

I Thank God Because of You

Dear ones in Christ,

The earliest document preserved in the New Testament is 1 Thessalonians, a letter written by Paul in 51 C.E. to the church at Thessalonica. It is our first impression of what the newly born Christian faith and practice might have been like, decades before the gospels were written. In this letter, Paul writes to a beloved community, saying: *How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you?* (1 Thessalonians 3:9) Paul wondered whether he would ever see the people at Thessalonica again, and he cared deeply about their faith.

This past month, our beloved Church Administrator, Brenda Schwartz, resigned in order to spend more time with her family, and to find new ways to share Christ's love in this community. Her last day with HUMC will be September 30. Although we will not see her in our church on a regular basis, this family of faith will always hold a place for her in our hearts.

Brenda has shared in both personal trials and celebrations over the past 10 years. She has shown a deep kindness to me and to all of you as well, and saying goodbye is never easy. During the month of September, I encourage you to take the time to send Brenda a note, stop by the office, or give her a call to let her know how much she has meant to you and to this congregation. Brenda will be out of the office from September 13-26, but you are encouraged to send her notes or stop by when she is in just the same.

Typically, we read this passage from Thessalonians during Advent, the beginning of the church year, a time when we anticipate the unpredictable future. Paul writes, *And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love **for one another and for all**, just as we abound in love for you.* (1 Thessalonians 3:12)

Like Paul, I wonder how things will develop for the people we can no longer see. I have hopes for Brenda's future as she moves forward and I pray that God will be with her in all that she does as

she spends time with Tim, her parents, her two daughters and her grandchildren, as well as finding new avenues to share her abounding love within this community and in the world. I pray that she will continue to be spiritually nourished by her work on Christ's behalf in whatever form that takes.

Friends, her next chapter will unfold without us, as ours will without her. Whatever comes next, know that we do not face it alone, for the God who made us and the Christ who redeemed us and the Holy Spirit who comforts us will always be with us. As God has blessed us, may we continue to be a blessing to others.

Faithfully,

Pastor Lauren

A Note from Brenda

It seems like yesterday that I came to visit with Pastor Laurie at HUMC about "filling in" for Julie Smith for a couple of weeks. Wow! Somehow that turned into 10 + years, but I wouldn't trade those years for anything.

It is with many fond memories and a heart full of treasured friendships that I turn the page on the next chapter of my life. It has been such a pleasure being the Secretary/Administrative Assistant here at Hubbard UMC.

I am so happy that God lead me to my time here at Hubbard, but now it's time to spend some time with Tim, family, friends and grandbabies. And who knows what else God may have in store for me.

Thanks you all for your kindness, friendships and trust. This is certainly not "Goodbye", but simply an "I'll See You Around!"

In Christ's Love, *Brenda Schwartz*

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths." *Proverbs 3:5-6*



- *for those needing healing and comfort*
- *for those members in assisted living and homebound*
- *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
- *our missionaries:* Africa - 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.***



July 2021 Mission Giving

DESIGNATED MISSION GIVING

Wellspring	<u>\$3,100.00</u>
Total for Designated Giving	\$3,100.00

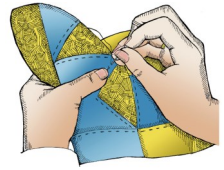
MISSION COMMITTEE GIVING

UMCOR Kits	<u>\$54.00</u>
Total for Mission Committee Giving	<u>\$54.00</u>

<u>Total Missions Giving</u>	<u>\$3,154.00</u>
-------------------------------------	--------------------------



Care And Comfort



Threads of Love

To Quilt or Not to Quilt, that is the Question

Oh, we want to quilt at HUMC, but every week, depending upon the status of the COVID-19 pandemic, we find ourselves quoting Shakespeare, “*To quilt or not to quilt, that is the question.*”

But that doesn't mean we can't mask up and go to the fabric shop and look and dream!

Take Me Out to the Fabric Shop

*Take me out to the fabric shop,
Take me out with my pals.
Buy me some patterns and batting too,
I don't care if I've got lots to do.
Let me buy, buy, buy for my fabric stash,
I hope I have enough cash!
For there's one, two, three rooms of bolts,
At the fabric shop.*

Sung to “Take Me Out to the Ball Game”

In fact, we will soon be purchasing fleece to make the fleece blankets that we then distribute to school children in December. Hopefully we will be back in the Fellowship Hall soon, cutting and tying! And of course, we are still distributing quilts to those in need of care and comfort, for that is the mission of the Threads of Love Quilters..

