

Being the Church in a Post-Pandemic World

Author Kay Kotan says many churches feel a natural desire to return to the familiar, comfortable patterns of the past. But churches that embrace this time of disruption as a catalyst for lasting change are most likely to be vital in the post-pandemic world.

Kotan shares in her book, *Being the Church in a Post-Pandemic World*, “The church as we knew it before the pandemic no longer exists. Yet, we do not know what the church of the future will be. One thing we do know for sure is that it will be different. And it needs to be different. In fact, it has to be different!”

If we are to be the church to reach new people, we must show up in different and new ways. After we exit the stage of liminality that we have been in for the past 15 months, we will begin the time of reorientation. We would all like to know where we are headed, what the future will look like, how it will be different, and what we will be doing. Unfortunately, we must also acknowledge that even this will be another difficult phase of adjusting, re-learning, and adapting. Still another season of being uncomfortable. We are in divergent times. Things are developing differently, or perhaps in different directions. While we would all love the perceived certainty we had in January 2020, we must face the reality of where our feet are planted, acknowledging we will need to move in unknown directions in the moments, days, and years to come.

Opportunity is born out of crisis.

The global pandemic has been horrific. No one could have predicted such chaos to occur or for so long. Yet, there is opportunity, the proverbial silver lining. Crisis is an accelerator. The church has been catapulted into the digital age. Churches had no choice but to embrace technology they once refused or were unfamiliar with. We have learned there are more ways to offer worship than we had previously imagined. We learned it is possible to engage people in online ministry that might never become involved in on-site ministry. The church learned that it could change, and it was forced to change quickly.

During a pandemic period when everything seems to turn upside down, there is an opportunity to stop some things that had not been working anyway, eliminate some things that were seemingly impossible in “normal” times, and start new things that might have been hard to imagine in the past.

A mere interruption or a blessed disruption?

When we look at the pandemic as an interruption, we are seeing it as a delay. It is though we hit the pause button and when the world returns to “normal,” we will simply hit the play button again. On the contrary, disruption is defined as *“a major disturbance, something that changes your plans or interrupts some event or process”, or “a break in the action — especially an unplanned and confusing one.”* (Vocabulary.com)

When the church sees the pandemic as a disruption, the church embraces the opportunity of knowing that going back to what was is no longer an option. Disruption allows a church the opportunity to be awakened to the need for change at a much deeper level.

“I know the plans I have for you,” announces the Lord. “I want you to enjoy success. I do not plan to harm you. I will give you hope for the years to come.” (Jeremiah 29:11 NIRV)

Embracing disruption is the key to vitality.

While we all mourn the days of the past for what felt normal and comfortable, churches that embrace this as a time of disruption will likely be the most vital churches in the post-pandemic world. God wants the church to be healthy, vital, growing, and fruitful. We must understand that church health and vitality might look quite different in the future.

As the church begins to emerge from the pandemic, its role is changing. It was already changing pre-pandemic, but the change is sure to escalate drastically post-pandemic. Effective churches will not look at the average worship attendance as the standard barometer for health. Rather, they will be focusing on engagement. How people are engaging in the church through ministries such as

discipleship, service, worship, and evangelism will become the new barometer. This single example of changing how we measure the health of the church magnifies the shift required from a time of interruption to a time of disruption.

The pandemic has created a wake-up call for us. How will we respond? The choice will be up to each one of us. Will the pandemic be framed as a disruption that provides hope for new possibilities in the days to come? Or will the pandemic be framed as a brief interruption, simply waiting for a return to the days gone by?

As we prepare to come back to in-person worship, whether it is our proposed date of May 23rd, or if it is to be rescheduled to a later date, may we look back at this pandemic in terms of a blessed disruption, providing new eyes and energy for what God is calling us to be, a vision that will lead us into the vitality of the future.

May you have a blessed May,

Pastor Lauren





- 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; Colleen Mans, grand-daughter of Arlene Zimmerman; 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.



