
Robbins' Herald

JUNE

2020

JULY

ROBBINS DRIVE-IN CHURCH

Oh-my-gosh, we need to change our way of worship again?! I was just getting used to preaching to a camera and making lots of calls and connections. Now we need to figure out how to do worship by way of Drive-In Church *and* keep putting the message on Facebook for those who are still unable to be present. HELP LORD!

And help, God did! He reminded me that Pat Green once said he had dabbled in transmitting while using his HAM radio. But, how are we going to pay for it? Thank you Memorial Funds. The Worship Team organized a ZOOM meeting to discuss what a Drive-In Church service would include: message, song, fire representing the Light of Christ and the fire of the Holy Spirit. What about a bulletin that was touch-free? But some don't have internet or printers and they will want the lyrics to songs, hmm. If we have songs how will the music be projected? Good thing the sanctuary has a cubby with just what we needed. Where do we hold such a service? The parking spaces are marked correctly in the East lot but the portico would protect in bad weather. How many people should there be under the portico for safe distancing and what do you use to raise people up to be seen in the back row? How can we keep recording to share later, on Facebook?

Each challenge was met with faith and persistence. Thank you, God! Thank you, People of Robbins!

Pastor Peggy

Drive-ins, they bring back memories to many people. Especially those that are in my generation. I remember going with a few friends when I was a teen, pulling up to the speaker and putting it on the inside of the window so we could hear the movie, and waiting for the movie to start. But the drive-in I went to on Sunday was a little different, and really a lot better. I was wondering how it would be and hoping it would work (I'm sure others were too). I have to say IT WORKED WONDERFULLY!! After being directed to where to park by "Sheriff" Noble, we turned on our radio, set it on AM 1500. IT WORKED!! Another good thing is there were my friends that I have missed so much. Windows were rolled down so we could talk with our neighbors before the service started. It was so good to have the music played Zi, to see and hear Ruth who was the liturgist, especially to see Pastor Peggy in person (not on fb like I'd been). In this time of uncertainty, we have had to learn to do things differently and try to be flexible with what's changing around us. This worked out so well. Until we can all attend church inside Robbins, the parking lot outside will do quite well.

Diana Hayter

Mission Emphasis: June

FORGOTTEN MAN MINISTRIES – INGHAM COUNTY JAIL

When we could move around, I was periodically dropping off the books you left on the stand in the Fellowship Hall. Chaplain Cal expressed his gratitude on behalf of the inmates for new materials to add to their library (soft cover only). A word of caution, some books, not necessarily from Robbins, brought fleas into their library and they had to dispose of all their books as well as fumigate the cells. I am writing this article the week we celebrated Mother's Day. Our experience, while being confined to our homes may be as close to the experience of the inmates who celebrate this special holiday while being incarcerated. Chaplain Cal writes in the Ingham County News and Updates: "Through your gracious support of Forgotten Man Ministries, we were able to purchase Mother's Day cards with stamps and distributed them to the inmates. These cards were distributed a week prior to Mother's Day enabling them to write a personal message to their mothers in time for that special day. Thank you to each one of you for the support you give the ministry, helping to spread the gospel in so many different ways here in Ingham County. "

A couple more suggestions about the books. They must have soft covers. Chaplain Car responded with a smile when I asked him about the appropriate theme of the books: "as long as it isn't teaching how to commit a crime it is appropriate." Don't worry about making that determination if you are unsure. He has a volunteer librarian read the book before they put them on the book cart for the inmates.

Thank you for continuing to support missions during these difficult times. If you want to make a donation and do not have on-line giving, write a check to RUMC and designate the Forgotten Man Ministries on the memo line.

May you be blessed as you bless others. Mission Commission: Dave Minger, Chris Kemper, Judy Her-riff and Pastor Peggy



Mission Emphasis: July

Michigan Native American Ministries

Michigan has about 71,500 people who identified as Native American. That makes Michigan home to the largest Native American population east of the Mississippi River.

Our state has twelve federally acknowledged Indian tribes that enjoy a special status under federal law and treaties. There are eight Native American congregations in Michigan. In addition, there are two ministries serving Native Americans: PaWaTing MaGewdin Kikaajik (Native American Elders Program, Grand Rapids) and Saganing Native American Center (Standish).

