

SOLES4SOULS UPDATE

The last day Village Northwest Unlimited in Sheldon will accept shoes to process will be Friday, May 1st. If you have shoes you'd like to donate to SOLES4SOULS, please bring them to St. Paul's as soon as you can. Thanks!

BISHOP LAURIE'S PRAYER REQUEST

Dear God, we know that you are a healing God and that you desire for all of us to be whole and healthy human beings. We ask that you be present to our one human family at this time of crisis. Please walk beside doctors and nurses who are caring for those who have been infected by the coronavirus and give them strength for the days ahead. We also ask that those who are receiving treatment and feel isolated or hopeless would experience your healing power as they recover. Protect all families around the world, and may we continue to support one another as lives and plans are disrupted. Most of all, use us as instruments of your peace and hope.

OUR SHARED MINISTRY

LITURGISTS FOR APRIL

April 5	Kristal Phillips
April 12	Chuck Tolzin
April 19	Barb Kratz
April 26	Jerri Hunt

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE FOR APRIL

April 5	Bruce Dage
April 12	Linda Burkhart
April 19	Ervina Scott
April 26	Phil Grout

GREETERS FOR APRIL

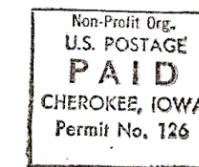
April 5	Kevin and Karla Wilkie Lowell and Sharon Bennink
April 12	Virgil Pyle Roni Timmerman
April 19	Bob and Jeanine Schroder Louie and Sheree Hausmann
April 26	Darrel and Sue Paulsen Lowell and Sharon Bennink

USHERS FOR APRIL

April 5	The Lucas Team
April 12	The Lucas Team
April 19	The Lucas Team
April 26	The Lucas Team

CONTACT US

Church Phone	(712) 225-3955
Pastor Cris's phone	(515) 423-6421
The Rev. Cris Decious	cris.decious@iaumc.net
Meribeth Adams	meribethadams@outlook.com



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

April 2020 UMW Buzz



Executive Board - Monday, April 13th at 9:30 a.m. in the Schuldt Dining Hall

April Circle Meetings

Program - p. 65 *Holy, Bold Women Lead*

Grace Circle - Wednesday, April 8th at 7:00 p.m. at Jean Anderson's home
 Hostess - Jean Anderson Co-Hostess - Shelley Lenz Program - Mary Jo Poggenklass

Joy Circle - Wednesday, April 15th at 9:30 a.m. in the Schuldt Dining Hall
 Hostess - Sally Knoblen Co-Hostess—Lois Eggerth Program - Sally Knoblen

Charity Circle - Wednesday, April 15th at 1:30 p.m. in the Schuldt Dining Hall
 Hostess - Sue Paulsen Program - Roni Timmerman

Upcoming Events...

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

May Unit Meeting - Wednesday, May 13th Noon luncheon in the Schuldt Dining Hall
 "Spring Hats Through the Years" (Please wear your favorite hat!)
 Hostess - Joy Circle Devotions - Charity Circle

PRAYERS AND SYMPATHY

We extend our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Lee Bernard Nelson. Lee Nelson, age 82, passed away on February 29th, at his home in Cherokee. A funeral service for Lee Nelson was held on March 5th, at St. Paul's United Methodist Church, with Pastor Cris Decious officiating.

PRAYERS AND SYMPATHY

We extend our deepest sympathy to Scott Osborn and all of his family. Scott's father, Richard S. "Dick" Osborn, age 84, passed away suddenly on March 8th, at Fox Run Assisted Living in Council Bluffs, Iowa. A memorial service for Dick Osborn was held at the Cutler-O'Neill Meyer-Woodring Funeral Home in Council Bluffs on March 15th.

PRAYERS AND SYMPATHY

We extend our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Bruce Christensen. Bruce W. Christensen, 86, passed away peacefully on March 19th, at The Gardens Assisted Living in Cherokee. Funeral arrangements are currently pending at the Boothby Funeral Home.

PRAYERS AND SYMPATHY

We extend our deepest sympathy to Connie Benson and all of her family. Connie's brother-in-law, Kenneth H. "Kenny" Bern, 92, of Cherokee, passed away on March 24th, at Unity Point Health-St. Luke's Hospital in Sioux City, IA. A funeral service for Kenny Bern will be held at a later date due to the COVID-19 gathering restrictions. The Boothby Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements.

WARMEST CONGRATULATIONS

We warmly congratulate Jim and Ann Tell on the birth of their great-grandson. Calvin Gene Sweeney was born in Columbia, MO at 12:20 p.m. on March 11th. His very proud parents are Michael and Stephanie Sweeney, and Calvin's grandparents are Tom and Beth Sweeney.

WARMEST CONGRATULATIONS

We warmly congratulate Neil and Jodi Phipps on the birth of their grandson. Turner Joseph Sosnowski was born in Des Moines on March 11th. His very proud parents are Chris and Jamie Sosnowski. Turner was welcomed home by his sisters Brynn and Jovie.

WARMEST CONGRATULATIONS

We warmly welcome Dustin Wieland into our St. Paul's Church family. We are very glad to have you join us, Dustin, and we look forward to getting to know you. Here is the contact information for Dustin and Jessica Wieland: 5676 R Avenue, Cherokee, IA 51012. Dustin's phone number is (712) 229-6054.

WARMEST CONGRATULATIONS

We warmly congratulate Dustin and Jessica Wieland on the baptism of their son. Benjamin David Wieland was born at CRMC on November 7, 2019. Benjamin's very proud grandparents are Will and Sarah Cook of Cherokee, Kenny and Melanie Petersen of Correctionville, and Denny and Jan Wieland of Aurelia.



