



VOYAGEUR

April-June 2022

Dear Church Family,

I hope you had a wonderful and blessed Easter. I am looking forward to being with you at the end of my medical leave on May 2, 2022. While my heart arrhythmia has still not resolved, it is being managed. Thank you for your prayers, support, and encouragement over the last few months.

I've had time to reflect on my years of serving as your pastor. It's been a great joy to share life, sing, and worship together. I am thankful for the people who are great leaders of your church, and especially grateful for their leadership through the Healthy Church Initiative. I am proud to have been your pastor.

As Ordained Elders, Michelle and I made a commitment to serve in the Minnesota Conference wherever we are appointed. Pastors itinerate (move from church to church) in our denomination based on the missional needs of the congregations. This is familiar to people who have been in a United Methodist church for a significant amount of time, but may be unfamiliar to those who have not.

In my last letter I shared with you my intention to seek a change of appointment to another church. The Bishop and cabinet were able to meet that request, and Michelle and I will be moving to serve churches which are new to us. We are moving to Virginia, MN. Michelle will be serving Wesley (Hibbing) United Methodist Church while I will serve in Virginia.

Here's the official language announcing this change, with my affirmation: "Bishop David Bard intends to appoint The Reverend Rob Kopp to Peace United Methodist Church in Virginia, MN and I have affirmed this decision. The new appointment will begin July 1, 2022.

Our District Superintendent will use information from our church's profile and past consultations in order to assist the Bishop and Cabinet in making a new pastoral appointment. If necessary, District Superintendent Laurie Kantonen may consult further with our S/PPRC Chairperson or Committee members."

There is some heartache in making this change. I will miss you. I also believe you will find great opportunities to experience God's love through the pastor who will follow me. Your new pastor will assume all of the blessings and challenges of serving as your pastor. May your ministry together be blessed.

God is gracious and good!

Pastor Rob

A Letter from Deborah

Joyous April to each and all of you. What a time we live in! Global shifts, personal growth and changes in our own church might have us reeling at the mighty pace of things. Soon we will have our Pastor Rob back, but only for a while. It's always so hard to say goodbye to those who have become so much a part of our lives. I will miss our philosophical talks, the wild rush of Sunday mornings, and the wacky soundboard challenges. I will miss his personal stories and his plain-speaking sermons.

I've been changing too; my healing is progressing, though I'm impatient about the slow pace, and I'm not a good patient to boot. Thank you for your wonderful gifts, cards and phone calls, and thank you SO much for unanimously approving my journey to become an LLP. This operation put a damper on the process, stilled it in many ways, but I do look forward to what God has planned. I am sure God has quite a sense of humour over my plans, and always reminds me that He's running the show, and it's certainly not me.

Meanwhile, I LOVED spending Easter Sunday with you. I'm enjoying getting back to studying and speaking about scripture. It's a humbling experience always how God reveals His wholeness and personality through the Bible. I thoroughly enjoy picking the hymns and the art too. It's always so awe inspiring to see God's handiwork in those who create the things that reveal Him.

I'm ESPECIALLY excited to see what God has in store for this magnificent congregation. We have so many precious people and a bounty of resources. In whatever way God chooses, I look forward to being in your presence in whatever way God's plan is revealed. Bless you today and always. You are never alone and are deeply and profoundly loved.

Deborah Davis,
Administrative Coordinator/Interim Pastor

Bemidji Methodist Women

Bemidji Methodist Women (BMW) meet monthly September through May, usually in the church lounge. They will be having their May meeting on Wednesday, May 18 at 9:15 AM. Dan Sherman, a member of our local Master Gardeners group, will be the guest speaker. Hostesses will be Ginger Tibbetts and Janet Miller; Verna Lofberg will provide devotions.

BMW members are currently collecting UPC bar codes from Our Family brand products that are purchased from local grocery stores. These are worth \$.05 per unit, which will be sent to the Bemidji Food Shelf.



News from Community Table

We are unable to serve meals inside our dining area yet. We are looking at reopening indoor dining soon and will let everyone know as soon as we are. We continue to need plastic grocery bags if anyone has any. Also, please keep Ann Campbell our main Wednesday cook in your prayers as her beloved brother, Tim Campbell passed away unexpectedly in early March. If anyone would like to volunteer on Wednesdays, we could use servers from 4-6. It would not have to be every Wednesday. If interested let Jane Killgore 218-760-6300 know or leave a message with the church office. Thanks for all the support the congregation has provided. A special thanks to Judy Dvorak who helps almost every Wednesday.

Game Night



A fun time for ages 15 - ??, Game Night is usually held at the church on the 2nd Saturday evening of the month, from 5:30 until 8:00 pm. We do not meet in June, July or August because most folks are busy with summer activities.

