

FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

I'm glad we are able to continue worshipping together on Sunday mornings at St. Paul's through our livestream services. I'd like to ask all members to keep in mind that although we are not present in the sanctuary on those mornings, the church's expenses do continue. This would be a good time to consider using ACH to stay current with your giving. Having your monthly contribution deducted automatically from your checking or savings account is simple, reliable, and safe. There are no additional charges for you or the church. For more information on ACH contributions, please call the church office at 225-3955. If no one is there, you may leave a message on the answering machine. We will then mail you a copy of the ACH form, along with directions. St. Paul's UMC leadership is grateful for the many of you who have remained constant in your giving habits. Your faithfulness in that area of your spiritual life has allowed ministry to continue in this very unusual time.

UPPER ROOM DEVOTIONALS

Pastor Cris and Meribeth are both more than willing to drop off Upper Room devotionals to our church friends here in Cherokee. If you would like the May/June issue of the Upper Room, you may call the church office at 225-3955 and leave us a message, or you may call Meribeth directly at 221-1530. We will also be glad to mail the devotional to those people who would prefer to receive it that way.

MESSAGE FROM BISHOP LAURIE HALLER

April 28, 2020

Dear Friends,

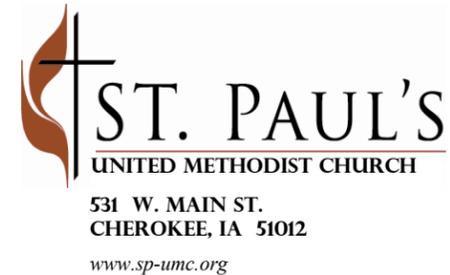
In light of the expectation that positive cases of COVID-19 will peak in Iowa in the next few weeks, I am strongly encouraging all United Methodist churches in Iowa to refrain from in-person worship until June 1st, when I will reassess. I am going beyond the Governor's recommendations despite my previously stated intention of following Governor Reynolds' guidelines around worship.

My reasoning is that our first priority as disciples of Jesus Christ is to protect those who are most vulnerable, which includes the elderly, the very young, and those with underlying health conditions. Even though we all want to return to our churches and be a part of the body of Christ in person, I believe that it is more important to assure the safety of our communities from further infections.

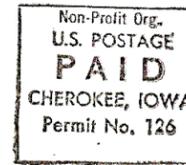
John Wesley's Three General Rules included: Do no harm. Do good. Stay in love with God. In the midst of our own personal desires to get back to normal, our faith requires us to seek the good of all. By practicing good judgment and common sense and out of a concern for the welfare of our neighbor, we must continue to stay the course by being diligent around social distancing and refraining from being in large groups. At the same time, there are ample opportunities to safely engage in mission and outreach in our communities.

These are not easy times. Yet the body of Christ remains strong and faithful and is making a huge difference in our state and around the world. I will keep you informed in the days ahead. May God bless you and keep you.

Bishop Laurie



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



May 2020 UMW Buzz

Executive Board – Monday, May 11th at 9:30 a.m. in the Schuldt Dining Hall

May Circle Meetings
Program - p. 73 *Catch a Fire*

Grace Circle – Wednesday, May 13th at 7:00 p.m. in Feller Lounge
Hostess - Jolene Deichmann Co-Hostess - Mary Jo Poggenklass Program - Judy Grienke-Miller
Joy Circle – Wednesday, May 20th at 9:30 a.m. in the Schuldt Dining Hall
Hostess - Jeanne Blackstone Co-Hostess - Linda Struck Program - Barb Kratz
Charity Circle – Wednesday, May 20th at 1:30 p.m. in the Schuldt Dining Hall
Hostess - Deb Siepka Program - Mary Jo Carnine

Upcoming Events...

No June Unit Meeting

Executive Board – Monday, June 8th, at 9:30 a.m. in the Schuldt Dining Hall
UMW Reading Reports need to be turned in to Patti Blum by June 15th.

PRAYERS AND SYMPATHY

We extend our deepest sympathy to Virgil Pyle and all of his family. Virgil's daughter-in-law, Hazel Redlands-Pyle, age 73, passed away peacefully Thursday, March 26th, at her home in Bradford, Vermont. A celebration of Hazel's life will be scheduled later in the spring. Hazel was married to Virgil's son Michael A. Pyle.

