

Pastor's Ponderings...

The Way of Love – is the Jesus Way.

All during Lent, through our online study and sermon series, we have been studying Bishop Curry's book, *"Love is The Way - Holding On To Hope In Troubling Times."* Here are some quotes to remind you of what we have been reflecting on together:

Bishop Curry teaches/reminds us:

- ◆ The way of love is how we stay decent during indecent times
- ◆ Jesus never taught us how to agree. Jesus taught us how to love. But maybe agreeing to love is the greatest agreement. And the only one that ultimately matters, because it makes a future possible.
- ◆ Love creates room and space for others, "the other," to be.
- ◆ Our job isn't to tell anybody how they should work out their relationship with the living God. Our job is to love, and in the case of Christians, to witness to the way of love that came to us from Jesus' teachings.
- ◆ Stories have the power to change how people understand the world – they have the power to heal the storyteller, to heal the listener... Stories build bridges between people. Whenever someone tells their story, you are standing on holy ground. You behave differently, hear them differently, & react from a different place. It's so much harder to hate when someone has shown you their heart.
- ◆ Love is someone protesting anything that hurts or harms the children of God.
- ◆ Love is a commitment to seek the good and to work for the good and welfare of others.
- ◆ To switch on God's GPS, ask yourself a question: Is this just about me or is it about we? Does this decision serve only my unenlightened self-interest, or does it somehow serve the greater good? And if the answer is me, me, me, and only me, you don't do it. It's that simple. Me or we?
- ◆ Selfishness is the opposite of love ...& it is the most destructive force in all the cosmos. Where selfishness excludes, love makes room and includes. Where selfishness puts down, love lifts up. Where selfishness hurts and harms, love helps and heals. Where selfishness, enslaves, love sets free and liberates.
- ◆ Church should be an opinionated, politically engaged people, always debating or fussing about something ... and always extending a hand, or even a wallet, when someone needs it even if you disagree on issues with that someone.
- ◆ Listen NOT so we can better argue but so we can better love.
- ◆ Dreams are love's visions – the boundless faith that the world can be remade to look more like what God hoped for creation. The only people who have ever changed the world or anything for the good have been those who dared to dream of an alternative reality, another possibility than the one that confronts us day by day.

Let us love well together ... and may our loving change the world!

With love, Pastor Cynthia



HILLSIDE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

1801 Piedmont Avenue, Duluth, MN 55811 Phone [218-727-4257](tel:218-727-4257)

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

May 2021 Livewire deadline is **Monday, April 26th**

HOLY WEEK:

Palm/Passion Sunday – March 28th on YouTube. It will include a palm procession that was recorded this past week.

Maundy Thursday/Good Friday Service: We will premiere this powerful service on You Tube which starts with foot washing and the last supper and ends at the cross on Thursday, April 1st at 7pm. Join us at that time or watch it any time before Easter.

Easter Sunrise Service: A short in-person service in the Coppertop parking overlooking Lake Superior at 6:45 a.m. Easter morning, April 4th. Please wear a mask for the safety of everyone.

Online Easter Worship premiering at 10am on YouTube on Easter morning, April 4th. Please join us at that time or watch it anytime afterwards. It includes a virtual choir from Hillside and Coppertop singing the Halleluiah Chorus.



Easter Offering 2021

Every Easter we take a special offering when we are all invited to make a special Easter gift. This year, our offering will go to CHUM's food shelf. We have been collecting food and cash donations already, but due to the pandemic, the food shelf is in desperate need. This is the time of year when food supplies are traditionally at their lowest. March and April are big months for the CHUM Food Shelf as forty-five percent of the operating budget, including food costs, are contributed. Let's be generous this Easter!

You may mail your gifts to the church. Please mark "Easter Offering" on the memo on your check or on the envelope. The church address is HUMC, 1801 Piedmont Ave., Duluth, MN 55811.

