



Pastor's Ponderings...

Guard Your Hearts and Minds with Gratitude

Rejoice in the Lord always; again, I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:4-7

I love this image of God's peace guarding my heart and mind. Right now, with everything going on, my heart needs some peace. The year 2020 seems like anything can happen. The **pandemics of COVID19 and Racism** have impacted us in ways we could never imagine. The effects of climate change are manifested in hurricanes and wildfires taking their toll on human lives and the environment. The political tension and the election coming up are causing much pressure and stress in our families, churches and community. I need some peace. How about you?

This scripture suggests that rejoicing, gentleness, prayer and gratitude are the defenses we have when things are difficult. Nowhere does the text suggest that we will not experience hardship or struggles, but does suggest that turning to God in fearful times and focusing on our joy and gratitude can help us get through those times. That is confirmed by psychologists and spiritual directors. Gratitude is what most releases our anxieties and calms our fear. Remembering what and whom we are grateful for is a better way to live our days than the worrying and blaming that come too easily and steal our joy and peace.

My prayer for all of us during this month of November is to focus on gratitude and thanksgiving. That doesn't mean we ignore all the hard stuff... we just always remember as well the blessings and joy that God has given us, so that our hearts and minds will be guarded with God's peace.

Your Pastor,
Cynthia



HILLSIDE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
1801 Piedmont Avenue, Duluth, MN 55811
Phone 218-727-4257

Website: hillsideumchurch.com Email: hillsideumcduluth@gmail.com

December Livewire deadline is Monday, November 23rd

Re-Opening In-Person Church Document 10-19-2020

Purpose: This document will serve as a place for formulating our process and plan to reopen for public worship at Hillside United Methodist Church. Each of the items is subject to change as more information becomes available and as discussion and discernment continues to take place.

At this time small groups of 10 or fewer are allowed to meet either in the fellowship hall or the library. Each person must wear a face mask the entire time and be no less than 6 feet apart. Before an individual or group is present in the building, they must have an orientation to our policies by staff or Ad Council member. Each group will be responsible for disinfecting all building items that have been used/touched by using the products provided.

Worship:

- In-person worship will be the final step, not the next step.
- The pastor will not be greeting before or after worship.
- Singing will not take place – instead we will hum with, or listen to, song leaders.
- We will have the offering plates at the front and back of the sanctuary. No passing of plates.
- Every other pew will be cordoned off and family units should leave the center of pews empty to maintain at least six feet to the next family.
- No Communion at initial reopening. This will be an ongoing discussion as restrictions lessen.
- No bulletins will be provided. We will follow the service using just the Power Point projection.
- Baptism will be accomplished by the parents/sponsors putting the water on their child while the pastor extends hands in blessing and says the baptismal words.
- Outdoor worship opportunities may happen in which we will follow physical distancing rules.
- Weddings & Funerals will first consider the advice of the Governor's office and MN Bishop when determining availability. Policy will be similar to worship policy.
- Following each worship service everyone will be encouraged to leave the building and commence their fellowship time outdoors following physical distancing guidelines
- The service may continue to be made available online if we have the resources to do so.
- Cloth masks need to be worn by everyone. Exception is people leading worship who are 12+ feet away from the closest person.

Logistics:

- The church will first consider the advice of the Governor's office and MN Bishop when determining the timeline of re-opening. If either recommends closure, we will do so.
- The church will consider the availability of sanitizing products (e.g. Lysol wipes, hand sanitizer, etc.). If there is still a shortage, and we can't obtain ample supplies, we will remain closed.
- We will ensure that we are not exceeding the number of people allowed in an area as determined by the Governor's office and MN Bishop.
- Upon initial reopening, the nursery (children's play area) will be unavailable, with continuing discussion on how to open this area safely.
- Upon initial reopening we will not offer coffee and food fellowship
- Pencils, envelopes, Bibles, hymnals, and cushions will be removed from the pews.
- Sign-up sheets, pens, etc. will not be placed out. Sign-ups may take place by an individual approaching and collecting names which they record.
- Interior doors will be propped open as people are entering and exiting the church. Exterior doors will be cared for by one greeter per door.
- The church will not be actively promoting item donations upon initial reopening (e.g. food products, etc.)
- We will continue to encourage people with health vulnerabilities to participate from home and will continue offering worship and connection opportunities for them remotely as long as possible.

Continued on page 3

Continued from page 2

- We require and request that people who have a fever, or feel unwell in any way, please stay home.
- If someone knows they have been exposed to COVID-19 we require and request that they stay away from worship and any church activities for two weeks.
The office will be open only to essential staff (paid and volunteer).

