

SUMMARY OF OCTOBER SPRC MEETINGS

1. We discussed the Conference recommendations that were printed out for everyone. We noted that according to the website, globalepidemics.org, Northwest Iowa was in the Red Zone, meaning the Conference recommends online services only. However, this changes depending on the County numbers. We decided the best thing to do to prepare for reopening would be for the church to form a "Covid Committee" (Linda Appleby's idea). That group could study the recommendations in detail and keep track of the Zone situation. We suggest the committee includes a medical person from our church, a school personnel person, and a business person. Leah Dagele volunteered, as well. We also think that Randy should be asked to be on the committee or at least consult with the committee. Perhaps a couple high school students could be in the group, too, but no more than 10 people. Also, as we wait to get back to in-person church services, this committee may have some creative ideas to add to online services or other gatherings. Technology help might be offered to those needing assistance finding our livestream service.
2. Goals for Pastor Cris for 2021.
3. Due to the financial situation, we reluctantly recommended no raises for 2021.

We will meet again the first week in November.

PHONE NUMBER FOR MARLENE KELLY

Marlene wanted church friends to have her cell phone number: (712) 229-3311. Give her a call!

SALVATION ARMY BELL RINGING

It's time to be thinking about volunteering to ring bells for the Salvation Army! We'll start on Saturday, November 28th, and we'll ring bells the next 3 Saturdays (December 5th, 12th, and 19th). This year will be handled a little differently, as you will need to **call Mary Jo Carnine at 225-6301** to set up a time to ring bells. You may sign up in one hour time slots, starting at 10 a.m. The last slot starts at 2 p.m. and ends at 3 p.m. You must be at least 18 years of age. Those who are younger need to be accompanied by an adult. We'll be ringing bells at the same three locations: Fareway, Hy-Vee, and Bomgaars, so dress appropriately. Please consider volunteering an hour or so of your time, as 90% of the money collected in Cherokee County helps local people in need.

-Mary Jo Carnine

UPPER ROOM DEVOTIONALS

Please let me know if you would like the Upper Room for November/December. Call me directly at 221-1530.
-Meribeth

INGATHERING 2020 REPORT

Is it almost November 2020 already? I'm missing all my church friends and need to tell you what is happening. Jeanne Blackstone not only sewed 50 school bags for our Ingathering, but she has also sewn over 700 masks and has given them away to many church members and friends. She and Don picked up 300 notebooks for the Ingathering and also ordered over \$210 worth of supplies. Thank you, Jeanne! Then there is Barb Kratz. She has sewn 51 bags and ordered \$145 worth of supplies. Thanks, Barb and Dan, for shopping, too! After Charity Circle met on Wednesday afternoon, October 21st, we assembled 100 kits and had 103 bags so we went to the Dollar Store and bought the extra items that we needed. Today we counted 103 completed bags. Our diligent workers were Mary Jo Carnine, Ervina Scott, Patti Blum, Sharon Bennink, Deb Siepka, Dixie Carper, and Roni Timmerman. I also need to thank Norma Skadeland for helping me set up on Tuesday, so we could assemble on Wednesday. Since all the givers were very generous this year, we received \$850 for Ingathering. These were the expenses for 103 school kits: Jeanne Blackstone (\$210.65), Barb Kratz (\$145.60), and shipping (\$206.00) for a total of \$562.25. Since they have changed the health kits to now needing to include razors, toothpaste, shampoo, deodorant, and more, we decided to just send a monetary donation with the extra money (\$287.75) and not pay for additional shipping. We will save our supplies for next year. Thank you all so much! Ingathering is Saturday, November 7th, from 7:30-10:30 a.m. Due to Covid-19, we will not need much help this year. If we have six to eight volunteers that will be great, since there's no repacking. Boxes will be taken from the cars and put directly in the truck. We will not have the lunch, quilt auction, or programs in the church this year. Thanks again!

-Roni Timmerman and Missions Committee

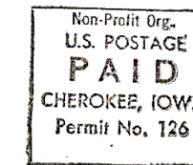
FALL FOOD DRIVE

Our 2020 Food Drive will look different this year, as does everything else! During November, your donations of both money and non-perishable food can be given directly to CAP. They have a low contact system on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:00-2:30, when someone will be at their window in the basement level of the I.C. Church to accept your donation. Cash donations may be mailed to Jeff Blum, and he is also willing to pick up any food donation if you call him at 225-2606. Let's remember those in need right here in our community, as we **Care for Our Neighbors!!** Thank you!

