

# The Activator

February 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  
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**PASTOR OFFICE HOURS: Wednesdays**

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Dear HUMC Family,

GOD spoke through the prophet Isaiah 6. "The Spirit of the Lord is upon YOU and ME:

- \*to speak good news to the poor,
- \*to bind up the broken-hearted,
- \*to proclaim freedom & release from darkness for the captives
- \*to COMFORT all who mourn, and provide for those who grieve,
- \*to bestow on them oil of JOY instead of mourning,
- \*and a GARMENT OF PRAISE instead of a spirit of despair.
- \*to renew ruined cities.

YOU will be ministers of our God...everlasting JOY will be yours.

For I, the Lord, will reward my people and make an everlasting covenant with them.

For GOD has clothed me with garments of SALVATION and the ROBE OF HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS."

Thank you for the vacation time to visit my sister, Jo, in Texas who recently lost her husband. He was ready to be with our Lord and his earthly suffering to be over. So was she. However, no matter how prepared we are for the loss of a loved one, there is still grieving to do. A couple weeks after her husband died in November my divorce was final. I find myself still grieving, too. We talked, we laughed, we talked, we cried, we talked, we read devotionals, we talked, went out to eat and ate quietly at her home and talked some more. Hopefully, in Isaiah's words from the Lord, we received COMFORT and JOY, and can more often wear that promised GARMENT OF PRAISE and SALVATION as well as God's ROBE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS.

I was also blessed to spend some days with our cousin, Sue, and her husband, while my sister continued her usual bridge playing. Sue and I taught Sunday school together at Faith UCC in Tripoli when I was in high school. I went to the Children's Haven International orphanage (CHI) in Reynosa, MX with Sue. She is retired but full-time involved in ministry with the 49 children who live there. I was excited to see the children's bright eyes & receive their hugs of hospitality in Christ.

One good thing about American companies building factories just over the border into Mexico, is that it does provide employment for the local Mexicans. Row upon row of nice looking concrete block apartments have taken the place of discarded tin and wood huts with dirt floors and no running water or electricity. Mexicans and their resident immigrants of Central and South America, are remaining in Mexico, crossing the U.S. border legally into the U.S. frequently to spend time and money here.

In the last couple years the CHI school has more than doubled in size with tuition-paying students from those workers' families. There are now 16 rather than four local Mexicans who are educators there. Mexican families and companies are donating to CHI, along with Americans and Canadians, many who volunteer there and at the headquarters in Pharr, Texas. I spent a few days volunteering in the office and attended a CHI fundraising concert. What a joy to hear stories from "Winter Texans" who sponsor CHI children whose health and welfare have improved greatly. CHI's 40+ years of ministry have, in recent years, graduated educators, a dentist, a lawyer, and many good Christian citizens back into their community to improve the health and welfare of others and has kept them from the drug cartel, sex trafficking, and illegally immigrating into the U.S. A new church start has begun on the CHI campus with 80 attending worship, not including the orphans who go to church with their families (if possible) in Renosa.

It may not have been the kind of vacation that some people would choose, but it was good for me. Thank you again for the time away from winter. I kept track of you on Facebook and the weather up here and prayed for your safety and warmth daily. A new month is before us with digging into the Gospel of Matthew for sermons. *(If you want printed copies of my Sunday messages, let me know.)*

Now I invite you to go back and read the *Isaiah* passage again, to see how two sisters in flesh and in Christ, as well as we at JUMC and all the supporters of the CHI have made a huge difference in the lives of children and youth in our respective communities as it promises.

Thanks and praise be to God.  
Pastor Audrey :)

The graphic features the word "February" in a red, cursive script font. A large, solid pink heart is positioned behind the word, partially overlapping it. Below "February", the word "EVENTS" is written in a large, bold, red, sans-serif font.

***February is full of things to celebrate:***

**National Black History Month**, a time for all Americans to celebrate the achievements of African Americans and recognize their central role in American history.

**National Children's Dental Health Month** brings together dental health professionals, caregivers, parents, & teachers to give children the best start on oral health. Give Kids A Smile Day is February 6th.

