



WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Epworth United Methodist Church

Wednesday, March 18th, 2020



Our mission:

To make disciples of Jesus Christ
for the transformation of the world.

Our Vision:

Empower all people to live the Christian faith in everyday life.

Unite communities in God's grace.

Mentor through friendship, fellowship, and learning.

Connect Christians to the world to share God's love in lasting ways.

A Note from the Pastor

Dear Friends,

Spring has definitely sprung! The robins have returned, finches are feeding on my feeder, and green sprouts are emerging from the ground, soon to be beautiful daffodils. Song of Solomon 2: 11-12 says, "See! The winter is past; the rains are over and gone. Flowers appear on the earth; the season of singing has come".

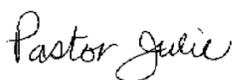
Can you identify with the excitement found in this verse? Did you notice the exclamation point? That's exactly how I feel after winter. So grateful that spring is finally here. The earth awakens from silent slumber and reappears with beautiful growth, like shaking off the cold and drab to don the warm and bright. Every aspect of nature contributes- the flowers bloom, birds sing, trees bud, and the warm breeze freshens the air.

While spring transforms the exterior world, I like to evaluate my inner, spiritual world. Am I spending quality time reading and reflecting on God's Word? How's my prayer life? Have I shared my faith in word or deeds lately? Do I feel connected to the True Vine?

Spring inspires me to cultivate a fresh commitment to my spiritual side and nurture new habits of inner growth. I enjoy the birds singing outside my house as I probe deeper into the Word. Flowers, birds, green grass and fresh breezes remind me of God's generous abundance. And I can't help but offer prayers of heartfelt gratitude.

I pray that you find joy and encouragement in the coming springtime. As a reminder: EUMC services are cancelled until at least April 5 due to the Coronavirus crisis. All services and activities are cancelled. We will keep you informed as the time goes by.

Blessings,



Connect With Us

Website: www.eumc-ia.org
Email: Epworthumc.iowa@gmail.com
Phone: 563-876-3193
EUMC Prayer Hotline: 928-328-1523

Upcoming at EUMC

Wednesday, March 18th:

Logos Ministry Cancelled

Sunday- March 22nd:

10:00a.m.-Worship Cancelled

Possible Live Stream Video, TBA

Monday- March 23rd:

5:30 p.m.- 6:00 p.m.- Meal/Bible Study
at Paul and Shelly Rollins' Home

6:00 p.m.- Men's & Women's Bible Studies
Study: Horizontal Jesus

Tuesday- March 24th:

Yoga Classes Cancelled

Wednesday, March 25th:

Logos Ministry Cancelled

Sunday, March 29th:

10:00 a.m.- Worship Cancelled

Monday, March 30th:

5:30 p.m.- 6:00 p.m.- Meal/Bible Study at
Paul and Shelly Rollins' Home

6:00 p.m.- Men's & Women's Bible Studies

Lent Services:

Palm Sunday, April 5th

Worship, 10 AM, Potluck meal
following service in fellowship
hall.

Good Friday, April 10th

Worship, 7 PM

Easter Sunday, April 12th

Brunch at 8:30 AM

Worship at 10 AM

Attention:

All EUMC activities have been cancelled until further notice. As of right now we are hoping to be back on regular schedule for Worship Services starting April 5th, Palm Sunday. WD schools have been shut down for the next four weeks. Logos Ministry will resume when the school district resumes classes.

**Pastor Julie will be in the office
Monday- Thursday
9 AM - 3 PM**

Please call before hand to set up
an appointment for visiting.
EUMC- 563-876-3193
Pastor Julie's Cell- 319-404-0150

Administrative Office will not
have scheduled hours of
operation. Amy will be working
from home and coming in the
office for necessary duties.

Please email with any
communication needed.
Newsletters will still be going
out every Wednesday.

epworthumc.iowa@gmail.com

Dear Church Family,

03-16-2020

This letter is coming to you as a result of the changing face of the Coronavirus and the Board of Stewards meeting yesterday. We are facing a crisis of which I have never seen. As you probably are aware, many activities and places are restricting attendance or closing all together. Unfortunately, the United Methodist Churches are following suit. Our Bishop, Rev. Laurie Haller, has directed all churches be closed for at least 2 weeks in order to slow the spread of this virus. So, with that being said, at this time our services will resume on April 5, 2020 unless there is reason to lengthen the closure. April 5 is Palm Sunday; what a perfect day to reunite as a church family!

This closure includes ALL activities taking place in our church. Yoga, LOGOS, committee meetings, MYF and UMW will not be meeting. I am sorry and sad to make this decision, but your health and safety are my first concern as is our Bishop.

I will keep my office hours as close as possible. I will be in the office from 9 a.m.- 3 p.m. and will lock the Church as I leave for the day. If you need to speak with me, I suggest calling me first to set up a time. I can be reached at the church (563-876-3193) or my cell (319-404-0150).

Because WD schools are also closed indefinitely, Amy will be in the office during limited hours and will also work from home. We will be staying in contact and work under these circumstances the best that we can. Please be patient and understanding as we move forward.

This closure especially concerns me on two levels. I cannot visit as I am used to doing. I will make phone calls and send emails in order to keep in touch with the church family in homes and housebound. Please

help me in checking in on each other. We must take care of each other and our neighbors who might be elderly or disabled or suffering from another illness.

The other concern I have is the affect this closure will have on our finances. In January and February of this year our income was \$19,582.61. Our expenses for that same time were \$25,362.74. That is a shortfall of \$5,780.13. Our church is facing a difficult time financially and this closure will impact it even further unless we all keep giving even though we are not meeting. Please consider starting a direct giving set-up. Chris Tomas can help you with that. It could be just a one- time deposit or you may want to continue direct giving. If that is not something you desire, please continue your giving by sending it to the church directly. This is not an easy request to make, but one that is necessary at this time.

Friends, this is an unsettling time in our lives. Please remember that God is in control, even when it doesn't seem possible. This is the time we pray for the patients who have the virus, pray for the medical staffs all around the world, pray for the researchers looking for a vaccine, pray for our leaders. JUST PRAY!! God is not a God of fear, but faith. Fear is not from God. Have faith that God will carry us through this challenging time in ways we cannot know.

Thank you for all you do to support our church. I look forward to the day when we can all rejoice and worship together again.

Blessings and peace to you all.

In His Service,

Pastor Julie