Congregational Care:

In person visits by the pastor or Care Committee will be unavailable until nursing homes open for visits.

Other things to consider:

- Masks will be a requirement as we reenter the worship space and in the building at all times whenever more than one person is present. We will have a supply of masks on hand.
- We will need to sanitize and clean all publicly open spaces after every use
- Groups using the building must follow policy at the time. Before an individual or group is present in the building, they must have an orientation to our policies and procedures by staff or Ad Council member.
- Outreach Events will need prior approval by our Ad Council and must have a plan for safety and to follow physical distancing policy.

November Sunday Worship

We will continue to hold joint online worship services with First UMC. 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 have time. We no longer will have the Hillside parking lot open Sunday mornings.

- ◇ November 1 – **Rev. Jeanine Alexander, will wrap up our sermon series** “Reclaiming Jesus” preaching on “The Discipleship Question.” This is also All Saints Sunday where we remember those who have died since last November. We will also share holy communion during this service.
- ◇ November 8 –**Rev. Jeanine Alexander** will introduce our next sermon series, “The Three Simple Rules” and preaching on “Do No Harm.”
- ◇ November 15 – **Pastor Cynthia** preaching continues on “The Three Simple Rules” and preaching on “Do Good”.
- ◇ November 22 – **Rev. Jeanine Alexander** will preach on the final simple rule, “Stay in love with God”.
- ◇ November 29 – **Guest preacher Brandon Veale** will be preaching this Sunday. It is also the First Sunday in Advent and we will light the LOVE candle.

YouTube Link to find the Sunday online worship services:

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

HILLSIDE BUILDING HOURS

Our church building is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9-2pm, when our secretary Kathleen is working in the office. If you need anything please call the church office and leave a message and we will get back to you. If you stop by the building for any reason, ring the doorbell (it may take a minute to open the door). Please wear a mask when you are inside. This is 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.

If you have an emergency please call Pastor Cynthia on her cell at 218-260-3114. If you cannot reach her, please contact Carole Hawkinson 218-345-6874 or Carolyn Dahl 218-727-6342. They usually know how to find your pastor!



Food • Shelter • Dignity • Hope

CHUM's goal at the Steve O'Neil Apartments is to end the cycle of homelessness and poverty by supporting parents and children, helping them to build healthy, strong, and stable families.

How Does the Steve O'Neil Garden Grow?



A message from a resident

Gardening has been therapeutic for the kids and me. It has made my soul smile in a way I didn't know it could. It's an indescribable feeling to plant a seed and watch it grow into a spectacular force of nature. It's a beautiful way to show what it's like to be a mom to my children, gracefully forcing us to slow down and be patient. A gentle reminder that our gardens/children reflect the kind of care they get. I swear my sunflowers danced in the sun when I would come for a visit. I would talk to them and tell them how proud I am of them for growing. I proudly say that my 1st garden was a spectacular success and a sight to see!

Items that are Needed

The shelter is in need of new or gently used microwaves for guests.

The Health Clinic is in need of new underwear, boxers, bras, socks, deodorant, and tampons.

Deb is in need of ant tents, sleeping bags or other camping equipment you can donate for Outreach Services.

Heavy winter coats, winter boots, hats, gloves, and scarves are also welcome.

We are still not accepting other articles of clothing and are unable to accept any sharp items such as knives or breakable items. If you have one to donate please call 218-720-6521 to schedule a drop off at our offices. Thank you,

CHUM Contact Information:

Administration 218-720-6521

CHUM Center 218-726-0153

Food Shelf 218-727-2391

chum@chumduluth.org, www.chumduluth.org

Loaves and Fishes

Are you wondering what the homeless men at the Dorothy Day House had for supper on the 2nd Tuesday of October? The menu was Lasagna Hot Dish, tossed salad, garlic bread, cookies and fresh grapes. We provided the noodles, hamburger, pasta sauce, Italian seasoning, cheese, and cottage cheese for the hotdish . Then French bread, butter and garlic powder for the garlic bread. For the salad we bought lettuce, tomatoes, cucumbers and Ranch dressing so they could make a big salad. The dessert was cookies and fresh red grapes. We also gave them the directions of how we would make everything if we were able to cook in our own church kitchen. The staff and men really appreciate what we do for them.

Linda Tomasek & I do all the shopping for all the ingredients for the meal. (Thanks Linda)

Blessings from Carolyn Dahl

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.



