



# The Parish Print

April, 2020

Phone: 815-468-3722

A publication of The Manteno United Methodist Church

Email: [mantenoumcoffice@yahoo.com](mailto:mantenoumcoffice@yahoo.com)

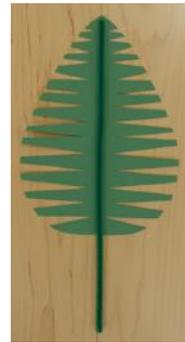
Website: [Mantenoumc.org](http://Mantenoumc.org)



## The Flashlight Easter Egg Hunt is Canceled

Thank you to everyone that donated eggs. We will put the eggs to good use when Sunday

School returns to normal with a celebration Easter Egg Hunt for our kids. I can't wait to try again next year!



## Palm Sunday Online Worship Service Prop Needed

April 5th

Use this link to make homemade palms for our online worship service. Trace on green construction paper or white paper and color green!

<http://www.dltk-bible.com/crafts/mpalm.htm>



## Church Photo Directory

### Mark Your Calendar

New Church Directory Photos

June 29th & June 30th

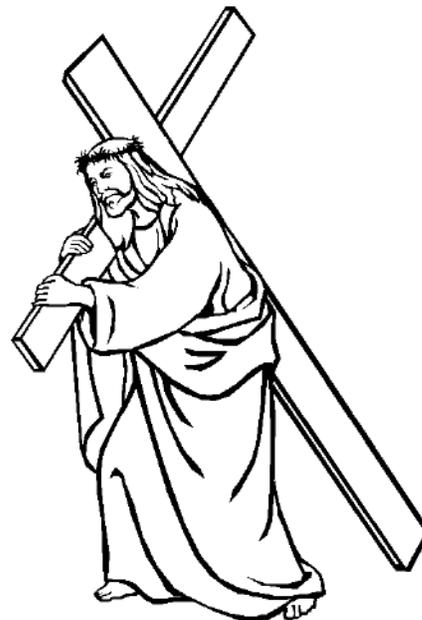
More information to come soon!



## Register for VBS Now

We are busy planning for an amazing VBS experience. Head over

to [mantenoumc.org](http://mantenoumc.org) to register to attend or volunteer at VBS.



## Easter Crosswalk

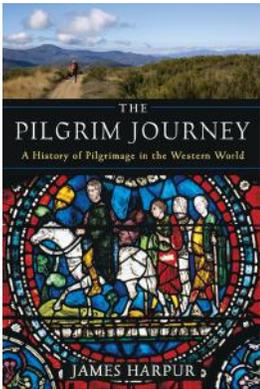
This year's crosswalk, sponsored by Manteno Interfaith, will be held on Good Friday, April 10<sup>th</sup>. The walk will start at 10:00 a.m. at the Community Presbyterian

Church at the corner of Walnut and Adams Street. Stops will be made at 5 additional churches. Manteno United Methodist will be the third stop. You may join in the walk at any of the stops. A short service will be held at each of stops. The walk will end at the First Baptist Church where a light soup lunch will be served.

## BOOK REVIEW

This is something good to do while we are having to stay at home. **READ A BOOK!!**

### EDUCATION FOR MISSION:



*The Pilgrim Journey: A History of Pilgrimage in the Western World* by James Harpur.

Pilgrimage was born and grew, blossoming in the Middle Ages, and faltering in subsequent centuries—only to reemerge stronger than before. In this book, learn about:

- Pilgrim routes and sacred destinations
- The people making the journey
- Challenges of travel
- Spiritual motivations and rewards
- Traditional stages of pilgrimage—preparation, departure, journey, arrival at the shrine, and return home.



### Garden Pavers

Just a reminder. Engraved garden pavers are still available to be ordered. Those will be installed in the church garden. Twenty pavers are available at this time. Cost remains at \$75 for one or \$60 each for two or more. We would like to sell at least ten in order to cover the installation and engraving expense. Think about a paver to recognize/honor a friend or family member or a special occasion. Order forms are available on the church bulletin board and are due September 30th. Any questions or to turn in an order form, call Mary Gibson at 468-8012.



