



# First United Presbyterian Church of Dale City

## Chronicles

### January 2021



14391 Minnieville Road  
Woodbridge, Virginia 22193  
703-670-7834

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MAY YOU SHINE  
THE LIGHT OF  
CHRIST IN THE  
NEW YEAR!

People of the Church, Ministers  
Rev. Adam C. Bowling, Pastor  
Dana Van Slyke, Chancel Choir Director  
Justin Streletz, Pianist/Organist  
Rebecca and Chris Anderson,  
Contemporary Worship Directors  
Ike Evans, Jubilation Handbell Director  
Joann Paige, Nursery Supervisor  
Tiffany Ramsey, Little Hands Preschool Director  
Homer Detrich, Sexton  
Kim Parker, Office Manager

From Pastor Adam

## The Light at the End of the Tunnel



“The light at the end of the tunnel,” is a metaphor used to refer to signs that a long period of adversity is coming to an end. According to [Wordorigins.org](http://Wordorigins.org), the metaphor, if not the exact phrasing, dates to at least 1879 when it appears in a letter by writer George Eliot (Mary Ann Evans) about a recent bout with an illness.

Throughout the Old and New Testament, there are scripture passages of hope that God will come to rescue the people ... from oppression, from war, from calamity, from persecution.

***For God will deliver the needy when they cry for help,  
The afflicted also, and they who have no helper.  
God will have compassion on the poor and needy,  
And the lives of the needy God will save.  
God will rescue their life from oppression and violence,  
And their blood will be precious in God's sight. (Psalm 72:12-14)***

***For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. (Jeremiah 29:11)***

Passages like these have brought hope to people across the centuries, living under all kinds of injustice, suffering from all forms of illness, living through pandemics brought about by people's inhumanity, as well as by bacteria and viruses.

Continued on Page 2

If you pay attention to the news, you will notice many saying “we are now seeing the light at the end of the tunnel.” Some are referring to fact that the contentious election is (almost) over, and others to the rolling out of vaccines proven to be effective against COVID-19, and still others to both.

Faith in God, hope in God’s intervention, are deeply important. God is good (all the time!), and we are called to trust in God’s goodness. But it doesn’t end there.

As we enter into the year 2021, after a difficult 2020, with all the revelations of racial inequity and economic injustice and political corruption, it is important to turn again to scripture:

***A new heart I will give you, and a new spirit I will put within you; and I will remove from your body the heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. (Ezekiel 36:26)***

***If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, and one of you says to them, “Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill,” and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead. (James 2:15-17)***

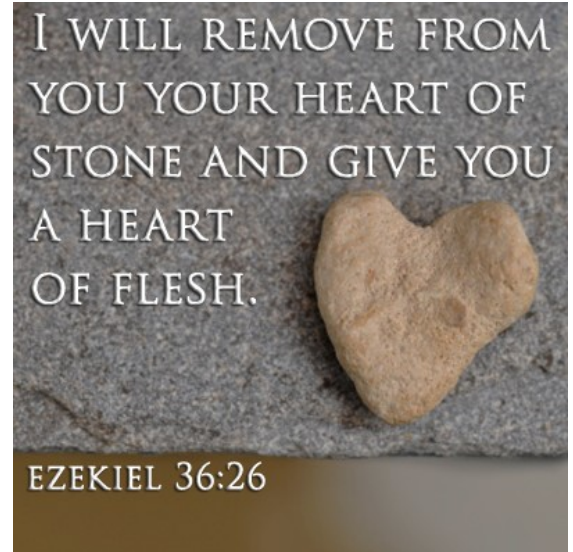
So much work has been done by so many ... for justice, for bringing health and healing, for fairness and honesty in politics, for peace ... but we haven’t yet reached the proverbial promised land.

Yes, we can see some light now. There is hope and promise of a new day. Faith in God’s goodness matters deeply; trusting in God’s goodness matters deeply...and then the work begins.

With renewed hearts and with renewed spirits, we are called to be the hands and feet of God ... to work for equality and justice for all people, to do all we can to heal the earth, the water, the air, to love each other with a deep and wide love, a love which comes from our Creator.

With God’s grace, it will be quite a new year!