-The Missions Committee



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



November 2020 UMW Buzz



CHARITY CIRCLE NEWS

Charity Circle met October 21st at 1:30 p.m. in the church dining hall, using COVID guidelines. There were 7 members present. Ervina Scott served as hostess, and Mary Jo Carnine conducted the meeting. Sharon Bennink gave the program entitled "Righteousness Flows Like a Stream." During the business meeting, we discussed UMW recognition pins, 2021 yearbook format, the upcoming Advent Tryst, and our Mission work. Following the meeting, we assembled Ingathering kits.

-Ervina Scott

UPCOMING EVENTS...

The UMW Executive Board will meet on Monday, November 9th, at 9:30 a.m. in the Schuldt Dining Hall.

Charity Circle will meet on Wednesday, November 18th, at 1:30 p.m. in the Schuldt Dining Hall. Mary Jo Carnine will serve as hostess, and Patti Blum will give the program. A "thank offering" will be collected.

Advent Tryst will be held on Wednesday, December 9th, at 9:30 a.m. at the Memorial Presbyterian Church.

WARMEST CONGRATULATIONS

We extend our warmest congratulations to Rod and Priscilla Bainbridge who will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on Saturday, October 31st. The couple is being honored with a card shower. Best wishes may be sent to Rod and Priscilla at 709 West Beech Street, Cherokee, IA 51012.

PRAYERS AND SYMPATHY

We extend our deepest sympathy to Ann Wright and all of her family. Ann's uncle, Jack L. Klingborg, 83, of Cherokee, died Saturday evening, October 10th, at UnityPoint Health-St. Luke's Hospital in Sioux City, Iowa, from COVID-19 infection. Private family graveside services for Jack Klingborg were held at the Quimby Cemetery. Boothby Funeral Home assisted the family with the arrangements.

PRAYERS AND SYMPATHY

We extend our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Colleen Jo (Gabriel) Onnen Ostrem. Deane and Colleen Onnen spent most of their married life in Cherokee. Following retirement, the couple moved to Mesa, Arizona. Following Deane's death in 2010, Colleen married Tait Ostrem and they made their home in Mesa, later moving to Tucson, Arizona. Tait passed away in late 2018. In February 2019, Colleen moved to Poplar Creek Assisted Living in Luverne, Minnesota, to be near her daughter Laurie. Due to failing health, Colleen moved to Our House Hospice Home in May 2020. She passed away there on Monday, October 19th, at the age of 92. The family plans to hold services at a later date. If you would like to send a sympathy card to Colleen's daughter, the address is Laurie and Curt Jensen, 6 Bay Blvd., Slayton, Minnesota 56172.

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY

In our communion service on Sunday, November 1st, during The Great Thanksgiving, we will remember the following members of St. Paul's who have passed since last November. They are listed below in the order of their passing.

Wilma Wenck, Jerome Peterson, David Lund, Steve Casey, Charles Davis, Lee Nelson, Earl Pickens, Marvin Christensen, Lester Webb, Harold Roberson, and Dr. Thomas Gary.

LIFTING UP IN PRAYER

Please keep the following people in your prayers: Jeanine Schroder (knee replacement on October 12th), Darlene Woltman (surgery on October 20th) and Linda Appleby (foot surgery on October 20th). Would you also keep Mike Phipps, a former Cherokee resident, in your prayers? He has numerous injuries after a fall. Mike's parents are Jerry and Pat Phipps.



THE DOME

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

MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

November! Welcome to Stewardship Month! Did your blood pressure just go up a few points? When we begin to think about stewardship around the church, we usually see it as a time where we wish our brother in Christ would open his wallet a littler wider and leave mine alone! It's a time to pull your head in like a turtle until we get past the pestering talk about increasing our giving to our church here at St. Paul's. This year, it may be easier than ever to avoid the stewardship program altogether with the coronavirus in full swing! Until we are back into our full routines of in-person worship, nobody knows when or where we are on Sunday morning. Well... except for God.