Rev. Carmen Cook was born in Oklahoma, and is registered there in the Chickasaw Tribe through her mother's lineage. But she grew up in Florida, where her father was a pastor for 18 years. "I grew up," she says, "surrounded by French, Italians, Seminoles, and Miccosukee Indians. "She developed a "deep appreciation for how they viewed both God and the earth," she adds. She explains that deep connection to the Creator and the creation is a common experience for Native Americans.

After moving to Michigan 15 years ago, Carmen answered the call of God in 2010". Rev. Cook hopes the church will become more inclusive in embracing worship styles of other cultures, including Native American. "We don't need to make all people white. That's an insult," she observes. "If we respect our different cultures and practice loving each other for who we are, that would take us a long way."

Carmen views Christian belief as "the rest of the story" of her Native American understanding of God. Asked what her hope is for the Native American community in Michigan, Carmen quickly answers, "I want to see them grow, spiritually and numerically. I don't believe any congregation should be small or dying. That's not the kind of God I serve." She hopes more Native Americans will become involved in the denomination to bring about change. "I want to see us involved, bringing who we are into the fuller body of Christ. We all will be richer for it."

One of the resources at the 2019 Native American mission booth was a "White Paper" titled Walk a More Peaceful Way Understanding our Native Brothers and Sisters by Bishop David Bard. The following is part of that message: "As a conference, we have acknowledged our sins in relationship to the Anishinaabe peoples of Michigan. We took land unjustly. We denigrated rich cultural and spiritual traditions. We moved families and removed children from families. We have failed to learn with and from our Anishinaabe neighbors. We seek action to follow our words joining hands with our Native sister and brothers in walking toward a better future together in the spirit of our Creator God. We are only taking the first steps in a long journey." Bishop Bard listed eight suggestions to carry out this commitment. You may follow these on the UMC website by searching for the name of this article.

"My heart has always been burdened for the Native Americans. They see the land as belonging to God, not man. God gave us dominion (caretakers) over his creation not owners." Native Americans understand that. The Number 8 suggestion from Bishop Bard: "Much patience and understanding is need to build bridges, not only with Native communities, but also with the churchd Natives who often feel somewhat marginalized, misunderstood and unheard."

Thank you for giving. If you do not have on-line giving write a check to RUMC with Native American Mission on the memo line. Mission Commission: Dave, Judy, Chris and Peggy

Boats, Storms, War, and Respect

Let me confess it right now: You and I are not in the same boat.

Judy's comment focused a vague uneasiness I had. She noted that the public-service announcements that "we're all in this together" seemed somewhat excessive; different people were having very different experiences of this pandemic. I agreed, and thought some of what I heard even seemed presumptuous for me to say; I am a relatively privileged person in this situation.

Then a pastor, in an online worship service, put it this way:

We are all in the same storm, but we are not all in the same boat.

Judy and I live in a "boat" with good income, medical support, personal relationships, electronic communications, and few requirements of being out among people who might be infected. Yes, we have to fetch groceries and prescriptions, but have no jobs requiring frequent hazardous contacts. The main weakness in our "boat" is that we are more susceptible than average to a severe case of COVID-19.

For me to say to a store employee at checkout, or medical people, or others I usually don't even notice, such things as (1) you're lucky to have a job, or (2) we're all in this together, seems more insensitive than I care to be. Likewise, to somebody not getting either payment or unemployment benefits (which are arriving slowly, it seems) that they are lucky not to have to be among people – this, too, seems callously thoughtless. For me to equate my stay-at-home situation to parents with children – no; I'm not going to do it. Even a couple staying home and one person staying at home are not in the same situation. And as some of us need to be reminded, not everybody has Internet access.

If we can promote a culture of mutual **respect**, it will greatly help us all get through this storm.

Some culture of *caring and helping* seems to be developing among many of us. Sometimes this whole situation seems overwhelming, and we can't save everybody; but if we each can make a needed difference to *somebody*, maybe that is our calling. Pushing the social structure towards *cheerfulness* also seems to me worth doing. As I take part in a sort of dance in the grocery aisles, as we all try to do our part to maintain six feet of separation from each other, I have made a few encouraging comments, well received by others: "Kind of a chess game, isn't it?" "We're all doing our best." My comments aren't brilliant but are positive.

