# GREENWOOD MEMORIAL UMC CONNECTOR --- July 2021 378-A Washington Street - Dorchester, MA 02124 / 617-288-8410

Rev. Dr. Imani Sheila Newsome-Camara, Pastor --- Doreen Powell, Worship Chair/Minister of Visitation



- \* July 4th Holy Communion -July 4th Holiday
- \* July 5th Church Office closed in observance of the July 4th Holiday
- \* July 9th: Church Council Mtg, at 7pm on conference call.
- \* July 11th: Worship Service & Confirmation Sunday, beginning at 10:00 am
- \* July 17th: Outreach Diaper collection near the church parking lot @ 11:30 -1:00
- \* July 18th: UMW Celebration
- \* July 25th: African Cultural Sunday



From Nina Letona and her family: "Thank you for your kindness & support of our family during our mother's memorial service in June".

From the church congregation and the community to the UMW for honoring all fathers on Father's Day.

From the church congregation to the Finance Team for honoring the dedication of all church members by distributing Thank You Plaques in June.

## FROM THE RE-ENTRY COMMITTEE



The Re-Entry Committee is working to distribute a survey and they are planning a timeline to reenter the sanctuary. Please fill out the survey, return it and help us to creatively meet the needs of the Congregation.

#### **COVID -19 UPDATE**

Good news! Everyone is eligible to be vaccinated. We anticipate the vaccine will help keep us safe from the Corona Virus and now the Delta variant's worst effects. Please encourage others to get the vaccine to protect our families and our community. Please continue to keep a social distance with others not from your household and to wear a mask indoors and outdoors and to wash your hands for all of our protection.

### Church Parking Lot Advisory Notice:

Please be advised that the church parking lot continues to be closed, until further notice.

Only construction vehicles are allowed to park in the church lot



Congratulations to Mrs. Carolie Ponteen, Sunday School Superintendent, and the Sunday school teachers and volunteers for teaching & guiding students through a successful Sunday School season.

The Sunday School season's celebration @ 4pm on June 27, 2021 included the reading of an encouraging note on the power of prayer by Jada Edwards and speech on seeking God in all things by Mariama-Alexis Camara. Each Youth SS member received a number of gifts, a summer scripture learning packet and certificates of achievement Rev. Imani prayed for the safety of all students during the summer and then said grace over a great meal that was offered to families, and teachers.

On June 27, 2021 Greenwood Memorial celebrated Education Sunday. Our worship service founded on thanking God for helping all learners and graduates to thrive in the last challenging academic year. Our scripture from Daniel 1:17-20 highlights the value and rewards of

(Daniel 1:17-20)17 To these four young men God gave knowledge and understanding of all kinds of literature and learning. And Daniel could understand visions and dreams of all kinds. 18 At the end of the time set by the king to bring them into his service, the chief official presented them to Nebuchadnezzar. **19** The king talked with them, and he found none equal to Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah; so they entered the king's service. 20 In every matter of wisdom and understanding about which the king questioned them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and enchanters in his whole kingdom.

Thank you Lord for helping our learners and graduates to understand the value and rewards of pursuing learning and education. May they be described like Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah as being 10 times better than others as they keep moving forward.

On behalf of the Greenwood Memorial family, I want to thank Mr. Daniel Diego and Ms. Ebony Diego for participating in Education Sunday worship service as Liturgists. On behalf of the Greenwood Memorial family, I want to thank Ms. Denelle Rawlins for preaching the sermon on Education Sunday.



Greenwood Memorial is celebrating summer (July & August) by presenting favorite poems written or submitted by members of our church family. We invite you to submit poems and to enjoy a variety of poems. If you have a poem you want to share contact Carolie or the Church office in July to have it printed in the August newsletter.





#### MY DANDELION

A weed is a flower just planted in a wrong place. Early spring there's a blanket of golden dandelions that cover the earth. With the help of morning dew, the dandelion said, "I will grace the earth with my golden colors and beauty while I wait for the freshness of the morning". "At the end of the day, the workers will pull me up and cast me aside". I said, "I'm a weed but still a flower planted in the wrong place." Some Pilgrim passed by and said, 'it's just the flower I need'. "This reminds me we are all beautiful dandelions planted in the wrong place and we are reminded that the earth is the Lords's and the fullness there of. We can grow where we are planted; mid the wild and fearful blast, she has reached the rock, at last where she can hide. My Dandelion...

Written & Submitted by Minister Doreen Powell



When things go wrong as they sometimes will,

When the road you're trudging seems all up hill,

When the funds are low and the debts are high

And you want to smile, but you have to sigh,

When care is pressing you down a bit,

Rest if you must, but don't you quit Life is strange with its twists and turns

As every one of us sometimes learns And many a failure comes about When he might have won had he stuck it out:

Don't give up though the pace seems slow-

You may succeed with another blow. Success is failure turned inside out-The silver tint of the clouds of doubt,

And you never can tell just how close you are,

It may be near when it seems so far; So stick to the fight when you're hardest hit-

It's when things seem worst that you must not quit.

