



Solitude

On Ash Wednesday this year, as I mapped out in my mind a spiritual path for our congregation, I did not imagine that Lent would become for us such a season of extreme solitude. I have often joked about the discipline of giving up something for Lent and teased that I was going to give up church for Lent. Oh my God! Is this where we are now?

We have found it necessary to cancel public worship services and small group gatherings of every kind. Unthinkable! Most of what we usually associate with “doing church” cannot be done at this time. In ways beyond my imagination we have found ourselves in the “desert” in a time of “solitude in place.”

We are truly in Lent. We are existentially in Lent. Lent is no longer an optional spiritual discipline to insert into or break up our filled-up lives. Solitude is now our grim reality in ways we never imagined. Solitude is also a key spiritual discipline and pathway in the season of Lent.

Conventional wisdom casts solitude as a deficit or loss. “Solitude is a state of seclusion, lack of contact with people. It may stem from bad relationships, loss of loved ones, deliberate choice, infectious disease, mental disorders, neurological disorders, or circumstances of employment situation.” (Wikipedia). However, from a spiritual perspective solitude is regarded as a source of quiet depth and richness.

One writer puts it this way. “The spiritual disciplines of silence and solitude may be quiet, but they are also full of adventure, because God is waiting to meet you there. God will change your soul in ways that go beyond words.” Jesus often and regularly practiced solitude.

“But he would withdraw to deserted places and pray” (Luke 5:16) (Whitney Hopler, 8 Steps to Meeting God in Solitude).

Another author writes about spiritual stillness. “There is a stillness within the stillness, a silence within the silence, and a breath within the breath. Silence and solitude, which mediate a heightened awareness of God’s loving presence, are how I define spiritual stillness” (Kirk Byron Jones, Rest in the Storm).

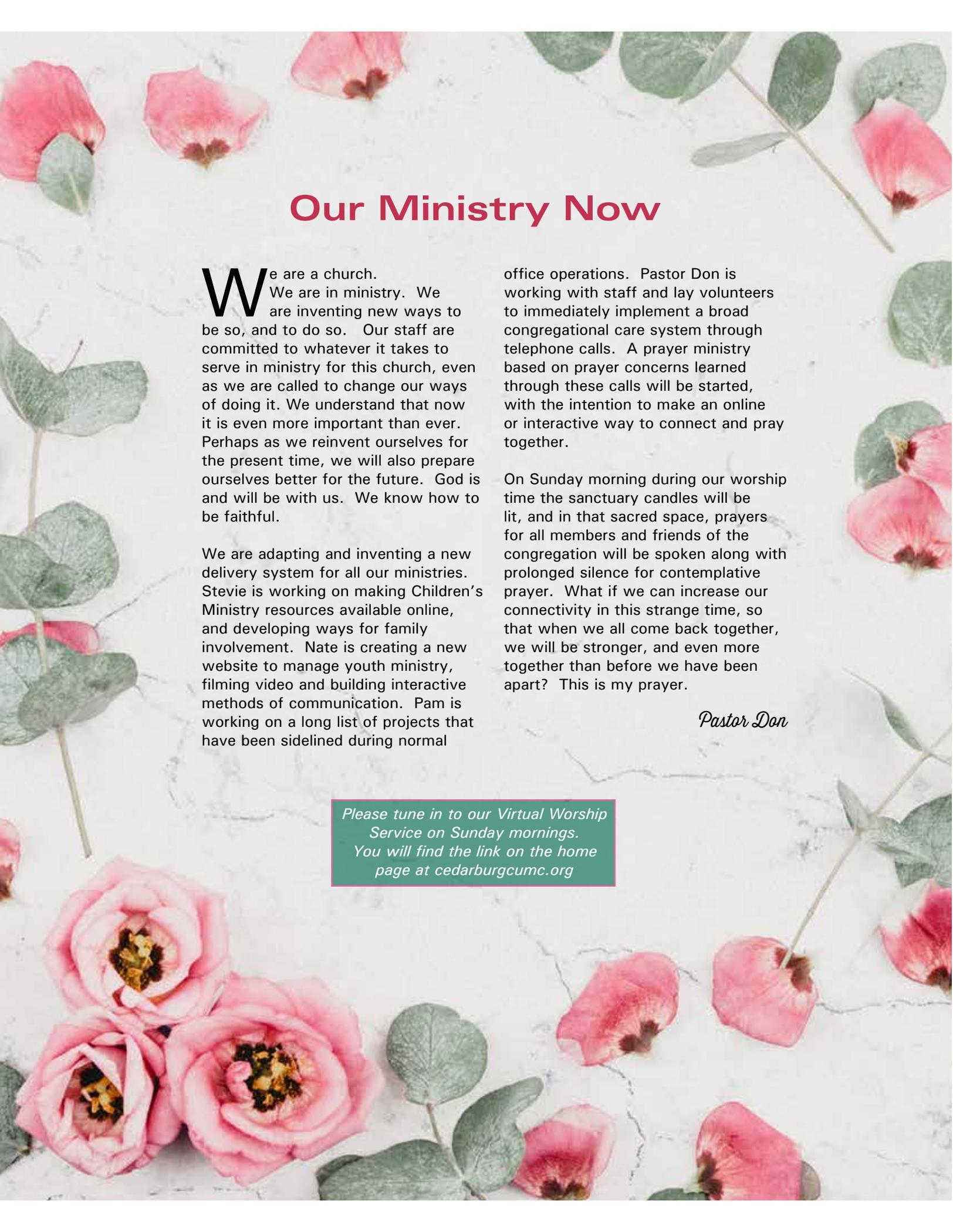
Solitude involves being alone, but it is not loneliness. Solitude is about using alone time to connect, to connect with yourself, to connect with God, and to increase your awareness of the interconnectedness we have to one another. Like a fish does not know the water it swims in until it is taken from it, we too may learn in solitude the importance of being with each other in life, the gift of being in community, and the importance of not living to and for ourselves alone.

