

The Activator

July 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.

301 Washington Street
PO Box 146
Hudson, IA 50643

Office: (319) 988-6040
e-mail: hudumc@msn.com
web page: hudumc.org

Mary Rekers, Editor
Volume 4, Issue 7

Pastor: Audrey Westendorf (641) 840-0119 (cell) Email: pastorayoung@gmail.com

PASTOR OFFICE HOURS: **Wednesdays**



Please take the time to read all your **Pastor's Ponderings during the Pandemic!**

"Wounded World that Cries for Healing" is our Prayer Song for the Pandemic. Every time I sing it, a different phrase grabs my attention to consider: "nation's spent frustration, corridors of stress, hard decisions rule."

But the one that gets me every time is "**Tax and tithe are for a purpose, shared to shield the poor and weak. Past the symptoms of our sickness, let the voice of justice speak.**"

Thank you for your continued offerings to the church during this unprecedented time. Please remember expenses continue, so your continued support is essential.



Did you all get together and decide for how much each of you was going to write your check to the church? *Of course not!* But the Holy Spirit did with each of you! As long as we are each listening to the guidance of God's Holy Spirit, the church's finances will be fine. We thank you for your generosity.

Singing "**Tax and tithe are for a purpose**" often makes me wish I were a millionaire so I could give more and often. Right now my full tithe goes to our two churches but when I retire someday, it will be fun to choose others as well.

Actually I've been enjoying the consideration of the use of my tithe of the \$1,200 stimulus check. Our current technical difficulties are demanding monetary attention, so may designate to that; or apportionments; or the general fund.

But there's no question in my mind that I will "tithe," give (10%), of that \$1,200 to God through the church.

Still have 90% to live on. That'll stimulate my little part of the economy as intended.

"Let the voice of justice speak." One injustice of the pandemic has been that persons of color are more likely to contract COVID19 and die from it.

A dear friend of mine wrote to me, "COVID is no fun; I have had it since May 23. I thought I was going to get over it, then struck with pneumonia and blood clots in my lungs. Two days in hospital and still quarantining at home." And the pastor from Clarksville has been hospitalized again since being released for COVID. He still uses a walker and takes therapy.

When it's over, it's not really over, because we don't know what the true prognosis is. Will it forever affect the heart and lungs? Will it make its victims always weak and susceptible? Better follow the guidelines to not "get it" at all!

An even greater injustice is that there are some police officers who feel they can treat persons of color like animals, with no worth or value, can even choke them to death while already shackled and submissive, pleading for their lives. Now that there are cameras available at a moment's notice, we are seeing the injustices that have been forced upon persons of color that have not changed since days of slavery. Violence has erupted; you know the horror.

I try to think of ways I can, we can, help. I'm like most, when first, money comes to mind. Take up an offering so those who can do something, do it. That's true. That is why the UMC has long had **Special Offerings prescribed by our Discipline**, to allow UMs around the world the opportunity to choose what to support, like **Human Relations Day** on the January Sunday before ML King Jr's birthday. Gifts to its purpose can be given any time of year. Of course, it is for the promotion of racial justice as the name implies.

Or choose the **Peace with Justice** offering which defines its use in its name too, is usually held in June, but accepted year-round.

This year, we missed the UMC Committee on Relief, **UMCOR Sunday Offering at Easter**. It's the "Red Cross" of the UMC by helping folk in times of tragedy and disaster. However, the UMC usually remains long after the American Red Cross has left to continue support until all is restored.

While singing the *Prayer Song for the Pandemic* we are uplifted and helped to get through these days.

Here we hold each other's pain. May there move a kindlier wisdom all may feel and all may bless. Honor those whose loving spirit nurses hope, restores and heals. Towel and basin used in service like the Christ who comes and kneels. In the tending, in the mending, may we see the right and fair. In our common quest for wholeness heal each other by our care.

May **our common quest for wholeness** include the promises we made at our receiving into membership of the UMC: *As members of this congregation, will you faithfully participate in its ministries by your prayers, your presence, your gifts, your service and your witness?* We all answered, "I do."

Yes, we can pray, and read our Bibles, and give to the Food Pantry and offerings, etc. And if we are a part of a business or corporation, we might be able to make even more of a difference. Here's how, as put in an email from Mr. William Vanderbloemen who owns the company that informed us about how to do the PPP loan.

Our Response to Racism: We Have to Do More

In the creation narrative, God's first gift to humans was to give us breath in our lungs and bring us to life. Last week, we saw video footage of yet another black man being held down and denied breath and life by a white man. Could anything be farther from God's intent for us? Jesus hates racism, and so do I.

