



NOTES FROM REV. ALLIE SCOTT

I know the plans I have in mind for you, declares the LORD; they are plans for peace, not disaster, to give you a future filled with hope. When you call me and come and pray to me, I will listen to you. When you search for me, yes, search for me with all your heart, you will find me. I will be present for you, declares the LORD, and I will end your captivity. I will gather you from all the nations and places where I have scattered you, and I will bring you home after your long exile, declares the LORD. – Jeremiah 29:11-14

On my computer monitor I recently put a picture of a labyrinth. It's one of the more intricate ones: a 13th century labyrinth inlaid on the floor of the Chartres Cathedral near Paris, France. The spiritual purpose of a labyrinth is a contemplative one: as you follow the path, you are invited to meditate on your journey with and to and for God, who rests at the center. Occasionally I'll clear every window, hide every folder, and trace my finger along the labyrinth, re-grounding myself as I go. (Lord knows we can all use a little grounding these days)

So as I was sitting and working on things today, I took some time to wander my way through my computer labyrinth. I've traced my way plenty of times before, and yet what struck me as I made my way through this time was its unpredictability.

Looking at it, you think you know which way to go. You think you know where the path is going to lead. After all, it only goes one way. It shouldn't be that hard to figure out, right?

Wrong.

Every time I thought I knew where my finger would go next, the path went somewhere different. It looped. It stretched. It doubled back on itself. And suddenly I was in the middle. After spending a few moments thinking and praying, I made my way back out, thinking, "Well, at least

I'll be able to anticipate the path better this time. I mean, I just did this. I know what's coming and where it will twist and turn."

I still couldn't correctly anticipate the path.

I still didn't know where the path was taking me. I still guessed wrong at almost every turn. And suddenly I was out again. And it struck me just how accurate this was for the path we're on as a society right now ... because we don't know the way. We don't know what's around the next corner, let alone what's waiting for us at the end or when or how that end will come. But I trust that as we follow this path, we are walking it with God. Day in and day out. Every minute. Every twist and turn. Every unexpected corner. God is making this journey with us, showering us in compassion and grace and hope even in the face of uncertainty and loneliness and fear and frustration that we may have never encountered before.

And so we continue putting one foot in front of the other. And we trust. And we pray. And today, that is enough.





A NOTE FROM BISHOP JUNG

The whole congregation of the Israelites set out from Elim; and Israel came to the wilderness of Sin, which is between

Elim and Sinai, on the fifteenth day of the second month after they had departed from the land of Egypt. The whole congregation of the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. (Exodus 16:1-2)

Most of us are engaged in a daily, ongoing conversation about the pandemic. Our response to the COVID-19 raises more questions than it answers. “How long will this go on? When can we return to our churches? Will we be back in time for Rally Day, for fall activities, for our suppers and sales, for Advent and Christmas? Aren’t our churches “essential” services? Can we go back if we follow all the guidelines and precautions?” These are all good questions, and none of them invite simple answers. As the Bishop, I am asked for my guidance, for my “ruling,” for my decisions. When we wander together in discomfort and uncertainty, we become desperate for clear answers, but in the words of Paul from the letter to the Philippians, we are “work(ing) out (y)our own salvation with fear and trembling.”

...At the same time, I want to acknowledge the pain, suffering, loss, and grief people are suffering by not meeting together in person. No one takes this lightly, and we are doing everything we can to return safely to regular church engagement and attendance. With this in mind, I give you my recommendations:

- Our guiding value and practice must be

to preserve and maintain life, health, and well-being of our members and friends.

- We should err to the side of caution as a witness to our community and world that our love for our neighbors is one way we love God and all God’s creation.
- Our clergy and laity should follow the strictest guidelines – including not worshipping in person – until the New Year. All indications point to a very bad autumn and winter as we continue with COVID and enter the new flu season. No in-person worship is advised until 2021, and then only after thorough review and reevaluation.
- Setting a clear target date for reevaluation and return help provide clear communication and can avoid unnecessary disappointment. Clergy and laity leadership can then plan creatively for the fall, for Advent, and for Christmas. Perhaps we will join the Wise Men on their journey to arrive on Epiphany...

