

# LIVEWIRE

Hillside United Methodist: February, 2021

## Pastor's Ponderings...

### Love is the Way

This past year has really brought out how broken and divided we are as a nation. There have been many small acts of kindness and generosity for sure, and the service of our health care and front-line workers has been astounding. And yet, the overall feeling has been one of enemy: you against me, those people, masked vs unmasked, rejoicing when your opponent falls, demanding your way or nothing, etc...

Are you tired of it? I know I am! Where is the grace, compassion, compromise, and kindness? I long for a world where we take the time to not just talk at one another, or rant on Facebook, but truly listen to each other, see each other, build each other up, seek to understand when there are differences, reach out to those who are not like you, and remember that we are all human beings, beloved children of God worthy of love and belonging. This is what our Lenten sermon series and book study is all about. Love. So simple, yet...we have forgotten.

Do you remember that old song, "They'll Know We Are Christians By Our Love?" It is in The Faith We Sing. (the little black song book at church) Love is our way. Love was Jesus's way, and if we are followers of Jesus, then love has to be our way, even when it is hard and we don't feel like it. It is a way of life. It is our calling. As it says in Colossians, "Wear love. It's your basic, all-purpose garment."

Wear love. Breathe love. Be love. Choose love. If we want a different world, it starts with us and how we love. I hope you all will tune in to worship on Sundays to hear more and join the Lenten book study online!

With love,

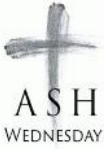
Your pastor, Cynthia



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**March 2021 Livewire deadline is Monday, February 22nd**



## **Ash Wednesday Online Service February 17**

Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent, which begins a time of reflection leading up to Easter. We are offering an online service this year at 7:00 pm.

The service will include the imposition of ashes, scripture readings, reflection by Pastor Cynthia, and music and prayer. This is the day we are reminded that life is short and we want to live it to the fullest. From dust we were made and from dust we shall return. Come, let us worship together in our humanity and know that we are held in the loving hands of our Creator.



## **Six Week Online Lenten Study**

For our Lenten study this year, we have chosen Bishop Michael Curry's book "*Love is the Way: Holding on to Hope in Troubling Times*." You might have been introduced to Bishop Michael Curry at the royal wedding of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle. His preaching was electrifying, and it was all about the power of love to change the world.

In each chapter, Bishop Curry—through his practical theology and storytelling from his own life experience—answers a question you might be asking about love: How do I find God's love? Do I have to love my enemy? Can love really change the world?

For six weeks, we will journey together in this way of love. We will cover two chapters a week, and each week will be introduced with a video and then have a group discussion guide for the week. If you would like to order a book, you can do so on Amazon. If you need help with that please email or call Pastor Cynthia and she can order one for you. The books are \$17.00. You do not need the book to be part of the small group study, but it will enhance your experience.

There will be three different times online to join a group.

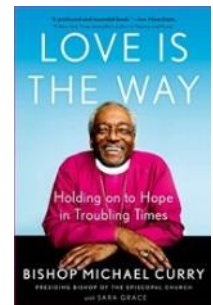
(1) Thursdays at 10am - led by Pastor Jeanine & Kelby Werner

\* February 18, 25, March 4, 11, 18, 25

The Zoom meeting link is:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/915188407>

Meeting ID: 915 188 407



(2) Sundays 9-9:45am - Led by Rev. MaryAnne & Pastor Jeanine

\*February 21, 28, March 7, 14, 21, 28

The Zoom meeting link is:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5446347519>

Meeting ID: 544 634 7519

(3) Mondays at 8pm - Led by Pastor Cynthia , Rev. Jan Barker will co-lead

\*February 22, March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

The Zoom meeting link is:

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

Meeting ID: 786 746 1473

## **February 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.

**February 7 – Pastor Jeanine** will be preaching this Sunday. We will also share in the Lord's Supper during this service.

**February 14 – Pastor Cynthia** peaching. Scout Sunday.

**February 21 – Pastor Jeanine** preaching.

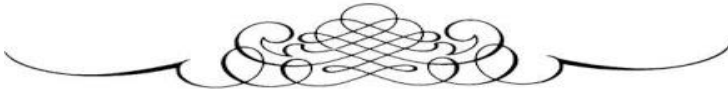
Beginning Sermon series on Love is the Way.

