

The Activator

June 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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PASTOR OFFICE HOURS: Wednesdays



Dear JUMC and HUMC Families,

Leaders of both JUMC and HUMC have weighed in whether to offer in person and in house worship services. The answer is, "Not yet." The risk is still too great. We will visit the question again mid-June. See other articles in this newsletter.

You are continually in my thoughts and prayers as we wait through this pandemic together yet apart.

Sue, Rita and I are doing our best to prepare worship services for online that are helpful in raising your spirits in the living hope of our Risen Savior, Jesus Christ. We hope you are finding JOY in the mourning and morning.

Sue and I are still sewing masks if you or someone you know is in need, just let me know.

I am now "attending" six hours per week for five weeks of classes in the online Fresh Expressions Academy along with hours-long meetings online with Iowa United Methodist Bishop, cabinet and clergy. I've always been one to want to learn something new every day, so I'm certainly getting my fill of good, new stuff, regulations, policies, and most of all, opinions. There is no perfect answer for every church. Truth is, we have to do what is best for ourselves at Hudson and Janesville UMC. "Not yet."

In the meantime, I've come across a helpful Prayer for Everyday Worship, thanks to Rev Nadia Bolz-Weber, St Thomas Episcopal Church, St Petersburg, Florida. Let us pray:

Dear Lord, I do not know when we can gather together again in worship. So, for now I just ask that:
When I sing along in my kitchen to each song on Christian radio or my own play list, that it be counted as praise.
And that when I read the news and my heart tightens in my chest, may it be counted as a Kyrie.
And that when my eyes brighten in a smile behind my mask as I thank the person at the post office, may it be counted as passing the peace.
And that when I water my plants and wash my dishes and take a shower may it be counted as remembering my baptism.
And that when the tears come and my shoulders shake and my breathing falters, may it be counted as prayer.
And that when I stumble upon a Worship video (TV channel) & hear the grace and love of You, may it be counted as hearing a homily (message).
And that as I sit at that table in my home, and eat one more homemade meal, slowly, joyfully, with nothing else demanding my time or attention, may it be counted as communion. Amen.

Remember God's promise from Jeremiah 29:11: **"I know the plans I have for you,' declares the Lord, 'plans for your welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope."**

God bless you,
Pastor Audrey

EXAMPLE OF A FACEBOOK POST BY A LUTHERAN PASTOR TRYING TO COMMUNICATE RE-OPENING THE CHURCH

Maybe you can tell that pastors are really stressed about opening the church buildings. Here is why. It's very easy to say—open your doors! Here is what that means in order to keep everyone safe:

Recommendations/Requirements for Opening for Worship (THAT DO NOT EVEN INCLUDE ALL THE UNITED METHODIST ONES)

If we were to go forward with opening up for worship what would that look like? What does social distancing look like in a worship setting?

Under the guidance of the CDC, our insurance company, and Lutheran Disaster Team for Northeast Iowa, the following is a list of what absolutely everyone would have to agree to and abide by, if we reopen the church for worship at this time (May 31, 2020.)

The following is a list of things we would have to do and not do in order to keep everyone as safe as possible and still practice proper social distancing.

- Members would only be able to enter the building from the North door and exit only from the south and west doors. (Keep in mind this might be a very long walk back to your cars in potentially bad weather)
- Body temperatures would be checked on everyone before entering the building
- Clear paths would have to be marked on the floors for entrance, exit, etc... so persons may maintain at least 6 foot of distance from one another
- Pews would be marked with colored tape since we can't wipe down the padded pews and know that they are safe. Fredsville is large enough that we would have to have more than one service
- Members would need to sit in assigned seating and only in their family groups (of those who live within the same household). Children may not sit with friends and/or grandparents. Children must remain in their pew with their family group. Assigned seating would be minimally every other pew, in your own family groups, and at least 6 feet away from the next person.
- There would be no Fellowship time. No coffee, treats, etc...
- There would be no singing
- There would be no Holy Communion
- There would be no Passing the Peace, greeters, bulletins, or shaking hands or hugging
- There would be no passing of offering plates
- Hymnals and ALL items would be removed from the pews
- There would be no Children's Sermon
- Children must stay with their family and will not be able to mingle with friends or even grandparents and others that they do not live with (this includes before and after worship)
- There will be no Sunday School
- The bathrooms will be closed (we cannot guarantee that the bathrooms would be cleaned between each person
- We would ask that if you are in the High Risk category and/or have a pre-existing condition, that you remain at home and continue worshiping with us online
- No one would be allowed to gather or sit in the Gathering Space
- We would have to have multiple worship services with a time to clean in between the services (who would do this cleaning?)
- Everyone would be required to wear masks and gloves would be recommended
- We would maintain an online worship presence
- We would not run fans or air conditioning
- Between services we would clean all doors, pews, hand railings, any and all surfaces that could have been touched. (UMC: +3 hours)

