



NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER IS MAY 7

In years past, we would check the local papers to see what's being planned to commemorate this day, stopped by the church's sanctuary or chapel to pray, taken a walk out in nature and said a prayer!

This year's plans may have to be altered, but the bottom line is still the same....wherever you are and whatever you do this day, stop and pray!



A HEART PRAYER

God, please give me a heart that can hold all the good things in life: a heart with compassion and kindness, with gentleness and patience, and a heart that is open to spontaneity and joy.

Please form in me a heart that listens to all your messages of love:

a heart that trusts, always looking for the goodness hidden in others, a heart that readily shares the gifts you have given me, and a heart that can hope beyond the difficulties I am facing.

Grant me a peaceful heart that will hold on to the real values in life:

so that I can respond with assurance to what is important; give me a heart that is grounded in love rather than fear, one that is open to the needs of others and will reach out with sincerity.

Please God, give me a heart filled with your Spirit so that I can become more like Jesus every day. Amen.



Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. Proverbs 3:5

This verse has been on my heart and mind for the last few weeks now. In fact, it has served as a lifeline for me during this time of chaos. I need this reminder that God's got this. Like Peter walking on the water, I can quickly lose my focus. I start focusing on the storm--on the swirling of news and covid -19 information all around me, on the feelings of isolation, on the grief of missed family, friends, and activities. When this is my focus I begin to sink. Proverbs 3 reminds me that God is bigger than the

storm and that I need a focus change. I really like how the message paraphrase puts it; *"Trust God from the bottom of your heart; don't try to figure out everything on your own. Listen for God's voice in everything you do, everywhere you go; he's the one who will keep you on track. Don't assume that you know it all."*

So often I try to figure things out on my own and yet this is too big of a task for me. As I write this article (at the end of April), I am already trying to figure out if we will still be staying home when the newsletter comes out or if businesses will be opening again. But it is not my job to figure this all out - it is my job to trust. God has got this! Don't be a know it all!

We are called not only to trust, but also to listen for God's voice in all things. God will keep us on track, but we need to listen for our directions - our marching orders. Maybe you are feeling a nudge this week to call and check on someone - do it! Maybe you have been wanting to send a card to someone or drop some food off at Food at First - do it! Listen for God's voice and follow where you are being led. Remember we are all in this together. Whether we are together in person or still connecting virtually, we need to remember to focus on God and to connect with those around us. God's got this and God is holding you!

Trusting and following God together with you,

Pastor Nikki



TRUST IN ~~THE~~ LORD
WITH ALL YOUR
HEART,
AND DO NOT LEAN ON
YOUR OWN
UNDERSTANDING.
PROVERBS 3:5. ESV

“The Stories of Genesis”

After Easter, we will begin working our way through the stories of Genesis. These first few ancient stories reveal much about who God is, the nature of human beings, and the nature of our relationship with this God who created us.

Be sure to join us each week as we explore the first book of the Bible!

April 26th: “Beyond the Fall”

Main Scripture: Genesis 3:1-9 The story of Adam and Eve

Supporting: Ephesians 1:5-10 God’s plan for the fullness of time

May 3rd: “The God Who Remembers”

Main Scripture: Genesis 6:11-14; 17-22 The story of Noah

Supporting: Romans 3:22-28 Righteousness through faith

NATIVE AMERICAN MINISTRIES

On April 26, 2020, United Methodist Churches gathered to celebrate **Native American Ministries Sunday**. Through your generous gift, you educate Native American seminarians and empower Native American outreach.

I should have included the giving envelope in the April Newsletter. I must not have looked far enough ahead so I’m including it now.

ON THE FUMCAMES WEBSITE

<http://fumcames.org/amesfirstumc-need-to-know-during-covid-19/>

Check out an the links below to help you stay connected during the Covid-19 Closures

[How to access Live Stream of worship](#)

[How to access the Recording of worship](#)

[How to set up a Google Account to sign in, comment, and subscribe for Livestream](#)

[Sharing Joys, Concerns, and God Sightings during Covid-19](#)

[How to continue financial giving during Covid-19](#)

[Children and Families LIVE opportunities to connect during Covid-19](#)

[Youth Group Connection during Covid-19](#)

[A survey from the Ministry Team – How Are You Doing?](#)

[A message from Pastor Kerrin – March 19, 2020](#)



**CHILDREN, FAMILY & INTERGENERATIONAL MINISTRIES
NICOLE SMITH - COORDINATOR**



Confirmation Corner

The Confirmation class has completed their coursework. We celebrated that virtually on what would have been Confirmation Sunday, April 26. We will celebrate in person and have the confirmation service once we return to

worship service in person. Any current 7th graders planning to take part in confirmation during the 2020-2021 school year need to email Pastor Nikki at nikki@fumcames.org to let her know. We will have a meeting sometime in May to discuss what confirmation will be like and what students need to do over the summer.

