

THE MOUNTAIN VALLEY CONNECTION

11583 Mountain Valley Rd.
Rockingham, VA 22802

Nonprofit Organization
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Return Service Requested

GATHERING IN GOD'S GREAT SANCTUARY

Dear friend, the Grace and Peace of our Lord Jesus Christ to you,

I pray this letter finds you well and healthy. During these times of unknowns and firsts I'd like to tell you, I have been missing you all dearly! Nevertheless, I continue to pray for all of you; Ephesians 1:16 says "I do not cease giving thanks for you, while making mention of you in my prayers". Every morning I pray for you and your families and for those who you will be interacting with that day.

I want to let you know the church building is presently closed for worship service but if you need to meet with the pastor, vent, cry, laugh or just spend time in the sanctuary, let me know and I will open the sanctuary for you.

The church continues to do its job as a beacon of hope in different ways; through Facebook videos, written devotionals shared electronically and virtual Bible Studies that can be joined by landline as well. I And now.... Drive-in worship!

Also, we continue with the ministries of prayer shawls, mask making, volunteering, hospital equipment, birthday cards, phone calls, children curriculum, and food donation. I encourage you to think about participating in any way you can as the Spirit leads you and as long as it brings people closer to God in the safest way possible.

The mission still continues to care and provide for the last, the least and the left behind in this pandemic. I can see the Spirit moving you in different ways such as monetary, through missions, beautifying the flowerbeds; in all these ways and many others, I thank you.

Important Continuation on Back



Mountain Valley Drive-in Worship - Sept. 13th

Let's get back to church on September 13 at 11am! Dear friends, I have missed you all so much, and after careful consideration from community leaders, pastors, and District Superintendent, we have the green light to worship Drive-in style! We have the utmost respect for your health in the midst of this pandemic. Just like Jesus said love one another, and so we are loving you by providing safe and healthy protocols. I love lists, so here is a loving list.

- 1-**Sick?** Stay home, we will continue broadcasting on FB.
- 2-**Call** Shelley Wegman by the Wednesday before Sunday and let her know you coming to praise on Sunday.
- 3-**Check in by** driving by the social hall. (Just to make sure we have your info)
- 4-**Follow** the signals of the "good looking ushers."

This protocol is made to be smooth and easy peasy with your health and safety in mind. By staying home, if you are **sick**, you are protecting others and stopping further spreading. By **calling** Shelley, we will make sure we plan the parking arrangement and in case of an outbreak we can alert everyone. At the **check in** we will make sure we have your name correctly and give traffic directions through the ushers.

In lieu of handshaking please wave, send love and peace signs observing social distancing or make a poster with a loving word such as "miss ya, love you, blessings". You may bring a chair and place it in front of your car, always keeping in mind social distancing. You might be ready to hug on people but people might not be ready. Be considerate and caring towards others. If you need to use the bathroom, wear a mask when you step out of the vehicle.

The first time around might feel odd and out of place, but trust me, we will have the Spirit leading as we always have. Your pastor wants to hug all, but I will hug you spiritually. Please help us stay a healthy church by following the recommendations. I cannot wait to see us all together! Stay healthy and stay blessed

Pastor Eduardo

Worship at Mountain Valley

It has been months since we have been able to gather in the building for worship as a community church. We look forward to the day we can resume that practice. In the meantime there are some alternatives.

1. For those using Facebook or smart phones, you can participate in a live Sunday morning service through Facebook. Pastor Eduardo brings us the Word with humor and insight. As a Facebook participant we can comment back, greet each other, and lift prayer concerns- from the safety of our own homes. The service remains on Fb for later viewers and can be sent to any individual who has a smart phone.
2. In years past, services had been recorded on tape and delivered to individuals who could not participate live. This could be resurrected for you if you do not have online access to follow the other way. Be sure to let the Pastor know of your wish and what kind of equipment you have for playback. A recording team may be organized to duplicate and disseminate the recordings.
3. And of course, Drive-in Worship!

Pastor's Letter Continued

Here is the part of the letter for which I'd love to hear from you. We want to reach as many people as possible with our Sunday message, so, **please let me know which way it is best for you to follow the Sunday Service (online, drive-in, tape, or printed)**. We can offer a pastoral letter each week and are working on taping the Service for those who can play it back. Remember, you are the Body of Christ in the world, be as merciful, caring, loving, and forgiving... just like Jesus!