On the Journey with you,  
Pastor Adam



## Session Notes

### December Session Report

The Session and the Board of Deacons met together on December 15 to review the work of the deacons. Co-Moderators Carol Schwalm and Ellen Nurenberger told the Session that the deacons have been making regular contacts with their families, especially during the pandemic while we are not able to meet in person. Families and deacons were matched by the worship service they both usually attended to enable more opportunities for deacons to connect with members. The Session expressed their appreciation for the work of the deacons and Clerk Sara Porter thanked the deacons for their help in gathering information for the annual membership rolls review.

Following the joint meeting, the Session resumed meeting and approved creation of a new restricted fund to receive the donation for a new electronic sign. If there are excess funds upon completion of the project, they will be disbursed to the Capital Project Fund per the donor's request. A task force led by Elder Bruce Gilbert is already working on gathering information needed to move forward on this project.

Funding of up to \$5,000.00 for installation of a fiber optics cable in support of audio/video upgrades was authorized. The Audio/Video task force led by Elder Norman Cobb was also authorized to seek grants to help defray the cost of this project.

On the recommendation of the Safety and Security committee, the Session approved delay of inside worship, church group meetings and any outside groups using the inside facilities until April 10, 2021. This decision enables planning for Ash Wednesday, Lenten worship, Palm Sunday, Holy Week and Easter events.

*Submitted by Sara Porter, Clerk of Session*

### New Flower Chart for 2021



The 2021 flower chart is now hanging in the Narthex Welcome Center. If you would like to sign up, please contact Kim in the church office to check availability. The cost remains \$40.00. We need to know the week you would like the flowers, who you would like the flowers in honor or memory of, and if you would like to keep the flowers or donate them to the flower ministry. If you wish to donate them, they will be given to members of the congregation to share God's love and cheer them up. If you have any questions, please contact Gail Cobb at [gailzcobb@gmail.com](mailto:gailzcobb@gmail.com).

# DEACONS: THE MINISTRY OF COMPASSION AND SERVICE

The ministry of deacon as set forth in Scripture is one of compassion, witness, and service, sharing in the redeeming love of Jesus Christ for the poor, the hungry, the sick, the lost, the friendless, the oppressed, those burdened by unjust policies or structures, or anyone in distress. Persons of spiritual character, honest repute, exemplary lives, brotherly and sisterly love, sincere compassion, and sound judgment should be chosen for this ministry.

## 2020 BOARD OF DEACONS

### A Ministry of Compassion and Service

#### Class of 2020

Agnes Fokwa  
Debbie Folly  
Lisa Fortner  
Kathy McNeely  
Carol Schwalm  
Celine Sonkwa

#### Class of 2021

Amy Bean  
Karen Elliott  
Liz Goolgasian  
Peggy Heins  
Therese Same  
Charlotte Stultz

#### Class of 2022

Bob Albrecht  
Sandy Chamberlin  
Claudia Cunningham  
Pam Emert  
Ellen Nuemberger  
Tracy Stevens

Ellen Nuernberger, Co-Moderator ..... 703-878-0009  
Carol Schwalm, Co-Moderator..... 703-680-7673

*We love to hear from you. If you need to be connected with your Deacon, please contact Carol Schwalm or Ellen Nuernberger by calling the numbers listed above or the church office (703-670-7834).*



# DEACONS

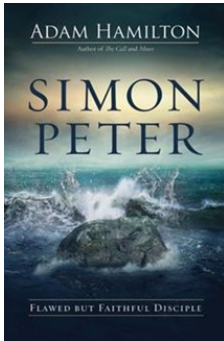
# Adult Education

## Winter Adult Education Classes

### Pastor's Wednesday Evening Bible Study.

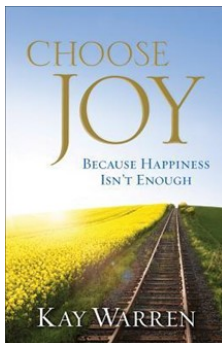
Pastor Adam's Bible Study on Wednesday at 7 PM, via Zoom, will resume on **January 13**, continuing the study of the Gospel of Matthew. All are welcome.

### Sunday School Class.



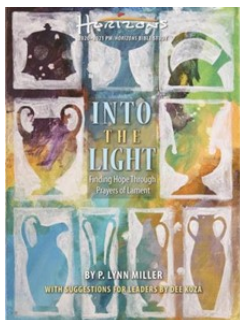
Starting **January 3**, we will look at **"Simon Peter: Flawed but Faithful Disciple."** He left everything to follow his teacher and possessed a passion that would change the world. That is one way to describe Peter. Here's another: poor, uneducated, quick-tempered, and full of doubts and fears. Doesn't even sound like the same man! This is a six-week study utilizing material developed by Adam Hamilton. The class will meet Sundays at 8:30 to 9:30 AM via Zoom. All are invited to participate. Contact Peter Glycer, 703-590-0856 or [peterglyer@gmail.com](mailto:peterglyer@gmail.com) for additional information.

