

Hope United Methodist Church

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### Chuckles

It was Palm Sunday but because of a sore throat, 5-year-old Johnny stayed home from church with a sitter. When the family returned home, they were carrying several palm fronds. Johnny asked them what they were for.

"People held them over Jesus' head as he walked by," his father told him.

"Wouldn't you know it," Johnny fumed, "the one Sunday I don't go and he shows up."

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The pastor's family was invited Easter dinner at the Wilson home. Mrs. Wilson was widely known for her amazing contributions to church pot-lucks. Everyone was seated around the table as the food was being served. As usual, it was a feast for the eyes, the nose, and the palate.

When the pastor's youngest son, Peter, received his plate he started eating straight away.

'Peter, wait until we say grace,' insisted his embarrassed father.

'I don't have to,' the five year old replied.

'Of course you do, Peter,' his mother insisted rather forcefully. 'We always say a prayer before eating at our house.'

'That's at our house,' Peter explained, 'but this is Mrs. Wilson's house, and she knows how to cook.'

# Rainbow Notes

## From The Pastor's Desk

We are in strange times. The world seems to be in lock down. In many countries travel has been curtailed. Fights overseas has been stopped, going out and coming in. Governor Walz has made the recommendations that Minnesotans curtail going out to public places and stay home for two weeks. Hunker down, stay six feet from each other, no handshakes no gathering.

It is hard to run a church that way, but perhaps we are seeing it from too limited of a view. Yes meeting on Sundays is important, but it is the common fellowship that is crucial. Working for the common good is a pillar in the church. How do we assist each other? How, even in these times, do we build each other up?

While we are isolated there are still ways we can keep the fellowship

alive. We can check up on each other and make sure others are doing OK and are not in need. It is unbelievable what a phone call can do. I had a brother-in-law I called one night out of the blue only to find that he was down in the dumps and suicidal. The phone call he said made all the difference in the world to him.

We can connect electronically by streaming. On Sundays we have the ability to join together in worship, some can do it in their pajamas, and share the Word together and connect for a while. If you would like to join and haven't gotten an email from Jenna Dahl, let her know or me know you would like to participate.

We can pray for each other. Lifting each other in prayer we place us all in our hearts and spiritually lift each other to

new places. Prayer does unknown things and calls God to act in ways that can be healing and life changing.

While these times are strange they are not necessarily new. Generations have been here before and pulling together they made it through the tough time. It was the Bubonic Plague, the Spanish Flu, WWI, WWII, Korea, Vietnam, 911, the Gulf War. Each generation my have to pass through tough times to remember what is important and who is in control. But we can participate in God's movement when we share with each other out concern, our resources and our lives.

How long these days will last, no one knows. But we do know we will get through it with each others help and God's direction. We know that we will gather again

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together to share our lives in person and worship the Creator of all of life with new insights and energy.

There are those who maybe panicking but we have heard the words many times from Jesus and the Prophets, "Do not be afraid, for I am with you. In these time we can look to our faith, look too God's leading and move into the future, unafraid. That is Good News.

Pastor Dana

## Bishop Ough's Message Regarding COVID-19 and Easter

### Easter cannot be canceled

Never in my wildest nightmare could I imagine asking my ministry colleagues to not hold in-person Holy Week or Easter worship services.

But after much consultation, prayer, processing of data, and seeking to comply with guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and our three state governments, **I am extending my earlier request and now asking that all our congregations suspend in-person worship until at least May 10**, in compliance with the CDC's eight-week ban on gatherings of 50 people or more and the closure of schools and many public places in the Dakotas-Minnesota Area. I will of course continue to monitor new data and directives, or relaxed restrictions, and update or modify my request as appropriate.

Friends, we need to continue to be the first responders in our communities and lead the efforts to curtail the spread of this pandemic to our neighbors. This is a part of our missional imperative to heal a broken world.

Frankly, I am an ambivalent jumble of feelings. I often find myself joining Jeremiah's lament:

“Have you completely rejected Judah?  
Does your heart loathe Zion?  
Why have you struck us down  
so that there is no healing for us?  
We look for peace, but find no good  
for a time of healing, but there  
is terror instead.” (Jeremiah 14:19 NRSV)

At the same time, my heart is filled with compassion for those who are ill, our over-worked and under-resourced health care professionals, those losing jobs and businesses and retirement funds, and our most vulnerable neighbors—the homeless, the elderly, those who cannot shelter in place.

My heart also swells with pride. I am humbled, encouraged, inspired by the resilience, speed, adaptability, and innovative spirit of our clergy and lay leadership. You are demonstrating time and time again that canceling mass gatherings does not mean canceling community or ministry. You are bearing witness to the truth that social distancing does not have to lead to social isolation or neglected relationships or interrupted pastoral care. You are demonstrating time and time again that a pandemic does not kill our spirit of generosity. We remain a people to whom much has been given through our salvation and hope in Christ Jesus.

We are also still in the midst of Lent. The novelist Jim Crace authored a book in 1998 titled “Quarantine.” His fictitious narrative has Jesus quarantined in the wilderness with others forced or choosing to practice social distancing. This interesting twist on Jesus' 40 days in the wilderness has encouraged me to use these days of adapting my work and relational patterns as a time to listen more deeply to the movement of God's Spirit in my heart and mind and soul. My Lenten journey has become richer as I have come to embrace being “quarantined.”

And, here is the most important thing I am hearing: **Regardless of what is happening in our world on April 12, Easter cannot be canceled.** We may not be able to gather in our glorious Easter celebrations in our lily-decorated sanctuaries, but Easter cannot be canceled. The resurrection cannot be stopped or delayed or defeated!

