



THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

April 2020

Serving since 1859!

Wisconsin Rapids, WI

Just Joshin'

It's only been a few days of "social distancing," and I don't know about you all, but I'm tired of it already. I'd like normal to return. I'd like my schedule to return. I'd like to be able to know I can buy toilet paper if I want to. This staying inside stuff wasn't my plan for this season of Lent.

However, maybe there can be something good that can come out of this. A lot of what I wanted to do and how I was feeling took up the first paragraph. Maybe a break from the routine can be a good thing. Maybe a break from normal schedules can make us take a look at our lives, our families, our faith in a new light. Even though I'm comfortable in my routines, it's quite possible that this time of waiting can be a good time.

I saw a post on Facebook a couple days back where a guy was pondering what it would've been like for the Israelites to be stuck inside waiting for the 10th plague to spread across Egypt. In Exodus 12, we find God instituting what would be the first Passover. The Israelites were waiting inside ... waiting for what was next ... waiting for life anew.

For the Israelites, this Passover meant getting out of Egypt. This was the final plague and Pharaoh would have enough of this Hebrew God and the power he had over the land. The Israelites wouldn't be slaves to the Egyptians anymore and could get back to their homeland.

As the Israelites waited for God to passover their homes, I wonder what they were thinking.

They only had to wait one night. It looks like we may be waiting for the return of "normal" life for quite some time. But life anew for us may still be waiting on the other side of this "social distancing." But as we wait — as our schedules and routines have been interrupted — we have a chance to refocus in on God and our relationship with him.

Maybe God is wanting to calm our fears or anxieties. Let's spend time with God and allow him to do this. Maybe God has a reminder for us. Let's spend time with God and hear what he has to say. Maybe God has a new direction for our life. Let's spend time with God and see what he has in store for us.

The Passover was celebrated for generations upon generations and was a part of the Jewish faith. The Passover meal was what Jesus and his disciples were participating in on the night that Jesus was betrayed, arrested, and taken away from his disciples. It wouldn't be long now until the Jesus would be hung on the cross, die on the cross, and then defeat death and rise again three days later.

The Passover was kept as a celebration and reminder of what God had done for his people. As Christians, we celebrate Easter remembering that God sent his son, Jesus, to be the ultimate sacrifice to take away the sins

of this world. Not only that, but he also rose again defeating death so that we can do the same. There's life anew when we put our faith in God through Jesus.

Our time of waiting — “social distancing” — may take us up to Easter and maybe beyond. I don't think anyone knows for sure as new information comes out daily. The Israelites waited for God on that first Passover night knowing something new would be happening in their lives. Let us wait with God through this uncertain time knowing that he may have something in store for us on the other side of all this.

Please know I'm still “on the clock.” Feel free to call — 920-896-3976 — or email — joshuapegam3@gmail.com — if I can do anything for you. We'll also keep in touch through Facebook — [@wisconsinrapidsumc](https://www.facebook.com/@wisconsinrapidsumc) — and our website — umcwr.org. I'll be posting Sunday sermons and midweek Lenten videos there.

God's blessings to you all. Keep safe. Be a light to those who may need it.

Blessings,
Pastor Josh

**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY**

April

- 03- Wyatt Coates
- 07- Kevin Dillingham
- 10- Ed Barker
- 14- Kolte O'Keefe
- 15- Mary Jane Phillips
- 18- Hubert Johnson
- 22- Pauline Anderson
- 26- Riley Huiras
- 27- Marinah Russell



Mission Notes

Noisy Collection
April 12, 2020 for
Maria and United Methodist
Children's Services



Pantry Collection
April 19, 2020
Food, essentials, money
anything is greatly
appreciated since last
months collection was
unable to happen!!



Feeding the
Community

The caramel and kitchen
sale are on hold until we
know what our church
schedule will be!!

*Happy
Anniversary*

16 - Bill & Annette Spaulding

If we have omitted your birthday or anniversary or have it listed on the incorrect date, please let us know so that we may make the necessary changes to our records. Thank you!

United Methodist Women

I want to bring you words of hope amid all of the concerns in our city , state , country and world. Let's all be each other's keepers and reach out by telephone or send a note to someone. These simple gestures will make the receiver feel remembered and less shut in.

Like all things, the Mission Action Day has been at the very least postponed and the April unit meeting is a wait and see. If there is church we will have our unit meeting.

The spiritual growth retreat is still being planned but that too could change.

So while we are at home being wise and safe, reach out to various church family members. If you have access to the computer go online and participate in the Lenten study and listen to Pastor Josh's sermons. If not I hope we can come up with an alternative.

And of course now is a great time to plug into the UMW reading program.

