

## ***Stuck in a Mess***

*“Then the LORD said to me, ‘You have made your way around this hill country long enough; now turn north.’”*

*Deuteronomy 2:2-3 (NIV)*

We all have messes in our lives. Relationship messes. Health messes. Home messes. Financial messes. Business messes. Pandemic messes.

Messes that leave us feeling stuck. Like we may be stranded in this place of upheaval and unrest forever.

I’m sure that’s how the people of Israel felt as they were wandering through the desert in the wilderness. Stuck in a mess with no end in sight.

You’ve probably read or heard this story found in the book of Exodus. God had miraculously set the Israelites free from the oppression and bondage of slavery in Egypt. But their unwillingness to fully trust God and their blatant refusal to take possession of the Promised Land left them in quite a mess. A 40-year, desert-wandering mess.

Thankfully, in the book of Deuteronomy, we discover their story isn’t over. Change is coming. The children of the Israelites, originally released from Pharaoh’s tyranny, are finally about to take possession of the land God said was theirs all along.

But before they move forward, Moses has everyone pause to look back. He knows he won’t be going with them, so he wants to be sure to cement in their minds the faithfulness of God along their journey.

Moses reminds them of a time when they’d been stuck circling the same mountain for too long. God spoke into their wandering and let them know it was time to head in a new direction.

*“Then the LORD said to me, ‘You have made your way around this hill country long enough; now turn north’” (Deuteronomy 2:2-3).*

It was a pivotal moment for them to remember. One where they had faced a life-changing choice. They could stay stuck,

endlessly circling the same old place, or they could choose hope and head in a new direction with the Lord.

They could turn north.

I think this is the perfect time to pause and ask God if there's anywhere we need to "turn north" in our lives. Beginning September 6<sup>th</sup>, we will begin a sermon series on hope. We will look for HOPE in challenging times. Where do we find hope when our world is turned upside down? What do we hold on to when we're worried about our health, our families, our jobs? What can we count on in the face of uncertainty, isolation, fear and even death?

If the Israelites had looked at their 40-year track record of aimless wandering and defined themselves as rebellious failures, they would have lost all hope and kept right on circling.

But because they embraced the correction and redirection of the Lord, they were able to turn around and move toward God's promises with hope firmly planted in their hearts.

It's time for our messes to stop defining us.

It's time to embrace the refining process and turn north.

So how do we begin to turn north? We replace our old thoughts with empowering truths from God's Word. I hope you will join me as I begin my second year here with you! *Yes, it has been a whole year already!* And what a remarkable year it has been! I am truly blessed.

~ *Pastor Lauren*

*Dear Lord, thank You for offering me hope. I'm choosing to believe today that I don't have to stay stuck in my messes, even if they are messes of my own making. I'm tuning my ear to Your voice today. I'm filling my heart and mind with the Truth of your Word. And now, I'm heading in a new direction with You. In Jesus' Name,*





- for those needing healing and comfort
- for 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; Matthew Schultz, grandson of Ann Schultz; Jess Swanson, grandson of Jackie Swanson
- for our missionaries: Africa - Emily Dwyer, Deb & Rich Ried; Hungary - Richard & Martha Millhouse & family; Nicaragua - Belinda Forbes-Gutiérrez; Wycliff Bible Translators - Colin & Dee Murphy

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.**

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## July 2020 Mission Giving

### DESIGNATED MISSION GIVING

Hubbard County Food Shelf	\$200.00
Pastor's Discretionary Giving	\$1,063.32
<b>Total for Designated Giving</b>	<b>\$1,263.32</b>

### MISSION COMMITTEE GIVING

Love Offering	\$1,000.00
<b>Total for Mission Committee Giving</b>	<b><u>\$1,000.00</u></b>

**Total Missions Giving** **\$2,263.32**

## Quilters Make & Distribute Masks

The Threads of Love Quilters at Hubbard UMC have worked diligently throughout the summer to make face masks to help in the fight against COVID-19. Hundreds have been distributed to local businesses and organizations, Pine Point Reservation, the United Methodist Church, health care providers, the local hospital and clinic, individuals and families. If you are willing to make masks, or are in need of masks, please contact Sue Harmon. A sincere thank you to all the volunteers who have contributed to this mission outreach.