March 2021 Mission Giving

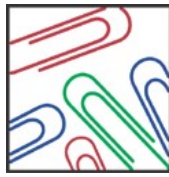
DESIGNATED MISSION GIVING

Pastor's Discretionary Giving	\$88.29
Hubbard County Food Shelf	<u>\$800.00</u>
Total for Designated Giving	<u>\$888.29</u>

MISSION COMMITTEE GIVING

General Missions	<u>\$100.00</u>
Total for Mission Committee Giving	<u>\$100.00</u>

<u>Total Missions Giving</u>	<u>\$988.29</u>
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FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE

Hubbard UMC, at this time, is planning on resuming *"In Person"* worship on May 23, 2021. Please see the article on pages 6 & 7 of this newsletter for more information.

Hubbard UMC has job opportunities available. At this time we are seeking a Director of Music, AVL (Audio/Visual/Lighting) Coordinator, and a Custodian. Please see the Hubbard UMC website (hubbardumc.org) for more information or call the church office at 218-732-0224.

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 **June** so all information needs to be in by **May 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 **May 31-June 4**. 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.



Returning to Church

As we anticipate our return to Sunday morning worship, our Worship Safely Team has been working hard to assure the safety of everyone. We will continue to monitor infection rates and hope to resume in-person worship on May 23rd. As we prepare to open our doors, you will be asked to observe the following CDC & UMC guidelines: (please note we must all assume not everyone is vaccinated)

- ◆ When inside the church building, please wear a mask fully covering both your mouth & your nose
- ◆ We ask you to maintain a 6' social distance from anyone not part of your household or not associated with people you arrived together with today
- ◆ Please steadily move through the gathering area when entering & leaving the church building; we encourage you to take your coat with you into the sanctuary
- ◆ If you have a Hubbard UMC nametag, please take it home with you each Sunday
- ◆ You are invited to sing and/or read responsively throughout the service with your mask fully in place
- ◆ There will be no food or coffee available after the worship service
- ◆ The ushers will assist you with any needs or questions you may have, as well as assisting you in your coming in and going out; we encourage you to ask them for help

The guidelines spelled out will be continually updated by the Worship Safely Team as future scientific data dictates throughout the course of the pandemic.

What You Can Do

- ◆ Pray for those who are affected by this virus - those who are ill, the medical professionals treating them, the scientists working on vaccines and cures, those with mental health concerns, and the leaders making tough decisions to try and curb the spread of the virus and keep us safe, as well as those who are feeling lonely at this time - please reach out to anyone you think might be feeling isolated.

- ◆ Educate yourself about the Coronavirus from credible and reliable sources, such as from the Center for Disease Control, the World Health Organization, the Minnesota Department of Health and MinnesotaUMC.org. Know the symptoms and have a plan for what you would do if you or a family member were to become sick.
- ◆ Check on your friends and neighbors. Continue to reach out and care for one another through phone calls, emails, and social media.
- ◆ Take care of you. Uncertainty and confusion can have a harmful effect on your mental health.
- ◆ Remember this is temporary. Our church continues to serve our congregation and community. Continue to be a part of the ministry - the need for the support you give to this community and around the world continues despite the pandemic. Watch for opportunities to serve individually or in smaller groups. Please continue your financial support of the work of the church.

You Can Help Prevent the Spread of the Virus

- ◆ *Get Vaccinated for Covid-19.*
- ◆ *Avoid close contact with people who are sick.*
- ◆ *Maintain a 6' social distance.*
- ◆ *Wear a mask when you are out in public.*
- ◆ *Stay home when you are sick.*
- ◆ *Cover your cough/sneeze.*
- ◆ *Wash your hands often.*

Please know that at Hubbard UMC, providing for your **COMPLETE SAFETY** is a key element of the love we all share for each other.

Thank you,

Worship Safely Team: Deb Haagenson, Pastor Lauren Hauger, John Kisser, Sue Kuhn, Rod Nordberg, Ron Taggart, Carl Wall, Carol Wall, Arlene Zimmerman



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!

