

Practicing the Disciplines of Love

by Bishop David Bard (*adapted by Pastor Lauren*)

I greet you in the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the peace and power of the Holy Spirit as we travel through the season of Lent. “The United Methodist Book of Worship” tells us that Lent “began as a period of fasting and preparation for baptism by converts and then became a time for penance by all Christians.” Lent begins with Ash Wednesday where we are reminded of our mortality. Somber colors are encouraged during the season, with an encouragement to remove “all shiny objects from the worship area,” and perhaps give up flowers. Individually, people often give something up for Lent.

It was last year during Lent that our churches were asked to refrain from in-person worship due to the coronavirus pandemic. The hope early on was that perhaps by Easter we would again be able to gather together for worship. It was not to be. Months later, we would also be asked to refrain from in-person worship during the Christmas season. We have given up a lot and we are not yet through this pandemic.

Of course, some have given up even more. This past year has been a year of incredible loss. Reminders of our mortality arrive every day as we hear the running total of deaths from COVID-19, now over 500,000 here in the United States. Some of you are grieving loved ones lost, whether from COVID or not. We have lost time together with family and friends, missed marking milestones in ways we would have liked. There have been moments when we’ve lost a measure of hope—moments such as the death of George Floyd, or when some of our cities were aflame, or when our political rhetoric burned, or when we witnessed the violent storming of the Capitol building.

Lent acknowledges loss and limits. It invites giving something up, but that never for its own sake. When we voluntarily give something up, it is intended to be in the service of creating space for something new, creating more space for God’s grace, God’s love. Lent reminds us we don’t have all the time in the world, so we are invited to use our time well. Lent reminds us that life entails real loss, so we’re invited to appreciate its good gifts when they come our way.

I want to encourage us to continue to be intentional and disciplined in some of the practices of love this Lent. Turning to Paul's beautiful description of love in I Corinthians 13, I want to highlight four practices: patience, kindness, thoughtfulness, and humility.

Love is patient. I believe patience is a quality of mind open to the wonder, beauty, and complexity of the world." In a world that encourages immediacy and instantaneousness, patience leans toward responsiveness rather than reactivity. Patience holds together in creative tension "the fierce urgency of now" (Martin Luther King, Jr.) with "a long obedience in the same direction" (Eugene Peterson). Black History Month reminded us to continue the necessary work of racial reckoning in our country. There is both an urgency to this work and a need to understand that systems and structures and ways of thinking that have developed over a long time will not simply disappear overnight. This is both urgent work and a long work. And this requires patience, which is a discipline of love.

Love is kind. According to his nephew Billy, novelist Henry James, once said to him: "Three things in human life are important. The first is to be kind. The second is to be kind. And the third is to be kind." Fred Rogers wrote: "There are three ways to ultimate success. The first way is to be kind. The second way is to be kind. The third way is to be kind." Two creative people whose creativity could not have been expressed more differently agree on the vital importance of kindness. To be kind is not simply to be "Minnesota nice," papering over difficulties and differences. To be kind is to be respectful across divides, not to ignore them. To be kind is to see others as generously as we can, even when we may need to oppose their viewpoint. To be kind is to remember that we all are created in the image of God. Kindness is a discipline of love.

Love rejoices with the truth. We live in a world where every idea, no matter how tenuously tied to reality, can find an audience. We live amid conspiracy theories readily amplified by the algorithms of social media. To love the world is to be curious about its complexity, to be willing to ask questions, to use our God-given intelligence. In his book about social media, author Daniel Darling, writing about conspiracy theories, says: "Untruths damage the witness of the church" and spreading them is "corrosive to the

soul, damaging to our public witness, and it hurts neighbors we are called to love” (“A Way With Words,” p. 136-137). As we think about our country, we must include such difficult thoughts along with celebrations of progress made. We need to ask about the long-term impact of such trauma. Being thoughtful, asking questions, thinking is a discipline of love.

Love is not boastful, arrogant, or rude. We might say love practices humility. Humility is not groveling or feeling badly about oneself. It is about more accurate self-knowledge, about knowing one’s gifts, strengths, beauty, weaknesses, limitations, blind spots. Humility is about openness, about understanding that there is always more to learn and more room to grow. Curiosity is also a quality of humility.

These are not the only disciplines of love, but I believe they are vitally important to the well-being of our lives, to the depth of our discipleship, to the vibrancy of our congregations, and to the health of our wider world. What might our lives be like if we were more loving by being more patient, kinder, more thoughtful, more humble? How might we live together in the church if we were more loving by being more patient, kinder, more thoughtful, more humble, and how might this enhance our witness? How might we navigate our future as a country if we were more loving by being more patient, kinder, more thoughtful, more humble?