## God of (all) the ages

It's tempting to breeze through biblical genealogies, but those name lists serve important purposes. They reveal the fulfillment of prophecy, tie together time periods and Bible books, and reveal how God works in every age — and through people of all ages.

Consider the Old Testament's many references to "the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob." That lineage-linked name reminds us that God is the Lord of every succeeding generation and the friend of all. Although people's needs differ as they journey from youth to middle age to their later years, God remains constant and ageless, fulfilling his promises to all who seek him.

Newsletter Newsletter September 2020

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## Alpha & Omega

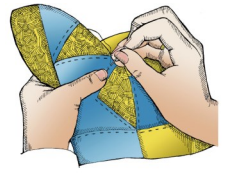
God created this world,  
everything that it holds.  
And God still is creating  
as each day unfolds.  
What we once called the future,  
we now call the past.  
While the present is fleeting,  
God stays — first and last!

—Peggy Ferrell





# Care And Comfort



Threads of Love

## A Quilt of Many Colors

*We are a nation of immigrants, a quilt of many colors....*  
Jay Parini

My great-grandparents came from England, Wales and Denmark, while Jack's came from Germany. Our grandchildren's ancestors reflect a variety of additional cultures, from Native American to African to Polish. Many of you—the members of HUMC—can say much the same thing. Together we form “a church quilt of many colors.”

*Our family (church) is like a patchwork quilt,  
With kindness gently sewn.  
Each piece an original,  
With beauty all its own.  
With threads of warmth and happiness,  
It's lightly stitched together,  
To last in love throughout the years,  
Our family (church) is forever.* Author unknown

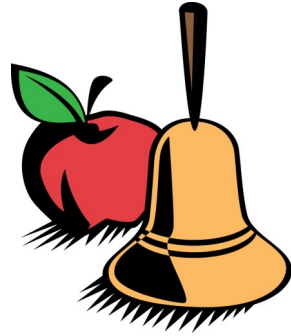
This year, 2020, is one we will never forget. Our lives have changed in ways that a year ago, would have been unimaginable. Yet despite this disruption, our lives and the work of the church have continued.

HUMC's Threads of Love Quilters have made thousands of masks to help slow the spread of COVID-19, while continuing to distribute quilts, fleece blankets or prayer shawls to those in need of care and comfort.

The church—*that's you and me and all our congregation*—is at work in all our lives, sharing the love of Christ through worship services both on-line or via a phone call, providing funds for mission work, and supporting those in need in our community and beyond. We are keeping in touch—via snail mail cards and letters, phone calls, email, Zoom meetings, twitters and texts.

We are a family, we are a church, we have a beauty all our own.

*Remember and treasure what was,  
Enjoy and delight in what is,  
Trust God with what is to be.*  
Joy Derr



## **A Back to School Prayer**

Dear Lord Jesus,  
Bless the children and youth of this nation, returning to their schools and colleges. May your Holy Spirit enlighten their minds, purify their vision and strengthen their wills. Protect them as they learn in the classroom and participate in activities outside it. May they learn to follow in your steps, just as you grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man. Amen.

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**Remember to fill out your  
2020 U.S. Census**

**go online to: [2020census.gov](https://2020census.gov)**

**or**

**call: 844-330-2020**

**The deadline to be counted is  
September 30, 2020**



# Hubbard United Methodist Church

Everyone Is  
Invited

to join us for our next  
"Drive-In" Worship Service  
**Sunday, September 6**  
at **10:00am**

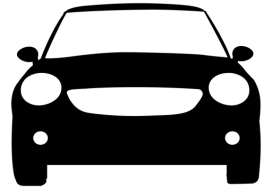
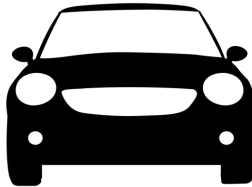


This will be a parking lot service  
(*cars only for physical distancing*)

Tune your radio to 87.9fm to hear the  
service as it is transmitted!

*Please join us for a new experience of  
worshipping together!*

\*We will keep you informed and updated on any changes to our  
worship services due to Covid-19.







