

I was asked last week how I was feeling by a member of the congregation who checks in with me regularly to make sure I am doing alright and caring for myself and my family during these unusual and uncertain times. I must admit my answer was “I feel lost.” That statement stayed with me all week, and I realized at one point that in some small measure I now understand how Moses must have felt as he led the Israelites through the wilderness for 40 years. None of them, Moses included, truly knew where they were going or how long it would take them to get there. They relied on God for their food, their water, their very existence.

I think as a congregation, and even as a country, we are “wandering” these days. We aren’t sure what is going on, we don’t know who to trust or even what to believe. We are so divided and grumbling among ourselves, much as I imagine the Israelites did during all those years of traveling. Arguing, fighting, disagreeing, leaving their friends and family (although where would they go...maybe to the back of the line?) They felt isolated and deprived. They wanted what God had promised them, and they wanted it NOW! They had no more patience for what God would give them than we do with wanting to return to “normal.”

Even Jesus had his own wilderness experience, and it was during this time where Jesus was tempted by all manner of things. We too are tempted: to give up, give in, and surrender to the frustrations we feel. We become impatient and intolerable of those who don’t believe as we do, think as we do, or act as we deem appropriate. We long for the days when we can whatever it is we want without having to be curtailed in our behaviors to protect others.

The wilderness is not a place where God wants us to live, but it is a place where God matures us for living. We find ourselves longing for the “good old days” but perhaps those days weren’t, in fact, so good. Instead of wishing for what we considered to be normal, perhaps we should consider a “something new.” What will that look like? Who knows. Maybe it will be having civil conversations with those on the “other side.” Maybe it will be learning to love those who are different from us, even our enemies (Jesus commanded this, remember?) Maybe it will simply be learning to appreciate what we have and not wanting more, and leaning more into helping those who have not.

We are walking through the wilderness right now. Maybe you feel it; maybe you don’t. This time in our history will not continue forever, but for now this is where we are. Wilderness seasons bring about fear, scarcity, grief, and unrest, but these seasons do not remain. Fortunately for us who are followers of Christ, we have hope. Hope that God loves us enough to not leave us in the wilderness, but rather to use our time in the desert to prepare us for what is to come.

How will you prepare yourself, and help prepare the Church, during this time?

Pastor Leslie

The Compass



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Worship Info.....	2
Office Hours.....	2
SPRC Mtg.....	2
Tiny Mustard Seed...	2
Patio Party's	3
Mask Mission	3
Teals Receipts	3
Relay For Life.....	3
Coltin P Grad party..	4
Health Note.....	4
Birthdays/Anniv	4
The LINK	5

Worship Information

We now have resumed in-person worship. We are meeting on Sundays at our usual time, 9:30 am. *PLEASE NOTE: As of Saturday, July 25, the state of Minnesota has mandated wearing of masks whenever in public spaces. Therefore, if you plan to attend in-person worship, you will need to wear a mask. Additionally, if you need to come by the office for any reason, you will need to be sure and wear a mask.*

However, for those of you who are still not comfortable attending worship in-person, please continue to watch your emails for weekly information about online worship, which we will continue to livestream each week. You can also find the link to online worship on our website at crossroadsspicer.com. If you have a prayer request for Sunday worship that you would like announced because you will not be in attendance, please either email them to Pastor Leslie at pastor@crossroadsspicer.com or text her at 320-403-4838. Please make sure to get them to Pastor Leslie no later than the Saturday before worship.

If you do not have online access and are not yet ready to return to in-person worship, you may request a DVD of the weekly worship services. Simply please call the office and leave a message, and we will be sure Pastor Leslie drops one off to you.

Church Office Hours

Please note that the church office will continue to be closed until further notice. Pastor Leslie and Kendra will be working various hours, and will continue to check mail, email, and voicemail on a regular basis. If you are in need of anything, please contact us in one of those ways. 320-796-2339, pastor@crossroadsspicer.com or office@crossroadsspicer.com.

If you need to visit the office for any reason, please contact either Pastor Leslie or Kendra to make an appointment to ensure someone is present and available, as well as to make sure social distancing guidelines are in place. Thank you.

SPRC Meeting

The SPRC (Staff-Parish Relations Committee) will be meeting on Wednesday, August 12, 2020 at 6:00 pm in the church library. If anyone is not comfortable with attending in-person, we now have the ability to do ZOOM meetings in the library, and will send out a link the week of the meeting. If you have any questions, or want the SPRC to include anything on the agenda for this meeting, please contact the chairperson, Doree Leither.

The Tiny Mustard Seed

After Pastor Leslie's sermon on July 26, Lylas and I continued to think back on our church experiences over our 64 years of marriage. We were married in the Raymond Methodist Church and then moved to Charleston, SC. Upon our return to Minnesota, we lived in St. Cloud and attended the Methodist Church there. We were fortunate enough to have the same pastor that was previously in Raymond.