THE DOME

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

MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

This morning, as I got my cup of coffee, I turned on the television to get my new normal and depressing updates on the COVID-19. The governor of New York was giving an update and a pep talk to the people on CNN. I listened in and realized that he had some really wonderful things to say that should be heard by the church. They are words of encouragement that could sound like they could be coming from the pulpit of any one of our churches! Governor Cuomo said, "Don't be reactive, be productive." Stop and think about this for a moment. At first, my thoughts ran to the fact that many people react in many different ways. We have seen lots of funny pictures on Facebook about the way that toilet paper and paper products have been hoarded! We have seen and heard of people reacting by buying items in such large quantities that shelves are empty in the stores of hand sanitizers, cleaners, wipes, medicine, and even groceries in the grocery aisles. That, my friends, is panic. A few have commented on Facebook that they are glad that they have guns to fend off people in case society really goes crazy! My friends, that is reactive.

Let's talk about being productive. Governor Cuomo went on to say that this could go on for months. There is no reality that we are going to wake up tomorrow morning and find the news media announcing, "Surprise! It's suddenly over." He went on to say that we should not underestimate the negative effect of the emotional trauma and the pain of isolation. If there were words of wisdom to be given at this moment, these are it. We, as the body of Christ, should be doing all that we can to love and encourage one another. We need to look for the silver lining in the midst of the crisis. We have the opportunity to live and to love others in this time as we have never been able to do previously.

Family of God, love, during this time, brings peace, patience, kindness, compassion, strength, and help during a crisis of fire, not gasoline. I have been reading some of the most ridiculous postings on Facebook about how God has inflicted all this pain and restructuring on our society right now because of the sin in our world. I have been reading that God is causing all this misery in order to get our attention. Friends, God has always been trying to get our attention. He usually does it in quiet and loving ways. Spelling out what we believe are "the sins causing this pandemic" does nothing more than bring fear and fright to people! This, in my opinion, is bringing gasoline to a fire that needs to be put out by water.

Governor Cuomo also said something profound. During this time of being socially distanced from each other, we need to achieve a spiritual connection. I don't really know the governor of New York or what he espouses in

(Continued in the next column)



ST. PAUL'S UMC GRACE CIRCLE

St. Paul's Grace Circle meets the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. The following members were in attendance at this meeting:

(Clockwise, from the bottom left:) Jeannette Grant, Shelley Lenz, Jean Anderson, Joyce Rohweder, Mary Jo Poggenklass, Peggy Rasch, Jerri Hunt, Marci Brown, Darlene Woltman, and Judy Grienke-Miller.

his beliefs. However, I was really touched by his statement. He said that this is a time to reach out and find the silver lining in your circumstances. He gave the example of his daughter moving back home with him and spending time together. In normal times, he said he would never have been able to spend the time with his daughter that he is right now. So, I am encouraging everyone who is reading these lines today to start looking for the silver lining to this quieter time in which we are living. Take time to be with God and take the time that you never usually have to open up and talk with other people near and far on the phone. Let's connect in ways that we never would have thought possible fifty years ago. You know, there have been many times in my life where I have said that I would like to stop time in order to do something. In some ways, right now our lives have been put on pause! Our normal, busy lives have been put on hold for the moment. So let's skype, connect, and talk on the internet, Facetime, text, and creatively find ways to reach out to each other in our town during this time of isolation. If you don't have access to the internet, then it's time to revive letter writing and making phone calls. We may need to be isolated at this time, but that doesn't mean we need to be lonely. God is on our side and loves us!

See you Sunday...by live-streaming!

-Pastor Cris

WARMEST CONGRATULATIONS

We warmly congratulate Justin and Jillian Henke on the birth of their son. Thomas Alexander Henke was born in Sioux City on Friday, March 20th at 2:03 p.m. He weighed 5 pounds, 12 ounces and measured 19 inches long. Thomas's very proud grandparents are Annette Galloway of Wicopee, NY and Ted and Tracee Henke of Washta, IA.

THANK YOU FROM JANE NELSON

Thanks to all my church friends for the many cards I received in regards to Charles's recent passing. I will never forget your thoughtfulness.

THANK YOU FROM THE GIDEONS

On behalf of Gideons International, thank you for your \$295.00 gift. Please know that 100% of your gift is utilized for the distribution of Bibles, both domestically and internationally. Thank you for your faithfulness in sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ!

Randy Jipp, Treasurer
Storm Lake Gideon Camp

THANK YOU FROM LEE NELSON'S FAMILY

We sincerely appreciate the many expressions of love you showed us following Lee's passing. We'd like to give a special thanks to Pastor Cris for providing such a meaningful service to honor Lee's memory. Your endless kindness and support for our family has meant so much to all of us. Betty Point, thank you for your beautiful music at the service. Thank you, also, to the UMW for the delicious luncheon. Finally, we'd like to thank Roni Timmerman with whom we've shared a special friendship for many years. May God bless all of you!

THANK YOU FROM THE WIELANDS

To Pastor Cris and our St. Paul's family: Thank you so much for performing Benjamin's baptism and for the sweet book. We are thrilled to all three now be members of St. Paul's and are very excited for the memories to come.

With love,
Dustin, Jessica, and Benjamin Wieland

FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Thank you, Pastor Cris, for your continuation of our Sunday morning services at St. Paul's United Methodist Church. I'm sure it's a challenge to minister to a nearly empty sanctuary. With that being said, I ask all of our members to keep in mind that although we are not present in the sanctuary on Sunday mornings, the church's expenses 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 and leave a message on the answering machine. We will then mail a copy of the ACH form, along with directions, to you. During this difficult time, it is imperative our faith stay strong.