# 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 **September** so all information needs to be in by **September 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-November 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@catholicealth.net](mailto:debhaagenson@catholicealth.net) and for the phone prayer chain call Gail Manlove at 218-366-5458.



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!

### September Birthdays

Rita Carew	1
Becca Dooley	1
Mary Barrett	7
MaJeana Hallstrom	7
Jacob Taggart	10
Doug Hed	14
Betsy Hill	15
Bill Sinner	15
Jane Boehmer	16
Kay Larson	16
Julie Smith	16
Margi Taggart	22
Jan Landess	23
Bobbie Zigmant	25
Jim Gordon	26
Linda Lund	28

### 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

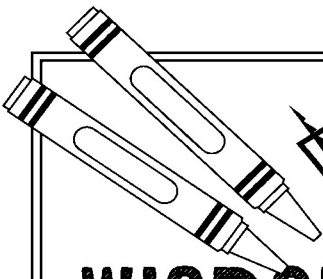


### September Anniversaries

Donald & Janell Saunders	5
LeRoy & Nancy Martinson	17
Aaron & Juliann Kjenaas	23
Jim & Jill Eisele	27
Glynn & Pam Davis	29

### October Anniversaries

Bill & Edye Olson	10
Tom & Noel Moore	12
Paul & Jenny Seaton	15
Larry & Karen Odegard	16
Dennis & Terry Greenawalt	21
Douglas & Maxine Rathbun	23
Don & Deb Haagenson	25
Fred & Marj Nordstrom	28

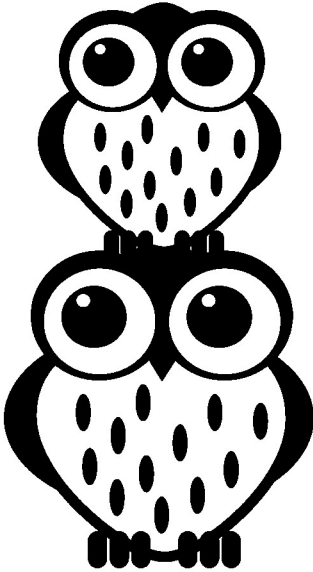


# PUZZLE

## WISDOM FROM THE WORD

God makes a special promise to people who study Scripture.

*Directions: Arrange the word list in alphabetical order. Then write the circled letters in order below to complete Joshua 1:8, NIV.*



- school     \_ \_ \_ \_
- paper     \_ \_
- wisdom     \_ \_ \_
- read     \_ \_ \_
- play     \_ \_ \_ \_
- learn     \_ \_ \_ \_
- grow     \_ \_ \_ \_
- pencils     \_ \_ \_ \_
- pray     \_ \_ \_
- art     \_ \_ \_ \_
- student     \_ \_ \_ \_
- kids     \_ \_ \_ \_
- apple     \_ \_ \_ \_

“... meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be \_\_\_\_\_ and successful.”

**JOSHUA 1:8, NIV**

Answer: apple, art, grow, kids, learn, paper, pencils, play, pray, read, school, student, wisdom, prosperous

# HUBBARD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH AD COUNCIL MINUTES

August 13, 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 using video conferencing due to the Covid-19 Pandemic.

## **Secretary's Report:**

The minutes were accepted as presented.

## **Pastor's Devotion:**

Pastor Lauren shared a poem and reminded us to appreciate candles of hope not of despair.

## **Finance Report :**

The July financial reports were emailed to all members. We had Operating Income for our fiscal year to date through July 31 (10 months) of \$197,396.81. Our income through July 31 is actually \$54,237.29 under budget. Operating expenses for this period were \$198,729.14 for net operating loss year to date of \$-1332.13. We received a Small Business Administration Payroll Protection loan of \$30,700. Without this loan we would actually have a net loss of \$32,032.33. The money from this loan has now all been used and applied against eligible expenses.

The 2020/2021 budget was discussed. Considering that pledges and monies received are down considerably, the finance committee is working with each committee to cut budgets and requests. The new proposed budget will be presented to the Ad Council at the next meeting.

**Parish Nurse:**

Deb reported that Hubbard County has had 36 people test positive for Covid 19 with no deaths. This is 5.4% of the number of tests done. Deb expressed concern that it continues to increase and that we should be very cautious.