Historically, our Christian movement began in “house churches,” individual households where prayer, reflection on teachings, fasting, and singing occurred. Our current situation reminds us that sanctuaries, chapels, and cathedrals came later. Congregating, the way we have come to expect as normal, was a rare thing that we have come to value so much more for its absence. Regardless of our ability to be physically together, by God’s gracious Spirit, we are “one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world.” God will see us through this difficult time, so take care of yourself, take good care of your neighbors, and give thanks to God.



Blood Drive in Olish Hall on Wednesday, September 2, from 2:30-6:30 pm

Peace UMC is partnering with Versiti Blood Center of Wisconsin to host a blood drive on Wednesday, September 2. There is a huge blood shortage right now, and Versiti has invited us to do our part and give the gift of life to others in need in our community! As a bonus, each donor will be offered a \$10 e-gift card to use how they would like!

Make an appointment by going to <https://bit.ly/peaceunitedmethodist090220> or by calling 1-877-232-4376.

** Please note: Versiti is adhering to strict safety protocols, for donors and our staff, such as safe distancing, sanitizing and taking temps. etc. Please bring a mask, or one will be provided.*



Thank you to all who have been continuing to give to Peace UMC thru online giving, electronic bill payment or mailing in a check during this difficult time. If you should have any questions on the various ways to give to Peace, please contact Vicki Kaminski. Also, for any electronic giving that is for a specific mission, please email Vicki to let her know which mission it goes to.

General Operating Fund:

As of June, 2020, money received for the general operating fund was: \$ 126,088*. The expenses incurred for the same period were \$130,680. Some of the operating expenses include \$86,820 for salaries/employees, \$16,977 for property maintenance (utilities, snow removal, etc.), \$3,828 for office expenses (supplies, phone, internet, copier) \$18,516 for apportionments and \$3,413 for programs (music, education) If we were on budget our expenses would have been approximately \$137,478, therefore we are under budget for the first 6 months of the year.

Missions of the Church:

Money received through June 30, 2020 for selected various mission projects are:

- Good Samaritan Fund: \$534
- Gathering Lunches: \$192
- Human Relations Day: \$136
- UMCOR: \$600
- Hunger Task Force: \$836
- General Missions: \$300
- Medical Debt Relief: \$2,202

Having Problems Connecting with our Online Worship and Groups?

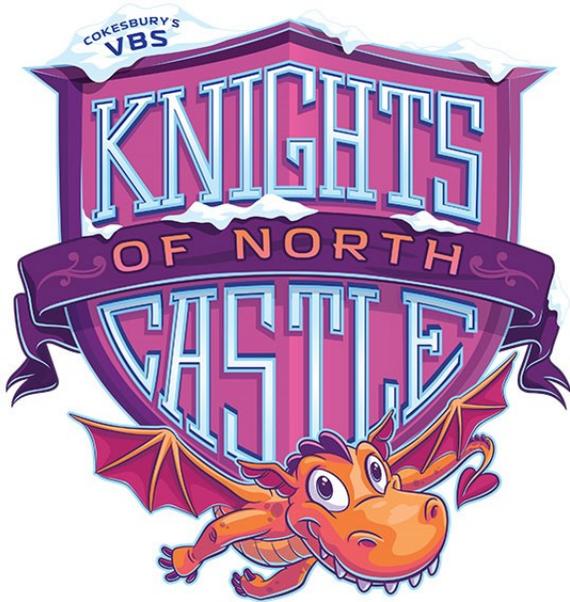
If you have had difficulties with technology getting connected to our worship services, please reach out! With the knowledge that much of our spiritual work this year will be online, please don't hesitate to reach out to Rev. Allie or another member of our congregation. We want to get you connected and able to participate.

Not all mission projects are included in the above list. A total of \$5,296 has been received for all mission projects of Peace in the first six months of 2020.

*Actual money received for the general fund for the first three months of 2020 was \$161,300. However \$70,424 were one time annual pledges. Therefore \$17,606 will be used to represent each quarter of 2020.

