

Leesburg United Methodist Church
Trail Guide
Week of April 20, 2020

Easter is past, spring break is over. Life resumes its normal springtime routine – work, yardwork, spring sports and activities. WAIT! No, we have not resumed our normal springtime routine. There are no spring sports. There are no “activities”. We’re stuck! Not only that, we’re not completely stuck, just enough to hold us back and keep us from finding our way forward. So much is on hold! For many of us, personally, it’s like being stuck between Good Friday and Easter Sunday, only we have no sundial to read that will help us know when we’ll get to “the third day”.

So, may I encourage you to slide your chair away from the buffet of 24/7 news and views on what is happening? And instead, consider the small table in the corner where we can find what the “good news” has to offer us that can inform our thinking, penetrate our feeling, and gravitate us toward hope? I am quick to add that there are no words that can eliminate anxiety. However, when anxious we can turn to the Word who is peace and who will “guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 4:7). Each day you’ll find an admonition from scripture that goes something like this: Do not be afraid. Do not fear. Fear not. Now, it’s next to impossible to never fear. But let these words remind you and me that when fear seems to rise within like a flood, there is one who calms the storm with a word, and let God’s word remind you that you are not alone. Peace. Be. With. You.

Monday 04/20 – [Genesis 21:17](#)

Angels have a penchant for showing up just in time. The angel of the Lord gives Hagar a reason not to fear. Note: it is not a promise that all will be well and life will be without difficulty. What is the word of assurance? Can you find strength also?

Tuesday 04/21 – [Isaiah 41:14](#)

Can you imagine what it is like to be a worm? We have “A Bug’s Life” but have we ever heard of a movie, “A Worm’s Life”? You likely never will. Perhaps the reason God refers to Jacob (ie, Israel) as a worm is because they were feeling and acting as helpless and insignificant as a worm. Still, God promises to help. Amazing!

Wednesday 04/22 - [Jeremiah 30:10](#)

Overall, Jeremiah is a pretty depressing read. Yep. Not a “happy-ever-after” tale. Except the “happy-ever-after” runs like an underground river, giving life to that which is on the surface. At least one parent this week spoke of their fears for their children. God’s promise of salvation and deliverance extends to the children. I like that. And, likely to grandchildren...

Thursday 04/22 – [Joel 2:21](#)

Sometimes when fear and anxiety come knocking, it helps to do a rewind and look back on all that God has done for you, for us in the past. Look for the marvelous; the unexpected; the amazing. God is good – all the time and at this time. Can you see it?

Friday 04/23 – [Genesis 50:21](#) (see the verses preceding and following)

Sometimes God works through others, including those we may have hurt in the past. Here, Joseph promises to provide “for you and your little ones”. Where and how do you see God’s provision during this pandemic?

Saturday 04/24 – Keep praying for our church family, our community, our world: our older members; medical and health care workers; first responders; those who are sick; those struggling financially; those having trouble hanging on to hope.