

Leesburg United Methodist Church
Trail Guide
Week of May 25, 2020

Over the years that our family has lived in Northern Virginia – Dunn Loring, Stafford, and Leesburg – I have traveled to Arlington National Cemetery on most Memorial Days. Both of my parents are buried there, near the Tomb of the Unknowns. Most years, since I have a car pass, I am able to drive and park close to their grave. I usually try to go early, to avoid the crowds that come for the Memorial Day observance. There, in the midst of the neatly ordered, white grave markers, I take some time to reflect and give thanks to God for my mother and father. My thanksgiving and remembrance of their influence, their love, their faith, and their example, is tempered with the realization that I miss them, still. I am so grateful for all they imparted and yet I also think of the conversations we did not have; and wish we had. But in the midst of living, and enjoying life, there's always tomorrow. Until there isn't. This year, I'll also be remembering my father-in-law who although he served in the military, is buried in Fairfax. I'll give thanks for his influence, love, faith, and example. And, I will wish we could still talk and laugh and be together. But we can't. Not yet.

The reason I can share these personal thoughts without melancholy is because of hope. In Christ. In God's promise of resurrection life. I know I will see them again (just not too soon, I hope). The joy of that reunion will only be eclipsed by the incredible experience of being face to face with the resurrected Christ. Memorial Day. "Holiday" we say – and quickly add "holy-day". A day to remember the sacrifice of so many. A day to remember our loved ones. A day to remember the reason we have hope. And, perhaps a day to have one of those conversations with our loved ones that we will not later regret not having. Grace and peace, Pastor Jim.

Monday 05/25 – [Romans 8:35-39](#)

Reflection:

Response:

Tuesday 05/26 – [Philippians 4:4-7; then 4:8-9](#)

Reflection:

Response:

Wednesday 05/27 - [Colossians 3:12-17](#)

Reflection:

Response:

Thursday 05/28 – [1 John 4:16-21](#)

Reflection:

Response:

Friday 05/29 – [Psalm 23](#)

Reflection:

Response:

Saturday 05/30 – [Isaiah 41:1-10; Revelation 21:3-4](#)

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.

Message Map - May 24, 2020
"Letting Go of Fear"
Rev. Jim Wishmyer
Isaiah 41:10; Luke 12:22-23, 27-32

"Therefore I tell you, do not worry..." Luke 12:22
"Fear not, for I am with you... for I am your God..." Isaiah 41:10

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