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# THE SALT

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**October 2, 2020**

## **“I Was Waiting With Hope”**

Friends, I know you've missed the August and September issues of SALT. Tabitha has been gently pushing me to write and I'm sure graciously fielding your questions about when SALT will be published.

Way back in July, I had intentions of putting out a SALT chalk full of news; updates, announcements and invitations to worship and group life in study and service. I found myself obsessed with checking virus updates reports and graphs and reading the latest guidelines from the CDC and WI UMC. I was waiting with hope for the next milestone toward 'opening' to come. Unclear about how Fall would unfold, I was hesitant to plan classes and groups. I was waiting with hope for a pathway forward to emerge that I could clearly share.

So, August came and went and now September has too. I realize now that my hope-filled waiting has turned a corner. As new virus numbers skyrocket here in WI, our reality needs to be named and my hope has to shift from opening our doors widely to continued caution for ALL connected with the Our Lord's UMC community.

Today, the New Berlin Preschool has take a bold step, in faith and with lots of conversation and planning, and opened for only its 4 year-old group. It brings tears to my eyes to hear the children's voices once again in song and enthused questioning coming from the safety of their classroom area.

However, these students and their families have been asked to comply with strict cares. Kids have had their temperatures taken this morning, lining up outside and entering as a group, single file, masks on, guided by teachers into their isolated classroom space. They've come through halls stripped of things to possibly touch and there are barriers that keep them going toward their safe, classroom space. It's not "normal" but it's working, so far! It's working because these little ones can take direction and can be guided fairly easily by their teachers.

I do not have the luxury of this care/provision with adults. Too many are driven by misinformation or misinterpretation of information, too many just, for personal reasons, will not comply. Others expect 'old patterns' of interaction, experience and access upon entering

the building. Beyond attendance for contact tracing, who would want to be responsible for enforcing compliance / restricting entry. For me, this is a recipe for sadness, added stress and possible exposure to /spread of the COVID-19 virus.

For me, and for the Church, our rules are simple, "First, do no harm. Second, do good. And, third, stay in love with God (by observing the ordinances of God)."

*Three Simple Rules* by Bishop Rueben P. Job

I celebrate that the ministry of Our Lord's UMC is, to this point, aligning well with these simple rules and, along with the Accountable Leadership Board (ALB), and the ALB sub-group re-entry team, we are working hard at maintaining vitality across all areas of ministry while paying close attention to the care and safety of those with whom we minister.

As we carefully worked toward and are experiencing building use today, I am nervous, yet hopeful. I am also reminded of the continuing challenges.

To the church community, the building remains closed. I broke that rule today and let a parishioner just inside the door for a few moments while some information was gathered for them. I should not have done that! I was wrong and I apologized to Tabitha for putting her, and me at risk. Thank you for holding me accountable, Tabitha, for the parishioners' safety, your safety and mine.

Navigating safety for building use will be ongoing. The re-entry team will continue to meet regularly to advise me and assist me in setting policies and procedures.

God has not, for one moment, abandoned us during this pandemic season! God remains ever present, ever loving and ever available to ALL of us!

I was waiting with hope. October is here now and yes, I'm still waiting with hope. Now, though, I'm ready to move forward with hope. I'm over that 6 month wall that those in long-term crisis work will tell you is a real symptom of experiencing a long-term critical event. It's time to walk with confidence with the guidance of the Spirit and the insight of good research and trusted voices as we continue to be God's people in the world.

Our Lord's lives on, vital and blessed. Thanks be to God!

"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." John 1:5

Pr. Kelly

## Welcoming Rev. Jennifer White



Jennifer White is a certified chaplain and an ordained African Methodist Episcopal (A.M.E.) servant leader of God. She is grateful to be chosen by God to show forth His unconditional love and to fulfill the great commission to make disciples. She lives in Kenosha, WI and is happily married of 25 years to Milton Sr., who is also an ordained A.M.E. minister. They have three lovely children actively using their gifts and talents to glorify God: Milton Jr. 24, Jennifer 20, and Joseph 18.

