



First United  
Methodist  
Church

607 Lynn Street Tipton, IA 52772

563.886.2331

www.tiptonumc.org  
office@tiptonumc.org

Steve Pudinski, Pastor  
stephen.pudinski@iaumc.net

## United Methodist News

March 2020



### Church Staff

Pastor - **Steve Pudinski**  
Administrative Ministries  
Coordinator - **Greg Brown**  
Custodian - **Don Griffith**  
Chancel Choir  
Director - **Luke Johnston**  
Piano/Organ - **Jo Brown & Dee Wallace**  
Little Friends Preschool  
Director and Teacher - **Amber Brown**  
Xn Chaos Director - **Greg Brown**  
Bishop of the Iowa Annual  
Conference - **Laurie Haller**  
East Central District  
Superintendent - **Kiboko Kiboko**  
Ministers of Jesus Christ  
in the World - **All the People of God!**

As we pray each day for healing and wholeness for those who have been afflicted with the Covid-19 virus, let us also pray for healing for our world.

Our Annual Ecumenical Easter Son-rise Service has been  **canceled** . The Son-rise service will be recorded and made available on our website Easter morning. Pastor Steve will be preaching the sermon, He Is Not Here.



Good Friday in-person worship services are also  **canceled** . The Good Friday Service will be recorded and available on our Website on Good Friday at noon.



He is *Risen* 

*Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors*

# Between Sundays

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In the most recent lesson in our Lenten study, *The Walk*, we discussed where do we see God in our lives? Where do we feel close to God through the arts, nature, and in general revelation? I know there are many of us who listen to and receive inspiration from Christian radio. One of the reasons why so many people like to sing the more contemporary songs in worship is they feel a special connection with God through the music.

I am writing this column on March 16, the Monday after we suspended all activities at the church due to the COVID-19 virus. The situation around the virus outbreak seems to be changing daily, if not hourly. I have watched as not only our Bishop, but Bishop's in other Annual Conferences across this nation, struggle to make decisions that seem best for those United Methodist churches under their care.

We, too, have struggled here in Iowa...in Tipton. What seemed to be a last-minute decision to suspend worship on March 15 was distressing. However, the decision was made when the reality hit that it only takes one to infect hundreds as is evident in New Rochelle, N.Y.

Yet I am also comforted by words we find in scripture. I am comforted by the words we find set to music. I think of the Newsboys, when we hear:

In this time of desperation  
When all we know is doubt and fear  
There is only one foundation  
We believe, we believe  
In this broken generation  
When all is dark, You help us see  
There is only one salvation  
We believe, we believe

<https://genius.com/Newsboys-we-believe-lyrics>

There are hundreds of songs born of scripture we can pull from for inspiration in times like this. The chaos that God calmed when the world was called into order seems to rise up every now and then to bring fear, anxiety, panic in some, and a host of other emotions. It is in times like this that we need to turn to scripture and remember the words of Jesus when he said not to worry. We need to focus our attention on our present, our here and now, and not worry. Each day has enough of that.

Instead, we need to remember that we can talk with God and the best way to do that is through prayer. Pray for others, pray for ourselves, pray for those afflicted with this virus, and pray for those trying to help stop the spread of the disease. If you don't know what to say, just talk to God. If you still are uncertain what to do, pray the Lord's Prayer. Remember, we are told in Romans 8:26, "Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes<sup>[a]</sup> with sighs too deep for words."

My friends, we are all in this together around the world, for we are one human family. Our call for such a time as this is to practice the words of the apostle Paul in Galatians 6:2, "Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ." This is a time to care for each other, to reach out to those who may be shut-in, and be the heart and hands of Christ to all who need our help.

So, as we pray, let us also try to go about our lives in the new normal that is temporarily before us. Yes, some of us will need to stay at home, limiting contact with others, now called social distancing.

Yes, we cannot gather for worship, but we are putting our modified worship services on our web page. Hopefully, shortly after this newsletter is sent out, we will hear we can go back to worship as usual on Sunday mornings. However, if that is not possible for the foreseeable future, we will strive to bring meaningful worship to you the best we can.

