



*The Poster* is published monthly by Fort Des Moines United Methodist Church, 6205 SW 9th St, Des Moines IA 50315-5516.

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Information for *The Poster* should be in the church office by the 4th Tuesday of the month.

**Office Hours:**

8:30am-12:00pm

Monday-Friday

**Sunday Worship:**

**10:00 a.m.**

**on Facebook**

Inside this issue:

Prayer Corner	2
Graduates	2
Letter to VP Pence	3
Simple Rules	4
All Church Meetings	5
Online Worship	5
How to use Zoom	5

# THE POSTER

Volume 17, Issue 6

June, 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

What a joy it is to be writing to you! I continue to pray for you and thank God for your faithfulness to our church, the holy church of Christ, through this ever-changing landscape of ours. May each of you be blessed in your conversations with each other, that you would feel the presence of God working in and around you, and that as brothers and sisters, we would continue to love one another unconditionally and never grow weary of doing good for others.

### **Appreciating the Past, Before We Can Move Forward**

As I begin to look forward, I find myself looking to King Solomon, and his response to God in his dream (1 Kings 3). He began his conversation with God with a reverent and grateful heart for the past. His words carefully chosen reflected his understanding of God's presence and grace. Solomon saw God's kindness, steadfast love and faithfulness, as well as, his father's heart and desire to serve, as humanly as possible, as a servant of the Lord as faithfully as he was able to. What we can learn from that passage is that God's grace and presence is always with us, and as we appreciate the past, we are assured that God's presence is with us as we move forward.

Like Solomon, we are coming into something "new" and with it, we also are not equipped or as experienced. It is with all humility and hope, that we acknowledge that we need God's guidance and God's wisdom as we begin our journey forward together. Please join me in prayer, as we gather in the coming weeks to lament and grieve the loss of worshipping together, as well as, we discuss what brings us comfort and begin to make plans to one day worship together again.

With great assurance, by the Grace of God, we will gather together again one day to celebrate, raise our voices and praise God. Until that day, rest and be safe, knowing that it is in love that we are now serving each other, by worshipping in the privacy of our homes.

May the Grace of God be with You,

Pastor Sandy Cannon

*Note: I've been busy with Licensing School for the last couple of weeks.*

## Prayer Corner

- For our family: Laurie Jenkins, Roger McCloney, and the men at Hope Ministries especially Roger Hand
- For those that are home-bound, their caregivers, and those we especially name in our hearts.
- For those actively serving in our military, their families, the deployed, and our veterans.
- From Jackie Wilde: Heartfelt thanks to everyone for the cards and calls while I've been under the weather. It meant a lot to me to know that you were thinking of me.

## May Finance Report

Carried into 2020 (General & Designated Funds)	\$	29,686.62
<b>Year-to-Date</b>		
From Savings 3/20/2020	\$	1,000.00
From Savings 5/28/2020	\$	500.00
Balance April 30 (General & Designated Funds)	\$	19,869.84
Total Income	\$	40,293.18
Total Expenses	\$	49,713.74

Donations can be mailed to the church at **6205 SW 9th St, Des Moines IA 50315** or slipped through the **mail slot in the north door** (off Leland Ave).

## Congratulations Graduates

Our records indicate that Emilee Jones (5400 SE 6th St, Des Moines IA 50315), Sierra Kokke (228 E Hart Ave, Des Moines IA 50315), and Matthew Simmons (3800 Wakonda Dr, Des Moines IA 50321) will graduate high school this month.

Emily Sides (909 S 2nd Ave, Rock Rapids IA 51246) is also a graduate this year.



