



His Mansion

*A newsletter from
First United Methodist Church
of Southbridge*

"In my Father's House, there are many mansions... I go to prepare a place for you..."

JULY 2020



*"We must be free
not because we
claim freedom,
but because
we practice it."*

William Faulkner

Reminder:

We meet for worship
at 10am and enjoy
fellowship, coffee and
treats afterwards



FROM PASTOR SABINA'S DESK



Dear friends in Christ,

This will not be like the normal newsletter article I write. I will not be talking about activities we are currently engaged in or looking forward to. In this article, I am cutting to the chase. I am tired, and like all of you I am also outraged at the current situation we, as a nation, find ourselves in. Over the past few months we have been witnesses to

tragedies occurring in cities across America. As a nation, we have watched peaceful neighborhoods and thriving cities become places of destruction. News cycles have been focused on the heart wrenching images and appalling stories of violence and destruction. Not just two months ago, COVID-19 was the news everyone was talking about, but the pandemic is no longer the primary news.

Maybe we are missing the point.

I looked and talked to my friends of color, to the brown people on the streets, at the protests, on TV shows and the Holy Spirit convicted me to speak to what many others are avoiding. For far too long we, as a nation, and more importantly we, as the church, have been failing to live into our callings as Christians. We have failed to find a way to proactively address and find viable solutions to the sin of racism in communities across our country. As a wife, mother, pastor, and American, I have been just as complicit in fully engaging in and understanding my role in all of this. It should not take the deaths of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery and Rayshard Brooks for me, this nation, and the church to hear the cries of people of color and how they are hurting.

As a church, we are deeply saddened and troubled at the death of George Floyd and every death that is a result of hate. As Christians, we are called to honor all human life as we are all made in the image of God, and especially those whose voices are marginalized the most.

As Christians, we are called to love our neighbors, not just the ones who vote, think, speak, and look like us.

(conclusion on page 3)

**Something good is
going to happen
Some good is in store
We're together again
in praising the
LORD.**

Every Sunday at 10am

**Outdoors (back of the church) if the
weather holds**

**Inside if it rains: Please note that we
have not tried worshipping inside yet.
The Sanctuary may be too hot and not
ventilated enough. If so, inside services
will be cancelled.**

Bring your masks!



**CHURCH
ONLINE**

Join us for Church at 10am on Facebook!!
Go to The Southbridge First United Methodist
Church Page and just watch!!



**SERVICE
TIME
CHANGE**

Our Sunday worship service is now and until further
notice at **10am on Sundays.**

**COFFEE WITH THE
PASTOR**

**EVERY WEDNESDAY AT 3:30 IN THE BACK OF THE
CHURCH (WEATHER-PERMITTING)**



July

Lord, grant that every word we speak may be fit for you to hear; that every deed we do may be fit for you to see and that you are at the centre of all we are.

Prayer of the month

Oh Yes! IT'S
FREE

Hungry?
Lonely?

Please join us
for our free
weekly meals
Mondays—5

pm

Fridays—5 pm

On the menu (examples):

Soups, chili, spaghetti and meat sauce, casseroles, BBQ, salads, bread, fruits, ice cream and other desserts.

IMPORTANT NOTE:

Until further notice, meals will be “to-go”.
Please call Pastor Sabina if you need a meal to be delivered to you during voluntary quarantine.

JOIN US FOR BIBLE STUDY



"Come out of the clutter and clanging of our culture and discover the peace of meeting the God of the Bible in the pages of His Word. Engage Bible Studies take you verse by verse into the richness of the Scriptures in ways that impact your heart and illumine your mind."

"Bible 101" every Monday at 6:30pm

(dinner will be served)

The Bible study is now back in session!!



PASTOR HAD TROUBLE LETTING GO

Pastor Sabina will be on vacation from Sunday, July 26, to Friday, July 31. All activities will be cancelled. A lay speaker will be covering on Sunday 7/26. In case of an emergency, please call

508-450-1614. Pastor Sabina will be within driving distance (Gloucester) but would rather not come back if it is not an emergency!!

