



# LIVEWIRE



Hillside United Methodist August 2020

## Pastor's Ponderings...

### *Learning to Walk in the Dark*

*"I will give you the treasures of darkness and riches hidden in secret places, so that you may know that it is I, the Lord, the God of Israel, who call you by your name." Isaiah 45:3*

*I have been reading Barbara Brown Taylor's book, "Learning to Walk in the Dark" and have been deeply touched by it. She explores the darkness and why we have learned to fear it. She reflects on how our lives do not work only when everything is fully lit. We can't always see the light. It waxes and wanes or can go out altogether. What we long for is a spirituality and faith that also works in the nighttime, not only when we can see light.*

*Have you ever felt the darkness, "dark" emotions, or "the dark night of the soul"? Taylor talks about darkness as shorthand for anything that scares us. It could be the "dark" emotions, like grief and sadness. It could be the fear of dying, the fear of being alone, the fear of chronic pain, the fear of getting COVID-19, the fear of life never being normal again, or the fear of the monsters that live under the bed and only come out at night. The truth is that facing the dark, whatever it is that scares us, is terrifying.*

*The thing is, we learn things in the dark that we could not have ever learned in the light. As much as I hate to admit it, this suggests that we need the dark as much as we need the light. When my little Annie says to me, "Mom, I don't like the dark" or "I'm afraid of the dark", I try and help her be curious about it instead of just fearing it.*

*In the Bible, darkness often equals death, and light equals life. We are taught to be "children of the light". Those teachings and scripture have taught us to fear the dark, to stay away from it and create as much light as possible, but God lives in the darkness too. He shows up all the time*



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**September Livewire deadline is Monday, August, 24.**

(cont. from page one)

*in Bible stories, meeting people in the dark. The exodus from Egypt happens in the dark. God parts the Red Sea in the dark. Jesus was born in a dark cave and rose from the dead in a dark cave. Seeds begin to grow, but only in the dark in the ground. New life begins in the dark! We have seasons of dark and light in our life, in our spiritual life. This is to be expected, not feared. Just like the moon waxes and wanes, so do we. We do not need to fear the darkness, instead be curious about it and ask what it can teach you.*

*“Sometimes the light is coming, and sometimes it is going. Sometimes the moon is full, and sometimes it is nowhere to be found. There is nothing capricious about this variety since it happens on a regular basis. Is it dark out tonight? Fear not; it will not be dark forever. Is it bright out tonight? Enjoy it; it will not be bright forever.”*

*God is in the darkness too. Fear not.*

*Peace, Cynthia*

### **Tuesday Zoom Meetings with Your Pastor**

Tuesday 10am ZOOM meetings with Pastor Cynthia are a time to visit with one another, hear church updates, and share a Scripture and prayer. Come anytime, come once, or come every week. An open and flexible opportunity for connection. See you Tuesday morning at 10am. Here is the link and meeting number:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7867461473>

Meeting ID: 786 746 1473

One tap mobile

+13126266799,,7867461473# US (Chicago)



### **Please Keep Us in Your Thoughts & Prayers**

Joyce Benson, Chris Christensen, Marge Dahl, Derry Gilberg, Barb Kent, Claren Suomala, Marilyn Torvick, Joyce Negard, Jane Frerichs, Beverly Ramstad, along with our men & women in military service and their families. We especially pray for everyone's physical and mental health during this pandemic.

## DRIVE IN WORSHIP



Worship without leaving your car! We will have a live worship service at 6:30pm in the Coppertop church parking lot on the evening of Wednesday, August 19. Stay in the safety of your car and tune your FM radio to 99.7 to hear the music, Scripture, and message. The 30-40 minute service will be for the entire family. Bring your own beverage and food if you wish. Church pastors will be available to come to your car window for prayers at your request after the service!



