



The Voyager



February/March 2021

The Newsletter of the Emmetsburg First United Methodist Church

Pastor Hojin Shin

Secretary Jackie Black

Custodian John Strohman

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New Year, New Beginnings

The new year has begun. There is a brightness to the day. You can see it in the sunlight reflecting off the snow and the ever so slightly longer days. We are coming out of the darkness and into the light once again.

Gardeners and farmers begin dreaming about this coming spring and summer. What to plant and when to reap. Soon crocuses and daffodils will begin peeking up through the snow. Life endures and the earth is reborn each spring.

Church is open once again on Sundays for in person worship services! Jr. High & High School youth groups meet again on February 3rd. Sunday School plans to meet in person again on Feb 14th. There is hope in the air.

As the year progresses and we make plans to fill out the year, a new season will soon be upon us. The season of Lent begins in February. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday. The next 40 days, excluding Sundays (so 6 weeks)

is the journey that is Lent. It is a time for reflection, focus, repentance, refinement, and renewal. Towards the end of Lent we will find ourselves at the foot of the Cross on Good Friday. This is a day that some will mark with despair. The weekend that follows is one of fear of the unknown. Christ died! What now? The story of Christ death and resurrection come into the fullness of light when Christ rises on Easter morn!

Lent is a season that gives time to focus on our relationship with God. It is meant as a time for introspection. This is the reason why; we are asked to fast or give something up for lent. In our modern days it is so easy to find things that get in the way of our relationship with God. For each of us what we fast from can be different. This is because for each of us the thing that we are placing before our relationship with God may be different. It may be food, social media, tv, cigarettes to name the more obvious ones. There are other ways we let things

get in the way of our relationship with God also. Such as complaining, gossiping, pride, exercising, being too busy, etc. It can even be our relationships with family, friends, or at work. When our focus gets blurred, by placing a higher priority on these earthly things, we lose sight with our relationship with God.

Matthew 6:21 tell us

“For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.”

On its own Matthew 6:21, reminds us to center our hearts, minds, and actions on the real treasure of Jesus Christ. If we fix our attention on earthly things, whether it be materialism, reputation and our standing in the community, or our personal comfort for example; we lose our focus on the heavenly treasure that has been freely given. Jesus Christ, who bought and paid for our freedom from sin and death. If we remember, in Romans 6:23 Paul wrote

“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

Our attention, what we focus on is our treasure. We choose daily if our treasure is heavenly or earthly. The upcoming season of Lent affords us the opportunity to realign our priorities and once again center our hearts and minds on Christ and the cross. We recall that dark day and consider the gravity of standing before the greatest sacrifice one can make

and we recognize that Christ was the only one who could make it and defeat death by rising again. By doing so, He has assured that we too as believers will also rise and join our heavenly father one day.

During this season of Lent we will have available a booklet of Lent Devotionals written by people in our church. These will

be available at the church by Ash Wednesday, possibly sooner!

Contact the church if you are unable to pick up your devotion book, as we would be happy to get one delivered to you.

Blessings to each of you and we look forward to worshiping together at the church and online during the Lent and Easter season.

Blessings~Jackie

Enough is Enough

I hate what you have done to this World. I hate what you have done to my country, to everyday living. You have broken up families, or so tried. Even have stripped away all of the normalcy and simple joys around us.

You have prohibited us from seeing loved ones, most especially in the nursing home. I hate that you have induced a significant amount of fear in the common people. You have raised anxiety to be prominent in almost everyone.

Can't even go to the store let alone walk on side walks without there being some type of regulations.

Nothing is the same, nothing will ever be the same again. Our children's children will live in a different World.

Now, the question is what is so wrong with change? Not one darn thing. The issue is, the very human race is now all somehow impacted in some type of angst and or paranoia.

How can we ease our minds? How can we allow for a true moment of peace again? The

answer is remembering the go-to equation: God is greater than fear. "The Word" constantly reminds us to call onto him, and he will answer.

Whether you are a believer of the Christian faith, or just to simply believe in something or someone of the higher divine, is all you have to do.

Will we continue to keep distance from the ones we truly love for fear's sake? Will we continue to oblige from embracing those that we cherish? That is up to you.. I will say for myself, foreign "Corona Virus", the media and political garbage ...you do NOT control me. You are NOT larger than my faith.

Take a look around you, what comes from the light and from the darkness? Where exactly does your happiness and fear reside from?

They say that the word hate is a "strong word", However, I think that we are greatly entitled to this verbiage in terms of something that has been allowed as a massive destructor and platform. Yes, I said "allowed".

