



The United Methodist Church of Ephrata

117 C Street NW
Ephrata, WA 98823



Pastor Don Dunn.....pastor@umcephrata.org

Administrative Assistant: Tresa Poe.....office@umcephrata.org

Custodian: Jamie Downing

Pianist: Betsy Pecka



facebook.com/umcofeprata

Office Hours

Monday through Wednesday

9:00am to 1:00pm

Thursday 9:00am-12:00pm

Phone: (509)754-4664

Email: office@umcephrata.org



www.umcephrata.org

Thank you for supporting the work of the church through your prayers, your presence, your gifts, your service and your witness as we pursue our mission:

“We Serve God by Serving Others”

The United Methodist Church of Ephrata



The Update Newsletter

“We Serve God by Serving Others.”

May 2020

As we face the coronavirus pandemic with the fear in social isolation, I found a story from the April 8, 2020 issue of the Christian Century that is worth sharing. This is from the Editor, Peter W. Marty...



One individual whose life witness comes to mind as inspirational hope in a crisis is Martin Rinkart (1586-1649). Rinkart was a gifted musician at several prominent churches in Saxony, Germany, before turning to the pastorate. He then served as pastor to the people of Eilenburg for 30 years before his death – years that almost exactly overlapped with the dreadful Thirty Years' War.

Because it was a walled city, refugees from the surrounding countryside, besieged by invasions of the Swedish military, poured into Eilenburg. It didn't take long for famine and pestilence to set in. In 1637 alone, 8,000 people died of disease – including other clergy, most of the town council, and Rinkart's own wife. Rinkart was left to minister to the entire city, sometimes preaching at burial services for as many as 200 dead in one week. Known as a faithful and caring pastor, he gave away everything he owned except for the barest essentials to care for his family.

In the depths of the communal suffering that surrounded him, Rinkart wrote a hymn text with words now familiar to many of us:

*“Now thank we all our God, With heart and hands and voices;
Who wondrous things has done, In whom this world rejoices.”*

In another verse, Rinkart speaks of a bounteous God staying near us through our anxiety:

*“Keep us all in grace, And guide us when perplexed,
And free us from all harm, In this world and the next”*

It's a hymn worth coming back to when COVID-19 fears force us to hole up at home and wonder when we'll see our most precious natural resource fully restored.

---Peter W. Marty, Editor, Christian Century



Pastor's note continued on next page...

Easter now has come and the season of Christ Risen is in the time of the coronavirus. The kingdom of God became a reality when the stone was rolled away and Jesus appeared risen from the dead. Then and now that message is intended to transform the world. That is all political systems are subject to transformation, particularly with regard to care for the human body.

Today we too are witnessing a time of possible transformation. The alternative to the problems that we have just accepted as normal with disregard for the environment and climate, the callousness which prevents us from questioning racism, and sexism, and consumerism, with the governing structures that allow, promote, and maintain all of that, is now before us.

This is a God moment when we can consider how life might be otherwise. For a long time, we've been told how important the market is, and to such an extent that humanity was seen as another tradable commodity. It feels to me like the market has been upended like a burned-out log ember, collapsing before our eyes as a bit of wind swooped by. It affects everyone, though the poor, the old, the infirm, the disabled, and the people of color, are disproportionately suffering more.

I pondered the pandemic and its effect on all of life as I read Jeremiah 29. It is regarding the time of exile when so many were taken to Babylon. These are the trained and qualified Jews with know how. There is a conflict as to who to listen to – Jeremiah or Shemaiah the Nehelamite who would tell the people that Jeremiah prophesied fake news.

In the face of the enormous disappointment, of dislocation, and the upending of everything they'd known – Jeremiah has the audacity to say in 29:7 "Promote the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile: Pray to Lord for it, because your future depends on it." ...Verse 8 & 9 continues "Don't let the prophets and diviners in your midst mislead you...They are prophesying lies to you in my name. I didn't send them, declares the Lord." The fake news from powerful deceivers was very much in their media.

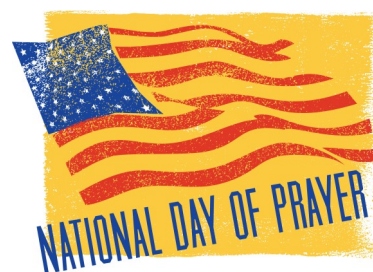
In their case, the Lord was going to hand the false prophets over to the king of Babylon who would punish them. Earlier Jeremiah suffered for his journalism, as would Jesus for his preaching in the gospels. Empires can be threatening! Jeremiah tells his Jewish people to live in the midst of Babylon, make the most of it. God was working on their future of well-being and for that of all the people.

There are times for groups to band together for their identity and there are times when that identity can serve the greater good of all. Social political policies must always find accountability in serving all the people, not just those of our race or privilege or power, etc. Jesus' life, death, and resurrection were a judgment on all systems of power that do not set love of neighbor as the highest priority, especially for those who are different from us.