She earned a BA in Communication and Organizational Leadership from Trinity International University, Deerfield, WI. She is a 2<sup>nd</sup> year MDiv student at Garrett Evangelical Theological Seminary in Evanston, IL. Jennifer has experiences in leading church ministries and programs that bring God's deliverance, healing, biblical knowledge, and support to adults, seniors, young adults, youths, and children.

Individuals and families have significantly benefited from her background and support offered in GriefShare, Alzheimer's Disease awareness, aging and disability resources, mental health awareness, cultural competency, effective interpersonal and group communication, domestic violence and sexual assault awareness, community engagement and outreach, and early childhood education.

### Quotable Leadership

"A life is important only in the impact it has on other lives."  
Jackie Robinson, epitaph he wrote for his headstone

## News from New Berlin Preschool

We are so pleased to let you know that New Berlin Preschool resumed classes on October 2nd. The preschool will start off the year with our 4K class on Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 8:30am-11:30am. It seems like we've been gone for so long, but are excited to come back and see all of our friends. Though we are not allowing visitors into the classroom, if you see us out in the playground or coming and going, we hope that you will give a shout "hello." We definitely can't wait to wave hello to all of you. Hopes that our year is safe and healthy and that all of you continue to stay healthy during this time. Happy Fall!



A huge thank you to Perry H. for the new coat rack for the preschool!

## Happenings @ Our Lord's

### Caring for Worship

~ "Weekend Worship Online" continues on Saturday mornings @ 9:30 a.m.

~ Sunday "Drive-In Live" celebrates #14 and going strong on October 4, 2020! Folx in their cars will continue to hear the service, see worship led live, greet fellow worshippers and friends with a word and a wave and everyone can participate with their personal worship resources (always available from the welcome team: hymnals, response cards, individual Communion sets) all while toasty warm, safe and dry in their vehicle!

### Caring Ministry

Team Leader Rebecca Radick offers these reflections.

How is your focus today? Is it full of the activities of the external world or full of peace and clarity within? Health and peace is the birthright of every person. We are to be dedicated to the health and strength of our body and to the peace and clarity of our mind. A regular discipline provides us with the opportunity to have a good quality of life. Daily practice of relaxation, deep-breathing exercises and short meditations are necessary to live life fully. Taking time to rest throughout the day releases inner tension and stress from the body mind and emotions to bring them back to equilibrium.

To breathe deeply is to live fully. It increases the oxygen capacity of the lungs and the energy of the body and mind. The practice of proper deep-breathing can help a person develop concentration and a calm clear and strong mind. A short meditation can bring a person's mind to be fully alert, deep inner peace, joy, understanding, and contentment. Here is a meditation for rest:

With your eyes closed, sitting or lying in a comfortable position, take a deep chest rising and lowering breath. Listen closely to hear the sound of the air passing quickly in and out of your nose. Listen even closer to hear the thumpity-thump of your own heartbeat. As you relax, feel yourself floating on a white puffy cloud. Imagining your happiness to grow and be like the sun shining over the mountains of the Earth, over the green grass of the fields, shining over the blue waters of the sea. Let your happiness shine over all the animals and over all the people of the world.

Now imagine that soft and warm beautiful ray of light is glowing over your head. As you breathe in, let the light travel down into your heart. As you breathe out, let the light travel out and shine once more above your head. Try to imagine that peaceful light flowing in and out with each deep breath.

Every morning, take in the invisible light. See the sun and let your happiness, love, and health shine through. And at night, imagine your light glowing like a start of peace above the world. Let the light fill your heart with happiness, peace, and love.

