

November 2020

Faithnews

Monthly Newsletter of Eldridge United Methodist Church

CONVERSATION with Pastor Courtney

Here we are. And where *are* we exactly? I am not sure how we have arrived at November and anticipating the holiday season. It feels as if we have lived a lifetime in 7 months. . .

Our routines have been upset. We are weary of the day-to-day and having to plan our lives around COVID-19. Every time we leave the house, we take precautions to protect ourselves and others. And the church, which is usually our safe place, has to take the same precautions. We worship creatively hoping for the day when we can all be in the same place to worship again. It may be easier for us to focus on what God is going to do, but what about what God is doing right now?

In the month of November, as the church year ends, we will explore the kin-dom of God in Matthew 25. We will work together to claim the reign of Christ in our lives right now. We will not be waiting on the someday but celebrating the joy of Christ in our current reality. Christ's glory is in our midst.

Let us prepare our hearts to experience the love, joy and grace of Christ now. Throughout the month of November, I encourage you to write down every day how you have experienced Christ. When has Jesus rescued you? When has Jesus given you peace or calm? When has Jesus surprised you? In this spirit of feeling the presence of Jesus, we will be ready to celebrate the birth of the Christ child.



An illustration of a manger, a wooden structure used for feeding animals, symbolizing the birth of Jesus. It is depicted in a simple, stylized manner with a light brown color and a dark brown outline. The manger is positioned in the lower right quadrant of the page, resting on a textured, golden-brown surface that represents the ground.

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY 2020

Let us remember those who have gone on before us in this past year--both family and friends--and now rest from their labors in the presence of the Lord.

*Lord, we give you thanks
for Your good and faithful servant:*

Kay Artes

Donna Kucheman

Deloris Blake

Sue McBride

Mary Louise Cronkleton

Helen Jean Muhs

Terri Dockery

Wes Rock

David Fairweather

Jackie Snyder

Shirley Frauenholtz

Alvino Terronez

Julie Gentz

Marjorie Tubbs

Phyllis Green

Jackie Wilcox

Rev. Ray Hampton

Richard Kintigh

Roger Kirby

Peace

PLEASE NOTE! As we are 'cut back' due to the Covid 19 pandemic, the **CHURCH OFFICE** is *predictably* open on

THURSDAYS *only*
8:30am—12:30 pm

*Sometimes we're here at other times but very irregularly.
If you need something before Thursday, call Pastor Courtney at 641-340-1211*



PRAYER REQUESTS FOR THIS WEEK include:

A prayer for patience and safety for the upcoming **ELECTION** on Tuesday.

HANNAH BRYANT who continues to undergo testing/evaluation with no specific answers as to the cause or source of symptoms leading to her ER visit. She remains frustrated and "stressed with lack of answers.

JEFF CRONKLETON who is scheduled for hernia surgery on November 4th.

JOHN NEILSON beginning treatments for bladder cancer.

AL KAY who has been moved to in-patient rehabilitation care at Genesis West where he is recovering from hip replacement surgery on October 20

Dennis Eudaley's sisters: **WENDY**, who is having another surgery related to her breast cancer, October 30; **GERI**, who will be undergoing surgery on Nov. 3rd for her appendix and female issues related to the BRAC1 that some in the family have tested positive for.

FARMERS, that they be eased from their stress and kept safe in their harvest.

LYNN ORCUTT who underwent another eye surgery at University of Iowa hospitals last week. Unfortunately, the surgery failed, he will be home healing for a bit and then will be scheduled for a full cornea transplant in a month or so.

BEN APPLE who had surgery to replace two herniated disks in his neck October 13th. Surgery went well and he is home recovering comfortably.

KEITH RIEWERTS, recovering from back surgery on the 21st. He is home and doing well in his recovery.

DENNY DenHARTOG & KEN FORDHAM who also continue to suffer from serious back problems.