## Cause for Celebration!

### June Birthdays

1 Alec Slater  
 1 Stephanie Parsley  
 9 Billie Jean Whitehead  
 9 Tammy Augustus  
 11 Mark Horak  
 14 Levi Noveras  
 16 Alex Crise  
 19 Don Dale  
 20 Scott Johnson  
 24 Tyler Kokke  
 24 Steven Norris  
 26 Lew Lewellen  
 26 Suzanne Wilcox  
 27 Brenda Swigert

### July Birthdays

2 Mike Holmes  
 3 Karmen Lawrence  
 11 Austin Eis  
 14 Carol Meier  
 16 Jim Keller  
 16 Roger McCloney  
 20 Debbie Carruthers  
 20 Erica Eis  
 23 Erma Keho  
 25 Val Brooks  
 27 Christian Yang  
 27 Caleb Slater  
 27 Koen Nalevanko  
 28 Simone Andrews

### June Wedding

#### Anniversaries

11 Brian & Ronda Kent  
 21 Matt & Melissa Clevenger  
 25 Steve & Kristina Norris  
 30 Dennis & Paula Garland

### July Wedding

#### Anniversaries

10 Dan & Michelle Jones  
 25 Jerry & Brenda Swigert  
 30 Brad & Laura Carlson

### June Baptismal

#### Anniversaries

2 Emilee Jones  
 4 Cindy Eatwell  
 4 Sandi Eatwell  
 18 Michael Crise  
 18 Jacob Norris  
 18 Lucas Norris

### July Baptismal

#### Anniversaries

12 Addison Hartmann  
 29 Maggie Brooks

## Let Us Know!

- Let us know if you have recently moved, changed your mailing address, your email address, phone number or are using cell phones instead of land lines.
- Let us know if you would like to be included in the prayer chain.
- Let us know if you are hospitalized. (Privacy laws do not allow hospitals to contact clergy when a parishioner is hospitalized.)

Contact the church office at 515-285-6545 or [ftdsmumc@gmail.com](mailto:ftdsmumc@gmail.com) or Pastor Sandy at 515-290-9905.

## Denominational Leaders Unite: Congregations should refrain from in-person gatherings

**May 7, 2020**

As church denominational leaders, representing more than 1.2 million Christians throughout the state of Iowa, we are grateful for the opportunity provided by the upcoming visit of Vice President Mike Pence to re-issue and recommit to our position regarding in-person gatherings of faith communities, whether for worship or group ministries.

With one voice, we want to assure the Vice President that Iowa's denominational leaders are currently working closely with local faith leaders in developing plans for when it becomes time to gather again in person. That time is likely to arrive in waves, reflecting regional diversity, with particular attention given to safe practices and a close observation of the scientific and local data on the spread of this coronavirus.

We continue to abide unanimously to our statement of April 28th, which we re-issue at this time.

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**April 28, 2020**

As denominational leaders in the Christian tradition, we are united in our concern regarding Governor Kim Reynolds' declaration to allow spiritual and religious gatherings in Iowa.

It was with surprise we learned of the Governor's proclamation and, as such, we feel compelled to provide clarity and guidance of what it means for congregations to be faithful and safe during these extraordinary times.

In the spirit of ecumenism, we join together in asking congregations and members across the state to take faithful action by refraining from in-person religious gatherings, including worship. We encourage and hope that congregations will worship and gather in community from afar continuing the use of technology and other means. Decisions to return to in-person gatherings in our congregations should be based on science, the best practices recommended by public health officials, and in consultation with the leaders of our faith communities.

It is by our faith that we are compelled to love our neighbor. In the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, that love comes to expression by remaining physically apart. Loving our neighbor, and thereby the whole community, includes putting public health and the well being of others ahead of the natural desire to be physically present together in community and in worship.

As faith leaders, our hearts grieve for the immense pain and suffering felt by so many during these times. Whether mourning the loss of a loved one who has died from the coronavirus; facing the economic stress due to the loss of employment, business, or income; feeling isolated or alone; experiencing the stress of managing children and work from home; carrying the burden of uncertainty from the disaster and when a new normal may emerge, we pray you might find strength and hope in God's unending and ever-present love.

For the sake of the common good, we ask all congregations, their leaders, and their members to prioritize the safety and well being of each other, those at particular risk, and those in their broader community. Please love one another and your neighbor by continuing to be in community together from afar.

