

F.H. & L.

Faith, Hope and Love, and the Greatest of These is Love

A Mini-Newsletter From Your Family at Oakhurst United Methodist Church



OAKHURST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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LOVING GOD, LOVING OTHERS, LOVING LIFE

**Our Mission is to make disciples, nurture disciples,
and spread the Kingdom of Christ.**

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July 2020

Volume 17

Hello to our Friends and Family,

Sometime between 1360 and 1387 (just a few years ago), William Langland wrote a narrative poem called *Piers Plowman*. In that poem he said, "patience is a virtue." Although most people today do not know about Langland, there probably isn't anyone who has not heard that phrase. All of us are practicing patience these days. Some better than others!

The virtues listed by Pope Gregory in AD 590 to counter-balance the seven deadly sins do not include patience. Those virtues are Faith, Hope, Charity, Fortitude, Justice, Prudence and Temperance. Paul, in Galatians talks about the fruit of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. The virtues and the fruits of the Spirit work together: Generosity leads to Charity, Faithfulness comes from practicing Faith, etc. The fruits of the Spirit seem to fit into today's world a little better.

All of us have been restricted in our outings and other activities to some extent since the middle of March. It's entirely possible that patience is the one fruit that is not consistently blooming. It is obvious our Oakhurst members have an abundance of generosity and faithfulness. Tithes have been sent in regularly and the response to our Drive-Through Food Drives has been amazing! The fingers of some of our UMW ladies must be worn to the nub with all the masks they have made so we are ready for in-person services whenever the services can start.

If you are a little depressed since you still don't feel comfortable leaving your home or your family is driving you crazy, stop and think about how you are experiencing the fruits of the Spirit. Experiencing can mean either giving or receiving. So many of the fruits are right there for the picking. Phone a friend to spread and receive a little love and joy. Say a prayer for peace and patience. Use a little self-control and don't eat that last Snickers bar. Well, it may take a lot of prayer for that last one! Allow those fruits to weave their way through your life and you may even find those virtues popping up, too.

In His Joy,

Your Pastors and Staff

In His Words

Galatians 5:22-25

²²By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, ²³gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things. ²⁴And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. ²⁵If we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit. ²⁶Let us not become conceited, competing against one another, envying one another.



Spotlight

Kenya: Provide financial, provisions and spiritual support for missionary Deb Ralph in Kenya as she helps start a school for children with disabilities.

Street Ministry: Prepare, deliver and serve hot supper to 120 to 180 needy people in St. Pete two to three times per month. Due to COVID-19 we are currently donating cash each month.



The corona virus has changed many of the ways our Missions Team supports it's world wide and local ministries. We are continually looking for creative ways to continue those missions. Due to social distancing, the best way for us to do that right now is through monetary donations.

We have started a Missions Spotlight in the newsletter to remind you of all the ministries Oakhurst UMC supports. Please check it out and remember to continue faithfully supporting your Missions Team. Donations can be

made via check or the giving portal on our website app.

Thank you for serving God and others through your generous prayers and gifts. It takes all of us working together to make our missions happen.



Kenya Update

The latest update **from Deb**: The building project has been on hold with Corona, but we will be starting again soon as we received a donation from Oakhurst. These photos are of a mission we did as a church for families with children who are differently abled. We took food and masks and hand sanitizer. Also our committee chair organized a new wheel chair for one little boy.

People here are hurting economically and it meant a lot for them to receive some staple food items, masks and sanitizer. Rev. Teddy gave a short reading from the bible and an uplifting message. He also prayed for each family. It was a blessing to be able to help.



Virtue in the Greek means to be of moral excellence or goodness.

Being virtuous is producing goodness from the Fruits of the Spirit.

