
THE BELLRINGER



April 2020

Pastor's Study

There is a magnolia tree that is blooming right outside my kitchen window. In the mornings these last few days the sunshine has been so pretty, shining on and around the blossoms of the tree. I see the light, the signs of spring, the beauty of the morning, and have to sort of shake myself to remember what is happening. Looking out my kitchen window, everything looks "normal" and yet nothing is normal at all.

Some have lost their jobs. Others are working from home – many with children in the house who are schooling at home. Some are isolated in senior living facilities. Family members cannot see them no matter how much they would like to. Grocery trips are upended; the pasta aisle still bare and shoppers worried about picking up the wrong head of lettuce or getting too close to a fellow shopper. Doctors, nurses, hospital staff and emergency responders are overwhelmed and at times afraid. Dash boards and press conferences flash statistics daily.

Last night on our prayer call, the person who I was praying with expressed how she often is the person that people go to for a listening ear. The last of many conversations that day had been with a family member who kept texting statistics – and it was overwhelming.

A lot of this is overwhelming: from our hands being extra wrinkled due to frequent washings and hand sanitizer, to going out less, using powdered milk maybe for the first time in a long time, squeezing the most we can out of the financial resources we have, adjusting to being home. To diminish the situation does not give it the recognition we need for it to have. We are in the midst of a disruption that has turned over almost everything.

And yet, as people of faith, we cannot stay there. Jesus didn't stay in the tomb, but he rose. And somehow, moment by moment and day by day, we are called to rise in this moment also.

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Some of our congregation members are busy making masks. Others are collecting elastic for the hospitals in Dayton where N95 masks need to be repaired. Some are delivering food to Resource Center clients. Some are making calls and reaching out in other ways. Some are praying.

This week the new sign for our congregation gets installed. With it we have the opportunity to communicate hope and good news to all those who pass by. It takes courage to press forward with the ministry of this congregation in these times. And yet, together we are.

And for whatever amount of time we need, we will gather over the Internet to worship, drawing together as a body in these uncertain times. These are all faithful things; empty tomb things in a world that needs resurrection hope. May we pause and recognize that things are not as usual. But may we then rise in the hope of Jesus Christ who lives.

Christ's peace- Diane



Session Highlights

The Session met by conference call on March 23, 2020. (We have been receiving much guidance from the PC(USA) on protocols for continuity of ministry and operations during this time, and are making use of that guidance in and for our meetings.) A devotion about fear was shared to begin the meeting, acknowledging the difficulty of the time. The Clerk of Session shared that the minutes of the church were reviewed by the Presbytery and approved without exception. Special thanks were offered for Al Evans for taking the minutes to the review meeting.

Steps taken toward care of the congregation and our neighbors since the beginning of March were shared, from the availability of hand sanitizer to closing the church building for worship and visitors. The Pastor and Session are continuing to receive and review guidance about how to best operate during this time and will continue to review decisions.

The Treasurer shared a financial report. As of the time of the meeting, contributions were significantly lower than usual. The Session discussed this and will send a note to members reminding them of the importance of continuing to send in contributions if they are able to support the ministry of the church. It was noted that some members may have financial impacts from the virus that may be impacting giving. The church investment account is significantly lower than it was at year end. Full financial reports have been emailed to the church.

The Pastor reported on the status of the Synod. The Administrative Commission assigned to the Synod took original jurisdiction in February. The Synod staff completed their service to the Synod at this time, and all Synod programs were cancelled for six months (including the health screening which we had planned to have come to our church this summer). An interim Synod Executive has been identified.

The Pastor also lifted up some concerns about the peace, purity and unity of the church. She is working on some additional content for new member classes, as well as leadership training and supporting more opportunities for congregational members and friends to come to a deeper understanding of how we are community together.

The reports of our ministry teams were shared. There has been considerably less activity due to the church being closed. Mission reported the possibility of our hosting a pancake breakfast following a race to be held in Bellbrook on August 22nd. Stewardship reported that we were not able to move forward with the One Great Hour of Sharing due to the extended closure, and that we will revisit this when we gather as a body again. Nominating presented a candidate for the office of Deacon. A congregational meeting cannot be held until we return to worship again. Communication reported that the electronic sign will be installed the week of March 30th. Personnel reported on staffing levels during the reduced activity level of the church. Worship is trying to be as responsive as possible to the situation with online worship. The reception of our confirmands will be moved to a later date to be sure we are gathered again for worship.