April Sunday Worship

We will continue to hold joint online worship services with First UMC during the month of April. 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. If you would like to get those emails please call the church office. Watch the service as it goes live online at 10am Sunday mornings, or go back and watch whenever you have time.

April 4 – Easter Sunday!

April 11 – MN Conference provides worship service for all MN United Methodist Churches this Sunday.

April 18 – Spring Fever, Pastor Cynthia preaching

April 25 – Earth Day Sunday

YouTube Link to find the Sunday online worship services:

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

COVID-19 Update:

In the coming weeks you will receive a letter updating you on our process of re-opening, timeline and details. Your church council is meeting to discuss it after the publication date of this newsletter and will communicate with you afterwards. Worship will be fully on-line the month of April (as it has been in past months). The church is now currently opening for gatherings of 10 people or less. Call Kathleen in the church office to reserve space if you want to be on site. Masks and social distancing are required for any in-person time at the church building.

Men's Fellowship and Bible Study RESUMES

Hillside men's fellowship and Bible study is starting up again. The Bishop has opened things up, and we are able to have groups of 10 or less meet in person at church. We have several men that have been coming (and want and welcome more!) and will meet the 1st and 3rd Tuesday in April at 9am at the church. Bring your own coffee!

GRADUATES 2021

Who is graduating this year? High school or college, we want to make sure we have your name so we can celebrate with you and give you a gift from the church. Please email or text Cynthia if you are graduating or know someone who is. Pastor Cynthia 218-260-3114 pastorcynthiac@gmail.com

March FoodShare Campaign- THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the March Food Share campaign this past month! We do not have the totals yet, but results will be announced next month.



ADVENTURE DAY CAMP ---
Save the date: July 13-16th



Thanks and congratulations to our Cub Scout Pack 3029, chartered by the Hillside United Methodist Women. **THANKS** for the snow shoveling the scouts and some adults did on both February 1st and again on February 20th. They shoveled by the lower level door, the sidewalk along the Ozark side and the sidewalk to the front door (so it doesn't look we're out of business). There was lots of ice to chop through from the snowplow so it wasn't an easy job.

CONGRATULATIONS to some of our Pack Leadership: Julie and Ethan Ault and Anna and Keith Severson were each honored with Spark Plug Awards for their forward thinking and work in keeping our Pack up and running during this time of pandemic. They, along with the rest of our leaders, made it possible for the Pack to receive an attendance award – the boys can't advance through the ranks without being in attendance, even through the computer and outside meetings. Each unit is judged on its productivity in teaching the boys through a program named Journey to Excellence. Our Pack won the top award – **GOLD** for their efforts.

One more: **Hillside United Methodist Women** were recognized in the 31-40 year group for being the chartered partner for our Cub Scout Pack – and we thank them!

These boys and their leadership are doing an excellent job and you might not see much of them but they are doing their very best during these challenging times.

Carole Hawkinson
Chartered Organization Representative

 Go here to watch: <https://youtu.be/fzGkeQUYxqY>

Go here to donate:  givemn.org/story/Feed-The-soul

MUSIC TO FEED THE SOUL

2021

Featuring Exclusive Performances by



food shelf

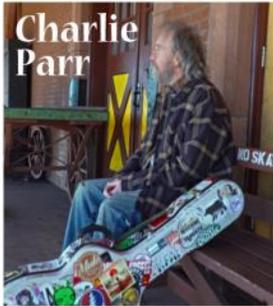
TWO HARBORS AREA

A Virtual Concert Benefit Event



The McCullough Brothers

Brad Brooks
Marlin Ledin
Misipii Mike Wolf
Christopher David Hanson
Severio Mancieri
Steve Solkela



Charlie Parr

with live performances by:
Edward Ojard
Jerry Anderson



Hannah Rey & her Large Bass Player

Rox n' Soul
Aaron Tank
A.T.H.U.G. Duo
Fran Kalihier & Leslie Black

Julie Luchsinger will emcee live from the United Church of Two Harbors
Saturday, April 3rd
4 - 6 pm
YouTube Live-stream hosted at YouTube channel: United Church of Two Harbors



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.