All those who have been displaced, lost homes & suffer the effects of **HURRICANES and FOREST FIRES.**

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WE SHARE OUR

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS FOR NOVEMBER

Chili Fixin's

Muffin Mixes

Canned Fruit

MISSIONS PROJECT

During this month of Thanksgiving, the Mission Committee would like to invite you to "Build A Box" to help feed those in need in our community. We would like to invite you to purchase the following list, put it in a box, seal the box, and bring it back to the church by November 30. We will then deliver the boxes to the area schools for distribution. If you do not want to do the whole list by yourself, or do not want to go to the stores to shop, we invite you to make a donation of money through the church office or your offering and we will do the shopping (*memo "Build-A-Box" on your check or envelope, please*). If you have any questions, feel free to contact Laura McLain at 563-349-7704 or ljmclain30@gmail.com.

- Peanut Butter: 1 - 16 oz. jar
- Jelly (plastic container): 1- 20 oz. bottle
- Pasta: 1 - 16 oz bag/box
- Granola/Cereal Bar: - 1 box (7.25 oz)
- Oatmeal: 1 box instant packets
- Mac-n-Cheese: - 4 boxes
- Fruit (canned): 3 cans
- Soup: 3 cans
- Chicken (canned): 2 - 12.5 oz cans
- Vegetables (canned): 4 cans
- Spaghetti Sauce (no glass): 2 cans
- Tuna: 3 - 5 oz cans



MANY BLESSINGS

41st Annual MISSION INGATHERING 2020

Thank You for everyone's part with this year's kits by providing complete kits, items for kits, and/or monetary donations. As a result our church will be delivering:

101 Student Kits

35 Personal Dignity Kits

25 Layette Kits

Monetary Donations for: Church World Services (blankets); Heifer International; Self-Help International (Feeding Project); Mobility World-wide/Iowa; other projects

Special Thanks goes to :

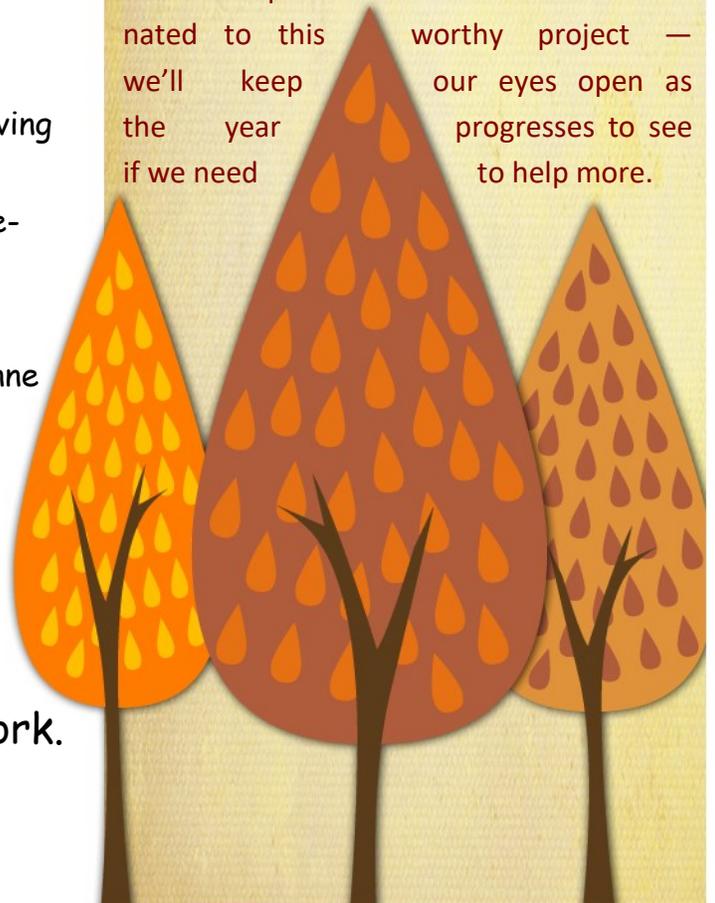
- * Trish Reisener for sewing 101 school bags & receiving blankets
- * Lynn Hunter for sewing baby gowns, jackets and receiving blankets
- * CJ Albertson in creating prayer cards for each kit
- * Judy Kilzer, Janalee Keppy, Norma Neilson, Marianne Doonan, Jane Varcho & Becky Newmeister who assembled/packed all kits.
- * Janalee Keppy & Judy Kilzer for delivering this 'bountiful blessing' to Mount Pleasant.