Some 30/60 day plans were reviewed with an emphasis on flexibility and the need for the Session to meet more often for information sharing and decision making.

The next meeting of the Session will be Monday, April 6th at 4:00 p.m. by conference call.



Reading through the Bible Scriptures for April



- Day 92 - Matthew 25; 31-46; Numbers 32-34; Job 2
- Day 93 - Matthew 26:1-25; Numbers 35-36; Job 3
- Day 94 - Matthew 26:26-46; Deuteronomy 1-2; Job 4
- Day 95 - Matthew 26:47-75; Deuteronomy 3-4; Job 5
- Day 96 - Matthew 27:1-31; Deuteronomy 5-6; Job 6
- Day 97 - Matthew 27:32-66; Deuteronomy 7-8; Job 7
- Day 98 - Matthew 28; Deuteronomy 9-10; Job 8
- Day 99 - Acts 1; Deuteronomy 11-12; Job 9
- Day 100 - Acts 2:1-13; Deuteronomy 13-14; Job 10
- Day 101 - Acts 2:14-47; Deuteronomy 15-16; Job 11
- Day 102 - Acts 3; Deuteronomy 17-18; Job 12
- Day 103 - Acts 4:1-22; Deuteronomy 19-20; Job 13
- Day 104 - Acts 4:23-37; Deuteronomy 21-22; Job 14
- Day 105 - Acts 5:1-16; Deuteronomy 23-24; Job 15
- Day 106 - Acts 5:17-42; Deuteronomy 25-27; Job 16
- Day 107 - Acts 6; Deuteronomy 28; Job 17
- Day 108 - Acts 7:1-22; Deuteronomy 29-30; Job 18
- Day 109 - Acts 7:23-8:1a; Deuteronomy 31-32; Job 19
- Day 110 - Acts 8:1b-25; Deuteronomy 33-34; Job 20
- Day 111 - Acts 8:26-40; Joshua 1-2; Job 21
- Day 112 - Acts 9:1-25; Joshua 3:1-5:1; Job 22
- Day 113 - Acts 9:26-43; Joshua 5:2-6:27; Job 23
- Day 114 - Acts 10:1-33; Joshua 7-8; Job 24
- Day 115 - Acts 10:34-48; Joshua 9-10; Job 25
- Day 116 - Acts 11:1-18; Joshua 11-12; Job 26
- Day 117 - Acts 11:19-30; Joshua 13-14; Job 27
- Day 118 - Acts 12; Joshua 15-17; Job 28
- Day 119 - Acts 13:1-25; Joshua 18-19; Job 29
- Day 120 - Acts 13:26-52; Joshua 20-21; Job 30
- Day 121 - Acts 14; Joshua 22; Job 31



April Happenings



We will be proceeding with the One Great Hour of Sharing offering after we begin gathering again.

At this point, church events and activities are not planned to be held this month. We are monitoring the situation and safety on an ongoing basis and will let you know as soon as we plan to gather again.



Sugar Maple Festival has been cancelled this year due to the COVID-19 virus

April 5th, Palm Sunday, would normally be our next Communion Sunday.

As we are unable to gather for worship in this time, please remember those who do not have enough: those who do not have enough to eat, those who are struggling to pay their rent or utility bill, those who are unemployed, those who are alone and lonely.

We typically collect food on communion Sunday for those who do not have enough. When we gather again, here are things you may wish to bring in if you are able to:

**Laundry detergent
Granola and cereal bars
Jams and Jellies**



Holy Week is filled with an abundance of opportunities for worship and prayer. Even while we cannot gather together in person, we can lift up our hearts and voices in this important time.

Below are scripture readings for each day of Holy Week and Easter Sunday. We invite you to join us for the virtual worship services, and on the other days of the week when a service isn't planned, we invite you to read and reflect upon the scriptures provided.

A Holy Week reading and prayer sheet will be mailed to each member/friend this week along with the Palm Sunday bulletin. We hope this will help to guide your Holy Week worship.



April 5th-Palm Sunday – Virtual worship 10:00am. Texts: Mark 11:1-11 and 14:3-9; Psalm 118:25-29 and Psalm 23 v. 5b.