*Excerpts from "A Child's Guide to Yoga", Kenneth Cohen*

### Devotional

Faith and service to others are central to what makes us different people and Christians. We are all called by God to serve others and to be more involved in serving His people. In Paul's letter in the Bible, it tells us to not have lukewarm faith, and faith without action is dead. [James 2:14-15]

Service can take on many forms. Pick an area hit by destructive weather or a charity that's close to your heart (women's breast cancer, Alzheimer's, or veterans' organizations). Then plan a fund-raising event such as a walk, a chili-fest, or a lemonade stand. Hold a collection for items such as shoes, school supplies, food, or health kits. What is your hobby and how can it work to help others? Sewing masks, making cards, tying fleece blankets, knitting or crocheting quilts, baking cupcakes or breads or cookies, making soup for a sick or a homebound neighbor, or giving your extra garden produce to the food pantry. Share your skills such as mowing or raking the yard, fixing a car, doing painting or carpentry work, walking a dog, or babysitting for a new parent.

Being a Christian can be very rewarding. We can provide service to our friends, neighbors, church members, co-workers, and strangers in our community. We can give them peace of mind and show love and care by promising to ask yourself "How can I help someone today?".

The Bible is our guide. In the gospel of Luke, 9:23, "If anyone wishes to come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me". Luke's gospel is the only one that adds that extra word, "daily". By our actions in serving God and serving others we are being good followers.

But as humans, we often fall short. We start out strong with good intentions, then struggle to keep our commitments and wonder what we can do. In denying ourselves, as the verse says, we need to place Christ at the center of our lives. It means to live in loyalty to Him every day and recognize that our life would be incomplete without Him. It can be challenging, and yet encouraging, because our Savior understands our human faults and gives us the strength to pick up the cross daily, to follow Him with a glad heart. Who can you bring happiness and love to today?

### **NA Moves Back Indoors**

Building strong relationships with our partners in building use is important. We have been blessed with Preschool staff and NA group leaders who truly value our building and the shared responsibility, especially now, for it's careful use with concern for the health and safety of everyone.

The NA group has been meeting every Monday evening in our parking lot since the weather allowed them to do so this Summer. Now it's getting too dark and too cold and the request has been made to return to indoor meetings.

The re-entry team, after thorough discussion has helped me construct 5 pages of building use, COVID policy and specific considerations for the NA group to return to indoor meetings beginning Monday, Oct. 5, 2020. An email reply from the NA coordinator assured me that they would be exceeding our expectations and that they are motivated, as well, to be mindful and careful for themselves and us.

My gratitude to Perry H., Dave S., Paul D., and Pat M., for serving as the ALB subgroup, re-entry team with me.

*Please pray that these early building use decisions, for Preschool and NA, as they enhance our ability to serve our community!*

*Pr. Kelly*

### **Home Blessings**

This Fall (as time and weather permit), Pastor Kelly will be traveling to the homes of members and friends of the Our Lord's community to bless each dwelling and the persons inside. No visit is planned. Look for a brightly colored Blessing Sheet noting the date of the blessing in the paper box, under the mat, or between the doors. If you'd like a special neighbor or friend to receive this blessing, please send the addresses to Tabitha in the church office via [email](#) or call the church office at 414-425-7030 and leave a message.

### **Monday Night Zoom Community Chat**

Come chat with Pastor Kelly and reflect on the themes heard in worship at "Drive-In Live" and "Weekend Worship Online". Meetings start at 7 p.m. [Email](#) Tabitha in the church office if you'd like an invite.

## Wisconsin UMW Annual Gathering

A virtual Annual Gathering with the theme, “Walking in the Light: United for Justice” will be held on Saturday morning, Oct. 17th, from 9 a.m.-noon.

Worship will be led by Keri Olson with the theme: “Feel the Light. Be the Light. (Lessons from COVID-19).” The message will conclude with a prayer for light. The keynote speaker will be Judith Siaba. The schedule for the day and items for the business meeting are posted at [WisconsinUMW.org](https://www.wisconsinumw.org). The link for the event registration form can be found [here](#).