*Thank you Hillside Methodist for your faithful and generous donation to the Union*

*Gospel Mission. Your donation feeds so many folks who come to the Mission.*

*God's Blessing to you all.*

*Union Gospel Mission*

## Social Justice Action Committee (SJAC)

We are starting this committee specifically for this time, how we as individuals and as a congregation respond to racism in our society. It will be an action-based group. What things can we do now that will bring justice to people of color? How can we stand in solidarity and do no harm? These are the things we will explore. All are welcome! SJAC is open to anyone at Hillside, other UMC churches, and the community. ***Please email or call Pastor Cynthia if you are interested.***

## **SAD TO SAY- NO MEATBALLS**

It is with regret that we have to inform everyone that we will not be having our yearly, very important fundraiser in 2020 - because of the whole COVID thing. It is just too risky for all you volunteers to come and work in such a close environment. Best guess is that our guests will not be wanting to take that risk either. In the spring, we plan to revisit the possibility of having our Annual Meatball Dinner.



## **Hello my fellow Hillsideers;**

Thank you, thank you, thank you to everyone who is sending in their financial giving to the church. It makes a big difference and we are grateful for your generosity. We understand that some of you may be experiencing financial hardship due to the pandemic. Please let us know if you are struggling to pay bills and buy needed supplies. We are family, and we are in this together. Give what you can, help where you can, and also ask for help when you need it.

Blessings to all of you, and be well.  
Julie Manisto, Your Finance Chair

**Hillside UMC,**

Thank you for your continued congregational donations. We are proud to join you in supporting our diverse community that demonstrates generosity and spreads love in the world.

**Ways to give back to our community and help CHUM in August?**

**Help give every child in Duluth a successful start to the school year!**

**CHUM School Backpack Drive!**



Due to the Coronavirus, we are not able to accept any supplies, and instead are asking the public to go online and purchase backpacks and supplies on our website, or send a donation to cover the cost of supplies for a child in need. We need all donations by August 9<sup>th</sup>.

**What is in a backpack?**

**For your \$11.27 donation, students in Kindergarten – 5th grade will receive:**

- 1 16" x 11" x 5" backpack
- 3 wide-ruled spiral notebooks
- 3 pocket folders
- Scissors
- 6 No. 2 pencils
- 1 box of 8 markers
- 1 box of 24 crayons
- 2 glue sticks

**For your \$11.74 donation, students in grades 6 – 12 will receive:**

- 1 17" x 12" x 5" backpack
- 3 college-ruled spiral notebooks
- 1 pack college-ruled loose leaf filler paper
- 3 pocket folders
- 1 three-ring binder
- 6 No. 2 pencils
- 3 black stick pens
- 1 box of 12 colored pencils

For more information, contact Scott Van Daele, CHUM Distributive Services Director.

**CHUM Contact Information:**

Administration 218-720-6521

CHUM Center 218-726-0153

Food Shelf 218-727-2391

chum@chumduluth.org, www.chumduluth.org

**Thanks For Helping**

Our Cub Scout Pack is no longer saving aluminum cans as a fund raiser – the recycling price is just too low. We want to thank all of you who have been helping us by bringing your cans to church to donate. Thanks again.

**Loaves and Fishes**

The meal we were able to provide for the Dorothy Day House on the 2nd Tuesday of July was a picnic. We bought wieners for the grill, potatoes, eggs, celery, onions, miracle whip (all for them to make potato salad) watermelon, cantaloupes, fresh strawberries, red grapes, cake, potato chips and a few extra things.

They were very grateful to get all the food and prepare it for themselves, but really like it when we make the meal for them. We do hope we will be able to do that again when we can be together in our church kitchen.

Please remember to keep the homeless and the hungry in your prayers. Thank you for the cash donations so we can continue to do the mission project.

*Blessings from Carolyn Dahl*



**Many Thanks to All of You who Give Your Time, Your Spirit and Your Resources:**

- To the women who provided a meal to Loaves & Fishes on July 2nd..
- Everyone who has donated to Chum's food shelf through HUMC the last few months
- To all those who quietly give to our church and community.





## **August Sunday Worship**

We will continue to hold joint online worship services with First UMC in August. The link can be found below, also on Hillside's Face-book page, and Pastor Cynthia sends an email out on Saturday with the link included. Watch the service as it goes live online at 10am Sunday mornings, or go back and watch whenever you feel you need some church time.

August 2 – **Rev. Jeanine Alexander** preaching on Exodus 3:1-5 and asking the question, *“What and where is holy ground?”* We will share in communion during this service. (Pastor Cynthia on vacation)

August 9 – **Rev. Jeanine Alexander** preaching on John 12:24-26 and looking at the Christian church and asking, *“Is the church really Christian?”*

August 16 – **Pastor Cynthia preaching!** She will preach on Isaiah 45:3. Her sermon titled, *“Learning to Walk in the Dark”* will explore how our lives do not work only when everything is fully lit. We can't always see the light. Does our faith and spirituality work in the dark?

