

The Four “P’s”

Greetings, Hubbard Family! Happy October! This month, I would like to offer the words from Bishop Ough as he spoke to the clergy during Annual Conference:

“I don’t often read the Book of Ezra, but recently, I was drawn back to the story of King Cyrus of Persia allowing those exiled from Jerusalem to return to rebuild the temple – the house of the Lord, the God of Israel (Ezra 3).

In the second month of the second year of their return, the foundation of the temple had been laid. But, the people had very different responses. Many were filled with joy and sang praises to God for the new thing that had been brought forth. Many others, who had seen the first temple and knew what “normal” should look like, were filled with grief, and wept aloud. The scripture says no one could distinguish the sound of the people’s weeping from the loud rejoicing.

I think this tension between the old normal and the new reality exists in many of our churches. What I observe among us, and what I certainly have racing around in my soul, is both lament and rejoicing. I lament that there will be no return to normal; that the foundations of the church have been shaken to the core and cannot be put back together to look the way they looked in the past. Yet, I rejoice in the opportunity to re-envision, re-create, re-invent our congregations and denomination.

I believe the forces and dynamics unleashed by the four P’s – pandemic, postponement, protests and politics – will forever change our churches and our ministries. What an opportunity! Do you realize how seldom everything is unfrozen and can be reshaped? I see a vital, technologically savvy, culturally relevant, richly diverse, fully inclusive, theologically astute, re-energized evangelical Wesleyan movement emerging from these powerful, life and ministry-altering forces.

This dissonance between rejoicing and grief, between being re-energized and the weariness of constant adaptation, often

leaves me feeling isolated, alone, searching for that new song to sing. But then I am reminded, I am not alone. I am not the only one experiencing dislocation, dis-orientation, dissonance. And, I am reminded that our ever-faithful God precedes me, holds me, protects me, strengthens me, sustains me, illuminates my path. Several weeks ago, Rev. Cynthia Williams, the River Valley District Superintendent, and new Dean of the Cabinet, introduced a powerful Collect that expresses my heart better than I can with my own voice:

What are we to say,

except that it is not our own wisdom which will make sense of all that has happened, but a wisdom which knows the hearts of us all.

What are we to say,

except that it is not our own heart alone that will give us strength and courage, but the hearts of those with whom we share community and faith.

What are we to say,

except that it is not our will alone which will see us through the confusion and pain of these days, but the will of the One whose ways are

compassion and comfort,

reconciliation and peace,

forgiveness and understanding.

O Lord, when I am bewildered and the world is all noise and confusion around me and I don't know which way to go and am frightened, then be thou with me. Put thy hand on my shoulder and let thy strength invade my weakness and thy light burn the mist from my mind. Help me to step forward with faith in the way I should go.

A Service of Prayer, Sanctuary, Support

*The Federated Church of Sandwich,
Center Sandwich, NH*

I cannot begin to express my respect, admiration, pride and gratitude for the ways you have faithfully responded to the challenges of the four P's – pandemic, postponement, protests and politics. You are adaptive, resilient, innovative, prophetic, compassionate, and committed. This is a difficult season and I hear and observe the physical fatigue, emotional weariness, and the spiritual exhaustion. And yet, you carry on, not out of robotic resignation, but out of faithfulness and dedication. Thank you.

More now than ever before, we need each other. Take care of yourselves and take care of your friends, families and colleagues. Let us renew our commitment to the well-being and flourishing of one another. Let us remember we are and have always been a journey church – an adaptive, Holy Spirit-led movement, not an arrival church. Let us lay down our suspicion and fear of one another and grant one another grace and space to share our opinions and beliefs. Let us reclaim our evangelistic fervor, for it is, I believe, the only pathway to truly engaging and knowing and loving and serving our neighbors – all our neighbors, black, white, brown, LBGTQIA, urban, rural, poor, rich, Republican, Democrat, more conservative or more progressive. We are all on the same journey toward perfection in our love of God and neighbor – John Wesley's very definition of holiness. Let us go forth to Be the Light – Live Hope!

You are my church, my faith community, and my source of support and encouragement. I will miss you when I retire in December. And, even after I retire, I will need and cherish your prayers. Be assured, I will continue to pray for each of you and this covenant community, as well. Thank you."