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

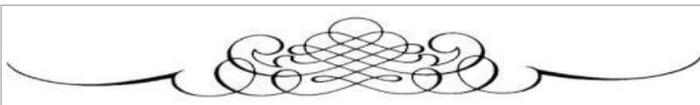
- To the women who provided a meal to Loaves & Fishes in October
- Everyone who has donated to Chum's food shelf through HUMC the last few months
- To all those who quietly give to our church and community.



MISSIONS – Three Opportunities in November

1. **Calling all sewers!** *Essentia* health workers donated mask kits to anyone who can sew. The material is cut, the string, everything included; we just need people who can sew to put them together. Please let the church office know if you are interested and able and we will get the kits to you.
2. **CHUM needs help keeping people warm this fall/winter.** They are especially needing new or very gently used: Warm Blankets/Sleeping Bags ...Jackets/Coats ... Winter Boots ... Snow Pants ... Hats/Mittens/Scarves ... Socks/Shoes ...Sweaters ...Any warm clothing ... Hand warmers and tents (in usable condition, no holes or tears). You can drop off donations at church or bring them to CHUM.
3. **ANNUAL THANKSGIVING OFFERING** Every year we take a special offering around Thanksgiving. This year our offering will be sent to Union Gospel Mission to support their ministry in downtown Duluth serving the hungry, poor, and homeless. Please mail in your offering to church by Sunday, November 29th.

Thank you to everyone who donated candy to our Halloween event! It was so much fun we got to meet many young families in the neighborhood. Also thank you to everyone who donated snacks and gift cards to teachers.



Please Keep Us in Your Thoughts & Prayers

Joyce Benson, in hospice care, Dee Johnson, Chris Christensen, Marge Dahl, Derry Gilberg, Barb Kent, Clareen Suomala, along with our men & women in military service and their families. We especially pray for everyone's physical and mental health during this pandemic and those affected by extreme weather disasters.



Happy November Birthday to Hillside Friends!

4 Chris Durfee
8 DeWayne Hendrickson
16 Vi Lyness



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

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

A Crisis of Faith and Democracy – A Call to Vote
A statement by United Methodist Bishops in the United States
October 12, 2020

The right of every citizen to vote in the United States is under attack, and with it, the foundation of American democracy and the sacred worth of all persons. We call United Methodists to vote and to protect free and fair elections and peaceful transfer of power.

A faithful retelling of the story of Methodism in America and the history of The United States must consider the influence of each on the other. They came into being alongside one another, and similarities in development of the two are undeniable. The narrative includes noble ideals and shameful actions, astonishing opportunity and disturbing discrimination, ethical vision and moral failure.

Our church and our nation are both democratic institutions. Through a system of conferences, from the local church to a global assembly, Methodists discuss, debate, and vote in order to discern the will of God. The Social Principles of The United Methodist Church affirm that we “hold governments responsible for the protection of the rights of the people to free and fair elections.” (BOOK OF DISCIPLINE, ¶164).

As Bishops of The United Methodist Church who reside in The United States, we affirm our democratic institutions. However, we believe that the democratic processes of our country are under great threat. This is particularly evident in the reality of widespread initiatives to obstruct voter registration and to suppress voters from casting their ballots with confidence they will be accurately counted.

The right to vote is rooted in a commitment to the value of all persons, created in the image of God as individuals of sacred worth. This belief in the sacredness of humanity is a foundational principle of many religious traditions present in the American body politic.

The legacy of injustice told in civil rights museums across our country is one of suppression of the vote. And the legacy of white supremacy and privilege continues. At times this suppression has been overt, as when one was required to own property or be a white male to vote. At other times it is more nuanced, as in moving or eliminating polling places, or in sowing confusion over early voting or voting by mail. Such actions undermine the people’s confidence that voting matters. And in some instances, where the people have affirmed the right to vote for convicted felons who have served their sentences, state legislatures and governor’s offices have sought to overturn the will of the people in order to suppress the vote.

Efforts by our government or elected officials to suppress the freedom to cast ballots violate the high principles upon which our nation was founded. By contrast, these high principles are affirmed and realized when elected officials and government entities promote, defend, and guarantee the unfettered right of all citizens to choose our leaders in free and fair elections.

The greatest hallmark of a democratic institution is the peaceful transfer of power once the will of the people has been established. This model of democracy has existed within our country for over 220 years. It is incumbent upon those who participate in democratic processes not only to ensure each citizen’s right to cast their ballot, but to respect the result of those ballots once counted. When we resist this aspect of our democratic franchise, we undermine the whole and corrupt the foundation of our republic.

continued on page 7

We are in a moment of national crisis as we navigate two viruses, COVID and Racism, and suffer the economic consequences of both. In these crises we are reminded that our religious faith and our nation's principles support elections that faithfully reflect the will of the American people. Our faith in God who created all people in the divine image, and our hope that our nation can live into the aspirations of our founding ideals, lead us to pledge ourselves to the fullest expansion of this right to vote.

