

MAY 2020

# FAITH *news*

Monthly Newsletter of  
Eldridge United Methodist Church

## CONVERSATION *with Pastor Courtney*

We are living in uncertain times. We have been practicing social distancing and shelter-in-place for well over a month now. We miss being together. We miss being able to shop in a normal setting. We don't know when, or if, our lives will ever return to the routines we used to have. We are also waiting and praying that our friends, family, neighbors, loved ones and community will not contract COVID-19.

There have been many moments during this time that I have been overwhelmed with thoughts of uncertainty. I worry about my grandparents and elderly relatives. I worry about our church family and hope everyone stays well. I wonder when I'll be able to visit family in person and get a hug. These are times when I long for a moment of stillness. I am sure you have these moments too.

*(In the space to the right...)* I am going to share with you a short exercise I learned from one of my peers in seminary. It is a meditation on Psalm 46:10 — *Be still and know that I am God.*

*Begin by taking a deep breath and say:*

**Be still and know that I am God.**

*Pause for 10 seconds.*

**Be still and know that I am.**

*Pause for 10 seconds.*

**Be still and know.**

*Pause for 10 seconds.*

**Be still.**

*Pause for 10 seconds.*

**Be.**

I hope this meditation is helpful to you in moments when you need a bit of stillness. I am available to talk and take prayer requests on my cell, 641-340-1211.

May the peace of Christ be with you. Pastor Courtney

# OUR CHURCH COMMUNITY

Do you have a graduating senior?

Please send us:

- Full Name
- What are his/her future plans?
- A few things they did, awards they received, special interests.
- School from which they are graduating



We plan to recognize them ... somehow...

Please don't hesitate to call the church office with any requests for assistance or prayer concerns you would like to have posted:



285-4314

Our Missions Committee is working on ways to reach out to our community through this crisis. While this might seem like it's a simple task the logistics of HOW to do so in many of the cases, is less simplistic.

If you know of something you think we should be doing and have ideas for how to do so, please don't hesitate to let us know. In the meantime, the committee has a few things 'in the works' and we'll let you know as soon as we have things up and running...so...



Watch  
this  
Space



## MAY BIRTHDAYS

5/2	Jesse Biekert Kathy Rhinehart
5/4	Lloyd Keppy
5/5	Michael Kintigh Linda Reickard
5/7	Joyce Orcutt
5/14	Debbie Fordham
5/16	Travis Berhenke Stacy Muhs Tabitha Skyles
5/17	Ken Nestler Sylvia Sorensen Karen Voelkel
5/21	Larry Haugland
5/22	Dale Carey
5/24	Jeremiah Lehman
5/26	Susan Ames
5/27	Richard Heiman Tim Reickard Doug Reynolds



## MAY ANNIVERSARIES

5/21	Jeff & Becky Newmeister
5/22	Vern & Sylvia Sorensen
5/27	Boise & Daisy Schoonover
5/29	Dan & Becky Esbaum

# Stewardship Report

*“Utilizing & managing all resources God provides for the glory of God & the betterment of His creation.”*

MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT	General Operating Fund	Building Fund
2020 Pledges:	\$133,844.00	\$ 25,395.00
Anticipated 2020 Growth:	\$ 8,000.00	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$141,844.00</b> (\$11,820/mo)	<b>\$ 25,395.00</b> (\$2,116/mo)
Received in 2020:		
January	\$ 14,283.00	\$ 5,040.00
February	\$ 11,498.00	\$ 905.00
March	\$ 14,530.00	\$ 620.00
<b>APRIL</b>	<b>\$ 13,203.00</b>	<b>\$ 515.00</b>
<b>2020 Income To Date</b>	<b>\$ 53,514.00</b>	<b>\$ 7,080.00</b>
<b>Percentage of 2020 pledges</b>	<b>40%</b>	<b>28%</b>

## A Friendly Note from Your Favorite Financial Secretary —

Hello!! I miss you all so much!! And I am hopeful that you're all staying safe so we can congregare again some day in our wonderful church.

Meanwhile, I want to express to all of you how reaffirming it is to witness how faithful this church family is to their financial pledges. I continue to go to the church office once a week to make the deposit, and I am so heartened to see your generous gifts of giving. Our entire congregation is blessed to have such dependable financial support. And some of you add little notes along with your giving, and I appreciate reading those, too!

