

# THE MOUNTAIN VALLEY CONNECTION

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Harrisonburg, VA  
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No man/woman is an island. I think that's a valid reminder of our need to be connected. As we are coming out of different restrictions and social distancing, we are realizing how powerful a smile can be. I was at the grocery store the other day and found myself smiling a little bit more than usual. The greeter smiled, the person stocking the canned vegetables smiled and said "Good morning," even the person cleaning up a mess on aisle 6 gave me a big smile and said "it's a beautiful day ain't it? We are social beings that need connecting with one another even if that connection is a simple smile in the middle of a mess.

Another aspect of our humanity is that we need interaction with one another. For whatever reason, we have fallen apart from each other. Either because of the masks, opinion or whatever... I believe its time to come together and seek God together. Our humanity asks for connection with another human and our creator asks for connection with us spiritually.

At Mountain Valley, we are working towards making connections with you and with God. We invite you to come and join us on Sunday for our next Sermon Series "No Longer Strangers" Haven't you felt a little bit estranged from friends? What about family? Even worse, from God?

Starting July 11 through August 15, Mountain Valley UMC will be exploring how we belong to bigger family, the family of God. You are invited to join us and re-enter into the life of the church and grow with us. There is also Sunday school starting at 9:45am. I hope you join us and reconnect with one another and with God.

*Spanish item: La iglesia Mountain Valley te recuerda que Dios te ama, y te invita a ser parte de la familia todos los domingos a las 11am a su servicio en ingles. El pastor habla español.*

*Translation--Mountain Valley UMC reminds you that God loves you and invites you to be part of the family every Sunday at 11am to its English service, the pastor speaks Spanish.*

*Pastor Eduardo Carrillo*

EduardoCarrillo@vaumc.org 896-3424 Study



## SUMMER DAZE FOR YOUTH!

Rising Middle School and Younger High School Ages  
Friday, July 9th 5:30 to 8:00

We have a special reservation for a fun evening at Camp Overlook's lake!

If you can join us, save your spot by emailing: MountainValleyUMCEvents@gmail.com  
Or phone or text Ron Robey at 540 421-9298

**SWIMMING, WIENER ROAST, LIMBO, BEACH MUSIC**

No Costs but we need to know you are coming!  
Permission form required for those who come without a parent.



### U.S. World and News Report *Reprint: Deadly Virus Outbreak!* Joseph David Reporting *World-wide Crisis!* Sunday, April 2021 *A PARABLE WITH A HIDDEN MESSAGE*

It is difficult to understand how we came to this point. Today is a rather typical Sunday. Families are enjoying a beautiful morning. There are picnickers, bikers, and joggers. The southern beaches and pools are crowded and thousands have escaped to the mountains. They all seem to *forget* and it is hard to imagine how.

It started just a few months ago with the announcement over CNN of the virus outbreak in China. An extremely **lethal strain of the virus** infected thousands of people. The hospitals were swamped and no one was prepared with the proper medicine to bring healing to the sick.

The seriousness of the situation did not become apparent until 4 cases of virus cropped up in India and 2 in Australia. Each of the persons involved had recently traveled from China.

Authorities in the Far East immediately mobilized their medical resources. It seemed that the virus was highly contagious and always fatal. No one was aware of a cure or any effective way to treat it. Within days, tens of thousand were ill in India alone. The virus had spread to all parts of the Far East, Philippines, and Australia, Twenty seven cases were identified in various parts of Africa, and Europe grounded all flights from the infected regions.

Doctors around the world were looking furiously for anything that could stop the deadly virus. Within weeks, nearly a half million had died and it appeared millions more would soon die.

At first the European quarantine appeared to work. But without explanation, two people in Belgium and 4 in Switzerland came down with the virus and it began to spread like wildfire throughout Europe and all of Asia.

Authorities in the United States and other western hemisphere nations closed their borders. Schools were closed. University labs, drug companies, and research centers focused all of their efforts on finding a cure for this deadly sickness.

