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Steve Pudinski, Pastor
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United Methodist News

May 2020

In-person Worship Services Suspended until June 1

While the Governor has relaxed the restrictions on religious gatherings, Bishop Laurie is strongly suggesting that Iowa Methodist churches refrain from in-person worship services and other activities where individuals gather, until at least June 1. We have decided to abide by her suggestion and we will continue to provide worship services via our web page. As the month of May progresses we will monitor the situation and let you know if there are any changes. In the meantime, if you are in need of any assistance, please reach out to the church office and we will help in any way we can. Conversely, please reach out to, and check in on others in the community that may be in need of assistance or just simply need to talk.

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!**

*These things I have spoken to you,
that in Me you may have peace.
In the world you have tribulation,
but take courage;
I have overcome the world.*

— John 16:33

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) 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, or 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.



Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors

Between Sundays

Grace and peace to all of you in the name of God the Father, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit of God. In these trying times we need to remember to turn to our creator, redeemer and sustainer – our rock, our fortress and our deliverer.

It has been forty-days since we have suspended gathering for worship in our sanctuary. Hmmm, very biblical. It seems a lot longer. Yet, biblically, 40 represents a large number or a long period of time. I think we can relate to the last part of that sentence. I know Jo Brown and I were chatting this week as we finished recording Sunday worship saying it feels like our Sunday is now on Wednesday.

Our Bishop Laurie also commented on this yesterday in her tri-weekly online column. She wrote: I am sure many of you are wondering, “when is this all going to be over, and when can we return to worshipping in our church buildings”? The answer is that here in Iowa, our Governor, Kim Reynolds, is the person who is responsible for monitoring our state’s COVID-19 response. Even when she determines that it is safe for public gatherings to start taking place, we will follow the Bishop’s recommendation as to when we can return to our regular in-person worship schedule. There will likely be other guidelines we need to follow, such as ensuring cleanliness and safety in our buildings. In the meantime, I encourage you to practice social distancing, keep connected with one another, and continue to find ways to make a difference.

A few other bits of information to consider. The city of Wuhan, where all this supposedly started, was under physical distancing restrictions, lockdown if you will [a term I don’t really like to use] for 76 days. We will reach that plateau, that number, on May 30. The Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation, a place where our public officials look for guidance, projected in a statement yesterday (April 22) that the earliest date after which social distancing may be relaxed for Iowa is June 8. Again, this is just a projection and Governor Reynolds will make the final decision.

Yet, we continue. You have been staying in contact with each other via phone and social media. Several of you have reached out saying how much you enjoy the opportunity to worship online (especially after Jo Brown started playing music). Others have been posting to our Facebook page. We still can lift up our joys and concerns by calling the church office and leaving your requests with Greg.

I was asked at Council Meeting this last week if we could consider adding vocals to our worship music. I might consider it if we maintain physical distancing while recording worship on Wednesdays. If you would like to sing something for ‘special music’ please let me know.

Other news around the conference that will affect all of us is in regard to Annual Conference. Bishop Laurie has cancelled the meeting in June. Clergy will meet in early June on Zoom and a Laity/legislative meeting will be conducted in the fall on Zoom as well.

The General Conference has been pushed back to next year, tentatively August 31 to September 10, still in Minneapolis. Jurisdictional Conference dates have yet to be set.

So, the life of the church is still going forward, just in a different manner than what we have experienced in the past. It may also look different in the future; we don’t know for sure. We may have to implement physical distancing (I don’t care for ‘social’ distancing) standards when we return to worship. I think we have enough space to sit six feet apart as family groups. We may all have to don masks, elbow bump or foot wave. Whatever the restrictions, we will adapt and continue to worship our God as we have for so many years.

I would like to leave you with this prayer, from the United Methodist Book of Worship, for those who are unemployed:

*O God of the vineyard,
you call us all to productive labor,
to employ our gifts and talents for you.
We pray for those who are unemployed.
Strengthen them in this difficult hour,
uplift their spirits,
and grant them a place among your laborers
until all be employed for the common good,
and we share fully in our true work
of praising you with heart and mind and
soul forever. Amen.*

(BOW 541)

Until next month, Shalom.