Who knows whether this pandemic will have that effect or not? Is it possible that an alternative which God calls us to, could greatly change from the past inequities, the disregard of creation and neighbor, to a way of compassion for others and for the earth itself? Consider the invitation of Easter Transformation - it truly is Good News!

Pastor Don

The National Day of Prayer is observed annually on the first Thursday in May. This day of observance, designated by the United States Congress, asks people "to turn to God in prayer and meditation." The modern law formalizing the annual National Day of Prayer observance was enacted in 1952 and each year since, the President of the United States has signed a proclamation, encouraging all Americans to pray on this day.



Pastor recommends reading Psalm 2, 72, & 82, poetry on government as we pray for All Nations!

PRAYER REQUESTS

"I call to you, Lord, come quickly to me; hear me when I call to you. May my prayer be set before you like incense; may the lifting up of my hands be like the evening sacrifice." Psalm 141: 1-2

One of the most wonderful gifts we are given is the gift of prayer.

We can pray for one another in times of need as well as times of celebration.

To join the email prayer chain, email Tresa at office@umcephrata.org

Prayers for Health, Healing, and Well-Being

- | | | |
|--------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|
| • Bob St. Clair Jr | • Dan Anderson | • Marie Marsh |
| • Ed Sivula | • Randy Senn | • Amy Torrens-Harry |
| • Ron Gardner | • Ed Warren | • Mike Dell |
| • Steven Grass | • Marlene Fisk Warren | • Dick Ross |
| • Brian Davisson | • David Prince | • Eric Moulton |
| • Renee Muse | • Abbie Thorndike | • Tom Pheasant |
| • Al Davisson | • Dennis Ackerman | • Francie Hernandez |
| • Steve Smith | • Amy Torrens-Harry | • Shirley Johnson |
| • Justin Townley | • Rayce & Tiffany Barnes | • Jeremy Warren |
| • Gail Catlow | • Tabatha | • Kierra Smith |
| • Joe Hatch | • Susan Aldridge | • Jessica Smith |
| • Eleanor Gausman | • David Thompson | • Julea Dunn |



Chris Wash
Kevin Harmon
Michael Oliveira

Please let us know if someone should be added or taken off our prayer list by contacting the church office: Also contact the church office if you know of someone in need of a visit by our Congregational Care Team or Pastor Don.

Treasurers Report/Finance Update

Tresa and I continue to work together to track our church income and expenses. As treasurer, my goal is to have a current weekly picture of our finances. I could list a whole bunch of account titles and numbers, but I am not sure it would be useful. Usually the response I get is confusion! So, for now, we are squeaking by. What this means is that even though there isn't any activity at church, there are still monthly expenses that need to be met. For instance, utilities (electric, sewer, garbage, water, phone, internet), insurance, apportionments, office expenses such as the copier charges, and payroll for pastor and staff. Some of these expenses are lower because of less use, however, it is still a bill that needs to be paid. Due to monthly activities suspended, monthly income from room use is also suspended.

As a note, the weekly meals are free to anyone. The donations that have come have more than covered the cost of the first two meals and will help with meals to come. No general funds are being used to support these meals.

So...what does this mean for you? How can you help? The most important message is that members who have pledged an amount for the year are asked to please continue giving that amount. Many are using the mail drop box by the "C" street doors and others are sending their giving envelopes through the mail. This continued giving is essential to meet our minimum expenses and greatly appreciated.

Once I totally understand our church accounting system, I want to work on streamlining the accounts so that it is easier for everyone to understand. It should not be a mystery or difficult task. Our finances should be a transparent process. This is my goal.

If you ever have questions regarding our financial situation, please don't hesitate to ask. I will do my best to provide the information you need.

Christy Price, Treasurer/Finance Committee Chair

Our wonderful pianist, Betsy, sadly for us, has resigned. We're so grateful for the beautiful music she's blessed us with over the years. We're sad to see her go, and are looking for another accompanist, or multiple people to share the job, for when church services resume. Please spread the word.



At this point we are still planning on holding our Yard Sale, but probably sometime late summer. However, we realize that flexibility is a must this spring! So please start sorting things that you may wish to donate with the idea that we will be going ahead with our plans. Also if you are willing to volunteer for this please let the office know. Stay tuned!! Thank you for your understanding.

Weekly meals going well!

...submitted by Camille and Christy Price

Around April 1, Pastor Don approached us and asked if we thought we could prepare weekly take-out meals during this time of staying at home. Camille and I discussed it and said, "Sure, why not!" I immediately went to work on planning dinner menus through May. The first two meals have been a great success! We served 71 dinners the first week and 84 the next! People have been extremely generous with their donations of time and resources to support these meals. In addition to the cash donations, several have come to help with the serving and delivery of food. To abide by the "social distancing" rules, I planned meals that would be easy for one or two people to prepare. Our church kitchen is large enough that two people can work and still be 6' apart. And, given the environment, I have chosen to either prepare the desserts at church, or purchase some type of dessert. The GCHD staff are also in agreement with this practice.