*(Continued on next page)*

## Bishop Ough's Message Regarding COVID-19 and Easter Cont.

As you already know, Easter does not come on the same date every year. Therefore, especially in a crisis, we can celebrate Easter anytime. Indeed, every Sunday is a celebration of the resurrection of Jesus. We are called to live in the joy and victory of Easter every day. Perhaps this is a season to practice new, creative ways to express this resurrection joy and victory through our online worship, our pastoral care, and out-reach ministries to those in desperate need of food, mental health care, or even toilet paper and surgical masks. Perhaps this is a season to begin planning for an in-person Easter celebration in July or August or whenever we can gather again.

While we and our practice of ministry are changing, and some things will continue to change for the unforeseeable future, we live in the confidence of the resurrection promise and proclamation: Christ is risen! Christ is risen, indeed!

Bishop Bruce R. Ough  
Resident Bishop, Dakotas-Minnesota Area  
The United Methodist Church

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### *Online Streaming for Sunday Worship*

Due to Covid-19 restrictions, we will not be able to hold in-person services on Sundays until May 10th or later.

We will still be joining each other virtually for worship every Sunday through online streaming. Jenna Dahl will be sending out emails weekly with instructions on how to join the online service. Please contact Jenna if you have not received these emails and would like to join worship.

Jenna Dahl: [jdahl60@gmail.com](mailto:jdahl60@gmail.com)

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**You can also find worship recordings on our church website:  
[Hopeumcfbo.com](http://Hopeumcfbo.com)**

## Financial Report as of March 22

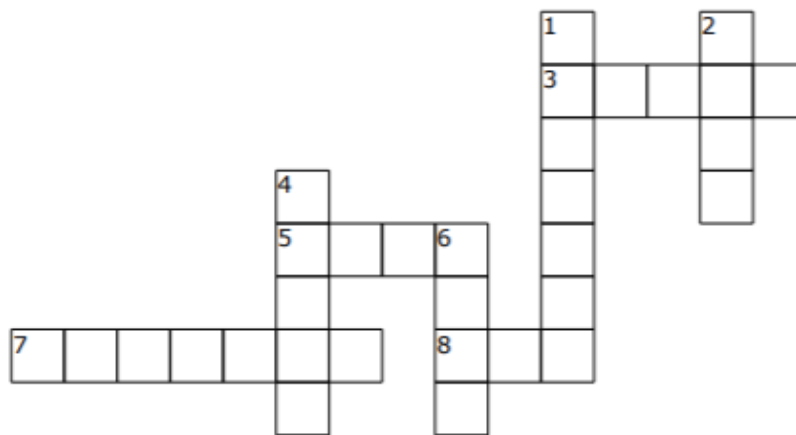
Checking Account Balance		26,089.50
Building Maintenance Fund		3,651.02
Apportionments	7,647.00	
Amount Received to Pay Out	<u>(330.00)</u>	
Apportionments Balance Due		7,317.00
Edward Jones Opportunity Fund Balance (as of Dec. 31, 2019)		66,872.22
Xcel Energy Shares Account Balance (3/5/2020)		1,135.49
Building Fund Balance (Since 6/17/2015)		17,765.00
FOCUS Dollars Balance (Since 6/21/2015)		22,170.00
50% Designated for Building Fund Maintenance	11,085.00	
25% Designated for Discretionary Fund	5,542.50	
25% Designated for Grow	5,542.50	
Piano Fund Balance*		2,500.00
Checking Account Balance	26,089.50	
Minus Building Fund Balance	(17,765.00)	
Minus FOCUS Dollars Balance	(22,170.00)	
Minus Missions/Designated Funds *	<u>(3,172.27)</u>	
<b>Actual Checking Account Balance minus</b>	<u><u>(17,017.77)</u></u>	
Missions/Designated Funds (*Funds Due)		
African Mission		-
Camp Koronis		15.00
Cinderella's Closet		80.00
*Discretionary Funds (1/1/17 to present)		400.00
Faribault Food Shelf		290.00
Feed My Starving Children		356.27
Heifer International		250.00
Honey (To FMSC)		29.00
*Prom Dress Donations(4/5/2015 to present)		1,157.00
Salvation Army		40.00
*Roof (10/7/2018 to present)		140.00
UMCOR		415.00

Cash Flow	Income	Expenses	Ending Balance
3/1/2020 - 3/22/2020	4,805.00	3,136.81	1,668.19



# An Easter Surprise

The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. Matthew 28:5-6



## ACROSS

3. "He is not here, he has \_\_\_\_\_."
5. A place where someone, especially an important person, is buried
7. The first or early part of a day
8. A period of twenty-four hours

## DOWN

1. To kill someone by tying or nailing them to a cross
2. A period of seven days
4. A hard solid substance found in the ground which is often used for building
6. The whole physical structure that forms a person

MORNING DAY	BODY CRUCIFY	RISEN TOMB	STONE WEEK
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# April 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

**All events in April have been cancelled due to COVID-19 restrictions**

## April Birthdays

1-Heather Ites

4-Brad Burginger; Josh Grambart; Jenna Dahl

5-Dolores Amborn

8-Harvey Sommers

9-Austin Ahlman

10-Chris Bauer; Choeung Theth

12-Renee Wunderlich; Miranda Kluge; Don Piper

15-Jody Wunderlich

20-Noah Goodwin; Diane Ites; Cathy Hammerschmidt; Krista Ahlman

23-Shane Sutter

24-Pam Strouth; Brenda Rahman

25-Ryan Wunderlich; Judy Thompson

26-Eric Schreiber; Alyea Hammerschmidt

27-Ellie Ennis; Chelsea Sommers

28-Mike Schneider

29-Dave Lee; Jerry Olson

30-Kurt Larson

## April Anniversaries

9-Mark and Carol White

26-Dav and Judy Lee