



The Activator

November 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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Volume 5, Issue 11

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PASTOR OFFICE HOURS: **Wednesdays**



Dear HUMC Families,

The prayers of just one righteous person avails much, according to the Book of James, believed to be written by the brother of our Lord Jesus. Are you praying daily or don't you think you are righteous enough so that your prayers won't avail much of anything? You're right, we are not righteous through our own doing, however it says in Romans 5:1-2: *Since we have been made righteous through His faithfulness combined with our faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

Just because our prayers are not answered the way we expect, doesn't mean they are not heard and answered in God's time and plan. By reading other Bible versions and translations of James chapter 5, verse 16, we can understand it better. Especially when we remember that prayers are not merely a list of our needs and wants, but a list of all we have that God has already provided.

The prayer of the righteous person is powerful in what it can achieve. CEB

The prayer of an innocent person is powerful, and it can help a lot. CEV

The earnest prayer of a righteous man has great power and wonderful results. TLB

If you are still thinking you don't qualify as righteous or good enough, try doing the first part of the verse to relieve yourself of guilt and shame. *Make this your common practice: Confess your sins to each other and pray for each*

other so that you can live together whole and healed. The prayer of a person living right with God is something powerful to be reckoned with. Message

If one person's prayers who is prayed up and confessed up to God can be so powerful and make such great things happen, what if you and I all pray the same prayer every day for the month of November? Wonder what God would do with that many prayers of that many persons who love God! Shall we try it to see what happens? Here's a prayer of Thanksgiving we could all be praying.

Dear God,

Thank You for Your amazing power and work in our lives.

Thank You for Your goodness and for Your blessings over us.

Thank You that You are able to bring hope through even the toughest of times, strengthening us for Your purposes.

Thank You for Your great love and care.

Thank You for Your mercy and grace.

Thank You that You are always with us and will never leave us.

Thank You for Your incredible sacrifice so that we might have freedom and life.

Forgive us for when we don't thank You enough, for who You are, for all that You do, for all that You've given.

Help us to set our eyes and our hearts on You afresh.

Renew our spirits, fill us with Your peace and joy.

We love You and we need You, this day and every day.

We give You praise and thanks, for You alone are worthy!

In Jesus' Name, Amen.

May God bless us all with a happy and healthy Thanksgiving season.

Pastor Audrey:)



Because of COVID the way we did Charge Conference this year was totally different. It wasn't the enjoyable 20 minutes of business and then warm pie from the oven and ice cream like last year's. It

was all done online through ZOOM. And because of the short time frame given us for preparation and wanting to avoid in-person meetings as much as possible because of COVID, we went ahead and used all 2020 information, put it into 2021 almost as though the business of 2020 didn't happen, and went directly to Church Council on October 4th without committee meetings, then directly to the online ZOOM charge conference on October 11th. We apologize if anyone felt left out of the process but hope you understand the need for continued safety against the virus for all concerned.



Dear ones of the HUMC family who have lost loved ones this past year,

You are not forgotten in your grieving and sorrow. You are prayed for and remembered. And because it is helpful to share one another's joys and sorrows, we are setting aside Sunday, November 1, 2020, as an *All Saints Day* observance. You & your family are especially invited to come join us for 9:00 a.m. Worship. We are practicing COVID restrictions, so wear your masks, practice distancing and hand sanitizing.

All Saints Day is a sometimes-overlooked holy day in United Methodist congregations. It is not nearly as well known as the day before, All Hallows' (Saints') Eve, better known as Halloween, but is far more important in the life of the church. *All Saints Day* is an opportunity to give thanks for all those who have gone before us in the faith. From the early days of Christianity, there is a sense that the Church consists of all living believers, as well as all who have gone before us. For example, in Hebrews 12 the author encourages Christians to remember that a "*great cloud of witnesses*" surrounds us, encouraging us, cheering us on.