### Women's Monday Bible Study also known as Bible Buddies.



Is a joy-filled life really possible? Join the "Bible Buddies" every Monday night at 7:00 PM on Zoom to learn about Joy in good times and the bad times. In her book, Choose Joy: Because Happiness is Not Enough, the author Kay Warren, teaches that true joy is deeper, richer, and more accessible than one might think. She shares the path for finding and experiencing soul-satisfying joy in the peaks and valleys of life. The book may be purchased from Amazon or Thrift Book stores online.

### Horizons Monthly Bible study.



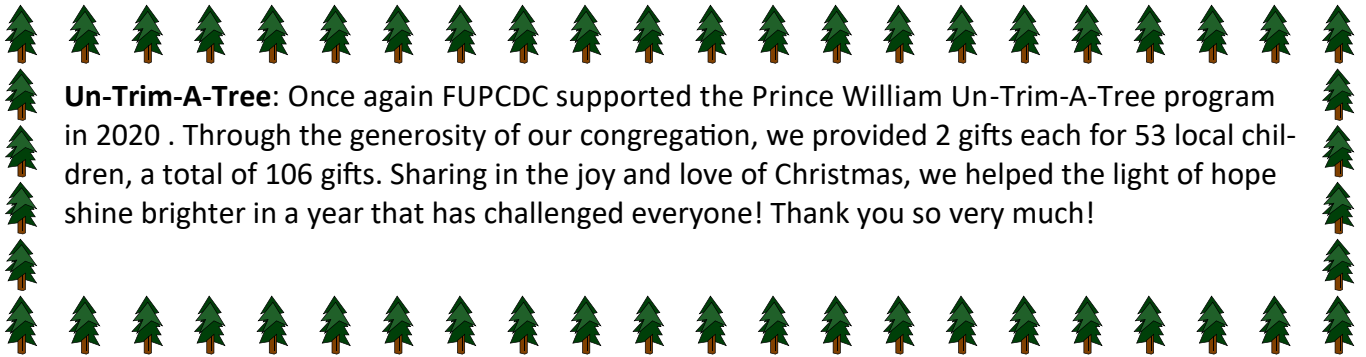
**"Into the Light: Finding Hope Through Prayers of Lament"** is the title of the 2020-2021 Horizons Bible Study. The group meets on the second Monday of the month, through June 2021, at 9:30 AM, via Zoom, for discussion and viewing of the video. The emphasis is on the hope we can find in the scriptures even as we lament our circumstances. If you would like to join this study, please contact Sara Porter [saraporter@comcast.net](mailto:saraporter@comcast.net) or 703-670-8737.

## Mission and Outreach Committee

The residents at **Lake Ridge Fellowship House**, a community for low-income seniors, were given a small Christmas stocking with goodies. This gift, made possible through the generosity of our congregation, helped spread joy to the 108 residents of the community. Thank you for making this possible.



As stated in a previous newsletter, we reached out to **Good Shepherd Housing Foundation** (GSHF) Group Homes this year. Each group home houses about 5 adults who are challenged and have little to no family. In the past, the residents in the group homes didn't receive Christmas gifts, only what GSHF could afford which is usually a stocking full of goodies. Thanks to *your* generous giving, FUP-CDC was able to be Santa to the 15 individuals who live in the group homes. Each person had the joy of opening a main gift, along with a stocking full of socks, Rubik Cube, hand lotion, soap, goodies and much more. Our churches' Spread The Warmth team provided BEAUTIFUL handmade scarves with matching stocking hat for each person. In addition, each home was given a gig-saw puzzle and a fruit basket. IN other words, your generous gifts of love provided 15 people a Very Special Christmas of Love. God Bless each of you and may 2021 bring you health, happiness and love.

 **Un-Trim-A-Tree:** Once again FUPCDC supported the Prince William Un-Trim-A-Tree program in 2020 . Through the generosity of our congregation, we provided 2 gifts each for 53 local children, a total of 106 gifts. Sharing in the joy and love of Christmas, we helped the light of hope shine brighter in a year that has challenged everyone! Thank you so very much!