HAPPY 4TH OF JULY

"SO IF THE SON SETS YOU FREE, YOU WILL BE FREE INDEED" JOHN 8:36

FROM PASTOR SABINA'S DESK

(conclusion)

Love means many things, but chief amongst them is action. God did not just say he loves us, He showed it. He showed it through His prophets, His written Word, the Bible, and most importantly through coming to Earth wrapped in human flesh in the person of Jesus Christ. He showed that love through Jesus' life, ministry, and supremely during Holy Week, particularly on the Cross on Good Friday.

We too are called to love our fellow humans as passionately as Jesus has done.

We are called to do better.

The call of a Christian is to respond to the hurt and brokenness of this world.

We are reminded in scripture

"God made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth . . ." Acts 17:26

We are reminded in scripture that:

"There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, There is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus." (Galatians 3:28)

While this challenge before us seems overwhelming, while this challenge will not be reconciled overnight. We can face this together as the church and we can be a people that carries the light into this darkness.

It begins with listening.

Listening to our neighbors, our friends, and our community to their pain and struggles.

Next we pray.

As we listen to our fellow humans, we seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit and raise our prayers to the Lord. Never underestimate the power of God's people in prayer.

Then we put prayer into action.

Beloved, this is just the beginning of something greater. I cannot tell you how the work we have been called into will end, I have no timelines, I just have faith. Faith that God is using this heart-breaking moment to move the church and her children into a faithful response to the hurt and brokenness surrounding us. This is spiritual warfare, we are fighting powers and principalities and through listening, prayer, and faith in action, God will turn what was meant for evil into His glory as the church arises from our slumber.

Beloved, I will end with the promise Jesus gives us

"I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world." John 16:33

Stay blessed, stay safe!

Pastor Sabina



Memorize
ONE VERSE
EACH MONTH

JUNE 2020

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." (John 14:6)

THIS WEEK @CHURCH

CHECK OUT OUR UPCOMING EVENTS

During this pandemic, please join Pastor Sabina every week:

Monday:

- Office hours: 1:30 pm to 6:30 pm
- Story time for young and old, live on Facebook: 3:30 pm
- Free hot meal to go: 5 pm
- Bible study: 6:30pm

Wednesday:

Coffee with the Pastor: 3:30 pm

Thursday:

Devotional live on Facebook: 3:30pm

Friday:

Office hours: 12 pm to 6:30 pm
Free hot meal to go: 5 pm

Sunday:

Worship: 10 am

Pastor Sabina is also available any time via email)
pastorsabinaterrades@gmail.com) or by phone (508-450-1614).



As you may already know, Pastor Sabina's previous church (she was a member for 17 years before she became a Pastor in Southbridge), Wellspring United Methodist Church in Shrewsbury closed on June 21.

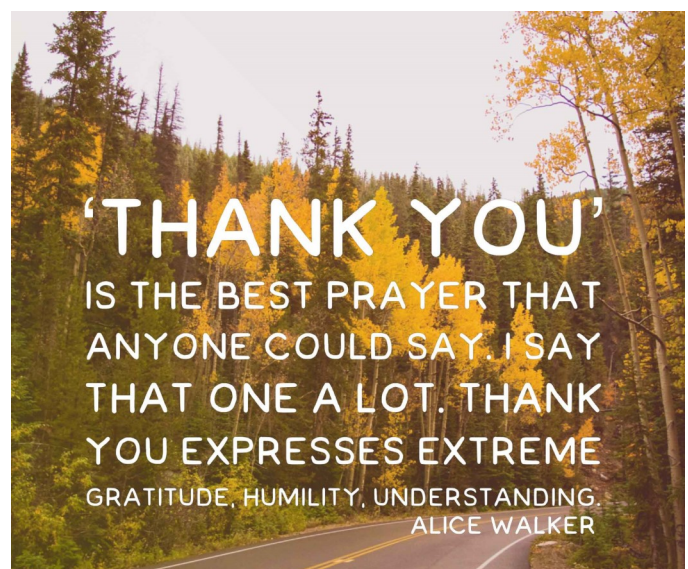
The church had a lot of cash at hand (bank accounts and others) and decided to donate the money to all the organizations the church helped in the past (when a church closes and money is left, it goes to the Conference and they decide what to do with it, not the church). Members voted and organizations such as Shrewsbury Youth and Family Services, Worcester Fellowship and God's Little Children (orphanage in Haiti) received donations. Carl Bongiovi (Pastor Sabina's husband) submitted our homeless/needy ministry as a potential. Wellspring decided to give us \$4,000!!! This is an incredible amount for us to continue our various ministries and keep the church going!