PRAYERS AND SYMPATHY

We extend our deepest sympathy to Joe and Jessie Peterson and all of their family. Jessie's grandmother, Coralyn June Walters, age 78, of Quimby, Iowa, passed away Thursday, March 26th, at Careage Hills in Cherokee. A memorial service for Coralyn Walters will be held at a later date due to the COVID-19 social gathering restrictions. The Boothby Funeral Home in Cherokee is assisting the family with the arrangements.

PRAYERS AND SYMPATHY

We extend our deepest sympathy to Chuck and Julie Tolzin and all of their family. Their brother-in-law, Philip C. Yenerich, age 77, passed away on Sunday, March 29th, in Sahuarita, Arizona, following a brief illness. Phil was married to Julie's sister Susan.

PRAYERS AND SYMPATHY

We extend our deepest sympathy to Steve and Louise Martin and all of their family. Steve's father, Lyle L. Martin, age 89, passed away Thursday evening, April 9th, at Careage Hills in Cherokee. Due to the COVID-19 social gathering restrictions, a memorial service for Lyle Martin will be held at a later date. The Boothby Funeral Home in Cherokee is assisting the family with the arrangements.

PRAYERS AND SYMPATHY

We extend our deepest sympathy to John, Anne, and Hayden Holmes and all of their family. John's father, Robert Holmes, age 84, of Havertown, Pennsylvania, passed away on Easter Sunday, April 12th. A private service will be held for Robert Homes. Anne is Chuck and Julie Tolzin's daughter.

PRAYERS AND SYMPATHY

We extend our deepest sympathy to Doug and Julia Miller and all of their family. Doug's father, Marvin Claus Miller, age 92, of Algona, Iowa, passed away on Sunday, April 26th, at his son's home in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. A private family funeral service for Marvin Miller will be held on Tuesday, May 5th. Visitation will take place on Monday, May 4th, from noon until 4:00 p.m., at Lentz Funeral Home in Algona, without the family present.

WARMEST CONGRATULATIONS

We warmly congratulate Kyle and Heather French on the birth of their daughter. Katherine Sue French was born on Tuesday, March 31st, at 8:14 a.m. She weighed 6 pounds, 15 ounces, and was 19.75 inches in length. Katherine was welcomed home by her sister Sophia and her brothers Lucas and Matthew. Her very proud grandparents are Nora Herr of Sioux Rapids, Iowa and Carl and Carol French of Irwin, Iowa.



THE DOME

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF ST. PAUL'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
May 2020

MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

What about fighting back? At this point in the game, we can move forward by fighting back against this COVID-19 virus or roll over. There have been times in my life where I have rolled over, as it was appropriate to not fight back. Then, there have been times in my life where I have fought back. Times when I knew that I needed to take action! Then again, there are times when we need to realize that we need some action from both rolling over and taking action. I believe that there are aspects of what we are going through with the COVID-19 that call for both actions.

I have heard many people say that staying home and keeping our distance is rolling over. This last week I watched on the news as protesters gathered without masks, paying no heed to social distancing to protest not being able to work and return to life prior to this disease in the world. I believe that fighting back against this disease is going to take both knowledge of this disease and wisdom to do the right things to keep it from spreading. Spreading this disease is certainly a death sentence to many. The numbers keep advancing in the world. But, I also believe that we need to fight back in creative ways to keep our businesses and economy from dying. I also believe that this disease has to be fought spiritually.

If you want to defeat this disease, you have got to move forward by fighting back in creative ways. I think that it is time that we start to think outside the box. In the church, many of the pastors I know are livestreaming and Live Facebook streaming their congregation for Sunday services and some devotional/ Bible study times. Our confirmation class is doing online confirmation to end our year. There are others that are living and working their jobs out of the safety of their homes because the Governor said that we are to stay home if at all possible.

At this time, as I understand it, the Governor of Iowa said to only go out for groceries and pharmaceuticals only when necessary. We are invited to take walks and get exercise but keep our social distancing of six feet apart. Our schools are restructuring with students working at home. My daughter has all of her classes at Simpson in our home through the internet. This has caused the internet in town to slow down considerably as everyone is now online! With all this being said, I realized this morning that this IS fighting back.

