

# *The KEY* ... TO OPEN WIDER THE DOOR OF THE CHURCH

A Newsletter of Newport United Methodist Church

April, 2020

## Sharing the Tools of Hope

### Email

Do you have an email address? To save postage and paper costs, the Leadership Team at Newport UMC is trying to move as many of us as possible to email newsletters. We know some of you don't have email or a computer, and some like to hold a paper copy. That's great, but please send your email if you have one! Thanks Newport UMC Leadership Team

### *Dear Friends,*

These are hard and holy times. In recent history, we've never experienced anything like the Covid 19 Pandemic (also called the CoronaVirus). It's changing our way of life by the day, and sometimes by the minute.

Tomorrow night begins the 2 week stay at home executive order for Minnesota.

Bishop Ough is recommending no in person worship until May 10.

This means our Holy Week and Easter plans are potentially going to be suspended or postponed until a later date. We are in the midst of making great plans to have our worship message broadcast online. We've also explored the possibility of having a Drive In Worship, like the Drive In Movies we grew up going to. We'll keep you posted.

Some of you have suggested that we celebrate Easter whatever date we are finally able to get together again. Today it seems like Good Friday, but Easter is coming!

*(see next page!)*

In the meantime, on Sundays for our worship time, we are using a tool called **Free Conference Call.com**. **You don't need a computer. You can use a landline phone or a cell phone.**

It's really simple. Please call: **712-770-4010**

A voice will say: "Welcome. This service is provided by Free Conference Call.com Please enter the access code followed by the # (pound) or hash sign."

**Type in the Access Code: 474462 #**

The Outline for Upcoming Sundays will be.

At 9:25 folks begin to call in.

9:32 Opening Prayer

9:35: Scripture/ Message/ Devotion

9:45: Check In and Prayer. I'll go through the list of each caller, who'll share prayer concerns.

9:55 Prayer and Blessing

### **Prayer:**

Prayer is one of the greatest tools of hope that no pandemic can take from us. We can pray. We've got time to pray. To talk to the Lord, to listen. Prayer centers us, calms us, and reminds us of what we know. We are God's beloved, created in God's own image.

Prayer gives us hope. And that hope has an impact on our friends, and our family, our community and our world. Prayer is a mighty tool indeed.

Please know you're in my prayers and thoughts. I can't wait to see you again, hopefully soon. Let me know if there's anything specific I can pray about with you.

With the peace and love of Jesus, Pastor Steve [pastorstevepannkuk@gmail.com](mailto:pastorstevepannkuk@gmail.com)

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The Pope recently called on everyone around the world to pray **The Lord's Prayer**. I've included a couple versions here for your praying.

### **Traditional**

Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy Name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
for ever (and ever). Amen.

### **Contemporary**

Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your Name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those  
who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial,  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen.

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## **Birthdays!**

- 1 – Pastor Steve
- 12- Bob Bay
- 14- Vance Heidenreich
- 17- Alice Oehrlein
- 20- Doug Niesen
- 22- Robbie Clouse
- 23- Howard Buttery
- 24- Diane Scheid
- 27- Dave Christensen

**FLOCK WATCHER** asks that you keep these people in your prayers:

For the family of **Doug's mother Elaine** who passed away last month; for **John and Phyllis's son Tim** who is back in the hospital for follow-up care for **Gale's brother Warren and his wife**, both in their 90s, are living in Los Angeles and there is concern about their health; for **people around the world threatened by coronavirus**; wisdom for our elected officials; for churches in need of reformation and transformation; the children and teachers in our Head Start Program.

**Karen S** is now in memory care at **Elk Ridge Special Care Center** in Maplewood.

**Joys: Judy L's brother Gene** is in stable condition after being hit hard by coronavirus; **Donna E** and family are safely back to her new home in Chester, Montana. **Pastor Linda and Steve** who had been stuck overseas by a cancelled cruise have found their way home; **John and Phyllis' granddaughter Angela** is recovering well at home from coronavirus; **Gale and Marilyn's son-in-law Mike** is out of the hospital and doing fairly well though still on the transplant list. Thank God for good outcomes!