Submitted by
Rev. Imani Newsome-Camara
(A favorite poem of Rev. Imani
and her mother,
Evangelist Dr. Cora F. Duncan



All Hail, Liberia, Hail! All Hail, Liberia, Hail!

This glorious land of liberty, Shall long be ours.

Though new her name, Green be her fame, And mighty be her powers,

Though new her name, Green be her fame, And mighty be her powers,

In joy and gladness With our hearts united, We'll shout the freedom Of a race benighted,

All Hail, Liberia, Hail! All Hail, Liberia, Hail!

In union strong success is sure We cannot fail! With God above Our rights to prove We will o'er all prevail,

With heart and hand Our country's cause defending We'll meet the foe With valour unpretending.

Long live Liberia, happy land! A home of glorious liberty, By God's command!

Submitted By:

Mr. & Mrs. James Parson & family Happy Liberian Independence Day -July 26th (1847-2021) God bless Liberia!



## A Wing And A Prayer

Under the wing of an angel, we feel protected.

Through prayers to God, we feel connected.

Peace is said to be offered on the wings of a dove.

Prayers can bring peace along with hope, faith, and love.

Wings of a jet plane provide steady flight, I pray you remain steady and strong through this fight.

Butterflies have wings to fly playfully free, And free from this monster is what I pray vou'll soon be.

Birds spread their wings as they may leave their nest.

We're spreading our prayers that you'll always be Blessed.

Go fight and win this battle you didn't

On the wings of an angel and prayers from my heart.

By, Michelle Butler

Submitted by Ms. Leila Brewster

Please take a few moments to read this uplifting Education Sunday sermon presented by Ms. Denelle Rawlins



Proverbs 3:5-6

5 Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight. 6 In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.

"Good morning Church. I am well aware that the pastor has prayed over this sermon already but I still want to give God thanks for the opportunity to be here today.

Dear heavenly Father, I pray that you help me throughout today's sermon to give the message that you put into me to give, in your name we pray Amen. Today I would like to discuss Faith. Now Faith is a topic that is discussed in many situations. The dictionary definition of Faith is "complete trust or confidence in someone or something, but there is always a deeper meaning to everything. When it comes to Faith you have to question what or who you have Faith in. I've learned so many things throughout this past year about myself and how to cope with the stress. I've learned to pray. Now praying is something that I learned to do as a kid but this wasn't the average prayer that I was taught as a kid. I learned to have conversations with the lord, to give him thanks for everything he has done and even to ask him for things. When I was younger I always thought God didn't exist because I had no Faith in his existence and when I prayed to him I never received what I asked for. As I got older my Faith got stronger. I always looked to this one verse from Proverbs, Proverbs 3 verse 5 says Trust in the lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. Trust always ties into Faith. In order to have Faith in the Lord you have to trust that he will be there for you. One thing that I learned was to always stop second guessing the Lord and his decision that he makes. Everything that he does he does for a reason and the Lord makes no mistakes. Throughout the pandemic I was going through a really stressful time where I couldn't handle everything that was being thrown at me, and when I went to talk to my grandmother about it she told me to pray. I told her praying felt pointless because I never received anything back from it. She reminded me that praying is a process that takes time, and God doesn't run on my time he runs on his own time.

It took me way too long to realize that I couldn't just go to God for what I want but I had to appreciate everything he did for me. I had to consistently pray and that led me to doing bible scriptures and doing bible plans with my family. Faith to me isn't just a word but it is now in my everyday practice. Hebrews 11:1 says Now Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. You don't always see the things God is doing for you behind the scenes, but you have to trust that he knows what he is doing and that he is a silent worker. He does everything at his own pace and on his own time.

I've come to the conclusion that we live our life based on our faithfulness. How faithful we are to ourselves and to God. We have to start trusting that God has our best interest at hand. All he does is want the best for us, time and prayer tells everything. As a kid there are a lot of things I don't understand but I have to realize that in the end everything happens for a reason regardless of the way the situation may look in the moment everything will work out for you because you have God on your side. It's not easy being a young person in today's society, especially because we are teenagers living through a pandemic. A lot of things are harder than they seem and even the little things are hard for us to accomplish. Now coming from a parent's perspective we should be able to wash the dishes and clean our rooms with no problem but it's not always that simple. Mental Health is also something that comes in hand with someone's faith. If you're not mentally okay you will have a hard time trusting the Lord. I have learned to have faith in myself and the Lord and I

ask that you will as well. Thank you". Denelle M. Rawlins