Taken from www.christianity.com/bible/patience-is-a-virtue.html

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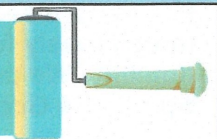


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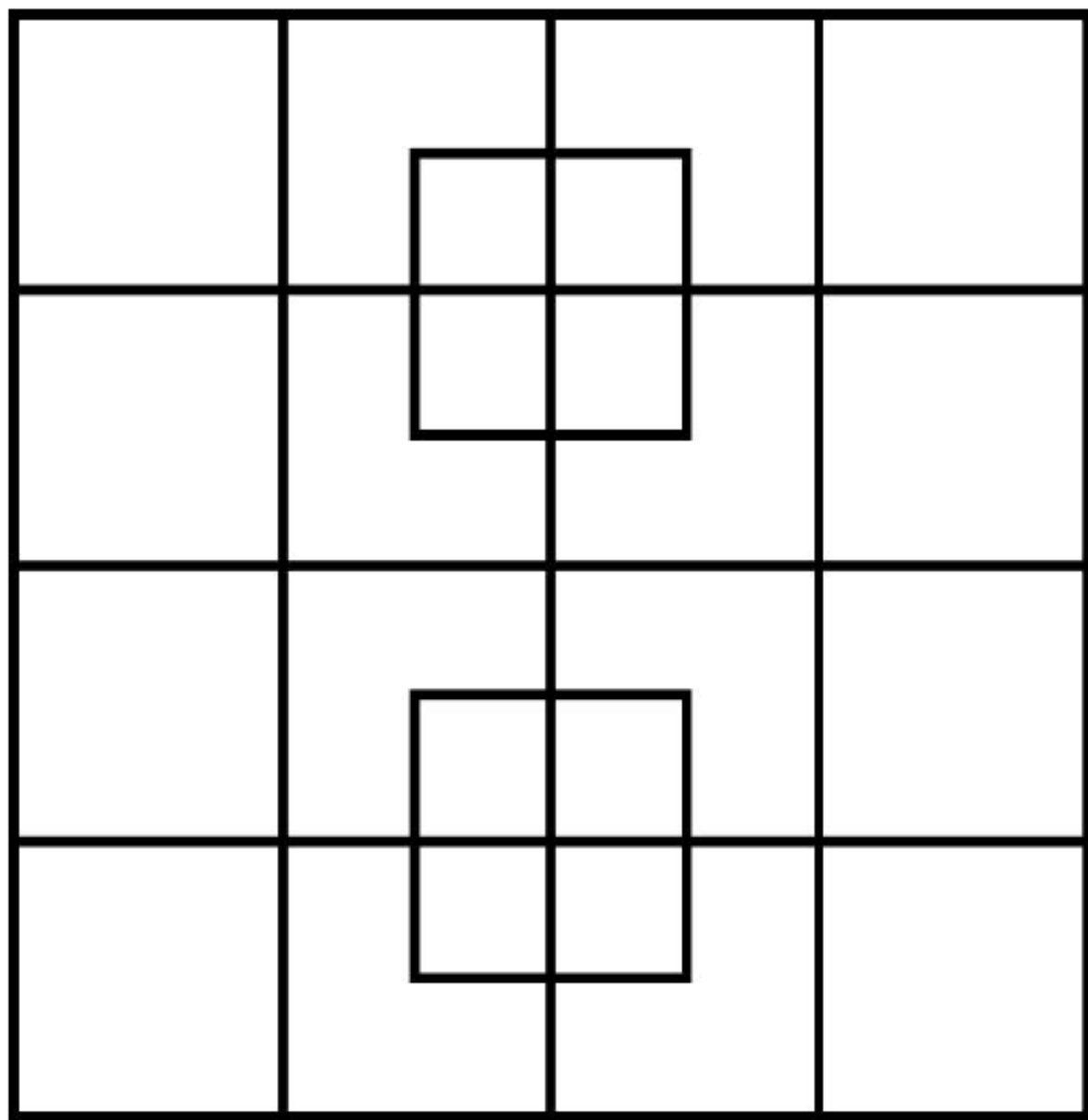
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