**National Library Lover's Month!** Dedicated to the people who love whole buildings devoted to the reading, housing, organizing, categorizing, finding, studying and otherwise loving books.

**Presidents' Day** with the birthday anniversaries of George Washington (2/22/1732), William Harrison (2/9/1773), Abraham Lincoln (2/12/1809), and Ronald Reagan (2/6/1911)

**February 26 is Ash Wednesday**, the beginning of Lent. The ashes smudged on us during worship remind us of our mortality and call us to repentance-seeking God's forgiveness for our sin, both the things we have and have not done. As the smoke rises up a fire, know your prayers and life in Christ are rising to God as well.

And of course, **St. Valentine's Day**. Saint Valentine was a clergyman – either a priest or a bishop – in the Roman Empire who ministered to persecuted Christians. He was martyred and his body buried at a Christian cemetery to the north of Rome, on February 14, which has been observed as Saint Valentine's Day since 496 AD.



**February**

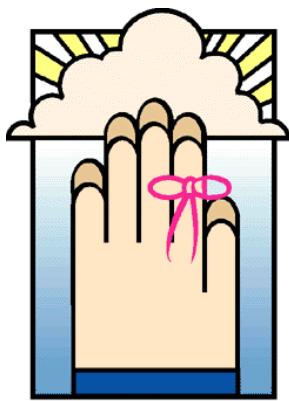


**BIRTHDAYS**

- 1 – Margaret Mumm
- 6 – Dave Petry
- 6 – Connie Snyder
- 7 – Casey Armstrong
- 8 – Dee Bowers
- 14 – Donna Ricks
- 15 – Al Ricks
- 27 – Ken Kristensen
- 28 – Gail Bunz

**ANNIVERSARIES**

- 2 – Dave & Annette Tolander



**Carol Ann Cowling  
Carolyn Mumm  
Ed Smith  
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 FEBRUARY**



- February 2 – Dave Tolander
- February 9 – Nancy Patterson
- February 16 – Nancy Patterson
- February 23 – Dave Tolander



**Food Bank Sunday  
February 2, 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, January 5<sup>th</sup>, will be designated "Food Bank Sunday".

The Food Bank is currently wrapping up their annual Souper Bowl of Caring event on February 2<sup>nd</sup>. Developed by a youth group in 1990, the Souper Bowl of Caring combines the fun around the Super Bowl game with fighting hunger, poverty, and food insecurity in the community.

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?

♥ *Happy Valentines Day* ♥

2020 CHURCH LEADERSHIP		<p>Council Chair – Diane Schulz SPRC Chair – Nancy Louthan Finance Chair – Nancy Louthan Treasurer – Dave Tolander Financial Secretary – Nancy Patterson Trustees Co-chairs – Todd Patterson &amp; Bill Munchoff</p>
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## January 2020

### Offering:

January	5	1,380.00
	12	1,150.00
	19	0
	26	1,155.00
		<b>\$ 3,685.00</b>

### Also received:

Apportionment:	\$	330.00
Food Bank		25.00
Lions' Club		25.00
Rent		1,050.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>1,430.00</b>



Approved 2020 budget:	\$86,154.00
Approved budget through January	\$ 7,179.50
Apportionments due for 2020:	\$11,231.00
Apportionment payment per month:	\$ 936.00

	Monthly	YTD
Giving towards budget:	\$ 4,015.00	\$ 4,015.00
Budget Expenses:	\$ 5,359.00	\$ 5,359.00
Giving Apportionments:	\$ 330.00	\$ 330.00
Apportionment Payments:	\$ 0	\$ 0

With 8.3% of the year completed, our giving is at 75% of actual expenses and 56% of budget through January. Our expenses are 6.2% of total approved 2020 budget. We are already starting the year with giving not keeping up with expenses. Just a reminder that when church is canceled, E-giving is available to keep up with expenses.



### February Preaching Schedule

2	The Ingredients of True Happiness	Matthew 5:1-12
9	Salt and Light	Matthew 5:16-17
16	Understand the Law	Matthew 5:17-48
23	Fulfilling the Law	Matthew 5:17-48



Youth Group and Kids' Class will begin meeting on Sunday mornings following fellowship time...about 10:40 a.m. in February.

