



The Activator

May 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 HUMC family from Pastor Audrey:)

"Anyhow," Mary said, "on my way home I saw all the cars here, and I just felt like I should come in (the church) & say thank you to God for my son's life. And while I'm at it, thank you, Eleanor, for being there at the right time for me and Steve. People like you are what goodness is really about. If there were more like you, maybe I would've been brave enough to come in here and say thanks to God sooner."

You may recognize this statement from my message on April 25 (which is available in full at youtube.com/UMCJanesvilleIA).

I suggested that we clergy see this story from a different perspective than those sitting in the pews. I don't think you, church members, know how truly important your ministry is.

Some of you might say, "It's the pastor's job," as though church members are exempt from it because they pay a pastor. My perspective, along with many clergy, is that it is far more important for church members to visit one another and others outside the church like Mary in my story.

You see, pastors come and go, especially in the UMC. But church members and their families are part of the local church for generations, as witnessed by the multi-generational family of the baby baptized in attendance at JUMC.

When a church member takes the time, unpaid, to attend to the sick and dying, it is much more meaningful in the long-run. Like Mary in our story said of Eleanor, a church member that visited her and her son in ICU after a near-fatal car crash: "Well, Eleanor came into the waiting room & talked with me just like I was her friend. She asked if we could go into his room

in the ICU together so she could say a prayer for him. I'm not one for praying. You know my brothers and me run the tavern. What my life has been like is no secret in this town. But she was so nice, and her caring was so real, that I said yes.

"And when she touched Steve's hand, with all those tubes and needles hooked in it, and prayed to God that he would be all right, well, I prayed that too. I prayed for the first time I can remember in my whole life. And this morning they tell me Steve is going to pull through." She paused to compose herself and continued.

"Anyhow," Mary said, "I just felt like I should come in & say thank you to God for my son's life. And while I'm at it, thank you, Eleanor, for being there at the right time for me and Steve."

Which brings me to my second point: There are so very many more church members than there are pastors, so, as a group, you are able to touch so many more lives than one pastor alone ever could. You church members are oh so, much more important than you think you are. Please take this story to heart as though it happened in our church and listen to God for His prompting of your ministry in His Holy Name.

"Then King Jesus will say to those on His right, 'Come, you who are blessed by My Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave Me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave Me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited Me in, I needed clothes and you clothed Me, I was sick and you looked after Me, I was in prison and you came to visit Me. For whatever you did for one of the least of these, you did for Me.'" Matthew 25:34-36 NIV



May



BIRTHDAYS

- 5 – Ruth Chittenden
- 19 – Kayla Watts
- 19 – JoAnne Wooden
- 22 – Charles Mumm

ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 – Arthur & Millie Mehmen
- 11 – Edward & Marlys Smith



REMEMBER TO PRAY FOR...

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

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

Please update your address book for the church: hudumc@gmail.com and Pastor Audrey H. Westendorf: pastorahw1@gmail.com.



Are you getting weekly worship e-mails? Would you like to get the Activator in your inbox? Be sure we have your current e-mail address by sending it to Mary at hudumc@gmail.com.

MEDIA OPERATORS FOR MAY

- May 2 – Nancy Patterson
- May 9 – Nancy Patterson
- May 16 – Nancy Patterson
- May 23 – Nancy Patterson
- May 30 – Dave Tolander



Food Bank Sunday
May 2, 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, May 2nd, will be designated "Food Bank Sunday".

Thank you to those who donated \$160 to the Northeast Iowa Food Bank. The donation was doubled by anonymous donors to \$320 and will provide 1,280 meals right here in Black Hawk County!

The Northeast Iowa Food Bank receives, rescues and purchases all varieties of food with their clients in mind. Food is sorted and stored, to be ordered, assembled and delivered throughout their 16-county service area. They partner with over 200 agencies – including schools, pantries, churches, community meal-sites, senior centers, day cares and other non-profits. The children, seniors, families, and individuals who experience chronic or situational hunger, are the ones who benefit from your support.

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?



Don't forget to check out the Church Library.