Rev. Ian McMullen, General Presbyter, Presbytery of North Central Iowa  
Rev. Brigit Stevens, Executive Conference Minister; Iowa, Nebraska, and South Dakota UCC Conferences  
The Right Reverend Alan Scarfe, Bishop of The Episcopal Diocese of Iowa  
Bishop Thomas R. Zinkula, Catholic Diocese of Davenport  
Bishop Michael L. Burk, Southeastern Iowa Synod - ELCA  
Rev. Lorna H. Halaas, Bishop, Western Iowa Synod, ELCA  
Bishop Steven L. Ullestad, Northeastern Iowa Synod, ELCA  
Rev. John M. Richardson, Interim Regional Minister, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the Upper Midwest  
Rev. Jacqueline L. Saxon, Executive Minister of Mid-American Baptist Churches of Iowa and Minnesota - ABCUSA  
Tim Button-Harrison, Northern Plains District Executive, Church of the Brethren  
Rev. David Feltman, Ecumenical Connections of Iowa Coordinator  
Rev. Kristin Pike, Presbyterian Church (USA), Stated Clerk of the Presbyteries of Des Moines & North Central Iowa  
Rev. Nathan Luitjens, Executive Conference Minister, Central Plains Mennonite Conference  
Rev. Susan Janzen, Conference Minister for Ministerial Leadership, Central Plains Mennonite Conference  
Rev. Amanda Bleichty, Conference Minister for Christian Formation, Central Plains Mennonite Conference  
Pat Shipley, Stated Clerk, Presbytery Missouri River Valley  
Rebecca Blair, Ph.D., Stated Clerk, Presbytery of East Iowa  
Rev. Chaz Ruark, Executive Presbyter, John Knox Presbytery  
Elder Amgad Beblawi, Interim Executive Presbyter, Presbytery of Des Moines  
Bishop Laurie Haller, Iowa Conference of The United Methodist Church  
Rev. Richard Francis, Stated Clerk, Presbytery of Prospect Hill, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)



The Iowa Annual Conference Crisis Operations Team is providing this Re-Entry Plan for the Iowa Conference of The United Methodist Church. This plan is guided by John Wesley's *Three Simple Rules*, which provides a message and methodology of how to approach our strategic and compassionate plan to care for our churches and communities through COVID-19. Wesley's rules have been placed within a stoplight framework to guide us as we move through a graduated 3-Level reentry process from red to yellow to green status in an intentional and careful model of care and mutual accountability.

Levels:

Level 3: **Red Light Status:** Stop all non-critical gatherings. Essential workers only. This is the "Stay in Love with God" and stay home phase of our ministry. Right now it is best to err on the side of distancing even as we have received new guidelines from the Iowa Governor's Office.

Level 2: **Yellow Light Status:** Cautionary Return. We anticipate this will cover a number of months. As the IAUMC, we want to "Do Good" as restrictions are lifted. This means a gradual return to gatherings and doing so in a cautionary manner.

Level 1: **Green Light Status:** When we finally reach the "Do No Harm" phase—it will be because the virus is contained and our people are safe. Permission will be granted to communities of faith to return to full activity and mass gatherings will be permitted. This will be in place only as church leadership is confident in the care of their community of faith. Green lighting for all activities will likely be guided by testing protocol for asymptomatic COVID-19 carriers, antibody testing, therapeutic drug therapies aggressively caring for those who have contracted COVID-19, and approval and availability of a COVID-19 vaccine.

The Iowa Conference of The United Methodist Church recognizes returning to full participation will be based on the oversight of the Office of the Bishop, Crisis Response Team, state and national guidelines, as well as the seasonal movement of the virus. It is our expectation pastoral and laity will read through this document together allowing it to guide the response of your local faith community.

### **In Closing**

It is possible that COVID-19 cases will spike, decrease, and increase again. The Bishop's Office and Crisis Operations Team will assess the threat and issue a return to the appropriately restrictive status.

Please send your questions for clarification and comments to: [iaumccares@iaumc.org](mailto:iaumccares@iaumc.org). This document will be regularly reviewed and updated.

"Do all the good you can,  
By all the means you can,  
In all the ways you can,  
In all the places you can,  
At all the times you can,  
To all the people you can,  
As long as ever you can."

