

When will we again be able to be together to worship in person? I am sure this is a question many of you are asking, or at least thinking. This is a question that has run through my brain multiple times a day now for the past week or so.

Yesterday, we received guidance from the Minnesota Annual Conference and Bishop Ough that we continue to refrain from having in-person worship through May 30. This will allow the leadership of each local United Methodist congregation in Minnesota time to discuss, plan, and prepare for what in-person worship will look like when we are able to resume safely. Yet, as one clergy friend reminded me this week, resuming in-person worship is not going to be like “flipping on a light switch.” Rather, it will be much like turning a dial, where we begin slowly and work our way back up to full engagement. What this will look like for Cross Roads in the coming weeks and months remains to be seen.

Yet through all of this, I keep returning to a prayer sent to me by a clergy colleague that was written by Rev. Larry Doornbos. I think it is quite appropriate for each of us given all that is going on in our communities, in our nation, and around the world during this pandemic. Read these words, pray these words, and remember, the church is not a building, the church is the people, and whether we are near each other or socially isolated, we are still bound in fellowship.

Jesus, who saw the people like sheep without a shepherd and with compassion began to teach them: we your sheep need your teaching. A cacophony of voices around us cry out “Peace, peace!” while other voices cry “There is no peace!”

“Listen to our voice!” while others voices cry out, “No, listen to ours!”

“We are the wise!” while others voices cry out, “No, they are fools!”

“Support this leader!” while other voices cry out, “No, support this leader!”

“Hurrah for our side!” while others voices cry out, “No, hurrah for our side!”

Jesus, shepherd of your sheep, have compassion on us as you did so long ago. Teach us to know wisdom and to live with prudence, to live as the sheep on your right hand, not the goats on your left, to do justice, to love mercy, and to walk humbly, to use our gifts for the common good, to hear truth and discern lies, to seek first the kingdom of God and its righteousness, to live with gladness because the Lord reigns.

Jesus, a cacophony of voices cries out around us. As the voices cry out, we join a single voice, the voice of a child named Samuel, and say, “Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.” Amen.

Pastor Leslie

The Compass



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ANOTHER DRIVE-BY BLESSING COMING TO CROSS ROADS!

On Sunday, May 10, Pastor Leslie and Donald will host another drive-by blessing for Mother's Day. At a time when many mothers in our congregation will be unable to see their children, or even their own mothers, we want to offer a special blessing for you as a mom, and to share with you a gift from our congregation.

So drive through the overhang by the church offices any time between 10:30am and 12:00 noon on this Sunday, and Pastor Leslie will offer you a blessing, and Don will shower you with a gift. You don't have to get out of your car, and we will be sure to take extra precautions to maintain the proper amount of social distance. Hope to see you then!

Worship Information

Please continue to watch your emails for weekly information about online worship. You can also find the link to online worship on our *new* website at crossroadsspicer.com.

If you have a prayer request for Sunday worship, 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 would like a DVD of the weekly worship services, please call the office and leave a message, and we will be sure you get one each week.

Church Office Hours

The Church office will continue to be closed until further notice. Pastor Leslie and Kendra will be checking 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.

Health Note

Let's focus on something besides the virus. Many of us are eating more meals at home. Breakfast remains the most important meal of the day. In spite of this many of us skip breakfast. In an article written by Bonnie Brost for News Tribune August 14, 2018, we are reminded of its benefits. People who eat breakfast have a more balanced diet, they are less likely to be overweight, if they are overweight they lose weight more successfully, and they are at a lesser risk for heart disease, stroke, and diabetes. Eating breakfast improves concentration, mood, and mental performance. If you skip breakfast you are more likely to indulge in unhealthy snacks. It is difficult to have time in the morning so she suggests making your plan the night before. The focus should be on protein and fiber. Fruit fresh, frozen or dried are good. You can get your protein from eggs, nuts, nut butters, light cheese, cottage cheese, Greek yogurt, smoothies, and high fiber cereals including oatmeal. Breakfast bars are quick but are often high in sugar and saturated fat. If you grab a breakfast bar add a piece of fruit or some string cheese or Greek yogurt.

Be well, Shari



A Note from Pat Solheid, Administrative Chair

One of the comforting aspects of church, at least to me, was that things were steeped in tradition and I could count on many "constants" in my spiritual and church life. That all has certainly turned topsy turvy in the last several weeks! I think it was disconcerting to many of us that all of a sudden life was different. COVID 19 turned everything on its ear! Cancel church when the temperature was above freezing? It had never been done! Cancel church during LENT??? Especially on Easter? Positively unheard of in the Christian world. Cancel all meetings for weeks on end--how would the church's business get accomplished if that happened?

Ecclesiastes 3:1 immediately springs to mind: "To every thing there is a season and a time for every purpose under heaven." Translation: In 2020, it was time to find a new way to be The Church and to find new ways to worship and conduct our business.

It hasn't been easy, but we've all been resilient. For many years we "videoed" the church service and sent copies to people who asked for them. In pretty short order, Pastor Leslie and Don put their "IT" hats on and figured out how to livestream worship so we never missed a beat for regular Sunday worship services and for Lent. Three months ago, if I was asked what "zoom" meant, I would have said "driving fast." Now, pretty much everyone knows that Zoom is an online video platform used for meetings and gatherings. Cross Roads has held Zoom committee meetings and even Zoom Bible study sessions. It's not quite the same as being there in person, but it's a pretty darn good substitute! And, I would venture to say that when our lives return back to our "new normal," we may continue having some of our committee meetings by Zoom. This would allow us to meet with no thought to weather and driving conditions and our snowbirds could even participate!