Love and Lent. Disciplines of love.

Friends, Lent reminds us that we are fragile, mortal, and sometimes broken, that we know loss and that we lose our way. Yet we are always also loved by God, wildly and extravagantly, and in these limited mortal lives of ours we might reflect that love of God in what we do and who we are. Disciplines of love exercised in grace help us do that. I invite you to observe a holy Lent, honing the disciplines of love, knowing that you are loved by God.

[Bishop David Bard](#) is interim bishop for the Minnesota Conference. He also serves as resident bishop for the Michigan Conference.



- *for healing and comfort:* Betty Barrett, Jim Tanner, Arnie Valentin, Bill Zigmant
- *for members in assisted living and homebound:* Edna Bolton, Vida Hume, Fran Prussner, Jackie Swanson
- *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; 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.*



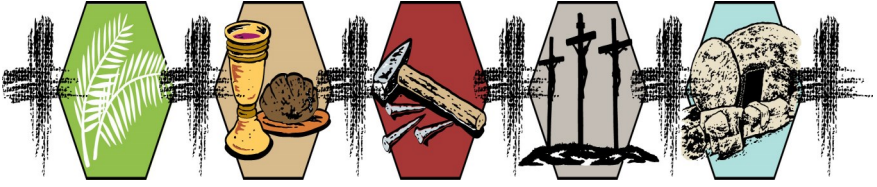
January 2021 Mission Giving

DESIGNATED MISSION GIVING

Pastor's Discretionary	\$202.15
Tigers for Learning	\$50.00
Helping Hands	<u>\$50.00</u>
Total for Designated Giving	\$302.15

MISSION COMMITTEE GIVING

Total for Mission Committee Giving	<u>\$0.00</u>
<u>Total Missions Giving</u>	<u>\$302.15</u>



LENT 2021 Schedule

- March 28** **Palm Sunday - Regular Sunday Service**
Online at 9:00am
- April 1** **Maundy Thursday Service**
Online at 7:00pm
- April 2** **Good Friday Service at Riverside UMC.**
Parking Lot Service Worship
(Time to be Determined)
- April 4** **Easter Sunday - Regular Sunday Service**
Online at 9:00am
- April 4** **Butterfly Wing Drive-By - Come to the**
Hubbard Church and take a picture with
the beautiful life-sized butterfly wings.
1:00 - 3:00pm

You can watch Online Services by going to the Hubbard UMC website at www.hubbardumc.org and scrolling down to the red box that says ~ON-LINE WORSHIP~.



Spring Ahead

Remember to set your clocks ahead one hour on Sunday, March 14th

"Love is the Way" Lenten Book Study

We are continuing in March with our Lenten book study, "*Love is the Way*".

You can join a group discussion at one of these two designate times:

- Monday's at 10:00 AM
- Wednesday's at 7 PM

Use **THIS** Zoom Link for the Book Study Discussions:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88523742540>

Meeting ID: 885 2374 2540

Passcode: 884076

Feb. 28th -March 1st (10 AM) or **3rd** (7 PM):
Chapters 3&4 w/ Rev. Fred Vanderwerf

Scheduled -March 8th (10 AM) or **10th** (7 PM):
Chapters 5&6 with Rev. Cynthia Williams

March -15th (10 AM) or **17th** (7 PM):
Chapters 7 & 8 with Rev. Dan Johnson

March 22nd (10 AM) or **24th** (7 PM):
Chapters 9 & 10 with Rev. Susan Nienaber

March 29th (10 AM) or **31st** (7 PM):
Chapters 11 & 12 with Rev. Ben Ingebretson

Butterfly Wings Drive By

On Easter Sunday, April 4th, come by the Hubbard Church parking lot and take a picture with the beautiful life-sized butterfly wings from 1:00 - 3:00pm.





General Conference Update

The Commission on the General Conference of the United Methodist Church has released a statement to further postpone the 2020 General Conference originally rescheduled for late August, early September 2021, to August 29-September 6, 2022.

To read about this decision, go to www.minnesotaumc.org and click on

news and events. Or copy this link and paste it in your browser.

<https://www.minnesotaumc.org/newsdetail/bishop-bard-issues-pastoral-letter-on-gc-postponement-15107503>

A Lenten History Lesson

Though the date of Easter varies, the majority of the Lenten season occurs during March. In fact, the word *Lent* comes from the Anglo-Saxon words *lenctentid* (meaning “March”) and *lencten* (meaning “spring”).

The first reference to Lent dates back to 325 AD, in one of the 20 canons decreed at the council of Nicaea. By the eighth century, Christians started observing Lent, and a 10th-century monk named Aelfric connected the use of ashes and “the Lenten fast” to the pre-Easter period.