Social distancing is not natural to some of us, as we are people who like to interact with one another. God created us as a body of Christ. This body meets together, and God speaks to us on a level. During this time, we need to fight to keep connected as a church and fight to keep growing spiritually. We need to do something every day to keep connected to God spiritually.

(Continued in the next column)



LINDA A., LINDA B., AND LINDA C.

This month we want to recognize Linda Appleby, Linda Burkhart, and Linda Christensen for their hard work and dedication to our 7th and 8th grade youth group. Linda Appleby and Linda Burkhart have both devoted many years to our confirmation youth, and they have decided that this is their final year. Linda Christensen plans to continue helping Pastor Cris next year. Thank you so much, ladies! You are greatly appreciated!

(Message From The Pastor, continued)

So, my friends, pray, read the Bible, spend time meditating on the word of God, and allow yourselves the time to get stronger spiritually and listen to God's leading in your life. You may want to join in the new study by Chris Folmsbee, "The Wesley Challenge: 21 Days to a More Authentic Faith." It is a 21 day daily devotional focusing on questions from John Wesley. You can order the book online and read along at your own pace. Whatever you can do to encourage yourself or others during this time of separation from one another, keep fighting!

See you Sunday!

-Pastor Cris

OUR UPCOMING CONFIRMATION SERVICE

We look forward to celebrating another group of confirmands when we are able to once again gather for public worship services. These are the students who will be professing their faith in Jesus Christ and will become full members of St. Paul's United Methodist Church: Macaib Appleby, Amelia Brown, Aurora Christensen, Kylie Christensen, Emma Frahm, Hailey Harman, Taya Phillips, and Maverick Stief.

WARMEST CONGRATULATIONS

We warmly congratulate April LeBeau on the birth of her grandson. Derby Allen Preuss was born on Tuesday, April 14th, at 7:08 a.m. He weighed 9 pounds, 5 ounces, and was 21.5 inches in length. His very proud parents are Jacob Preuss and Kylee Ames of Quimby. Derby was welcomed home by his sister Pyper.

THANKS FROM STEVE AND LOUISE MARTIN

We'd like to thank everyone for the thoughts, prayers, and cards we received since my dad, Lyle Martin, passed away. Your kindness meant so much to us. May God bless all of you!

-Steve and Louise

2020 HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

We send our warmest congratulations to these young people who are graduating from high school this spring: Mikey Burkhart, James Creel, Zachary Driggs, Aliyah Graybill, Melissa Kelly, Trevor Lundquist, Tate Phillips, Nathanael Reusch, Peyton Steward, and Kayden Waldner.

2020 COLLEGE GRADUATES

If you know of someone from our church who will be graduating from college, or some type of higher degree program, please let us know so that those graduates can be honored. You can call or text Meribeth at 221-1530 or email her at meribethadams@outlook.com. Thank you so much!

FROM IOWA UNITED METHODIST CAMPS

In light of concerns around COVID-19 this summer, Lake Okoboji United Methodist Camp has agreed to modify its refund policy for the upcoming camp season so that parents, families, and churches can register for camp WORRY FREE! This year, all registrants are allowed the opportunity for a full refund, including deposit, for any registration up to two weeks prior to a camp event. If camp is in your summer plans, we hope this helps put your mind at ease. Don't forget that Iowa United Methodist Camps are accredited by the American Camp Association, meaning that our cleaning and sanitation standards are recognized as the highest in the industry. We will, of course, continue to closely monitor COVID-19 and will adjust as necessary to ensure the safety and security of our campers and guests. Thank you for supporting Iowa United Methodist Camps!

MOBILE MEAL PROGRAM

Cherokee Regional Medical Center offers a vital service to our community by providing the Mobile Meal program. The month of May is normally when volunteers from St. Paul's show their support for this program by donating their time and delivering meals to the recipients. However, now that Cherokee County has two positive cases of COVID-19, the hospital staff is making the meal deliveries.

2020 VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL PLANS are still in the discussion stage. We will keep you posted if the decision is made to go ahead with VBS this summer.