At least for myself, I find that *gratitude* is in order, and helps to stabilize my mind in a good way. My “boat” paragraph, above, quickly outlines my reasons to give thanks, but there’s more: We have increasing greenery around our house, beautiful through the windows, and sometimes pleasant to enjoy outdoors. I am thankful for Jesus in my life, and Judy, and humor, and hot sauce – and maybe 473 other things.

Thankfully, I note that others advocate caring and helping, and I’ve seen some good words for gratitude. But if anything is under attack, I think it is **respect**. I will try to develop myself in the direction of giving respect wherever possible (To some degree, it must be deserved.), but to do this with conviction and effectiveness, I need to respect *myself*.

This is an exercise that I recommend for others, so I will do it myself, here, openly. My shyness will have to be set aside for this. So, what do I look at, to respect myself?

First, there is a minimum that applies to everybody. OK, I’m going medieval here:

Muretus, a very learned yet poor man, on one occasion fell ill. He was taken to a place where the destitute were kept. The doctors, discussing his case in Latin, said, “This poor creature is of no value to anyone. It is unnecessary to spend time and effort on one so worthless.” Muretus, the scholar that he was, spoke to them in Latin and made this remarkable utterance: “Call no man worthless for whom Christ died.” (From a Piedmont Church of Christ site.) Jesus Christ died for me; I am not worthless.

How else do I rate respect? To answer that, I claim that we are in a **war**, against a virus that advances easily wherever we allow it. I am not on the front lines of this war; I am a retired person at home. How can I support the anti-virus cause? First, my making a continuing effort *not* to catch the virus. Catching the virus would (1) make me an unknowing cause of infection to others until symptoms appeared days later, and (2) likely make me a user of hospital resources. It seems a humble role, but I intend to have enough respect for others to try to do it right. And the best I can do for the total situation is to try to keep my head clear about what’s right for *me* to do. I believe this humility and clarity deserve respect.

I also try to communicate usefully with others, through family connections and online. Judy and I make donations targeted to the current situation. My communications, many through the Internet, intend to promote clarity, but I think a growing side of my messages are encouragement to those who should have it. There are forces that want to break down your self-respect for doing the right things; and I would like to help you keep the faith that right is right, and true is true.

You might have to make a similar list, to overcome the overload of disrespect and misinformation that's out there. (And be sure to notice, sometimes it *is* overload, because it takes longer to disprove the wrong statements than to make them.) So remember, you are a person for whom Christ died; you have done some things right; you are doing some things right, even when it isn't easy. Yes, you should have some humility (and you probably do already); so should those who are trying to break your mind. Listening to Christ and the wisest advice you hear, stand in the place where you are.

Then respect others to the extent they make it possible. For many people, quite a lot of respect is in order.

Yes, I know that "the greatest of these is love," but love is best and most freely given by persons who have not been crushed by the disrespectful. God loves you; stand firm in that and pass it on.

This is my second article responding to the coronavirus, and I thought it was needed. I know there is more to life than the present special situation, and my current plan for the next newsletter article is something like, "To My Descendants," with what I most want to say to my sons, their families, those who come after – and my friends and readers.

Preview: Accept Jesus as Savior, Lord, and Friend. Sometimes you have to try stuff; sometimes you have to be different; sometimes you have to cry or laugh.

Until then, stick with Jesus, and stand firm, until we meet again in person.

Dan Ellsworth



ROBBINS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES – APRIL 14, 2020

Present via WebEx: Richard Bailey – SPR Chair, Keith Hayter – Congregational Care Facilitator, Diana Hayter – SPR Member, Amy Henderson – Finance Committee Chair, Judy Herriff – Missions Team Leader, Carol Huntington – Lay Member to Annual Conference, Pastor Peggy Katzmark – Nominations & Leadership Development, Education, Ted Kilvington – Church Council Chair, Jean Brown – Recording Secretary

Devotions:

Ted Kilvington offered devotions entitled, “So Many Questions,” by Richard Lowell Bryant, taken from the United Methodist Insight, A Forum for Discerning God’s Will for the United Methodist Church. What a mess! It seems like life is falling apart. Can we pick up where we left off? There are so many questions and no easy answers. So we wait, from a safe distance, and try to stay healthy. Real people, suffering people, ask real questions. We listen, we don’t lie to ourselves and each other, and we sit through tragedy until the very end.