Lent lasts 40 days to represent Jesus’ time in the wilderness, when he was tempted by the devil. The six Sundays that occur between Ash Wednesday and Easter Sunday aren’t counted as part of Lent; instead, as the traditional day of worship, they’re considered “mini-Easters.”

*The Newsletter*Newsletter



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!

March Birthdays

Tom Stetzler	1
Hank Hallstrom	2
Shirley Green	5
Jackie Lundstrom	9
Beth Daugherty	11
Bob Roman	12
Ken Manlove	12
Chuck Daugherty	15
Jill Eisele	17
Jack Derr	18
Oliver Manlove	18
Peggy Novak	21
Joanne Torfin	23
Blake Daugherty	24
Andrea Otto	25
Tom Carew	28
Jeff Hauger	30
Dick Lundstrom	31

April Birthdays

Nancy Seaberg	1
Tom Harmon	4
Katherine Zander	4
Sue Heggen	5
Deb Haagenson	6
Evalt Laine	6
Dan Howland	9
Fran Prussner	9
Barb Boyd	11
Richard Anderson	11
Edna Bolton	13
Juliann Kjenaas	17
Jackie Swanson	18
Curt Bakken	19
Genelle Forsberg	22
Patrick Kimball	23
Bill Zigmant	25



March Anniversaries

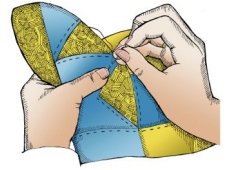
Tack & Martha Tacker 18

April Anniversaries

Chris & Susan Kalm 2
Arnold & Arlene Valentin 25
Jim & Janet Pieper 30



Care And Comfort



Threads of Love

"CROWN HIM" BANNER

Since our church services have been recorded from the sanctuary, Pastor Lauren has had a blank white wall and a brown door as her back drop. She needed a little color! It was decided to hang the "fish" banner that had been made for the Breakthrough Renewal Institute to add some interest, but Lent was coming. We had banners but not the right size for this space.

Sue Harmon and Pastor Lauren corroborated to come up with a design that has been adapted from an online site for liturgical vestments. We remember Jesus's pain and suffering when we see the crown of thorns (which are hidden in the quilting), the golden rays remind us of the hope that comes with Jesus's resurrection and the purple background for royalty.

This quilt is machine appliqued and then machine quilted - each segment a different design by Sue. It took about three weeks to complete. It has been titled "Crown Him". Now, what will they come up with for Pentecost?





BIRDS IN THE WORD

The Bible mentions many kinds of birds. How many have you seen?

Directions: Unscramble the bird names, using the Bible references and pictures as clues. Then insert the final unscrambled bird name to complete the passage below.



VDEO

___ _ _ _ (Genesis 8:8)



LWO

___ _ _ (Psalm 102:6)



GEELA

___ _ _ _ _ (Isaiah 40:31)



TOKRS

___ _ _ _ _ (Jeremiah 8:7)



APROSWRS

___ _ _ _ _

“Are not five ___ _ _ _ _ sold for two pennies? Yet not one of them is forgotten by God. ... Don’t be afraid; you are worth more than many ___ _ _ _ _ .”

LUKE 12:6-7, NIV



FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE

Due to Governor Tim Walz's continued Executive Orders due to Covid-19, the Hubbard United Methodist Church will continue to 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 **April**, so all information needs to be in by **March 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 **March 22-26**. 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.

HUBBARD UNITED METHODIST AD COUNCIL MINUTES February 11, 2021

Members present are shown in bold: Richard Anderson, Tom Carew, Joy Derr, Deb Haagenson, Rob Hallstrom, Sue Harmon, Tom Harmon, Marvel Haynes, John Kisser, Arnie Kuhn, Betty Larsen, Noel Moore, Peg Novak, Cherilyn Sinner, Margi Taggart, Joanne Torfin, Carol Wall and Pastor Lauren.

Call to Order:

The meeting to order by John Kisser

Devotions:

Pastor Lauren discussed Isaiah 43. I have called you by name and you are mine.

Secretary's Report:

The minutes were accepted as presented.

Pastor's Report:

Pastor Lauren reported that she as been recording the Ash Wednesday service and the book study in addition to the church services.

Finance Report:

Margi Taggart reported that we are financially doing well in spite of the pandemic. Since we are not meeting in the church our expenses are lower.

Financial Secretary:

Joann Torfin reported that pledge income has been higher than expected.

Parish Nurse:

Deb Haagenson did a Power Point presentation on the COVID 19 situation in our area. Her presentation is attached. She will email a link to a website where people can find Vaccination Clinics, however the supply is very limited.