### **Continuing Support**

Financial support to **ACTS** and **GPW Health Center** is currently being provided on a monthly basis.

# How to Connect in Live Chat during Worship

## How to Connect in Live Chat during Worship

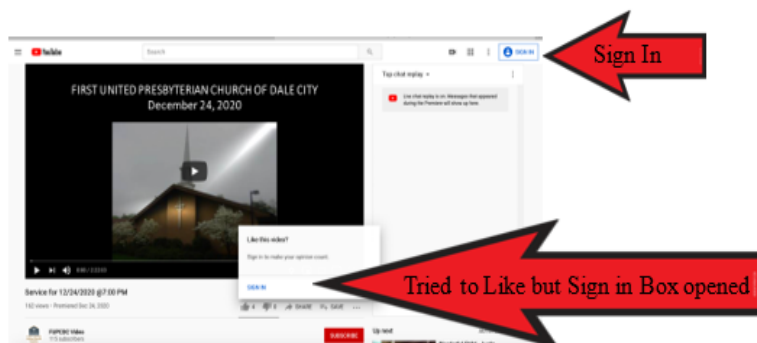
I know we all wish COVID was over so we could worship together in person. Because that won't happen for a while, we will need to continue worshipping online. Did you know that you can connect with others who are also watching the service live? Log in 15 minutes before the service starts (9:45am) and click on the Live Chat icon and chat with others who are watching. It is wonderful to feel that you are not watching alone, and it will also allow you to participate in worship instead of just watching it.

You may be wondering how this is done. It is easy! Just go to the church's web page [www.fupcdc.org](http://www.fupcdc.org) and look for the video frame under the heading "Streaming Worship Service Below." You have 2 watch options.

1. You can click on the start arrow in the middle of the frame to just watch the service on the church's website, but you will not be able to participate in the Live Chat or leave any Comments, so we encourage to try the 2<sup>nd</sup> option below.
2. You can click on the white YouTube icon at the bottom right of the frame to go to YouTube's website where you can watch the service and Live Chat, Comment, Like, Share, and Subscribe to the church's channel **FUPCDC Video**.



If Live Chat, Comments, Like, Share and Subscribe are not available to you, it is because you are not signed into the YouTube website, so you will need to do this with a Google Account or Gmail which the site will prompt you to complete. If you do not have a Gmail address, you can create one on the spot for free.



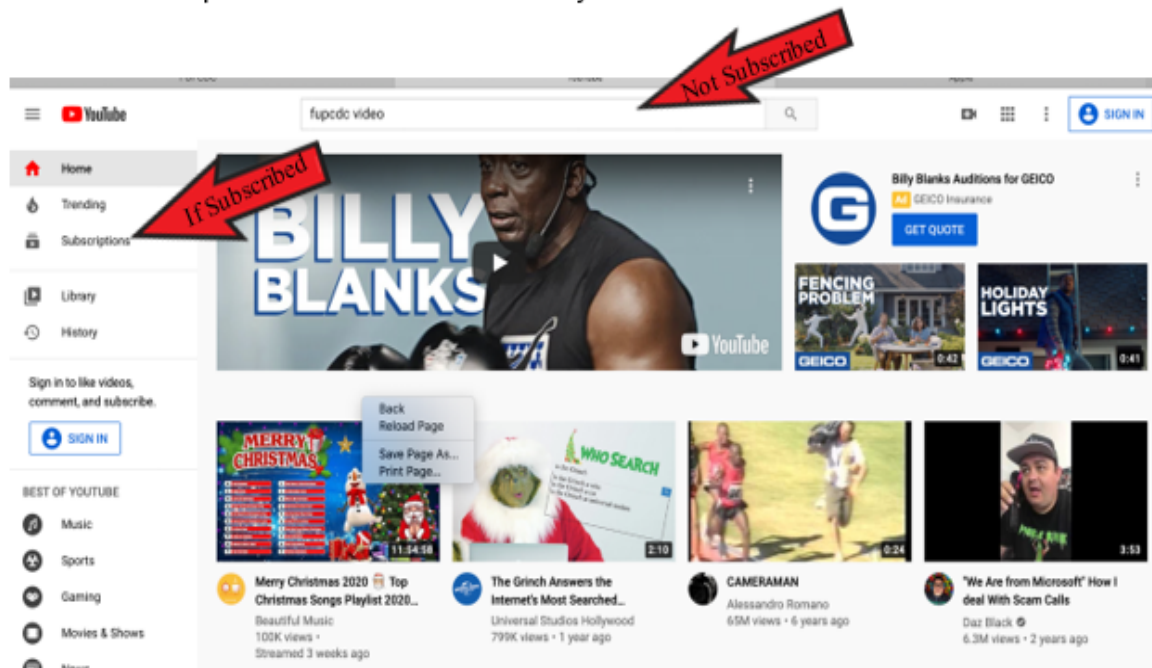
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If you already have a Google Account, just Sign In with your Gmail. If you do not already have a Goggle Account, you will need to click on the Create Account in the bottom left and then follow the prompts on the next screen.