I hope you will allow us to include all those who lost their lives to COVID as well as your beloved.

If you are not able to attend in person, we will record the event and post it on our Facebook page and website where you can also find our weekly worship services.

A verse that I have kept close since my own husband's sudden death 25 years ago is this, "*Mourning keeps her own calendar. She rendezvous in scents, in dreams, in certain seasons. Do not shun her; her errand is mercy. Pause with her for tea and tears.*" And then remember "*Weeping may tarry for the night, but joy comes with the morning.*" Psalm 30:5

In Christ's love and mercy,
Pastor Audrey H. Westendorf

November

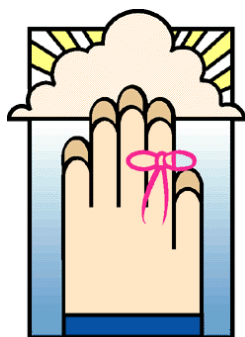


BIRTHDAYS

- 5 – Melvin Bartels
- 5 – Tamera Grams
- 12 – Faye Munchoff
- 15 – Katie Rickert
- 16 – LaVonne Kerr
- 18 – Robert Chittenden
- 26 – Meleah Sadler

ANNIVERSARIES

- 15 – Ken & Marcy Kristensen
- 18 – Todd & Nancy Patterson



**Carol Ann Cowling
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.



MEDIA OPERATORS FOR NOVEMBER



- November 1 – Dave Tolander
- November 8 – Dave Tolander
- November 15 – Nancy Patterson
- November 22 – Nancy Patterson
- November 29 – Nancy Patterson



**Food Bank Sunday
November 1, 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, November 1st, will be designated "Food Bank Sunday".

Since the pandemic began, 52,730 people in our community – 19,060 or them children – are struggling with hunger.

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?

**THOU
CROWNEST THE
YEAR WITH THY
GOODNESS...**

PSALM 65:11





October 2020

Offering:

October	4	3,850.00
	11	2,240.00
	18	3,244.00
	25	1,995.00
		<u>\$ 11,329.00</u>

Also received:

Apportionment:	\$	250.00
Trustees Interest		631.70
Ingathering		225.00
Northeast Iowa Food Bank		25.00
Rent		1,050.00
TOTAL	\$	<u>2,181.70</u>



Approved 2020 budget:	\$86,154.00
Approved budget through October:	\$71,795.00
Apportionments due for 2020:	\$11,231.00
Apportionment payment per month:	\$ 936.00

	Monthly	YTD
Giving towards budget:	\$ 11,579.00	\$ 42,033.79
Budget Expenses:	\$ 4,773.00	\$ 52,943.00
Giving Apportionments:	\$ 250.00	\$ 2,458.78
Apportionment Payments:	\$ 0	\$ 0

With 83% of the year completed, our giving is at 79% of actual expenses and 59% of budget year to date. Our expenses are 61% of total approved 2020 budget. Our giving is **\$5,085** behind where it was at this point last year.

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).



Quarterly giving statements will not be sent during 2020 unless requested. Annual giving statements will be prepared in January 2021 for 2020.

IOWA CONFERENCE of the UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Ingathering is the mission-gathering event of the UM Churches of Iowa. Usually the event collects over a million dollars' worth of offerings and in-kind gifts.

Due to the COVID virus many of the Ingathering activities will not be held this year. The event has been reorganized and **WILL ACCEPT mission kits with social distancing precautions.**

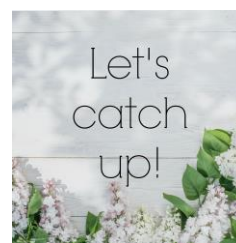
Bring your mission kits and/or your check written to the church with "Ingathering" in the memo line and arrangements will be made for taking kits to the event at Cedar Falls First UMC on Saturday, November 7th.



Can't believe it's that time already, but Day Light Savings time ends on Sunday, November 1st, at 2:00 a.m. Don't forget to set your clocks back one hour.