On-Going Business:

There was discussion about going back to worshipping in the church. There was unanimous consensus that we continue with online services. We will discuss it again at our next meeting. John Kisser has formed a team to develop a plan on how to come back to worshipping in person. Carl Wall will lead that team

Technology:

Jeff Hauger reported that the new lighting has been installed in the altar area. We are now using three cameras and soon will be able to live stream.

We have received a gift of \$5,000 for tech

New Business:

We have a scholarship fund set up for students from our church. It was agreed to form a team to manage this fund.

Upcoming Events:

Ash Wednesday – February 17th

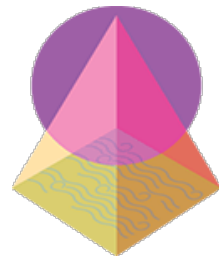
Easter – April 4th

Next Meeting: March 11, 2021, at 3:00 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Marvel Haynes, Secretary

To Wonder

People travel to wonder
at the height of the mountains,
at the huge waves of the seas,
at the long course of the rivers,
at the vast compass of the ocean,
at the circular motion of the stars,
and yet they pass by themselves without wondering.



—*St. Augustine*



Information from the CDC to Improve How Your Mask Protects You

Correct and consistent mask use is critical to prevent getting and spreading COVID-19. Masks work best when everyone wears them, but not all masks provide the same protection. When choosing a mask, look at how it fits, how well it filters the air, and how many layers it has.

Make sure your mask fits snugly against your face. Gaps can let air with respiratory droplets leak in and out around the edges of the mask.

Pick a mask with layers to keep your respiratory droplets in, and others' out. A mask with layers will stop more droplets getting inside or escaping from your mask.

DO:

- Choose a mask with a nose wire to prevent air from leaking out of the top of the mask. Bend the nose wire over your nose to fit close to your face.
- Use a mask fitter or brace over a disposable mask, or a cloth mask over a disposable mask to prevent air from leaking around the edges of the mask.
- Check that your mask fits snugly. Check for gaps where air might be flowing from the area near your eyes or from the sides of the mask.
- Add layers of material. Use a cloth mask with multiple layers or wear one disposable mask under a cloth mask.
- Knot and tuck ear loops of a 3-ply mask. Knot the ear loops where they join the edge of the mask, then fold and tuck the unneeded material under the edges.

DO NOT:

- Combine two disposable masks. Disposable masks are not designed to fit snugly. Wearing more than one will not improve the fit.
- Combine a KN95 mask with any other mask. Only use one KN95 mask at a time.

- Choose a mask with an exhalation valve or vent which allows respiratory particles to escape.
- Choose a face shield as a replacement for a mask.

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

- This month the United States reached the grim milestone of over 500,000 deaths due to COVID-19.
- The 7-day average percentage of tests that are positive in Minnesota remains under the 5% threshold of concern. (The 7-day positivity rate was 5.2% at the end of December and 4.9% at the end of January.)
- New case counts have continued to slow in February statewide and in Hubbard County. We have had 56 new COVID positive cases through February 25. We had 408 new cases in October, 650 in November, 164 in December and 102 in January.
- The 14-day test positivity rate for Hubbard County is at 4.7%. (The positivity rate was 10% at the end of December and 5.9% at the end of January.)
- The current 14-day case count per 10,000 residents in Hubbard County is 15. This is the number school districts consider when making decisions about education delivery models. (The 14-day case rate per 10,000 was 60 at the end of December and 35 at the end of January.)
- COVID-19 vaccines are available in Hubbard County for healthcare workers, long-term care/congregate care residents, educators and childcare providers, and residents 65 or older. Vaccine supplies remain limited. Vaccines may be available through Sanford Health, Essentia Health, and some local pharmacies. Vaccine may also be available through CHI St. Joseph's Community Health. When Community Health has vaccine available, a registration link for vaccine appointments will be posted at <https://chisjh.org/coronavirus/vaccine-clinic-information/>

Stay safe everyone!
Deb Haagenson
HUMC Parish Nurse

Sources for the above information plus additional resources include:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/effective-masks.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/about-face-coverings.html>

Easter Flowers

On Easter Sunday, April 4th, we will decorate the Sanctuary with Easter Lilies and plants. If you would like to help with this, you can make a donation of \$10. If you would like the flowers or plant to be in honor of or in memory of someone, please fill out this form and return it to the church office (732-0224) by **March 26th**. Please make checks payable to HUMC with "Easter Flowers" in the memo line. You can mail your checks to:

Hubbard UMC
12150 Broadway Road
Park Rapids, MN 56470



Your Name: _____

In ___ honor / ___ memory of _____

In ___ honor / ___ memory of _____
