



Evergreen United Methodist Church

1120 Evergreen Court, Wahpeton, ND 58075

July 2020

Greetings from Pastor Mary Ann

Today I'm sitting in rural New York, boxes stacked up ready to move, the smell of paint pervasive as I prepare my house for sale. There isn't wind here, not big wind, but the air moves from the west toward me. I breathe it in. Soon I'll be there and we will be beginning our time together. I'm leaning in toward that.

One week ago I celebrated 40 years since my ordination. The Bishop, then, was Jim Armstrong, and Annual Conference met in Williston that year. I remember the feeling of being called and supported by what felt like a vast sea of North Dakota United Methodists. Little did I know where my call would take me. Little did I know. I've served God in and outside of local churches. I've been so many places, and learned something new about God in every one of them. And now, due to the choices and decisions of many, I'm on my way toward Wahpeton. Born and raised in Grand Forks, I look forward to

reconnecting to the other end of that part of the state. I look forward to getting to know people who share my history and values. People who know the wind, and who can call 30 below 'a little chilly' with a wry smile. After 40 years of ministry, I bring all kinds of odd and wonderful experiences and some skills that I hope are useful. I seek to learn what God is doing there and add my shoulder to the wheel of the work you are doing--seeking to create the Kingdom in the midst of the world.

I wish we could begin with a bang, but it will be a whimper of a start. To keep us all safe as possible, I'll do as I've been asked and quarantine for 14 days after I arrive. One never knows what is on the journey from here to there and I would not want to bring the virus there. I will be careful. Here, my county has had 1 or 2 active cases for several weeks, a low number. I work in a health care setting now where we are tested weekly, and our facilities have

not been impacted. No visitors and daily screening of staff have kept us all safe. All that is good, but I intend to be careful for your sakes and for mine as I make my way west. Some really good things start quietly. May our journey together be one of those!

Until we can celebrate full throated and freely, let us all pay attention to the many gifts of these days: the slower pace, the time to attend to details, the opportunities for prayer that goes beyond the basics, the joy of abundant family time.

Remember to give thanks to God, to put your feet in good places, to prepare yourself for a future that awaits. We turn this page, grateful for all that has been, and leaning into the ever-blowing spirit of life. Blest be the tie that binds our hearts.....

Pastor Mary Ann Bernard



In-Person Worship Begins July 19

As Evergreen looks forward to re-opening our buildings and gathering for in-person worship again, our Administrative Council has put together guidelines and recommendations for keeping everyone safe and healthy.

Please refer to page 4 of the newsletter for a complete list of our guidelines.

Mission News

By Jan Moore

DUE to the announcement from the Dakotas Conference below, Evergreen will NOT be collecting and assembling Hygiene kits this fall.



“BECAUSE of COVID-19, the Dakotas Conference will change the collection and distribution of UMCOR kits this fall. To keep everyone safe UMCOR school and hygiene kits will not be collected at a central place and delivered to the UMCOR depot. Congregations are encouraged to reach out to their local communities and Dakotas Conference mission ministry.”

The only ones among you who will be truly happy are those who have sought and found how to serve.
-Albert Schweitzer



Our sympathy to Nancy West and family on the recent death of her dad, Lyle Fogel.

Our sympathy to the family of Barb Foote. Barb died June 20 and her funeral was held at Vertin Munson on June 25. Fern Bailey was officiant.

Our sympathy to friends of Jerald Stewart. Jerald died June 25 and his funeral was held at Vertin Munson on June 29. Peder Anderson was officiant.

Evergreen UMC
1120 Evergreen Ct.
Wahpeton, ND 58075
(701) 642-6202

Pastor:
Mary Ann Bernard
pastor@evergreenumc.com

Administrative Asst.:
Julie McGovern
office@evergreenumc.com

Office Hours:
Monday-Thursday
8 am - 3 pm
Friday
8 am - Noon

Sunday Worship
10 am, Worship

Website:
www.evergreenumc.com

Facebook:
Wahpeton Evergreen UMC

June Offering:
\$15,107.50

Monthly Needs:
\$20,373.00



To accompany our shift to online worship, we have also updated our giving options, you can now give online through our website (www.evergreenumc.com/#give) or through the mail (use the enclosed envelope).

Prayer Concerns at Evergreen

In our monthly newsletter we are listing persons in need of ongoing prayer. Please contact the office to have names added and/or removed from our prayer concerns list.

Please pray for:

Matt Dockter, Gene Plummer, Bob Spent, Phyllis Schmidt, Renee Rohman, Harriet Fleenor, Linda McDougall, Merle Rubish, Marlys Phillips, Alta Lehmann, Kermith Krueger, Fay Woy, Donna Stone, Cheryl Holding Eagle, Bernice Oliver, Jim Stone, Yelena Arutyunov, Gloria Plummer, David Gripentrog, Randy Rittenour (Richardson's son-in-law), Paula Frazier (Pam Nagel's sister), Duren Moffet (Don's brother), Shelly Muerer (Rich/Margaret Johnson's niece), Paul Frazier (Pam Nagel's brother-in-law)

Greetings, United Methodist Women!

