

St Luke UMC

**501 E 19th Street N
Newton, IA 50208
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April 2020



THE **Flame**

CATCH THE FIRE!



Life in uncertain times.

It occurred to me that we've been here before. Not the physical isolation from Covid-19, but isolation. In the days after the crucifixion of Jesus, the disciples hid behind locked doors, afraid of the consequences of going out. They feared for their lives. They lived in the uncertainty of what lies ahead. Their future was unclear. We are there, now.



And because we've never been here before, at least not in this way, we don't know what to expect. We have no idea how we are going to come out on the other side of this, or even if we will, or when that might be. We don't know if our governments will be able to navigate us through this. We don't know if we will be financially healthy, let alone physically healthy. We've seen some of the darker parts of our species, from the hoarding of supplies for profit to the mistrust of those who have the knowledge to give sound advice in favor of those who don't really know but give it anyway.

In my own circles, people are worried. Churches are worried about survival. Most churches operate on thin margins. Healthy churches work very hard to maximize their mission and faithfully use the resources they have to serve others. Their margins are thin by design. Struggling churches worry about every penny spent because they want to carry on for as long as possible. Their margins are thin by circumstance. The United Methodist Church has both of these among their faithful. This means across the United Methodist connection, people are trying very hard to continue to serve people while also paying salaries, rents, and utilities. By their very nature, they are agonizing about having to conserve resources in a time when those resources are needed by a hurting world.



But there are visions of hope.

Health care workers are risking their lives to care for others.

Restaurant owners and crew are working to feed us. Many are also giving food to those who can't afford it now.

Businesses are trying to pay their employees, even while seeing no income.

Churches are trying to maintain connection through social media, online services, and through members reaching out to each other.

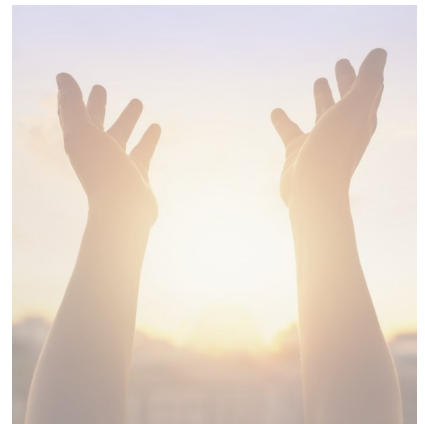
We've never been here before. But we've been here before.

We've seen resurrection happen in the middle of the most uncertain of times. We've seen life after death. We've seen locked doors opened wide. And we'll see those things again. We will once again gather together to worship God in the same space. We will once again shake hands and hug and sit next to each other. We will once again dream of ways to reach new people. We will find new ways to build the kingdom. Many of these things will come from what we learn in the next few months.

Until then, call someone you miss. Call the person who normally sits behind you in church. Cherish the time you are spending with your family, even if it's over the internet. Order food on occasion. Send money to your church. Limit how many of each item you put in your cart so others can have some, too.

I miss you. I look forward to the day when staying home for the sake of others turns to going out for the sake of others.

Pastor Chad





My Story

Our family was playing the card game Phase 10. My cousin Shawn had reached the phase “7 cards in one color”. He picked up the cards he’d been dealt, organized them in his hand and then when it was his turn, he laid down 7 cards...in four colors. A couple of us asked what he was doing. He responded, “7 cards in one color, right?” Another cousin said, “Shawn, those are four different colors.” Followed closely by 3 others stating, “They look the same to me.” In choosing our game, we had forgotten an important detail... color blindness runs in our family.

If you leave out or forget important details, sometimes it leads to laughter, like it did in our card game. Other times it can lead to confusion and chaos.

When the sun rose on Easter morning the women headed to the tomb...but important details were missing. When the disciples hid in the upper room following Jesus’ death on the cross... they had forgotten some very important details that Jesus had shared with them.

²²As they were gathering in Galilee, Jesus said to them, “The Son of Man is going to be betrayed into human hands,²³ and they will kill him, and on the third day he will be raised.” Matthew 17:22-23a

A Third Time Jesus Foretells His Death and Resurrection : ¹⁷While Jesus was going up to Jerusalem, he took the twelve disciples aside by themselves, and said to them on the way, ¹⁸“See, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be handed over to the chief priests and scribes, and they will condemn him to death;¹⁹ then they will hand him over to the Gentiles to be mocked and flogged and crucified; and on the third day he will be raised.” Matthew 20:17-19

Jesus gave them the details but when the time came they forgot...until that day when he appeared to them and ate with them. Once the disciples were reminded of his words and had seen the evidence, they were able to joyfully share the story with all who would listen.