The question is, how much

longer will you give power to all of this? Please dig deep within your soul, and ask yourself what really matters in this life to you and your core values.

We are not promised tomorrow, so I beg you all to please turn a new leaf and remember that love always prevails.

Enough of the judgment, enough of the bickering, enough of the foolishness, enough of the segregation of our families, and most importantly enough of the hate.

There is so much more to the bigger picture here. Let's focus on the good, the simple and the beautiful moments that we are given. Let's pull together, and be as one again. For we all come from the same essence, the same star dust and most importantly God made the ultimate sacrifice through his one and only begotten son; for our very own breath in our lungs.

I will end by saying a big, loud and proud AMEN!

Submitted by an Anonymous Church Member

First United Methodist Church
Regular Monthly Administrative Church Council Minutes
Wednesday, January 13, 2021, at 7:30 pm

In attendance: (13) Dave Ballman, Jackie Black, Cal Christiansen, Ted Ellis, Brian Garrels, Shayne Kogel, Cindy Magee, Rosemary Matthews, Tony Salas, Lisa Siebrecht, Pastor Hojin Shin, Lois Stanley, Dan Stokes

Call to order: Ted Ellis called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm.

Devotions: Pastor Hojin Shin's devotion focused on Back to the Basics for Christians: the Word of God, Praying, and if you want to know the next one See you at church on Sunday.

Secretary's Report: Minutes from November 11, 2020. Motion to approve: Dave Ballman, Approved as written, by voice vote.

Treasurer's Report: Lois Stanley reported the December, 2020 Treasurer's Report, General Fund Balance: \$13,845.75, Motion to approve: Rosemary Matthews, Approved as presented, by voice vote.

Committee Reports:

Nurturing Ministries Planning Team: Jeanelle Stokes No Report (No Activities)

Outreach Ministries Planning Team: Rosie Argabright

Lois reported that 5-6 families were served with the Giving Tree. Thanks to all who participated.

Witness Ministries Planning Team: No Report

Administrative Committees:

Chair of Trustees: Lisa Siebrecht

Trustees met before Adm. Council meeting; Dan Stokes and Dave Fog are the new Co-Chairmen of Trustees. Balance left on FLC Loan is \$106,899. Trustees are still working on the façade on the church building.

Chair of SPRC: Dave Ballman

Dave commented on the extra effort and ingenuity Pastor Hojin has gone to for all the Covid distance services: driveway services, drive through communion, Advent Kits, etc. Also, thanks to Jackie for the weekly delivery of bulletins, Upper Room, and Advent Kits to those who have requested them.

Dave also thanked our church for the Special Offering for mattresses for the Utica Church. They were able to purchase 10 mattresses for their homeless shelter.

Chair of Finance: Shayne Kogel No Report

Chair of Endowment Committee: Brian Garrels

Brian questioned how much of the monies given last year for grants from the Endowment Committee has been used. Without having youth group activities, VBS, and Camp quite a bit was not used. New application will be taken this year in hopes of getting activities restarted. Scholarship application will also be available soon.

Lay Leadership Vice Chair: No Report

Chair of History Committee: Rosemary Matthews No Report

Memorial Committee: No Report

Other Committee/Additional New Business:

Re-entry to in person worship services: Discussion was held regarding the Iowa Conference recommendation regarding in person worship. The recommendation is under 15% positivity rate for the county. Palo Alto County, on January 13, positivity rate was 16.5%. Many feel it is time to go back to in person worship, not everyone is tech savvy, attendance is not mandatory, some members are attending other churches who are having in person services.

Decision: Resume in person worship services beginning Sunday, January 24, 2021. Social Distancing, and mask required.

Motion to approve: Brian Garrels, Approved as presented, by voice vote.

Resume in person church activities: Resume youth activities February 3, 2021, contact youth leaders to see how they feel regarding restarting on this date.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, February 10, 2021 at 7:30 pm

Ted Closed Meeting with a Prayer

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm

Submitted by Recording Secretary:

Cindy Magee

Reflection on the 2020 Advent Season

FIRST WEEK OF ADVENT:

In this time of pandemic is there anything we need more than the HOPE of the Advent Season? As I virtually share Jesus' Season of HOPE, what a blessing it is to feel the HOPE for the world that Jesus gives us.

