



The Activator

March 2021

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 Family and Friends of HUMC,

LENT is a time for growing deeper in our faith in God as we confess and repent of our sins on the way to the Cross of Christ.

The wages of sin is death. We deserve to die on that Cross, but He took our sin upon Himself and died there in our stead. What wondrous love is this!

One way to grow deeper in faith is a Scripture. It can be enjoyable and enriching at the same time. It makes the internet "search" box a tool for Christ and His Church! Here is one of my recent works. I began with Matthew 11:28. **Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.** You can do this, too.

COME = Like a toddler runs with arms wide open and shouting their name when their parent arrives, Jesus arms are wide open to receive us whether we COME running or barely able to move. Jesus says, COME. Matthew 11:28

TO = Because Jesus invited into Paradise even the repenting prisoner who hung on a cross beside Him; surely Jesus invites every one of us. Repent and be saved. Luke 23:43

ME = Jesus is called the *Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace* in Isaiah 9:6.

ALL = There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are ALL one in Christ Jesus. Galatians 3:28

YOU = For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the WORLD, but to save the WORLD through Him. The WORLD surely includes YOU and me. John 3:17

WHO = For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that WHOEVER believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16

ARE = Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. Hebrews 13:8

WEARY & BURDENED = This Lent especially with COVID lasting over a year, and all the tension in our lives, we can't pretend we are all fine and doing well! We must grieve in order to be well in the future. Naming our reasons for grief helps overcome their power to cause us pain. We grieve loss of close relationships, fellowship, visiting with one another, our good health, our jobs, our ability to travel. We grieve the loss of time that has past and events we have missed! We grieve the uncertainties of the future.

AND = Jesus promised: I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. AND the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My Name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. John 14: 18, 26

I = Early in His ministry, Jesus asked His disciples, "Who do you say that I am?" And Simon Peter answered, You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God. Matthew 16:16. Do a "search" for Names of Jesus and immerse yourself in His many attributes.

WILL = Do another "search," this time type in "Jesus will" and the promises of Christ will fill your

cup to overflowing with all the promises of God through Christ. "Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if anyone hears My Voice, and open the door, I WILL come in to them, and WILL sup with them, and they with Me." Revelation 3:20.

GIVE = When I picture Jesus Christ dying on the Cross, I see the FREE GIFT of God's grace in Christ reconciling the world unto Himself. I sing, "Amazing grace!"

YOU = John wrote, I am writing these things to YOU so that YOU may not sin. But IF ANYONE does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the WHOLE WORLD. 1 John 2:1-29

REST = This is the same verse from the new Passion Translation of the Bible. I like its imagery.

Are you weary, carrying a heavy burden? Then come to Me. I will refresh your life, for I am your Oasis. Simply join your life with Mine. Learn My ways and you'll discover that I'm gentle, humble, easy to please. You will find refreshment and rest in Me. Matthew 27:28-29

I breathed a sigh of relief at the word, "oasis." And then again at "refreshment and rest." Did you? Hope you enjoyed this Biblical "game" to deepen your faith in God during this unusual and unprecedented Lent. Let me know what you discover on your Biblical "searches."

God bless us everyone!
Pastor Audrey:)



Pastor Audrey H Westendorf has a NEW e-mail address: pastorahw1@gmail.com. Please update your address book so we may keep in touch as well as occasionally do church business by e-mail.



THANK YOU for being an active and faithful member of our church community. By giving to HUMC, you're showing God that our church has

a meaningful place in your heart. We just wanted to write this to let you know that you're in our heart, too.

Donating to the church allows us to preach the gospel, make disciples, and support others in our community. Ask Diane who delivered poinsettias at Christmas to homebound and hurting folk on our behalf. Ask the students who received school supplies last fall and the family who now has a refurbished sewing machine to earn income for their family. Ask the mother who has soap and towel to wash her children's faces and hands. Ask those who now watch our Worship services on-line. Ask those in need locally and around the world who are assisted through submitting our apportionments in full each year, and it's all thanks to contributors like you.