We have been having May game night at the Young's screened-in porch, if there are enough coming (At least 8 need to attend). We have brats and burgers, and people bring other parts of a picnic pot luck. Then we play games on card tables set up in the porch. We need to know by **May 7th**, (Game night being the next **Saturday, May 14th**). I also need to know what type of food each person or couple plans to bring, so we do not end up with only desserts! We may have to ask for the loan of card tables and/or folding chairs if we get a crowd! So, when you call, please let me know if you could loan these for the evening.

Sue's phone is 218-368-7409 and we live at 129 Pine Crest Court NW, about 3 blocks north of Bob Lowth Ford.

Casual Knitting Group

If you like to knit or crochet, or would like to learn, you are invited to attend our casual knitting group.

The group meets on Monday afternoons from 2 -3:00. It is not a class, but we do help each other. We have some beginners and some pros, so questions and help are very common! We also



We also welcome both women and men! We had several men help us out when we made scarves for the Conference - they were very cheerful learners and each knitted at least one scarf! We do not meet in the summer months, but have a cozy room off the Upper Room upstairs in the church to meet from September through May. If you are a seasoned knitter or crocheter or are just learning or somewhere in between, and would enjoy making

your craft and visiting please call Sue Young at 218-3608-7409. We would welcome some more people!!

Adult Sunday School

We are still studying "an Indigenous Peoples history of the United States" by Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz. Anyone is welcome to attend even if you have not read the book. We are also considering our next topic or book to continue with Adult Sunday School. **If anyone has any suggestions for our next book or topic, please let Jeff Anderson or Jane Killgore know.** A message could be left with the church office as well. A special thanks to Marcia Roline, who taught our discussion book in Red Lake.

Square Dancers



There is a Square Dancing group that meets at the church. Anyone who would enjoy participating or watching is welcome! There will be two dances in May – on **Friday the 6th** and **Sunday, May 22nd**. Any questions, talk to Jeff or Charlene Anderson.



Prayer Shawl Knitters

A group of our knitters gather on the second Wednesday of each month and knit Prayer Shawls that are given to those who need an extra comfort in time of need or a soft and cozy cuddle in recognition of baptisms or other special events. The group meets at 4:00 and would welcome anyone who would like to join them. Contact Angie Dahlberg at 218-760-5157 for further information.

BIRTHDAYS!!

APRIL

Carol Larson	01
Jim Howard	02
Diane Morris	05
Rayni Gullette	10
Randy Burg	11
Geordan Stowe	11
Rev. Robert Kopp	12
Jane Killgore	19
Ken Nichols	20
Mary Burghart	21
Bunny Howe	21
Kathy Strycker	22
Fran Anderson	23
Carol Steigauf	23
Annika Knudson	25
Janet Miller	28



MAY

Larry Young	04
Cheyenne Stowe	06
Alec Hess	09
Thomas D'Albani	12
Rick Parkos	14
Glenn Seibel	16
Rev. Michelle Miller	17
William Knudson	21
Kendall Dahlberg	22
Darren Kimble	29

JUNE

Deborah Davis	05
Marshall Johnston	06
Carol Rieke	06
Sandra Kranz	07
Helen LeClaire	08
David Swenson	09
Sue Young	12
Carol Nielsen	14
Merlyn Wesloh	17
Bob Wagner	18
Gunard Youngdahl	19
Leroy Morris	21
Tiffany Holt	25
Jaci Erickson	27
Pam Jorstad	30
Dave Larkin	30

Aid to Ukraine?

As I see pictures from the war in Ukraine, pictures of World War II destruction flash before my eyes. I am pained for the people of Ukraine. That so many have fled or have been displaced within the country is mind boggling. I am pained. That war crimes have been committed, I have no doubt. The inhumanity that comes with war seems inevitable. But then, to me **war** is a crime.

I feel a twinge of guilt as I realize that in some way I am simply thankful that this is not happening to me, to my home, to my country. But it is happening to my world, to OUR world. And, in some way, we are all affected, if none other than in the pain we feel. What a horrible, horrible waste of human life, of earth's resources, of oxygen and carbon as the bombs and fire turn them into carbon dioxide, contributing to climate change. And then, there is the money that each strike wastes. Money that could be used to HELP, not harm, people.

Ukrainians are suffering inexplicably NOW. They need help now in the form of food, clean water, heat, electricity, a place to live and be safe in the bombed-out desert of destruction. But, what can I do; what can WE do? I feel there is precious little that I can do, BUT, if I could do just a tiny bit, and you could do a tiny bit, and if all could do their tiny bit, our cohesive effort could help! Ukraine will need help for a long, long, long time to recover their lives, no matter what the ultimate outcome of this sad power struggle may be!

So, what can WE do? Don't you feel a little like the little drummer boy, "what can I give"? I am convinced that there are things we can do! If you are interested in joining an ad hoc committee to consider what we might do, please give Diane Morris a call (218-224-2510) or connect with me in church. Thanks so much, in advance, for your interest.