



# VOYAGEUR July 2020

Dear Church family,

What have been the pivotal historic moments during your life time? Which of them had the most impact on you? As we are living in the midst of a pivotal time, I find it helpful to reflect on the past.

Two moments come to mind for me. First, was the moon landing in 1969. Even though I was 6 years old, I remember vividly watching on TV and then looking up at the moon and wondering, "how is that even possible?" A few years later I remember pulling a model of the moon rover out of a serial box. If human beings could do something like this, what couldn't we do? It created within me a fascination with science and engineering. Later, I entered the Optimist's Invitational speech competition and gave a speech on the development of the space shuttle and Skylab space station. It was all very exciting stuff.

Second, was the Space Shuttle Challenger disaster in 1986. I was watching it live on cable TV. The friends I was living with at the time had just installed cable TV. We were in disbelief. How could this happen when the NASA space program seemed to have become so solid and routine that we thought we were tuning in to another routine space mission? For me, it represented a shift in what was possible for human beings. We have limitations. Whether we have good or bad intentions, we have limitations. This is a given. For me, it also instills a sense of humility and openness to God. Both of these ideas are still important to me. As humankind, we are tremendously capable. In so many areas, people have grown and developed to make what seemed impossible possible. And yet we face real limitations. We learn through failure, and sometimes disaster. We grow our understanding while living within the midst of our own limitations.

I do not know how this COVID pandemic has turned out. I feel amazed and surprised by all of the ways people have adapted and changed their lives to slow its spread. World wide, the human response has been amazing. In our circle of life in the church, we have adapted to new ways of being church while not being physically with each other in our church building. Yes, we all miss aspects of the way it used to be just a few months ago. But we've also been building new and different relationships within the community. I sense that God has rekindled our sense of mission in our neighborhood and world.

And yet, we face our real limitations. How long can people continue to change their behavior to limit the impact of the disease? Will there be an immunization? Will the economies of the world, including our own, adapt? There are a lot of uncertainties. I'm reminded of our humility-- Of Ash Wednesday before the COVID-19 outbreak, saying, "remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return." Perhaps now more than ever, awareness of our own vulnerability brings us to a new place of depending on God. It seems that uncertainty is the garden in which faith can grow.

At the very same time, our awareness of racial injustice has been raised by the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis. Many of us have had the privilege of being able to shelter in our own homes while people of color have faced disproportionate risk in so many ways. As humankind, will we ever be able to recognize people who are different from us as people? Can we move beyond prejudice to justice and love?

All things are possible with God. With the breath you have been given, I encourage you to live as deeply as you can into the hope that God is giving us. Let us be a people of resurrected hope.

Blessings,

Pastor Rob

Because laughter is good medicine.....



**Q: What does the Statue of Liberty stand for?**

**A: Because she can't sit down.**

**Q: What kind of tea did the American colonists really want?**

**A: Liberty.**

**Q: Where was the Declaration of Independence signed?**

**A: Right at the bottom of the page.**

## 7 Ups!

1. **WAKE UP!!** Decide to have a good day. *"This is the day the Lord hath made; Let us rejoice and be glad in it."* Psalms 118:24
2. **DRESS UP!!** The best way to dress up is to put on a smile. A smile is an inexpensive way to improve your looks. *"The Lord does not look at the things that Man looks at. Man looks at outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart."* 1 Samuel 16:7
3. **SHUT UP!!** Say nice things and learn to listen. God gave us two ears and one mouth, so He must have meant for us to do twice as much listening as talking. *"He who guards his lips, guards his soul."* Proverbs 13:3
4. **STAND UP!!** . . .for what you believe in. Stand for something or you will fall for anything. *"Let us not be weary in doing good; for at the proper time, we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good..."* Galatians 6:9-10
5. **LOOK UP!!** . . .To the Lord. *"I can do everything through Christ who strengthens me".* Philippians 4:13
6. **REACH UP!!** . . .For something higher. *"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not unto your own understanding. In all your ways, acknowledge Him and He will direct your path."* Proverbs 3:5-6
7. **LIFT UP!!** . . .Your prayers. *"Do not worry about anything; instead PRAY ABOUT EVERYTHING."* Philippians 4:6

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I ♥ MY  
church

## Current Phase: Yellow



## **COVID-19** **Stay Safe MN Phase III**

### **GUIDANCE FOR GATHERINGS: FAITH - BASED COMMUNITIES, PLACES OF WORSHIP, AND CEREMONIES**

Large gatherings continue to present significant risk for increasing the spread of COVID-19. All faith communities are encouraged to provide remote services and choose not to open or host large gatherings. If there is evidence of COVID-19 spread within your faith community, you may be advised to stop offering in-person services until it is safe to return. Contact your local or state health department for further guidance in these situations.

This guidance applies to a variety of gathering spaces and is based on space size, predictability and flow of movement, duration of time in designated shared space, and the potential spread of COVID19 at large gatherings, even when precautions are taken.

The above information is from Governor Tim Walz. Bemidji United Methodist Church is following Bishop Ough's Plan to re-open along with the State of Minnesota. The Conference is following a 5 phase plan and we are currently in the YELLOW phase, which means:

1. Continue holding online worship, recording from home or the sanctuary with participation from small groups of people.
2. Church staff should work from home as much as possible. If multiple staff are in the office at the same time, they should maintain physical distancing, wear masks and follow safety and sanitizing protocols.