## Gathering for Community

A NEW event launched by a NEW group formed from a NEW experience of learning and personal growth around our own personal biases and attitudes about race.

### RACE AND FAITH

Earlier this summer, conversation with the ALB Outreach Team leader, Julie Dunham, initiated an change in ALB structure from an Outreach Team to a Peace & Social Justice Team allowing classes, speakers, actions and opportunities in ministry around peace and social justice concerns of the day to have the care and attention of persons motivated in this area of ministry.

Not long after that meeting, I saw a post on Facebook made by a colleague, Rev. Karen Hagen of Tippecanoe Presbyterian Church in MKE about her desire to learn more, as a white person, about her own bias and privilege. Together, we collaborated with “Race and Faith Milwaukee” Organization to host a Zoom time of basic learning and conversation about race for our respective churches and several other guest attendees. Ten people from Our Lord’s joined the group of 30 for four sessions jam-packed with information and challenge. Rhonda and Sharon were awesome facilitators!

Each pastor then led a 5<sup>th</sup> session for their own group of folx to debrief and discuss next steps. The Holy Spirit was truly at work during the Our Lord’s recap session via Zoom on August 27<sup>th</sup>, as honest feedback and a desire to continue addressing the topic of racism prompted us toward action. The need for space and time simply to gather, to see and to be seen by those also seeking space for their concerns about the many troubling issues today propelled a vision to emerge. A few short meetings later and “Gathering For Community” was born as a monthly time and space to Seek Understanding, Stand for Justice and Celebrate Unity. The Inaugural Gathering For Community was September 19, 2020 with 17 people attending! This 30-minute experience allowed for prayer, individual sharing (via chalking on the parking lot) and affirmation for attending.

The next 30-minute Gathering For Community is Monday, October 19<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30 p.m. in the church parking lot! Tell your friends and plan to attend! We practice safe distancing using luminaries to designate standing spots and masks are encouraged.

If you are interested in joining the Peace & Social Justice Team as it forms for 2021 please email Julie @ [julsdunhum@gmail.com](mailto:julsdunhum@gmail.com) This event happens rain or shine!

## Gatherings of Note

**“PRESS ON”** is October’s worship series beginning with the celebration of World Communion Sunday and culminating with Pr. Jennifer’s first sermon among us!

**“GATHERING FOR COMMUNITY”** is Monday, October 19, 2020, @ 6:30 p.m. in the Church parking lot. Invite friends! ALL are welcome!

**“BE RENEWED”** is the theme of the 2021 Stewardship Drive, November 1–15, 2020. As each of us commits ourselves to a renewed heart, mind, spirit and hope because of God’s faithfulness, we will be invited to respond with joyful generosity as we make sacrifices, set goals and dream with vision for ministry in the days to come.

**“CELEBRATING THE SCROLL OF SAINTS”** Monday November 2, 2020, from 5:30–7:00 p.m. will be a unique, early evening parking gathering for honoring and remembrances of those who have died in the Church, in our families/friends circles, heroes/heroines of these times. Stay as long as you like as the names are read and prayer is offered in a repeating fashion over the course of the 90 minutes.

To include someone, please submit under your name: a clear, well-lit photo with full name, age, death date and relationship and/or importance to you. Please invite family and friend to attend this special event with you.

**“BLUE CHRISTMAS”** This year, more than ever, a time to acknowledge our losses, our grief and our anxiety about the ongoing changes for our special holiday gatherings and services of worship is needed. Pr. Jennifer, whose work as a Chaplain and in leading Grief Groups will bring her creativity, sensitivity and her faith in God-with-us as she leads this personal and meaningful experience. Date/Time TBD.

Pr. Kelly

## Reaching Out to Those in Need in 2020

### The Gathering

Our Lord’s UMC and Memorial UMC were scheduled to serve at The Gathering on a Saturday later this month. We have cancelled this group volunteer event due to the current COVID-19 pandemic. You are, however, encouraged to continue your support of The Gathering. If you are interested in making an in-kind donation, please visit their [website](#) for an updated list of urgent needs and donation drop off times.