*Bishop Bruce R. Ough
Resident Bishop, Dakotas-Minnesota Area
The United Methodist Church*

*Grace and Peace,
Pastor Lauren*





- for those needing healing and comfort
- for those members in assisted living and homebound
- for all who are sick with Covid-19, that they recover swiftly, and for all those who have lost loved ones.
- *for our military:* Derek Barnum, grandson of Pat Beaumont; John Johnson - deployed in the Middle East; Wyatt Hallstrom, grandson of Hank & Dolly Hallstrom; Jess Swanson, grandson of Jackie Swanson
- *for our missionaries:* Africa - Emily Dwyer, Deb & Rich Ried; Hungary - Richard & Martha Millhouse & family; Nicaragua - Belinda Forbes-Gutiérrez;

If you would like to have a prayer request printed in the bulletin or newsletter, please inform the office. Remember, due to patient privacy, please get the permission from the person needing prayers to have their name printed.



August 2020 Mission Giving

DESIGNATED MISSION GIVING

Hubbard County Food Shelf	\$200.00
Pastor's Discretionary Giving	\$355.28
Love Offering	<u>\$70.00</u>
Total for Designated Giving	\$625.28

MISSION COMMITTEE GIVING

Meals on Wheels	\$1,100.00
Total for Mission Committee Giving	<u>\$1,100.00</u>

<u>Total Missions Giving</u>	<u>\$1,725.28</u>
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Devotionals Needed: Advent is Coming!

Yes, Advent is coming and this year, more than ever, we need to connect with each other, sharing our faith and our love for one another. What better way than to write a devotional for HUMC's fifth booklet, ***Advent Devotionals for 2020***.

The basic format is a title, a Bible verse, your thoughts or story in about 300 words, and a short closing prayer. You may write a devotional on any topic - favorite Christmas memories, joys and challenges, or, especially this year, how your faith is helping you to cope with the COVID-19 pandemic!

Perhaps one of the following questions will spark a thought or idea.

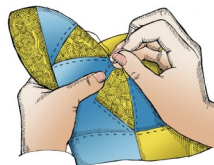
- ♦ Are you worshiping in your pajamas on Sunday mornings?
- ♦ What does the term "worship" look like to you in the face of COVID-19?
- ♦ Have there any unexpected blessings because of this crisis?
- ♦ Have you helped someone in our congregation who, because of health issues, couldn't safely go to the grocery store or post office?
- ♦ How has God guided you through the difficult days?
- ♦ What do you fear most about the upcoming winter months?
- ♦ What is a favorite memory of Advent or Christmas, one that brings a smile to your face?

Advent begins Sunday, November 29, and ***we will need 26 devotionals*** to bring us to Christmas Eve, 2020. Don't worry about editing, Marie Nordberg and Joy Derr will be happy to help with that.

The deadline for copy will be Monday, November 2, as Brenda needs time to prepare and print the booklet so that it can be mailed Monday, November 23, ensuring that everyone, including our snowbirds, has the booklet in time for Advent.



Care And Comfort



Threads of Love

Quilters Making Fleece Blankets

The Threads of Love Quilters will soon be hard at work—from their homes—making fleece blankets to donate to those in need of care and comfort during winter's cold, snowy months. Our church's mission statement also reflects the work of the quilters.

Where Love Dwells:

HUMC's quilters are motivated to help others because God's love dwells in their hearts.

Faith Grows:

HUMC's quilters know that God's presence in their lives will carry them through this difficult time of “sheltering at home” due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Mission Leads:

HUMC's quilters understand that their mission is to provide quilts, fleece blankets and prayer shawls for those in need of care and comfort.

Beginning in October, those interested in making fleece blankets (no sewing required, only cutting and tying) can pick up fleece blanket kits, with directions, either from Sue Harmon or at the church. The blankets will be given to local schools and organizations before Christmas for distribution to those in need. You need not be a quilter to participate in this project!

Even though the Threads of Love Quilters are not meeting at the church at this time, they continue to make quilts, face masks, prayer shawls and fleece blankets, distributing them as needed.

Everyone is welcome to join this group. If you are interested in helping with this fall's fleece project, please contact Sue Harmon, chair for 2020-2021.