But I am realizing I just don't understand how big the problem is, how much there is for me to learn, and how much more there is for our team to do to be a part of the solution and not the problem.

I have been pulled over by the police, but I've never feared for my life when it's happened.

I almost always get a decent restaurant table but never wonder, "Why are they seating me back here?" There have been times when people have asked me if I was

new to the neighborhood. I've never had people ask me if I "really belong" at the neighborhood pool. And I've never, ever had to teach my kids how to avoid getting hurt because of their skin color.

This week has brought those truths into a more clear focus. Maybe it's the utter horror of George Floyd's death, or the fact that it's coupled with the senseless killing of jogger, Ahmaud Arbery.

Maybe it's the unsettling times or what's happened in our country, and more importantly, inside me. I'm realizing anew I am part of the problem. It runs over 400 years deep. That it encompasses centuries of people of my heritage taking advantage of others, solely because of skin color.

And while I didn't participate in slave trade, the events of the last week have left me realizing that remnants of that structure still exist. I'm realizing nothing will substantively change in my world unless I'm willing to make more changes in how I run my life, how I speak up.

Even deeper, I'm going to have to change how my heart is set if there is going to be real change in me and our entire team will have to do the same.

It occurred to me that Mr. Floyd's murder and the (hopeful) public awakening to systemic racism in America came right at the time of Pentecost.

There are two days of Pentecost in the Bible: one in the Old Testament, and one in the New.

Both have caused me to think hard about how to change going forward. The Old Testament Pentecost, and the festival that was named after it, was a celebration of the giving of the Law to Moses by God. These were a people who had been freed but needed a path forward.

The Law, regulations for living, were meant to be a path toward freedom. Like most young adults, I always thought the laws, rules, and "thou shalt nots" were meant to hinder my freedom.

But in the Scriptures, it is quite the opposite. Good laws bring freedom. In many ways, it's where the US has tried to go over the years. We have made reforms, but we have so much more to do. We've enacted civil rights laws; but all too slowly. That has to change.

I have enacted my own disciplines to shape my conduct toward rooting out racism. I'm now realizing how much more I and my team need to do. So I'm

actively listening and looking for places I can change my behavior toward a life that reflects freedom and respect for everyone. And we as a team will look for new disciplines to help move the ball forward.

The New Testament Pentecost was the same idea but on a grander scale. It marked the call for the church to reach out beyond their own kind, beyond Jewish Christians, and to accept people from other nations. If you read the Greek it describes the word for "other people" is *ethnos* (ironically, it's also the word for "enemy" in Greek).

Pentecost is literally God's call to reach other ethnicities and not keep to "ourselves." But the big difference is that God reached past regulations at Pentecost in the New Testament.

In the Old, he gave his people a new Law. In the New, we are told he gives us a new heart. That's my biggest prayer for me now. For a new heart of understanding. A commitment that doesn't rise and fall with the tides of the news. A conviction that my life and our work will reflect something different than the racism that allowed Mr. Floyd's senseless lynching.

Over the years, we have been honored to do a whole lot of work with many of the most historic Black Churches in the US. We will continue to do that and proactively seek to do more. We will expand our efforts to proactively listen to and serve our sisters and brothers in the African American church. Our company will expand our staff continuing education. We will build our work on Diversity Search faster.

We will do more as we discover the path we are learning. Not to feel good, but because it's the right thing to do. Because there's so much left to do. I take great pride in the work we have been able to do, but I'm realizing it can easily feel like enough. I'm learning that small victories can pacify me way too quickly.

Three years ago, I toured the *Smithsonian Museum of African American History*. You start six floors below ground on a mocked-up slave ship. It's dark. Hallways are narrow. Even the sounds are uncomfortable. The metaphor is palpable.

As you ascend, floor by floor you move out of slave trade and toward modern-day (toward light). I remember after several floors of a wrenching telling of our past treatment of slaves and African Americans, I came up out of the basement of the Civil War, and on to a post-slavery America. I felt, finally the story would get better. Then I got to the 1950s train car, you walk front to back.

A biracial couple and their young daughter were in front of me in line. I won't forget the conversation:

Girl: "Mommy, where would you sit on the train?"
Mom: "Here in the front of the car."
Girl: "Where would Daddy sit?"
Mom: "Back there with all of the other black people."
And then, as only a kid could ask:
Girl: "Then where would I have sat?"
Mom: "Well baby, back then it would have been illegal for Daddy and me to get married. So I guess you wouldn't be here at all."