Our committees and our classes will be meeting on the internet/telephone so we can still do business for those who do not wish to meet in person.

# Between Sundays continued

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Which brings up another matter. We are called to help support our church through our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness. In our worship services one of the ways we present our gifts to God is through the offering plate. Unfortunately, we cannot pass the plate through the virtual world.

So, I am asking you to remember to give as you have been called to give, but maybe not in the way you are accustomed to giving. Instead of dropping your tithes and offerings in a basket, drop it in an envelope addressed to our church and put it in the mail. Drop by the office and say “Hi” to Greg as you hand him your offering envelope, and chat a while. If you wish, give electronically. Greg can help you get that established so your gift to God comes out of your checking or savings account on a regular basis.

Let’s remember, giving is also an act of worship!

Finally, we don’t know how long the COVID-19 virus will be with us or how it will affect our community. If this is a protracted situation, we will adjust as necessary. In the meantime, we will try to keep everyone up-to-date as much as possible on church related activities through the internet, our newsletter, our Facebook page, and by talking to those who are not connected through technology.

Until next month, Shalom.

*Pastor Steve*

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## We Hear God’s Word . . .

Here are the sermon titles and scripture reference for the month of April (subject to change):

- April 5 – Looking Through the Lens of Faith  
Matthew 26:4–56
- April 10 – Good Friday Service will be available only on our website  
In The Margins  
Matthew 27
- April 12 – Son-rise Worship Service will only be available on our website  
He Is Not Here  
John 20:1–18
- April 12 – Easter Sunday Worship will be available by livestream only  
True Love  
John 20:1–18
- April 19 – Whom Are You Looking For?  
John 20:19–31
- April 26 – All This Happened . . .  
Luke 24:13–35



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## Prayers

**Hospitalized/Procedures:** Tracy Stotler (Judy Ohrt’s daughter. Prayers for Tracy’s husband Terry and son Brady, also).

**Healing:** Jo Ann Beers, Nick Brown, Denise Cartwright, Glenn Eaton, Jerry & Betty Elijah, Jerry Ferguson, Bob Gould, Sylvia Gould, Erma Lyle, Lynn McIntosh, half-brother, and nephew of Deb Lowry, Deb McKay, Chris McKinney, Jeff McKinney, Randy Nau, Mavis O’Morrow, Betty Orr (Greg Brown’s Aunt), Barb Rickard, Jim Theile (Lois Salmonson’s brother), Barb Valenti (Lois Salmonson’s sister), Rhonda Waugh.

**Prayers for those in Life Transitions:** Alice Ann & Lisa Gallagher, Sylvia & Ken Gould, Ryan & Melinda Stonebraker & family.

**Individuals & Families experiencing loss:**

**In Treatment:** Kandi Allison, Ron Burroughs, Clara Italiano, Karen (Gail Fleming’s sister), Taylor Miller (Sherry Willey’s granddaughter), Dorothy Theile (Lois Salmonson’s sister), Chris Ward, Brian (Bert Wagaman’s nephew).

**Hospice/Palliative Care:** Bill Brown (Greg’s father), Joe Cheshaeck (Gail Fleming’s brother-in-law), Dennis O’Morrow.

**Armed Services:** Thomas Brown (Seydel’s son-in-law), Steve Eiler, Kyle Marchik, Kaitlyn McKinney, Corey & Alexa Ormsby, Mike Ploeger & Daniel Larson (McKinney’s nephews).