YOUTH NEWS

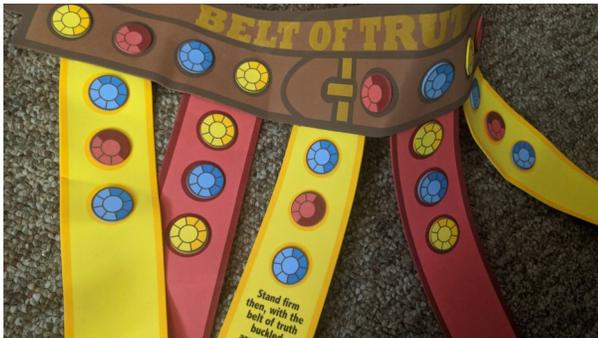
From Katie Jilek



Vacation Bible School "Knights of North Castle" Update

This summer we partnered with Wauwatosa Avenue United Methodist Church for Vacation Bible School. It was sad that we were not able to gather all in person for nights of fun but our children still had a blast. We had 24 children, 5th grade and under, participating.

Here are some pictures showcasing the crafts that our students enjoyed doing this summer and the Bible stories they were able to connect with as well. David and Goliath seems to be the favorite of them all.



Fellowship@Home Box for JAM

This fall we will have Fellowship@home boxes for our JAM families. Each box will be available for pick up, with activities for the month, on the last Sunday of each month. The first pick up will be August 30, from 10:30 am to 12:00 pm at church.

Confirmation Update

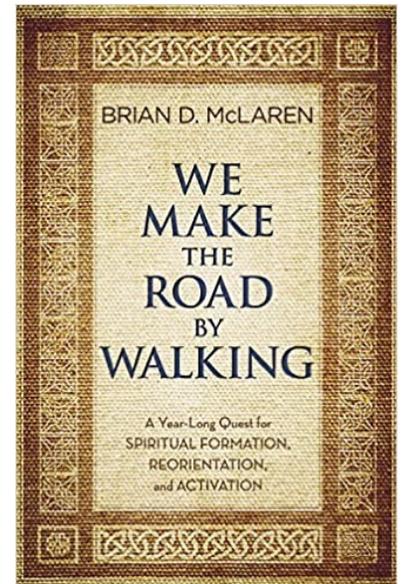
Confirmation will be held weekly on Sunday mornings starting Sept. 13, at 10:30, lasting about 45 minutes. Youth who are in 6th-8th grades are welcome to participate in these activities. If you are interested in signing up please contact Katie Jilek at Taughikatie@gmail.com.

SMALL GROUP STUDY STARTING THIS FALL

Starting this fall, Peace UMC will participate in a church-wide read of Brian McLaren's [We Make the Road by Walking](#). Thank you to the 50 of you who participated in the survey! We're pleased to see such interest in finding new ways to connect and deepen our faith in the coming year.

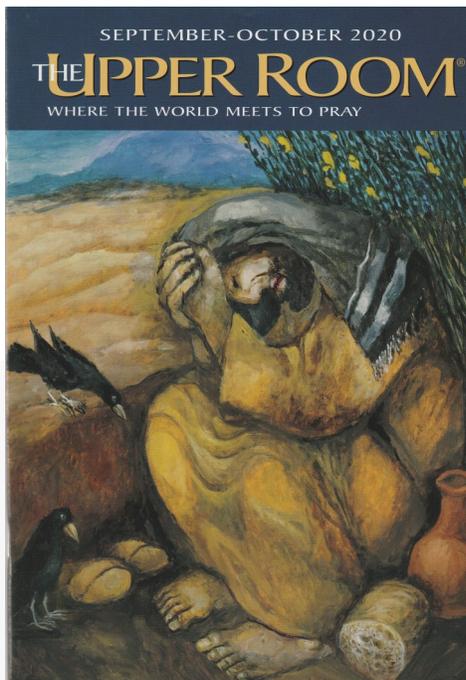
Because of the responses to the survey, we have selected 5 different times our small groups will gather for an hour of discussion, connection, and prayer. We'll begin with our small groups meeting on Zoom, and each group can decide what works best for them from there. The times our small groups will gather are:

Sunday morning at 8:15 a.m.
Tuesday afternoon at 4:00 p.m.
Wednesday morning at 10:00 a.m.
Wednesday evening at 7:30 p.m.
Saturday morning at 9:30 a.m.