**February 28 – Pastor Jeanine** preaching.

YouTube Link to find the Sunday online worship services:  
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCA47ISATrUsyV7xJ8b4cWww>

**Our dear brother in Christ, [Chris](#) Christensen died Jan. 7th from COVID.** The family plans to hold a service at a later date. Memorial gifts can be made out to the church. Cards of care can be sent to his daughter Candy Christensen at: PO Box 93, Wrenshall, MN 55797

**Our dear sister in Christ, [Wauneta](#) Averill died Jan. 7th from COVID.** The family held a private graveside service. Memorial gifts can be made out to the church. Cards of care can be sent to her son Clark Averill at: 920 Almac Dr., Proctor MN 55810



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

Family of Chris Christensen, (Chris passed away from COVID on January 7) Family of Wauneta Averill, (Wauneta passed away from COVID on January 7) Marge Dahl, Marilyn Torvick, Derry Gilberg, Barb Kent, Claren Suomala, along with all our men and women in military service and their families. We especially pray for everyone's physical and mental health during this pandemic.

**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!

**Thank you to everyone** who sent sympathy cards to Pastor Cynthia and JoJo. We feel loved.

Pastor Cynthia

**Dear Hillside Methodist,**  
Thank you for your very generous donation to the Union Gospel Mission. The \$395 church contribution is greatly appreciated.



God Bless !

### **Lenten Grab Bags**

Beginning on Sunday, Feb.14, there will be a bin outside the parking lot doors with little bags filled with fun things for anyone who would like one. The bag will include: Lenten devotional, Ash Wednesday sticker, communion elements, and a valentine card and sweet treat. You can pick up your bag anytime you are out and about.

Thank you for your gifts to CHUM. Your gift will allow us to continue to provide advocacy, food, shelter, and a caring community for some of Duluth's most vulnerable residents.



**CHUM will be hosting a Book Club** starting in March on the book, "Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City" which details stories, statistics and insights about the devastating effect evictions have on families across the country. This book will build your understanding and desire to advocate for creating more opportunities for housing. There will be two separate weekly meeting times, Tuesday's at 7:00pm and Wednesday at Noon starting on March 2nd and 3rd. The club will meet on Zoom, to sign up and get link to the meeting or for more information please contact Ben Margeson, CHUM's Congregational Outreach and Advocacy Coordinator, at [bmargeson@chumduluth.org](mailto:bmargeson@chumduluth.org) or call 605-690-7619.

**CHUM Assembly Annual Meeting: Feb. 25th, 6:30pm**

I would like to invite you to the CHUM Annual Meeting on Thursday, February, 25th from 6:30-8:00pm. We will once again be hosting the meeting on Zoom, the link for the meeting can be found here with more information below: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85820974364>

Please let me know if you will or will not be able to make it to the meeting as we may need to purchase more Zoom meeting space. We hope you can make it to the meeting and look forward to the time together.

Ben Margeson  
Congregational Outreach and Advocacy Coordinator

**CHUM Contact Information:**

Administration 218-720-6521  
CHUM Center 218-726-0153  
Food Shelf 218-727-2391  
[chum@chumduluth.org](mailto:chum@chumduluth.org), [www.chumduluth.org](http://www.chumduluth.org)

**Loaves and Fishes**

For the monthly meal on January 12th at the Dorothy Day House we were able to shop for the groceries again. The meal was Chicken Chow Mein. We bought diced chicken, celery, onions, bean sprouts, water chestnuts, seasoning and rice to serve it over. We also bought chow mein noodles, egg rolls and fortune cookies. The salad was orange jello with mandarin oranges and grated carrots in it. For dessert we made 2 Bundt cakes. Again we could not make the meal in our church kitchen, but they were very thankful for all the groceries that we provided so they could make the complete meal. I always give them the directions of how we would make it if we could.

*Blessings from Carolyn Dahl*

Thank you to everyone who sends donations so we can continue this mission project. They appreciate very much what we do on the second Tuesday of each month.



**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 January
- 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.



**Charge Conference Tuesday, Feb. 2, 2021**

We will hold a charge conference through ZOOM right after our regular Ad Council meeting on Tuesday, February 2 to approve our budget and nominations for your leadership board. Everyone is invited and encouraged to attend.