**New Business:**

The KITT Committee recommended that we build a Mini-Pantry – Blessing Box. Joy made a motion, seconded by Margi to move forward with asking Dean Jacobson to build it, and the KITT Committee will take leadership for it. The motion passed.

**On-Going Business:**

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

After discussion it was decided to have a parking lot service in on September 6<sup>th</sup> and continue with the online services. We will discuss it again in September.

**Upcoming Events:**

Parking Lot Church Service September 6<sup>th</sup> 10:00 AM

**Next Meeting:**

September 10, 2020 at 3:00 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Marvel Haynes, Secretary



## COVID-19 Risk for Older Adults

The risk for severe illness from COVID-19 increases with age, with older adults at the highest risk.

Those at greatest risk are those

aged 85 or older.

Other factors can increase your risk of severe illness, such as underlying medical conditions. Some of the conditions that increase the risk of severe illness from COVID-19 include cancer, chronic kidney disease, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, a weakened immune system, obesity, diabetes and serious heart conditions such as heart failure, coronary artery disease, or cardiomyopathies.

By understanding what puts you at increased risk, you can make decisions about what kind of precautions to take. If you, or someone you live with is at increased risk of severe illness, you should:

- Limit your interactions with other people as much as possible
- Monitor your health daily
  - \* Be alert for symptoms of COVID-19
  - \* Take your temperature if symptoms develop
  - \* Contact your healthcare provider if you have symptoms and/or a fever

People at increased risk, and those that live with them, should consider the level of risk before deciding to go out and ensure they are taking steps to protect themselves. Consider activities where taking protective measures may be difficult, such as activities where social distancing can't be maintained. In general, the more people you interact with, the more closely you interact with them, and the longer that interaction, the higher your risk of getting and spreading COVID-19. If you decide to engage in public activities, you should:

- Continue to protect yourself by practicing everyday preventive actions (frequent handwashing, avoid close contact, cover your mouth and nose with a mask when around others, cover coughs and sneezes, clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces daily).

- Keep a cloth mask, tissues and hand sanitizer on hand, and use them when venturing out.
- If possible, avoid others who are not wearing masks or ask others around you to wear masks.
- Limit contact with commonly touched surfaces or shared items.
- Consider:
  - \* How many people will you interact with?
  - \* Can you keep 6 feet of space between you and others?
  - \* Will you be indoors or outdoors?
  - \* What's the length of time that you will be interacting with others?

If you are at an increased risk for severe illness, consider avoiding high-risk gatherings. The risk of COVID-19 spreading at events and gatherings increases as follows:

**Lowest risk:** Virtual-only activities, events, gatherings.

**More risk:** Smaller outdoor and in-person gatherings where individuals from different households remain spaced at least 6 feet apart, wear masks, do not share objects, and come from the same local area.

**Higher risk:** Medium sized in-person gatherings that are adapted to allow individuals to remain spaced at least 6 feet apart and with attendees coming from outside the local area.

**Highest risk:** Large in-person gatherings where it is difficult for individuals to remain spaced at least 6 feet apart and attendees travel from outside the local area.

## **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 at 4.9% (effective 8/25), which is down just slightly from 5% at about this time last month. The 7-day positivity rate was at 3% at the end of June.
- During August Minnesota saw the number of positive cases exceed 70,000.
- Cases of COVID-19 in Hubbard County doubled during the month of August from the case count at the end of July but have slowed down a bit during the last week. Our neighboring counties also continue to see increases in positive cases, most notably in Beltrami, Becker and Cass counties.

continued...

- The 14-day rolling case count per 10,000 residents in Hubbard County is 5.27 (effective 8/25). This is the number school districts must consider when making decisions about returning to school. If the case rate is less than 10, schools can resume in-person classes at all grade levels. The 14-day case rate per 10,000 in Hubbard County was 1.44 at the end of June.

Stay vigilant and stay safe everyone!

Deb Haagenson

HUMC Parish Nurse

Sources for the above information plus additional resources related to COVID-19 include:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/older-adults.html>

<https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/situation.html#map1>

<https://mn.gov/covid19/data/response-prep/dial-back-dashboard.jsp>