Let us use this time well. May we learn again what really matters. May we find and ground ourselves even more fully in the truth that has always been known by people of faith, that God is with us, and that nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus, our Lord.

Be well. May it be well with your soul.

Pastor Don





Our Ministry Now

We are a church. We are in ministry. We are inventing new ways to be so, and to do so. Our staff are committed to whatever it takes to serve in ministry for this church, even as we are called to change our ways of doing it. We understand that now it is even more important than ever. Perhaps as we reinvent ourselves for the present time, we will also prepare ourselves better for the future. God is and will be with us. We know how to be faithful.

We are adapting and inventing a new delivery system for all our ministries. Stevie is working on making Children's Ministry resources available online, and developing ways for family involvement. Nate is creating a new website to manage youth ministry, filming video and building interactive methods of communication. Pam is working on a long list of projects that have been sidelined during normal

office operations. Pastor Don is working with staff and lay volunteers to immediately implement a broad congregational care system through telephone calls. A prayer ministry based on prayer concerns learned through these calls will be started, with the intention to make an online or interactive way to connect and pray together.

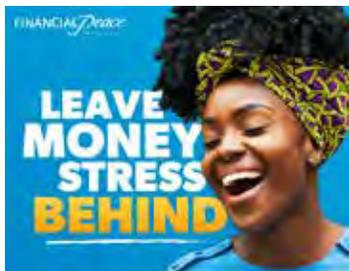
On Sunday morning during our worship time the sanctuary candles will be lit, and in that sacred space, prayers for all members and friends of the congregation will be spoken along with prolonged silence for contemplative prayer. What if we can increase our connectivity in this strange time, so that when we all come back together, we will be stronger, and even more together than before we have been apart? This is my prayer.

Pastor Don

Please tune in to our Virtual Worship Service on Sunday mornings. You will find the link on the home page at cedarburgcumc.org

Financial Peace University Classes

Along with all other activities, we have had to suspend our Financial Peace classes. We were so close to being finished, too! The good news is that the remaining classwork can all be done from home via the beauty of internet. So we



wish our participants well and will stay in touch in the coming weeks. If you have questions about any part of the material, feel free to contact Ellie Wilmeth or one of your class leaders. It's a great time to hunker down on those budgets!

CUMC and Music Ministry

One of the most amazing aspects of worship at CUMC is the variety of music we experience each Sunday in worship. With our new "norm" for worship, we are revamping our efforts quickly to adapt to on line worship. This past week, Lucas Detwiler, Christy Moluf, and Ellie Wilmeth came in to record various musical selections. With the help



of Nate Gruber, they put together hymns and special music to be added to our weekly audio services. We want to thank Nate for his beautiful voice and guitar playing on the first of these services (Mar. 15). We hope you might even sing along in your own homes as you listen in the coming weeks. In the meantime, remain hopeful and keep a song in your heart!

Rolling toward Rummaging!

While we mostly are all in our homes, what a great time to clean out that closet, attic, or room that we always say we're going to "get to". Many of you are juggling multiple roles now and just trying to keep your head above water,



so this is merely a way to distract your anxiety or stress. Suggestion: find a box... any size...throw some stuff in there, mark it "CUMC Rummage" sale and consider one thing done! Let's all hope the sale on July 17,18 is still able to go on but if not, there are plenty of folks in need in our community.



Future Events

Upcoming Family Promise Events or Participation:

Spring Luncheon—Wednesday, May 20th at Crossroads Church, 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Blues Fest—at Cedarburg Strawberry Fest, June 27/28

Blues Fest—Veterans' Park, Port Washington, September 4, 5, and 6

Sip and Sample—Wednesday, September 23, new location—TBA!



Greetings CUMC!

Things have changed and will continue to change in our society, but Mosaic Youth and Teens ministry is ready to continue to meet students needs in the best way we can. Our goal has always been to help middle and high school students follow Jesus in their daily lives. It looks different this week than it did 2 or 3 weeks ago, but we know that it is still possible to follow Him (even while stuck at home).

In response to our current situation, we will be offering video and PDF resources on our brand new website; www.cumcmosaic.com. This website is essentially a blog format site that allows parents and students to login and check out what weekly resources are available. The video teaching will allow students to keep up with Sunday School, Confirmation, Youth Group, and Bible Studies. Additionally, students and parents will have the ability to comment on each lesson and begin a dialogue on the website. Though we know it's never ideal to meet digitally, we do know that it is better than nothing, and we think that the content we're offering will make it worth parents and students time.

Our goal in all of this is to help bridge the gap for parents who feel a new burden of leading their family on a spiritual journey with Jesus. Especially during Lent, we want to help parents feel like they can have natural and intuitive conversations with their kids. As the weeks roll along we hope that the content we offer can help in that goal. So here's to the future of following Jesus as a community! We know that will look different, but we're excited about where God is leading us, and know that as long as we're together, good things are on the horizon.

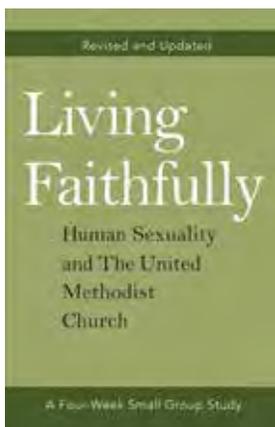
Blessings,

-Nate Gruber

Director of Student Ministries

P.S. As always feel free to contact me via email: nateg@cedarburgcumc.org

Now more than ever I am looking to stay in touch with our families and students and help walk alongside each of you. Please do not hesitate to reach out.



Men's Study Group

In view of the recent recommendations providing advice on how to control the spread of the new corona virus, the Men's Study Group which meets Thursday mornings at P.J. Pipers has been cancelled until further notice. This will be reevaluated as we learn more about the public health risk of COVID-19. In the meantime we will continue to read "Living Faithfully" which discuss human sexuality as it relates to the United Methodist Church.

No Mary Martha Luncheon in April



I realize there is a lot of fear and tribulation as our nation, communities, cities, schools and church are ceasing public activities in an effort to stop the spread of the coronavirus; we hope you find some comfort in knowing that our church ministries will continue even if we cannot meet face to face. For the children's ministry our Sunday school and music will continue via our private Facebook page, Parents' of Mosaic Kids. If you have not joined this group, please do so that you and your child(ren) can get our updates, videos, music, and more.

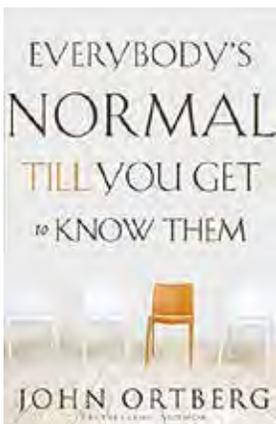
Postings for our regular Sunday school classes will begin on Sunday, March 22nd. Each week you can expect to see videos which are a part of the Orange curriculum that we have been using for the past few years. This is the "So and So Show" that we use to kick off every Sunday school lesson. It includes some pretty funny banter between the two hosts along with a bible story. The end of the video then poses a question that can be discussed or pondered throughout the week. Please watch for these videos to be posted each Sunday at 9am.

In addition to the "So and So Show" I will also be posting some music videos that include lyrics, singing and dancing. My hope is that you will have some fun with these videos, get your kids moving and be silly with one another while singing songs of worship. For

many us this may be grim time, bringing on feelings of isolation or cabin fever, so we could certainly use the pick me that these videos will bring to your family. During the next few weeks our focus will move to humility. We live in a me-centered world, where people act as if the world revolves around them. Figuring out how to be humble can be difficult. But we don't have to figure this out on our own. When Jesus was on earth, He gave us the ultimate example of humility. Jesus is God, and He put that aside for us. Through His life and death, He also showed us how to serve others. Every day we have a chance to put someone else first and flip their day upside down. After all, Jesus turned everything upside down. He can help us choose humility and give up what we think we deserve. And, really, isn't this a time, more than ever, that we need to be thinking of others. "Don't do anything only to get ahead. Don't do it because you are proud. Instead, be humble. Value others more than yourselves." – Philippians 2:3 NirV

Please stay safe and healthy out there! I look forward to seeing you all face to face soon. Until then, my prayers, as always, remain with each of you.

-Stevie Stibor
Director of Children's Ministry



Women of Faith

Women of Faith plan to stay connected through emails, phone calls, US mail and other avenues suggested during the period of time that the church library and Coffee Roastery's tables are closed to meetings. We could continue reading Chapter 6 and beyond in our book, *Everybody's Normal Till You Get to Know Them*, sharing our responses to questions that resonate, by way of

email, using "reply all" for the discussion. Or we could continue to meet via free conference calls, and enjoy conversation and a virtual cup of coffee from our homes. Please email Barbara Anne Ridgely, dabarbarvida@aol.com, if you have an interest in continuing our book study this way, or if you have other ideas for staying connected while we are self-isolating in our homes.

We pray that you are well and safe!

During this difficult time, the Administrative Council and the Finance/Stewardship team have decided to view what is really important. Because of this, we have decided our people are important! We value our staff and have decided to continue to pay them during this time. You may have read the book, Crisis Leadership, by Gene Klann. He states, "During a crisis, your goal is to reduce loss and keep things operating as normal as possible." So maybe our normal will be changing. The costs to maintain the building and programs will continue as well as payroll. If you are able to continue your giving, there are options for the church to receive your donations: by mail, drop-off in the church mailbox (located in the parking lot), or cedarburgcumc.org website (Ways to Give - include credit card or bank account). We also have available ACH electronic giving with our bank for continuous monthly giving. Please contact Randy Roup, FinanceSecretary@cedarburgcumc.org, if you would like to sign up for this.

Roof project update from the Finance/Stewardship team: Recently, Administrative Council voted to go ahead with the roof project, which is planned for early summer. As of March 20th, we have raised \$118,000, which is wonderful and a great accomplishment! We thank you for every dollar raised. We are continuing to get additional bids, which will be reviewed by the leaders of the church.

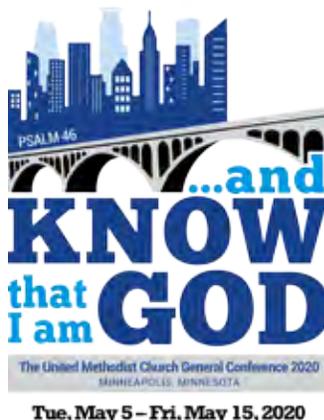
Other news: The Finance/Stewardship team is introducing the scrip program to congregants. It is a gift card program that generates income for the church. An individual can purchase a gift card, use it and the church receives 3%-14% of the purchases. As a result of the coronavirus, we will introduce physical gift cards once we return to attending church services as they will be ordered and picked up at the services. However, in the meantime the e-Gift cards are available and can be used at many vendors such as Amazon (smile.amazon), Pizza Hut, Papa Johns, Dominos, Walmart and Home Depot. Go to shopwithscrip.com or myscripwallet.com, to open an account. Select "Get started", and then "Join a scrip program". Type in Enrollment Code: BB496A8467225 and sign up. Card type that can be purchased currently is e-Gift card. Send one to a friend or relative to show you care. This is connected to a bank account for \$.15/transaction, or credit card for 2.6% fees. In the future we will have physical gift cards for everyone that will also include our grocery stores. Questions, please contact Shirley Krenzke, Treasurer@cedarburgcumc.org.

Finance/Stewardship Team

United Methodist General Conference

to be postponed

The Executive Committee of the Commission on the General Conference has been notified by the Minneapolis Convention Center that they are restricting events at the venue through May 10, 2020, following recommendations by the Minnesota Department of Health, the Governor of Minnesota and the Mayor of Minneapolis to postpone or cancel events involving 50+ people in order to slow the spread of coronavirus. As a result of this decision, the Executive Committee is announcing that the General Conference will be postponed and will not occur May 5-15, 2020 as planned.



"Our focus in this moment is not solely on the gathering of the General Conference for the work we have been called to do, but is on the individuals, families, churches and communities around the world whose lives are being impacted by this pandemic," said Kim Simpson, chair of the Commission. "We recognize the struggle to deal with the physical, emotional and spiritual needs which come with the unknown. We are confident that local United Methodist churches will be finding new ways to be in community with their neighbors and meet their evolving needs."

<https://www.umc.org/en/content/united-methodist-general-conference-to-be-postponed>
<https://www.umnews.org/en/news/gc2020-venue-cancels-events-into-may>

Stop the Stigma of Mental Health Taskforce

Cancelled: "Let's Share Our Stories" on April 29

Sadly, our last Community Dialogue is cancelled due to the coronavirus. This was to be a very special night as Brian Flynn shared "The Importance of Telling Our Stories." https://www.huffpost.com/entry/legacy-telling-our-story_b_776195?guccounter=1

Our guests were to have been Ryan Coert (from the group "Walking the Labyrinth") and his Father, Paige and James Dawkins, and again, Portia Young as moderator. Ryan has been working on his mental health story for months. James and Paige were entitling their story, "Garrett Loved...". Hopefully, sometime in the future, we will be able to hear the stories and voices of these courageous people who have faced mental health struggles.

Our "STOP the Stigma of Mental Health Taskforce" will not continue next year. There are many reasons for this but one of them is that the Public Health Department of Washington and Ozaukee Counties is looking at "picking up" Cedarburg as part of their "Cultivate Movement" program <http://www.washozwi.gov/Cultivate-Movement> ... in addition to continuing in Port Washington and Saukville. I will meet ... when it's an appropriate time ... with Bailey Murph, who is the coordinator of Cultivate, and see if our task force might collaborate with Cultivate, especially with the "Telling our Stories" evening.

Thank you to Paige Dawkins, Melissa Geszvain, Tammy Schmidt, and Nate Gruber for serving on this taskforce. We feel proud of what we were able to do and hopefully have opened the eyes and ears of many, reminding each of us that we all have mental health.

In closing, here is an article that will help all of us with our mental health during this unprecedented time of the unknown. This article was written by Philip Chard and is entitled, "Existential Dread and How to Face It." This is very well written and helpful in terms of our collective fear of the unknown.

<https://shepherdexpress.com/advice/out-of-my-mind/existential-dread-and-how-to-face-it/>

With much gratitude,

Pat Morrissey



April 5
cedarburgcumc.org



April 9
cedarburgcumc.org



April 10
cedarburgcumc.org



April 12
Services at
8:00 & 10:15 a.m.

Mission Outreach

During this difficult time, your Mission Outreach Committee will continue to be active. Although we will not be meeting in person in the near future, we will continue to distribute the financial gifts that you have made available for the Committee to give to various organizations and missions in Southeastern Wisconsin, nationally, and internationally.

We had one in-person mission activity scheduled for April 15. You have probably heard about our intention to support the University Christian Ministry organization at UW-Milwaukee by providing lunch for them at their weekly meeting. Although this has not yet officially been cancelled, we anticipate that it will be. We will look



forward to a date in the future when we can resume activities such as this one, Hunger Task Force, and others.

We would be remiss if we did not recognize that our own church and local communities have needs as well. While there may be little of a "secular" nature that we can do, we can pray. We can pray for each other, for our church, for our community, and indeed for those suffering throughout the world. Let us remember that God is in control, and may we put our faith in Him.

On behalf of the Mission Outreach Committee, we look forward to a time when we can come together in person to greet one another, and to worship and praise our creator.

Our "Grand Agape Community" Update on our Reconciling Ministry Network (RMN) Community

Our group of 18 (13 from Grand Ave. UMC in Port Washington and 5 from CUMC) are now an official RMN community. Our form was submitted a week ago and was accepted by Rev. Israel I. Alvaran, D.Min., Reconciling Process and Western Regional Organizer of the Reconciling Ministries Network. "Izzy" is our regional organizer and wrote a congratulatory note back to us upon receiving our form. Izzy ends his email signature with, "Justice is what love looks like in public." - Dr. Cornel West

The vision of our group corresponds with that of the RMN: "Reconciling Ministries Network envisions a renewed and vibrant Wesleyan movement that is biblically and theologically centered. As committed disciples of Jesus Christ, we strive to transform ourselves and the world by living out the Gospel's teachings of grace, love, justice, and celebration of all of God's children."



Our Grand Agape Community statement reads: Our "Grand Agape Community", a loving and inclusive group, is unified in affirming the sacred worth of all persons. We welcome and affirm all gender identities, sexual orientations, races, cultures, classes, abilities, ages and nations. We celebrate each other's gifts. We welcome the ordination of LGBTQ+ clergy and affirm full participation of our fellow LGBTQ+ children of God in the life of the UMC.

We look forward to meeting once again after this coronavirus passes. Our reading of "Living Faithfully," our Bible readings, our updates regarding the UMC and our discussions have been deep and inclusive. If anyone would like to read this book during our hiatus from church, I would be more than willing to have an email dialogue with you. It is an "easy read," and is very fair and informative regarding Wesley and the UM. Please feel free to email me at patmorrissy19@gmail.com Thank You.

The Grand Agape Community is a small group way of affiliating with the Reconciling Ministry Network and does not affiliate the local congregation as a whole.

Congregational Care

On Monday March 16, the Ad Council heard about the development of a systematic congregational care process for CUMC. In light of the major changes which we are experiencing right now, those that have indicated they would like to be part of the care team have agreed to make calls to all of our CUMC family. At this time we are dividing up the various constituents of our faith community, and assigning approximately five names to every caller. These callers will begin their contacts next week on behalf of CUMC. They are checking in with everyone to see if the household is healthy, needs any kind of help, and to be a voice of support and care. Right now we have approximately 17 callers...we could use about 10 more folks to help in canvassing everyone. Please contact Ellie Wilmeth (elliawilmeth@gmail.com) if you can help make calls.

Presentation made to Ad Council:

The congregational care process is different for various sizes of churches. The smaller the church, the more likely the pastor will be providing more of the care. This is simply part of the family dynamics of smaller church DNA.

Note: the more the pastor is expected to do this, the more limited the pastor is spending time with the unchurched to reach new people for Christ. (Taken from "Gear Up" by Kotan)

Our historical pastoral congregational care situation reflected a small church DNA that often relied on the pastor to provide much of what we call care. In the fall of 2018, one of the small groups at CUMC (Forty Plus) began a service project that involved writing notes to members and those we hadn't seen in worship and visitors. The group quickly realized there needed to be an intentional process of doing this work. A task force was developed in the summer of 2019 with the goal of creating a systematic, intentional team approach to care for all those who enter our doors and those yet to come. Pam Kolis, CUMC Administrative Assistant, had been tracking attendance (self-reported on sheets in worship) which formed the basis of a data driven process (currently using Excel). As the work progressed, we decided to call this ministry "Care Team Connectors". The task force examined multiple lists of information, created starting categories of care, and has recruited initial "care team connectors" to begin the systematic, intentional process of caregiving communication.

This work is from "Gear 9" in the Kotan book and was identified as a potential gear for CUMC development by the Long-Range Planning Group. Because there was interest in this reform by both the Befrienders Ministry and small group ministry, it seemed like a logical gear to work on. Although it is still a work in progress, we

share the information here in hopes that it will become a solid move toward church development in 2020.

Gear 9 with parts of Gear 3

Step 1 – Identify and invite "Care Team Connectors" to the ministry. At this point 14 members have committed to one or more care categories. There is potential for more to be invited and involved.

Step 2 – Create a master "care team connector" worksheet in Excel. This is complete for 2019. We are now working on 2020 worksheet. We are grateful for the help of Shirley Krenzke who has been able to create an Excel spreadsheet where all information is centrally located.

Step 3 – Identify categories of initial categories of care teams: *can be adapted over time.*

- **Rapid Response** – *will respond in the case of an immediate need in short term illness, sudden death, natural disaster such as house fire.* **Timeline for implementation: Immediately**
- **Funeral Reception** – *care of family with reception following funerals* - **Current Team Leader: Linda Hansen** **In place**
- **Care Facilities/Homebound** – *visit our aging members on a regular basis* – **Current Team: Befrienders** **In place**
- **Hospital/Hospice Care** – *work in tandem with pastor* **Spring of 2020**
- **Members** – *will review life in the congregation data and respond with notes and encouragement* **Spring of 2020**
- **Irregular/Inactive Members** – *will work with pastor on how best to reconnect* **Summer 2020**
- **New Members** – *will connect new members into the life of the congregation* **March 2020**
- **Visitors** – *will develop a consistent pattern for welcoming all who join us either in worship or for church events* – **New Team Leader – Tom Wilmeth** **late spring/summer 2020**
- Potential future category – Rides to church

Step 4 – Equip team members with training, sample care situations and confidentiality.

Step 5 – Communicate to congregation the plan, the updates, and how to request care through bulletins, worship talks, newsletters until this intentional care process becomes part of CUMC DNA

Step 6 – Goal: Provide exceptional care to all who enter our doors and those who no longer can be present with us. This systematic approach does not replace the ongoing efforts at CUMC that many members already practice on a regular basis. This is an attempt to make sure folks don't "slip through the cracks" and to aid in pastoral transitions.



Community United Methodist Church
 W68N563 Evergreen Blvd.
 P. O. Box 617
 Cedarburg, WI 53012

Return Service Requested

"We are a safe sanctuary congregation"

www.CedarburgCUMC.org

W68N563 Evergreen Blvd., Cedarburg, WI 53012

After Labor Day | Monday - Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Hours | Memorial Day Through Labor Day | Monday - Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to Noon.

Church Office | 262 • 377 • 3832 |

Pastor | Rev. Don Greer | PastorDon@CedarburgCUMC.org

After Labor Day | 8:00 a.m. or 10:15 a.m.

Memorial Day Through Labor Day | 9:00 a.m.

All visitors are welcome to worship with us on Sunday mornings.

Monthly Newsletter of Community United Methodist Church