Are you missing the online worship link that is e-mailed on Sunday mornings? If so, be sure we have your current e-mail address by sending it to Mary at hudumc@msn.com.



COVID-19 has prevented us from visiting our families, friends, and even neighbors. Having just celebrated a milestone 50th wedding anniversary and with Veterans Day fast approaching, we'd like to catch up with Sharon and Doug Coonrad.

1. What inspired you each to join the military?
Sharon - As I was getting ready to graduate from UNI with a degree in biology, I had no idea what I wanted to do with my degree. I felt regret because so many of my high school male classmates were being drafted and sent to Vietnam while I faced no threat from the draft

simply because I was a woman. I also believed I owed someone something for the student aid scholarship that paid for my last two years of college, even though I was under no financial obligation. I had a sorority sister who was going into the Navy. She pointed out to me that I could ease the moral debts I believed I had as well as serve my country, have two years to decide what I wanted to do with my life, and then have the GI Bill to help me do it. So that's why I enlisted.

Doug - After graduation from public schools, I attended college at Dartmouth. The Civil Rights and Women's Rights movements were in full swing as were controversies about escalation of the war in Vietnam and the draft. It was a tumultuous time for those of us crossing the threshold to adulthood. I was fortunate that Dartmouth, in New Hampshire, provided many opportunities both in and outside the classroom to further my hiking, rock climbing, and other outdoor activities that I enjoyed. I did not want to serve in the Army or Marine Corp on the ground in Vietnam; therefore, I entered the Navy ROTC program and received a Navy scholarship just before my sophomore year. During courses and summer familiarization tours, I gravitated toward duty as a pilot. The Navy paid for flight lessons to determine if we had the aptitude for and were dedicated to aviation. It also gave us a jump start on flight training. We flew from a grass runway near campus, with time off during mud season. Several of my classmates and I took advantage of this activity and were hooked!

2. How did a girl from Hudson, Iowa, and a guy from Rotterdam, New York, meet?

Sharon – After four months of Officer Candidate School in Newport, Rhode Island, I was sent to Attack Squadron in Lemoore, California. The squadron trained all pilots deploying to the western Pacific (i.e. Vietnam). Three of us rented a house together and decided to host a Thanksgiving dinner. Doug was one of those who showed up for a free meal. I was actually dating someone else at the time, but that relationship did not work out. Doug was in Lemoore from mid-November 1968 to early March 1969. He was then ordered to the Philippines. I was able to visit him twice in the Philippines and we met once in Hawaii. We were married one week after he

returned to the States. I met my in-laws the night before we got married!

3. Were you both in the military when you got married? Did you continue to serve following your wedding in October 1970?

Sharon – I was released from active duty about six weeks before our wedding. I then was put on Inactive Reserve, which required no drilling. A year and a half later, I received a letter from the Reserve office in D.C. asking me to keep them up-to-date on my address so that they could mobilize me quickly in case of a national emergency. I received the letter on the 4th of March 1972. I remember the date because I wrote to them that very night, replying that I didn't think I could mobilize too quickly because I was expecting a baby March 5, 1972. Jeni was indeed born the next day. Obviously, they got my letter because six weeks later I received my Honorable Discharge in the mail.

Doug – Prior to our wedding I had served in a squadron based in the Philippines and Vietnam. After returning to the U.S., my duty was as an instructor pilot and Supply Department Division Officer and Resources Division Officer working with personnel at the Naval Training Command.

4. What was your military rank and what jobs did you perform while in service? How long did each of you serve?

Sharon – I was commissioned as an Ensign and after a year I became a Lieutenant Junior Grade, the rank I had when I left the Navy a year after that. I served as Classified Material Control and Communications Officer. The enlisted guys who worked under my charge did most of the nitty-gritty work and it was my job to look over their shoulders and make sure it was done correctly. I was responsible for seeing that the correct action was taken on the Secret and Top Secret material we received and stored and accounted for accurately. I was also responsible for initiating and granting of the proper security clearance for our personnel. I was lucky that I had lived in one place for nearly all my life and the FBI and Naval Investigation Service did not have to snoop very far for them to complete the background investigation. My clearance came through very quickly.