It was clear that once a person was exposed to the virus that it would overwhelm their immune defenses within weeks if you were healthy. The very old, could only hold out for days.

**....all of mankind would succumb.**

The outbreak in the United States began in California. Within weeks, the virus was reported in every state, in every city of the country. It was clear everyone was exposed to this fatal virus and it would only be a matter of time before all of mankind would succumb.

The announcement of a **potential vaccine** by Doctor Andrew White of Johns- Hopkins Medical Center fanned a wave of encouragement. The doctor discovered a vaccine could be created from the blood of an uninfected person. The process could be done quickly and millions and millions of lives could be saved once the vaccine was ready and distributed.

The problem was, essentially every living person seemed to have already been exposed to this virus. None-the-less, the **White House ordered** the testing of every citizen in hopes of finding one who's blood remained pure.

*Report continues next page "Emergency Room"*

### Calling All Kids in the Community!

Sunday, July 11th - Thursday, July 15th

5:30—6:00 Free Dinner

6:00—8:00 Activities

**Where: Mountain Valley UMC Fellowship Hall**

**Who: All children ages 3-12**

Masks are not required but those who prefer to wear one are welcome.

Registration forms may be completed on arrival Sunday night.

Or, request one by email from: MountainValleyUMCEvents@gmail.com

Come eat, sing, play and learn with us at Vacation Bible School this year.

A light dinner will be provided each night.

**Free to all!**



## Community Outreach!

Folks from Mountain Valley help with, **KIDS CLOTHES CLOSET** & the **Equipment for Caring** medical equipment loaner closet at *Mission Central-Cedar Grove*.

If you would like to help some who are less fortunate, you are welcome to donate clean, gently used children's clothing and surplus medical equipment to Mission Central.

If you are in need of either, please stop by and see how we may help you!

1704 Smithland Rd., Harrisonburg, VA 22802

Kids Clothes Closet:

2nd & 4th Wednesdays, 10:00 to 1:00

3rd Wednesday 5:00 to 7:00 pm

2nd & 4th Thursdays, 5:00 to 7:00 pm

Equipment for Caring:

Mondays, 9:00 to 11:00 am

Thursdays, 5:00 to 7:00 pm

Mountain Valley provides emergency relief through Health & Welfare, and various missions by the men's & women's groups.

There is an emergency prayer chain, prayer shawl group, book club, and Bible studies which help one to grow in fellowship, mind and spirit.

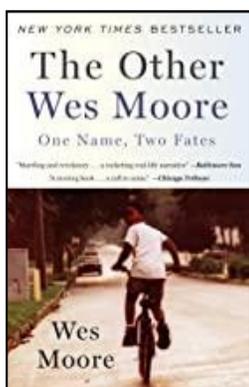
## From our Parish Nurse.....

Greetings to you and those you love. As we begin to come out of the isolation of COVID we look at activities we can again do safely as a community and church and hope you can join us. I'm sure this past year has brought changes and losses including income, and for some even the loss of family and/or friends. We mourn those losses as we attempt to pick up the pieces of our lives. Over 600,000 persons have died related to COVID in the United States this past year. This is comparable to the yearly deaths due to cancer. We now have a vaccine that helps to protect us as individuals and over 2 billion have been administered worldwide. There are still many here in the US who have chosen not to get it although it is now available at no charge and there are many more throughout the world who still do not have it available for them. We hear now of variant strands developing which may develop into an epidemic and those not vaccinated are vulnerable. The Center for Disease Control advises that those who have been fully vaccinated can resume activities without wearing a mask or physical distancing, except where required by federal, state, or local laws and regulations. The Center for Disease Control is encouraging everyone to be vaccinated age 12 and above. You can register with our local Central Shenandoah Health District at [vaccineappointments.virginia.gov](http://vaccineappointments.virginia.gov) or call your local health department (Rockingham county Social Services at 540-574-5100) to schedule and find sites COVID vaccines are being offered. As we look to the future, we at Mountain Valley UMC plan to have a health fair with our upcoming Old Fashioned Days, October 16. At that time we will have regular flu vaccines and possibly COVID vaccines available. We will be letting you know more about this.