As soon as it is safe to gather together without masks, to cut, sew and tie quilts, and to enjoy fellowship and devotions over lunch, we will resume quilting.



Choir is Back!

We are so excited to be together again and we would like to extend an invitation to all who love to sing. We are a fun, social group with all levels of musical ability- so, please, consider joining us.



For now, we will be singing at the 1st and 3rd Sunday of every month. Rehearsal will be the Wednesday before the 1st and 3rd, as well as Sunday morning at 8:00 AM on the days we sing.

Rehearsal Schedule:

Wednesday, Sept. 1, 7 PM
Wednesday, Sept. 15, 7 PM
Wednesday, Sept. 29 7 PM

Performance Schedule:

Sunday, Sept. 5 - 8 AM
Sunday, Sept. 19 - 8 AM
Sunday, Oct. 3 - 8 AM

Hope to see you there!



THANK YOU to a great group of volunteers who know how to show love to others through the give of service. As I drove up to the church the other day I saw evidence of devotion in the wonderful look of our church grounds. The bushes were beautifully trimmed. The weeds did not show. The flowers were beautifully arranged and watered in their pots. There were fewer trees on the property, which allowed me to see more clearly the tranquility of the memorial garden and the spaces around the church itself. As always, the yard was green and mowed! I do not know your names, but I see your care and I am grateful!

~An Appreciative Member of HUMC

“Fall Cadence”

Greetings, Hubbard Church family!

This month I am calling you to prayer. Starting now, throughout the month of September, I am asking you to pray every day for the children of Hubbard UMC, and the children of the Community of Hubbard. Pray for the kids who are going back to school, the parents who will organize to get them there. Pray for the teachers and leaders who have already been hard at work putting their curriculums, classrooms, and schedules all together. Pray for the bus drivers and the custodians. Pray that the Holy Spirit moves in their midst and reveals truths to our children as the Holy Spirit does to us. May they know how deeply they are loved by God and how to share that love with others.

This month, I am reminded of a summer Vacation Bible School I was a part of at one of my previous churches. At the end of every day during the four days of VBS there was a responsive closing prayer. The prayer as I remember it went something like this:

God is caring, God is kind.

God is caring, God is kind.

Giving love and peace of mind.

Giving love and peace of mind.

We can follow God's own way.

We can follow God's own way.

By sharing, caring every day.

By sharing, caring every day.

Sound off.

Amen.

Sound off.

Amen.

Bring it on down.

Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen!

Now I want you to reread that prayer with a bit of a cadence that is familiar to an army march. Honestly, It really is a lot of fun!

It makes me ask the question, “Why is it that we only reserve the fun side of Christianity for the kids?”

Seriously, when is the last time you played a fun game testing your Bible knowledge, or you sang your prayer to the tune of an army march? Maybe that is what is missing!

A wise woman once said to me that Christians laugh. We laugh. When life is tough, we laugh. When we are full of sorrow, we laugh. Don’t get me wrong, we cry too, and we get angry too... But we laugh, because we know our lives are in the care of God Almighty. There we find comfort and peace and joy and laughter.

As the summer months come to an end, and our snowbirds get ready to fly back to their winter nests, and as life begins to take on the cadence that the Fall months bring, don’t forget to include a little laughter in your day. Life has serious moments, but in the arms of Christ, there is joy forever more. Though you are an adult, may you always have the heart of a child.