May Birthdays

Terry Kimball	1
Denny Boulden	7
Noel Fedje	7
Rob Hallstrom	9
Jim Cook	12
Betty Davis	13
Gail Hamilton	16
Jo-Jo Daugherty	20
MaryAnn Kjenaas	21
Jim Wheeler	22
Ed Bolton	24
Tack Tacker	24
Emily Kjenaas	25
Daniel Sanson	25
Rod Nordberg	26
Mark Larsen	27
Marilyn Wilson	27
John Strom	28
Betty Porter	29
Bridgett Cook	29

May Anniversaries


Jeff & Linda Lund	3
Hank & Dolly Hallstrom	19
Dick & Jane Boehmer	20
Steve & Betsy Hill	20
Jim & Nadine Wheeler	20
Bill & Beth Daugherty	25

June Birthdays

Nancy Jordheim	1
Chris Kalm	1
Jim Tanner	1
Pat Gordon	4
Avaunne Hed	8
Judy Fedje	9
Sue Kuhn	10
Mary Hutchins	13
Laura Spolum	14
Neal Aronson	15
Steve Hill	17
Janell Saunders	21
Jean Aronson	24
Alan Fietek	24
Diane Thoelke	25
Kay Schultz	26
Jim Pieper	27
Kaylyn Anderson	27
Jeff Lund	28

June Anniversaries

Arnie & Sue Kuhn	2
Bob & Sue Heggen	10
Doug & Avaunne Hed	11
Bob & Andrea Otto	11
Don & Diane Balk	13
Bill & Shirley Brunsdale	17
Noel & Judy Fedje	23
Curt & Ruth Bakken	23
Bob & Sally Wizik Wills	26
Stu & Gail Hamilton	26



We're having a Card Shower!

Celebrating

Dick & Jane Boehmer

on their

67th Wedding Anniversary

on May 20th, 2021

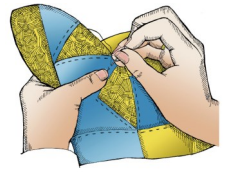
Join family and friends in celebrating with Dick and Jane Boehmer by sending a card congratulating them on 67 years of marriage and God's blessings on their lives together.

Cards can be sent to:

Dick & Jane Boehmer
20301 Fine Beach Drive
Nevis, MN 56467



Care And Comfort



Threads of Love

Quilters Love to Sew and "Talk"

LET'S TALK!

Many things are discussed on our list,
And quilting is only one.
With friends we've made we want to talk
About everything under the sun.
So it's not just our quilts we write about
But the rest of our world as well --
Our families, big things that happen,
Little things that are fun to tell.
Here's a place to let off a little steam
About things that have not gone right,
To celebrate our triumphs,
To sympathize with another's plight.
Oh sure -- the quilt topics are important --
Information and explanations abound,
But it's the feeling of belonging and friendship
That keeps us all coming round.



*Happy
Mother's*

Day 

NORTHERN PINES CAMP

SPRING CLEAN UP WEEKEND

MAY 8TH AND 22ND, 2021

The Northern Pines Camp is asking for volunteers to come help get the camp ready for guests!!

Work days are scheduled from 9:00am - 5 pm.

But... come when you can and leave when you must!

Rolls, juice and coffee on arrival. Saturday noon lunch is on us!

Just let us know you'll be here and for which meals so we can prepare.

Email: northernpinescamp@campminnesota.org

Phone: 218732-4713

Tasks that need to be done



Opening Cabins! Windows, hanging curtains, sweeping, wiping down bunks, etc...

Picking up branches, raking, tree trimming

Clean up campfire area

Painting

Thank You!!!

Northern Pines is located 2 miles N of the Holiday Station on County 1 just north of Park Rapids.