Duluth Children's Museum Visits Steve O'Neil Apartments

The Duluth Children's Museum visited the Youth Program & did an activity about flight. Children learned about the 4 elements of flight: acceleration, weight, thrust, and drag. Then they got to build their own "satellites" to float in the flight tube. If the satellite flew out of the tube or didn't float at all they needed to go back to the table to make adjustments to the 4 elements until they achieved the perfect flight. The children were gifted glider kits and made their own glider planes that they decorated and we took them to the park to test their flight!

CHUM Food Shelf

Thank you for the Hillside Methodist's contribution of 35 pounds of food. Each month we serve between 500 and 600 families at the CHUM Food Shelf. Your gift makes a difference in how much and what foods are available. thank you for being a part of our community.

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

The days are getting longer and the temperature is getting warmer. Spring is on it's way! We are hoping in the next couple of months we will be able to cook a hot meal in our church kitchen for the men at Dorothy Day House . For the March meal we bought the groceries for them to make spaghetti and meat balls or sauce. We were happy to get 5 pounds of hamburger donated. We bought pasta sauce & a large jar of grated parmesan cheese, fixings for a green salad, French bread and butter for garlic bread. For fruit, we bought a large can of peaches and fresh red grapes. For dessert, we sent 3 kinds of homemade bars and a plate of cookies. The volunteer that picked up the food said that we sure have good bakers at Hillside Methodist Church. We were also able to send a large can of coffee and a package of toilet paper.

God is Good

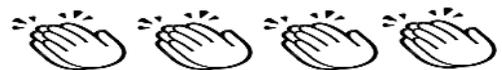
Carolyn

Thank you all who send cash donations so we are able to continue this mission project. Please remember to keep the homeless and the hungry in your prayers.



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 February
- 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.



Your recent gift of \$445 for Heat Share means so much to the less fortunate of our community. We truly appreciate you opening your hearts to our neighbors in need.

Divisional Commander
 Salvation Army

Happy April Birthday to Hillside Friends!

- 1 Nevada Ciaccio-Carlson
- 6 Gregory Giuliani
- 8 Tasha Britton
- 9 Trevor Manisto
- 9 Bailey Manisto
- 11 Shirley Olson
- 15 Ron Scott
- 18 Clareen Suomala
- 24 Rick Carlson
- 27 Stephanie Giuliani
- 27 David Dahl
- 30 Samantha Hendrickson



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

The new **Hillside 2021 Membership Directory** was mailed out in March and needs several corrections :

- in Mary Circle:
Barb Carlson phone # 213-5339
- Aaron Carlson's phone # 348-2700
- Bill Palusky's phone # 729-9697
- Ralph Stenehjem's street address
18201 N. Verde Roca Dr. Surprise, AZ

FINANCIAL GIVING FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH		
AMOUNT NEEDED PER MONTH		\$7,701.0
February 27	giving	\$1,260.00
March 5	giving	\$1,365.00
March 13	giving	\$ 980.00
March 20	giving	\$1,650.00
March 27	giving	\$ 910.00
Total		\$
Balance		-\$1,536.00

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

Please Keep Us in Your Thoughts & Prayers

Marge Dahl, Derry Gilberg, Barb Kent, Clareen Suomala, Marilyn Torvick, along with our men and women in military service and their families. We especially pray for the victims and families of the two mass shootings this month & all experiencing severe weather and illness. We also pray for everyone's physical and mental health during this pandemic.

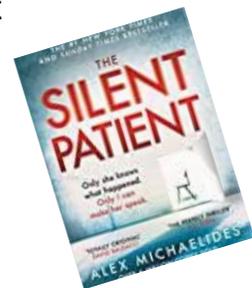


Hillside UMC Book Club

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.

April's book is
"The Silent Patient" by
Alex Michealides



Tuesday: April 13, 2021
7:00 p.m.