I hope you stay well and stay safe.

Delores Reid FCN 

## Mountain Valley Community Book Club



Calling all readers! The Community Book Club will be meeting on July 22 at 11:30 at the Mountain Valley fellowship hall for lunch, fellowship and discussion of our book of the month, "The Other Wes Moore", by Wes Moore. This is an engaging true story about two men named Wes Moore who were raised on different ends of Baltimore. It discusses the differences between them, their circumstances, hopes and trajectories in life. Bring a bag lunch and let us know what you would like to read for August.

## "Emergency Room" (continued from front)

Which brings us to the day that this reporter first became deeply involved and seriously concerned. Like every other citizen, I was tested and so was every member of my family. It was a beautiful Sunday. We were gathered in the parking lot outside the testing center, waiting to hear the results of our testing. There were thousands of others all around us doing the same. That is when I heard the announcement that started the **change of my outlook on all of humanity**. The speakers blared, "Joseph David, please bring your family to the emergency room immediately. I grabbed the hands of my wife, Mary, and son Josh, and worked my way through the crowd.

Several of the doctors greeted us with big smiles and tremendous excitement. "Mr. David, your son Joshua is the first and only person we or anyone else has tested that shows no signs of infection. His blood is *perfectly pure* and just what we need to make the vaccine that can save the world. I began to be caught up in the joy of realizing there was hope after all. I was proud that my son would be the one that would save humankind.

The doctors thrust a number of medical papers in front of me for signatures. Only a lawyer could sort out all of the fine print and technical jargon. But I began to realize this wasn't as simple as it first appeared.

***I was proud that my son would be the one...***

"I don't understand what all of this is about," I said in a weak voice. The doctor put his hand on my shoulder, "Joshua is the only person free of this condition that has infected every last person. With his blood we can heal the world."

"That's a lot of people and will take a lot of blood," I murmured. "Surely more than my son can provide."

"Not really," said the doctor. "We can do it."

"Then how much do you need?" I asked.

The doctor looked down at the floor as he answered, "All of it."

I just don't understand. It wasn't that long ago that Joshua gave all of his blood, gave his life, so that a vaccine could be created and save people all around the world. True to the doctor's word, it was enough. There was great rejoicing when the vaccine was announced. People were thrilled to be free of the virus and certain death.

You'd think that they would express their gratitude to Joshua. You'd think they would set aside a little time on a beautiful Sunday morning, to express thanksgiving that they were even alive to enjoy the beach or picnics or the like.

**Why** don't they sing songs that tell of Joshua's sacrifice? Where are the prayers of Thanksgiving for this gift of life itself?

**Why do they forget** to honor He who saved them?

*Joshua is the Hebrew form of the name, Jesus!*

*This story is **not about virus** but about our human nature to sin, and the forgiveness and healing Christ brings to us!*

*People in the Mountain Valley Community come together for thanksgiving and praise each Sunday morning at 11:00 am.*



Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors! It's a catchy phrase isn't it. And it is a wonderful description of the church, God's people. Except, it is more a goal than a reality. As humans, we tend to be imperfect, forgetful, self-centered, wayward individuals who need help opening our hearts, our minds and even our doors to others.

At Mountain Valley we know we have not fully reached this goal, but it is where we are heading. With Christ's help, we hope to grow as we give thanks to God who loves us anyway, learn to follow the teachings of Jesus, and give our hands and gifts in Christian action to those in need.

We welcome your ideas and suggestions for being a faithful and effective church in this community.

[MountainValleyUMCEvents@gmail.com](mailto:MountainValleyUMCEvents@gmail.com)  
[www.MountainValleyUMC.org](http://www.MountainValleyUMC.org)