
The Good News

First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ

220 West Main Street, Cannon Falls, MN 55009 (507) 263-2901

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A loving congregational family that celebrates God's presence among us



Holy God hear my intercessions,



For those who are giving birth alone; for those who are grieving without their people; for the beleaguered parents who ran out of creative ideas two weeks ago; for those who don't know where this week's grocery money will come from; for everyone who has watched the date of their wedding, or their graduation, or their birthday, or their dissertation defense, or their long hoped for vacation, or their family reunion, or the "non-essential" medical procedure they hoped would change their life, come and go; for the exhausted and the despairing, I ask that your comfort, your presence, and your peace be felt. And if that's not possible, could you just nudge the right person to reach out and call them? Just that Lord. Just that?

Holy God hear my praise:

For the animals who get to have their people home all day; for a slow enough life that allows for baking and a garden and the use of cloth napkins; for the comfort of sweat pants; for the bursts of creativity that keep coming from artists and musicians and writers; for the gift of music that helps us connect to better times and keep us dancing, for video clips, bad puns, memes and TV shows or movies which keep us laughing, for phone calls and notes from friends old and new who keep us loving; for the journalists who just keep going so we can be informed; for the gratitude shown for health workers and grocery store cashiers and delivery folks; for the 2 rolls of toilet paper my downstairs neighbors left as a gift for me; for the things I no longer take for granted - I give you thanks.

Amen.

A prayer (edited just a bit) from Rev. Nadia Bolz-Weber, recently offered in The Corners, where she posts regularly on Facebook. I offer her prayer here to inspire us to think of those for whom we are concerned as we learn to live in new and changing ways, and for all the reasons at the same time we can give thanks and be grateful.

Pastor Glen

...remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age

Matthew 28:20

Pastoral Care Needs

Call Pastor Glen in the event of a pastoral care need. Either call his home 651-641-1832 or cell 651-757-0314. Email pastor.cannonfallsucc@gmail.com.

Prayer Chain

Morning - Bonnie Hvistendahl 263-4120



Evening - Mavis Johnson 263-2857

When you are in need of prayer for yourself or others, your request will be passed along to the above prayer chains.

Daily Readings and Meditations

If you are interested in adding daily readings and meditations to your schedule during this time a part from community worship as a way to feed your spirit and deepen your faith, here are two resources:

1. The United Church of Christ has a team of gifted writers who offer **Daily Devotional**, brief scripture-based meditations available online. They appear in your inbox at about 3 a.m. every day. You can subscribe by searching for daily devotional ucc”
2. dailylectio.net provides a prayer, a Psalm, and 2-3 other readings each day of the week. They are thematically connected to the lectionary texts assigned for each Sunday, from which Pastor Glen draws for preaching. The intent of the daily readings is to highlight the connection between Sunday worship and the rest of your daily life.

Using **dailyLectio.net** puts you in touch with the cycles of stories and celebrations that carry us through the church’s year as well as enhance your personal faith development through scripture and prayer.

For those who do not access online resources, Pastor Glen will publish the references for the daily readings for the week ahead in the weekly mailing that Ki sends to you, that includes the text of any of his messages posted online.

Listen for More Music

The music that was included in the Easter Service was so well-received that Pastor Glen has asked Dawn to add a hymn to a weekly message he posts online. Because of licensing and copyright laws, they need are limited to those that are in ‘public domain.’

Glen and Dawn will see what they can coordinate with the scripture each week or what might be encouraging and uplifting in this time of isolation and need.

From Jon Sagers, Treasurer

It is important that we keep our church operational throughout the Corona virus "exile". Payroll, utilities, and most operational expenses continue, so we need your on-going gifts to support our church through this temporary set-back.

Therefore, please continue to send your regular offering to my home address (checks only, no cash, please) preferably, or to the church office at 220 West Main Street, if it is more convenient for you: If you drop it off at church, please mark the envelope "offering" or "check enclosed"

Jon Sagers
4006 343rd St.
Stanton, MN 55018

From the Mission Committee

Our giving for MN FoodShare totaled \$1230, our special offering for the month (\$930 through April 4th, plus \$300 given by a member directly to CF Food Shelf.) This exceeds last year’s giving by \$444! The food shelf continues to need donations - more now than ever.



Either donate to the address below or you can drop it off at the church - call 507-263-2901 before coming to make sure we are here.

Cannon Falls Food Shelf Hours:

10:00am - 12:00pm, 1st Saturday, 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month 4:30pm - 6:30 pm, 3rd Thursday of the month

11 Belle St W - First English Lutheran Church 507-263- 3257

How the Virus Stole Easter

By Kristi Bothur

(with a nod to Dr. Seuss' "How the Grinch Stole Christmas")

'Twas late in '19 when the virus began bringing chaos and fear to all people, each land.

People were sick, hospitals full, doctors overwhelmed, no one in school.

As winter gave way to the promise of spring, the virus raged on, touching peasant and king.

People hid in their homes from the enemy unseen.

They YouTubed and Zoomed, social-distanced, and cleaned.

April approached and churches were closed. "There won't be an Easter," the world supposed.

"There won't be church services, and egg hunts are out.

No reason for new dresses when we can't go about."

Holy Week started, as bleak as the rest. The world was focused on masks and on tests.

"Easter can't happen this year," it proclaimed. "Online and at home, it just won't be the same."

Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, the days came and went.

The virus pressed on; it just would not relent.

The world woke Sunday and nothing had changed. The virus still menaced, the people, estranged.

"Pooh pooh to the saints," the world was grumbling.

"They're finding out now that no Easter is coming.

"They're just waking up! We know just what they'll do! Their mouths will hang open a minute or two,

And then all the saints will all cry boo-hoo.

"That noise," said the world, "will be something to hear."

So it paused and the world put a hand to its ear.

And it did hear a sound coming through all the skies. It started down low, then it started to rise.

But the sound wasn't depressed. Why, this sound was triumphant!

It couldn't be so! But it grew with abundance!

The world stared around, popping its eyes. Then it shook! What it saw was a shocking surprise!

Every saint in every nation, the tall and the small, was celebrating Jesus in spite of it all!

It hadn't stopped Easter from coming! It came! Somehow or other, it came just the same!

And the world with its life quite stuck in quarantine stood puzzling and puzzling. "Just how can it be?"

"It came without bonnets, it came without bunnies, it came without egg hunts, cantatas, or money."

Then the world thought of something it hadn't before.

"Maybe Easter," it thought, "doesn't come from a store.

Maybe Easter, perhaps, means a little bit more."

And what happened then? Well....the story's not done. What will YOU do?

Will you share with that one Or two or more people needing hope in this night?

Will you share the source of your life in this fight?

The churches are empty - but so is the tomb, and Jesus is victor over death, doom, and gloom.

So this year at Easter, let this be our prayer, as the virus still rages all around, everywhere.

May the world see Hope when it looks at God's people.

May the world see the church is not a building or steeple.

May the world find Faith in Jesus' death and resurrection,

May the world find Joy in a time of dejection.

May 2020 be known as the year of survival, But not only that - Let it start a revival!

Thanks to Jim and Pat Green for passing this on to us.

May 2020

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

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Our building is closed but the Church is always open when we are the Body of Christ in the World. Stay safe and healthy until we see you again

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**First Congregational Church
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507-263-2901**

*Pastor email: pastor.cannonfallsucc@gmail.com
Kileen email: cannonfallsucc@gmail.com*