Pastor Eduardo



Health & Love with Covid-19

We are facing an experience we have not been through before, but certainly one similar to what our ancestors experienced with diseases and plagues that we read about. During this COVID Pandemic some have experienced severe illness and are still struggling to recover completely, while others may not even be aware they have COVID, but can still give it to someone else. Some have experienced the death of loved ones and mourn that loss.

We continue to be encouraged to practice physical distancing of at least 6 feet when in public and limit gatherings. The CDC (center for disease control) recommends that each of us wear face masks when in public to protect others. The CDC has advised that the outbreak could be "under control" in just a few weeks if every person wore a mask when with others in public places. We are called to love our neighbor as our self. Jesus said, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first commandment. And the second is similar, You shall love your neighbor as yourself." Matt. 22:38-40

Let's get through this together!

- Call your neighbor
- Send notes of encouragement
- Read your Bible and have devotional time. Pray and talk with God. He is always there, willing to listen

Stay safe and stay well. God loves you!

Deborah Reid FCN



Hi Neighbor!

If you are like me, the past months have been a journey of the unknown. Words like masks, hand washing, distancing, closings, steered this adventure. Now, words like uncertainty, opening, protests, increasing numbers, elections, cloud our path on this journey.

All of this reminds me of the days spent in journey by the Israelites to the Promised Land. They, too, faced uncertain days, fears. They protested, they rebelled against the rules. They faltered in believing there was a glorious ending to their journey. But in the midst of their frailties, God was with them.

He is with us. When we can't meet at the Mtn. Valley Church building, He is still present. He is with us when we call each other, send cards, wave and blow the horn as we pass by. He is with us when we pray for each other and for his wisdom and guidance each day in our lives. He is with us when a beautiful day dawns or even a day that starts with the clouds appearing. He is everywhere. Yes, we get discouraged. Yes, we feel frustrated. Yes, we are afraid of the unknown. But God travels with us each day, guiding us to a better way, if we believe, hang on and make each day a reminder of what we've been thru and how he has brought us thus far. If we think of God as the divine driver on this journey; with his experience he can handle the curves in the road. He can gear down where needed. He knows his precious load needs care and love, to stay fresh till delivery. He checks on the load frequently and puts signs out to protect it. Those signs are his beautiful creation everywhere! Even the potholes of our life! Do we hear him proclaim declaring "Breaker, Breaker, everyone" I am the Lord, your God! And I will bring you out...

So, what is our part of this; to be faithful to his word, to each other and to ourselves. As the scripture Colossians 3:15-17 reminds us, "Let the Peace of Christ keep you in tune with each other, in step with each other. Cultivate thankfulness. Let the the word of Christ, the message, have the run of the house. Give it plenty of room in your lives. Instruct and direct one another using good common sense. And sing, sing your hearts out to God! Let every detail in your lives—words, actions, whatever—be done in the name of the Master, Jesus, thanking God the Father every step of the way.

God bless you, dear friends. Be Safe!

Barbara Phillips



Need a little TLC?

- - Go to ER

No. Not the Emergency Room! It is Evening Rest, live on Facebook on Mondays and Fridays at 7:00 by Eduardo Carrillo.

ER for us will be a time to seek God to assist us get through this difficult time and help us rest from the day. Join us and invite a friend.

SPRINKLES

Sprinkles of wisdom on Facebook for you to spread (like & share) for your friends and family so that their day has another level of enjoyment.

Concise, to the point guidance and encouragement for faithful living and witness! Check your Fb and spread the insight. Posted every Tuesday and Thursday.

Fb: Eduardo Carrillo

ZOOM BIBLE STUDY

Technology has opened a new way to explore the Bible! Without leaving home you can participate live in a group Bible Study!

Pastor Eduardo establishes a Zoom group each week and sends out the connection number to interested parties.

At 7:00 pm on Wednesdays, participants call in on their home phones or login on their computers and/or smart phones.

Each week has a new scriptural focus and all participants can share their insights and questions.

To participate in **ZOOM** Bible study, call or email Eduardo to get on the list. He will send you the connection number prior to the night's study.

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UMC Covid Safety Protocols for Gathering for Worship

The United Methodist Church in Virginia has a specific set of protocols all its congregations must follow to re-open for gatherings of any kind. The very comprehensive specifics may be viewed at the Virginia Conference UMC website: <https://vaumc.org/return/>

The document is extensive. Mountain Valley will highlight the relevant protocols for its events as they are promoted.