In our game of Phase 10, we found other family members who were able to help the “color deficient” players at the table. They shared what their eyes saw in the cards.

The disciples were able to help others grow in faith by sharing what their eyes saw but more importantly what their hearts knew to be true. JESUS IS ALIVE!

Corinne Kleppe



BIBLE STUDY
Sunday
School
Class
meets 9:15 a.m.
in the
choir room

Breaking Bread

LUKE 24:13-35

Opening our hearts
to the risen Christ
and responding in witness.

On the same Sunday morning on which the stone of Jesus’ tomb was discovered to have been rolled away and His body was nowhere to be seen, two disciples (not of the “original eleven”) were traveling the seven-mile route between Jerusalem and Emmaus. While walking they discussed the events of the past few days. Jesus, also traveling on the road, caught up with them and began a conversation.

“What are you talking about as you walk along this road?” One, Cleopas, responded, “You must be the only visitor in Jerusalem who hasn’t heard about what’s been going on over the last few days.”

The two explained about the events of the “prophet Jesus:” His miracles and messages. How it was hoped He was the One to bring God’s promises, and how He had been turned over to the priests and authorities to be crucified. - -How His tomb was just found to be empty.

Not identifying Himself, Jesus responded, “...Why are your hearts so sluggish when it comes to believing what the prophets have been saying all along? Didn’t it have to be this way? Didn’t the Anointed One have to experience these sufferings in order to come into His glory?” Jesus then began with Moses, continuing prophet by prophet explaining the meaning of the Hebrew Scriptures and their prophecies.

As the two companions reached their home destination, they invited Him to be their guest. Sitting down at the table Jesus took the bread, gave thanks for it, and handed it to the two. At that moment a transformation occurred in which the travelers **recognized** their companion guest and He instantly vanished before their eyes.

A transformation took place in which they shifted from a state of grief, disappointment, and sadness to hope. They then quickly returned the seven miles (back) to Jerusalem to tell the eleven, plus others gathered there, of their moment of realization and recognition as the bread had been broken by Him.

The Seasons of the Spirit Bible Study Class meets Sunday mornings, sandwiched between the end of the 8 a.m. church service and the beginning of the 10:30 service. The class’s emphasis is on the weekly lectionary readings. **All** are welcome to join in the discovery and learning!

∞ Lectionary Readings for April 2020 ∞

- **April 5: Matthew 26:14--27:66** | Conversations Before the Cross
To explore together the stories of Holy Week.
- **April 12: John 20:1-18** | Bearing Witness to God
To celebrate the good news of Jesus’ resurrection.
- **April 19: John 20:19-31** | Trust and Rejoice
To delve into the richness of the peace that is ours through Jesus the Christ.
- **April 26: Luke 24:13-35** | Breaking Bread
To open our hearts to the risen Christ and respond in witness.



St. Luke News

A big thank you to everyone who helped deliver Meals on Wheels during the month of March.

Thank you to everyone who helped by providing food, cooking/preparing food and serving to make our March Discover Hope meal another success.

Dear Brother & Sisters in Christ:

Thank you for your generous donation of the diapers, sewing machines and baby sweaters to Midwest Mission. Each donation is a blessing God uses to bless you and others. Your donation will leave Midwest Mission and be a practical example of God's love in the world to the "least of these".

It is due to your generosity and partnership with Midwest Mission that we can touch so many lives for Christ around the world and around the corner. Thank you so much for blessing others through the ministry of Midwest Mission!

Yours in Christ,
Chantel Corrie
Executive Director



United Methodist Women

The April meeting for the United Methodist Women has been cancelled at this time. When more information becomes available we will advise if it will possibly be rescheduled for May.

Diaper Sewing Days

We are currently NOT sewing diapers at the church but diapers are available for pick up to work on at home. We will advise as soon as we are able to gather together and sew again. A big thank you to everyone who has helped out with sewing diapers.



Beef Burger Supper - POSTPONED

Our April beef burger fundraiser dinner has currently been postponed. We will share more information as details become available.