Children's Sunday School

Children's Sunday school will continue meeting on Zoom on Sundays through May 17. This would have been our last official day of in person Sunday school. We will take a break and resume some activities in June depending on what our government and health department regulations state.

Weekday Zooms for Children

Our Move It Mondays, What's Up Wednesdays, and Try Day Fridays will come to an end on May 22. We will take a brief break and get back to some activities in June depending on what our government and health department regulations state.

Virtual Vacation Bible School

This has been a very difficult decision but after talking to Pastor Hannah from UCC who we share VBS with, Pastor Kerrin, and Pastor Nikki, it has been decided that Vacation Bible School will not happen June 22-25 this summer. We are officially postponing in-person VBS until we can meet safely together in a large group again.

BUT....we can't go a summer without VBS!!! Soooooo....Nicole and team are putting together a Virtual VBS. There will be a box kit that will be available for pick up in June that will include videos, handouts, things for experiments, crafts, games, stories, and anything else we can think of between now and June. There will be an online registration for this that will go live May 1!

So....summer VBS fun will happen. It will just look a little different this year.



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Wonderful Wednesday Women

Nicole is inviting all of the Wonderful Wednesday Women to join the ALL Adult group that is meeting via Zoom on Sunday mornings at 10:30a.m. Carrie and Chad Copley are taking the lead for this. If you need the link for the Zoom meeting or help setting it up, contact Nicole at

nicole@fumcames.org

YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS - KIM HEIDEMANN



From the Youth Corner

Attention HS Seniors! While we look forward to the Sunday when we can properly celebrate you and your success (with cake of course!), we want to recognize you during our May 17 online service. (If we are back in person by then, well-plan on cake!) No matter what I need you to send me your senior picture, along with your name, the name of your parents and what you are planning to do after high school. Please send to Kim at: kim@fumcames.org.

As many of you are aware, ASP 2020 had to be cancelled due to COVID -19. If you gave a donation to support a specific person going to ASP, then please email your name, amount of check and approximate date of gift to Reid Cummer at reid@fumcames.org. He will issue a refund. If you do not wish for a refund please know that your donation will carry over to next year. Thank you as always for your generous support of ASP.

A big thanks to the youth leaders that are stepping up and into this new area of online leadership. We now have Zoom meet ups for both MS and HS. Its wonderful to see the kids still connecting with their church family.

Just want to update you that the Youth Ministries Team has started meeting. The purpose of this team is to help get all the youth programs under one umbrella and to offer structure, training and a sustainable path for the ministry to not just maintain, but to grow! A big thanks to all that have agreed to serve on this committee.

The COVID-19 Points Program is going really well. Every week I put activities into Google Classroom that youth can complete for points toward a gift card. Its been fun. Every week we have more youth join the program. Between that and the Zoom meet ups we continue to engage many of our youth. Thanks to both students and their parents for continuing to support this ministry.

Thanks! -Kim Heidemann, Youth Ministries Coordinator



UMW Update

These are surely different times but UMW is still in action! We can't meet in person but that doesn't stop us from calling, emailing or even visiting (from a safe distance!). Some have been sewing masks for those who need them. Others do what they can helping neighbors get groceries, checking on friends and family or even just staying home. Thank you all! Every effort helps! UMW ladies have faced changes and challenges for 150+ years, we can continue to be BOLD and find ways to put our mission into action. During this current situation, let's continue to help each other and continue to live our purpose: "...be a community of women whose purpose is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative, supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church.



You are encouraged to wear your bright reds, oranges, or yellows (even if we are still at home) to celebrate Pentecost on May 31st!" At *Pentecost* the disciples were baptized with the Holy Spirit and *fire*. *Fire* is needed to preserve unity. All disciples have this *fire* in themselves.

The Christian holy day of Pentecost, which is celebrated fifty days after Easter Sunday, commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles and other followers of Jesus Christ while they were in Jerusalem celebrating the Feast of Weeks, as described in the Acts of the Apostles.