From one light to another,

Pastor Lauren

~~~~~

## Bible Quiz

How many times in the Old Testament do people cross a body of water on dry ground?

- A. once
- B. twice
- C. three times
- D. four times



Answer: C (See Exodus 14; Joshua 3; 2 Kings 2.)



# Hubbard Women's News

## WOW!! What a Day!

The day was cool and sunny for our UMW Parking Lot Missions Sale - Thank you Lord! A little windy? But what fun because it kept us all moving to catch whatever went flying across the church parking lot.

Thanks to our wandering MUSCLE helpers: M. Barrett, Mr. & Mr. Bolden, Mr. & Mrs. Manlove. Plus a special "Thank You" to Oliver M. and Pat B. for all the help at the food & drink table.

We had 13 vendors, Here is a breakdown of the income from the Parking Lot Sale as of 8-18-21.

| Vendor # | Income Made | Vendor #            | Income Made              |
|----------|-------------|---------------------|--------------------------|
| #1       | \$93.00     | #9                  | \$42.35                  |
| #2       | \$45.00     | #11                 | \$126.80                 |
| #3       | \$142.50    | UMW Books           |                          |
| #4       | \$71.00     | #13                 | \$27.00                  |
| #5       | \$130.00    | #14                 | \$85.00                  |
| #6       | \$86.00     | #15                 | \$128.98                 |
| #7       | \$130.75    | Food & Drink        |                          |
| #8       | \$129.85    | <b><u>Total</u></b> | <b><u>\$1,638.23</u></b> |

### Expenses:

Enterprise - \$35.00

More to come - ?

Total Available to

Donate to Missions:

**\$1,603.23**

Missions to receive these funds will be determined in the September or October UMW meeting.

Thank you to ALL who participated and made this event a success.





## FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE

### NEW TO THE STAFF

Please welcome Sue Kuhn, who is the newest member of our Hubbard Church Office Staff. She and her husband, Arnie, have been members since 2017. Sue will be working parttime and is looking forward to being a part of the ministry team!

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 **October** 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 13-17.** 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](mailto:debhaagenson@catholichealth.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  |
| MaJearna 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 |

# A Prayer for Afghanistan

## We Pray for Afghanistan's People Today

CRADLE SONG ("Away in a Manger") UMH #217

We pray for Afghanistan's people today:  
for those who are fleeing — who know they can't stay,  
for those who face terror by day and by night,  
for those who can't leave and whose dreams can't take flight.

We pray for the people who fear what's in store,  
for dreamers and poets who grieve a closed door.  
for those who are hiding so no one will see  
the people they are — or who they hope to be.

We pray for girls facing a world they don't know,  
who still long to read and to learn and to grow.  
We pray for young women who live with the fear  
their bodies, their voices, may soon disappear.

We pray for young children whose first lullabies  
were bombs and explosions and wounded ones' cries—  
and for those who served there, who see how it ends,  
who ponder their service, who grieve for lost friends.

We weep for the places where war leads to war.  
We pray for your hand there to heal and restore!  
Bless all who seek justice and peace as your way.  
We pray for Afghanistan's people today.

*Tune: William James Kirkpatrick, 1895*

*Text: Copyright © 2021 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette.*

*All rights reserved.*

# HUBBARD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

## AD COUNCIL MINUTES

July 8, 2021

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

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

**Devotions:** Pastor Lauren started the meeting with a prayer

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

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor Lauren reported that Brenda Schwartz is resigning as Administrative Assistant effective September 30<sup>th</sup>. Pastor Lauren will be on vacation for the next two weeks.

### **Finance Report:**

We had Operating Income for July of \$46,565.55. This includes \$30,752 that was moved from PPP Loan Liability to Income when our PPP loan was forgiven in July. Our actual Operating Income for July was \$15,813. Our Operating Expenses for July were \$20,293.49. Our Net Income from July was \$20,293.49. However, without the addition of the PPP Loan Income we would have had a Net Loss of \$4,479.94. Year to date we now have Net Income of \$33,994.62. Our total income year to date from the PPP Loan and grants is \$33,952. Without those loans and grants we would have a net loss year to date of \$67.38. Although we have net income at the end of July of \$33,884.62 we are projecting near to break even at the end of our year after we fund our Depreciation and Equipment Funds and pay expenses that are already committed.

