

The Activator

April 2020

A monthly newsletter from the United Methodist Church of Hudson

Mission Statement of the Church:

As followers of Jesus Christ we want to lead our community to a growing faith.

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Mary Rekers, Editor
Volume 4, Issue 4

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PASTOR OFFICE HOURS: Wednesdays**



Dear HUMC family,

Have you heard the message, "It's Friday. But Sunday's Coming?" It refers to the Crucifixion of Jesus on Good Friday, His facing sin, death, and hell over Holy Saturday and His Glorious Resurrection on Easter Morning.

This year, with the new coronavirus during flu and cold season, "Friday" has come early. Even the season of Lent has been stolen from us and perhaps Easter Sunday being held on April 12 has too. Actually every Sunday morning is a "Little Easter" because we are reminded of Christ's gift of forgiveness and eternal life through His actions 2000 years ago, but even those have been temporarily taken from us. I'm proposing we celebrate Easter in 2020 on the Sunday we choose, after this virus threat passes and we can meet in groups again.

My "Friday" concerns include how this unusual virus season is going to affect our mental and spiritual health. Remaining home and inside, will avoid exposure to viruses, but slights us emotionally. This is not a winter storm when we must remain inside to be safe. It's okay for us to go outdoors, while practicing six foot social distancing to avoid sharing infectious diseases with each other. And not gather in large groups at all. This all makes sense for many reasons.

It's good for us to go outdoors for a walk and to play. Science and common sense tell us that physical exercise increases our feel-good hormones to help combat the depression that may set in otherwise. Getting regular rest, eating nutritionally and moving around through-out the day indoors, helps too. Visiting on the phone and social media will help us remain connected with one another. No one should face this unusual season alone.

While reading God's Word, the Bible, and pausing to listen to God through prayer and meditation each day, God will guide us to what it is we need to hear from God. The Old Testament Psalms and Prophets tell of Bible times when life was tougher than we have it today and how God carried His people through it all. Let those stories bring you hope.

Of course, reading the New Testament gospels, Matthew, Mark, Luke or John, will bring us all the hope we need to face any circumstances. However, if you feel you need additional help, you can call 211 on your phone, which provides a shortcut through what can be a maze of health and human service agency phone numbers. Dialing 211 refers, and sometimes connects, you to appropriate agencies and community organizations: for Basic Human Needs; Physical and Mental Health Resources; Work Support; Services in Non-English Languages; and Suicide Prevention which can be reached at any of these numbers:

1-800-273-TALK (1-800-273-8255)
1-800-SUICIDE (1-800-784-2433)
1-888-SUICIDE (1-888-784-2433)
1-877-SUICIDA (1-877-784-2432) (Spanish)

**Easter is not cancelled!
But celebrating may be
postponed to a later date.**

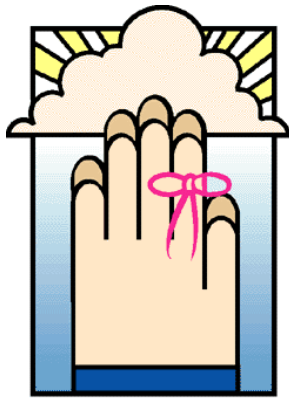
Please remember every day of this unusual season,
that "It's Friday. But Sunday's Coming!"

God Bless, Pastor Audrey :)

April



- 4 – Barb Spates
- 11 – Jason Armstrong
- 12 – Vinny Robbins
- 30 – Molly Ungs



Carol Ann Cowling
Carolyn Mumm
Mavis Floss
LaVonne Kerr

Our shut-ins
Mel Bartels
Margaret Mumm
Dee Vandenberg
Lila Epling

**PLEASE REMEMBER
 THESE FRIENDS IN
 PRAYER**

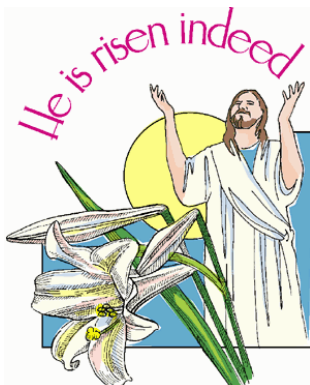
Don't forget to check out the Church Library



MEDIA OPERATORS FOR APRIL



- April 5 – Nancy Patterson
- April 9 – Nancy Patterson
- April 12 – Nancy Patterson
- April 19 – Dave Tolander
- April 26 – Nancy Patterson



Food Bank Sunday
April 5, 2020

"If you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness. -- Isaiah 58:10 (NRSV)

We continue to request your support of the Northeast Iowa Food Bank by donating non-perishable food and non-food items and money through the church. The first Sunday of the month, April 5th, will be designated "Food Bank Sunday".

The Northeast Iowa Food Bank's 11th Empty Bowls fundraiser has been changed to an online silent auction running from March 27th through April 10th at 11:59 p.m. You can create an account at www.EmptyBowls.live/signup to become a mobile bidder. You can also join them on March 27th on their Facebook event page <https://www.facebook.com/events/169493204335169> where they will event kick off the event and raise awareness surrounding the needs during this time.

There is a container in the entryway for your donations of food and non-food items. If you prefer to give a monetary donation, make your check payable to the church with a notation that it is for the Food Bank. Your donation will show on your statement of giving to the church.