Because I have a few candle holders with holes small enough for the slender candles, my Advent wreath is unorthodox. But it gives me great joy. Two purple candles are in the tall candle sticks our beloved Grammy Grace made from the stairway spindles salvaged from the historic Waverly Hotel built in 1882 in Emmetsburg. The third purple candle is in a delicate porcelain rose given to me by a friend. The pink candle stands in the copper sconce made by my mountaineer son-in-law and the white Jesus candle shines from the birch log with its pine cones and branches put together by Daughter Barb. I think Jesus smiles upon the various holders and I have a warm feeling as I light the candle of HOPE.

Just watching the wonderful Burns family celebrating Advent on my computer gives me delight. My Advent prayers are for COVID relief, for the homeless, for the hungry and for a stable political situation. As the sermon brought out with all the political strife and discourse, we still know that there is only one King. In this Advent Season, we are assured Jesus is the HOPE of the World.

SECOND WEEK OF ADVENT:

In these days I have a song going through my head which is a take-off on the "Twelve Days of Christmas". It starts with "On the first week of Advent my True Love gave to me, Hope for the world." and now it goes, "On the second week of Advent my True Love gave to me,

PEACE with His Blessing." I don't believe that it's sacrilegious, for surely Jesus is our True Love. And love did shine through as Beth Elman and sweet Amelia lit the second Advent candle.

I liked the question in the discussion that asked you to recall a time when felt deeply at peace. That was easy because in spite of difficult economic times and the stresses of the wilderness in Alaska, I could always stand high on the bank of Matanuska river behind our barn, listen to the ruble of the rocks as they were moved by the power of the tumbling water and watch the changing lights on the surrounding mountains and quote, "I will lift mine eyes up unto the hills from whence cometh my help," and I was given PEACE. Now, 3,800 miles from my river bank, in my heart and mind I can still stand there and talk with God and receive that PEACE. I always

figured that was "my voice from the wilderness." I like Pastor Shin's idea that the Peace that comes with Christ fills us up and eases our anxieties. Pastor Shin's sermon on sin with its emphasis on forgiveness and love and the verse that, "Your faith has saved you. Go in Peace," was beautiful. I felt God's love and Peace as Rev. Shin sent us forth with the words, "Be the light of Peace in the darkness." Wow!

THIRD WEEK OF ADVENT:

As I opened my 3rd Advent envelope and saw the word "JOY", it reminded me that I had had so much JOY in the past week. Jim Stevens had brought me an Advent Wreath candle holder and he hadn't even known that I needed one. I always enjoy the scripture cards with their Bible readings and Luke 12:24 really spoke to me. It says, "Consider the



Ravens! They do not sow or reap, they have no storeroom or barn, yet God feeds them. And how much more valuable you are than birds!: That in itself gave me great joy, but the fact that the ravens were favorite birds of mine brought wonderful memories. The ravens and I were able to converse, whether they were perched in a tree or slowly flapping their way through the sky. They would tip their heads toward me and answer me back, always causing a smile to come to my face. As the verse says, they have no storeroom, but you didn't dare lose anything shiny or they would grab it and take it to their nest. Another joy was connecting with the son of friends that hadn't seen since he was eight. There calls and texts-all joyous.

I tend to pray for family and friends, but as I wrote my prayers on the back of the thick paper, I felt the need to write, "May JOY come to all the world, not only those I consider mine."

And Pastor Shin did not disappoint with his message, "Immanuel in the Midst of a Pandemic". His emphasis was that God did not send Coronavirus, but that God is with us. There were so many bible quotations of JOY.

"I will be with you to the end of the ages"

"Your God would never leave you or forsake you."

and,

"The Virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel (which means 'God with us.')"

Pastor reminded us that we are the church. Not only is the church a building, but the Body of Christ. All blessings come from God. Help us to share with others. Our mission is to show Immanuel in our life by caring for others.

FOURTH WEEK OF ADVENT:

I've been looking forward to the Advent week of LOVE as to me,

Love has always be epitomized as Jesus. From my first breaths my instilled in me the hope, peace and joy of the love of Jesus. My first song was “Jesus Loves Me This I Know”. In opening the fourth Advent envelope on LOVE and following the directions for the celebration as the Kassel family did so well, there was the question, “How can you love God and neighbors more?” We can pray more and show our love of God and ask his care for our neighbors. I’m sure God feels our love and our neighbors can feel our love when we call to check on their health or perhaps take a meal to them.

