



June, 2020

First Edition

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Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.

The people of The United Methodist Church®



First United Methodist Church of Lockport

1000 S. Washington St., Lockport

815-838-1017 - www.1umclockport.org



RECONCILING MINISTRIES NETWORK



+ 10:45 a.m. Worship

Minister: All Members

GaHyung Kim
708-638-2868
email: gahyungkim0511@gmail.com

Pastor

John George
Lay Leader

Bonnie Johansen-
Werner

Organist & Choir Director

Megan Hill
Amy Visser
God Squad

Kay Rothlisberger
Circle of Love

Roseanne Wilson
Fish Pantry

Don Marino
Custodian

Sena Scheel
Administrative Assist.
Office Hours
Monday, Tuesday &
Thursday
8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
815-838-1017

I take this time to thank all of you - our church members and friends for praying for each other's health and for safety worshiping on-line. Thank you to all who have been supporting each other through praying and keeping a social distance, I would say it as a social distance (physical distance). Thank you for your prayers and support of the ministry of your church in many ways. We have been offering recording of the worship online. The church is still open if you have needs. We have been sheltering in place for more than two months, and we have been physically isolated. Some families had small gatherings for Mother's Day as they stayed six feet apart. The essential workers have not been able to stay home. We have continued to go to work, even if we limit trips to the grocery store like everyone else.

During the several months of the pandemic health crisis we learned that maintaining a social distance of at least six feet apart from other people is the best option we can have for our safety at this time. Through our efforts to keep a proper social distance, the increasing numbers of those infected by the virus has slowed down a little bit even though there are still risks involved. Even as states and business begin to open back up, we need to continue physical distancing.

The month of June is here and the sun shines for longer and longer days; so begins the season of summer. We see more people visiting each other outside and we see people having small parties in their yards. Several days ago, I drove to a member's house and called her from the driveway to share my prayers for her over the phone, just as I have done during the last two months. My intention was just to share our prayers in the driveway. She graciously invited me onto the porch in front of her house. Of course, we respected each other's health and safety, and we wore masks and kept the proper distance apart. It was good to connect with each other.

As a church, we are wondering when we will be able to worship in person in the sanctuary of our church building. The government has talked about a five- phase plan for reopening our state gradually and following the safe guidelines. All religious groups will be allowed to gather in the groups of up to 50 people. Following the safety guidelines and maintaining a proper social distance is more important than the date when we will open.

Members of a newly formed, "Re Turn Team Members" in consultation with the Northern Illinois Conference cabinet, and with Bishop Sally Dyck, are working hard. They are praying for each church's safety and health, and planning for what is needed before we come back to the sanctuary to worship together.

Soon our local church will organize a Health Team by designating a small group of members to plan for how we can safely begin in-person worship while following social distance guidelines.

Pastor GaHyung

Sermon Series for June

Sunday, June 7

Trinity Sunday ~ FISH Pantry

10:45 a.m. Worship

Scriptures: Genesis 1:1-2-4a

Matthew 28:16-20



Sunday, June 14

Adopt a Bill

2nd Sunday after Pentecost

10:45 a.m. Worship

Scriptures: Romans 5:1-5

Matthew 9:35, 10-8



Sunday, June 21

Father's Day

3rd Sunday after Pentecost ~ Circle of Love

10:45 a.m. Worship

Scriptures: Genesis 21:8-21

Matthew 10:24-33



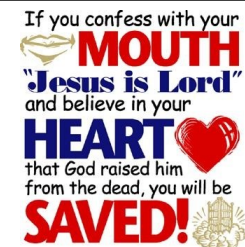
Sunday, June 28

4th Sunday after Pentecost ~ Change for Missions

10:45 a.m. Worship

Scriptures: Romans 6:15-23

Matthew 10:40-42



On-Line Worship

We will continue to hold on-line worship services. You may follow the service by going on Facebook (you do not need a Facebook account) or go to the church's website: lumclockport.org. If you are unable to watch the service on either of these options, please let the office know and we will send a copy of the sermon to you.

For emergencies please contact Pastor Kim 708-638-2868. Prayers, joys, and concerns may be texted or emailed to Pastor Kim. For non-emergencies please contact John George.

Prayerfully consider your offerings

We are thankful for everyone to remember that we need your donations during this time. You can mail your checks to the church or you can add 1st UMC to your bank's bill paying service. The service is usually free, typically not even postage!