Adult Bible Study will be taking a break in February. We will resume in March.



There will be a Church Council meeting on Wednesday, February 19<sup>th</sup>, at 5:30 p.m.



Join us for a Potluck Supper on Wednesday, February 19<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30 p.m. immediately following the Church Council Meeting.

The men will meet for breakfast on Saturday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>, at 8:00 a.m.



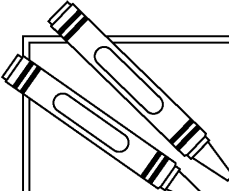
To the congregation:

Thank you very much for the Christmas bag of goodies. The amaryllis has three beautiful blossoms on it. I especially appreciated the visit from the ladies. I appreciate your thoughtfulness.

Sincerely,  
Lila Epling

Should there be hazardous winter weather for which we would be wise to cancel, know that when our local school cancels or releases students early, all our activities are cancelled, too. For Sundays, check your email, Facebook or watch KWVL-TV for announcements.



**Just for KIDS**

**Mark 12:30-31**  
Change some of the letters below to find the words in these important verses.

Change:	C's to L	J's to A	K's to O	Z's to H
	Q's to T	P's to R	X's to E	

(The other letters stay the same.)

" L

̄ C̄ K̄ V̄ X̄   Q̄ Z̄ X̄   C̄ K̄ P̄ D̄   Ȳ K̄ Ū P̄

̄ Ḡ K̄ D̄   W̄ Ī Q̄ Z̄   J̄ C̄ C̄   Ȳ K̄ Ū P̄

̄ Z̄ X̄ J̄ P̄ Q̄   J̄ N̄ D̄   W̄ Ī Q̄ Z̄   J̄ C̄ C̄

̄ Ȳ K̄ Ū P̄   S̄ K̄ Ū C̄   J̄ N̄ D̄   W̄ Ī Q̄ Z̄

̄ J̄ C̄ C̄   Ȳ K̄ Ū P̄   M̄ Ī N̄ D̄   J̄ N̄ D̄

̄ W̄ Ī Q̄ Z̄   J̄ C̄ C̄   Ȳ K̄ Ū P̄

̄ S̄ Q̄ P̄ X̄ N̄ Ḡ Q̄ Z̄ . . . C̄ K̄ V̄ X̄

̄ Ȳ K̄ Ū P̄   N̄ X̄ Ī Ḡ Z̄ B̄ K̄ P̄

̄ Ā S̄   Ȳ K̄ Ū P̄ S̄ X̄ C̄ F̄ .

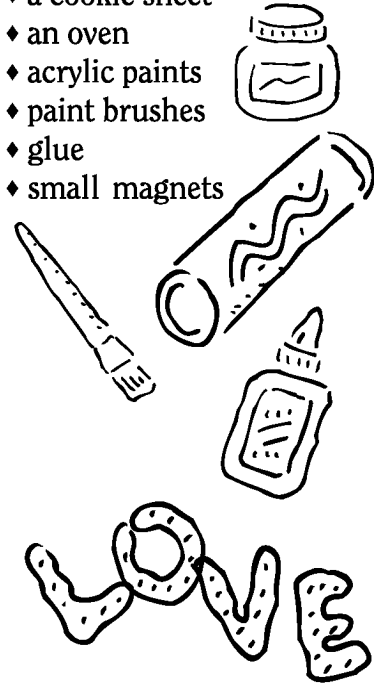
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"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength ... Love your neighbor as yourself."

# Make Some Magnets

## You will need:

- ◆ a tube of refrigerated breadstick dough
- ◆ a cookie sheet
- ◆ an oven
- ◆ acrylic paints
- ◆ paint brushes
- ◆ glue
- ◆ small magnets



## How to make:

Stretch out the dough. Shape pieces into letters or shapes. Spell "LOVE" or make heart shapes for Valentine's Day. Bake on ungreased cookie sheet at 300° for 30 minutes. Cool. Paint. Glue magnet on back.