I want to thank those who have come to help—the Segar family for their generous gift of delivery services. This is appreciated by me and by those who receive the meals. Mark and Janice Niehenke have come to help take the meals from our "serving station" in the fellowship hall to the cars as they pull up to the sidewalk. They have also been a great help with the clean-up. Even though we are not washing table dishes (plates, silverware, etc.), there are still pots, pans and other serving dishes to clean-up. Marilyn Grass and Sasha have come to get the meals for the Sr. Apartment residents. This has worked out well. Louise Sivula has been a steady "sous chef" for all our meals! I greatly appreciate her help. Bobbie Dunn and Donna Anderson have come to help with serving when others weren't available. You too, are greatly appreciated. And of course, Camille is great for any of the unexpected jobs that pop up that someone needs to do! He is great at shopping too!!

Many have offered to help—making desserts, coming to help prepare food, etc.—and I am keeping your names on my list. Currently, to respect the social distancing and GCHD requests, I am good for now with food preparation. Rest assured; you are not forgotten! I know who to call when I need help!!

Some of you may ask..."so who comes to these meals"? Well, so far, our meals have gone to several of the residents at the Senior Apartments, we deliver about 12 to church members who may not be able to get out, the pastor delivers several to members from Memorial Christian Church, and then there are those who call in and come and pick up the meal. Many of those individuals are some of our regular monthly dinner guests.

To assist with our planning, if you know you want a Thursday evening meal, please call the church office by noon on Wednesday to get your name on the list. You will need to indicate if you want delivery or if you will pick up your meal.

You all know that the kitchen is my second home! At church, at home, at camp...anywhere people need to be fed, I will be there! Preparing meals and serving good tasty food brings great joy and personal satisfaction. Yes, I get tired, but give me a day to rest and I am ready to start the next meal! Thank you for allowing Camille and me to serve EUMC in this way. We are Blessed! Stay safe, stay healthy, stay home! And, call for a dinner!

*****As a note, the weekly meals are free to anyone. The donations that have come have more than covered the cost of the first two meals and will help with meals to come. No general funds are being used to support these meals.**



A Mother’s Heart
By Jeanne Goetz

Being a mom of a specials needs son changed the direction of my life, from the day the nurse put him in my arms to this day. I was headed my own way in life and the Lord said, “No, you are going my way now.” This special child has brought tears, laughter and, most of all, love into my life, and the lives of many, many others.

I always dreamed of that perfect family – me having 2 boys and 2 girls. Instead, we adopted 3 boys and 1 girl. I was a younger mother with a child that never slept more than 45 minutes at a time, during the day or night for 4 years. I spent our nights in a rocking chair, singing to this crying little baby boy – I didn’t have a clue that he was in a battle of drug and alcohol addiction. The song in our home was “Jesus Loves Me.” I now have that song as the ring tone on my cell phone.

Three young moms all had baby boys together. As I watched the other 2 boys grow – crawling, walking, talking and playing, interacting with their moms – my heart would break, because my little boy wasn’t doing any of the “normal” things a child does. He was brain damaged.

They went to school.
Mine was in Special Ed.
They graduated at 18.
Mine staying in school until 21.
They began life on their own.
My son didn’t.

One of the stories we tell often is from when our second son came along. By the time he was 4 or 5 years old he couldn’t figure out why his older brother would not play with him. Marcus would try to get Treg to play cars, play ball, fly kites – but Treg would just watch.

Than one day we were outside Marcus was getting more and more frustrated with a big brother that would not play. Marcus looked at his brother and said to him, “You are only going to be retarded for 3 more days – then you have had it.” We waited.

You never know what God has for your life, but one thing I know God wanted me to learn was to be faithful to another mother’s child and raise him as God wanted me to.

God gave me a mother’s heart for each of my children. I couldn’t ask for more.

This story was submitted by Janis Davisson. Jeanne is Janis’ first cousin and they grew up together in Wilson Creek. Jeanne & Treg live in Buckley, WA now. Treg will be 45 years old on July 4th. Jeanne ministers to women and is an ordained minister, she continues to be a true blessing to many.



MAY
Birthdays

Elmer Johnston
May 5th

Ed Sivula
May 8th

Carla Ryan
May 9th

Joseph Hernandez
May 10th

Al Davisson
May 21st

Cassie Roloff
May 21st

Ellen White
May 21st

Rosie Cegnar
May 23rd

Julea Dunn
May 24th

Melissa McKnight
May 27th

Della Moore
May 28th

Cammy Hatch
May 30th

MAY
Anniversaries

Ed & Betty Rogers
May 5th
70 years

Mark Your Calendar

- May 7** **National Day of Prayer**
- May 10** **Mother’s Day**
- May 16** **Armed Forces Day**
- May 21** **Ascension Day**
- May 25** **Memorial Day**
- May 31** **Pentecost**

All Sunday Worship Services and groups of any kind are cancelled until further notice.

Video Sermons
Facebook - @EphrataUMC
YouTube Channel
Ephrata United Methodist Church

If you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to call
Pastor Don @ 208-757-1733 or
Tresa @ 509-398-2599.

Stay safe, stay home and God Bless!