Pastor Steve

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

- May 3 – I Will Follow Him
John 10:1–10
- May 10 – (Mother's Day)
How Do You Describe Mom?
Ephesians 6:1–3
- May 17 – Conference Worship Service
- May 24 – Ok, Now?
Acts 1:6–14
- May 31 – Let Anyone Who Is Thirsty
John 7:37–39

Prayers

Hospitalized/Procedures: Sylvia Gould, Norma Snyder (Mary Vang's sister-in-law), 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 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), 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:
Bonnie Swick

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.

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)

April Giving:

General Fund	\$14,160.17
Caring Ministry	\$1,000.00
GIG Books	\$15.00
LF Preschool Teacher Salary	\$1,309.02
Missions	\$75.00
Easter Pool	\$670.00
Trustees—Garage Rent	40.00
Grand Total	\$17,269.19

Year-to-Date Giving: \$69,975

Year-to-Date General Fund Giving: \$56,982

Year-to-Date Operating Expenses: \$41,406

Apportionments Paid-to-Date: \$8,865



Providing Quality Education

It's never too early to start thinking about the start of Preschool next fall. We will be back! Contact the church office for more information at 563.886.2331.

GOD is *Good,*
all the time.

*The Lord will guide you continually,
and satisfy your needs in parched places,
and make your bones strong;
and you shall be like a watered garden,
like a spring of water,
whose waters never fail.*

Isaiah 58:11 (NRSV)

Missions

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. HACAP 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 HACAP 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.



We WILL be “Filling the Truck” for Midwest Missions in June 2020. Just a little different this year. **Drop off dates and locations will be announced soon.**

The ongoing mission outreach at Midwest Missions continues and is busier than ever! In addition to Hygiene Kits, Student Desks and Sewing Machines (both pedal and electric) Midwest Missions has requested:

- Flannel, “PLU” (waterproof) and Cotton Fabric
- Walkers, Canes, Wheelchairs and Crutches
- Cloth Masks (any style)
- New or Used (clean) Blankets

Plastic or Wood Small School Chairs (children's sizes)

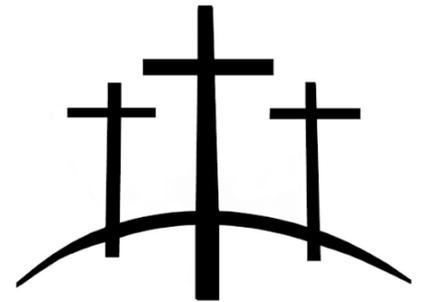
Thank you in advance!
Pastor Catie Newman

Feel free to contact me with questions at Disaster.response@iaumc.org or 712-899-4067.



**Changing our Community
with Compassion**

Shared Blessing meals
are canceled until
further notice.



HACAP Mobile Food Truck
Friday, May 1
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

Faith Formation

Sunday Normal 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-6th 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.

Dear Friends,

I pray that you are all doing well and taking good care of yourself. This is my last district conference with you. Unfortunately, we are not going to meet face to face. We will do this via the magic of "Zoom" on **May 9, 2:00pm - 3:30pm**. A link to the meeting will be sent out once we get closer.

What is a district conference? As a large Conference with over 800 churches and New Faith Communities, District connection and leadership is of the highest importance to the Iowa Annual Conference. It is the role of the Annual Conference to walk alongside the local church in making Disciples by providing support, encouragement, and connection. The means by which this is done is often through the Districts.

