



The Parish Print

May, 2020

Phone: 815-468-3722

A publication of The Manteno United Methodist Church

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Worship Service

You can watch the church worship service each Sunday morning on the church Facebook group page at 10 a.m. If you cannot get on Facebook on Sunday afternoon at 4 p.m. Pastor Joy does a phone message from the morning service, to be a part of the Worship by phone just dial 1-717-275-8941 and at the prompt enter code 659-9053. We hope you will be part of one of our services. God Bless!



The Trustees are looking for volunteers to help keep the garden weeded this summer. If you are interested please send an email to the church office:

mantenoumcoffice@yahoo.com.



Just a reminder to everyone that a Blessings Box is located by the East door and is stocked with items. If you or anyone you know is needing food or other hygiene items, stop by and take what is

needed. People from our church are monitoring the Box and keep it well stocked. You may also help stock the Box. If there is no room for things you wish to provide, leave the items by the church door and someone will take them inside to our "Pantry." God has provided for us and we can provide for those in need



Upcoming meetings:

The Finance Committee will meet on Tuesday, May 12th at 6 p.m.

Administrative Council will meet on Tuesday, May 12th at 7 p.m.



This is teacher appreciation week. I would like to thank our dedicated and

amazing Kids Power Hour teachers. For everything you do for our kids and your shining Christian example you are for them. They are so blessed to have you in their lives. God bless you!!

Diane Preston (crafts); Karen Vellutini (games); Teresa Butterfield (science); Bob Hulford (story time); Marty Howard, Pete Falk (Jr High, High school); Sarah Falk (music); Gail Hulford (secretary).



Preschool/Elementary ZOOM Sunday School Class

Noon every Sunday

Email Jen Stawick for Meeting ID and Password : jenstawick@sbcglobal.net

Middle School/High School ZOOM Sunday School Class

11:00 AM Every Sunday

Email Jen Stawick for Meeting ID and Password : jenstawick@sbcglobal.net

Virtual BINGO ZOOM Meeting

1:00 Every Thursday

Print your own BINGO card and join us!

Email Jen Stawick for Meeting ID and Password : jenstawick@sbcglobal.net



CORN ON THE COB

Thinking about corn on the cob reminds me of one of the sayings of Jesus. He tells his disciples, "You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness

be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot." (Mt. 5:13; Mk. 9:50; Lk.14: 34 NRSV)

Salt has been critical and extremely valuable throughout ages. It preserves, it helps heal, and it definitely enhances the flavor of things-especially corn-on-the-cob.

Salt was so important that that is a required part of the sacrifices Israel was to make as they wandered in the wilderness; "You shall not omit from your grain offerings the salt of the covenant with your God; with all your offerings you shall offer salt." (Lv. 2:13) Job knows salt flavors food when he says, "Can that which is tasteless be eaten without salt..." (Jb. 6:6a) Paul, writing to the gathered at Colossae reminds them, "Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer everyone." (Col. 4:6)

We are at a time when we may have been sequestered with a person we typically spent less time with due to work, school, etc. At times it may have a bitter taste. Through this difficult time, remember, "salt gives flavor to food, salt enhances, salt makes corn-on-the-cob taste even better.

May our time in this closeness be salted so we become more flavorful. Amen.

Cathy Jordan
IGRC Prayer Team

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The United Methodist Women have still

been working behind the scenes! Several of our missions are really struggling during these times, so in an emergency officers meeting we looked over the budget and calculated what extra we could give to The Baby Fold, Lessie Bates Davis Neighborhood, Cunningham Children's Home, and Chaddock. Members will soon receive a letter in the mail with more information about these donations, and a reminder that pledges still need to be submitted since we haven't met in so long. Sadly, we have had to cancel the Ladies Spring Dinner for the year. We know this is an event that many look forward to – hopefully it will be even more special next year! Here are a few throwback photos from last year's dinner to tide you over.

Stay healthy!
Denise Caparula



NEWS FROM THE FINANCE TEAM

April's Finance Report:

\$ 18,589.08	Income from Sunday/online offering used for the General Fund budget
<u>\$ 17,574.62</u>	General Fund expenses
+ 1,014.46	Overage --- YES!

