



The Activator

October 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 HUMC Families,

Lincoln's now-famous "house divided" line was drawn from Matthew 12 in the Bible, "*Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation, and every city or house divided against itself will not stand.*" It was actually part of a most important address in U.S. history, when he accepted the Illinois Senate Republican nomination. The speech marked his entrance into national politics at a time when the nation was profoundly at odds over slavery. We are still working on the issue of racism.

And every four years, because of our election system, we can pretty much count on the country becoming "divided" again. I heard my grandson say he thinks there will be another Civil War. I'm not sure if he was just making conversation or speaking from his fear or both. It's sad the U.S. does this to ourselves regularly. Yet, good things always come from the not-so-good events of our lives.

That's Biblical too. Check out: *We know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.* Romans 8:28

To me the Bible is still of great authority on everything in life. I hope it is for you, too, and you are relying on its words of life and love to get you through these difficult days.

Here are some Bible verses to be helpful:

Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you,

I will uphold you with my righteous right hand. Isaiah 41:10 ESV

When I am afraid, I put my trust in you. Psalm 56:3 ESV

For God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control. 2 Timothy 1:7 ESV

Be strong and courageous. Do not fear or be in dread of them, for it is the Lord your God who goes with you. He will not leave you or forsake you." Deuteronomy 31:6 ESV

I sought the Lord, and he answered me and delivered me from all my fears. Psalm 34:4 ESV

"Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. ... Matthew 6:25-34 ESV

Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you. 1 Peter 5:6-7 ESV

Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be

dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.” Joshua 1:9 ESV

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid. John 14:27 ESV

Say to those who have an anxious heart, “Be strong; fear not! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God. He will come and save you.” Isaiah 35:4 ESV

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. Psalm 23:4 ESV

Anxiety in a man's heart weighs him down, but a good word makes him glad. Proverbs 12:25 ESV

A GOOD WORD MAKES HIM GLAD can come from one's self, but usually comes from someone else. It can even come from social media with all its memes, etc. So I encourage you to be the answer to someone else's anxiety or fear.

Call or send a card to a friend you haven't visited with in a while. Look them up on social media and “friend” one another. Since moving back to Bremer County and attending a class reunion last year, I have reconnected with classmates online and in-person-before COVID, and truly enjoy these re-established relationships. How about the church folk you worked alongside at fellowship and fund-raising events, UMW pals, or Men's Breakfast guys?

And a favorite Bible verse of many:
Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:6-7 ESV

That “**peace**” is a promise of God and God can't take back any of His promises. God has to speak only truth. We only need reach out to God and believe God can give us His peace. Let everything else go out of your mind. Instead of watching the news so frequently, watch worship online, read the Bible or a good Christian book.

Do nothing but focus on God and God's goodness for that amount of time and you **WILL** receive that “**peace which surpasses all understanding.**”

I'm available:

- * by text & phone at 641-840-0119
- * Facebook at Audrey H Westendorf
- * Email at pastorayoung@gmail.com (I didn't change my e-address when I divorced because it's just too many to notify)
- * At the Janesville office Monday-Thursday, since visiting hospitals and homes has been restricted, especially for those in the at-risk category.

God bless you and yours as we walk this journey together.

Pastor Audrey :)



October 4th is World Communion Sunday. We will offer curb side communion by drive-by for anyone who wants to park along the church curb and receive communion. Come and go from 9:00-9:30 a.m. with masks, distancing, and hand sanitizing. Self-monitoring is the hope.



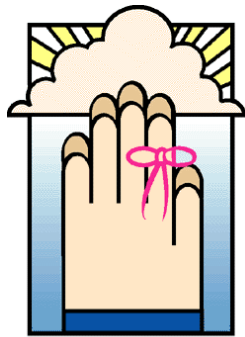
We may or may not offer Worship in the sanctuary on the following Sundays. This is a special event. (Online Worship will still be available)

September



BIRTHDAYS

- 2 – Diane Roberts
- 5 – Greyson Sadler
- 8 – Hillary Rickert
- 9 – Wilbur Mumm
- 12 – Isabella Robbins
- 15 – Jacob Patterson
- 15 – Jordan Patterson
- 22 – Todd Patterson
- 27 – Edward Smith



**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.



Annual Charge Conference for Hudson and Janesville UM Churches is set for Sunday, October 11th, at 2:00 p.m. We are hoping to offer attendance over ZOOM. All officers are asked to "attend," though everyone is welcome. The ZOOM information will be sent to all attenders through e-mail prior to October 11th.



**Food Bank Sunday
October 4, 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, October 4th, will be designated "Food Bank Sunday".

The State of Hunger – A COVID-19 Update (copied from Fall 2020 Northeast Iowa Food Bank newsletter). There is a crisis coming unlike anything since the Great Depression. **43,000 people didn't have enough to eat before this crisis hit.** *Rising unemployment and poverty rates will cause this figure to increase.* **By the end of 2020, 1 in 7 of our neighbors will face hunger.** *In 2019, it was 1 in 9.* **That's over 52,000 northeast Iowans who will now struggle with hunger.** *That's an additional 9,300 people, including 5,380 more children.* **Looking ahead, the NEIFB expects a 21% increase in demand.** *To meet this need, they will need to provide 1.5 million more meals.*

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?