If God is so concerned about our finances at St. Paul's, why doesn't he just quickly give us an overall cure for this coronavirus? If that happened, we could all get back to normal living and past all of this mask and social distance unpleasantness. As I was reading my devotions this morning, I was reminded that when Jesus was here on Earth he used his power to heal the sick, raise people from the dead, heal the blind, and restore hearing to the deaf. Christ was present to do miraculous things such as walk on water, change water into wine, and multiply loaves and fish to feed thousands of people. He changed hearts and lives, released those bound by demons, and forgave people of their sins. If he would have encountered the coronavirus here on earth, I am sure that he would have healed anyone who had it!

But, as I thought about how we tend to deal with things today as opposed to how Jesus dealt with things, it seems to be from a more economical and monetary point of view. When we want things to get better here in the church, we tend to think, "What's this going to cost?" Jesus didn't ever cause cash to magically appear, nor did he multiply currency the same way that he multiplied loaves and fishes for five thousand people.

Rather, Jesus turned to help heal the hearts of the people. He wanted the people to see spiritually and understand that we are the stewards of our time, energy, supplies, gifts, and finances. Jesus was always on the lookout to help the widows, the orphans, and

the poor. He received offerings and gifts from people during his time here on Earth. From this cash the disciples would pay for ministry expenses and, at times, give it away to the poor. We know this because we read that Jesus had a treasurer named Judas. Unfortunately, Judas would be remembered because John wrote in 12:6 that Judas would regularly pilfer the money box!

Even though Jesus had and used money he didn't rely on it. Jesus understood that there was a purpose and a place for money in our lives. He recognized that money had a limited use. He relied on his faith in God in providing his true needs. Jesus expresses this when he speaks in Matthew 6:21 saying, "Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." Jesus wants us to keep in mind the understanding that our hearts are connected to whatever we treasure. While God understands that we need money to live, he wants us to also understand that we need to keep our vision at the church alive through our tithes, our offerings, and our gifts in serving God at St. Paul's United Methodist Church.

November is our stewardship commitment month. The last thing that we want to do is scare someone away from our church who is thinking that we are after his/her money! I recently met a woman who had left our church years ago, she said, because of the way she was approached during a stewardship campaign. It always pains me to hear stories like hers. At the same time, I am never sure if we are ever in a great place for organizations to hit us up for a donation!

As we begin to think about our November pledge cards that we will be filling out later this month for 2021, we need to keep in mind that we need to be as generous as possible with our giving. Our church is one of the finest institutions in town! We need to be proud of what God is doing through us and promote a pride in our ministries! We have the marvelous opportunity to reach out and make a difference in Cherokee and the surrounding communities. That's because, more than any other business, the church is in the business of helping

change lives. God values our local church and puts us together to serve one another in the church family. God invites us to take our gifts, our talents, and our finances and put them together into one body. Remember, many hands make light work! So it is with our finances. When we are giving generously, we can make our finances meet all of our needs for every mission that we support.

Please consider boosting your giving to St. Paul's as we approach and move into the new year. We are excited about the way that God is working in and through our church!

See you Sunday.

-Pastor Cris

ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD NEWS

The Administrative Board approved the 2021 operating budget. Salaries were maintained at the same level as last year, and the balance of budgeted expenses was reduced about \$6,000 from a year ago. The approved budget contemplates expenses of \$223,980, a reduction of \$36,110 from the budgeted expenses in our budget five years ago. Conference apportionments' asking was \$29,360, and we have budgeted just \$8,452 of that, basically to cover our part of the conference administrative expenses. It was discussed that our present levels of giving will not allow us to pay in full the expenses budgeted for 2021, and the proposed budget contemplates a "leap of faith" that we can return to levels of giving that existed in prior (pre-pandemic) years.

The Administrative Board approved that we begin preparation for a mask-only worship service. The Board also created a Covid Committee to oversee and implement the special precautions necessary with in-person worship while Covid remains a concern locally. All members are encouraged to either call the church at 225-3955 and leave a message or email meribethadams@outlook.com regarding (1) whether you would be likely to attend if worship were started in the next few weeks, and (2) whether you would be interested in either being on the Covid Committee overseeing this process or in volunteering to help with the necessary arrangements. While it was recognized that we are the only church in town that is not presently meeting in person, the Board discussed that our Covid infection numbers are upwards of 40 times what they were when we stopped worship in March. So the best judgment might be to wait until the numbers dip a bit rather than simply start when others should be considering another suspension of services. No specific starting date was set, but it is hoped that arrangements can be in place allowing us to start again on short notice when Covid numbers drop locally.