

HAPPY EASTER

Christ has risen...

GILBERT COMMUNITY CHURCH – UNITED METHODIST

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PASTOR'S CORNER

Well, this newsletter finds us all in a new situation personally, locally, statewide and nationally. We have been asked to cancel church services, all gatherings in some states limiting the gatherings to two people. Because of closures there no longer places to go out to eat, but at the moment some places have takeout. The bars in town and all through the state are closed by the Governor's orders. We are asked to stay six feet from others if at all possible. Why? Coronavirus has arrived in the United States and most of the countries of the world. We don't have a cure or a vaccine yet, so all these measures are to keep people healthy and safe. Although if some of us got the virus it might mean more than being sick for a short time, but for others it can be deadly. The government and even church officials are worried about those who are vulnerable with health issues. In that group they have included everyone who is sixty or older which put a majority of us in that group. They are also worried about the fact it can spread for an infected person to another person before any symptoms are shown. So these restrictions make sense and hopefully everyone will follow them the best they can and we will be blessed by not know too many people with the virus and the restrictions work.

So the question is what can we as a church do? First follow the guidelines we are given and be innovated thinkers about how we can continue as a church. The most important thing is keep connected with each other, so we have set up what is

called a "Shepherding Committee." These people have volunteered to contact members of the church once a week by phone, text, email or whatever means which work. The volunteers are: Bubs, DeEtta, Deborah and myself. By the time you get this we will already started. If you have a need to talk to someone feel free to call me, too. You also can connect with members, neighbors, friends, etc. to make sure people are okay. Everyone can use an upbeat conversation that they weren't expecting during times like this.

I have started sending out a daily devotional through texting each morning. Please let me know if you would like to receive it by email since not everyone is able to get texts. For those of you who know how to work Facetime it may be put to good use, too. Now I am waiting for your ideas of what we can do.

May you find time to enjoy the presence of God in your daily devotions.

Take care of yourselves and your loved ones. God Bless each of you. Remember He is always only a prayer away.

Pastor Mary Lou

p.s. Remember you could also send out an actual letter to members of the congregation or maybe people you know in who are in assisted living places or health care centers, even those in the hospital. Those people no longer get visitors and would love to receive a note or a cute card. Many ways to be a caring Christian person and show others that the church is still strong without meeting in a building. Check on your neighbors, leave treats on doorknobs, call, write, go outside, walk around and wave to people – say hello. Stay in touch with your family who is not in the area – let them know you love them. We are all in this together and we need to "Social Distance" ourselves, but many ways to keep in touch without being right next to one another. DeEtta

PALM SUNDAY/EASTER SERVICES

As we all know Palm Sunday will be April 5th and Easter is April 12th. At this time we really don't know what will be happening with our "Social Distancing" and whether we will be having church services or not. We will let everyone know as soon as we know for sure what will be recommended. If we do meet for Easter – it would be wonderful if we could have a beautiful garden of colorful spring flowers on the altar. Please no Easter lilies and some in our congregation is allergic to them. BUT there are many gorgeous flowers that could be donated to fill the altar.

GOOD FRIDAY

Just as with Palm Sunday and Easter – not sure about the service for Good Friday. The service was planned for Friday, April 10th at 6:30 p.m. We will be letting you know about this special service when we can.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

All ages are welcome and encouraged to attend. Join us for 45 minutes of Bible stories, music and crafts!

Sue Malevich

AD COUNCIL/EVA KIEREN CIRCLE

Next meeting will be tentatively Sunday, May 3rd at 1:30 p.m.

SPRING GET-TOGETHER

We did set Monday, June 15th as our annual spring get-together. The whole church is invited to go out to eat at the Rink in Eveleth at 5:30 p.m. More will be shared on this as we get closer to that date.

QUAD CITY FOOD SHELF

Our church started gathering food and monies for the Quad City Food Shelf in March – because in March the food and monies are matched pound for pound and dollar for dollar by the state of Minnesota. Some members of the congregation have already given monies or food and that is great. BUT because of COVID-19 the March Campaign has been extended to the end of April. So if you would like to give food or monies to the Quad City Food Shelf you can still do so even though we aren't meeting as a 'church'. You can bring food items to the church and put them in the box on the back pew or send a check to DeEtta at PO Box 882 – in Gilbert of course.

SALVATION ARMY SUPPER CLUB

Remember our church helps to serve the Salvation Army Supper Club the third Thursday of the month. Serving starts at 3:30 p.m. and only takes a couple of hours. We need more volunteers to sign up. The sign-up sheet is in the back of the church.

SMALL PANTRY

Our church is always collecting non perishable food items for the Small Food Pantry which is right outside our church doors. Either put food right into the pantry or leave on the back pew of the church. Paper items (toilet paper and paper towels) are also greatly needed. Cereal and paper goods seem to go the fastest.

The last Sunday of each month we will be holding a Noisy Offering.... In this offering we will pass a can and everyone will bring pocketfuls of change to put in the can and make lots of noise. This year we are collecting to help Foster Children for extra expenses through the Social Services.

Arrowhead Senior Nutrition Services - Senior Dining AEOA is offered at senior housing, community or senior centers and some restaurants (Grandma's and Memory Lane to name a couple) and can be had for \$4.00 for anyone over 60 years old. Just call 1-800-662-5711 ext. 6899 to get on their list.

COFFEE AN' will be cancelled for April...

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

April 3rd Bryan Kern
April 19th Maydelle Hocking
April 20th Brooke Kern

APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

April 5th Ken and Wyonne Anderson
April 5th Don and Terri Peterson

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR APRIL

5 th ... Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29 (UMH 839) or Psalm 31:9-16 (UMH 764) Isaiah 50:4-9 Philemon 2:5-11	12 th ... Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24 (UMH 839) Acts 30:34-43 Colossians 3:1-4
19 th ... Psalm 16 (UMH 748) Acts 2:14a, 22-32 1 Peter 1:3-9	26 th ... Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19 (UMH 837) Acts 2: 14a, 36-41 1 Peter 1:17-23

APRIL LITURGIST

5th Deborah Ross-Jagunich
12th Warren Ross
19th Jack Makela
26th Sue Malevich

APRIL USHER

5th Linda Thesing-Hall and Mary Thesing
12th Deborah Ross-Jagunich and Warren
Ross
19th Jack and Gerri Makela
26th Don and Terri Peterson

April Yard Work (runs Monday-Sunday)

March 30th-April 5th Jagunich
April 6th-12th Malevich
April 13th-19th Peterson
April 20th-26th Kerzie/Hafdahl
April 27th-May 3rd Kern