I don't have any idea what that pain is like, but I'll never forget the moment. I hope I never forget this week's events and Mr. Floyd's death. It's easy to think since slavery ended, freedom is here. It's easy to think since we've passed civil rights laws, everyone is treated equally. It's been easy to think since I have some good black friends, I "get it."

I don't. But I'm praying I will change my behavior and my heart. As a company, we are committed to doing what we can to serve every tribe, every tongue, every nation like never before.

Prayerfully, William Vanderbloemen

Thank you, HUMC, for your prayerful difference-making in Hudson, the Cedar Valley, our nation and our world.

Pastor Audrey H. Westendorf
641-840-0119 or pastorayoung@gmail.com

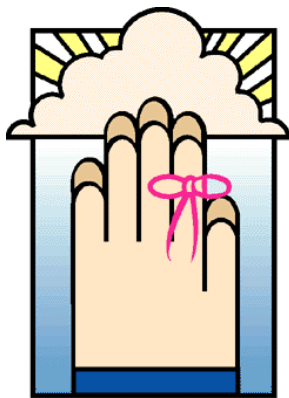


July



BIRTHDAYS

- 7 - Pastor Audrey
- 11 - Diane Schulz
- 18 - Austin Watts
- 21 - Pennie Lundberg
- 25 - Gary Doughty
- 25 - Marcy Kristensen
- 28 - Steve Louthan
- 28 - Madisen Grams



**Carol Ann Cowling
Carolyn Mumm
Mavis Floss**

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.



Hudson UMC will continue to worship online due to COVID-19 until at least August 1. Watch your e-mail and our Facebook page for updates.



**Food Bank Sunday
July 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, July 5th, will be designated "Food Bank Sunday".

The Northeast Iowa Food Bank has begun its summer food program. This program offers breakfast, lunch, and snack opportunities for children out of school. The meal sites this year are: Bethel United Presbyterian Church in West Union, Fayette Elementary in Fayette, Valley Elementary Learning Center in Elgin, St. Joseph Community School in New Hampton, and YMCA in Waterloo. Afternoon snacks are available at the local Boys and Girls Club at: 515 Lime St in Waterloo, 803 E 4 St. in Waterloo, and 3574 Lafayette St in Evansdale.

This year's personal care drive runs from July 1st through August 8th. Items needed include soap, shampoo, toothbrushes, toothpaste, toilet paper, etc.

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?





June 2020

Offering:

May	31	0
June	7	715.00
	14	725.00
	21	175.00
	28	0
		\$ 1,615.00

Also received:

Apportionment:	\$	240.00
Rent		1,050.00
Food Bank		25.00
UMCOR		10.00
Summer Sack Lunch		1,200.00
TOTAL	\$	2,525.00



Approved 2020 budget:		\$86,154.00
Approved budget through June:		\$43,077.00
Apportionments due for 2020:		\$11,231.00
Apportionment payment per month:	\$	936.00

	<u>Monthly</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Giving towards budget:	\$ 1,855.00	\$ 22,329.79
Budget Expenses:	\$ 4,676.00	\$ 30,855.00
Giving Apportionments:	\$ 240.00	\$ 1,608.78
Apportionment Payments:	\$ 0	\$ 0

With half of the year completed, our giving is at 72% of actual expenses and 52% of budget year to date. Our expenses are 35% of total approved 2020 budget.

Giving in June was the lowest monthly giving for the year. The funds from the CARES ACT PPP loan will run out next week. Our giving is down \$5,000 compared to last year at this time. If you listed to Audrey's service last Sunday, you heard her say offering was still sent in at a good rate. I think she was speaking for Janesville and not Hudson. Even though we aren't having in person church, we still have bills to pay. Please send your offering to the church (P O Box 146; Hudson, IA 50643) or use our online giving option on our website (hudumc.org).



Many thanks to Lolita Huber for representing us in the past. Now the Janesville and Hudson UM Churches are in need of a person to "attend" Annual Conference as a lay

representative of both churches and to bring back a report of his/her impressions and events. This will all occur on-line as Pre-Conference Town Hall Meetings on Sat, June 13, 9 am to 12 pm and Sat, June 27, 9 am to 12 pm and Legislative Session will be Sat, July 18 from 9 am to 5 pm. The services for Ordination, Retirement and in Memory are still to be scheduled. All the events will be live-streamed for everyone to watch at www.iaumc.org.

A very generous gift was received from the Northeast District in support of our Summer Sack Lunch Program. We are very appreciative of this donation.