Sally reminded me this week that Mother's Day and our annual piggy bank collection for the Humility of Mary shelter are fast approaching!! This is a wonderful tradition started by Pastor Doug where we collect loose coins and pocket change and transform it into aid for those in need. Some members collect their pennies, etc. throughout the year, and some members simply write a check specifically for this mission of love. If you're sending a check to the church, please just note 'Humility of Mary' or 'Piggy Bank' on your check, and it will go to the right place. I'd like to wrap up this project by the end of May, if at all possible. As always, thank you for your generosity, faithfulness, and friendship. *Trish Reisener*



## Pastor Ron's dad...

... (also named Ronald Carlson) passed away last Thursday, April 23rd. Due to the Covid 19 Pandemic a Memorial Service will be planned at a later date. We'll continue to check for updates from Ron's family and try to keep you posted in a timely manner. If you'd like to read the obituary you can access it by cutting and pasting this link into your browser:

[https://www.griffinfuneralhome.com/obituaries/print?o\\_id=6965740](https://www.griffinfuneralhome.com/obituaries/print?o_id=6965740)

If you'd like to send a card or note, Ron & Beth's address is:  
712 Prairie Lane  
Storm Lake, IA 50588



# A Note from the Bishop

Dear Friends,

In light of the expectation that positive cases of COVID-19 will peak in Iowa in the next few weeks, I am strongly encouraging all United Methodist churches in Iowa to refrain from in-person worship until June 1, when I will reassess. I am going beyond the Governor's recommendations despite my previously stated intention of following Governor Reynolds' guidelines around worship.

My reasoning is that our first priority as disciples of Jesus Christ is to protect those who are most vulnerable, which includes the elderly, the very young, and those with underlying health conditions. Even though we all want to return to our churches and be a part of the body of Christ in person, I believe that it is more important to assure the safety of our communities from further infections.

John Wesley's Three General Rules included: Do no harm. Do good. Stay in love with God. In the midst of our own personal desires to get back to normal, our faith requires us to seek the good of all. By practicing good judgment and common sense and out of a concern for the welfare of our neighbor, we must continue to stay the course by being diligent around social distancing and refraining from being in large groups. At the same time, there are ample opportunities to safely engage in mission and outreach in our communities.

During the past five weeks, I have participated in a number of online worship services and have been truly blessed by your creativity, your deep desire to share Christ's love in new ways, and your warm invitation to be a part of a faith community. Statistics are already showing strong indications of a resurgence in participation in worship and small groups.

These are not easy times. Yet the body of Christ remains strong and faithful and is making a huge difference in our state and around the world. I will keep you informed in the days ahead. May God bless you and keep you.

Bishop Laurie (Haller)

## **ARE YOU A FIRST RESPONDER?**

### **DO YOU HAVE A FAMILY MEMBER OR CLOSE FRIEND WHO IS A FIRST RESPONDER?**

- \*Tell us what you (or your friend) do? Doctor, Nurse, Firefighter, Grocery Store Worker....
- \*Where do you work? Hospital, Doctor's office, North Scott Foods....
- \*Anything you'd like us to know about your job during this crisis?
- \*Do you have anything you need where you work that EUMC might be able to help out with?

We are trying to formulate the focus of our outreach and be as supportive as we can. Just email the church office ([eldridgeumc@steldridge.com](mailto:eldridgeumc@steldridge.com)) with your information. (Please include the address of anyone who is not a member of EUMC).

**THANK YOU — WE'RE HERE FOR YOU!**

# PRAYER FOR A PANDEMIC

by Cameron Wiggins Bellm

May we who are merely inconvenienced —  
remember those whose lives are at stake.

May we who have no risk factors —  
remember those most vulnerable.

May we who have the luxury of working from home —  
remember those who must choose between preserving their health or making their rent.

May we who have the flexibility to care for our children when their schools close —  
remember those that have no options.

May we who have to cancel our trips —  
remember those who have no safe place to go.