I will take this opportunity to ask each church to share with me about ways you have lived out your discipleship pathway. I am not asking you whether you have it on a piece of paper. I am more interested about ways you have been making disciples in your context. Can you show me the fruits? Have you seen any growth in your congregation? Who in your congregation knows about your Discipleship Pathway? I hope everyone in your congregation knows it and knows how to apply it. **Please send me your stories at the beginning of next week.**

Each District has its own culture, systems, and strengths. Yet, just like each local church they are more than themselves because of the United Methodist connection. In our district we have ethnic minority ministries. Two African ministries which have been sponsored by Parish Development at the conference level. Rev. Daniel Niyonzima used to be sponsored at the level of 100%; but now he has been receiving less support. Rev. Patrick Munyakazi used to be sponsored as a ¼ pastor, but now he is getting less. We also have Hispanic ministries and African women ministries. I am inviting you to pray for all our ministries.

This district has also been sponsoring three students from the Congo to attend the Africa University. I am asking each church to send \$300.00/ year directly to the office of Africa University in Nashville (Africa University Office: P.O Box: 340007, Nashville, TN 37203). In addition to sponsoring students on the continent of Africa I am inviting you to assist the Mabaan Community in South Sudan.



Who will attend this conference? The district conferences consist of clergy from the district, as well as lay members from each church. It is going to be presided by me.

Blessings,
Kiboko

Melinda's Appointment to Greenfield UMC

In March's newsletter Pastor Steve announced my appointment. Here's the story in my words...

I was sitting at a wrestling meet in January when I got a call from Terra Amundson, the current southwest district superintendent, and the wife of your new pastor, too. I didn't take the call because the wrestling meet was loud and I wanted the chance to watch the wrestlers and cheerleaders. When I got home I waited for the girls to go to bed and then returned Terra's call. While I waited I wondered and prayed. I was nervous. Southwest Iowa seemed far away.

As we started our conversation, Terra asked me to take some notes. She told me about Greenfield UMC, the church to which the bishop sought to appoint me. Greenfield is a small town, smaller than Tipton. It is the county seat of Adair county—if your Iowa geography is like mine, I'll help you out—from the southwest tip of Iowa, Adair is three counties up and three counties in. Greenfield is part of Nodaway Valley school district. The church is active and growing with several people new to faith and with expanding outreach to the community including a food pantry and health clinic. They also have small groups, youth group and two worship services on Sunday mornings. She described the gifts the church thought a pastor needed to serve well with them, and their description sounded like a fit with me. At once, my heart said yes and my eyes started to melt.

While my heart was quick to say yes, my brain was slow. I google-mapped it while we talked and discovered that Greenfield is three hours from Tipton. Three hours! How would we make that work with our promise to have Zoe graduate from THS? And more: the church seemed big for my first appointment: average attendance of 140 and pretty active with ministries. That nervous feeling I had before the phone call came back to me.

Eventually the four schedules within our family had a chunk of free time that jived with Terra's schedule and the Staff-Parish Relations Committee in Greenfield was available to meet with us on Sunday, February 9th. We drove that three-hour drive—it didn't seem so bad—and explored Greenfield, ate at their delicious Mexican restaurant, and drove to nearby Fontanelle to see the middle school. In the afternoon we toured the parsonage and church building and met and had a long—Zoe and Lea would say *really long*—conversation with the SPRC. Incidentally, one thing I learned that day is that I have to start introducing myself as Pastor Melinda because when our family just shows up as “the new pastor's family” Ryan starts to feel pretty awkward as people assume he's the pastor! I'm sure Greenfield will get used to a woman in the role and I'll have fun figuring it out with them. After talking and praying, we signed the forms and it became

official: I am the newly appointed pastor at Greenfield United Methodist Church.

I graduate in a few weeks and Lea and I will move soon, probably mid-late June. Ryan and Zoe and Mom, when she's here, will stay in Tipton until Zoe graduates next May. The three-hour distance will be difficult I'm sure, but we will give it our best and it will be blessed. The people in Greenfield expressed the desire to help us make it work and I anticipate having their support as we live in two different places. They're good people and I am excited to partner with them and serve as their pastor. Yes, I'm still nervous too, of course, but I am well prepared to be a good pastor and I believe they will be gracious with me. God has not called us together to be anything but a blessing to one another and to the community and world. I think both parties, the church and I, are ready to participate together in what God is doing in Greenfield.