In addition to in-kind donations, they are also accepting monetary donations to support operations. Checks can be mailed to:



The Gathering of Southeast Wisconsin, Inc.  
804 E. Juneau Ave.  
Milwaukee, WI 53202

If you would prefer to donate electronically, please visit the [website](#) and use the DONATE button to make a secure online donation.

If you have any questions, please call Debbie Huyck at 414-545-6435.

*Photo taken at the pop-up collection for The Gathering at "Drive-In Live" worship on Sept. 27th. In addition to these items, we also collected \$85! Many thanks to all who generously donated!*

### **The Cathedral Center**

On Sunday, August 2nd, a pop-up collection was held for The Cathedral Center during the "Drive-In Live" worship service. Our Lord's members donated 40 bottles each of body wash, toothpaste and deodorant, and some toothbrushes, hand soap and mouthwash. In addition, monetary donations of \$70 were also collected! Thank you to everyone who donated!



### **RIP Medical Debt**

Our Lord's members raised a total of \$1100 for the RIP Medical Debt program! Thank you to everyone who donated to this worthy cause.

### **Pop-Up Collection for U.S. Grant School**

On Sunday, October 4th, at the "Drive-In Live" worship service, Our Lord's members and friends had the opportunity to donate 9-volt batteries for smoke detectors as part of U.S. Grant School's Fire Prevention Week program. We are please to announce that church members and community friends donated 77 batteries and \$15 for this program. Thank you to all who donated!

## How to Survive (and Thrive) During a Pandemic

It's hard to believe that it has been 6 months since we had our last service in the sanctuary. Who would have thought that we would still be "dealing with COVID-19" heading into October? The number of daily cases and the rate of positivity is actually much worse now than it was soon after the pandemic began....and the primary reason for that would seem to be "COVID fatigue". People are tired of staying home, wearing a mask in public places, limiting activities to "outside" experiences and not being able to do all the things that we used to do. Some are working from home, some still not working at all. Many are dealing with financial hardships – not being able to pay bills including rent or mortgage payments and even food insecurity. Visits to loved ones in senior housing is limited – if it is happening at all, and not being able to hug or otherwise "touch" each other magnifies impact of the social distancing which is being suggested in order to keep ourselves and others safe. So how do we stay "grounded" while we are staying "safe"?

First I try to reflect on all the blessings that are still present despite the pandemic. We have our health, we have not suffered financially, we have plenty of food on the table and have actually even enjoyed some meals out – through outside dining or curbside pickup and recently inside at select places and we still have Sunday worship – both virtually and "Drive-In" in the church parking lot.

So how do we remain grounded during this pandemic? As a retired nurse practitioner I still get daily emails from professional organizations and the state of Wisconsin Department of Health about the coronavirus, so I feel that decisions I have made are based on good and constantly updated information. I offer the following suggestions, not as medical advice, but with what I understand the current science to be.

We know that COVID is spread through direct exposure to viral particles which are shed from the nose and mouth of an infected person. An exposure that would generally qualify for testing would be if someone was in physical contact of less than six feet, without any type of barrier, for greater than 15 minutes. Therefore avoiding "hot spots" or "risky" behaviors – which generally involve large gatherings of people, especially indoors, where people are not maintaining six feet of "social distance" and/or not wearing masks – will generally help to keep you safe. This doesn't mean you can't leave your house, but it might mean that when you see people outside of those you live with, you protect yourself with a mask, try to do it outside and limit the time you are together. Being in public places such as stores, libraries, restaurants, gyms and even movie theaters can also be OK as most of these businesses have worked hard to stay open by abiding by the safety guidelines that have been established.

- ~ Carts are being sprayed down with disinfectant
- ~ Libraries quarantine materials
- ~ Restaurants, gyms and theaters are not only disinfecting surfaces but blocking off tables/machines/seats to keep customers appropriately distanced and requiring masks.