**Always know you can call me if you need something. I am working daily so I can be of help after.
You are in my thoughts and prayers
Cindy**

Special United Methodist Women's Project

The South Wood Emerging Pantry Shelf (SWEPS) will no longer purchase personal hygiene items. Going forward their funds will be used solely for the purchase of food items. Only donated hygiene items will be available for distribution. Because of this situation UMW has decided to sponsor an ongoing project to collect feminine hygiene items for SWEPS. We are concerned for the basic human dignity of those women and youth who do not have access to these items. A collection container will be available in the narthex for the donated items. Monetary donations can also be left in the office, placed in the offering plate, or given to Judy Steele for the purchase of those items. Please make checks out to UMW and indicate that it is for the **Special Project**. Action on behalf of women, children and youth is a cornerstone of the UMW organization.



MEN'S GROUP

**Come for Breakfast on Wednesday,
May 6, 2020 ????**

8:00 a.m.

All are Welcome!



Church Office Hours

The church office is open Monday through Thursday from 8:00 a.m. — 10:00 a.m. and closed on Fridays. Other times as needed.
CLOSED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

Church Office Phone

715-423-8860
Pastor Joshua's Phone No.
Cell: 920-896-3976

Pastor Joshua's Office Hours

Monday through Thursday
8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
ON AN AS NEEDED BASIS UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

Church Website

www.umcwr.org
PLEASE CHECK THE WEBSITE FOR UPDATES!!

E-mail Addresses

Church Office: umc@wctc.net
Pastor Josh: joshuapegram3@gamil.com
PLEASE E-MAIL PASTOR JOSH

Sunday Services

9:00 am - UMC Worship Service
10:00 am - Coffee Fellowship
CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

The Neighborhood Table

The last two Tuesdays of the month: 4:30 p.m.
Every Thursday: 4:30 p.m.
CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

Narcotics Anonymous

Meets each day of the week as follows:
Monday's 11:00 a.m.
Tuesday's 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday's 7:00 p.m.
Thursday's 7:00 p.m.
CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

Love INC

Did you know that the Mission Statement for Love INC is: To mobilize local churches to transform lives and communities in the name of Christ.

Collectively we as the family of God can accomplish much. Three new ministries you might be interested in are the Moving Ministry, Prescription Ministry, and Transportation Ministry. Please check the bulletin board to see which churches you might contact if you are willing to help or simply contact Love INC (715-424-5683).

Work continues to develop a ministry for those just released from jail. Most often these people have nothing more than the clothes they are wearing, and their needs include everything from underwear to personal hygiene products. Love INC will direct the items that you donate where they are needed. Ultimately our hope is connect these people to God and a church family.

If you are a card maker, Love INC would appreciate receiving any you can spare for notes of encouragement and for thank yous.

Jean Michaels
Your Love INC Ambassador

Wisdom Seekers

Every Thursday: 9:30 a.m.
CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

Nar-Anon

Every Thursday: 7:00 p.m.
CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

Weight Watchers

Every Saturday 8:30 am
CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

Prayer Calendar

- 1 - Rick & Ellen Cook
- 2 - James & Cherri Correll
- 3 - Carol Davis
- 4 - Helen Dillingham
- 5 - Kevin & Karlene Dillingham
- 6 - Mike & Julie Dresen
- 7 - Brenda Dudley
- 8 - Vivian Dudley
- 9 - Art & Kathy Duerkop
- 10 - Tom & Cindy Erickson
- 11 - Brent & Ginnie Fletcher
- 12 - Faith Frank
- 13 - Judy Gitchel
- 14 - David Goetsch
- 15 - Gwen Gygi
- 16 - Myrna Hagen
- 17 - Mary Jo Hane
- 18 - Keith & Janet Hansen
- 19 - Norman & Auril Harding
- 20 - Gordon Harmon
- 21 - Glen & Aida Harper
- 22 - Eric, Vikki, Brian & Danny Henke
- 23 - Marlene Henke
- 24 - Im & Hi Young Hong
- 25 - Kevin, Tami, Riley & Owen Huiras
- 26 - Pam & Danielle Ironside
- 27 - Hubert & Betty Johnson
- 28 - Bill, Mandy, Caden & Wyatt Jungwirth
- 29 - Helen Jungwirth
- 30 - Shirley Klapperich



Have a prayer request? Call the prayer chain:

Daytime: (9:00 a.m. — 6:00 p.m.)

Lynn Swanson — **715-423-4407**

Evenings: (6:00 p.m. — 9:00 p.m.)

Helen Dillingham — **715-424-5828**



For encouragement,
call the prayer phone:
715-423-1323

Prayer Coordinator

Luke 24:1-6

“On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. While they were wondering about this, suddenly two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning, stood beside them. In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, ‘Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; he has risen. Remember how he told you while he was still with you in Galilee?’”

These words echo over the world in Easter Sunday services. This is why we are Christians. This is the foundation of our faith. Christ died, Christ rose and Christ is alive today. Keep this in your heart now and as we live in the afterglow of Easter. Celebrate Christ’s presence by rededicating your life to him. Give yourself over to his will in all things. Continue to celebrate that Christ is walking with us, side by side, today!

Let us pray: Beloved Savior we celebrate your victory over death. You promise us eternal life if we follow you. We ask that you give us the strength to be your disciples in this troubled world. In Jesus name. Amen