*If you have lifted someone up for prayer, please update us in the church office as their conditions change, as a concern or **joy!***



April

*Hey, where's the calendar?* We don't know what is happening in the coming weeks at and around our church...Let's keep in touch by phone, online, Facebook, so we can tell each other about coming events.

Church Office phone: (651) 459 2747

Email: [newportumc@gmail.com](mailto:newportumc@gmail.com)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/Newport United Methodist Church](http://www.facebook.com/NewportUnitedMethodistChurch)  
(include spaces!)

Please email us at [newportumc@gmail.com](mailto:newportumc@gmail.com) and tell us:

*Can we email you your copy of the Key?*

*Do you want a newsletter at all anymore?*

*Is the person to whom the Key is addressed there?*

*If NOT, do you have the person's current address?*

*Thank you for helping us out!*

The Editor



### Reflections for Lent

**Lent** is the period of 40 days which begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Easter in the Christian calendar. It represents the 40 days Jesus spent in the desert alone, fasting and praying.

I think we all feel a bit like we're isolated in the desert during these times. I am spending time praying and reflecting. I hope you are doing the same.

The Lenten study is a focus on our Divine Friendship with God. What can we do to show our deep love for God? Isaiah wanted us to see the hardships of the oppressed, the hungry, the homeless, and the naked. If we can help them, we will magnify our friendship with God.

*(See next page!)*

As it is stated in Matthew 22:39 "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

I challenged the Lenten Study group to do 40 of something to represent the 40 days of Lent. I am knitting and then donating 40 bears. Tracy is making 40 Blessing Bags.

I am challenging you, the whole congregation, to do 40 ... somethings.... It could be:

- Donate \$40 (maybe to the food shelf)
- Read to a child for 40 minutes
- Bake and give away 40 cookies
- Make 40 calls or write 40 letters
- The ideas are endless...

When we finally all get back together, let's compare all the good we did.

Make Lent Worth It! *Leanne*

## **February, 2020 Financial Report**

The income and expense report as of February 29, 2020 is as follows:

### FUND BALANCES REPORT

The February 29, 2019 checkbook balance was **\$3,353.29**.

### MONTHLY BUDGET ENVELOPE GIVING

February envelope and loose plate giving was **\$6,592.00**.

### TOTAL INCOME FOR REPORT PERIOD

February income from all sources was **\$10,993.25**.

### TOTAL EXPENSES FOR REPORT PERIOD

February expenses were **\$9,053.14**.

### SUMMARY

**Income in relation to expenses for February 2020 was \$1,940.11.**

This balance figure is somewhat misleading. Though a major renter missed their January payment, they did pay double for February; nevertheless, it took all of this month for us to catch up on **our** missed payments. While the true balance is still positive, it is several hundred less than shown in the transaction report. March will be a month of correction and we can only hope (pray!) for moderate seasonal weather.

**Please mention any projects you feel need doing or any concerns you have about repairs to Mike in written form. He will pass them on to the appropriate person. Everyone is encouraged to maintain good stewardship.**

Any suggestions for improving this financial report will be appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,

**John Brenneman**

Founded 1861 — Celebrating 159 Years of Ministry

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Newport, MN 55055-1649

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

*The Key* is a monthly publication of Newport United Methodist Church, 1596 Eleventh Avenue, Newport, Minnesota. News items to run the following month are due in the Church Office by the 3rd Monday of the current month.

*A warm welcome awaits you . . .*

Voice and Handbell Choirs  
United Methodist Women  
Fellowship Dinner Groups

Adult Bible Study  
Martha Circle

Pastor: Rev. Steve Pannkuk  
Cell Phone: (952) 999-6252  
**Church Telephone: (651) 459-2747**  
**Fax: (651) 769-1216**  
Church e-mail: [newportumc@gmail.com](mailto:newportumc@gmail.com)

Web address: [www.newportumc.org](http://www.newportumc.org)

EACH SUNDAY:

Worship Service at 9:30 a.m.

WEDNESDAYS:

Handbell Choir at 5:15 p.m. - Voice Choir At 6:30 p.m.

**MISSION STATEMENT** *Newport United Methodist Church is a people of God dedicated to following the teaching of Jesus because we want to set an example so that we and others can grow in our faith.*