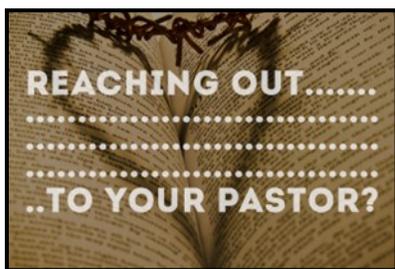
As I said in the announcement I made in worship on February 16, we can feel two emotions at once. I can be happy and sad at the same time. I'm very eager to get to Greenfield and meet those with whom I'll be serving. I'm also sad to leave many good friends and kingdom co-workers here. I'm thankful for the time we have had together and for the learning I've done and the support I've received here in Tipton. Back in November I preached and as I prepared the sermon I thought it may be my last one with you, which now seems to surely be the case. I think I said most of what I wanted to say in that sermon. I have fond memories. Thank you. God bless you.

You are loved.
Melinda Stonebraker

PS. The sermon I refer to above is still here: <https://tiptonumc.org/sermons/mean-jesus-lord/>

Also, if you'd like a link to watch my seminary graduation, let me know. It's **online at 9:30 am, May 16.**





In preparation for moving, the landline at the parsonage has been disconnected. If you need to reach Pastor Steve, please call him on his mobile phone, 707-845-7556, or call the church and leave a message. He can also be reached by email at spudinski@sbcglobal.net.

Check This Out . . .

“The word ‘quarantine’ has Italian roots: in an effort to protect coastal cities from the Black Death ravaging 14th-Century Europe, ships arriving in Venice from infected ports were required to sit at anchor for 40 days (quaranta giorni) before landing, a practice that eventually became known as quarantine – derived from ‘quarantino’, the Italian word for a 40-day period.”

Drop that bit of knowledge on the next person you talk to!



- 1 – Wayne Brown
- 2 – Larry Glick, Keith Wood
- 3 – Pat Christensen
- 4 – Dave Hill
- 5 – Christine Boeve, Steven Miles
- 6 – Brett Eggert , Kathy Houstman, Nate & Katie Shaul
- 7 – Rebecca Boltz, Mary Bormann, Connie Smith, Chris & Nicole Paul
- 9 – Davis Butler, Alicia Geary, Kim Walter
- 10 – Kenadie Behne, Alvin Wright
- 11 – Steve Eiler, Neva Harper
- 15 – Gail Fleming, Brian & Amanda Schmidt
- 16 – Randy Amosson, Curtis Smith
- 17 – Becky Young
- 18 – Kaylee Driscoll, Ruel Wehde
- 19 – Amber Rogers
- 20 – Don Griffith, Chris & Angie Keller
- 21 – Pat Fankhauser, Laura Hembry
- 22 – Emily Beers
- 23 – Nathen Anderson, Brian Boedeker
- 24 – Kenzie Mente, Jason & Kim Walter
- 25 – Annette Lukemyers, Katie Neville
- 27 – Steven Licht, Ashley Neville-Macoubrie, Merlyn Timm, Will Williams, Jennifer Wiskus-Rausch
- 28 – Savannah Brown, Patrick Gregory, Ethan Wulf, J. & Roberta Gesling
- 29 – Kelly Huston, Michelle O’Leary
- 30 – Kandi Graff, Kelley Pudinski, Finn Williams
- 31 – Rick Christensen

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

Have courage for the
great sorrows of life and
patience for the small ones.
And when you have finished your
daily task, go to sleep in peace.

God is awake.

-Victor Hugo

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
607 LYNN
TIPTON, IOWA 52772

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

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May Events

May 1 — HACAP Mobile Food Pantry

May 20 — Newsletter Deadline

Have Faith

Mission Statement:
Tipton First United Methodist Church

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