I keep a plastic enclosed card nearby that is in memory of Chaplain Al Henderson which has Matthew 20:28

“for even the Son of Man came not to be served, but to serve others and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

Is there a greater love than that? Al was a caring youngster when we first came back from Alaska. He grew up to be a fine Lutheran Pastor and also the beloved Chaplain of the Police, the Fire Department and all those volunteer to make life safer and better for Fort Dodge, IA, and the surrounding area. He started SOS (Serving Our Servants), an organization which helped improve the lives of those who served the community and he was unfortunately murdered in a senseless act of violence in his Church parking lot. His Love is being perpetuated by people passing on his kindness and love in memory of him. Whenever Al would leave you, he would always say, “Carry On!” He has influenced a huge community to “carry on” the love of Christ.

During our church service that we shared on the Internet, Kelley and Dave Fog brought light into our lives with their music and Pastor Shin brought out that we are celebrating light into our darkness. We have the

light of Christ. Jesus is the word of God. God’s love and God’s Light drives out the darkness. The one who said, “Let there be light”, came to us as Jesus. One of my favorite memory verses as a child was, “The Lord is my Light and Salvation, whom shall I fear?”

Pastor said there two kinds of darkness, both the moral kind and the emotion with its grief and sadness. How wonderful that the Light of the world was born for us. Pastor says that we must not only walk in the Light, but share it. A special thought at this time of year is our sister church, Cornerstone Community Church in Utica, NY. We have sent money to help them feed the homeless and now they are in great need for mattresses for the homeless. What a neat idea to reflect His light and shine our light by helping to supply shelter mattresses. I particularly like the Living bible translation on John 8:12 “So if you follow, you won’t be stumbling through the darkness, for the living light will flood your path.” We must not only walk in the light, but share it. As Pastor Al Henderson would say, “Carry on and let your light shine.”

FIFTH CANDLE OF ADVENT:

When it came time for the opening of the last Advent material, I strongly felt that I wasn’t ready for the ending of the Advent Season. And then the light came on. This wasn’t the end of the Advent. It’s only the beginning. JESUS! As one writing says, we are then given a view of the future so that we will “witness for Christ and serve him in the present.” As I lit my Advent wreath, it shone brightly and did encourage me to follow Christ’s mindset.

Our Church’s whole candlelight service was an encouragement. Just Simpson College choir’s glorious music coming from behind their masks showed that with our God we can over come even the pandemic.

And the virtual choir from the Emmetsburg church singing “Silent Night” was so beautiful. Having shared it with my friends, I have heard appreciation from Alaska to Florida for the joy it gave them. In fact, the wondrous music of the choirs, Kelley and Dave Fog’s special duet, Amber Embrock’s voice solo and Susan Embrock’s soaring flute redition of “What Child Is This?” Accompanied by Gloria Shin, and Yihoon Shin’s beautiful guitar and violin presentation of “Hark the Herald Angels Sing: all alerted us to Christ’s coming.

The young people of the church and their families with their scripture, prayer and lighting of the candles assured us that “A Savior is born-God with us.

Having communion without being elbow to elbow with friends of the church is different, but Pastor Shin’s prayers as we came to the table, for god to give us hope, strengthen our faith and for Immanuel to be with us forever brought us all together. The saying of the Lord’s Prayer and the taking of the sacraments was meaningful and we were not along. Christ’s presence was with us.

Pastor’s meditation brought out that the earlier prophetic message of the Christ’s birth Dave us hope. Jesus was incarnated so he knows our pain and temptations in our lives. The pandemic is getting worse along with the economy. So, we are to keep in mind that Jesus healed the sick, forgave sinners, and was crucified for us. It is for us to remember that “in the beginning was the word and it was God. He was the light of the world. Glory to the one and only God.” The flashlight, lantern, lamp as well as the candle all have meanings in our lives as we embrace Jesus Christ. May Christ’s Love shine in all we do.

Myram Tunnicliff



*Below are the addresses of our members, who are in area nursing homes or assisted living facilities.
Please send a card to brighten their day.
They would love to hear from you.*

Emmetsburg Care Center

2405 21st Street,
Emmetsburg, IA 50536
712-852-4266

Lilian Cox
Ted Strohman

Emerald Oaks Assisted Living
2603 17th Street,
Emmetsburg, IA 50536
712-852-8408

Jackie Donovan #23
Florence Malm #22
Louise Sackett # 16

Willow Ridge
3203 1st Street,
Emmetsburg, IA 50536
712-852-5480

Jan Bare
Pat Anderson #103
Anne Carney #216
Virginia Place #210

PARC Hall
3201 1st Street,
Emmetsburg, IA 50536
712-852-5520

Joyce Muller
Paul Kooker
Lois Lowman
Vi Sampson
Pearl Whitmore

Helen Merrill #203
Doris Gustafson

Lakeside Senior Care
301 N Lawler St
Emmetsburg, IA 50536
712-852-4060
Burt Hersom

Lakeside Assisted Living
401 N. Lawler Street,
Emmetsburg, IA 50536
712-852-4060
Anna Beth Magee

If you are home bound, in a nursing home, or feeling alone and would like a visit; please let Pastor Hojin know or contact the church office at 852-2154 or umcsecretary@iowatelecom.net




*If you or a loved one is hospitalized,
please call the church to inform us.*

The hospital does not and will not call us.



