

## A Word From The Pastor

Who would have thunk it? A year like 2020?

We have been through the wringer this past year, have we not? Could we have ever imagined a year of mandatory lock-downs or “stay at home” orders from our government leaders? Then what about the closings of businesses or numerous companies going out of business — we have never seen anything like that. Many have suffered the loss of wages and many others the loss of their jobs. Multitudes are financially strapped like never before. And how have we handled the loss and grief of over 335,000 Covid-19 related deaths? Could we have ever anticipated the wearing of masks in public by virtually everyone we meet as we run our errands every day? And all of this because of a little virus that we cannot even see!

No doubt, we have all heard of friends or relatives that have contracted the Covid-19 virus. How many anxious hours have we spent worrying about their health and welfare? How much time have we spent in prayer pleading their cause before the Lord for a return to health? The suffering and deaths of friends and loved ones has caused an immense amount of pain and grief to us. Indeed, 2020 has been quite a difficult year!

Nevertheless, we stand on the brink of a brand new year. As we do so, I am reminded of the legend of the phoenix. In Ancient Greek folklore, a **phoenix** is a long-lived bird that cyclically regenerates or is otherwise born again. Associated with the sun, a phoenix obtains new life by arising from the ashes of its predecessor. Some legends say it dies in a show of flames and combustion, others that it simply dies and decomposes before being born again. My point, 2020 is dying and from its ashes 2021 will be born. But what kind of year will 2021 be?

As believers with faith in our God, we need to take a positive faith-filled position toward the new year. I say that based upon Romans 8:28 where Paul writes, “**And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.**” Paul had mentioned the Spirit’s help in all of our weakness in Romans 8:26. Here the word translated “weakness” means to be without strength, physically, emotionally, spiritually, you name it. So even when we are weak, without strength, God can work for the good of those who love Him regardless of what the current situation may be.

I have watched as God has fulfilled this word. I have seen a marriage where the husband was packing his belongings to move out and move in with another woman completely reversed when the wife stated her faith that God could restore her marriage. I have seen God heal a broken family when the mother was discovered stealing prescription drugs from her boss. Both this mother and her children came to Jesus for salvation out of this negative situation. I have seen a confirmed alcoholic give up his alcohol for good when he met Jesus. Shall I go on? I believe you get my point. Even in the worst of circumstances in life, and for countless thousands of people 2020 has been exactly that, our God can work for the good of those who love Him!

Therein lies our hope! It lies in a God who can bring renewal out of the ashes. It rests in a God who can take the mess of our lives and turn them into “something beautiful!” And isn’t this exactly what Paul tells us in Romans 8:28, God works for the good of those who love Him in ALL THINGS!

Now to the personal application: what kind of year has 2020 been for you? For the majority of us, not so good. And yet our God is able to take the negative of 2020 and bring good out of it in 2021! What does He need from us? FAITH! Yes, *faith* in Him and in His promise to bring the good out of all things, even a negative 2020. Let’s practice our faith in God by anticipating the good that He will bring out of 2020 for us! Let’s not allow satan to rob us of our joy and victory by keeping us defeated and discouraged in 2021. Let your hope be anchored in God and in His word! As the songwriter said, “Only Believe. All things are possible. Only Believe!”

Pastor James L. Fleming

**COLLEGE PARK  
CHURCH OF GOD**

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**OUR MINISTRY TEAM**

**Senior Pastor**

Dr. James L. Fleming

**Children's Director**

Vanessa Small

**OUR SUNDAY SERVICES**

10:00 a.m. - Worship Team  
Rehearsal

11:00 a.m. - Worship Service

**WEEKLY ACTIVITIES**

**Tuesdays**

No Small Group  
until further notice

**Wednesdays**

No Evening Bible Study  
until further notice

**MONTHLY ACTIVITIES**

**Last Sunday - January 31**  
Food Drive Collection for  
Interfaith Emergency Services

**OFFICE HOURS**

Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday  
9:00 a.m. to 3:00/4:00 p.m.



**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**OFFERING ENVELOPES**

This year, we encourage you to help use up the old offering envelopes that are available in the pews. However, if you would like a box of envelopes, please see Don Thompson.

**WOMEN'S MINISTRY**

The Women's Ministry will meet Saturday, January 16, at 10:00 a.m. in the fellowship hall. All women are invited to attend.

**FIFTH SUNDAY OFFERING**

Our special 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday offering for building maintenance will be collected on Sunday, January 31. Please prayerfully consider what you can give.

**FOOD DRIVE**

Sunday, January 31, is our collection day this month for nonperishable food items for Interfaith Emergency Services. Thank you for your generosity.

**CHURCH FACEBOOK PAGE**

Pastor Fleming's Sunday School lessons and sermon videos for the last several weeks are on our Facebook page. Check them out! [Facebook.com/CollegeParkChurchOfGod](https://www.facebook.com/CollegeParkChurchOfGod)

**WEEKLY ACTIVITIES**

There is NO Sunday School or mid-week service until further notice.

**CHILDREN'S CHURCH**

The children are meeting weekly online through Zoom. Please contact Vanessa Small for more information.

**SOUP LABELS**

The Women's Ministry is requesting everyone to save Campbell Soup labels for a neighbor of our church. A collection box is in the narthex. Thank you.

**Happy Birthday!**

- 01 - Dana Labounty
- 13 - Sina Solvalu
- 15 - Basil Clemmings
- 16 - Charlie Small
- 17 - Marilyn Reynolds
- 20 - Joshua Solvalu
- 30 - Jerry Dinda
- 31 - Rose Gardner

**Happy Anniversary!**

- 06 - Fred & Denise Skinner
- 24 - Harvey & Connie Radford



*If you would like your birthday or anniversary added to this list, please contact the church office.*

# *Hangíng of the Greens*

Saturday, November 28, 2020





# *Women's Christmas Party*

Saturday, December 12, 2020



# *Christmas Eve*

Thursday, December 24, 2020





# *Christmas Eve*

Thursday, December 24, 2020