At home with Christ

In *The Longing for Home*, Frederick Buechner writes: “The word *longing* comes from the same root as the word *long* in the sense of length in either time or space and also the word *belong*, so that in its full richness to long suggests to yearn for a long time for something that is a long way off and something that we feel we belong to and that belongs to us. ... The home we long for and belong to is finally where Christ is. I believe that home is Christ’s kingdom, which exists both within us and among us as we wend our prodigal ways through the world in search of it.”

While awaiting our heavenly home, we pray: Most High God, be our shelter from the storm and our dwelling place. May we always be at home with you in the eternal household you have prepared for those who love you. And may Christ always find a pleasant home in and among us. As you have welcomed us into your family, give us the compassion to welcome others into our own homes and lives, knowing that as we do it unto the least of these, we do it unto Jesus, in whose name we pray. Amen.

—adapted from *The Wired Word*

A Prayer for Memorial Day

We remember, O Lord, all those people throughout the years who have made the supreme sacrifice for our country, for liberty, for us. Whenever we breathe the air of freedom or claim the right to justice or enjoy the privilege of worship, fill us with gratitude for those who selflessly gave the last full measure of devotion — their very lives — for our benefit.



May these brave men and women now know the joy of eternity and your presence. And may the families of the fallen receive comfort and peace amid their grief. Help us as we minister to their needs. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*The Newsletter*Newsletter

No Justice, No Peace

The way of peace they have not known, and there is no justice in their ways; They have made themselves crooked paths; Whoever takes that way shall not know peace.

(Isaiah 59:8)

Thursday, April 22 was the funeral for Daunte Wright. This verse from Isaiah was the text for Rev. Al Sharpton's eulogy. The verse is also the origin of the phrase that has been repeated in protests of the past year: no justice, no peace.

Isaiah was speaking to people who were longing for and returning to the Promised Land, and peace for one would not be possible without peace for all. We are connected, and peace and justice are also intertwined. Rev. Sharpton's message became a call to action for anyone who would listen – as was the message of Isaiah.

My colleague, Steve Richards wrote, "I'm not sure I fully comprehend the events of the past week and the past year. Derek Chauvin was held accountable for his actions that killed George Floyd. The declaration of his guilt brought joy to some, relief to many, and more hurt to others. But justice is still elusive. Martin Luther King Jr. said, 'Every man of humane convictions must decide on the protest that best suits his convictions, but we must all protest.' He was saying that everyone has a role to play in the struggle for justice.

I have spent the year listening and learning because my struggle has not been other people's struggle. And Isaiah reminds me that it must become that because without justice there is no peace.

Today, I'm praying for all who still seek justice and peace. I pray for the families of George Floyd, Duante Wright, Breonna Taylor and all who grieve the unjust death of a child. I also pray for former officers, Kim Potter, Derek Chauvin, and their families. And I know that God is able to take the worst of life experience and redeem it for good in this world. I'm hoping, and I will work for that."

May the events of the past weeks and the past year cause you to listen, to learn, and then to act.

Pastor Lauren



CDC Updates Guidelines for Individuals Fully Vaccinated

On April 27, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) updated recommendations for those fully vaccinated against

COVID. People are considered fully vaccinated 2 weeks after the second dose of a Pfizer or Moderna vaccine; or 2 weeks after a single dose of Johnson & Johnson vaccine.

New guidance on what is safe to do if you are fully vaccinated includes:

- Gather indoors with other fully vaccinated people without wearing a mask or staying 6 feet apart.
- Gather indoors with unvaccinated people from one other household without wearing a mask or staying 6 feet apart, if those individuals are not at increased risk for severe illness from COVID.
- *Gather outdoors **without** wearing a mask except in crowded settings where it is difficult to maintain social distancing.*
- Refrain from the need to stay away from others (quarantine) or be tested if you have been around someone with COVID.

Even if fully vaccinated, continue to protect yourself by masking and social distancing when you are:

- In indoor public settings.
- Gathering indoors with unvaccinated people from more than one household.
- Visiting indoors with an unvaccinated person who is at increased risk of severe illness from COVID, or who lives with someone at increased risk.