Hubbard UMC Continues Online Worship

Due to the escalating Covid-19 Case Count in Hubbard County, it has been determined by our Ad Council that we will continue to worship on-line throughout the month of October, and we will continue to assess the situation each month at our Ad Council meeting.



A BIG thank you to everyone who donated supplies and/or money for backpacks for our youth and the kids in the Hubbard area. We were able to provide backpacks with all the required school supplies to begin the

school year for 9 elementary, 5 middle school, and 3 high school students. What a blessing to be able to provide these. The parents were all extremely grateful and kept saying how much this helps with back to school expenses.



Hubbard Women's News

UMW will have an "In-Person" meeting October 7, 2020 at 1:00pm at the Hubbard UMC Building.

- ◆ Masks must be worn at all times
- ◆ No food or drink to share - you may bring your own drink or snack
- ◆ Social Distancing rules must be followed

The Minnesota Conference United Methodist Women Annual Meeting will be via ZOOM due to COVID19 Saturday, October 10 from 10 am to noon. You must register online by October 1, 2020. Registration Link: www.minnesotaumc.org/eventdetail/minnesota-united-methodist-women-annual-meeting-14304902



If we missed your name on this list, please call the office so it can be corrected. Also, please let us know if you are celebrating a special birthday or anniversary and would like this included in our newsletter. We wish all of those celebrating in Birthdays Best Wishes!

October Birthdays

Ava Bolton	1
Joy Derr	1
Sue Harmon	4
Christopher Bolton	5
Nadine Wheeler	7
Fred Nordstrom	7
Bob Heggen	10
Betsy Roman	14
Gary Barrett	19
Arlene Zimmerman	20
John Landess	22
Keith Hein	24
Wanda Mead	24
Marshall Kalm	26
Steve Steinborn	27
Judy Johnson	28
Trudy Laabs	28
Kevin Berry	31

November Birthdays

Doug Rathbun	1
Arnie Kuhn	2
Marj Nordstrom	3
Angie Hutchins	4
Pam Davis	7
Ron Taggart	7
Randy Wimmer	9
Denise Kisser	10
Arnold Valentin	11
Liz Stevens	13
Aaron Kjenaas	13
Carol Wall	13
Neil Jordheim	16
Dennis Bolton	19
Travis Bolton	23
Betty Larsen	26
Bob Stevens	26
Christie Rasmussen	28



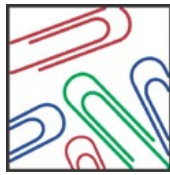
October Anniversaries

Bill & Edye Olson	10
Tom & Noel Moore	12
Paul & Jenny Seaton	15
Larry & Karen Odegard	16
Douglas & Maxine Rathbun	23
Don & Deb Haagenson	25
Fred & Marj Nordstrom	28



November Anniversaries

Janet McMillen	
& Marshall Howe	8
Bob & Liz Stevens	9
John & Denise Kisser	13
Nancy Seaberg	
& Bonnie Williams	23
Bill & Cherilyn Sinner	25
Mark & Linda Larson	27



FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE

Due to Governor Tim Walz's "Stay Safe At Home" Executive Order for Minnesota, the Hubbard United Methodist Church will be closed to "In Person" services and fellowship **Until Further Notice**. Pastor Lauren and Brenda are in the church office during regular office hours. Tuesday - Friday from 8:30am - 1:00pm

Please remember that the deadline for submitting information for the next month's newsletter is the **18th of the Month**. The next issue will be for **November** so all information needs to be in by **October 18th!**



Newsletter Deadline



Volunteers from Hubbard United Methodist Church deliver Meals on Wheels to Park Rapids residents once every 5 weeks. This month, delivery will take place **September 28-October 2**. If you are interested in becoming a delivery person for this rewarding activity, please contact Steve Hill at 218-252-8895. "Thank You" to our many dedicated volunteers.



Make a Difference in Your Life and the Lives of Others!

Hubbard UMC has a Telephone Prayer Chain and an Email Prayer Chain. You can pray any time, anywhere, in your own way. Joining our prayers together can really make a difference in many lives.

If you have questions or are interested in the email prayer chain contact: Deb Haagenson at debhaagenson@catholichealth.net and for the phone prayer chain call Gail Manlove at 218-366-5458.