The YouTube Home page has many different videos, so you will want to **SUBSCRIBE** to **FUPCDC Video** once you are there to make it easy to find the weekly Sunday services. If you have created a new account, and it opens in a YouTube channel other than the FUPCDC Video channel, do one of the following:

1. If not Subscribed, go to the Search Box at the top of the page and type in **FUPCDC Video** and push Enter. It will take you to all the church videos with the most current on top.
2. If Subscribed, all you will need to do the next time you want to see a church video is click on the Subscriptions button and it will take you there.

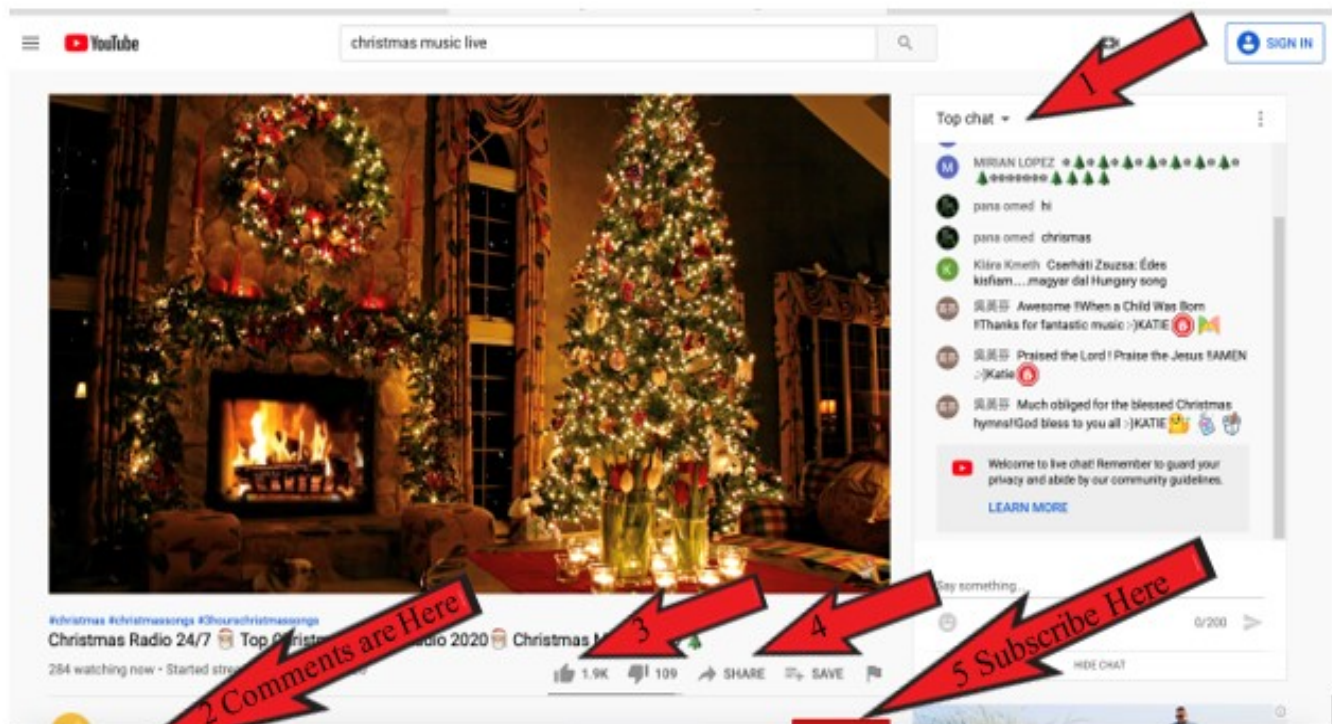


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Once you are Signed into YouTube and have returned to the **FUPCDC Video** page, you can do various actions. The screenshot below is not our church channel, but an appropriate clip to show you the locations of the actions such as:

1. **Live Chat** when you are watching a video that is being streamed live. On your computer it will be to the right side of your screen. (If you are watching from your phone, click on the Live Chat icon that appears right before the Share icon. The Live Chat on your phone will take place below the video.) Once the video is no longer live, you will not be able to add to the Live Chat, but you can click on Top Chat Replay to read what was chatted during the live broadcast.
2. **Comments** (which didn't fit in this screenshot but is directly underneath the indicated red arrow) You may Comment at any time, and your Comments can be seen by anyone who looks at this site.
3. **Thumbs Up** = Like
4. **Share** the Video (We would love to have you pass this on to your friends! 😊)
5. **Subscribe** (which is also cut off in this screenshot) This will make it easy for you to find our | channel and you will receive notifications when a new video is posted. Just click the red SUBSCRIBE button and you will be subscribed.



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We would love to connect with you during livestream worship through Live Chat. Join us 15 minutes before the service begins for general chat where you may be asked an easy conversation starter, and then once the service begins, you can participate in worship by passing the peace, offering virtual prayer requests, and commenting on what you hear. If you have never chatted before, here is how you do it:

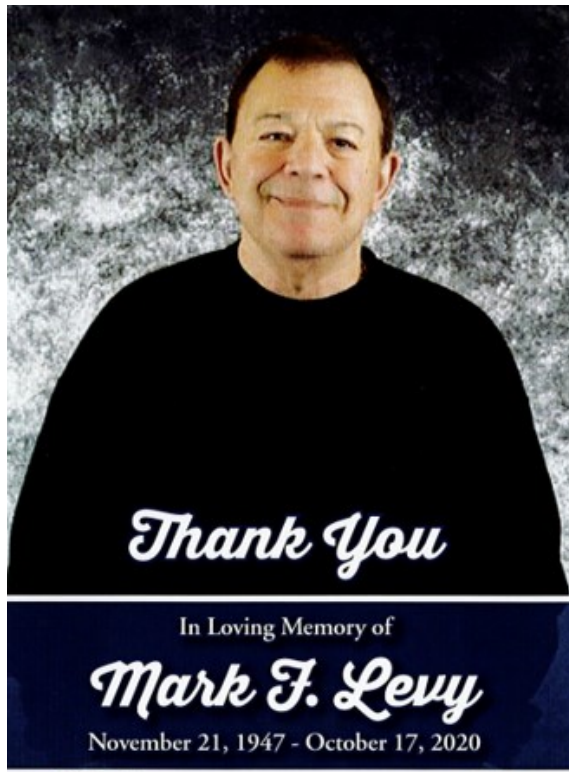
1. To post in live chat, click into where it says: "Say Something" and begin typing. Then, click the arrow to send it.
2. You can respond to someone in the chat feed by mentioning their username.
  - a. Type "@".
  - b. Begin typing their username.
  - c. Select the username.
  - d. The message sender will see their username highlighted in orange, which is visible only to the chatter whom you've mentioned. This makes it easier for them to see your response in the chat feed.
3. Viewers are limited to 200 characters and a maximum of 11 submissions every 30 seconds. Event owners are not subject to the frequency threshold. Viewers cannot post special characters, URLs, or HTML tags.

Before you close **FUPCDC Video**, please give a thumbs up and leave a comment of support that will stay attached to this video and can be seen by the public. This will help our church's algorithms, and our videos will be seen by more people who are searching for a church.

We hope this will help you connect to worship in 2021!



Job 11:14-18  
The Message



DEAR Church Family,  
THERE ARE NO WORDS  
SUFFICIENT TO EXPRESS  
MY APPRECIATION + GRATITUDE  
FOR THE LOVE + SUPPORT  
MARK + I HAVE RECEIVED  
OVER THE PAST 14 MONTHS +  
THE YEARS PRIOR. IT HAS  
BEEN A LONG, DIFFICULT  
ROAD THAT HAS BEEN  
BEARABLE BECAUSE OF YOUR  
PRAYERS, CARDS, CALLS, +  
FRIENDSHIP. TRULY, THE HANDS  
+ HEART OF CHRIST. MARTIN

During a time like  
this we learn  
how much our friends  
really mean to us.  
Your expression of  
sympathy will always  
be treasured.

The family of  
**Mark F. Levy**

2 Corinthians  
5:17 KJV



“Therefore if any  
man be in Christ,  
he is a new creature:  
old things are passed  
away; behold, all things  
are become new.”