September 2020

Offering:

September	6	1,165.00
	13	200.00
	20	300.00
	27	125.00
		\$ 1,915.00

Also received:

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



Approved 2020 budget:	\$86,154.00
Approved budget through September:	\$64,616.00
Apportionments due for 2020:	\$11,231.00
Apportionment payment per month:	\$ 936.00

	<u>Monthly –</u> <u>9/24/2020</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Giving towards budget:	\$ 1,865.00	\$ 30,204.79
Budget Expenses:	\$ 7,572.00	\$ 48,170.00
Giving Apportionments:	\$ 200.00	\$ 2,208.78
Apportionment Payments:	\$ 0	\$ 0

With 3/4 of the year completed, our giving is at 63% of actual expenses and 47% of budget year to date. Our expenses are 56% of total approved 2020 budget. Our giving is **\$13,035** 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 held on the first Saturday of November. 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.**

Arrangements WILL BE made for taking kits to the event at Cedar Falls First UMC. Please have your mission kits and/or your check written to the church with "Ingathering" in the memo line, to the church by Sunday, October 25th for consecrating and packing. Be sure to shop soon – there are still some bargains out there for school supplies.

Remember - Diane Schulz will be putting together 5 school kits - one in honor of each grandchild. Is anyone else interested in putting some together in honor of a special student? She will be sewing bags again, so let her know if she can make any for your school kits.



There are new packing guidelines this year for some of the kits. Go to <http://www.midwestmission.org/kits-projects-patterns/midwest-mission> for details and a direct online donation opportunity.



Just a Reminder...



Carolyn Mumm, who passed away on September 23rd. Pastor Audrey performed her funeral service and burial on September 28th.

Can't believe it's that time already, but Day Light Savings time ends on Sunday, November 1st, at 2:00 a.m.



COVID has not stopped Charge Conference from being scheduled. They are required by UMDiscipline. It has been suggested we have a short, outdoor (weather permitting), Church Council meeting on Sunday, October 4th, at 9:30 a.m. for approval of the work for 2021 of HUMC Committees.

The Finance Committee needs to work up a 2021 budget. Apportionments have been reduced again this year. In the Iowa Conference alone, over \$2,000,000 has been cut in the past few years. It's painful to see ministries and missions, as well as employees lost from Iowa UMC work.

SPRC needs to look at salaries and wages. Nominations need to find a Lay member to Annual Conference (if JUMC does not).

It would seem fitting that WE ALL are praying for persons to say "yes" to God through these opportunities to serve HUMC. Please volunteer or say "yes" to a call from our Nominations Committee.

Another suggestion is to continue our 2020 goals into the 2021 year. Along with that idea, would the leadership be willing to continue another year by extending terms and just not count 2020: If no, please let us know as soon as possible.



Do we have your e-mail address? 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.



Doug Coonrad and Gary Doughty were recognized with the Lamplighter Award for their many years of service with the Lions.

Just for KIDS

Giving and Sharing

God gives generously to us. He wants you to do the same for others. The more you give, the more you receive!

Complete each math problem, then connect the dots in order. Find 2 Corinthians 9:6.

Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap generously.

Math problems scattered around the pumpkin:

- 1+1=
- 4-1=
- 2+3=
- 4+2=
- 0+1=
- 8-4=
- 9+8=
- 12+4=
- 5x3=
- 2x7=
- 9+4=
- 3x4=
- 15-4=
- 6+3=
- 5+5=

Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap generously.





COVID-19 has prevented us from visiting our families, friends, and even neighbors. This space is intended to help us catch up with each other and the first is Meleah Beryl Ann Sadler, Hudson High School senior.

Yes, Meleah is a high school senior! November 26 she'll be celebrating her 18th birthday. When asked, Meleah shared several of her favorite things. Meleah's favorite color is purple. Any biology class is her favorite subject. Her favorite entertainer is the country singer, Morgan Wallen. Some of Meleah's hobbies include scrapbooking, relaxing at the lake, and volunteering. The newest version of *Beauty and the Beast* is her favorite movie and her favorite food is white cheddar Cheez-its or Goldfish. If you want to take Meleah out to eat she prefers Chick-fil-A...and just to get the lemonade where she orders half regular lemonade and half diet lemonade. (Sounds like a good recommendation!) Meleah's favorite holiday is Thanksgiving. Hmm, could that be because this year, and probably several other years, her birthday falls on Thanksgiving? A favorite church memory was getting to spend time with friends while singing at HUM Singers.

When asked what annoys her, Meleah replied, "When Greysen has Aux and we can't make it through one song." Meleah had to explain this to me. Greysen can plug his phone into the radio and play his music off his phone. Evidently Greysen doesn't listen to one song all the way through and that kind of drives Meleah nuts.

This past summer Meleah babysat and took two college classes that are prerequisites for the nursing program. One class was Intro to Health Professions. In this class she learned about the different jobs that are offered in the health care field. The second class was Medical Terminology. This class focused on medical terms that are used in all the different jobs in the health care field. Meleah continues to babysit on weekends during the school year.

COVID-19 has changed many things and it has affected students back at school. Meleah shared that school is much different this year. The high

school has moved back to using block scheduling. (Class periods are longer, about 90 minutes and students take 4 classes instead of having an eight period day.) And of course, they have to wear masks all day while in school.

Meleah is also involved in many school activities. She's a member of the track and field team and is the manager for the girls' basketball team. She is involved in National Honor Society and an active member of Hudson FFA chapter.

After high school, Meleah plans to attend Hawkeye Community College. Her plans are to major in nursing, specifically pediatric nursing. (Knowing how well Meleah works with kids, this sounds like a great goal!)

Meleah, even though school and activities are so very different during this pandemic, your church family hopes you have a great senior year. Thanks, Meleah, for being our first featured guest for this column!