The Zoom meeting link is:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7867461473>  
 Meeting ID: 786 746 1473



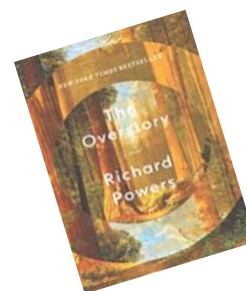
**Hillside UMC Book Club**

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.


February's book is "The Overstory" by Richard Powers



Tuesday  
 February 9, 2021  
 7:00 p.m.


**STEWARDSHIP**

Good news and bad news and good news. Here is the scoop - We have \$36,710 pledged for this year. That's great! Thank you to all who sent us a pledge card with your good intentions. We appreciate this, because it helps us plan for our future. Bad news. That is \$7000 less than what was pledged last year, and a far cry to reach our goal of \$90,000, our 2021 budget. Good news. If only 6 more people would pledge \$100 a month, we would be the same as last year. AND, if 10 people would pledge \$200 a month, & 5 people would pledge \$300 a month, we would reach our \$90,000 goal. Please prayerfully think about this if you haven't pledged this year, or ever. Remember, the church will not hunt you down if you can't meet your pledge, we understand that life happens. We give because we know when we pool our resources together, we can do great things!



**Happy February Birthday to Hillside Friends!**

- 2 Jan Mattson
- 2 Val Peterson
- 15 Barb Carlson
- 19 Sandra Wilmot
- 24 Cleo Smith



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

<b>FINANCIAL GIVING FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY</b>		
	<b>AMOUNT NEEDED PER MONTH</b>	<b>\$7,701.00</b>
December 29	giving	\$ 2,340.00
January 7	giving	\$ 1,519.00
January 14	giving	\$ 1,745.00
January 23	giving	\$ 1,200.00
		\$ 6,804.00
Balance		-\$ 897.00

**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

## **Administrative Council Meeting Minutes January 5, 2021 via ZOOM**

Online Attendance: Carolyn Dahl, Diane Boris, Carole Hawkinson, Julie Manisto, Sandy Wilmot, Pastor Cynthia

Carolyn called the meeting to order. She read a devotion about the New Year and then gave the opening prayer.

Secretary's Minutes: The minutes of the secretary's minutes for October were reviewed. One change was made. The Charge Conference will be after the Admin Council meeting on Feb. 2, 2021. A motion was made by Carole and second by Pastor Cynthia that the minutes be approved. Motion approved.

Treasurer & Financial Report: The Treasurer's report was reviewed. The December giving was \$7,600/ Pledges were \$42,000 last year and this year have totaled \$35,000. The back side of the pledge card asked what you would be willing to help with at the church. Many people either didn't turn the card over or just didn't put anything down. Maybe we should put "What would you be willing to help with" on a separate card. The Finance meeting will be held on January 11th at 12:30 via ZOOM.

Pastor's Report: Because the Bishop said the church may not have any in person meetings yet due to COVID, the men's group has been postponed until at least February. Our new Interim Bishop is David Bard. We need to have a Charge Conference to approved the budget for 2021. Several new committee members need to be voted in at the Charge Conference.

SPRC: Pastor Cynthia E-mailed Susan Smart about the choir director position. There are unknowns about it at this time. Whether there are enough people interested in singing in the choir or if she would be willing to bring in special music for the Sunday service. We don't know if we can afford to do that. It may be a while yet before we have Sunday worship in the church.

Trustees: We have gone to having garbage service once a month. The Cub Scouts have been shoveling the entrances.

Mission: The Advent projects collected 30 toys, 32 boxes of cereal, 100 mittens and hats, 26 coats & several packages of socks and underwear. \$75 was donated to the Loaves and Fishes mission to buy food for a meal in December. Because of the pandemic, we don't want to go to the store and shop.

Worship: Sunday worship will be online until further notice. Interim Bishop David Bard gave the sermon last Sunday. Lee Stewart from CHUM will speak this week. Phoning the congregation will continue. Maybe it will be changed from every week to every two weeks.

Other: At the February Admin Council meeting we will vote on the Budget for 2021 and get a list of the people on committees with their phone numbers. We need to send out an annual report and need to ask the office secretary make a new directory.

The next meeting will be Feb 2, at 7:00 PM via ZOOM and the Charge Conference will be right after the meeting at 7:30 via ZOOM. Pastor Cynthia gave the closing prayer. Meeting Adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by,

Diane Boris, Ad Council Secretary