We moved to Willmar and attended the Methodist Church there and were one of several couples that started what has become Cross Roads. Each church was like starting with a new mustard seed (in a corn field, no less) and we could be part of its growth. It was a small group of people planting this seed, caring for and nurturing it, helping it through a few bumps and moving on. Then a first for us, the doors are closed!

Who would ever imagine such a thing! We know through faith, we will come back. I think of the seeds that are now being planted. Think about all we are doing and rejoice.

Caring for the youth, elderly and sick; Missions is making and providing masks; Teal's receipts are being collected; Care Committee members are making weekly calls of love and concern; we have backyard chats with Don and Leslie; Trustees are caring for the property; the music ministry moves on, and the list goes on. We must all continue to stay in contact with each other. Our faith, these activities and personal visits, when possible, long or short; in person, by phone or other means, are the glue that holds us together.

Remember Faith—Hope—Love. The greatest of these is Love.

Peace in Christ,

Al Boonstra

Small Group Patio Parties

OUR PATIO PARTY SCHEDULE FOR AUGUST IS LOOKING REALLY EMPTY!

If you would like to get together with Pastor Leslie and Don and catch up, fellowship, or even pray together, just sign up online for any Wednesday or Saturday (6-8pm). You can click [HERE](#) to register online, or call Pastor Leslie at the church office (leave a message if no one answers) or on her cell phone. She will make sure you get signed up for the date of your choosing.

Those who have already attended will tell you we have had wonderful evenings! The weather has been cooperating, and even when it's a little hot in the sun, we just move and sit under the trees, or even under the carport.

Please your own chair, snacks, and drinks and have a wonderful time!

*In the event of rain or other weather conditions which make meeting outdoors impossible, those signed up will be offered another date and/or time, unless attendees are comfortable moving inside the building.

Relay For Life of Kandiyohi County

Cancer hasn't stopped and neither can we! We are Stronger Together and can win this fight from every corner of Minnesota.

This year may look a little different, but we can't give up!

Everyone is invited to "Paint the Town Purple" between now and August 1st. On the 1st, there will be a virtual ceremony on Facebook. Look for Relay for Life of Kandiyohi County.

For more information on all that is happening, as well as how you donate online, please check out their website at www.relayforlife.org/kandiyohimn



Mask Mission

Our Mask Mission is still going strong! The Mask Mission Team is making so many masks, and we have plenty to go around. If anyone needs a mask, or knows someone who does, please just contact the church office and we will be sure they are delivered. We even ship! Just this week Pastor Leslie shipped some masks to a friend in Nevada. So even if you know someone out of state, that doesn't stop us from getting masks to those who need them.

June Attendance

These numbers are based on views including our online worship services.

June 7...57

June 14...59

June 21...51

June 28...53

Remember to Save Your Teals Receipts!

Cross Roads UMC is part of the Teals' Market 1% Receipt Rebate Program.

When you shop at Teals, save your receipts, bring them to church, and put them in the special Teals Receipts box located on the cabinet outside of the kitchen and fellowship hall.

Teals will donate 1% of our receipt totals to Cross Roads to put towards our many mission fundraising activities.

All you have to do is shop Teals, save your receipts, send them to or bring them to the church. We will do the rest!

Please note that gas receipts ARE a part of the program!

This is a great opportunity to take part in a local business giving back to our community.

Thank you for your support!

~The Missions Team

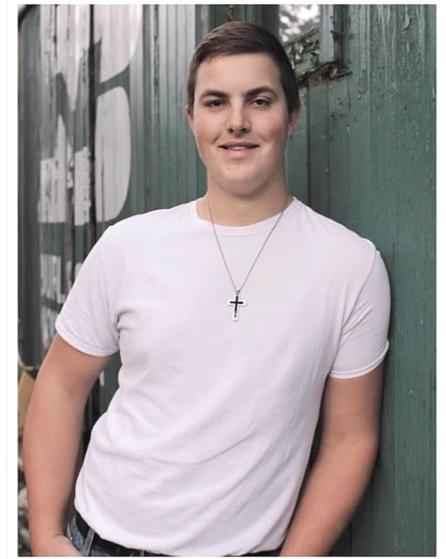


YOU ARE INVITED!

Dustin and Kendra Pflipsen invite you to join in the celebration of Coltin's high school graduation, and will be hosting a party on **Saturday, August 1, 2020 from 3:00-6:00 pm** at their home.

Please come out and help Coltin celebrate this important milestone in his life.

Coltin plans to attend Alexandria Technical & Community College in the fall to study in the Mechatronics program.