August 23 – **Rev. Jeanine Alexander** preaching on Joshua 5:13-15 and asking the question, *“Is God on our Side?”* We will hold a virtual coffee hour after this service via ZOOM. That link will be included in your weekly email.

August 30 – **Kelby Werner**, summer intern at First UMC, will be preaching this Sunday on Genesis 1:26-31 with the sermon titled, *“Living in God's Sandbox.”*

YouTube Link to find the Sunday online worship services:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCA47ISATrUsyV7xJ8b4cWww>

## **Hillside**

Our church building is closed, except for our secretary who works Tuesday and Thursday 9-2pm. If you need anything please call the church office. If you stop by the building for any reason, you must wear a mask when you are inside. This is now mandated by Governor Walz and it is also our church policy. Thank you for respecting this. If you need a mask, please let the church know. Please call the office before you come, so the door will be unlocked for you. (218) 727-4257.

**Pastor Cynthia** will be on vacation July 27-August 2. In case of emergency please contact Carole Hawkinson 218-345-6874 or Carolyn Dahl 218-727-6342. Rev. Jeanine Alexander will be on call for any pastoral emergencies that come up.



## **Happy August Birthday to Hillside Friends!**

11 Cindy Giuliani  
11 Kaitie Marsaa  
17 Todd Manisto  
18 Judy Gonhue  
19 Bea Jacobson  
22 Carole Hawkinson  
24 Ginny Tibodeau  
25 Ellie Pederson  
25 Jon Peterson



If you don't see your name here, please call the church office so we can add you to the list. 727-4257

## **Would like your Feedback.**

We are looking for ways to keep everyone connected during this time of social distancing.

For those of you that cannot watch church online, would you be interested in driving to the church parking lot Sunday mornings to listen to the church service on your radio? We are considering offering this service, but only if there is interest. You have to drive to the parking lot because the FM transmitter only reaches so far. Please call the church office if you would do this!

## **RACISM BOOK STUDY begins:**

Join us for an 8 week study on the book “White Fragility: Why It’s So Hard For White People To Talk About Racism” by Robin DiAngelo. The author explains:

*“White Fragility is a state in which even a minimum amount of racial stress becomes intolerable, triggering a range of defensive moves. These moves include the outward display of emotions such as anger, fear, and guilt, and behaviors such as argumentation, silence, and leaving the stress-inducing situation. These behaviors, in turn, function to reinstate white racial equilibrium. This book explicates the dynamics of White Fragility and how we might build our capacity in the on-going work towards racial justice.”*

Please join us in this book study led by Jojo Coffin-Langdon. We will discuss via a private Facebook group and also live on Zoom. If you would like to join but do not have Facebook you can surely participate in just the Zoom part of the discussion and still feel very connected and challenged. The book is HARD to get, so if you are interested, buy it now! This book study started the last week in July, but it’s not too late to join.

Text, call or email Jojo at 218-251-4388 or [Families@fumcduluth.com](mailto:Families@fumcduluth.com)

## **2020 Annual Conference**

The Minnesota Annual Conference is being held virtually on August 29th. Your Pastor and lay leader, LeRoy Britton will attend and vote on the legislation.

Our virtual session will open with worship, remembering of the saints, and Bishop Ough's episcopal address. The morning session will also include a time of looking at what we've accomplished together, exploring where we are headed as an annual conference, and celebrating our people. The focus of our afternoon session will be legislation, and we will conclude the day with a worship service honoring our retiring clergy. The schedule is: 9:30-11:30 a.m. and 1:30-3:30 p.m. Aug. 29.

Anyone can watch the proceedings live on the [Minnesota Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church Facebook page](#) (a Facebook account is not required to watch). For visitors who are interested: A recording of a pre-conference workshop will be made available in early August for you to watch in preparation for conference. A recording of the key components of the conference sessions will be made available after the event.

## **iPad or Tablet Donations Requested**

As we continue with online worship, we want everyone to be connected. We're looking for donations of your old, yet newer, tablets or iPads to give to members who have nothing. Please call the church office if you have one to donate, or if you would be interested in receiving one.