April Salvation Army Food Pantry Request

Instant Potatoes
Powdered Milk



News from our Librarian ~ Karen Clark

Library News ~ Did you know that our little library in the corner near the pastor's office is nicely stocked with children's books. You will find them on the low shelves under the window. Feel free to let your kids browse the books. That is why they are on a shelf too low for me to be comfortable! Your kids can sit right there on the floor and read books! Feel free to check out books when grandchildren are going to visit, too. Check out is easy. Write your name on the card and the date of when you take the book. Put the card in the blue recipe card box on the shelf. When you return the book, simply put it in the basket under the card box. I will find it and return it to the shelf. If there are children's authors you would like to see added to our library just let me know. Your librarian, Karen Clark



MMDC News

So far this year our church has sent two teams of volunteers to Midwest Mission Distribution Center along with garbage bags for cleaning kits, items for school kits, a few sewing machines, over 1300 diapers and assorted other items. About half of the participants were from our church. Others were from Prairie City United Methodist, Reasoner United Methodist, St. Stephen's Episcopal. Some of the work included making Personal Dignity Kits, School Kits, Feminine Hygiene Kits, Cleaning Kits, building school desks, counting, labeling, validating, cleaning and more. Their network of purchasing, transportation and distribution continues to grow and we continue to hear stories of goods being shipped and delivered by our military. This summer the center looks forward to expanding their office area, as they are exploding out of their offices and into the warehouse areas. You can always help by sewing diapers with us, planning to go on one of our 2021 trips, or giving financially to MMDC.



Camp Season Is Coming Soon

It's time to start planning and signing up for camp at one of the beautiful Iowa United Methodist Camps. Catalogs are available at the church or you can go online to check out what's available at www.iaumc.org/camps. Get ready for your adventure of a lifetime.



Days For Girls

The Days For Girls sewing day for April has been cancelled at this time. Questions? Contact Rose Evans or Karen Clark.



VBS Needs You

VBS will be July 20-24 and we need volunteers in the areas of teaching, recreation, music and snacks.

Anyone interested can let Ann Leonard know at church, by calling 641-521-2463, or by emailing annericleonard@gmail.com.



Nashville

Our Lent/Easter offering is being directed to Disaster Response/Recovery both nationally and internationally. If you are interested in directing your funds to the relief efforts following the tornados in Nashville, TN – put Tennessee Tornado # 901670 on the memo line of your check.



Lent / Easter Offering

Earthquakes, fires, hurricanes, floods and tornados, they happen every year, and in every part of our world. “When a natural or a human-cause disaster strikes within the United States, UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) works with local Annual Conference disaster response ministries to provide financial and physical support. Outside of the United States UMCOR serves as the primary channel for United Methodist assistance. In the short term, UMCOR provides financial assistance and in the long term, UMCOR works with local partners toward recovery and reconstruction. Together, we are rebuilding hope in the lives of those in need all over the world.” (Excerpt from the UMCOR website)

As the NOW committee discussed this years Lent/Easter Offering we found ourselves focused on the Earthquakes in Puerto Rico and the Fires in Australia. That led us to the UMCOR Disaster Response funds, which we have named the 2020 Lent /Easter offering recipients. We will split the funds received between National Disaster Response - which will include Puerto Rico, and the International Disaster Response. (Adding to the Central District focus in support of Mabaan Flood Relief in South Sudan)

The response to the Earthquakes in Puerto Rico include addressing urgent needs, providing shelter, distributing supplies, and conducting assessments and outreach. International responses can include funds to distribute food, hygiene supplies, shelter and other basic needs to ease human suffering. In the long term, the response includes working with local partners toward recovery and reconstruction. We can join hands with other United Methodists in this effort by giving to St Luke's 2020 Lent/ Easter offering for UMCOR Disaster Response. To read more, check out the website at www.umcmmission.org

NOW Missions



Where to Find Us

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Phone: 641-831-2639
Article Submission by the 13th of month.
Website: www.stlukenewton.com
Website Manager: Stephen Pageler

St. Luke Building Fund Pledge



The Trustees recently shared the goals for building improvements in the church and parsonage for the coming years. Thank you to everyone that has already pledged to help fund the continuous improvements of our church. For those who would still like to contribute, there are pledge sheets available on the Servant's Counter. Please turn your sheets in as soon as possible so we can discuss how to proceed with our next improvement project. Thank you!

*"For the joy of the Lord
is your strength."*

Nehemiah 8:10

A Special Blessing for those with April Birthdays

- April 1 - Ava Smith, Mary Moxley
- April 5 - Jeffrey Guillaume
- April 6 - Mary Nelson
- April 8 - Kleo O'Brien, Dylan Wood, Dawn Bleeker
- April 10 - Jacob Murphy, Pane Thongvanh
- April 11 - Karen Clark, Kelly Murphy,
Bernice Adams
- April 13 - Paul Bleeker
- April 16 - Mark Spaur
- April 17 - Heuay Thongvanh
- April 18 - Skylar Lind
- April 20 - Mary Onstot
- April 21 - Dale Dorrell,
Jennifer Etter
- April 25 - Delores Mawdsley
- April 28 - Barb Ponder



If your birthday is missing or incorrect, contact the office.