Dear United Methodist Friends,
 Thank you so much for the bag of groceries that you delivered to us on Friday, March 27. What a thoughtful, welcome gift as well as the gift of your friendship. Thank you for thinking of us in this time of self-quarantine as well as your prayers. We hope this will soon end and things can return to normal again. Thanks again for your kindness and gift. May God bless the United Methodist Church of Hudson. *(editor's apology for the delay in publication)*

Sincerely,
 Ed and Marlys Smith





When and How Will We Reopen for Worship was the question asked in an email that went to HUM Church leaders. These facts remain and will be monitored for reassessing in July:

Black Hawk County continues to have increased COVID cases and deaths every day. The vast majority of HUMC attendees are of the at-risk age. Worship will not “feel” like we’re accustomed. We are waiting until July to reassess in hopes the County cases, especially deaths, decline dramatically.

IF we were to reopen NOW, in an effort to AVOID breathing someone else’s possibly infected breath aerosol and AVOID touching a possibly infected surface, EVERYONE would be asked to follow the policies recommended by the Iowa UM Conference and CDC for churches. **If you are sick, stay home.**

Distancing is recommended everywhere: 6’ circumference around each household while seated, and while entering and exiting so persons may be asked to wait outdoors, 6’ apart, to be ushered to designated seating. Only specified persons operate doors. No walking within less than 6’ of another person unless you live with them.

Discourage use of bathrooms unless emergency or user disinfects after own use.

Masking by EVERYONE is strongly encouraged to protect others more than one’s self, a Christian thing to do. (Pastor has sewn cloth masks for those without. You’ll be responsible for washing and reuse.)

Avoid congregational singing/communal liturgy. Worship leaders may sing/speak if more than 12’ away.

Do not share touchable items; remove books; do not pass any trays. **Communion**, if offered, is to be served by a masked and gloved person on the way out the door, or outside altogether, to avoid touching and contaminating elements and masks.


No fellowship or coffee served. No standing/sitting in conversation inside the building. Even if you are comfortable, others may want to be able to safely move 6’ around you.

No Children’s Time up front. It’s difficult for adults to follow all the rules; can’t ask children to try.

The Trustees will do all they can to make the building as safe and virus-free as possible. All attendees will be required to sign a waiver of liability that you would not hold the church responsible if you contract the virus after being in our building.

All of these policies are dependent on EVERY PERSON following the rules to prevent compromising anyone’s health. **If you are not comfortable** with these restrictions, please continue to worship with us online instead.

Or if you do not have internet, call or email Pastor at 641-840-0119 to see if we can make arrangements for a DVD to be delivered to you.



Just for KIDS

The Old Testament

The Old Testament of the Bible contains the story of creation, history, words of prophets, God’s law, songs, poems, stories of adventure and stories of love.

Find the books of the Old Testament hidden below. Use your Bible or the list below for the names. There are 39. You will find 3 books are listed 2 times each.

Find them → ← ↓ ↑ ↘ ↗

G	E	N	E	S	I	S	A	A	U	H	S	O	J	B	C
D	X	J	U	D	G	E	S	S	J	O	B	N	D	S	H
E	O	S	A	M	U	E	L	E	A	M	O	S	F	E	R
U	D	R	G	H	B	H	A	C	I	M	J	O	E	L	O
T	U	U	H	O	S	E	A	I	O	E	U	L	C	C	N
E	S	T	H	E	R	L	R	L	D	Z	L	E	C	I	I
R	P	H	J	A	E	Z	O	S	A	R	H	V	L	N	C
O	S	M	A	O	I	S	L	K	N	A	A	I	E	O	L
N	A	U	J	G	F	M	U	M	I	H	I	T	S	R	E
O	L	H	N	O	G	K	E	R	E	A	M	I	I	H	S
M	M	A	G	O	K	A	A	R	L	N	E	C	A	C	E
Y	S	N	P	A	Q	H	I	R	E	O	H	U	S	I	Z
S	O	T	B	U	C	V	W	X	Y	J	E	S	T	S	E
S	L	A	M	E	N	T	A	T	I	O	N	S	E	A	K
Z	H	A	Z	E	P	H	A	N	I	A	H	B	S	I	I
K	I	N	G	S	B	R	E	V	O	R	P	C	D	A	E
E	K	I	N	G	S	N	O	O	B	A	D	I	A	H	L
F	J	L	H	M	A	L	A	C	H	I	I	K	P	M	G

Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy, Joshua, Judges, Ruth, (1) Samuel, (2) Samuel, (1) Kings, (2) Kings, (1) Chronicles, (2) Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther, Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, Daniel, Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi