

Nancy's Notes

Sister Melanie, who worships with us on a regular basis and sings with Rejoice! sent this earlier this week and asked if I might share with you. One of the wonderful things about this time of 'Hunkering Down' is that denominational lines that have often kept us apart are now holding us together, as, looking on Facebook at least, we share from Pope Francis, Bishop Michael Curry from the Episcopal Church, United Methodist Bishops and clergy, Lutheran clergy, and laity from all denominations.

We are sharing music from all areas of the church -from Orthodox chanting to Mennonite Plainsong and poetry from Wendall Berry, Anne Lamott and Mary Oliver (to name a few).

It is my prayer that as we move through this pandemic we will not move away from this spirit of faithfulness and cooperation.

Here is what Sister Melanie sent,

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

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

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

May we who have the flexibility to care for our children
when their schools are closed
remember those who 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 love.
And during this time when we may not be able
to physically wrap our arm around each other,
let us yet find ways to be

the loving embrace of God to our neighbors.

written by Sr. Judy Sinnwell, Franciscan Sisters of Dubuque, IA

LOCKDOWN

Yes there is fear.

Yes there is isolation.

Yes there is panic buying.

Yes there is sickness.

Yes there is even death.

But,

They say that in Wuhan after so many years of noise

You can hear the birds again.

They say that after just a few weeks of quiet

The sky is no longer thick with fumes

But blue and gray and clear.

They say that in the streets of Assisi

People are singing to each other

across the empty squares,

keeping their windows open

so that those who are alone

may hear the sounds of family around them.

They say that a hotel in the West of Ireland

Is offering free meals and delivery to the housebound.

Today a young woman I know

is busy spreading fliers with her number

through the neighborhood

so that the elders may have someone to call on.

Today Churches, Synagogues, Mosques, and Temples

are preparing to welcome

and shelter the homeless, the sick, the weary

All over the world people are slowing down and reflecting
All over the world people are looking at their neighbors in a
new way

All over the world people are waking up to a new reality

To how big we really are.

To how little control we really have.

To what really matters.

To Love.

so we pray when we remember that

Yes, there is fear.

But there does not have to be hate.

Yes there is isolation.

But there does not have to be loneliness.

Yes there is panic buying

But there does not have to be meaner.

Yes, there is sickness.

But there does not have to be disease of the soul.

Yes there is even death,

But there can always be a rebirth of love.

Wake to the choices you make as to how to live now.

Today, breathe.

Listen, behind the factory noises of your panic

The birds are singing again

The sky is clearing,

Spring is coming,

And we are always encompassed by love.

Open the windows of your soul

and though you may not be able

to touch across the empty square.

SING.

Fr. Richard Hendrick, OFM

Children, Youth. and Family ministries are STILL happening! Try- It is taking place every Wednesday on Zoom at 4:45, watch emails and the Facebook page for the link. Youth group, which previously met in person monthly, is not meeting on Zoom WEEKLY, and a Messy- Church-at Home Mini Mess went out to families on April 3! Keep an eye on emails and Facebook for a little bit different Messy Church at Home experience on May 1.

We have a new Facebook page for Children, Youth and Family ministries. Make sure you like and follow it for all of the up- to- date information for these ministries @ MC1styouth on Facebook.

- Ms. Trish





Staff Zoom Meetings

2020 Higher Education Scholarships

Ten scholarships are offered to 1st UMC members entering or returning to an accredited college or trade school, regardless of age. Five awards are also open to community members. Scholarship amounts range from \$200 to \$800. All awards are listed on a single application form. You may apply for multiple awards. Please note eligibility requirements.

You may request an application by contacting Higher Education Committee Chair Sue Cassler at susan.cassler@comcast.net, or by e-mailing firstunitedmethodistchurchmc@gmail.com. Application forms are also available on the church website: mcindianaumc.org.

Send completed application forms to Sue Cassler at 4928 W. Schultz Rd., La Porte, IN 46350, or via e-mail (address above). Applications are to be received no later than Thursday, May 28th.

Sponsor A Higher Education Scholarships

If you wish to co-sponsor a scholarship, perhaps as a memorial or in honor of someone, donations in any amount are welcome. One-time electronic donations can be made through the church website: mcindianaumc.org. Click "Online Giving" on the Home Page menu and locate the button labelled "Higher Education". If you prefer, you may send a check to the church, payable to First United Methodist Church. Be sure to write "Scholarship Fund" on the memo line of your check. Your generosity and support of this ministry are sincerely appreciated!

--The Higher Education Committee:

Sue Cassler, Chair; Jon Bausback, Judy Commers, Dottie Evett, Nancy Kahn, Melissa Morse, & Linda Peo

The Local TV Station channel 99 shows our church service Wednesday's at 2:30 pm , Friday's at 4:30 pm, & Sunday's at 7 pm