**We are currently in the YELLOW Phase.**

To find out how we get to BLUE and GREEN phases, simply go to:

[www.minnesotaumc.org/regatheringplan.com](http://www.minnesotaumc.org/regatheringplan.com)


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Churches United is a nonprofit organization of Bemidji area churches lead by the Spirit of Christ to work together to meet the emergency needs of homeless and low-income people in a prayerful way.

#### BOARD SECRETARY

Currently, Churches United is without a Board Secretary. Nominations and a vote can occur at the upcoming Member Church Meeting on July 15. If you, or someone you know, would be interested in this position, please let them know.

Call 444-1380 for more information.



**Churches United Current Needs:**  
Food Safe Gloves, Deodorant, Bar Soap,  
Shampoo/Conditioner  
Laundry Soap and Dish Soap



**THERE IS**  
*always, always,*  
**ALWAYS**  
**something**  
*to be thankful for*

# BEMIDJI UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

## CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

10:00 AM – 2:00PM (M – F)

Office Phone: 218-751-3503

Pastor Rob Cell: 218-766-8744

Email Addresses: Church Office [umcbji@paulbunyan.net](mailto:umcbji@paulbunyan.net)  
Pastor Rob: [revrmkopp@gmail.com](mailto:revrmkopp@gmail.com)

Mailing Address: PO Box 607, Bemidji, MN 56619  
Street Address: 924 Beltrami Ave. NW Bemidji, MN 56601

### July Birthdays

July 02- Kari Knudson  
July 05- Teresa Thomas  
July 08- Hazel Geiger  
July 08- Vera Norden  
July 11- Robert Reike  
July 13- Caitlin Pickett  
July 15- Lorne Lofberg  
July 16- Sue Cuperus  
July 17- Toree Conner  
July 22- Carol Gilbertson  
July 22- Ruby Hausauer  
July 22- Linda Wagner  
July 24- Nicholas D'Albani  
July 24- Kristi St. Pierre  
July 27- Mike Albrecht  
July 27- Vince Freborg  
July 27- Mya Nicholson



Bemidji United Methodist Church is still holding Community Table on Wednesday and Thursday evenings at 5:00pm.

A brown bag meal is provided outside on a table. Simply stop by and pick up a meal if you or someone you know would benefit. Community Table is still following COVID restrictions followed by Bishop Ough.

Thank you again to Jane Kilgore, George and Pam Stowe and other volunteers who keep this going in the community.

When George was seen last, he was knee deep, or should I say ELBOW deep defrosting the freezer downstairs so the volunteers wouldn't have to do it.



**JUST A REMINDER....**  
Articles for the August Newsletter are due in to Karen no later than  
**9:00am on Monday, August 17, 2020.**  
You may text, email or call her at  
(218) 766-9700

## Happy Anniversary

July 08- Marshall and Barbara Johnston  
July 12- Seth and Kari Knudson  
July 12- Bob and Linda Wagner  
July 29- Vince and Betty Freborg  
July 31- Tom and Mary Ann Gray



...at Neilson Place: Nelle May and Jean Slinkman  
...at Trillium: Judy Comstock, Lorna Sullivan  
...at Windsong: Wag Collins, Bert Clark, Dotty Naramore  
...at Baker Park: Kathleen Magsam  
...at Havenwood Care Center: Patty Boyer, Mary Conner, Vern Ditty and Betty Howard  
...at Goldpine: Marjory Beck, Laura Hays, Ruby Hausauer, Dorothy Baxter, Helen LeClaire and Dean Lalone (father of Carol Gilbertson)  
...LeeAnn and Jim Hess family for the loss of 99 year old Aunt Cleo Hengstebeck and Cousin Rosemary Utne who also was in her 90's. Both passed within a week of each other.  
...Noli and family  
...Fulton Gallagher  
...Bob Ballard for continued good health  
...For Christopher, from Hibbing, who was injured in a bull ride. He is the Step-Grandson of Bob and Carolyn Ballard.  
...BUMC members, to get through COVID and be able to worship together soon

### Offerings and Misc. Received for June 2020

General Offering..... \$7,215.00  
On-line Giving..... \$1,385.00  
Gale Brooks..... \$100.00

Gale Brooks Memorial.. \$2,515.00 (total to date)  
PIANO FUND..... \$31,750.99.00



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Happy 4<sup>th</sup> of July

**The NEW Konica Copier in the church office was installed Monday, June 29<sup>th</sup>. Very similar in style to the Cannon but this one folds and staples anything in a booklet/ newsletter style. The lease was up on the old machine and this new copier will be more efficient and save the church money as well. Don't be afraid to ask questions if you need to use it. I will type Instructions and post them on the wall.**



**Happy Independence Day America!**



**open hearts  
open minds  
open doors**



Church Staff

**Reverend Rob Kopp**  
Pastor

**Karen Thompson "Bubbles"**  
Office Administration

**Deborah Davis**  
Volunteer & Events  
Coordinator

**Trustees**  
Custodial

**Leisa Bragg**  
Accompanist

**Chancel Choir Director**

*The People of the United Methodist Church*