### Recycling Help Needed

Our church attempts to be good stewards of the environment. We collect newspapers in two large bins kept behind the church. Other recyclables are collected in two green and labeled recycle cans outside the kitchen door. As of late, non-recyclables and dirty recyclables have ended up in those two cans. Those items can ruin a load of recyclables. Please be a little more careful when disposing of waste items. Thank you for helping the church with the cause.



### NEWS FROM THE FINANCE TEAM

February's Finance Report:  
\$ 15,034.59

Income from Sunday offering to be used for the General Fund budget	<u>\$ 18,180.89</u>
- 3,126.30	General Fund expenses
	Shortage

\$ 2,785.00	Income from Sunday offering to be used for mortgage payment
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<u>\$ 3,743.72</u>	Mortgage payment
- 958.72	Shortage

**Mortgage balance as of Feb 28 is:**  
**\$570,314.56**

If you have any questions, please contact the Finance Chairperson, Park Hollenbeck, or the Church Treasurer, Sue Ross.

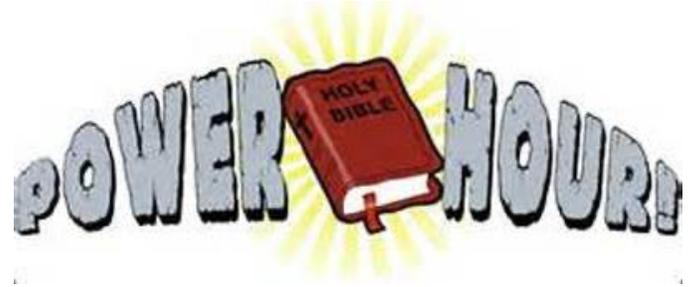


**PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY**  
“LOVING STITCHES”

A way we show people in need of prayer that they are loved and never forgotten is through our Prayer Shawl Ministry here at Manteno United Methodist Church. We call our group “Loving Stitches”. We ask God to bless these shawls that they might be tangible evidence of the love and prayers of our entire congregation, and to bless the ones who receive them with love, comfort, peace, healing and strength.

If you know someone in need of prayer and would like to give them a prayer shawl, please feel free to take one. We just ask that you let Pastor Joy know who you are giving it to and we will keep them in our prayers.

The Loving Stitches group meets the first and third Tuesday of the month at 1:00 p.m. in the church kitchen. (We also work on the shawls at home.) If you are unable to meet with us, but wish to contribute a prayer shawl, you may drop it off at the church office.



**Kids Power Hour.**

It's been an interesting week. Hope everyone is healthy and safe. As soon as church is back in session Kids Power Hour will resume. May 17th will be the last regular session of Kids Power Hour until September 13th. During the summer worship hour there will be an all in one Kids Power Hour (kids from preschool thru 5th grade). This will start June 7th. Because of the success of our VBS style curriculum we will be doing it again in the fall. I am so very proud of our dedicated teachers!! As always, they have gone above and beyond!! God bless them! Hope to see you soon!

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**MUMS** will not meet in April. We will plan to get together May 20.

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*He Is Risen!*

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Are you the one?

Are you the one for whom this life-altering experience of pandemic will end up changing the course of your life from here forward?

Like in a lot of major events, my brain is still telling me—"just wait it out and everything will get back to normal."

But today I read an author who wrote about what can happen in our relationship with God, when we are truly open to God's presence and power.

"No, this invasion of power alters the entire force field in which we live, making a new creation for us, not a small change in direction." (Ann Belford Ulanov, *Picturing God*, quoted in *A Guide to Prayer for All People*, ©Upper Room Books, Nashville, 1990.)

Belford Ulanov also says, "We do not get to God by our own efforts. God comes to us."

Is it possible that God is coming to YOU in the midst of this crisis, which has had an impact on the entire globe?

What lessons are you learning:

To appreciate what you have and WHO you have?

That some people who work out in the public are putting themselves at risk so that the rest of us can be sheltered at home,

knowing that there will be food, transportation and healthcare—and even TV and internet?

That we can probably all choose to live with less and learn to value each day and each hour?

What are you seeing and hearing:

What is happening that calls forth your own wisdom?

How would you do things differently if you were in a position of leadership?

What do you think each of us should be doing differently in our daily lives, now that you have had some time to think?

We are praying for many people who are serving in health care, emergency services, even in the grocery stores right now—people who are putting their own health at risk every day. What is it that YOU feel strongly enough about that you would put your health at risk for a greater cause?