As you can see, there is a great deal that needs to go into thinking about reopening, and to be as honest as I can with you, I seriously doubt our ability to have every member, regardless of their age, to be compliant with each of these items. Just one person adult or child who does not follow these guidelines simply puts everyone at risk. *(Copied with permission.)*

Iowa UMCConference is continuing to update the policies as the coronavirus risks change. JUMC and HUMC are both checking with insurance companies to see requirements for coverage when we have in-house worship again.

June

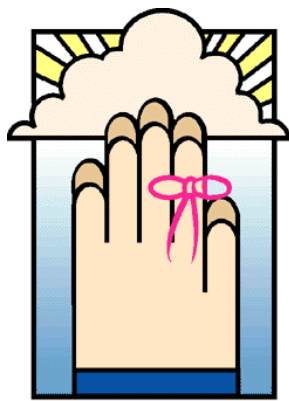


BIRTHDAYS

- 11 - Judie Raymond
- 14 - Don Schulz
- 16 - Douglas Coonrad
- 17 - Nivan Jeffries
- 22 - Keith Koger
- 29 - Cheryl Bartels

ANNIVERSARIES

- 13 - Kirk & Pennie Lundberg
- 21 - Steve & Nancy Louthan
- 30 - Don & Diane Schulz



**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.



According to Facebook statistics for both the Janesville and Hudson Facebook pages, we have been viewed over 100 times for nearly every worship service since the pandemic began.

**Food Bank Sunday
June 7, 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, June 7th, will be designated "Food Bank Sunday".

Volunteers have stepped up to the plate to assist the Northeast Iowa Food Bank as needs have increased because of COVID-19. Groups like the National Guard, AmeriCorps, and Team Rubicon have assisted as well. The Food Pantry has become a drive-through service. Volunteers place prepacked boxes of food directly into vehicles. The National Guard has prepped 109,311 meals, distributed to 10 mobile food pantries, and handled 18 delivery routes in 1,256 hours. Your monetary donations will help offset the costs of purchasing more food.

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?



Honor your father
Exodus 20:12



May 2020

Offering:

May	3	1,055.00
	10	750.00
	17	650.00
	24	350.00
		<hr/>
		\$ 2,805.00

Also received:

Apportionment:	\$	200.00
Rent		1,050.00
TOTAL	\$	1,250.00



Approved 2020 budget:	\$86,154.00
Approved budget through May	\$35,897.50
Apportionments due for 2020:	\$11,231.00
Apportionment payment per month:	\$ 936.00

	Monthly	YTD
Giving towards budget:	\$ 3,555.00	\$ 20,474.79
Budget Expenses:	\$ 4,642.00	\$ 26,203.00
Giving Apportionments:	\$ 200.00	\$ 1,368.78
Apportionment Payments:	\$ 0	\$ 0

With 42% of the year completed, our giving is at 78% of actual expenses and 57% of budget year to date. Our expenses are 30% of total approved 2020 budget.

Giving in May increased \$1,400 over April. However, it's still the 2nd lowest year to date giving month. If we didn't have the CARES ACT PPP loan, we'd be struggling to meet our expenses from the offering. 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).



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



During this time of uncertainty, remember Pastor Audrey is always available by phone, text, e-mail or Facebook. Check your e-mail and the church Facebook page (www.facebook.com/Hudson-UM-Church) Sunday morning for the YouTube link for Pastor Audrey's weekly worship service.

