

## Introduction to the message planned for Sunday, April 5, 2020

Members of Cumberland, as we approach Holy Week, many of us have fond memories of attending or participating in Holy Week Services. We fondly recall the Holy Week Revivals we attended or participated in. We recall the Maundy Thursday Services where we received Holy Communion or shared in foot washing services. Our minds might even take us to the Good Friday Services or the Seven Last Words of Jesus services that we attended or participated in. Unfortunately for us this year, we will not be able to attend or participate in any of those services I mentioned as we are accustomed to doing.

Our current reality prohibits us from doing what we would normally be doing during this time of the year. One might say that this season of Lent has been drastically different from others and that statement is true! It is different because what normally is done will not be done and what we are accustomed to doing won't be done. Isn't it good to know that even when we are taken out of our comfort zones that God can and does show up for us?

I invite us to live out the remaining days of this year's season of Lent in Prayer, Meditation, Scripture Reading, Fasting, Silence, Journaling and whatever other Spiritual Discipline you engage in to be closer to your God. I miss seeing each of you on Sundays in worship and meeting with some of you for Bible Study on Wednesdays but we still have ways to do what we love doing and are passionate about even in trying times.

In a few moments, I will lead us into the reading of a passage of scripture chosen from Psalm 34:1-8. As I read the scripture, I want each of us to imagine that the chosen passage of scripture is speaking to us individually and to us as a collective entity who make up the wonderful church family known as Cumberland UMC. Until we are able to be in one another's presence again for a traditional worship experience, I pray God's blessing on all of us!