Vaccinated individuals should also continue to avoid indoor large gatherings and watch for symptoms of COVID. If you have symptoms, get tested, and stay home and away from others.

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

- Minnesota reached another grim milestone during the month of April, exceeding 7,000 COVID deaths.
- April has seen a surge in COVID cases in Hubbard and surrounding counties. In April, there have been 140 new COVID positive cases in Hubbard County as of 4/27. (Hubbard had only 31 new cases in March.)
- The 14-day test positivity rate for Hubbard County is 11.1% for the period ending 4/20/21. Rates above 5% are considered concerning. (The Hubbard positivity rate was 1.9% at the end of March.)
- COVID-19 vaccine is now available to anyone 16 or older. (Only the Pfizer vaccine is approved for 16+; Moderna and Johnson & Johnson are approved for 18+.)
- Vaccination rates through 4/26/21 (at least one dose) for Minnesotans and Hubbard County residents are as follows:

	Minnesota	Hubbard County
16+	56%	42%
65+	86%	68%





























Stay safe everyone!
Deb Haagenson
HUMC Parish Nurse

Sources for the above information plus additional resources include:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fully-vaccinated.html>

Continued ~ Please see "Choosing Safer Activities on page 16.

Choosing Safer Activities

	Unvaccinated People	Your Activity	Fully Vaccinated People
		Outdoor	
Safest		Walk, run, or bike outdoors with members of your household	
		Attend a small, outdoor gathering with fully vaccinated family and friends	
		Attend a small, outdoor gathering with fully vaccinated and unvaccinated people	
Less Safe		Dine at an outdoor restaurant with friends from multiple households	
Least Safe		Attend a crowded, outdoor event, like a live performance, parade, or sports event	
		Indoor	
Less Safe		Visit a barber or hair salon	
		Go to an uncrowded, indoor shopping center or museum	
		Ride public transport with limited occupancy	
		Attend a small, indoor gathering of fully vaccinated and unvaccinated people from multiple households	
Least Safe		Go to an indoor movie theater	
		Attend a full-capacity worship service	
		Sing in an indoor chorus	
		Eat at an indoor restaurant or bar	
		Participate in an indoor, high intensity exercise class	

Get a COVID-19 vaccine



Prevention measures not needed

Take prevention measures

Fully vaccinated people: wear a mask
Unvaccinated people: wear a mask, stay 6 feet apart, and wash your hands.

- Safety levels assume the recommended prevention measures are followed, both by the individual and the venue (if applicable).
- CDC cannot provide the specific risk level for every activity in every community. It is important to consider your own personal situation and the risk to you, your family, and your community before venturing out.

Seeking your help

Dear Hubbard family,

I have been doing some worship planning for future sermon series. There are certain themes that resonate in my life, but I'm not just preaching to me. I always want what you hear in worship to be relevant to all our lives. So, if you have a few moments to send me an email (pastorlaurenhauger@gmail.com) in response to these questions, it will help me in my planning.

- What are the issues facing your family and/or our communities that challenge your faith or lead you to wonder how to respond with faith?
- What questions do you have about the Bible or faith?

What issues are your friends or family facing who do not go to church? What barriers keep them from church or keep them from seeing that the church/Christian faith is relevant to their lives?

I appreciate your input, and though I may not touch on every response, it is very helpful for me to plan and get to know you a bit better in the process!

Thank you!

Pastor Lauren

Scam Alert:

Some churches and clergy are receiving emails purported to be from Bishop Bard or our district superintendents, and pastor, requesting various favors. Please know that this is a phishing scam and these emails are NOT from the bishop or district superintendents or your pastor. No conference leader will ever email you to ask you for money or gift cards or strange favors, and they will always write to you from an official conference email address (ending in dkmnareaumc.org, minnesotaumc.org, or michiganumc.org or from pastorlaurenhauger@gmail.com). Please delete any scam emails you receive and do not respond to them. Thank you for your vigilance!