Influenza Season During the Pandemic

What is the difference between Influenza (Flu) and COVID-19?

Influenza (Flu) and COVID-19 are both contagious respiratory illnesses, but they are caused by different viruses. Both can result in serious illness, including illness resulting in hospitalization and death. Because some of the symptoms of flu and COVID-19 are similar, it may be hard to tell the difference between them based on symptoms alone. Testing may be needed to help confirm a diagnosis. Flu and COVID-19 share many characteristics, but there are some key differences between the two.

COVID-19 & Flu Similarities

Differences

Signs & Symptoms

- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of breath
- Fatigue
- Sore throat
- Runny or stuffy nose
- Muscle pain, body aches
- Headache
- Vomiting, diarrhea

COVID-19:

- Change in or loss of taste and smell

When Symptoms Appear

1 or more days can pass between becoming infected and experiencing symptoms.

Flu:

- Symptoms appear 1-4 days after infection.

COVID-19:

- Symptoms appear 2-14 days after infection (typical is 5 days).

continued...

How Long Someone Can Spread the Virus

It is possible to spread the virus before symptoms appear.

Flu:

- 1 day before symptoms & up to 7 days after symptoms first appear.

COVID-19:

- 2 days before symptoms & up to 10 days after symptoms first appear.

How it Spreads

Both spread between people who are in close contact with one another (within 6 feet). Both are spread mainly by respiratory droplets made when someone with the virus coughs, sneezes or talks. Droplets can land in the mouth or nose of someone nearby and be inhaled into the lungs.

It may be possible to get infected by physical contact, shaking hands or touching a surface or object with the virus on it, then touching your mouth, nose or eyes.

COVID-19:

- More contagious among certain populations and age groups.
- Observed to have more super-spreading events, i.e., can quickly and easily spread to lots of people and result in continuous spread.
- Some data suggests spread may occur through small particles, such as those in aerosols, in some specific circumstances.

continued...

“Flu season” in the United States typically begins in October and runs through March. Flu activity often begins to increase in October and November, usually peaks between December and February, but can last as late as May.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends 3 actions to prevent flu:

1. Get a flu vaccine;
2. Practice everyday preventive actions; and
3. Take antiviral medication to treat flu if your provider prescribes them.

Getting a flu shot this year is more important than ever. It is expected that flu viruses and the virus that causes COVID-19 will both be spreading this fall and winter. Flu vaccines have been shown to reduce the risk of flu illness. And getting a flu shot will help reduce the burden on healthcare facilities during the COVID-19 pandemic and help preserve healthcare resources. It is recommended to get a flu vaccine by the end of October but getting vaccinated anytime during the flu season can help protect you.

Living with the Pandemic: Minnesota and Hubbard County COVID-19 Activity

- The 7-day rolling average of the percentage of tests that are positive in Minnesota is 5.4%. The 7-day positivity rate was 6% at the end of August.
- During September, Minnesota saw the number of positive cases exceed 90,000 and is fast approaching 100,000. Over 2,000 Minnesotans have lost their lives to COVID-19. The United States reached a grim milestone of 200,000 COVID-19 deaths in the month of September.
- Cases of COVID-19 in Hubbard County more than doubled during the month of September from the case count at the end of August. Cases in our county have now surpassed 100. Hubbard County experienced it's first COVID-19 resident death in September. Neighboring counties also continue to see increases in positive cases. Significant increases in positive cases occurred in the last two weeks of September.
- The prior 14-day test positivity rate Hubbard County is at 6.3% (effective 9/29). The positivity rate was 3.7% at the end of August.

- The current 14-day case count per 10,000 residents in Hubbard County is >10. This is the number school districts consider when making decisions about education delivery models. If the case rate is less than 10, schools can provide in-person classes at all grade levels. Because of the increased case-rate, both Park Rapids and Nevis school districts converted to hybrid education models (i.e., a mix of in-person and distance learning) in late September. The 14-day case rate per 10,000 was 4.31 at the end of August.