To the clergy and laity of the Northern Illinois Annual Conference:

As many of you may have heard, President Trump this morning called for the reopening of all houses of worship throughout the country. He rightly recognizes that we need “more prayer, not less,” but doesn’t realize that people, including the people called United Methodist, have been praying and worshipping all along through these months of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Bishop Frank Beard of the Illinois Great Rivers Conference and I are united in stating that we are calling on all United Methodist churches in Illinois to honor the regional and phased-in plan of “Restore Illinois,” which Governor J.B. Pritzker has outlined for us.

Therefore, none of our churches are to open at this time.

Undoubtedly, some regions across Illinois in the near future will be allowed to progress to new phases that would allow a maximum of 50 people to gather, while following guidelines to help eliminate further suffering and death from the coronavirus.

Our founder John Wesley urged us to practice “do no harm.” Recent reports from parts of the country where churches have opened indicated some devastating outcomes, leading to illness and death – even while practicing the best social distancing (at least in theory). Just because something is “legal,” doesn’t mean that it is beneficial.

Shortly after Memorial Day weekend, we will be putting out our ReTurn Team’s guidelines for returning to various ministries based on the best practices and scientific data that can be determined at this time. Please watch for that document, which will be sent out via email and on the website.

Please “love your neighbor” and do not open for worship at this time! Thank you for your willingness to stay the course—worship with each other online or through other means until we have greater assurance that it is safe to come together again.

God bless you and keep you safe!

Sincerely

Bishop Sally Dyck

Prayer List—Please keep the following people in your prayers

Paul Farr, Robyn Baumgartner, Neil Janssen, Chili Mahalik, Desiree Thompson, Scott McQuilkin, Patti Johnson, Deb Chapp’s friend Jane Gardner, Joyce Volling’s brother David McCathie, Karen Marino, Rick Young.

Prayers for members that are homebound or in nursing facilities:

Maxine Smith (home), Iris Chapp (Lemont Center); Don Grady (home); and Linda Kriete (home).

Faith Development and Education

First UMC Book Club

The Book Club's next meeting will be Thursday, **July 23, 2020**. The book for July is "**The Last Romantics**" by Tara Conklin. Hostess is Carol Picciolo.



Zoom Sunday School Class

In the next couple of weeks, I hope to lead an adult Sunday school class. It will be on Zoom and I plan on conducting the class on Sundays.

The class will be 30 minutes long and last for several weeks, depending on how quickly or slowly we cover the material. The book is "**The Stories Jesus Told**" from Cokesbury. Cost is about \$8.00 including shipping. Class members will need internet access and a computer or smart phone. Class should begin on June 21st, Father's Day. Participants should be at least 13.

-John George

28th Annual Back to School Fair

Catholic Charities is hosting this event on Thursday, July 30th from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. at Joliet Catholic Academy, 1200 N. Larkin Ave., Joliet. This event supports low income families. They are looking for school supplies especially spiral notebooks.

Please bring your filled boxes of supplies and books to either:

The Giving Tree (our Catholic Charities donation center located at 3016 S. State St., in Lockport on Thursday, July 23rd between 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. or

Joliet Catholic Academy (1200 N. Larkin Ave., Joliet) on Monday, July 27th between 8:30 a.m. - 11 30 a.m. at Door #9 off Ingalls Ave., near the tennis courts.

If possible please count and provide a detailed list of the items in your donation.

Thank you from Rosecrance

Please accept our heartfelt thanks for your wonderful support for Rosecrance! We are deeply grateful for First United Methodist Church of Lockport's recent gift of \$300 that we received through the Northern Illinois Conference.

Thank You

In March just before the stay-at-home instructions were issued, I was honored as the 2019 Woman of the Year at 1st UMC Lockport! What a surprise and what a pleasure! I cannot begin to express my thanks to you. Many, many fine Christian women are on the rolls from years gone by. I join them with humility and keen anticipation of those who will follow. Please accept my gratitude and prayers for the safety and good will of our congregation.

Much Love in Christ,
Cindy Nelson

Online Giving Is Available

Online giving is available on our website - www.lumclockport.org. This service is offered through Vanco, whom we have been using for a number of years for electronic giving. Their website provides all the security needed to make your donations and information safe. You have the option to create a login and password to make it more convenient for you to allow Vanco's secure website to save your bank information. None of your information will be stored on the church's website.