To that end we call upon the people of the United Methodist Church to use their influence in their states, legislative districts, and local precincts to enable voter registration and to encourage elected officials to provide the resources necessary to support the fullest possible participation in November's elections. This would include the provision of an adequate number of accessible polling sites and the support of an efficient process of counting mail-in ballots. Our identity as a democracy requires no less.

Affirmed by the United Methodist Bishops in the United States.



Do you like to sing Christmas music?

Then please consider recording your singing of the song Oh Come all ye Faithful (just 2 verses) to help create an all Hillside church virtual hymn sing. Previous experience with our choir is Not Required. All who enjoy singing can sing this song and we will put together everyone's recording so no one person sings alone. Record yourself or your family unit singing from your home or come to Hillside for assistance being recorded. If you are interested in being a part of this hymn sing please contact Susan Smart at pskt13531@gmail.com or leave a voicemail at 722-6062, no later than 11/15/2020.

Hillside UMC Book Club

The Hillside UMC book club will be meeting the second Tuesday of each month. ZOOM 7:00 p.m.

If you would like to join the book club, please call Sandra Wilmot (218) 348-2712.

November's book is "Prodigal Summer" by Barbra Kingsolver

Tuesday, November 10, 2020 7:00 p.m.

Christmas Pageant Invitation

Calling all youth and kids who are interested in being in the Christmas Pageant this year. It will be a virtual & air online Sunday, December 13, so all the recording needs to happen in November and early December. If you are interested in being part of the Christmas carolers please text, call or email Pastor Cynthia. We will be recording soon!

FINANCIAL GIVING FOR THE MONTH OF OCTOBER		
	AMOUNT NEEDED PER MONTH	\$7,701.00
October 2 giving	\$ 731.00	
October 8 giving	\$ 2,219.00	
October 16 giving	\$ 900.00	
October 22 giving	\$ 1,235.00	
		\$ 5,085.00
Balance		-\$2,616.00

Administrative Council Meeting Minutes October 6, 2020 via ZOOM

Online Attendance: Carolyn Dahl, Diane Boris, Jim Leland, Carole Hawkinson, Julie Manisto, Pastor Cynthia

Carolyn gave the opening prayer.

Secretary's Minutes: The secretary's minutes for September were reviewed. A motion was made by Julie and second by Carole that the minutes be approved. Motion approved.

Treasurer & Financial Report: The Treasurer's report was reviewed as of the end of September. We haven't heard from the bank yet if the CARES loan has been forgiven. We have spent \$61,000 of our budget to date.

Pastor's Report: There have been five to eight people in the parking lot on Sundays in September to listen to the worship on FM radio. We will do this again through October. Some people can't come because they don't drive and they also don't have Internet. The first Men's Bible Study was today. Three men came. They will meet two times a month. For Halloween Methodist Churches will have people in their parking lots handing out candy. We are hoping to get a couple people to dress up in costumes to hand out the candy.

SPRC: A form from the MN Conference needs to be filled out on how things are going with our church and we will meet with District Superintendent, Susan Nienaber in November.

Other: Engwalls is wondering if we are going to order poinsettias for Christmas. No we aren't. We will decorate the altar with a few things for Christmas. No tree and no garland over the front door. The manger scene will be put on the altar. We reviewed the reopening policy for small groups. Who would sanitize the church after small groups use it was discussed. A motion was made by Carole and second by Julie to open the church up to small groups of 10 or less. Eleven or twelve people would need special permission. Every group needs to sanitize everything used after their meeting. The motion was approved. We also need to know a policy regarding events like funerals for example; how many can attend, no reception or food would be allowed, and should there be bulletins. We decided 25% of the church capacity would be about 40 people. Carole will look over the present reopening policy and note corrections to the policy. Stewardship Sunday will be November 8th. A letter will go out on October 26th with a pledge card and a return envelope. We decided where the Thanksgiving and Christmas Offerings would go. A motion was made by Jim and second by Julie to give the Thanksgiving offering to Union Gospel Mission. Motion approved. A motion was made by Carole and second by Julie to give the Christmas Offering to the Salvation Army Heat Share Fund. Motion approved.

The next meeting will be November 3rd at 7PM via zoom. Pastor Cynthia gave the Closing prayer. Meeting Adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by,

Diane Boris
Admin Council Secretary