Wellspring also thought of all the children that grew up in that community of faith. All received a \$2,000 donation towards college. Such a blessing!!



that is, that you and I may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith.

- ROMANS 1:12 NIV



On the move

After launching in July 2019, Oasis Ministerios, the start-up targeting the Southbridge Latino population and hosted by our church, has closed at the end of June. Ben Daggett, Pastor, and his wife Milka Gonzalez, will be moving to Salem, NH, in July as Ben has been appointed to two churches (Derry and Salem).

We will miss them and wish them the best in their new endeavor.



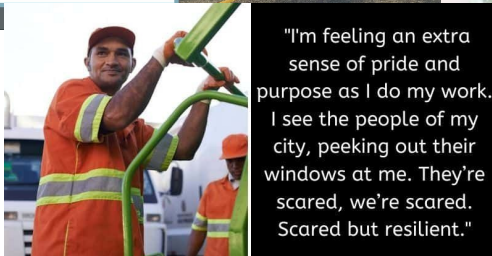
Pastor Sabina and Maya at the protest against racism in Worcester (by journalist Bridget Huss)



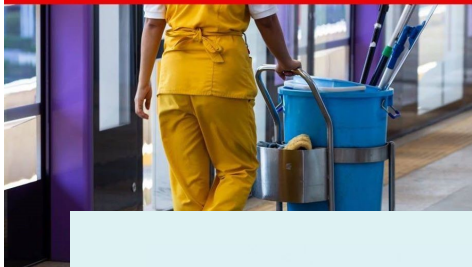
The protest was organized by the Worcester educators. Plenty of teachers, principals, staff and students were on the Worcester Common and everyone joined together for a peaceful march on Main Street



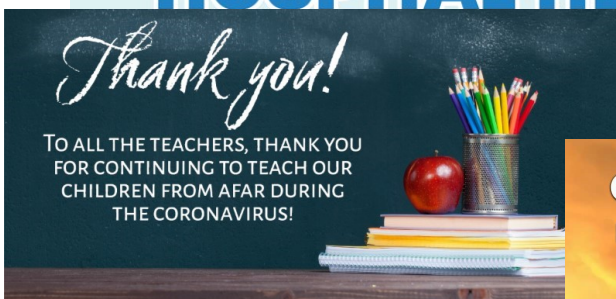
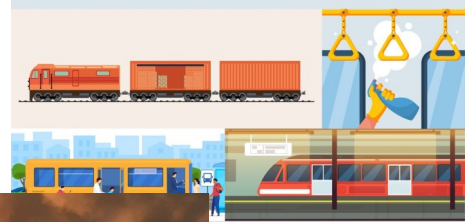
During the Covid Pandemic quarantine, we have been honoring the front line workers on Facebook. Here are some of the pictures accompanying the posts.



Thank you for braving the frontlines to deliver this letter! #❤️postalworkers



Thank you, transportation workers, for keeping us moving



Courage is resistance to fear, mastery of fear, not absence of fear.

Mark Twain



449 Main Street
 Southbridge, MA 01550
 508-764-6501
fumcsouthbridge.org
fumcsouthbridge@gmail.com
 Pastor Sabina Terrades
pastorsabinaterrades@gmail.com



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*A newsletter from
 First United Methodist Church
 of Southbridge*

"In my Father's House, there are many mansions... I go to prepare a place for you..."



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| Sundays | 10 am: | Worship service at the church and live worship on Facebook |
| Mondays: | 3:30 pm: | Story time live on Facebook |
| | 5 pm: | Free meal |
| | 6:30pm: | Bible Study |
| Wednesdays: | 3:30 pm: | Coffee with the Pastor |
| Thursdays: | 3:30pm: | Devotional live on Facebook |
| Fridays: | 5:00 pm | Free meal |