At this time we are only offering a direct withdrawal from checking accounts. We will investigate expanding to credit cards. There is also an app available for iPhone, search for Vanco and then download the app called Give+.

Please let me know if you have any issues using this service.

— Peggy George



June 2 - Ryan Dorion
 June 4 - Joanne Moan
 June 5 - Christina Fabek
 June 9 - Pamela Stutzman
 June 11 - Glenn Volling
 June 14 - Sarah Kirkwood
 June 21 - Harriet Hamilton
 June 23 - Marilyn Odle
 June 29 - Lois Gatlin



Alan and Beth Cross
 June 18, 1968

Should I REALLY sing hymns while watching the online worship service?

Yes! But why?

Well, scripture tells us to sing,

“Sing to God...tell of all his wonderful acts” (Psalm 105:2).

“May your faithful people sing for joy.” (Ps. 132:9)

“I will sing to the Lord all my life...” (Ps. 104:33)

“Sing to the Lord a new song” (Isa. 42:10)

And the list goes on...Acts 16:25, Colossians 3:16, 1 Cor. 14:15, Eph. 5:19 and more

But there is more! God knew long before humans understood, that singing improves our health.

-Singing strengthens the immune system, according to scientists at the University of Frankfurt in Germany. (Listening will not produce the same results.)

-Singing releases endorphins that make you feel energized and uplifted.

-Singing gives the lungs a workout.

-Singing makes us breathe more deeply so we take in more oxygen, improve aerobic capacity, and experience a release of muscle tension.

(Prof. Graham Welch, Director of Education Research, University of Surrey, Roehampton, UK.)

-Singing improves your posture.

-Singing lifts moods and clears the “blues”.

-Singing provides aerobic exercise for the elderly or disabled.

So there is a reason the psalmists and other Biblical writers tell us to sing. God commanded us to sing for our own health benefits. For even more ideas on how singing benefits your body and mind, visit <https://www.barbershop.org/the-health-benefits-of-singing>. And when the hymn begins in our online worship, Sing and be glad!



Congratulations GRADUATES!

Class of 2020

Jennifer Burek

Jennifer Burek is a Lockport Township High School graduate. She is heading to Northern Michigan University in August to study marketing.



Natalie Holste

Natalie Holste is an 8th grade graduate from Troy Middle School. She will be attending Joliet West High School in the fall.



Sarah Kirkwood

Sarah Kirkwood is a Plainfield East High School graduate. She is a member of the National Honor Society and received the President's Education Gold Award for outstanding academic achievement. She will be attending Marquette University in Wisconsin and is currently contemplating a career in the medical field.



Daniel Landando

Daniel Landando is a Joliet West High School graduate. He received the United States Marine Corp Distinguished Athlete Award and was ranked 12th in the state for wrestling. Danny is headed to Joliet Junior College in the fall and was accepted into their wrestling program.



Evelyn Moan

Evelyn Moan is a Kelvin Grove Middle School graduate. She will be attending Lockport Township High School in the fall. She looks forward to playing with the Marching Band and singing with the choir.



Audrey Pocius

Audrey Pocius is a Channahon Junior High School graduate. She will be attending Minooka High School in the fall.



Jillian Queeney

Jillian Queeney is an 8th grade graduate from Richland Junior High School. She will be attending Lockport Township High School in the fall.



Jessica Queeney

Jessica Queeney is a Joliet Junior College graduate. She is graduating with honors and is headed to Northern Illinois University to be a part of their Honors Program. She is also a member of Phi Theta Kappa. She is pursuing a major in Social Change Leadership.



Deven Tlanda

Deven Tlanda graduated from Northern Illinois University College of Law. He is currently studying for the Bar Exam he will take in September. Deven has verbally accepted an Associate position at the general practice law firm Mark T. Hickey & Associates, P.C., located in Tinley Park, Illinois.





First

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Lockport

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T O :



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Mission Statement for First United Methodist Church of Lockport

“The church is the foundation of Christian life in accordance with the teachings of the Christ. We are people who believe that the love of God was revealed in Jesus and having accepted that love, we are committed to sharing this good news of God’s love by making disciples and teaching and nurturing them. To that end, we will:

- † provide an inclusive environment for Christian worship and learning,
- † strive to be understanding and accepting of other cultures and faiths as we work toward peace and justice for all persons,
- † nurture our children so that they will embrace the Christian life, and
- † support, with our prayers and actions, our brothers and sisters in our local and global communities.”