I'm a firm believer that every cloud has a silver lining. While COVID 19 times have not been easy, we've found out that we're resilient, we can find new ways to conduct our church's business and that together (even if socially distanced), we are strong. While our lives have changed drastically in recent weeks, always remember what it says in Hebrews 13:8 - "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever." We WILL get through this and Jesus will be at our side as we do.

If you or your family have any needs during this trying time -- socially, spiritually, emotionally, physically, mentally -- do not hesitate to reach out to Pastor Leslie or to anyone else in our church leadership team, including me. We will do our best to help you fill any need(s) that you may have.

God never promised that things would be easy, but He did promise that He would always be with us.

God's blessings to us all.

Pat Solheid

Chair, Administrative Team

A Note from Al Boonstra, Lay Leader

WOW—Who would believe that we are still homebound! Fortunately we can still be in touch with each other. Thanks to Pastor Leslie and Kendra we know what is happening within our church and church family. Also, thanks to the various church committees, things are still happening. Also, as Lay Leader, I try to stay involved. At this time the following activities are continuing.

TRUSTEES: The roof, parking lot, and general maintenance are being taken care of.

EDUCATION/YOUTH: Leaders and youth are staying involved and keeping in touch.

CARE COMMITTEE/FAITH IN ACTION: Church members are being called and kept up to date.

PASTOR LESLIE: She is always ready to meet-visit-listen. Her innovative use of technology allows her to communicate, preach, conduct bible study, and keep in touch.

FINANCE: Don Ericson and committee are worrying and praying that our finances will meet budget.

Thanks to everyone for your continued prayers, work, and financial commitment. We will get this behind us and become a stronger church. In the meantime, we must all do our part and keep the faith.

Also, remember during this time especially, a Random Act of Kindness will bring a smile to someone else and joy in your heart.

Blessings and Prayers,

Al Boonstra

A Note from our Outreach Team

It seems so very long ago that we sat together to plan what our newly formed team would plan to do in this new year. Our mission is to serve our Lord by reaching out to our larger community through sponsoring concerts, participating in local events, delivering meals to seniors and to inspire our members to reach out in kindness.

We had plans for 5th Sunday potlucks, serving a Lenten meal, treats for our local merchants, delivering meals to seniors, setting up a prayer mail box, doing meals to reach out to fire fighters, local law enforcement, teachers, and veterans. We also planned to ask our own people what they want and need in and from our church.

As difficult as it has been and is, we need to trust that God will walk with us through this time.

Shari Heitke

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, and 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



May Birthdays

Mellody Hanson 5th	Jean Ericson 25th
Justin Pahl 7th	Dennis Gertgen 25th
Sharon Hagen 10th	Brandon Wolff 25th
Riley Pflipsen 10th	Alex Springman 26th
David Muetzel 16th	Amariya Pahl 28th
Pat Kaiser 21st	Beth Schultz 29th
Alex Wolff 21st	Amy Denz 30th



May Anniversaries

Don & Jean Ericson 5th
Scott & Lori Doty 14th
Mike & Chandra Duke 20th
Mitch & Carrie Duke 26th
John & Char Laughlin 29th



“People are often unreasonable and self-centered. Forgive them anyway.

If you are kind, people may accuse you of ulterior motives. Be kind anyway.

If you are honest, people may cheat you. Be honest anyway.

If you find happiness, people may be jealous. Be happy anyway.

The good you do today may be forgotten tomorrow. Do good anyway.

Give the world the best you have, and it may never be enough. Give your best anyway.

For you see, in the end, it is between you and God. It was never between you and them anyway.”

~Mother Teresa



Hello everyone!

This past month has definitely brought some fear, anxiety and new challenges to many families in our community. As the shelter in place continues to impact many of the self-employed, small business owners and the people who work for them, the need for The Link's services has increased. But with these challenges, we have again been reminded what an amazing community we live in and have watched as God has moved through others to ensure those who need it most are taken care of. Each and every time there has been a need, people have shown up to help in whatever capacity they can. In March, The Food Pantry took in 1100 pounds of donated food from individuals, churches and drop off locations. The Wildcat Backpack program has received many donations of single serve items as well as monetary donations that have been given to support each of The Link's programs to ensure they run smoothly.

In March, **The Food Pantry** distributed 6,162.2 pounds of food, had 11 new families and served 75 kids, 132 adults and 44 seniors. The Link also served 15 families in **Client Outreach** to assist with everything from rent and utility assistance to helping fund hotel stays for 2 homeless families, giving them time to make a plan to move forward.

The Wildcat Backpack Program has continued during distant learning and the school is now delivering the backpack meals with the student lunches. The biggest challenge with the backpacks is coming up with creative ways to fill them. During the shelter in place, there has been restrictions on many of the items typically purchased for the backpacks. This, of course, poses a problem finding the large quantities needed to fill so many bags with food. If you are looking for non-monetary ways to help, The Wildcat Backpack Program can always use extra non-perishable items including: mac-n-cheese, chef Boyardee meals, applesauce or other fruit pouches, single serve snack bags (chips, cheese its, pretzels, etc.), treats and juice boxes.

Senior Food Delivery- This program has been up and running for a few short months now. We have been given the opportunity to serve many grateful seniors and are always looking for others that could use the support of not having to leave home for food. If you have any questions as to how this program works, please call Ashley at 354-5555.

Meet the Match Campaign- The Link was contacted at the beginning of April by an anonymous donor willing to match donations up to \$10,000! By the end of the first week of the campaign, the \$10,000 match was met! Watching the eagerness of community members wanting to help in any capacity they can during such uncertain times has been a breath of fresh air and a reminder that so much good is right here in our own backyards.

Thank you for your continuous support. It does not go unnoticed! 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

May 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