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!

A Message from Bishop David Bard:

Earlier this week, the soul of our country was deeply wounded again as a 21-year-old young man shot and killed eight people, six of them Asian-American women, in a killing spree at spas in Georgia. This heinous act of violence is only the latest in a series of verbal and physical attacks against Asian-Americans, which have accelerated since the beginning of the coronavirus pandemic. I am aware that the past year has seen an increase in violence of many kinds. Murder rates and other violent crimes have climbed in a number of major cities in recent months. All such violence is to be decried, even as we seek solutions for it.

Yet violence that targets specific groups of people, violence rooted in racism or misogyny, is particularly pernicious and must be called out. Some may question the role anti-Asian racism played in this recent violence, the shooter obviously being a troubled person who had been a customer at some of the establishments he later terrorized. His motives may have been tangled, but among the tangle was murderous intent directed at Asian-American women. Whatever his motives, his actions have deepened the fear and anxiety among Asian-Americans in this country, a fear and anxiety fed by hatred and violence directed toward them since the beginning of the COVID crisis. While the coronavirus may have emerged in the human community in China, to take our frustrations out on Asian-Americans, to blame them and direct hatred and violence toward them, is intellectually dishonest and morally obtuse.

At the heart of our Christian faith is a belief that all persons are created in the image of God, that no matter the hue of our skin, the particular facial features we display, the weave of our hair, the place of our birth, the ancestry of our families, we carry within us the image of God. To fail to see the image of God is to fail to live our faith. The love of God we know in Jesus Christ is a love for all people, for all the nations. The Bible begins with the creation of humankind in the image of God and ends with a vision of the heavenly city through which the river of the water of life flows. On either side of the river is the tree of life, the leaves of which are for “the healing of the nations” (Revelation 22:2). The healing of the nations, healing offered to all people. God extends God’s love to all the nations and calls us to do the same.

We have been reminded too often in recent months of our failures to see the image of God in all and to love with the expansive love of God. Such failure is sin, and we are to struggle against sin wherever it is found, whether in our hearts, in our policies, in our cultural artifacts, or in our systems. Let us offer prayers for our Asian-American family members, members of our human family. Let us listen to their stories. Let us join together with all God’s people and pray the words of the hymn rooted in Revelation 22:2: “For the healing of the nations, Lord, we pray with one accord; for a just and equal sharing of the things that earth affords; to a life of love in action help us rise and pledge our word, help us rise and pledge our word.”

Bishop David Bard
Interim Bishop, Minnesota Conference



Dear Friends and Local Faith Communities,
Thank you!

During the past couple months, I have been reflecting a lot on the last year, including the pandemic and uprising around social justice. We are deeply appreciative of our partnership with local faith communities, and as I thought about the number of youth we served (almost 800 in 2020), I wanted to simply say thank you. Many of you have stepped up in this difficult time in a multitude of ways, including financial contributions and donations of basic needs items, clothing, prayer shawls, food, and gift cards for our young people.

Without your outreach and partnerships, events like our holiday party for youth would be difficult to orchestrate. This year, our outdoor area was decorated like a winter wonderland complete with twinkle lights and a socially distanced space to get a picture taken with Santa and Mrs. Claus. In a safe way, we saw a record number of youth, providing them with thoughtful gifts, hot cocoa, and nonperishable meal that would last them several days.

Over the course of the pandemic, and for 30 years, Life House has remained a consistent place of support and nurturing for our community's homeless and at-risk youth. The impact of this work, which you are a part of, is felt for a lifetime. I recently spoke with one of our original Life House youth, who accessed our services 29 years ago. She shared with me her memories, and the impact our organization had on the trajectory of her life, which she has utilized to help other young people.

We are grateful for your support and value your partnerships in this important work. We are open for smaller groups of socially distanced tours and I would like to extend an ongoing invitation to you and other members of your congregation if you should ever want to arrange a tour to see the impact of the work we do, with the support of community partners such as yours.