\$ 4,450.00	Income from Sunday/online offering used for mortgage payment
<u>\$ 3,743.72</u>	Mortgage payment
+ 714.28	Overage --- YES!

**Mortgage balance as of April 30 is:
\$567,039.36**

THANK YOU for your continue support while in quarantine!

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



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God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore, we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea. The LORD Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress. (Psalm 46:1,2,7)

Read Isaiah 54:10 and Psalm 27:1-5

You are not alone! God is with us! This is the message that we hear throughout Scripture, and a message that applies to us right now, when many are feeling alone. Take strength from God, who will never leave or abandon you!

It's so hard to hold the level of suffering we see and hear about in the world right now, knowing that God holds all the suffering in his loving care! Yet, at the same time, there have been so many stories of people helping each other, so many people who are putting their own health at risk to serve our community and our world, so many who are grateful for this time to spend at home with family.

As people of faith we pray, we share a deep concern for those who are hurting, we cry out to God to turn this virus around and provide a cure and a vaccine. But who we are and what we say and do will witness to our understanding that

“God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.”

While we have been sheltering at home, many of you who are reading this have done something to witness to your faith. In fact, you have been the BODY OF CHRIST! You have called people to show your love and concern. You have shared music and read Scripture on our Facebook live worship services. You teachers have figured out how to teach and care about your students remotely. You students have listened and watched and participated... you parents have figured out how to help your sons and daughters learn and tolerate this “new normal.” [And you have wished your pastor happy birthday in VERY creative ways! Thank you!]

God is with us. That's the message of Christmas. Christ is risen... the risen Christ is with us. That's the message of Easter. God in Christ is suffering with the sick,, the lost and the lonely. That's the message during a pandemic, and every day and every moment.

When you are present in love... even when you can't be present in person, you are living the message. God's love is real!

Keep on keeping on, my friends! We will continue to find ways to safely reach out in love to one another and to those who are hurting. God is with us!

Bless you, Pastor Joy



Moments With Miles

Well, this last month has been...I'm not sure...quiet, hectic, emotional, isolated, stressful...pick an adjective! A lot has happened since last I sat down to write a bit for the Parish Print. Let's see...yeah, the whole virus thing; church services via Facebook live; shelter in place, but now if you have to go out masks are required; the weather turned warm, then chilly again, then warm again; grass mowing at home and a church has begun; the days are very noticeable longer thanks in part to daylight savings time; gardening has picked up quite a bit; I've been doing a version of Moments With Miles on Facebook (13 Episodes so far); Susie and I celebrated our 40th wedding anniversary, apart; and, Oh yes, my grandson, Finnley Prime Troppman was born! Yay! I'm a grandpa again!

Little Finn up in Minneapolis, MN is gorgeous, perfect, precious, and yes, I'm biased. He was born to my daughter, Kathleen and her husband Andrew on April 25th at 7:39 PM weighing 8 lbs. and 20 inches long. Pictures and videos are available on my Facebook page.

Susie is still up in Minnesota helping out the new mommy and I am home here in Manteno without Susie supervision. By the

time you read this, she will probably be back home again and I'll have to start behaving myself.

I like being a grandpa. It's fun. All of the joy with none of the responsibility. Unlike with my own kids, with my granddaughter, Molly, and now my grandson, Finn, I can say "Yes" to just about everything! It's awesome! I take my role as spoiler of grandkids very seriously. I also love that grandkids look up to you as the keeper of all knowledge and wisdom, at least while they are little. And you get to feel pride at all of the milestones and accomplishments again, like you did when your kids were little. Being a grandparent gives you bragging rights all over again. As it says in Proverbs 17:6 "Children's children are a crown to the aged, and parents are the pride of their children."

Well, folks, hopefully soon we shall be able to meet together again in safety at church. I think one of the hardest things about the stay at home order is the face to face fellowship we share every Sunday. Yes, the live church service videos on Facebook are fun, different, novel, but not the same as being together as a group for worship. I miss you all.

Be well, be safe, be of good heart. This virus will in time pass and we shall be together again. Hopefully sooner than later.

And that's Moments With Miles, in Manteno, Illinois, where you can see from horizon to horizon, because no one is out and about blocking your view!