For every \$10.00 the food bank receives, they can provide approximately 40 meals. Your donations do make a difference. Can you help this month?





March 2020

Offering:

March	1	1,355.00
	8	737.00
	15	616.00
		\$ 2,708.00

Also received:

Apportionment:	\$	293.78
Food Bank		25.00
Lions		25.00
Rent		1,050.00
TOTAL	\$	1,393.78



Approved 2020 budget:	\$86,154.00
Approved budget through March	\$21,539.00
Apportionments due for 2020:	\$11,231.00
Apportionment payment per month:	\$ 936.00

	<u>Monthly thru</u> <u>March 18</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Giving towards budget:	\$ 3,001.78	\$ 11,309.79
Budget Expenses:	\$ 5,643.00	\$ 15,997.00
Giving Apportionments:	\$ 293.78	\$ 928.78
Apportionment Payments:	\$ 0	\$ 0

With 20.8% of the year completed, our giving is at 71% of actual expenses and 53% of budget through March 18. Our expenses are 18.5% of total approved 2020 budget.

Remember...just because we aren't having worship service due to the COVID-19 crisis, does not mean we don't have expenses. You can still give by mailing your check to the church (P O Box 146; Hudson, IA 50643) or give on-line through our website (hudumc.org) or the Give+ app.

On-line giving can be done by clicking on the Online Giving tab and Donate. We do pay a \$.45 transaction fee, 2.45% for credit/debit card transactions and 1% for payments through your bank account. There are opportunities to offset these charges during the process. If you need help, leave a message at the church office and Mary will return your call and walk you through it.

Please remember during the current Governor's Public Health Disaster Emergency surrounding the COVID-19 all events and activities are subject to rescheduling. An Easter celebration will occur, just maybe not on April 12th as the calendar says!



During this time of uncertainty, remember Pastor Audrey is always available by phone, text, e-mail or Facebook. Check the church Facebook page (www.facebook.com/Hudson-UM-Church) for Pastor Audrey's video of her weekly message.



Kids' Class will meet on Sunday mornings following fellowship time when we are able to meet for worship again.

Adult Bible Study will meet on April 22nd at 4:30 p.m.



There will be a Church Council meeting on April 22nd at 5:45 p.m.

Join us for a potluck supper on April 22nd at 6:30 p.m.



The men will meet for breakfast on Saturday, April 25th, at 8:00 a.m.



HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

April 5 at 9:00 a.m. – Palm/Passion Sunday – Procession of Palms with Communion

April 9 at 5:30 p.m. – Holy Thursday

April 10 at 7:00 p.m. in Janesville– Ecumenical Good Friday worship

April 12 at 8:00 a.m. – rolls and coffee followed by Easter Worship at 9:00 a.m.



UMCOR - United Methodist Committee on Relief
It's called the "Red Cross" of The UMC!

Palm Sunday is **UMCOR Sunday!** Gifts given on this Sunday cover the costs of doing business so UMCOR can respond when and where it is needed most, working to alleviate human suffering and advance hope and healing.

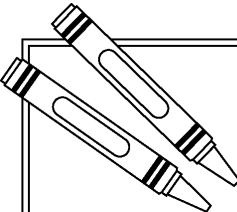
For more than 50 years, United Methodist congregations have been taking part in a special offering, laying the foundation for the United Methodist Committee on Relief's ministry of relief and hope. UMCOR's work of alleviating human suffering around the world includes disaster relief and supplies, disaster risk reduction, health, and humanitarian development.

Gifts to the UMCOR Sunday offering (formerly One Great Hour of Sharing) cover the costs of doing business. This helps UMCOR keep the promise that 100 percent of any gift to a specific UMCOR project will go toward that project, not administrative costs. UMCOR has no source of revenue for administration except from UMCOR Sunday.

Because of UMCOR Sunday, when you hear about a disaster or humanitarian crisis and you give to UMCOR, you can be assured that 100%, of the money you designate goes toward people in need.

Most congregations celebrate UMCOR Sunday on the fourth Sunday in Lent (March 22 in 2020), but it can be celebrated at another time if a congregation wishes, like Palm Sunday, which is our choice.

Have questions, go to www.umcmmission.org/umcor or talk with Pastor Audrey.




Just for **KIDS**

Easter

Easter is a special day for Christians. The days before are dark and sad, but on that special day – we celebrate!
Why do we celebrate?


Write the word to fit each definition. Transfer the numbered letters to the corresponding boxes. Read the answer.

	□ □ □ □ □	□ □ □ □ □	□ □ □ □ □	
	1 2 3 4 5	6 7 8 9	10 11 12 13	
	□ □ □	□ □ □ □ □ !		
	14 15 16	17 18 19 20		

great happiness 1 12

a place where plants grow 11 20 16

opposite of evening 13 7 6


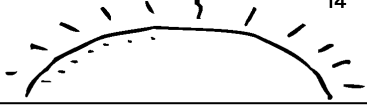
a shape that means love 15 9 19 

it rises every morning 8 4

a close companion 10 18 17

Jesus was nailed to it 3 5

it blocked the door of Jesus' tomb 14 2

joy, garden, morning, heart, sun, friend, cross, stone, Jesus rose from the dead!



The Discipline of the United Methodist Church calls all United Methodist churches to provide the opportunity for members to participate in six special offerings per year. One of those is UMCOR, as described in the story on the left.