



**Trinity United Methodist Church**  
**515-573-3519**

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*To make disciples of  
Jesus Christ for the  
transformation  
of the world.*

May 2020

From the Pastor:

I have faith that when you are reading this, spring will be in full swing. As I write it, April 15<sup>th</sup>, it is still cold and, in my opinion, miserable outside. I have always liked the Spring Season. To me, it is a time of New Beginnings. This year, I think we are especially longing for a New Beginning!! This war with COVID-19 has been long and tiresome. Someone has said that the four most important words in the Bible are: **“It came to pass.”** That phrase is used again and again in the Old Testament, and that is indeed Good News! COVID-19 is not here to stay. We will have a New Beginning! What will the New Beginning look like for you? Will it be a New Beginning of things the way they used to be? Will there be some changes in your daily routine? Are there some Spiritual practices you will be cultivating? Are you going to refocus your life in an intentional manner? I look at this as an excellent opportunity to plant some different flowers in the garden of my life. There are some things I have been putting off that I want to get started on, and any New Beginning is a possibility of change. I actually plan to clean off my workbench in the garage. That is a big deal for me, because I might be able to use that stuff sometime, or so I usually tell myself. Who knows, if I get started there, where I might end up. I am actually going to purchase some new Christian Music CD's to listen to while I clean away. Ahhh YES, a New Beginning is just what I need!! How about you? Remember, Jesus loves you!!

Pastor John

#### A Message to our Trinity Church Family

I want to take this opportunity to express our thanks to our Trinity Staff for the support and opportunities to connect with our Faith, our Church, and our Church Family during these difficult times. Pastor John Hembry, Roger and Sheri Netz, Rachel and Rusty Bell, Katrina & Brady O'Brien, and Kathy Becker have worked together to make this happen. The Sunday messages, the music, and the feeling of family are all a blessing.

Some of you are aware that Roger, our Praise Team Leader and our tech support during these times, has now made Pastor John's sermons available on our TUMC website as well as Facebook. Rachel has continued to keep the kids involved with lessons on Facebook and by delivering weekly packets to each home. She also is hosting an online Wednesday morning coffee. Kathy keeps us connected and is available by phone.

We continue to pray for and are thankful for the health of our church family and are looking forward to the time we can gather again in our church for worship, prayers, hugs and food.

Nick

Grace to you & Peace through Jesus,

Below, you will find a copy of the Bishop's letter to the Iowa Annual Conference. I have talked with Nick Salmon, our administrative council chair, and we have decided to follow the Bishop's recommendation. I know that we all want to be back to in-person worship. However, it seems premature at this time to move in that direction. We will continue live-streaming Sunday worship for the time being. I believe that the Bishop is placed in a position of authority over us by God's design, and it seems only prudent to follow her recommendations. May the blessings of the Lord God Almighty guide us through this frustrating time. The Good News is: Jesus is Lord. Peace through Christ Jesus, Pastor John

## Bishop "strongly recommends" no in-person worship before June 1

April 27, 2020

Dear Friends,

In light of the expectation that positive cases of COVID-19 will peak in Iowa in the next few weeks, I am strongly encouraging all United Methodist churches in Iowa to refrain from in-person worship until June 1, when I will reassess. I am going beyond the Governor's recommendations despite my previously stated intention of following Governor Reynolds' guidelines around worship.

My reasoning is that our first priority as disciples of Jesus Christ is to protect those who are most vulnerable, which includes the elderly, the very young, and those with underlying health conditions. Even though we all want to return to our churches and be a part of the body of Christ in person, I believe that it is more important to assure the safety of our communities from further infections.

John Wesley's Three General Rules included: Do no harm. Do good. Stay in love with God. In the midst of our own personal desires to get back to normal, our faith requires us to seek the good of all. By practicing good judgment and common sense and out of a concern for the welfare of our neighbor, we must continue to stay the course by being diligent around social distancing and refraining from being in large groups. At the same time, there are ample opportunities to safely engage in mission and outreach in our communities.

In the Wednesday April 29 edition of the Weekly 360<sup>0</sup>, you will find a process for staged re-opening of local churches entitled, "Incremental Reentry Process for the Iowa Annual Conference." I urge the clergy and lay leadership of every local church to read through it as you ready your congregation.

This morning, Governor Kim Reynolds issued a proclamation, easing some restrictions that have been in place around the state. Here are the highlights:

- Beginning this Friday, May 1, some businesses in 77 counties will be permitted to reopen at 50% capacity, including restaurants, fitness centers, libraries, racetracks, retail stores, and malls (food courts and common seating areas must remain closed). The other 22 counties will continue their current restrictions.
- Social, community, recreational, and leisure sporting events can open, with a limit of ten people.
- Other businesses will remain closed until May 15.
- Spiritual and religious gatherings will be permitted as long as they practice social distancing guidelines.

You can find the list of the counties that will be allowed to ease prior restrictions here. Because the Iowa Annual Conference Center is in Polk County, which is not included in the eased restrictions, we will remain closed until June 1, with staff continuing to work from home.

During the past five weeks, I have participated in a number of online worship services and have been truly blessed by your creativity, your deep desire to share Christ's love in new ways, and your warm invitation to be a part of a faith community. Statistics are already showing strong indications of a resurgence in participation in worship and small groups.

These are not easy times. Yet the body of Christ remains strong and faithful and is making a huge difference in our state and around the world. I will keep you informed in the days ahead. May God bless you and keep you.