Monday, April 6th- Mark 13:32-14:2; Psalm 23:1; John 10:11-18



Tuesday, April 7th- Mark 14:10-16; Psalm 23:2; Matthew 11:28-30



Wednesday, April 8th- Mark 14:17-21; Psalm 23:3b; John 10:1-10



April 9th - Maundy Thursday – Virtual worship at 7:00 p.m. Texts: Mark 14:22-42; Psalm 116:12-19; Psalm 23:5.



April 10 - Good Friday – Virtual worship at 7:00 p.m. Texts: Mark 15:16-39; Psalm 22:1-2; 14-21; Psalm 23:4



April 11 – Holy Saturday – Mark 15:40-47.



April 12th – Easter Sunday-Virtual worship 10:00 a.m. Our scriptures for Easter Morning is Mark 16:1-8, Psalm 23:6 and Psalm 118:21-27.





			1	2	3	4
Palm Sunday 5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Easter 12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Birthdays 19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Anniversaries 26	27	28	29	30		

YOUR SAFETY AND WELLBEING

Please be mindful of your safety and wellbeing in this time, not just from a physical health standpoint, but also your electronic and financial one. The following information is taken from some information shared by Huntington Bank with suggestions on how to protect yourself over the computer and with your bank during this time.

As the Coronavirus (COVID-19) epidemic continues to escalate, cyber criminals are taking advantage of opportunities to steal personal and financial information while people are frightened and most vulnerable. Many of these instances are new iterations of common phishing and malware scams, where fraudsters may send emails with malicious attachments or links to fraudulent websites to trick victims into revealing sensitive information or donating to fraudulent charities or causes. Fraudsters may use phone calls (vishing) and texts (smishing) to try to trick you as well.

What to look out for

Be extra vigilant when receiving emails, phone calls and texts offering vaccines or treatments, medical testing or alerts about critical supply shortages. Fraudsters are also spoofing the World Health Organization (WHO), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) or other similar medical, charitable and government organizations. These messages can be highly convincing, as cyber criminals often use professional “phishing kits” that perfectly match the logo, website and email formats of legitimate organizations.

If you do receive unsolicited phone calls, emails or text messages asking you to share personal, financial or account information, verify the request using an alternative method before taking any action. Locate the entity’s phone number from a trusted source, such as their secure website or a recent bill or statement, or the back of your credit or debit card if the caller is purporting to be from your bank. Use that phone number to call back to verify that the caller and the reason for the call are legitimate.

What you can do to help protect yourself

Tips for emails:

- Look closely at the sender’s email address and domain. Check for misspellings and inconsistencies between the "Sender" name and "From" email address or domain name—or if the email originates from a non-corporate email address (ex. Gmail)
- Beware of demands for personal or financial information, especially those with a sense of urgency.
- Be extra cautious before clicking any links in the email. You can preview links to see where they go by hovering your mouse over the link without clicking on it. It will display the real website address.
- Pay attention to links and web addresses as a spoofed website can be similar to a recognized entity, but are off by one or two characters. Do not assume it is legitimate because it displays a corporate logo.
- Do not open attachments from sources you do not recognize
- If you receive a suspicious email claiming to be from your bank, please let your bank know.

Tips for phone calls:

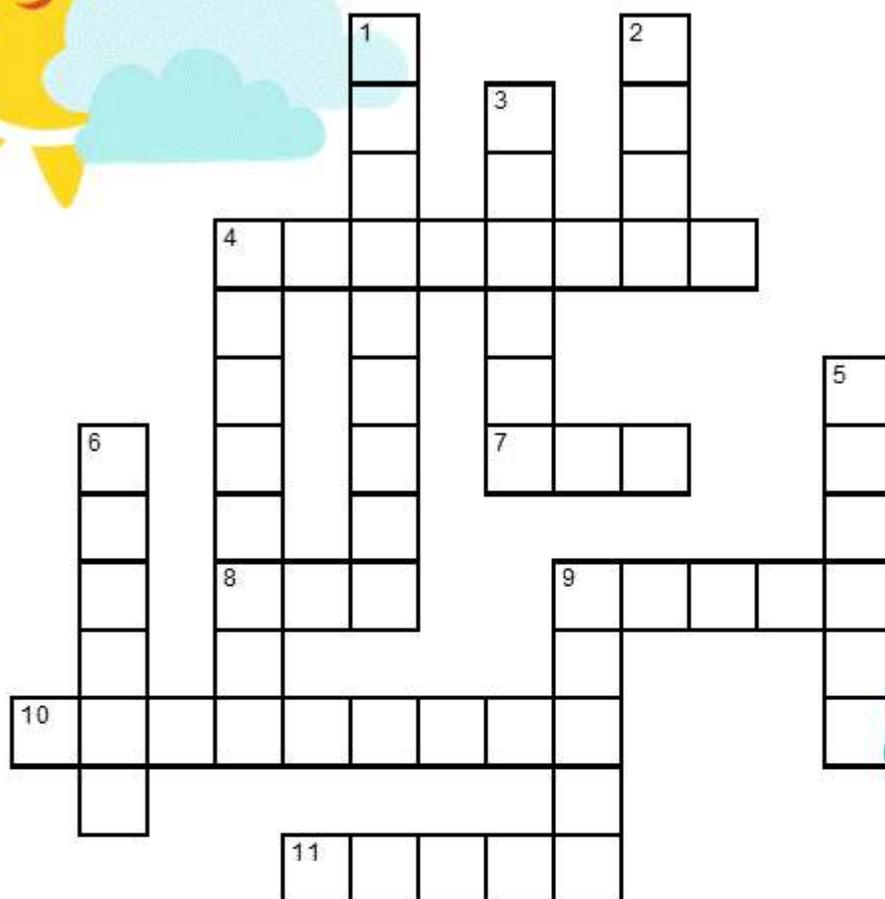
- Ignore telephone numbers that are in a strange or unexpected format, or are from an unfamiliar location.
- Even if the call is from a recognized entity, remember that scammers sometimes utilize Voice over IP (VoIP) features, such as caller ID spoofing and automated systems, to help mask where the call is coming from.
- If you receive an unsolicited call, before providing any personal or financial information, tell the caller you will call them back and use the verification method described above to confirm the caller and the reason for the call is legitimate.

Tips for text messages

- Avoid clicking links in unsolicited text messages from unknown numbers.
- Do not direct dial any phone numbers listed in unsolicited text messages from unknown numbers.
- If a text message requests for personal or account information, do not respond. Use the verification method described above to confirm the requester and the reason for the request is legitimate.
- Be wary of messages that offer you free or scarce items or demand an urgent response. If it seems to good to be true, it usually is.



Easter Crossword



ACROSS

4. You might do this to eggs for Easter
7. A hen makes this
8. Used to color eggs
9. The hen's baby
10. Colorful candy you might find in an Easter basket
11. Peter Cottontail is one

DOWN

1. Eggs might be made from this
2. Look for eggs
3. Easter Day event
4. Yellow or white spring flower that grows from a bulb
5. What the Easter Bunny brings
6. A pretty hat worn on Easter
9. Don't eat too much of this or you might get a belly ache



Family of Richard A. Evans-Beth Collins(Tom and Penny's daughter)- Aria Aldrich-Mark Erickson- Al Sawyer- Chuck Sievert- Sheryl Ellinger- Reggie Gehring- Eldon Brinkman- Ashley Guerrero- Larry Dumford- -Katie Henry- Charlotte Downing- Alzheimer Patients – Cancer Patients – Caregivers



Virginia
Darlene
Betty
Barb
Larry
Katie
Charlotte

To visit or send cards please check with office for addresses.



Terry Allen- 620-4811

Pat Crowe- 701-1849

Allene Circle-Rader 848-8218

Donna Ruschau 429-2107

Sue Seiler 848-2043. 478-1426 or
604-1426

Call with assurance of confidentiality, love
and prayer



- 1- Glen Janus
- 12 – Ron Hearrell; Nicole Van Pelt
- 19 – Ben Rader; Janet Stevens
- 26 – Al Evans

Anniversaries

- 11 – Tom and Lisa Graham
- 15 – Ray and Margaret Aldrich
- 16 – Mike and Sue Seiler
- 24- Larry and Judy Coy
- 25 – Al and Sharon Sawyer
- 28 – Ben and Allene Rader
- 30 – Bob and Diane Green *59 years 2019

Special dates

- Holy Week, April 5-12, 2020
- Palm/Passion Sunday, April 5, 2020
- Maundy Thursday, April 9, 2020
- Good Friday, April 10, 2020
- Easter Sunday, April 12, 2020
- Administrative Professionals Day, April 22, 2020