## Mobile Pantry Distribution Changes

Tipton First UMC has received instructions concerning the HACAP Food Reservoir's new food distribution procedures in light of the COVID-19 virus. It reads in part:

**For the foreseeable future, we are making changes to our mobile pantry distribution to protect your health and the health of the clients.**

- **We will be distributing pre-boxed food rather than setting up tables for clients to “shop” from. Bob will have pallets of boxes and bags ready to add the perishable items like produce, bakery and meat to. We will distribute directly from the truck, to reduce contact with clients. They will not be able to select what they want. This will strictly be a bag and go hand off.**
- **Clients will be asked to wait in their vehicles and just drive thru for pick up. If clients do not have cars, we are asking that you help to keep them from forming a line and spreading out as much as possible. Calling one person at a time up to receive their pre-boxed and bagged items.**
- **Check in should be done by one person, if they are new and need to sign a TEFAP form, please keep contact minimal. Gloves are available from Bob to wear.**

**We know these changes are not how we would like to distribute food to our neighbors, but for now these measures allow us to keep getting them food while protecting everyone's health.**

**For now, out of an abundance of caution, when you arrive for a volunteer shift you will be asked to sign a waiver that you have not traveled to a high-risk area and are not experiencing any signs of illness.**

A few small actions can help us all stay healthy now and in the future. If you want more information, here are the resources: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/index.html>

Thank you for your continued commitment to serving our community with dignity and respect. We'll continue to monitor and adjust strategies to keep us all safe and healthy moving forward.

**Can't Make Worship?  
Visit our Website.**

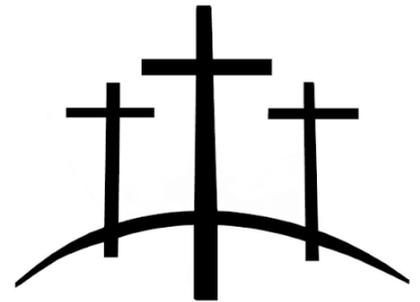
Weekly sermons will be at the normal time and available at [tiptonumc.org](http://tiptonumc.org).

If you want to give online, that is available at the website too.



**Changing our Community  
with Compassion**

Shared Blessing meals  
are canceled until  
further notice.



HACAP Mobile Food Truck

Friday, April 3

3:30 – 4:30 pm

Tipton United Methodist Church

Questions?

Call the HACAP Food Reservoir

(319) 393-7811 or

Church office (563) 886-2331

Income Eligibility

Guidelines Apply

[www.hacap.org](http://www.hacap.org)

## Sunday Schedule

8:00 am – Prayer, meet in the Gathering Place  
9:00 – 9:50 am  
Sunday school and GIGS\*  
9:50 – 10:00 am – Fellowship Snacks, Gathering Place  
10:00 – 11:15 am Worship  
11:15 am – Fellowship Coffee

**\*Classes and GIGs** are located in various places throughout the building. Children, Preschool-6<sup>th</sup> grade meet in the Sanctuary for opening and then go to their classrooms in the Education Wing.

## Give Online

**Who:** Anyone wanting to give who has a bank account, credit card, or debit card.

**What:** Give securely online as a one-time payment or automatically recurring payment.

**When:** Anytime, and especially when you'll be gone for vacation, family events, athletic tournaments, etc.

**Why:** Why use online? It is simple, convenient, no checks to write, can be one-time or automatically recurring; Why give? Financial stewardship is a spiritual discipline, partnering with others to do God's work in the world.

**Where:** <http://www.tiptonumc.org>

**How:** Click the Give Now button, setup an account, and submit your gift.

## Recorded Worship Service During Pandemic Isolation

The church is currently posting recorded video of weekly worship on Sundays at 10:00 am. You can find these videos at the church's website ([www.tiptonumc.org](http://www.tiptonumc.org)) on the Worship page. This page can be accessed via the menus (click on Worship, or the Livestream item under the Worship menu). It is also available by clicking on the Latest Worship Video link in the Worship Times area under the logo, and also by clicking on the Worship Live button on the home page. Note that these videos are recorded on the Wednesday prior to the Sunday when they are available on the web.

When we return to our regular 'in-person' services, we will be streaming the service live for those unable to make it to the church for worship. We are still working on licensing and restrictions on what can and cannot be streamed, so there may be portions of the service that are unavailable on the web. Live service video will be available in the same place on the website as the recorded videos.