We earnestly appreciate your ongoing support and want to let you know we're here for you. If there's anything we can do for you and your family, don't hesitate to reach out. You are a valued member of our church family. And your financial support is making a difference.



Compelled for Christ

As the humanitarian relief and development arm of The United Methodist Church, the United Methodist Committee on Relief or

UMCOR assists United Methodists and churches to become involved globally in direct ministry to persons in need.

UMCOR Sunday Special Offering serves the Administrative expenses of UMCOR so the 100% of your UMCOR donation reaches your chosen mission project or ministry.

March



BIRTHDAYS

- 10 – Annette Tolander
- 21 – Julie Douglas
- 21 – William Munchoff III
- 26 – Nancy Patterson

ANNIVERSARIES

- 29 – David & Jan Petry



**Carol Ann Cowling
Mavis Floss
Health Care Workers
First Responders
Dean Staack**

Our shut-ins

**Mel Bartels
Margaret Mumm
Dee Vandenberg
Lila Epling**

**REMEMBER
TO PRAY FOR...**



Don't forget to check out the Church Library.

The Activator is being mailed this month in order to provide offering and UMCOR envelopes for your convenience; but in the future, will be e-mailed as usual. Be sure we have your current e-mail address by sending it to Mary at hudumc@msn.com.



MEDIA OPERATORS FOR MARCH



- March 7 – Nancy Patterson
- March 14 – Nancy Patterson
- March 21 – Nancy Patterson
- March 28 – Nancy Patterson



Food Bank Sunday March 7, 2021

"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, March 7th, will be designated "Food Bank Sunday".



The Annual Northeast Iowa Food Bank Empty Bowls event will take place from March 19th – 26th. This year the

event will take place entirely virtual on an online bidding platform. Attendees will be able to purchase raffle tickets and bid on silent and live auction items. Tickets and more information will be available soon and can be found at www.northeastiowafoodbank.org/empty-bowls.

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?





February 2021

Offering:

January	31	655.00
February	7	1,725.00
	14	150.00
	21	0.00
		\$ 2,530.00

Also received:

Apportionment:	\$	400.00
Food Bank		25.00
Rent		1,050.00
TOTAL	\$	1,475.00

TREASURER'S REPORT

Approved 2021 budget:	\$83,214.00
Approved budget through February:	\$13,869.00
Apportionments due for 2021:	\$ 8,226.00
Apportionment payment per month:	\$ 685.50

	<u>Monthly thru</u> <u>February 22</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Giving towards budget:	\$ 1,875.00	\$ 5,125.00
Budget Expenses:	\$ 4,720.00	\$ 9,818.00
Giving Apportionments:	\$ 200.00	\$ 800.00
Apportionment Payments:	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00

Two months into the year, our giving is at 52% of actual expenses and 37% of budget year to date. Our year to date expenses are 12% of total approved 2021 budget. Our giving last year through the same time period was \$8,308. We are \$3,183 behind last year's giving.

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).



HUMC will return to in-person worship on March 7th at 9:00 a.m. Masks will be required, hand sanitizer will be available and social distancing is encouraged. The Lenten sermon series is "God Believes the World is Worth Saving!" JUMC will continue to livestream at 10:30 a.m. and videos will be available to watch on their YouTube channel.



Watch for and "reply all" to e-mails from church, pastor and leaders: hudumc@msn.com; deedee2x4@aol.com; dwt9497@aol.com; pastorahw1@gmail.com

Church "business" is being done over e-mail with "reply all" discussions and votes. Please participate to keep our church operating and our members safe while we are not holding in-person worship or meetings.

There can be space for YOUR article here next month. E-mail your news to hudumc@msn.com by March 22nd about what's happening at HUMC.



Community Church of Hudson has resumed weekly community meals in a "To Go" fashion on Wednesdays, from 5:30 – 6:30 p.m. and can be picked up at the west door in the parking lot.

Reservations are required weekly and can be made by going to cchoonline.org and clicking on the "To Go" Meals button. Weekly menus are included on the reservation page.



Don't forget to set your clocks ahead one hour on Saturday, March 13th. Daylight Savings Time begins at 2:00 a.m. on Sunday, March 14th.