Bishop Laurie

## Church History and 150 Year Quilt

In 1862 our church was founded as a German speaking denomination in Fort Dodge. Two years later the first study group was organized. In 1865 we were known as the Evangelical Association of Fort Dodge. With 22 members, in 1867, \$300.00 was raised to purchase a lot at 1st Ave. N. and 10th St. to build a church. By 1869 the new church building was completed at a cost of \$4,000.00. A Ladies' Aid was formed in 1890 and by 1895 the congregation had grown to 91 members.

On October 14, 1900, a new church and parsonage were built for only \$8,500.00 in downtown Fort Dodge at 13th St. and 1st Ave. S. (near the present Fareway Store) with the new name of Zion Church of the Evangelical. We remained a German speaking church until 1916, when English became the main language. The merger of the Evangelical Church and the United Brethren Church took place in 1946.

In 1958 our present church and parsonage were built across from an empty lot which eventually would become Fort Dodge Senior High School. WE then became known as Trinity E.U.B. Church.

In June of 1960, the Iowa Annual Conference of the Evangelical United Brethren Church was here in Fort Dodge at Trinity Church. Rev. Duane Voas, ( my Dad's 1st cousin ) was pastor at Trinity for 18 years ( from 1953 to 1972 ). My husband Clif Ellerbeck graduated from Evangelical Theological Seminary in Naperville, Illinois in 1960 and was ordained here in Trinity's sanctuary that June. (60 years ago)

The Methodist Church and the E.U.B. Churches united in 1968 to become the United Methodist Church, with 4 churches here in Fort Dodge: (2 Methodist: 1st Church and Riverside, and 2 E.U.B.: Trinity and Epworth).

In 2012, Trinity celebrated all year its 150 years of ministry, including a German meal with some dressed in German costumes, renewal of wedding vows by those married at Trinity, the church's cornerstone from 1958 was removed and the contents of the time capsule was revealed, Bishop Julius Trimble preached at the November 18th service, a visit from a circuit rider one Sunday morning.

A memorial quilt was made by the U.M.W. members. The quilt was designed by Deloris Soppeland and included hand embroidered squares of each of the churches involved in our history, plus activities such as communion, etc. The embroidery stitching was done by Deloris Soppeland, Becky Banks, Marge Ellerbeck and Michelle Koester. After these were sewed together, the actual quilting was done by Deloris Soppeland, Betty Lind, Zelda Farmer, Becky Banks, Marge Ellerbeck and Rita Fleener.. This quilt had been in storage for over 7 years until Jared Feddersen and Scott Lundgren found a way to go back to normal worship at Trinity again, be sure to check out the quilt. (Look, but don't touch, please). And the next time you see Deloris, Jared or Scott, give them a big "THANK YOU" for finding a way to share this piece of our history again.

————By Marge Ellerbeck

### UMW Rummage Sale Update

With everyone home cleaning closets and garages you may have found some items to donate. Pastor John and the rummage sale committee have approved that items may be brought to the church on Wednesday's from 9 am to 12 pm. I will be at church during those hours to help with the donations. Any questions, please call the church.

Kathy

## Happy Birthday to...

Denny Feddersen- 1	Kathy Siems- 11
Dan Prochaska- 1	Tristin Doster- 13
Gary Astor- 2	Khloe Wilson- 14
Don Peart- 2	Bruce Murman- 15
Paul Brown- 3	Don Chizek- 18
Kevin Thompson- 4	Julie Roberts- 18
Nick Salmon- 5	Barb Allard- 19
Jace Ulrich- 6	Scott Koester- 21
RaeAnne Marner- 7	Mitch Shelton- 21
Jane Soppeland- 7	Cheryl Barber- 24
Makinsey Thompson- 7	Jean Montgomery- 24
Regina Barber- 8	Wendy Rogers- 24
Jane Patterson-9	Jamie Campbell- 26
Julie Ulrich- 9	Lilly Johnson- 27
Leanne Hartley- 11	Brad Koester- 29
Betty Rhoad- 11	Betty Fawcett- 30



## Happy Anniversary to...

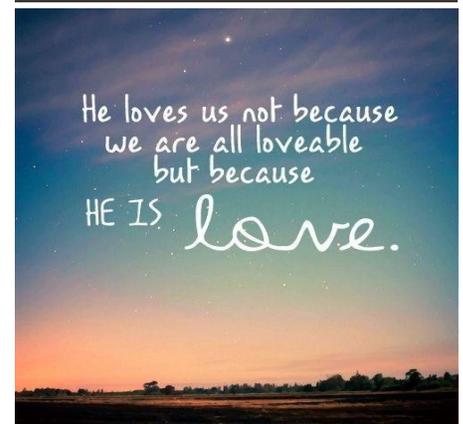
Travis & Carla Filloon-5  
Jason & Mandy Beckman-6  
Mark & RaeAnne Marner-6  
Eric & Amanda Pratt-10  
Jory & Ashley Heinecke-14  
Brad & Colleen Koester-19  
Richard & Karen Nelson-22  
Richard & Linda Sessler-24  
Jerry & Virginia Schweppe-24



Gladys Long  
Ilene Smith  
Linda Pingel  
Ramona Weins  
Amy (Perkins) Smith  
Miriam Hoskins  
Elaine Cassady  
Amy Pederson  
Dennis Bellingtier  
Deb Harvey  
Richard Nelson  
Judy Noble  
Linda Sessler  
Family of Glen Thompson  
Dick & Betty Lind  
Josh Rauhauser  
Jim Olson  
Family of Jim Stuart

Prayers requests are updated on a regular basis. Please let us know if there is anyone you would like added.

**Give a call  
Show you care!**





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