Special dates in May

- National Day of Prayer, *May 7, 2020*
- Mother's Day, *May 10, 2020*
- Armed Forces Day, *May 16, 2020*
- Victoria Day (Canada), *May 18, 2020*
- Ascension Day, *May 21, 2020*
- Memorial Day, *May 25, 2020*
- Pentecost, *May 31, 2020*

Good Neighbor News

For the month of February , the following totals where distributed to clients, Healthy Food Vouchers (HFV) assisted 100 households (207 members) for \$3030; Transportation (CyRide tickets and gasoline vouchers) assisted 33 households (70 members) for \$686; Rent/Utilities were given to 37 households (92 members) for \$8657.94. For the month of March, the following totals where distributed to clients, Healthy Food Vouchers (HFV) assisted 78 households (178 members) for \$2440; Transportation (CyRide tickets and gasoline vouchers) assisted 25 households (55 members) for \$705; Rent/Utilities were given to 24 households (64 members) for \$5338.53.

Because of Covid-19, the office closed its doors to the public on March 16 and will remain closed until further notice. Lori has been going in every day and answering phone calls, processing on-line requests and filling out phone applications. The Food and Gas vouchers are presently being completed in one of the following methods, they are mailed if the client does not need them immediately and can wait one or two days. If there is an urgent crisis, the vouchers are delivered by Lutheran Church of Hope or the Ames Police Department has vouchers they can deliver. For the Rent and Utilities, the application can be processed over the phone or in person with documents being emailed to GN. The payment is also being issued by referral from other agencies and if clients have problems sending their documentation, they are being assisted by either landlords or family members or if referred by another agency, using the documentation submitted to them.

Starting on April 1, there was a large increase of calls and emails for assistance. GN has received donations on a steady basis from new and longtime donors. They have also received \$925 from donations made to the Ames FUMC mission committee.

All of the future fundraisers have been cancelled at this time. These included the Irish Spring Fundraiser, the Donor Applicant Event and the Northminister Choral Concert. If anyone is looking for a way to help individuals in our community during this time of quarantine, please remember that Good Neighbor is one of many agencies that is helping those in need in our community.

Submitted by Steve J. Hanlin; representative to Good Neighbor for First United Methodist Church, Story County Ecumenical Housing board and Mission Committee.

We still need a representative from First United Methodist Church for the Good Neighbor board and for Story County Ecumenical Housing board.

Stewardship/Finance Update

The goal of stewardship ministry is to help God's people grow in their relationship with Jesus through their promise to support the church with their prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness. Your stewardship allows the Spirit-led ministries of Ames FUMC to continue influencing people in our congregation and beyond. If we are to accomplish our mission, we must be a financially sound church. During this difficult and unusual health emergency, we are asking for your prayerful consideration of how you can support Ames FUMC's financial needs.

We appreciate all the support you continue to provide to Ames First United Methodist Church (FUMC).

Here are the short- and long-term needs we are facing:

- **Current Cash Flow:**

- *Incoming pledges and offerings for February, March and April this year have been about \$10,000 **less per month** than our budgeted amount.

- *Apportionments have only been paid for two of the first four months of 2020. We need to pay the minimum by the end of the year.

- *Summer months generally see lower offering monies.

- **COVID-19 Impacts:** Since we were forced to close the church in March and do not have a reopening date, our financial picture has become uncertain. Church Council authorized an application to the small business Payroll Protection Program loan. The church was approved for a loan which will "help" bridge some of our shortfall.
- **Mortgage for the 2012 Building Addition:** Thanks to generous donations in the past year, our remaining mortgage is currently about \$540K. Our goal is still to pay this off in the next three years.
- **Building Maintenance Needs:** There are major building maintenance needs facing us with a cost of about \$100,000.

To meet the short-term needs, please:

- Continue to pay on your pledge throughout the next several months.
AND

- Prayerfully consider if you can make an additional contribution.

If you have financial questions, please contact either Reid Cummer, Business Manager, at 515-232-2750/ reid@fumcomes.org OR Bruce Wight, Finance Co-Chair, bruce.wight06@gmail.com

Stewardship Thought --

All Christians are but God's stewards. Everything we have is on loan from the Lord, entrusted to us for a while to use in serving Him. —

John MacArthur, American Pastor

MEMORIAL DAY MAY 25, 2020



We remember, O Lord, all those people throughout the years who have made the supreme sacrifice for our country, for liberty, for us. Whenever we breathe the air of freedom or claim the right to justice or enjoy the privilege of worship, fill us with gratitude for those who selflessly gave the last full measure of devotion — their very lives — for our benefit.

May these brave men and women now know the joy of eternity and your presence. And may the families of the fallen receive comfort and peace amid their grief. Help us as we minister to their needs. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

MAY IS CHRISTIAN HOME MONTH

Families are encouraged this month to:

- A.) Remember your blessings!
- B.) Schedule a regular family night.
- C.) Do some kind of family devotions at a time when all the family can be together; say table graces and bedtime prayers --- read Bible stories.
- D.) Create a family covenant of hope ---write down a list of items that make for peaceful family living with the foundations being love, forgiveness, acceptance, truthfulness, growth, and witness.



