

# MUMC At-Home Worship:

*September 6, 2020*

We have some great things coming up this September! As we continue holding worship online and at home, we are working hard to ensure we have opportunities to connect as a community and to continue living into our ministry and mission. I hope you'll take a look at the attached sheet with information about the [Back to School Blessing](#) coming up this Sunday, September 6, and the [drive-in communion service](#) a little later this month. Both are intentionally designed to limit physical contact and potential spread of the COVID-19 virus while still allowing us to gather as a community. Of course, we encourage you to consider your own personal risk and comfort before choosing whether to attend. We know that the Spirit of God is with us wherever we are, and we are united in the Body of Christ even when not physically together.

If you have any questions, contact me at any time. Have a great week!

*-Pastor Dillon*

*If available, place a candle in the center of your gathering space and light it with this prayer:*

God, you walk with us everywhere that life leads, through joy and journey as also through struggles and strife. Open us to your Spirit here in this place today. Amen.

**Hymn:** *We'll Understand it Better By and By*, United Methodist Hymnal #525 – [watch/listen here](#)

**New Testament Reading:** Acts 15:36-41

The word of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Reflect:**

1. In the book of Acts, Paul and Barnabas are closely knit partners in ministry up until this moment when they split over the inclusion of John Mark in an upcoming trip. How would you characterize the emotions Paul may have been feeling throughout this scripture passage? Has there ever been a time in life when you have felt similar feelings or gone through a similar experience?
2. There is no clear sense of whether Paul or Barnabas was “in the right” when it came to their argument. Tradition holds that Barnabas founded a church in Syria that is still present today and that may not have come without separating to go on this trip. Do you believe there are times when separating is the best thing to do?
3. The community entrusted Paul “to the Lord’s grace.” What might it look like to entrust someone to the Lords’ grace, even – and especially – after a disagreement that ends in separation instead of uniformity?

**Hymn:** *Give to the Winds Thy Fears*, United Methodist Hymnal #129 – [watch/listen here](#)

**Prayer Requests:** Share prayer requests and have a moment of silent prayer

**Lord’s Prayer**

**Hymn:** *Blest Be the Tie that Binds*, United Methodist Hymnal #557 – [watch/listen here](#)

**Closing Prayer:**

God, our best efforts to walk in your way sometimes open us to conflict with others who feel differently but no less faithful. Grant us the grace to bless those who walk on different paths and the courage to hope our paths will us back together one day. In Christ’s name, Amen. (*Blow out the candle*)

***We'll Understand It Better By and By***  
**United Methodist Hymnal #525**

1. We are tossed and driven  
on the restless sea of time;  
somber skies and howling tempests  
oft succeed a bright sunshine;  
in that land of perfect day,  
when the mists have rolled away,  
we will understand it better by and by.

*Refrain:*

By and by, when the morning comes,  
when the saints of God are gathered home,  
we'll tell the story how we've overcome,  
for we'll understand it better by and by.

2. We are often destitute  
of the things that life demands,  
want of food and want of shelter,  
thirsty hills and barren lands;  
we are trusting in the Lord,  
and according to God's word,  
we will understand it better by and by.  
(*Refrain*)

3. Trials dark on every hand,  
and we cannot understand  
all the ways that God would lead us  
to that blessed promised land;  
but he guides us with his eye,  
and we'll follow till we die  
for we'll understand it better by and by.  
(*Refrain*)

4. Temptations, hidden snares  
often take us unawares,  
and our hearts are made to bleed  
for a thoughtless word or deed;  
and we wonder why the test  
when we try to do our best,  
but we'll understand it better by and by.  
(*Refrain*)

*"We'll Understand It Better By and By"* words by Charles  
Albert Tindley, ca. 1906, and are in the public domain.

**Acts 15:36-41 (CEB)**

Some time later, Paul said to Barnabas, "Let's go back and visit all the brothers and sisters in every city where we preached the Lord's word. Let's see how they are doing." Barnabas wanted to take John Mark with them. Paul insisted that they shouldn't take him along, since he had deserted them in Pamphylia and hadn't continued with them in their work. Their argument became so intense that they went their separate ways. Barnabas took Mark and sailed to Cyprus. Paul chose Silas and left, entrusted by the brothers and sisters to the Lord's grace. He traveled through Syria and Cilicia, strengthening the churches.

*Scripture quotations noted CEB are taken from the Common English Bible, copyright 2011. Used by permission. All rights reserved.*

***Give to the Winds Thy Fears***  
**United Methodist Hymnal #129**

1. Give to the winds thy fears;  
hope and be undismayed.  
God hears thy sighs and counts thy tears,  
God shall lift up thy head.
2. Through waves and clouds and storms,  
God gently clears thy way;  
wait thou God's time; so shall this night  
soon end in joyous day.
3. Leave to God's sovereign sway  
to choose and to command;  
so shalt thou, wondering, own that way,  
how wise, how strong this hand.
4. Let us in life, in death,  
thy steadfast truth declare,  
and publish with our latest breath  
thy love and guardian care.

*“Give to the Winds Thy Fears” words are by Paul Gerhard, 1653, translated by John Wesley, 1739, and are in the public domain.*

***Blest Be the Tie That Binds***  
**United Methodist Hymnal #557**

1. Blest be the tie that binds  
our hearts in Christian love;  
the fellowship of kindred minds  
is like to that above.
2. Before our Father's throne  
we pour our ardent prayers;  
our fears, our hopes, our aims are one,  
our comforts and our cares.
3. We share each other's woes,  
our mutual burdens bear;  
and often for each other flows  
the sympathizing tear.
4. When we asunder part,  
it gives us inward pain;  
but we shall still be joined in heart,  
and hope to meet again.

*“Blest Be the Tie That Binds” words are by John Fawcett, 1782, and are in the public domain.*