If you are interested in participating and one of these times doesn't work for you, please reach out to Rev. Allie at rev.allie.scott@gmail.com - these are our first suggestions, and if there's a group of folks who can't make one of those times work, we'll find another that does!

And if you aren't able or interested in participating in a small group, we still recommend you getting a copy of the book, which will be the basis for our worship and spiritual formation throughout the year. Reach out to Jean at office@peaceumcwi.org if you would like the church to purchase one for you for \$15.



UPPER ROOM — SEPT/OCT ISSUE IS IN!

The September/October issue of the Upper Room daily devotional book is now available! Please contact Jean in the church office if you'd like a free copy mailed to you. We have a limited number of large print and regular print sizes, so get your request in early, and specify if you'd like the large print version.



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UMCOR US Disaster Response and Recovery

Advance # 982450

Country Lebanon

On the evening of August 4, 2020, a series of two explosions occurred at the port of the city of Beirut, the capital of Lebanon. The extremely powerful second blast resulted in at least 157 deaths (with dozens of bodies not yet recovered), 5,000 injuries, US\$ 10–15 billion in property damage and an estimated 300,000 people left homeless.

The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) responds to dozens of unsung disasters every year. UMCOR is there even when the news cameras are not. Whether it is the South Asia tsunami or cholera in Cameroon or Ebola in West Africa, UMCOR is there: sowing seeds of hope and empowering communities to step forward to a new and better future. When a natural or human-caused disaster strikes outside of the United States, UMCOR serves as the primary channel for United Methodist assistance. This includes supporting refugees fleeing disasters with food, water, hygiene and other essential nonfood supplies and temporary shelter. UMCOR cooperates with local bishops, district superintendents, and church leaders to help them develop their own response mechanisms.

Use the Advance number above to donate to UMCOR's relief efforts in Beirut.



UMCOR US Disaster Response and Recovery

Advance # 223

Country United States

Farmers across a wide swath of Iowa are dealing with the heartbreaking aftermath of a rare wind storm that turned what was looking like a record corn crop into deep losses for many.

The storm, known as a derecho, slammed the Midwest with straight line winds of up to 100 miles per hour on Monday, gaining strength as it plowed through Iowa farm fields, flattening corn and bursting grain bins still filled with tens of millions of bushels of last year's harvest.

Through UMCOR, United Methodists extend loving care to people within the United States. When disaster strikes, it is local churches that provide the first response to their communities. When responding to a disaster in the United States, UMCOR provides training, financial assistance, expertise, community collaboration to churches and partners making them more resilient to disasters.

If you would like to make a donation to help with disasters please make your check payable to Iowa Conference United Methodist Church and in the memo line write **Disaster Ministries Advance #223**. Send to: Iowa United Methodist Church Conference, 2301 Rittenhouse Street, Des Moines, Iowa, 50321

Update of The Gathering Lunch Program

For many years, Peace UMC has provided 200 bagged lunches each month that get distributed to the needy in Milwaukee through a program called The Gathering. Beginning in April, Peace was no longer able to make the lunches at our church due to the Covid-19 pandemic; however we could still provide the food for the program and The Gathering would make them on their site.

Since April, Peace has provided peanut butter, jelly, bread, chips, cookies, water and juice boxes each month to help the needy and homeless in Milwaukee have a lunch. The

money used to purchase the food has been graciously donated by members of Peace. The fund is almost depleted and there is not enough money to purchase food for September. If you are able to make a donation to help purchase the food, please send a check to Peace UMC and write a note that the money is to be used for The Gathering. If you want to pay electronically, please e-mail Vicki Kaminski, at vicki3469@hotmail, and let her know that your electronic contribution is to go to The Gathering. Thank you so much for your continued support.