Please note that going forward you will need to always use a microphone during announcements and Joys and Concerns so that you can be heard on the video stream. One thing that will make this easier is if we have designated 'mic runners' to make sure the microphones (one on the main level, and one in the balcony) are easy to use. If anyone is interested in this duty (or interested in offering up your middle-school or older children for this duty!) please contact me ([bheil@ezrasoft.com](mailto:bheil@ezrasoft.com)) or the office ([office@tiptonumc.org](mailto:office@tiptonumc.org)). The main floor microphone is usually taken care of by the Chaos singers (every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday) but we'll need volunteers for the balcony and main levels on other Sundays.

## 5th and 6th Grade Sunday School Class

It's been a couple of Sundays since we last had class and wanted to let you know that I really miss seeing you! Hopefully we will all be back together soon but in the meantime I have a small challenge for you. Here are 3 verses that I would like for you to look up: Joshua 1:9, John 14:27 and Matthew 28:20. Tell me what they all have in common.

There's a couple of other things also. If you haven't done so already, take some time and pray for those who are impacted by the Covid-19. This is one of the best ways we can help! The last thing that I ask is if you have grandparents that cannot get out, give them a call. They would probably enjoy having someone to talk to.

Did I mention that if you write down those verses and bring them to class when we start again, I will have a reward! See you all soon!  
Mary Jo Heil



Providing Quality Education



American Guild of Organists, River Valley Chapter presents:  
★ ★ "All Creation Sings" ★ ★  
A Worship Ceremony honoring local church musicians  
Organists, Pianists, Vocal or Bell Choir Directors, and other congregational music leaders with 15+ Years of experience to be honored.

Worship Ceremony  
April 26, 2020 - 3:00 p.m.

This wonderful event has been postponed for obvious reasons. We will inform everyone if/when this will be rescheduled.

Please submit:  
•The name of church musicians to be honored  
•What church(es) they serve  
•How many years they have been church musicians  
•A mailing address where we can send an invitation

Email: 2020RVAGO@gmail.com  
Call / Text: 319-481-2406

Sylvia Gould's name was submitted and she will be honored at this wonderful ceremony that honors church musicians. Congratulations Sylvia!

*“Faith is the  
one power  
against which  
fear  
cannot stand.”*

— Dr. Norman Vincent Peale

## Check This Out . . .

### The Majestic Tree by Jan Wehde

I remember the neighbors' great big tree,  
That sat in the corner of their yard,  
To climb up into the branches,  
usually wasn't very hard.

We would set upon one big branch,  
And another would be our desk,  
The leaves would be our paper,  
But the schooling wasn't the best.

I remember he had a Great Dane dog,  
He kept outside his door,  
We were scared to even walk by there,  
So we sure didn't climb that tree anymore.

So the purpose of that dog,  
As you can well see,  
Was to keep all us kids,  
Down out of that tree.

But the town wouldn't let its people,  
Have such great big dogs,  
So to keep us kids down out of the tree,  
He turned that tree into lots of little logs.

Alas, no tree to climb anymore,  
But he had beaten himself I'm afraid,  
For while he kept us kids down out of that tree,  
He deprived himself of all of that shade.