April 2021

Offering:
April

4	751.00
11	1,015.00
18	400.00
25	3,145.00
	\$ 5,311.00

Also received:

Apportionments	\$ 200.00
Food Bank	35.00
Trustee Interest	617.93
Rent	1,050.00
TOTAL	\$ 1,902.93

TREASURER'S REPORT

Approved 2021 budget:	\$83,214.00
Approved budget through April:	\$27,738.00
Apportionments due for 2021:	\$ 8,226.00
Apportionment payment per month:	\$ 685.50

	<u>Monthly</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Giving towards budget:	\$ 5,511.00	\$ 16,378.00
Budget Expenses:	\$ 5,677.00	\$ 20,738.00
Giving Apportionments:	\$ 200.00	\$ 805.00
Apportionment Payments:	\$ 0.00	\$ 260.00

We are 1/3 through the year. Our giving is 78% of actual expenses and 60% of approved budget year to date. Our year to date expenses are 30% of total approved 2021 budget. Our giving last year through the same time period was \$16,920. We are \$534 behind last year's giving. Last month we were behind \$4,192. Thank you everyone for your generous offering in April.

You can send your offering to the church (P O Box 146; Hudson, IA 50643) or use our online giving option on our website (hudumc.org).



In person worship begins at 9:00 a.m. each Sunday morning with COVID precautions in place. If you are uncomfortable joining us in person, you can watch Janesville's service live at 10:30 a.m. (or anytime following) by going to Youtube.com/UMCJanesvilleIA.



CWS Blanket Sunday is Mother's Day, May 9th. You can show God's love and provide hope to your neighbors by making a donation. Each \$10 gift provides a blanket and enables someone to see and feel God's love in their lives.



Congratulations to Meleah Sadler on her graduation from Hudson High School. Good luck as you begin your education towards a nursing degree. Meleah will be honored during worship and fellowship time on Sunday, May 23rd.

Our Lay Member to Annual Conference and District Conference for both Hudson and Janesville UMCs is Diane Schulz of Hudson. Since Janesville had provided a representative, Lolita Huber, for several years, it is Hudson's turn in rotation. Diane has agreed to attend both the virtual conferences for at least 2021.





COVID-19 has prevented us from visiting our families, friends, and even neighbors. In this addition, we will be catching up with Lila Epling.

Lila grew up near Milford, Iowa which is about five miles south of Okoboji. She graduated from Milford High School which now is a part of Okoboji Community School District.

Following high school, Lila attended Wayne State College in Wayne, Nebraska, earning her two year teaching degree. She then taught kindergarten and first grade at Dunlap, a town near Dennison.

For a time, Lila and several girlfriends rented a house and shared expenses. One weekend they went to a Wayne State vs. Morningside football game in Sioux City. After the game, a group of friends gathered together and it was then that Lila met Wesley (Bud) Epling. Bud had been drafted into the Army during the Korean Conflict and upon returning home was attending Wayne State to finish his degree in education.

Eventually, Bud was hired to be principal at Hudson. Lila decided to go back to college at UNI to earn her four year teaching degree and her master's degree. Lila then accepted a position with Area Education Agency 7 as a specialist helping children with learning disabilities. After serving as principal, Bud continued his career as Industrial Arts teacher in Jesup.

Bud and Lila both held many positions in the church.

Unfortunately, Bud lost his battle with prostate cancer in 2010.

At Wind Haven, Lila endured the COVID lockdown. During that time, of course, no visitors were allowed and residents were pretty much confined to their apartments. Meals were delivered to them. (Lila commented that luckily, they do have good meals.) At times they were allowed to go into the hallway for various social distanced activities. Fortunately, Wind Haven did not have any cases of COVID among the staff or residents.

As of now, some of the restrictions are being lifted. A small number of residents at a time may now go to the dining rooms for meals and conversation with distanced seating. And now, they may have visitors...although with restrictions. Visitors must make an appointment and may only stay for one hour.

Lila says she needs more assistance these days in getting from her chair to her scooter. She is grateful for the good care she receives at Wind Haven. Lila would enjoy a phone call, card or letter, or a visit! Her address is:

Lila Epling
5000 Wind Haven
Apt. #41
Cedar Falls, IA 50613

"A Special Fitness Plan"

Read the words in 1 Corinthians 9:24-27. It talks about being in shape to "run the race" – to be a Christian. Below is a fitness plan to help.

Match the words from the list below into the shaped boxes to complete the sentences.

- ① your .
- ② about God's .
- ③ every .
- ④ Pray .
- ⑤ at
 for day.
- ⑥ to God in
 you do.

Do
someone
each
Try
Bible
words

for
everything
one
Read
Think
others

day
please
thing
Pray
least
loving

Answer: 1. Read your Bible. 2. Think about God's words. 3. Pray every day. 4. Pray for others. 5. Do at least one loving thing for someone each day. 6. Try to please God in everything you do.