In Community,

Amber Sadowski

she/her/hers

Community Development Director, Life House



Hillside United Methodist Church

Zoom Administrative Council Meeting March 2, 2021

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

Carolyn opened the meeting with a prayer.

The minutes of the February meeting were approved. The motion was made by Carole and seconded by Pastor Cynthia.

Treasurer's and Financial report: The February report was reviewed. The \$9446.22 PPP loan has arrived. It will cover salaries and utilities for 2½ months. March is Chum Food Share month. For every dollar donated to the Food Share program, they are able to buy up to \$7.00 in food. Non-perishable food can be brought to the church too and put in the gray bins by the side door. The food will be brought into the church every time someone comes to the church. Anyone with a key can put their food inside the church on the bench.

Stewardship: No report. No pledges were received in February.

Continued on page 8

Pastor's Report: The Lenten grab bags will be in the Gray bins outside by the side door for anyone to come and pickup for another week. The Lenten book study has met twice. There were 11 people online for the Monday night book meeting. The title of the book is "Love is the Way". You don't need the book to attend the book study. Pastor Cynthia attended the ZOOM Clergy group. They meet once a month. The sermon series this month is "Love is the Way". The men's bible study will begin meeting again after Easter. There have been 5 men in attendance. New people are finding our Sunday service online. A family from Louisiana listens each Sunday. Their children enjoy the children's time with JoJo. Two women, Karen & Jeanette, have moved to Duluth after they retired and watch the Sunday service online and are interested in coming to our church when we open up again. We voted to pay half for gifts to Bill, Alex, Velda and Emma as a thank you for their work putting the Sunday service together.

A motion was made by Carole and second by Sandy to give \$200 towards the thank you gifts out of the budget line – Marketing Fund and the rest from the Memorial Fund. Motion approved. Copper Top paid Daniel Oyinloye for his sermon in January. Pastor Cynthia would like us to pay half. We agreed to pay \$50 out of the budget line - pulpit supply. The phone callers are asking the congregation when they would feel comfortable coming back to church in person. A wide variety of responses have been made from never (keep the online service), after we are vaccinated, when the state says so, when restaurants open again, to right away.

SPRC: No report.

TRUSTEES: The upstairs furnace quit working and Carole arranged for Comfort Systems to come and repair it. She asked Russ Lindgren if he could come down to let them in. He said he might know what was wrong with it and came down and repaired it. The Comfort Systems appointment was cancelled. The Cub Scouts received a Gold award for meeting criteria for having a great program. The church was given recognition for being a Chartered Partner for 31-40 years. We have heard again from our neighbor who does not like it because some of the plowed snow goes into their yard and some of the landscape blocks are knocked into their yard. We have talked with them before and there doesn't seem to be anything we can do. We pick up the blocks in the spring. They don't like the rain water going down the street into their yard. We have had the city come out to see if anything can be done and they don't have a solution. Water runs downhill. The Dan Holte estate isn't settled yet.

Mission: The Easter offering will go 100% to Chum Food Share. The motion was made by Carole and second by Sandy. Motion approved. The Loaves & Fishes meals continue by buying food and letting them cook it. The Copper Top church is doing an Easter project with Meyers/Wilkins school. Not a lot is known at this time what they plan to do. Maybe we could do something with Piedmont School. No action was taken.

Worship: Online worship with Copper Top will continue through May. Then it will be evaluated. Maybe we will begin to live-stream. Live-stream is the Sunday service as it is going on live right now. The service that we see now through YouTube is pre-recorded. A decision will need to be made soon.

Other: When we reopen, we discussed what we need to grow, whether we want a new type of service. There would be no greeting, no passing out bulletins, no coffee, and no meatball dinner this year. Having a bus pick up people and bring them to church and back home was brought up. This is something for us to think about and ask God for guidance. The next meeting is April 6th at 7:00pm on via zoom. Pastor Cynthia gave the closing prayer. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Boris
Admin Council Secretary