**Leadership Council** meeting is April 21 at 6:45 pm.

## Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 1 – Jennifer Gaunt, Amy Glick
- 3 – Kristen Charette
- 4 – Natalie Coppess
- 5 – Ethan & Samantha Wulf
- 6 – Scott Cartwright
- 7 – Matt Jackson
- 8 – Coryn Wallick
- 9 – Grady Glick
- 10 – Addison Butler, Stuart Clark
- 11 – Braydon Calonder, Randy & Chris Amosson,  
David & Ruth Ann Beers
- 14 – Jerry Ferguson
- 15 – Jack Boldt, Lauren Gregory, KiaLeigh Rickard-  
Urban, Karen Strefling
- 17 – Danny Ford, Marvin & Kay Miller
- 18 – Tom Ehresman, Chris Schultz
- 19 – Carol Anderson
- 20 – Twyla Hein, Jennifer & Neil Gaunt, Randy &  
Tina Nau
- 21 – Amber Boedeker, Calvin Kuehl, Mary Wright,  
Chris VanScoy & Abby Cummins-VanScoy
- 23 – Denise Errthum
- 24 – Wayne & Nanette Behrens
- 26 – Rosie Blank, Renee Mente, Adam & Katie  
Rippentrop
- 27 – Kelly Smith, Rich Urban
- 28 – Connor Boeve, Adam Heil, Robert & Denise  
Errthum
- 29 – Daulton Mente, Maddie Swick
- 30 – Margaret O’Leary, Owen Steinman, Duane  
Webb

(Please contact the church office for additions and/or corrections.)



## Presence & Gifts

### March:

Worship attendance: 169

### March Giving (as of March 23)

General Fund	\$8,964
Remodeling Fund	1,000.00
Technology Fund	800
Apportionments	10.00
GIG Books	122
Shared Blessings	40
Missions	75
Kitchen Fund	100
Copper Kettle	93
Pancake Supper	477
Garage Rent	40
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$11,761</b>

### February

Worship attendance: 351

### February Giving

General Fund	\$12,038
Remodeling Fund	\$1,800
Upper Room	\$2
Apportionments	\$20
GIG Books	\$130
LFP Teacher Salary	\$1,309
Missions	\$75
Copper Kettle	\$141
Kitchen Fund	\$275
Grand Total	\$15,790
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$15,790</b>

Year-to-Date Total Giving: \$ 45,922

Year-to-Date General Fund Giving: \$37,397

*For the LORD is good  
and his love  
endures forever;  
his faithfulness  
continues from  
generation to  
generation.*

— Psalm 100:5

# April Sunday Servants

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*Watch our website or call the office for up-to-date information on when the church will resume regular activities and worship services*

## Liturgists

19 – Kris Clark  
26 – Gail Fleming

## Power Point (run)

19 – Lea Stonebraker  
26 – Adam Heil

## Fellowship Coffee

19 – Volunteers Needed  
26 – Stephanie Voss & Meredith Coppess

## Greeters

19 – Larry & Berrie Glick  
26 – Candi Dusenberry & Sherry Willey

## Nursery

19 – Bob Young  
26 – Mary McKinney

## Acolytes

19 – Volunteers Needed  
26 – Volunteers Needed

## Ushers

19 – Chris & Abby VanScoy,  
Rick & Judy Rouse  
26 – Gary & Sue Thumma,  
Bob & Glenda Holets



A jar full of sour wine was standing there. So they put a sponge full of the wine on a branch of hyssop and held it to his mouth. When Jesus had received the wine, he said, "It is finished." Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.  
*John 19:29-30 (NRSV)*

We often need last minute substitutes. Please contact Becky Young, [bbyoung49@gmail.com](mailto:bbyoung49@gmail.com), 563-357-1245 or Lois Salmonson, [sron263@aol.com](mailto:sron263@aol.com), 563-886-2315 if you would like to participate. If you immediately or eventually see a conflict, please try to trade with someone else on the list. If you need a phone number or email address, please look in the church pictorial directory or contact the church office, [office@tiptonumc.org](mailto:office@tiptonumc.org)

USHERS – We have a detailed outline of instructions on the back table

in the sanctuary. Please arrive 25 minutes early to check instructions and usher. There are a couple recent changes:

1. Make sure there are 4 offering plates on the altar. For the general offering, all 4 ushers go down the center aisle to pick up plates from the minister. The two on the outside go left or right, the other two up the middle starting at the FRONT. Copper Kettle Offering: Three ushers will go forward, one down the middle and two on the outside aisles moving toward the back. When all is collected two ushers bring the plates and the Copper Kettle offering forward and place them on the altar. On Communion Sunday the plates should be placed on the pedestals on each side of the sanctuary for people to place their offering in them as they pass by.
2. Acolytes light the candles after the Pastor has gone forward and the Prelude has been played. They light candles at the beginning of the first hymn. When the acolytes return they should ring the church bell SEVEN times.