Pastor Peggy Katzmark opened the meeting in prayer.

Finance:

Amy Henderson reported that the March Treasurer’s Report shows a deficit of \$3,912.37. This is due largely to the insurance payment made in March. VANCO is still going strong though. The bank statement has not yet been received and reconciled; once it is, Amy will print all the reports, scan and send a copy to Council members. She reported the revenue for March totaled \$7,759.00 but expenses were \$12,000.00. Expenses should be well below average this month due to the church being closed. Judy Herriff asked where the money donated for Missions in March is being sent, and Amy indicated it is being held until Jim Vogel returns. Pastor Peggy thought that UMCOR could use the money now and, thus, Amy will look into it further.

Staff Parish Relations:

Richard Bailey reported that as of March 16th, Robin Towsley has been laid off due to the Bishop’s instructions that no one was to occupy the church buildings. Zi Wang was paid for one choir rehearsal prior to the church being closed. SPR and Finance have designated \$100.00 per week be sent to Zi from the discretionary fund since both she and her husband are currently laid off and cannot apply for unemployment due to their work visas.

Congregational Care:

Keith Hayter reported that Congregational Care has not received any requests for meals or care during the last month. Pastor Peggy did mention that John Kreisler had fallen and needed stitches in his head and just not feeling well but, at this time, no special care is requested. Diana Hayter reported that the April/May newsletter is now online. She will print a few copies for those interested once we are allowed back in the church.

Lay Member to Annual Conference:

Carol Huntington reported that the Annual Conference has been cancelled but will possibly be rescheduled at a later date. The General Conference this year has been cancelled and will meet in 2021.

Missions:

Judy Herriff reported that she received a letter regarding the bankruptcy of the Boy Scouts and will put it in Ted Kilvington's mail box. She has been collecting information on the four people serving in the military: Julie Sommer, Zack Whitford, Erin Sturgell and Cullen Henderson. She thought it would be nice if the congregation would write to them now that some may have extra time. She asked if Pastor Peggy can send those names and addresses to the congregation for anyone so willing to write. It was agreed and Pastor Peggy will email the information to the congregation.

Pastor's Report:

Pastor Peggy reported that she will continue to give her messages online every Wednesday at 7:00 PM. Richard Bailey thanked Pastor Peggy for researching and implementing the text messaging program last fall and applauded its use during this time of crisis. Pastor Peggy is currently having the church phone forwarded to her phone. She has received a question regarding the discretionary fund and whether it should be temporarily reserved for only Robbins members during this time. Discussion followed and it was determined that since there are very few requests at the moment it will be left as is and revisited if circumstances change.

Action Items:

Amy Henderson – Reconcile bank statement and send reports to Council members.

Amy Henderson – Determine if a check needs to be sent to UMCOR before Jim returns.

Judy Herriff/Pastor Peggy Katzmark – Judy send names/addresses of those serving in the military to Pastor Peggy who will email to congregation.

Judy Herriff closed in prayer.

Next meeting: Tuesday, May 12, 2020, at 6:30 PM.

ROBBINS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES – MAY 11, 2020

Present via WebEx: Richard Bailey – SPR Chair, Keith Hayter – Congregational Care Facilitator, Diana Hayter – SPR Member, Amy Henderson – Finance Committee Chair, Judy Herriff – Missions Team Leader, Pastor Peggy Katzmark – Nominations & Leadership Development, Education, Ted Kilvington – Church Council Chair, Kelly Lyon – Trustees Chair, Jean Brown – Recording Secretary

Devotions:

Ted Kilvington offered devotions from the Florida United Methodist Servant Leadership web page. God's call to servant leadership is inward as it comes to the individual and outward through the discernment and validation of the Church. John Wesley described the instructing and guiding of Christian disciples in their witness to Jesus Christ—through acts of worship, devotion, compassion, and justice, and under the guidance of the Holy Spirit—as watching over one another in love. Leadership is focused on others. It is servant first before leader. Servant leadership is operating by faith, seeking God's guidance, doing the very best you can, making the best decisions you can. Listen with the heart and all of the senses, and listen to God.