By Kay Nelson

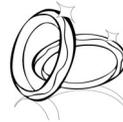
The Covid-19 continues to hold us hostage! We are not having the July luncheon but are hoping to start meeting in September using social distancing. A district meeting is also planned for September 19th and we will host that meeting. Remember to keep reading and turn in your lists to Lois Berndt by August 1. For now we pray for our church, our new pastor, and hope we will be back together soon.

Evergreen Celebrates July Birthdays and Anniversaries

*Denotes anniversaries



- | | |
|------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 4 - Bonnie Anderson | 18 - Wayne Mohs |
| 4 - Marston Metcalf | 20 - Evan Dockter |
| 5 - Jeff & Rachel Olson* | 21 - Jenny Schmitt |
| 7 - Linda Bailey | 21 - Aly Stone |
| 7 - Sarah Lutgen | 22 - Kim Dassenko |
| 8 - Amanda Mittlestadt | 22 - Chris Nelson |
| 8 - Jessica Mohs | 22 - Jarrett Werner |
| 9 - Lily Gripentrog | 23 - Mary Schradick |
| 9 - Hannah & Marc Pritchard* | 23 - Randy Smith |
| 10 - Gabriel Erickson | 25 - Etta Olson |
| 10 - Jeff Olson | 25 - Bryan Wolfgram |
| 10 - Harlan & Tammy Deike* | 25 - Aaron & Aly Stone* |
| 11 - Janice Walter | 26 - Laurel Azure |
| 12 - Loretta Meyer | 26 - Braylyn St. Aubin |
| 12 - Doreen Reinke | 28 - Peder & Bonnie Anderson* |
| 12 - Scott & Jenny Schmitt* | 30 - Paul Drewlow |
| 14 - Fuad Agayev | 31 - Nicholas Arutyunov |
| 15 - Cheryl Holding Eagle | 31 - Don Faul |
| 15 - Grace Rau | 31 - Kiki & Wesley Beschorner* |
| 15 - Heb Diederick | 31 - Alan & Judy Dahlman* |
| 16 - Jessica Harty | 31 - Stewart & Joyce Gripentrog* |
| 17 - Allison Smith | |



Thank you! Thank you!

We had trees blown down during a recent storm and are so thankful for those who came to help get the yard cleaned up. Peder & Bonnie Anderson, Colin Bailey, Mike Beeson, John & Denise Eastin, Tom McGovern, Wayne & Dianne Millar, Ed Olson and Dale & Diane Poppen.



Evergreen UMC Guidelines for In-Person Worship

As Evergreen looks forward to re-opening our buildings and gathering for in-person worship again, our Administrative Council has put together these guidelines and recommendations for keeping everyone safe and healthy.

- + For anyone who chooses not to attend in person, services will be available via livestream.
- + If you feel sick in any manner, please stay home for the safety of others.
- + We recommend that all persons (over age 2) wear a mask/facial covering not only to prevent transmission *from* others, but also *to* others. If you do not have one, there will be some available at church.
- + All nonfamily members shall maintain 6' distancing. This applies inside and outside the church building as well as in the pews.
- + To maintain distancing in our pews, we will only sit in every 3rd pew; others will be roped off. This allows us to use 14 pews total, with approximate seating capacity of 56. We are hoping to have overflow in the fellowship hall to allow for more persons to worship with us as needed.
- + Hand sanitizer stations will be available; it is encouraged it be used generously!
- + Our small groups and Bible Studies will not be meeting at this time; these extra spaces (classrooms, kitchen, library, etc.) will be inaccessible on Sunday mornings.
- + The Wiggle Room will not be open. Children should sit with their families before and during worship.
- + Doors to the sanctuary (and to the building, when feasible) will be propped open to eliminate need to touch handles.
- + We will have no fellowship hour prior to worship beginning. There will be no food or beverages offered.
- + Offerings can be placed in the plates at each of the doors to/from the sanctuary.

Changes to Worship

- + All pew Bibles and hymnals will be removed; we will rely on screens
- + There will be no bulletins handed out
- + We will have no greeters at the doors. Ushers can stand by building doors when not propped open so only one person has to touch the door handles.
- + We will begin utilizing the lectern *and* pulpit during worship; the scripture reader will utilize the lectern, and Pastor will use the pulpit
- + We will still share in spoken word together, such as the Lord's Prayer – but it is asked that persons only partake if wearing a mask/face covering.
- + There will be no congregational singing at this time (We may still have pre-recorded or special music, but will not have communal singing)
- + When we do offer Holy Communion again (August?), we will utilize pre-packaged communion cups (sealed juice and wafer individually wrapped). These would be made available upon entry to the sanctuary to prevent people needing to move during worship. We will not utilize the altar rail for kneeling/praying at this time.
- + Ushers will not be asked to remove walkers, as they may sit in the aisle or in front of pews.
- + Children will not come forward for the Time for Young Disciples

July 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3 Church Office Closed	4 
5 10 am, Unplugged Worship (see pages 6 & 7)	6	7	8	9	10	11
12 10 am, Online Worship (Facebook & YouTube)	13	14	15	16	17	18
19 <u>10 am, In Person Worship Begins.</u> <u>See guidelines on page 4.</u>	20	21	22	23	24 <u>NL ARTICLE DEADLINE</u> <u>VBS Registration Deadline</u>	25
26 10 am, In Person Worship <u>See guidelines on page 4.</u>	27	28	29 12:30 pm, Newsletter folding	30	31	

Unplugged Worship Service for **July 5, 2020**

Unplugged, we worship today. As one, but in many places and different times. We worship as a family of God. Invite others to join you if you wish. May this time be blessed as we claim this moment of our lives and offer it to God.