The SPRC and Finance committees made a recommendation that since there will be no wage increases this year, that \$4,550 be used as bonuses, for people who have gone above and beyond their normal jobs. Richard Anderson made a motion, seconded by Joanne Torfin, that we accept this recommendation. The motion passed.

### **On-Going Business:**

COVID-19 – Hubbard County positivity rate has climbed above 5% so we will require social distancing and masks until the rate drops. We will review it each week.

Richard Anderson made a motion, seconded by Sue Harmon, that we purchase new P/A and camera equipment to include TV, microphones, cords, etc., not to exceed \$5,000. This is to be taken out of this fiscal year. The motion passed.

There are still openings for the Leadership Institute. See Pastor Lauren for a reservation.

### **Upcoming Events -**

Tony DeBlois Concert - September 21 at 6 PM

Annual Charge Conference – October 3<sup>rd</sup>

Leadership Institute – September 29-October 1

Conference Gathering at our Church – October 20th

**Next Meeting:** September 9, 2021 – 3:00PM

Respectfully submitted,

Marvel Haynes, Secretary



## **The Possibility of COVID Illness after Vaccination**

COVID-19 vaccines are effective at preventing most infections. However, like most vaccines, they are not 100% effective. Some people who are fully vaccinated will still get COVID-19. This is called a “breakthrough infection”. Fully vaccinated people with a breakthrough infection are less likely to develop serious illness and less likely to be hospitalized or die than those who are unvaccinated and get COVID-19.

People who get vaccine breakthrough infections can be contagious. That is why both vaccinated and unvaccinated people who live or work in an area that has substantial or high COVID-19 transmission, will be better protected if they wear a mask when in indoor public places.

The bottom line: COVID-19 vaccines protect people against severe illness, including disease by the Delta and other variants. And vaccination remains the best way to slow the spread of COVID-19 and to prevent infection by Delta or other variants.

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

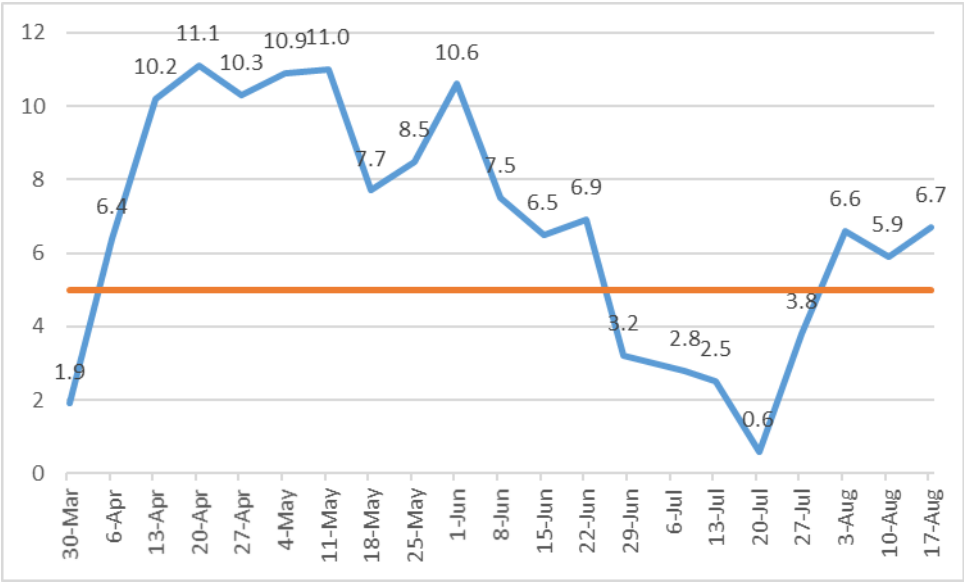
- Minnesota has had more than 642,000 COVID cases and nearly 8000 deaths. Statewide, new COVID cases and hospitalizations have been increasing since mid-July. Minnesota COVID hospital bed occupancy has increased by more than 4-fold in the last month. The Minnesota 7-day test positivity rate as of 8/25 is 6.6%, above the 5% threshold of concern. Minnesota’s level of COVID transmission is HIGH.
- The vaccine breakthrough COVID infection rate in Minnesota is less than 1% (0.32%).
- Hubbard County exceeded 2000 COVID cases during the month of August. As of 8/26 Hubbard County had 2087

COVID cases. Hubbard County's 14-day positivity rate is at 6.7%. Hubbard County's level of COVID transmission is HIGH.

- COVID case volumes in Hubbard County during August increased from the previous month.

| New COVID cases | Hubbard County |
|-----------------|----------------|
| June            | 28             |
| July            | 28             |
| Aug (thru 8/26) | 88             |

- The 14-day test positivity rate for Hubbard County is 6.7% for the period ending 8/17/21.



- Vaccination rates through 8/24/21 for Minnesotans and Hubbard County residents are as follows:

|                  | Minnesota | Hubbard County |
|------------------|-----------|----------------|
| 16+              | 71%       | 16%            |
| 65+              | 93%       | 85%            |
| Total Population | 59%       | 50%            |

continued...

Most of the United States is experiencing a high level of COVID transmission. To protect yourself and others from COVID-19:

- Wash your hands often.
- Wear a mask in indoor public places.
- Avoid crowds and poorly ventilated spaces. Stay at least 6 feet from other people not from your household.
- Get vaccinated.

Deb Haagenson  
HUMC Parish Nurse

Sources for the above information plus additional resources include:

- <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/effectiveness/why-measure-effectiveness/breakthrough-cases.html>
- <https://data.cms.gov/stories/s/COVID-19-Nursing-Home-Data-Test-Positivity-Rates/q5r5-qjyu>
- <https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/situation.html#map1>
- <https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#>