Stay safe everyone and *get a flu shot!*

Deb Haagenson

HUMC Parish Nurse

Sources for the above information plus additional resources include:

<https://www.cdc.gov/flu/season/protect-your-health.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/flu/symptoms/flu-vs-covid19.htm>

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## Learning From Autumn Leaves



Every fall, I marvel at the beautiful leaves, studying the intricate shapes and God's creative, colorful displays. Despite its deterioration, the foliage reveals splendor — mere months after bursting out in spring and providing summer shade.

I often think I'm like an autumn leaf. Through many seasons, God has transformed me from a self-absorbed person to one who trusts his steadfast promises. Winter is approaching for me too. Yet the Holy Spirit keeps molding me to reflect God's goodness and beauty. During the autumn of my life, I pray that God helps me embrace changing seasons while reflecting his love and light to all.

—MaryAnn Sundby

TheNewsletterNewsletter, Oct. 2020

# HUBBARD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH AD COUNCIL MINUTES

September 10, 2020

**Members present are shown in bold:** Tom Carew, **Joy Derr, Deb Haagenson, Rob Hallstrom, Sue Harmon, Tom Harmon, Marvel Haynes, Betsey Hill, John Kisser, Betty Larsen, Mark Larsen, Janine Merrick, Steve Steinborn, Margi Taggart, Joanne Torfin, Carol Wall** and **Pastor Lauren.**

**Call to Order:** The meeting to order by John Kisser

**Secretary's Report:** The minutes were accepted as presented.

**Pastor's Devotion:** Pastor Lauren's devotion was based on Mark's message that the kingdom of God is near to us

**Finance Report** - The 2020-2021 Budget was discussed and will be presented to the Charge Conference on September 27, 2020

A motion was made by Steve Steinborn, seconded by Sue Harmon, to fund the Depreciation Fund \$9,272 and the Equipment Fund \$5,000 for this year. The motion passed.

A motion was made by Tom Harmon, seconded by Margi Taggart, if a new PPP funding becomes available that we will pursue it. The motion passed.

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor Lauren reported that most of the local churches are open but attendance is poor.

**Parish Nurse** – Deb reported that Hubbard County has had 52 people test positive for Covid 19 with no deaths. She encourages everyone to get the influenza immunization

## **New Business:**

There was discussion on how to handle Funerals and other events. It was agreed to follow the CDC guidelines.

The list of new officers and committee members was presented and will be presented at the Charge Conference

**On-Going Business:**

Technology – The technology team is working on having the ability to eventually live stream the services.

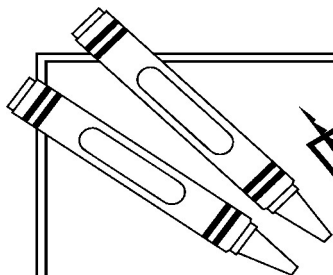
A motion was made by Joy Derr, seconded by Carol Wall, to allot \$1,664.96 for Tech Equipment to facilitate live streaming. The motion passed

**Next Meeting:** October 8, at 3:00 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Marvel Haynes, Secretary





# PUZZLE

## A PLANTING PARABLE

Jesus had to explain his Parable of the Sower to the confused disciples.

*Directions: Use the word bank to answer the clues. Then fill in the correct words below to complete Matthew 13:23, NIV.*

**WORD BANK:** sow, soil, wither, root, thorn, crop, seed, farmer

1. Plant part that absorbs water . . . . . \_\_\_\_\_
2. Contains what's needed to grow a plant . . . . . \_\_\_\_\_
3. To plant . . . . . \_\_\_\_\_
4. Sharp part of a plant . . . . . \_\_\_\_\_
5. What is harvested. . . . . \_\_\_\_\_
6. To dry up and shrivel . . . . . \_\_\_\_\_
7. Person who plants . . . . . \_\_\_\_\_
8. The earth a plant grows in. . . . . \_\_\_\_\_

"But the \_\_\_\_\_<sub>2</sub> falling on good \_\_\_\_\_<sub>8</sub> refers to someone who hears the word and understands it.

This is the one who produces a \_\_\_\_\_<sub>5</sub>, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was \_\_\_\_\_<sub>3</sub> n."

M A T T H E W   1 3 : 2 3 ,   N I V

Answer: root, seed, sow, thorn, crop, wither, farmer, soil, seed, soil, sow, crop