Doug – I was commissioned in June 1967. My squadron was deployed to the Philippines and our aircraft, pilots, aircrews, maintenance personnel and carriers performed exercises in and off the coast of Vietnam. Upon returning to the U. S., I learned about a program that would allow me to attend law school and finish my career as a JAG attorney. After being accepted, we headed to Boston in 1972 for law school. We used our savings and the GI Bill to survive. I earned my law degree and worked as a JAG attorney and eventually left active duty to continue as a Navy Reservist with the rank of Captain with 26 years of continuous service.

5. What was your favorite or most interesting military assignment?

Sharon – I would not give up my two years in the Navy for anything. The best part of my experience was meeting and working with the people in our squadron. Navy pilots are the best in so many ways. One of the reasons I think it was so easy for me to leave the Navy was the realization that I probably would never have another tour of duty like the one I had just finished. Many of my squadron mates went on to higher command in the Navy and elsewhere.

Doug – My favorite day as a pilot was the day my plane captain asked as he was strapping me into my ejection seat, “Sir, what do you want to do be doing when you grow up?” I told him I was already doing it. That kind of give and take made my day!

My favorite missions as a pilot were many, but it sure was fun to approach the carrier task forces on Yankee Station and simulate a missile shot from a submarine. I flew about 100 feet above the water at 450 knots until I saw the ship on the horizon, then pulled up and at 1000 feet rolled inverted to set up a trajectory to the ship, rolling upright once I had done so. It was also fun to launch one of our target missiles toward a ship from a height of 6000 feet and then roll inverted and perform a split S maneuver to lose altitude and reverse direction so as to be away from the trajectory of the shot they took toward my target missile. Flying in formation with 3 feet of wingtip separation and precise acrobatic flying were also fun. I love watching the Blue Angles perform these same maneuvers closer to the ground.

My two favorite sights as a pilot were looking down at clouds one day and seeing the shadow

of my aircraft completely encircled by a rainbow above them and the sight of the blue static called “St. Elmo’s fire” on my front windshield.

As a Navy lawyer, my greatest moment occurred when I broke the glass ceiling and my Reservists were given the respect they deserved and were able to actually contribute to the Navy’s mission.

6. What brought you back to Iowa?

Sharon/Doug– Upon Doug leaving active duty, moving back to Hudson meant we would be able to assist Sharon’s parents as they aged. Hudson seemed to be the best for economic growth and the timing of the venture of Doug opening his own law practice. Doug could easily drill on weekends in Des Moines with the Navy JAG. The icing on the cake centered around our children. Our children had been born in three different states in the space of 5 ½ years (Mississippi, Massachusetts, and Iowa). Kathy and Doug Jr. had not yet started school and Jeni was in kindergarten. Family stability could be achieved if I (Doug) left active duty to begin family life in Hudson.

7. Catch us up with your children, sons-in-law, and grandchildren.

Our older daughter, Jeni, and her husband Erin and their two sons – Jayden, age 11, and Sean, almost 8, live in Apopka, Florida, a suburb of Orlando. Jeni’s disability has not allowed her to work outside of the home, but she is now busy with the kids going to school online and getting ready for Erin’s back surgery in late November. Kathy and her husband Mark now live near Tampa-St. Petersburg. Her daughter, Morgan, is hoping to graduate from UNI in December and is hoping to complete her internship with the Waterloo Black Hawks. This of course was interrupted by COVID. Parker is a junior at Wartburg, playing basketball and studying business. Son, Doug Jr., lives in Coralville and is still an academic coordinator in the athletic department. Again, COVID has produced its own set of problems for him and his department.