All these helping hands made for fast work.

Thank You Very Much!

Keeping the Kiddies Covid-Safe at North Scott

The Missions Committee is proud to announce that we were able to provide elementary students in the North Scott Schools with 4000 Disposable Masks to help keep them safe through this Covid 19 pandemic. While the school district provided masks to begin the year, it has proven to be especially difficult in the elementary where little ones lose or forget the masks with greater frequency. These disposable masks go quickly spread over the five elementary buildings in NS so we're really happy to be able to help out. Thanks to all who donated to this worthy project — we'll keep our eyes open as the year progresses to see if we need to help more.



november birthdays

BLESSED

11/8	Elizabeth Leslie
11/9	Marge Stapleton
11/11	Wendy Popelka
11/13	Alexis Cary Dietrich Muhs Grayson Schoonover
11/15	Sue Cannon
11/17	Randy Kinney
11/25	Nancy Bryant
11/27	Norma Neilson
11/30	Beth Carlson

november anniversaries

11/7	Gary & Bea Abbas
11/11	Jan & Flo Veldhuis-Kroeze 60 th !
11/22	Bill & Linda Tubbs

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Administrative Council Meeting
October 8, 2020; 6:30 Virtual
Attendance: Pastor Courtney, Brian P, Bill T, Gary A, Steve S, Deb M,
Keith R, Kelly C, Judy Kilzer

1. Opening prayer, Pastor Courtney
2. Tech report, Deb Menke: Why needed? Share church ministry & to have a strong audio system which is important if we decide to add video capability. Live Stream...Central Scott can not handle 10 gigabytes which is needed for live stream; would have to change provider. Securing two bids: One bid is from Top notch. Second bid is to be from Reference Audio. They will evaluate our sound system; suggested cost limit \$600.
3. Re-entry team: Pastor Courtney met with worship committee. Outdoor worship is Saturday Oct 10. Service will be recorded for Sunday morning.
Oct 18 will be a recorded service.
Oct 24 will be FIRST indoor service. Details to be worked out yet. May ask for congregation to sign up so we know how many are coming. Also would assist in setting up family areas. Masks required. Keith voted to accept the plan; Judy seconded it.
4. Mission report from Steve/Judy: Each kit cost \$2 to send
 - a. Ingathering Kits: 101 School Kits = \$202; 25 Layette kits plus \$2 for rash cream= \$100; 35 personal care kits = \$70 for a total of \$372. Donations are made to Church World Service for blankets, Heifer international, Self-help International, & Mobility Worldwide.
 - b. 12 backpacks have been purchased for HS Angel Tree for \$85.
 - c. Question came up about money donated for masks for school. Kelly reported that \$300 has been donated so far. Courtney gave closing Blessing.

Respectfully
Judy Kilzer

2020 Monthly Stewardship & Finance Update

2020 General Pledges	\$ 133,844.00	2020 Building Pledges	\$ 25,395.00
2020 Anticipated Growth	\$ 8,000.00		(\$2,116/mo.)
TOTAL	\$ 141,844.00		
	(\$11,820/mo.)		