~ John Wesley

**ALL CHURCH MEETINGS**  
***Discussions of Heart & Worship***  
***When: Wednesdays, June 10, 17, 24***  
***Time: 7:00pm-7:30pm***  
***Location: Zoom Online***

**You are Invited!** We will spend three weeks in June having discussions about what worship looks like in this season of our church. We are going to celebrate the unique DNA that we have as the body of Christ and look at a variety of ways that we can begin to phase back into gathering for worship, and along with that plan, the different groups of people that will be comfortable at what stage. Some will return when there is a vaccine and others are ready for “parking lot or picnic church outside” to begin.

Pastor Sandy has been a part of many conversations with clergy around this very discussion, having recently participated in the Iowa Conference Bishop’s meeting and meeting with the southside pastors. Concerns, fears, resources, and plans were shared in those meetings, as well as, the blessing and prayers for each church to find what works for them.

Pastor Sandy will lead a succession of three all-church meetings on June 10, 17, 24<sup>th</sup>. Each week will have a different focus.

**June 10<sup>th</sup>, Week 1: Gathering together.**

Prayerfully consider what it is about the past two months that you have missed, what you have found in its absence, and where you have hope. Pastor Sandy will lead us through a ritual of lament, acknowledging our loss of community and then focus on the hope for our future.

**June 17<sup>th</sup>, Week 2: Phases of Gathering Back Together.**

Prayerfully consider what you need to feel comfortable to return to church. Spend time before this meeting, looking at how other churches are gathering or worshipping and make note of what you are drawn to and why. We will focus our time on acknowledging that each one of us will need something different, and that we can begin to worship together in phases based on differing comfort levels.

**June 24<sup>th</sup>, Week 3: Our Hopes and Dreams Put Into Action.** From the previous two listening sessions, we will begin to move forward with plans for our hopes and dreams for our future.

*(continued in next column)*

*(continued from previous column)*

Prayerfully spend time in the presence of God to pray for our church as we begin this final stage of discussions.

An email invitation will follow the monthly newsletter and include the link for you to join the weekly meetings.

Members that do not have access to the zoom meetings, will be provided the information in email or written form following each meeting. If you’d like copies of each meeting, please let Jane know and we will plan accordingly.

**Revisiting Online Worship, Reflecting and Gathering Feedback**

With a grateful heart, Pastor Sandy is going to be reflecting on the current worship service and making adjustments to it. If you have feedback to give to her, please share with either Jane in the office, or directly to Pastor Sandy at [pastorsandy.ftdsmumc@gmail.com](mailto:pastorsandy.ftdsmumc@gmail.com). Her heart is to make adjustments that create a more interactive worship experience, as well as, being able to broadcast live from our sanctuary in the coming weeks. If you are interested in serving, please let us know.

**How to Use Zoom**

We are beginning to use more technology to stay connected together and will be meeting as a church, within committees, and as needed for conversations while we continue to observe self-isolating. Because of that, we are providing resources to help you get familiar with Zoom.

To learn more about it:

Frequently Asked Questions:  
<https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/206175806-Frequently-Asked-Questions>

Video Tutorial On How to Join a Zoom Meeting:

<https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/201362193-Joining-a-Meeting>

Ft. Des Moines United Methodist Church  
6205 SW 9th St  
Des Moines IA 50315-5516

We give thanks for you!!!

**Ft. Des Moines United Methodist Church is a community of faith  
in worship and action, open to all in the spirit and love of God.**

**June/July 2020**

**Events:**

June 27: Community Meal @ 4pm

July 3: Office closed

**Special Offerings:**

Food Pantry Sunday will be on June 21.

Monetary donations can be mailed to the church, or dropped through the mail slot on the north door.

In April, the DMARC Food Pantry Network assisted 12,091 unique individuals, with nearly 1,500 of those people using a DMARC food pantry for the first time ever. DMARC mobile food pantries assisted over 2,000 individuals with another 10,000 individuals assisted through DMARC's network of partner pantries. Your continued generous support to this local organization so that they can serve the many people in need during this time is appreciated.

Peace with Justice Sunday will be June 7. Gifts fund programs that advocate for peace and justice in the United States and around the world. These programs empower United Methodists to speak out for removing structures and systems that harm God's children globally.