**Are YOU the one whose life will be different after the crisis subsides?**

Right now, I'm just eager to be with people again—to hug my friends and worship in person with our church family. I can't wait for a sunny carefree day when I don't have to keep a 6-foot social distance! But I also look forward to how our God of love and grace can use you and me. I think we WILL make this a better world because of what we have learned and experienced. Jesus walked on this earth like us, and he wants to use us to be the presence of His love in our world—right now AND in the future!

With prayers and love,

Pastor Joy



### Moments With Miles

Well...it's been a scary month in Manteno, IL, my hometown, out there amidst the barren corn and bean fields as well as the equally barren shops, restaurants, and churches.

I would love to talk about the weather and the subject near and dear to my heart, the farmers. But in doing so I would be ignoring the elephant in the room. And I agree with Anthony Hopkins of the Second Continental Congress who said: "I've never heard, seen, nor smelt a subject so dangerous it couldn't be talked about." So here goes...

Coronavirus or CoVid-19 for short. It's out there and it nearer than we think. As of this writing there three reported cases in Kankakee County.

So, what do I think about it? I think it is serious, I think everyone needs to follow the precautions suggested: hand washing, cough covering, hygiene, etc. Precautions, by the way, we should have been following all along as a normal way of life. But I have to tell you, I disagree with the "Social Distancing." But please don't misunderstand, distancing during this time of contagion, especially for those who are most at risk, I have no problem with. It's the social part I don't like. I believe we need to be even more social. More so now than ever. I believe the media maelstrom of

information is causing panic where level headiness is most needed. People are in a hunker-down, duck and cover, isolation frame of mind. And I believe that kind of isolation is a crippling side effect of this current situation.

We are social creatures. We need social interaction to feel a connection, an empathy for each other. And while human touch is denied us at the moment, we still can reach out in Christian love to ourselves as Methodists and to others as well.

I think we need to burn up the phone lines calling each other just to talk – just to pass the time of day. I've been driving around to people's houses, beeping my horn so they come to the door and asking if they are Ok and if they need anything. We only talk for a few minutes, me at my truck, they at their front door (distancing). But it feels so right to see them, talk to them, hopefully letting them know they are not alone. Gas is pretty cheap right now, so it really isn't costing me anything. But I get to see the smiles on their faces, and I like to believe it helps. Of course, now with the "stay at home" order, that is no longer an option. So, as I said earlier – let's all burn up those phone lines!

Yes, we all need to be careful. Yes, we each need to do our part to slow the spread of this virus. But, no, we don't have to isolate ourselves to the point that we forget love, friendship, and kindness.

Never forget what it says in John 15:12 – "My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you."

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>This month our calendar shows activities and meeting times are to be announced. As soon as we can start being together again. We will let you know about the times and dates of gatherings. In the meantime stay safe and healthy!</p>			<p>1 <b>April Fool's Day</b>  No Choir/Bells  No Men's Bible Study</p>	<p>2 No Ladies Bible Study  No Praise Band</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p>
<p>5 <b>Palm Sunday</b></p>	<p>6 Morning Lenten Devotions - TBA</p>	<p>7 Morning Lenten Devotions - TBA</p>	<p>8 Morning Lenten Devotions - TBA  Choir - TBA Bells - TBA  Men's Bible Study - TBA</p>	<p>9 <b>Maundy Thursday</b>  Morning Lenten Devotions - TBA  Ladies Bible Study TBA  Praise Band - TBA</p>	<p>10 <b>Good Friday</b>  Morning Lenten Devotions - TBA</p>	<p>11</p>
<p>12 <b>Easter Day Services TBA</b></p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15 <b>Tax Day</b>  Choir - TBA Bells - TBA  Men's Bible Study - TBA</p>	<p>16 Ladies Bible Study TBA  Praise Band - TBA</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p>
<p>19 Services TBA</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22 <b>Earth Day</b>  Choir - TBA Bells - TBA  Men's Bible Study - TBA</p>	<p>23 Ladies Bible Study TBA  Praise Band - TBA</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>
<p>26 Services TBA</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29 Choir - TBA Bells - TBA  Men's Bible Study - TBA</p>	<p>30 Ladies Bible Study TBA  Praise Band - TBA</p>		