HUBBARD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH AD COUNCIL MINUTES

April 15, 2021

Members present are shown in bold: Richard Anderson, Tom Carew, Joy Derr, Deb Haagenson, Rob Hallstrom, Sue Harmon, Tom Harmon, Jeff Hauger, Marvel Haynes, John Kissler, 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 Kissler

Devotions:

Pastor Lauren discussed James 5:16 – What can we do to heal our community

Secretary's Report:

The minutes were accepted as presented.

Pastor's Report:

Pastor Lauren reported that we are still looking for a Music Director and a person or a company to do the cleaning. SPRC is working on this.

She also expressed a need for a Youth-Community Outreach Leader that would be a paid position. After discussion it was tabled until our next meeting when we will have more information.

Finance Report:

The March financial reports were emailed to all members. We had Operating Income for March of \$19,229.72 and Operating Expenses for March of \$16,620.86. This gives us net operating income for March of \$2,608.86. Our year to date Operating Income is \$147,703.03 with year to date Operating Expenses of \$120,861.92, leaving us Net Operating Income of \$26,841.11. Our offerings during the last six months have been very good. We are actually over what we had budgeted. Due largely to reduced staff during this period when our church has not been open, our operating expenses are under what we had

budgeted. Thus, we are showing a rather substantial net income for this period.

The audit will be done in late May.

Parish Nurse:

Deb Haagenson reported on the COVID 19 situation in our area. She said that the case numbers are higher and to be cautious.

On-Going Business:

There was discussion about going back to worshipping in the church. We will continue to plan for Pentecost Sunday, May 23rd, to worship in person. This will depend on many things, and we have a team developing a plan to do it safely. We will make a final decision at our May meeting

Technology:

The technology team is continuing to work on upgrades and problem solving.

Upcoming Events:

There will be a virtual women's retreat on May 2nd

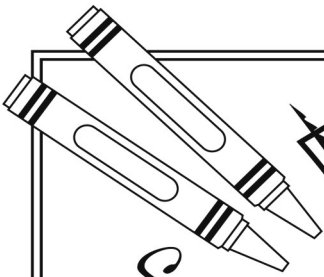
If possible there will be an in person annual conference gathering at our church on June 23rd.

Next Meeting:

May 6, 2021, at 3:00 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Marvel Haynes, Secretary



PUZZLE

Spring has sprung!

God created all the seasons, and each brings unique visuals that remind us of him.

Directions: Unscramble each phrase to complete Song of Solomon 2:12, NIV. Use the pictures as hints.

earth on appear the Flowers

“ _____ ;



singing come the of has season



the _____

_____ ,



heard the land our in is of cooing doves

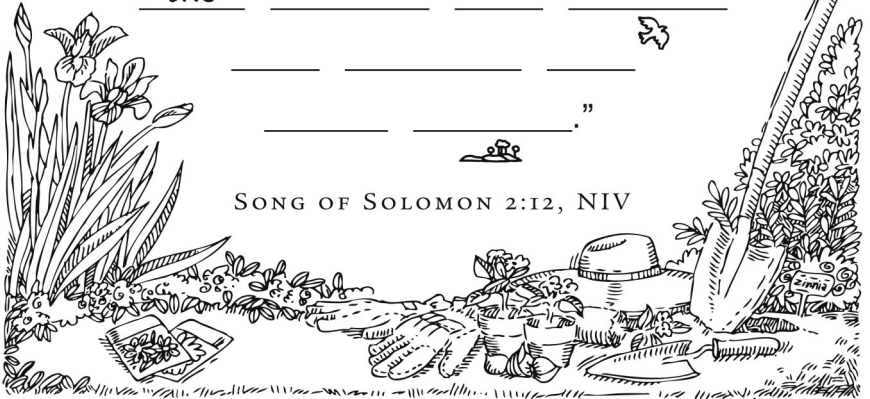
the _____



_____”



SONG OF SOLOMON 2:12, NIV



Answers: “Flowers appear on the earth; the season of singing has come, the cooing of doves is heard in our land.”