Received in 2020:

January	\$ 14,283.00	\$ 5,040.00
February	\$ 11,498.00	\$ 905.00
March	\$ 11,465.00	\$ 620.00
April	\$ 13,203.00	\$ 515.00
May	\$ 12,870.00	\$ 3,450.00
June	\$ 8,322.00	\$ 1,035.00
July	\$ 10,788.00	\$ 4,375.00
August	\$ 11,478.00	\$ 1,785.00
September	\$ 10,863.00	\$ 2,840.00
October	\$ 10,303.00	\$ 870.00
November		
December		

Total-to-date \$ 115,073.00 \$ 21,435.00

Percentage of 2020 pledges rec'd 86.00% 84.00%

	Income	Expenses	Gain/Loss
January	\$ 14,552.38	\$ 13,351.78	\$ 1,200.60
February	\$ 12,423.03	\$ 14,966.66	\$ (2,543.63)
March	\$ 11,958.52	\$ 7,601.73	\$ 4,356.79
April	\$ 14,711.46	\$ 8,668.52	\$ 6,042.94
May	\$ 13,089.16	\$ 9,992.51	\$ 3,096.65
June	\$ 8,961.08	\$ 9,162.48	\$ (201.40)
July	\$ 12,297.45	\$ 12,430.85	\$ (133.40)
August	\$ 12,347.75	\$ 10,765.24	\$ 1,582.51
September	\$ 10,782.55	\$ 9,388.52	\$ 1,394.03
Totals	\$111,123.38	\$ 96,328.29	\$ 14,795.09

Apportionments are being paid at 100%

Don't Forget to

November 1



As you probably have noticed, McCausland UMC relies heavily upon fund-raisers, dinners, and Easter Eggs to keep their small church financially stable. Now severely restricted this year with fundraisers due to COVID-19, they are holding a "Thanksgiving UN-Supper"! Instead of all the hustle and bustle of planning, cooking, setting up, serving and cleaning up (ugh...) — especially during this time of social distancing and safety protocols, they are simply asking that folks donate whatever "free-will" amount you would have spent to support one of their 'real' (& delicious, I might add) suppers at the church. The target date for collecting funds is by November 22nd and I'm sure they would be so humbled and grateful to feel love coming from their sister church.

If you write a check, please note "unsupper" in the memo and send directly to their church:

McCausland United Methodist Church P.O. Box 154 McCausland, IA 53758

THANKSGIVING "UN-SUPPER" AT McUMC



PASTOR'S ADVENT BOOK STUDY



All are invited to join Pastor Courtney's four-week Advent Study beginning 7 p.m. Wednesday, December 2, on Zoom. Because we are meeting virtually this year, you are invited to purchase a hard copy or eBook at cokesbury.com or another bookseller.

In *Incarnation: Rediscovering the Significance of Christmas*, Adam Hamilton examines the names of Christ used by the gospel writers, exploring the historical and personal significance of his birth. We will come together to remember what's important. In the face of uncertainty and conflict, Christians reclaim the Christ child who brings us together, heals our hearts, and calls us to bring light into the darkness.

An email with the Zoom link or information to join by phone, and lesson theme will be sent out weekly.

Hope to see you there.

Pastor Courtney



Due to the Coronavirus Pandemic,

The 2020 **CHILDREN'S BAZAAR**

**will unfortunately NOT
be held this year.**

Please help pass the word.

Many Thanks

Dennis and Donna Eudaley would like to thank all of their wonderful church family/friends for the phone calls, cards and emails regarding the death of Dennis' mother, Donna Kuchemann.

HO! HO! HO!

Carol and her merry elves are still planning to do the gift-giving to local families that we have always called the "ANGEL TREE". Still working on exactly what that will look like, we'll be back to you with the plan mid-November. Watch your Thursday Messages for details!

Sunday, November 8th is

CONSECRATION SUNDAY

We are scheduled for an In-Person Worship Service that day and will be sharing the Lord's Table. Have you been praying about how you can share your financial blessings with the the church?

If you attend worship that morning, there will be a safe way to bring your commitment at that time. If you are participating from home, drop of or mail your pledge to the church office in time for it to be placed with the other pledges to be consecrated that morning.

Thanksgiving Observance

Count your blessings instead of your crosses;
Count your gains instead of your losses.

Count your joys instead of your woes;
Count your friends instead of your foes.

Count your smiles instead of your tears;
Count your courage instead of your fears.

Count your full years instead of your lean;
Count your kind deeds instead of your mean.

Count your health instead of your wealth;
Count on God instead of yourself.

Author unknown