When you are at home, find activities to keep yourself engaged. These might include TV, DVDs or computer activities and movies or try card or board games, puzzles, crosswords, Sudoku or other brain teasers. This might be a great time for cleaning and organizing as well as trying new recipes, home repair, lawn work or gardening, and don't forget just going for a little walk. Many people have taken up new hobbies or dug out old ones like knitting, crocheting, sewing, jewelry making and reading. And, this Fall, the Church is hoping to offer personalized teaching about basic internet platforms: email, website, Facebook and ZOOM. We have received a grant to provide devices for home use to encourage connection to your church through the rest of this pandemic.

If you think that you have had an exposure, with or without symptoms – call your health care provider for further instructions as to the next step. It's OK to keep up with the news, especially if there is an outbreak in your area – but try not to get overwhelmed or scared into believing that this will never end. No one likes to give up their personal freedoms, but sometimes we need to limit ourselves for a while for the greater good. This will come to an end – there is a vaccine on the horizon – and we CAN keep ourselves “grounded” while waiting for that to happen. We just need to be patient and remember that God is always with us and will bring us through this.

Pat Mehring



Perry H. spent some time several weeks ago doing some clean up around the church sign. It looks great! Thank you so much, Perry!



Ellie Stapleton Yu	10/1	Dottie Harrison	10/14
Carri Haubert	10/3	Becky Yokosh	10/15
Jill McCanna	10/4	Emma Springer	10/17
Alex & Jack Merschdorf	10/4	Ryan Ware	10/17
Jean Meyers	10/5	John Zwicky	10/18
Tim Radzius	10/6	Chuck Garrigues	10/19
Adam Rogge	10/6	Debbie Huyck	10/20
Bill Rogge	10/6	Ben McCanna	10/20
Connie White	10/6	Amy Veit	10/20
Samantha Engel	10/8	Joe Paquette	10/22
Elizabeth Ware	10/8	Jenny Rybarczyk	10/23
Jim Bock	10/11	Dorothy Focht	10/24
Leslie MacIntyre	10/11	Judith Dascenzo	10/26
Jessie Yokosh	10/11	Carolyn Huebsch	10/27
Alex Rodriguez	10/13	Grace Sheedy	10/27
Carolyn Blotz	10/14	Pat Garrigues	10/29

## KUDOS

Our Leadership Board makes a practice at each meeting to end each meeting by offering thanks “kudos” for persons going above and beyond, and often unnoticed, in their offering of their gifts of time, talent or treasure.

As Fall has come, I want to thank Carri H., Perry H., Dave S. and Joe W. for their extra care for the Church building and parsonage.

I offer thanks for those caring for our dear Leslie: – Carri H, Karen H., Lynda McD., Jeanne G., and others I am not aware of to name.

Kudos to ALB re-entry sub team – your effort helps me soooo much!

Gratitude for Dave S., Wendi H. and Loyal S. who are volunteering their time to help with the ongoing tech needs for ministry broadcast in this pandemic season.

Thank you to Joe Whyms for caring for the church grounds by trimming bushes.

Pr. Kelly



Many thanks for the continued faithful giving offered by so many in our community. Donations for Ministry @ Our Lord’s may be made securely on our website. Get set up with VANCO on [www.ourlordsumc.org](http://www.ourlordsumc.org).

### Website, Facebook and Telephone Resources

**Website:** [www.ourlordsumc.org](http://www.ourlordsumc.org) - weekend worship, @ Home slideshow, online giving info.

**Our Lord’s United Methodist Church on Facebook:** Pr. Kelly’s Daily Connection is live at 9:30 a.m. Monday through Friday and then pushed to the website and archived weekly.

**Telephone:** Weekly telephone message of encouragement for callers @ 414-425-7030.

(Please share that this is available with people you speak with or write to who do not have email and won’t see this until the SALT arrives via regular mail).