GREETERS – Please arrive 30-45 minutes early. Your name tags will be on the radiator in the entry. Please be aware of newcomers. If they have children make them aware of the nursery, activity bags, restrooms, changing tables etc. Make sure the ushers are aware they are newcomers too. More detailed instructions are on the table in back of the sanctuary.

LITURGIST – You will receive a copy of the scripture for the service by email. There will also be a copy of the scripture on the lectern you may use. Feel free to sit in the chair behind the lectern or with the congregation.

NURSERY – Please be available at least 15 minutes before the service.

If no children arrive, please be aware that children may want to go to the nursery after the children's sermon.

POWER POINT – If you have been assigned to help run the slides for the PowerPoint, please arrive in the balcony several minutes before the service begins. If you have questions or want some training contact Brian Heil, [bheil@ezrasoft.com](mailto:bheil@ezrasoft.com)

# April Calendar

## Sunday Schedule

8:00 am Prayer  
9:00 am to 9:50 am  
Children's Sunday  
School and Adult GIGs  
9:50–10:00 am  
Fellowship in the  
Gathering Place  
10:00–11:15 am  
Worship  
11:15 am Fellowship

Watch the website for more up-to-date information.

### Thursday, April 16

10:00 am GIG  
6:30 pm Chaos Rehearsal

### Monday, April 20

3:00 pm Circle of Friends  
6:00 pm–7:30 pm Girl Scouts

### Tuesday, April 21

1:00 pm GIG  
6:45 pm Leadership Council Meeting

### Wednesday, April 22

Newsletter Deadline  
1:30 pm Bible Study  
6:30 pm GIG  
7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Worship Services will be livestreamed and will be available for viewing on our website at 10:00 Sunday Mornings.

[www.tiptonumc.org](http://www.tiptonumc.org)

As of this Writing, all in-person Church Activities are Suspended until at least April 16. Watch our Website or Call the Office for Updates.

### Thursday, April 23

10:00 am GIG  
6:30 pm Chaos Rehearsal

### Tuesday, April 28

1:00 pm GIG  
2:00 pm Prairie Hills Worship

### Wednesday, April 29

8:00 am Holy Folders  
6:30 pm GIG  
7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

### Thursday, April 30

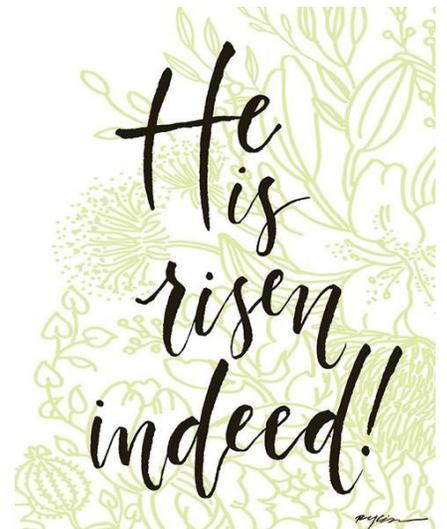
10:00 am GIG  
6:30 pm Chaos Rehearsal

Can't Make Worship?  
Visit the Website.

Once the Coronavirus pandemic has passed, weekly sermons and bulletins will be posted at [tiptonumc.org](http://tiptonumc.org).

Give Now

If you want to give online, that is available on the website, too.



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607 LYNN  
TIPTON, IOWA 52772

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## April Events (Tentative)

April 3 — HACAP Mobile Food Pantry

April 10 — Good Friday Worship @  
1:00 pm and 6:30 pm

April 12 — **EASTER**  
Dominoes

April 20 — Circle of Friends

April 22 — Newsletter Deadline

April 29 — Holy Folders



**Mission Statement:**

**Tipton First United Methodist Church**

“To make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.”