are a blessing in my life!