He then opened the meeting in prayer.

The April minutes were approved by general consensus.

Congregational Care:

Keith Hayter had no report. Diana Hayter reported that she needs news items within the next week or so as she will soon be working on the June/July newsletter.

Finance:

Amy Henderson reported that the bank statement has been reconciled. The General Fund deficit has gone down considerably from last month with a deficit of only \$993.93. As a follow-up from April, a check of \$305 to UMCOR for March Missions was written on April 27th.

Trustees:

Kelly Lyon had no report. However, Pastor Peggy reported that a valve in the Fellowship Hall was stuck open and the temperature was 73° although the thermostat was set at 62°. It will be checked out on Tuesday; she does not know what that cost will be.

Staff Parish Relations:

Richard Bailey had no report.

Missions:

Pastor's Report:

Pastor Peggy reported that ministry is continuing as mission shares are coming in and the building is being taken care of, plus we are continuing to be supportive of each other. Her weekly messages on Wednesday are well received.

The discussion turned to the reopening of church and whether to hold services in the building or try drive-in services and the steps needed to do so. There are several questions and steps to be taken before holding services inside the church again, much having to do with sanitizing and social distancing, plus having masks and hand sanitizer available. Starting outside would be far less contagious than inside and we could start sooner. Outdoor services would be held in the parking lot with everyone staying in their cars and listening by FM transmitters. The equipment needed would cost \$175 - \$200. Pat Green is familiar with this and could get it set up. Another suggestion was to bring lawn chairs and set up outside six feet apart from other families.

After much discussion, it was determined to start by holding the service outside in the main parking lot by staying in cars and using the FM transmitters. Pastor Peggy will check with Alma Weber if the funds needed for the transmitters could be taken from Memorials. Families will stay in their cars and the service will be transmitted through the car's radio. It will probably include announcements, scripture readings and sermon. It would be very hard to include singing at this point. Families would be welcome to bring drinks and/or snacks since there will be no coffee hour. If the equipment can be ready by May 24th, we will hold the first service then. If not, May 31st will be the first service. There will be no collections taken during this time; electronic giving will be continued to be used. Attendance will be done through the texting program. The bulletin will be emailed to the congregation and also posted on Facebook. Everyone agreed that Pastor Peggy should also continue posting the messages online.

We will also need to begin thinking about reports needed for the congregation as to what's been going on, financial status, missions, worship. It is still undetermined when the church office will reopen and Robin will return. We can also look at bringing Zi in later with a keyboard after we see how the first few services go. There will be no Christian Education while services are held outside. It was suggested to wait until September to restart Christian Education; this will be revisited again in August.

Pastor Peggy closed in prayer.

Action Items:

Pastor Peggy – Contact Worship Committee for service logistics, Pat Green for setting up transmitters

Pastor Peggy – Contact Alma Weber if Memorial funds can be used to purchase transmitters.

Judy Herriff – Contact Nancy Porter for Liturgists to help with the May 24th (and/or May 31st) service.

Next meeting: Tuesday, June 9, 2020, at 6:30 PM.

Devotions: Judy Herriff



CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES!!!

Michigan State University: Faith Sharp

Eaton Rapids High School:
Cora Hasbrook
Quentin Henderson
Brendan Sharp
Aleigha Sutton



Your family at Robbins extends the very best wishes to you. May God bless you .

Robbins United Methodist Church

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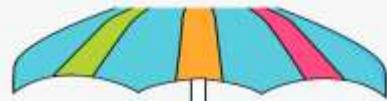
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JUNE Birthdays

Brett Campbell	06/09
Payton Benton	06/10
Gerry Grinold	06/12
Amy Henderson	06/16
Ida Raymond	06/18
Brendan Sharp	06/20
Jim Collins	06/23
Alice Turner	06/26
Kyle Brown	06/27



Emma Bailey	07/08
Eddie Bermudez	07/10
Meagan Henderson	07/11
Adeline Raymond	07/12
Roger Sommer	07/13
Gavin Whitford	07/13
Carol Huntington	07/14
Andy Raymond	07/15
Benjamin Raymond	07/15
Lauri Jordan	07/19
Kristina Walker	07/24
Bob Fuller	07/27
Judy Ellsworth	07/28
Zak Whitford	07/29