SUMMER SACK LUNCH MISSION

Due to COVID-19, Hudson Community School will continue to take sack lunches to Country Terrace Mobile Home Park through the month of June. Since we would have a very small number of volunteers available in July, and since all of our volunteers are "seniors", for safety's sake it was decided we would not take lunches to Country Terrace in July. We will keep abreast of decisions for school to resume in the fall and hope to provide school supplies to some of those families.



BACK TO SCHOOL STAFF BREAKFAST

Will we be able to host the annual Back to School Staff Breakfast? That remains to be seen. At this point, it does seem unlikely, but we will watch, listen, and learn in the next month or two. Stay well and safe!



General Conference set for May, was postponed to 2021. Iowa Annual Conference in June will be held online sometime this year. The Clergy Session of the Iowa Annual Conference will be held on Zoom, instead of in person, as scheduled on June 5, 2020.



New E-Mail Address:
Gary Doughty
garydoughty317@gmail.com



Forming relationships with neighbors, family, and friends is still the number one way to bring folks to Christ by inviting them to worship with you. In such time as we are able to return to worship in the church building in June or July or August, one of the "Resilient Church" ideas was that families like yours could invite folk to your homes to watch the online videos of worship with you, if you feel safe doing so.



Thank you to so many of our congregation who have helped deliver food to community members, sent cards of encouragement, made phone calls to check in on people, and helped others in ways we are unaware of. You are each a blessing.

"Filling the Truck" for Midwest Missions in June



Drop off dates and locations to be announced.

The ongoing mission outreach at Midwest Missions continues and is busier than ever! In addition to Hygiene Kits, Student Desks and Sewing Machines (both pedal and electric), Midwest Missions has requested:

- Flannel, "PLU" (waterproof) & Cotton Fabric
- Walkers, Canes, Wheelchairs and Crutches
- Cloth Masks (any style)
- New or Used (clean) Blankets
- Plastic or Wood Small School Chairs (children's sizes)

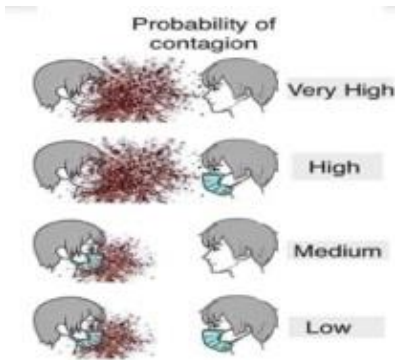
Thank you in advance!

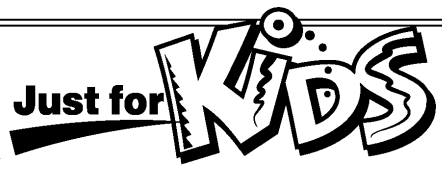


NEW MINISTRY FOR HUMC

In theory, all masks may prevent some sprays of virus-laden fluids from entering your nose and mouth (inward protection). They are also a reminder not to touch your face. And, if you're sick, they may help keep some aerosols inside (outward protection), to protect people around you (CDC).

Face masks are still available. If you or someone you know is still in need of a mask(s), contact Pastor Audrey.





Joyful Psalms

Psalms 146, 147, 148, 149 and 150 are joyful songs!
They all begin and end with the same sentence.

*Write the words below in alphabetical order inside the squares.
Read down the second column to see the sentence from Psalms.*

<p>FEAST KHAKI MOUTH ESSAY LLAMA ORBIT CARRY UDDER BRUSH ITEMS APPLE LEARN CIDER</p>	<table border="1" style="margin-bottom: 10px;"> <tr><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;">A</td><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td></tr> <tr><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td></tr> <tr><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td></tr> <tr><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td></tr> <tr><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="margin-bottom: 10px;"> <tr><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td></tr> <tr><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td></tr> <tr><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td></tr> <tr><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td></tr> </table> <table border="1"> <tr><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td></tr> <tr><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td></tr> <tr><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td></tr> <tr><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td></tr> </table>	A																																																			
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Answer: Praise the Lord!