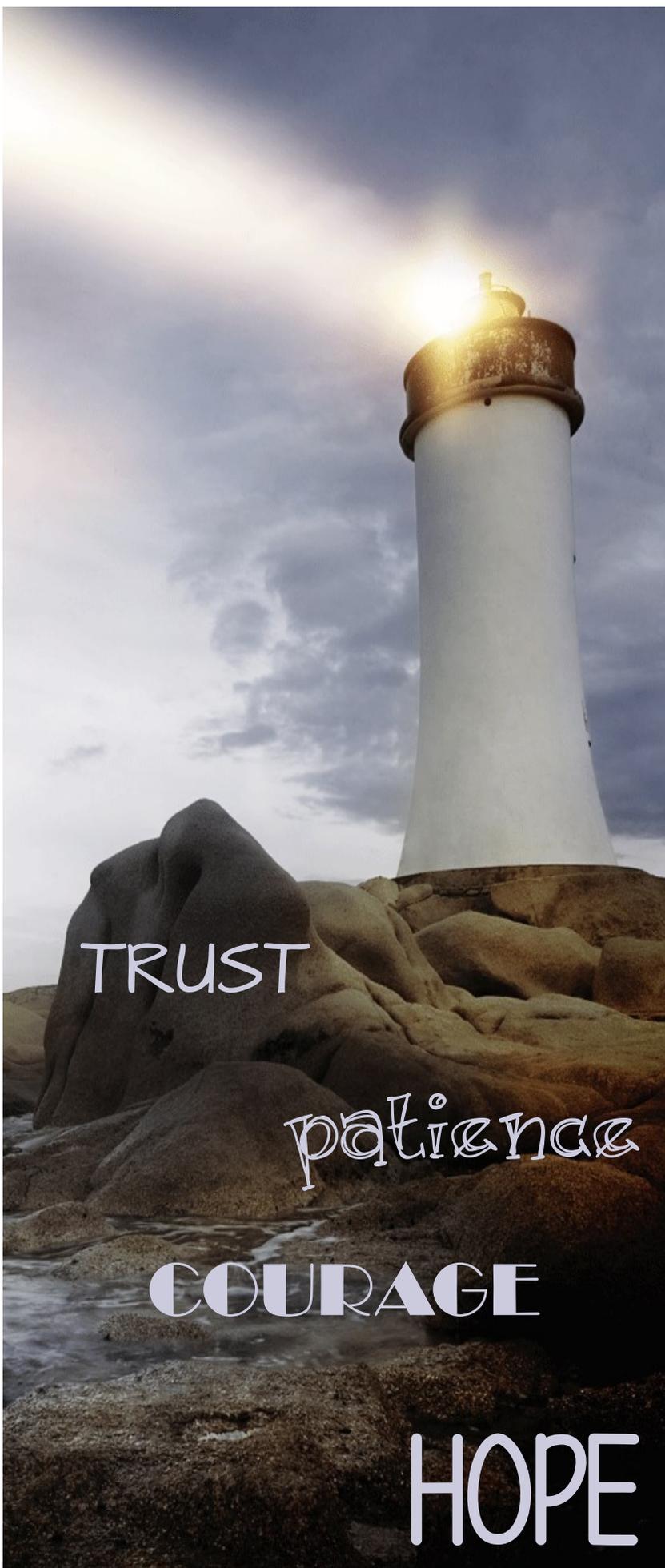
May we who are losing our margin money in the tumult of the economic market —  
remember those who have no margin at all.

May we who settle in for a quarantine at home —  
remember those who have no home.

As fear grips our country, let us choose to love during this time when we cannot physically wrap our arms around each other.

Let us yet find ways to be the loving embrace of God to our neighbor.

Amen



TRUST

patience

COURAGE

HOPE

## Administrative Council Meeting –April 16, 2020, 6:30-8 PM

*Virtual meeting: Pastor Courtney, Gary, Kelly, Brian, Bill, Joyce, Mike, Steve, Becky, Judy*

1. *Opening Prayer—Pastor Courtney*
2. *Minutes from March meeting*
3. *Pastor's report:*
  - a. *Pastor Courtney's vacation postponed*
  - b. *Annual Conference will be virtual on June 5*
  - c. *Pastor will set up some on-line fellowship times*
4. *Financial*
  - a. *\$102,000 in checking*
  - b. *Please continue to send in pledges*
  - c. *McCausland has asked for a loan; they have lack of funds; no fundraisers*
    - i. *They have application ready for gov't loan*
    - ii. *Gov't ran out of money that day*
    - iii. *EUM will look into loaning the money to McCausland.*  
*Details to be worked out.*
5. *Outreach*
  - a. *Ideas mentioned: May Day baskets, small groups via Zoom, driveway coffee hour*
6. *Prayer:*

*Next meeting May 14, 6:30 PM*

*Respectfully,  
Judy Kilzer*

*Happy  
Mother's  
Day*



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Stamp  
Here

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*Pastor Courtney Dake*



ELDRIDGE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
Eldridge, IA 52748

**Our Church Newsletter**  
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