<b>FINANCIAL GIVING FOR THE MONTH OF JULY</b>		
<b>AMOUNT NEEDED PER MONTH</b>		<b>\$7,701.00</b>
July 6th	giving	\$ 1,261.00
July 14th	giving	\$ 1,355.00
July 20th	giving	\$ 1,450.00
July 29th	giving	\$ 730.00
		\$ 4,796.00
Balance		-\$ 2,905.00



**2020  
WESTERN GARDEN TOUR  
& CONTINENTAL  
BREAKFAST-TO-GO**

**Saturday, August 8, 2020**

**NORTON PARK UNITED  
METHODIST CHURCH  
436 North 79<sup>th</sup> Avenue West, Duluth**

**9 – 10 am Wrist bands, maps &  
continental breakfast-to-go brought to  
your car in church parking lot.  
Garden & ceramic items for sale.**

**9 – 1:30 pm Self-guided garden tour.  
Masks & social distancing  
strongly encouraged.**

**Cost: \$10.00 day of tour only  
No presale tickets**

**Information: Kathy (218)590-1964**

***THIS IS A RAIN OR SHINE EVENT!***

## Administrative Council Meeting Minutes July 7, 2020 via ZOOM

**Online Attendance:** Carolyn Dahl, Diane Boris, Jim Leland, Ryan Herrick, Carole Hawkinson, Julie Manisto. Sandra Wilmot, Pastor Cynthia

Carolyn gave the opening prayer titled, "Justice for Peace".

**Secretary's Minutes:** The minutes of the secretary's report for June were approved. The motion was made by Carole and second by Julie. Motion approved.

**Treasurer & Financial Report:** Jim gave us the report as of the end of June. The June giving was \$5,100, - \$2,000 short to meet our budget. This is not an issue right now. We have \$2,600 left in the CARES loan. The loan money will be used up by the end of July. We have filled out the forgiveness paperwork and ready to send it in. The bank will tell us when they need it.

**Pastor's Report:** The second quarter statements were sent out. Pastor Cynthia and LeRoy Britton are registered for the Annual Conference. The cost is \$25 each as it will be a virtual conference and there will not be any meal or motel costs. Bishop Bard will lead Minnesota as an interim Bishop. Pastor Cynthia met with District Superintendent, Susan Nienaber last week for her yearly review. We will continue to worship online with First UMC. There are no plans to return to in-person worship at Hillside yet. There will be another drive-in worship service in the Coppertop parking lot in July. There were about 25 cars that attended in June. Pastor Cynthia will be on vacation July 27<sup>th</sup> thru Aug. 2<sup>nd</sup>. She is having zoom fellowship meetings at 10 AM each Tuesday for anyone who can attend. There were 2 participants last week. For the in-person parking lot fellowship times no one signed up. With COVID it is better not to have anything at church right now. Pastor Cynthia asked us –the Ad Council-to think about becoming, as a congregation, a member of the NAACP. This will show our support of people of color in our community and offer partnership opportunities on how we can serve and work for justice. We will take a vote on this at the August meeting. If you have any feedback about this issue, please contact one of the council members before August 4.

**SPRC:** The summer janitors are doing a good job. Our new secretary, Kathleen Pattison, is doing an excellent job organizing the office. All the older files from 2019 and older have been put in boxes to be stored. Brenna has offered to do child care at the church but a second adult would have to be present in the building.

**Trustees:** They will continue to do a walk-through of the church twice a week. Debby Johnson will fix the wall at the top of the stairs and wallpaper in the bathrooms.

**Hospitality:** National Night Out has been put off until October 6<sup>th</sup> by the Duluth PD. We are waiting for a word from the City if National Night Out will take place at that time.

**Mission:** There is \$400 in the Loaves & Fishes fund. This will keep us going for several months. A volunteer will come and pick up the ingredients for a meal on July 14<sup>th</sup>.

**Other:** We talked of having a meatball dinner in Sept. but it would be too risky with COVID. We will put it off and see if it could happen at another time. Maybe next spring.

The next meeting is August 4<sup>th</sup>.

Pastor Cynthia gave the closing prayer. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by,

Diane Boris  
Admin Council Secretary