A Key Ingredient

In family life, love is the oil that eases friction, the cement that binds closer together and the music that brings harmony.

—Eva Burrows

Joys of Motherhood

- A hug for no reason.
- Belly laughs.
- The light-bulb moment when your child understands something you've been trying to teach them.
- Smiles and giggles.
- Mud pies.
- Arms raised in the air after a big accomplishment.
- Hearing Scripture and prayer from your child's lips.
- Quiet moments on the couch.
- Reading aloud together.
- A family meal filled with conversation and laughter.
- Watching your child be kind to another.
- Recognizing a moment you'd like to freeze in time.
- A child's look of surprise and joy.
- A quiet conversation that heals a wounded heart.
- The words "I love you" — and a sticky kiss.

—Unknown



BLANKET THE WORLD WITH LOVE
GIVE A MOTHER'S DAY GIFT

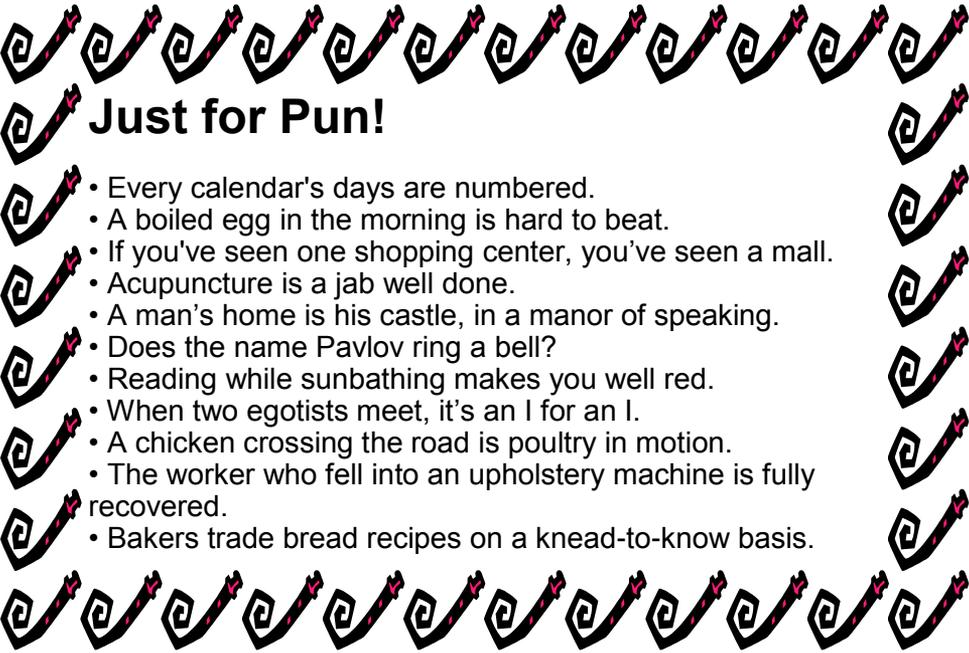
For only \$10, you can give a Church World Service (CWS) blanket that can be used in so many ways by the world's poor or by persons hit by natural disasters. This year Mother's Day is May 10. Let's "blanket the world" with an expression of our love. Send your donation to the church office along with the name(s) of the women you wish to honor or remember. Please have your contribution to the office by **May 7** with your check clearly marked in the memo line: "**Mother's Day Blankets.**"

Yes, I would like to order _____ blanket(s) at the cost of \$10 each. Deadline is May 7.

In honor of: _____

In memory of: _____

From: _____



Just for Pun!

- Every calendar's days are numbered.
- A boiled egg in the morning is hard to beat.
- If you've seen one shopping center, you've seen a mall.
- Acupuncture is a jab well done.
- A man's home is his castle, in a manor of speaking.
- Does the name Pavlov ring a bell?
- Reading while sunbathing makes you well red.
- When two egotists meet, it's an I for an I.
- A chicken crossing the road is poultry in motion.
- The worker who fell into an upholstery machine is fully recovered.
- Bakers trade bread recipes on a knead-to-know basis.



IT'S
TIME
TO
COLOR



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PEACE WITH JUSTICE SUNDAY IS JUNE 7, 2020

On June 7, we celebrate Peace with Justice Sunday. We will be collecting for this Special Sunday that supports ministries for peace and justice through our General Board of Church and Society and the annual conferences. Envelopes will be included in the June newsletter....unless we are back together and then they will be in the bulletin.

NEW CHURCH HOURS OF OPERATION

**As of April 17, 2020 the office will close at
noon on Fridays.**