Lord, have mercy on them, strengthen them in their weakness; protect and guide us!

Gloria Shin
Bev Schmidt
Jim Knight
Burt & Carol Hersom
Irene Goff
Carol Ensley

Lincoln Coakley (grandson of Joann Coakley)
Steve & Lynne Farnsworth
Deb Nissen (sister-in-law of Deb Wickman)

*The loved ones of those who passed away including:
None in the last 6 weeks to report

*Those who have been hospitalized or are in long term care facilities.

*Hospital & nursing/assisted care facility staff, essential workers, & our military members.

*All individual prayer requests will be listed for 6 weeks. At which time they will be removed from the list. If you wish for a name to remain, be removed, or to be put back on the list, please contact the church office at 712-852-2154. Thank You!

Chapters in Our Life Together



February

- 2 Dayton Strohman
6 Ava Salas
Seth Freeman
7 Joyce Muller
8 Janice Bare
Ray Stanley
10 Carol Simonsen
11 Julie Leners
Michelle Kogel

- 12 Craig Kassel
Katie Malm
13 Judd Duhn
Tony Salas
Heather Strohman
14 Kristen Kassel
Troy Sargent
Linda Hill
17 Olivia Hampe
18 Logan Gonzales
Karen Sargent
Cade Shirk
19 Margorie Solberg

- Tami Culver
21 Romina Rasmussen
23 Anne Carney
25 Nancy Hunsaker
Martha Wells
26 Abby Goodlaxson
27 Bill Bramley
28 Paxton Duhn
Everett Gonzales
29 Jamison Hokinson
Parker Hoinson

No Anniversaries in February

March

- 2 Jamie Christensen
Jordan Morey
3 Tati Malm
Doug Miller
6 Todd Bell
7 Mya Shirk
8 Kali Anderson

- 9 Jill Loomis
Brian Rasmussen
10 Ted Strohman
Makenna Burns
11 Elias Meyer
14 Blake Ver Mulm
15 Angie Strohman
Jemma Elman
16 Jim Stevens
21 Sue Rouse
William Harris
23 Doris Gustafson

- 28 Devin Morey
30 Todd Ditch
31 Sylvia Ballman

Anniversaries in March
31 Jim & Sharon Hobart

*If you see that your name is not listed
or there is an error,
please call the church office.
712-852-2154*

February/March Liturgists

- 2/7 Susan Embrock
2/14 Michelle Kogel
2/17 (Ash Wed) Jodi Ward
2/21 Sarah Frederick
2/28 Danielle Ditch
3/7 Deb Wickman
3/14 Sarah Strohman
3/21 Jodi Ward
3/28 Danielle Ditch

February/March Computer Worship Helpers

- 2/7 Embrock Family
2/14 Anderson Family
2/17 (Ash Wed) TBA
2/21 Duhn Family
2/28 Ditch Family
3/7 Embrock Family
3/14 Anderson Family
3/21 Duhn Family
3/28 Ditch Family

February/March Communion Helpers

- 2/7 Betty Zeigler
2/17 (Ash Wed) TBA
3/7 Susan Embrock

February/March Video & Livestreaming

- 2/7 Keaton Duhn
2/17 (Ash Wed) TBA
3/7 Keaton Duhn

**If you would like to sign up to serve
in any of the above ministries,
please contact the office at 712-298-2552.**

We would LOVE to have YOU!



F I R S T
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
EMMETSBURG

801 Broadway St, PO Box 99,
Emmetsburg, IA 50536

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage PAID
Permit No. 153
Emmetsburg, Iowa

Ash Wednesday Service

February 17, 2020
10:00 AM & 6:00 PM

WINTER 2021 SUNDAY SCHEDULE

- 9:00 AM In Person Sunday School resumes on February 14 in Family Life Center
10:00 AM Worship in person in the Sanctuary & Livestreamed on Facebook & ZOOM
11:30 AM Confirmation Class meets in Family Life Center

Zoom information for services

Zoom.us/j/7128522154 Meeting ID: 7128522154 Password: 712UMC