Health Note

Peanut butter has been a staple for sandwiches and snacks for a long time. I recently found an article in mind-bodygreen.com written by Abby Moore, comparing peanut and almond butters. I thought it was worth sharing with you.

Both butters are rich in heart healthy fats and provide plant-based protein. Replacing foods high in saturated fats like red meats or added sugars is good for cardiovascular and brain health.

Both butters are high in protein, fiber, and healthy fats. That makes them good sources of energy and they are filling. They slow digestion which slows down the speed which food breaks down and that stabilizes blood sugars. That is helpful to all of us, especially pre-diabetics and diabetics.

The butters can be used in sweet or savory dishes as well as added to oatmeal, or smoothies. For something sweet try coating banana bites with peanut butter, sprinkle with dark chocolate chips and freeze.

Almond butter has higher unsaturated fat and better omega 3:6 ratio and more vitamin E, while peanut butter has a better protein-to-fat ratio and more B vitamins. They both are winners. If you eat a lot of nut butter, almond may be the better choice. If you eat them only occasionally choose the flavor and texture you most like. Whichever you pick, look for nut butters made only from ground nuts without added sugars and salt. Avoid low fat varieties, their fats are healthy!

Stay well, Shari

August Birthdays

Pat O'Connor 2nd
Sami Evenson 4th
Myrtle Caskey 9th
Tiahna Rohloff 10th
Doug Decker 13th
Michele Albers 14th
Al Boonstra 16th
Karen Dean 16th

Merle Kluver 16th
Shelli Peterson 16th
Kevin Navratil 18th
Bob Kaiser 22nd
Riley Bjonfald 24th
Robbie Johnson 26th
Owen Redington 30th



August Anniversaries

Jordan & Ashley Massmann 10th
Eric & Jamie Bjonfald 15th
Joel & Sharon Hagen 17th
Dustin & Kendra Pflipsen 17th
Tom & Donna Smith 17th
Al & Lylas Boonstra 24th 4



July 2020 Updates

As things are setting down into a new “normal” at The Link, there has been a lot to be thankful for. The Community Closet and Revive and Redeem started back up with taking donations and the stores opened again for shopping. The store hours are 10-2 Thursdays and Fridays and Saturdays from 9-1.

In June, **The Food Pantry** welcomed 6 new families, served 28 children, 53 adults and 26 seniors. 2900 pounds of food was distributed and 227.5 pounds of food was donated from community members and churches. If you know anyone who is having a tough time making ends meet with the current economic crises, please have them come in Tuesdays and Thursdays between 9-3, Wednesdays 2-5 or contact us at 320-354-5555.

The Summer Backpack Program is up and running and serving local families in need of some extra food support. Families can come in and fill up bags for each child in their family to take home. If you know any families that could benefit from getting a little extra during the tough summer months the kids aren't in school, have them contact us at The Link and we can get them signed up.

Senior Food Delivery- The Senior Food Delivery Program has signed up 4 new seniors this past month. It has been an absolute blessing to them and for the staff here at The Link to serve them. If you are interested in delivering or if you know a senior family (or a family that has a difficult time getting out and about), please call Ashley at 320-354-5555.

The Link's **Client Outreach** program served 6 families in the month of June. One family in particular was helped in a big way when The Link was able to catch them up on rent and bills in the amount of \$3,000. Other families received help with car repairs, energy bills, rent and gas. A HUGE thank you to all of The Link's Donors for making it possible to help families in need. There have been tears of gratitude shed this past month from those The Link was able to serve.

RIBFEST POSTPONED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE- A new date for Ribfest is being discussed and will be finalized soon. Stay tuned for more information.

COMMUNITY CLOSET AND REVIVE AND REDEEM ARE TAKING DONATIONS! Please call ahead of time to ensure someone is available to assist you.

And remember.....

YOU are The Link.

Tuesday's Table:

Tuesday's Table continues to be cancelled until further notice.

Monthly Giving Opportunities:

The Link makes monthly giving a convenient option for our donors. You can set up online giving through The Link's website at www.youarethelink.org or directly through your bank. If you would like to make a one time donation, you can send a check to P.O. Box 823, New London, MN 56273 or via Venmo @The-Link-1. Please contact Ashley at 320-354-5555 or email her at ashley@youarethelink.org for more information.



**Cross Roads Community
United Methodist Church**

3400 113th Ave NE
Spicer, MN 56288

320-796-2339
www.crossroadsspicer.com

August 2020

Christian radio stations in the area:

K-Love 90.9

KTIS 92.7 & 98.5

Spirit 92.9

The Cross Roads Mission

To help everyone find joy in their journey by:

Inviting everyone to walk with Jesus,

Growing together as His disciples,

Serving others we meet along the way

And Joyfully Celebrating the Journey