Gather

Choose some things that remind you of the best of this day and make a little worship center for yourself, your family group, you and a neighbor...whoever will be with you in this time of worship. Items might be: Coffee, a photo, wildflowers, a pillow, fishing rod, fireworks, anything. Also, if possible, find a candle and lighter/matches or set a small fire if appropriate.

Call to Worship (someone reads)

Come, gather, remember your Evergreen family of faith.

Come, breathe, listen: God is here! (light the candle or the fire)

Music

Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus No. 349

Turn your eyes upon Jesus, look full in his wonderful face, and the things of earth will grow strangely dim in the light of his glory and grace.

America The Beautiful No. 696

O beautiful for spacious skies, for amber waves of grain; for purple mountain majesties above the fruited plain! America! America! God shed his grace on thee, and crown thy good with brotherhood from sea to shining sea.

O beautiful for heroes proved in liberating strife, who more than self their country loved, and mercy more than life! America! America! May God thy gold refine, till all success be nobleness, and every gain divine.

O beautiful for patriot dream that sees beyond the years thine alabaster cities gleam, undimmed by human tears! America! America! God mend thine every flaw, confirm thy soul in self control, thy liberty in law.

Scripture Readings

Song of Solomon 2:8-13 (Come away with me...); Romans 7:15- 25; Matthew 11:16 - 19; 25 - 30 (Jesus said, "Come to me all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.")

Reflection

What kinds of things make you feel loaded down and heavy? What does it mean to rest from those things on a weekend at the lake, or a moment out of your day to simply sit by a lit candle and be quiet?

Often the crazy world makes us crazy: the virus among us has changed so much; the changes in our church life have us raveling on the edges. "For, lo, the winter is past...." Song of Solomon says. The time is here for Summer's blessings. And so we find joy, even behind our masks. We witness to our faith in God who is buoyant, by lifting our hearts, even now, especially now. We hope and lean into our future. Our best days lie ahead, for all of us.

God calls us to celebrate goodness, to relax from the burden of the day, to come away and to be in a state of rest. The gospel challenges us to let go of the burden, to release our fears, to find joy in this day. Thanks be to God who makes that possible, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Music Be Still my Soul No. 534 Vs. 1 & 2

Be still, my soul: the Lord is on your side. Bear patiently the cross of grief or pain; leave to your God to order and provide; in every change God faithful will remain.

Be still, my soul: your God will undertake to guide the future, as in ages past. Your hope, your confidence let nothing shake; all now mysterious shall be bright at last.

Prayers (use the prompts if you wish, or simply offer the Lord's Prayer together, remembering we are all praying together, even as we are apart.)

+ Today we are thankful for the blessings in our lives, especially...

+ Today we are worried and carry burdens about.....

+ Today we ask for your guidance, God:

in our personal lives

in our church

in our country

in our world.

Music Hymn of Promise No. 707 Vs. 1 & 2

In the bulb there is a flower; in the seed, an apple tree; in cocoons, a hidden promise: butterflies will soon be free! In the cold and snow of winter there's a spring that waits to be, unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

There's a song in every silence, seeking word and melody; there's a dawn in every darkness, bringing hope to you and me. From the past will come the future; what it holds, a mystery, unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

Benediction: Blessings to all of you. My God's rich blessing of rest soak into your bones and bring you great relief and joy! Amen. (Blow out the candle, let the fire go out, take the light with you into the day.)

EVERGREEN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
1120 EVERGREEN COURT
WAHPETON, ND 58075

Non-Profit organization

US Postage paid

Permit No. 89

Wahpeton, ND 58075

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Compassion Camp VBS By Becky Dockter

With the uncertainty of what will be happening with the COVID pandemic at the end of summer, Evergreen and Bethel Lutheran churches have decided to go with an online Vacation Bible School this year instead of our normal week that we gather on site. The theme will be "Compassion Camp"

- Camp will run from August 3-6 online
- Everyone will need to register before July 24 - you can register online at <http://bethelwahpeton.com/children-youth/> or contact the EUMC church office to register.
- Each child will receive a VBS packet which will include all the supplies they will need for the entire week. We have a group of high school students that have volunteered to deliver the packets to each registered family.
- The lessons will be: At the Table, To the Neighbor, For Myself, Along the Way, With the World

Lisa Bassingthwaite from Bethel will be doing a 15-20 minute video each day with instructions and lesson and information will be sent to those registered on how to access this

We hope this provides a fun and safe way for the kids to participate in VBS this year and hope to have VBS back at Evergreen next year!