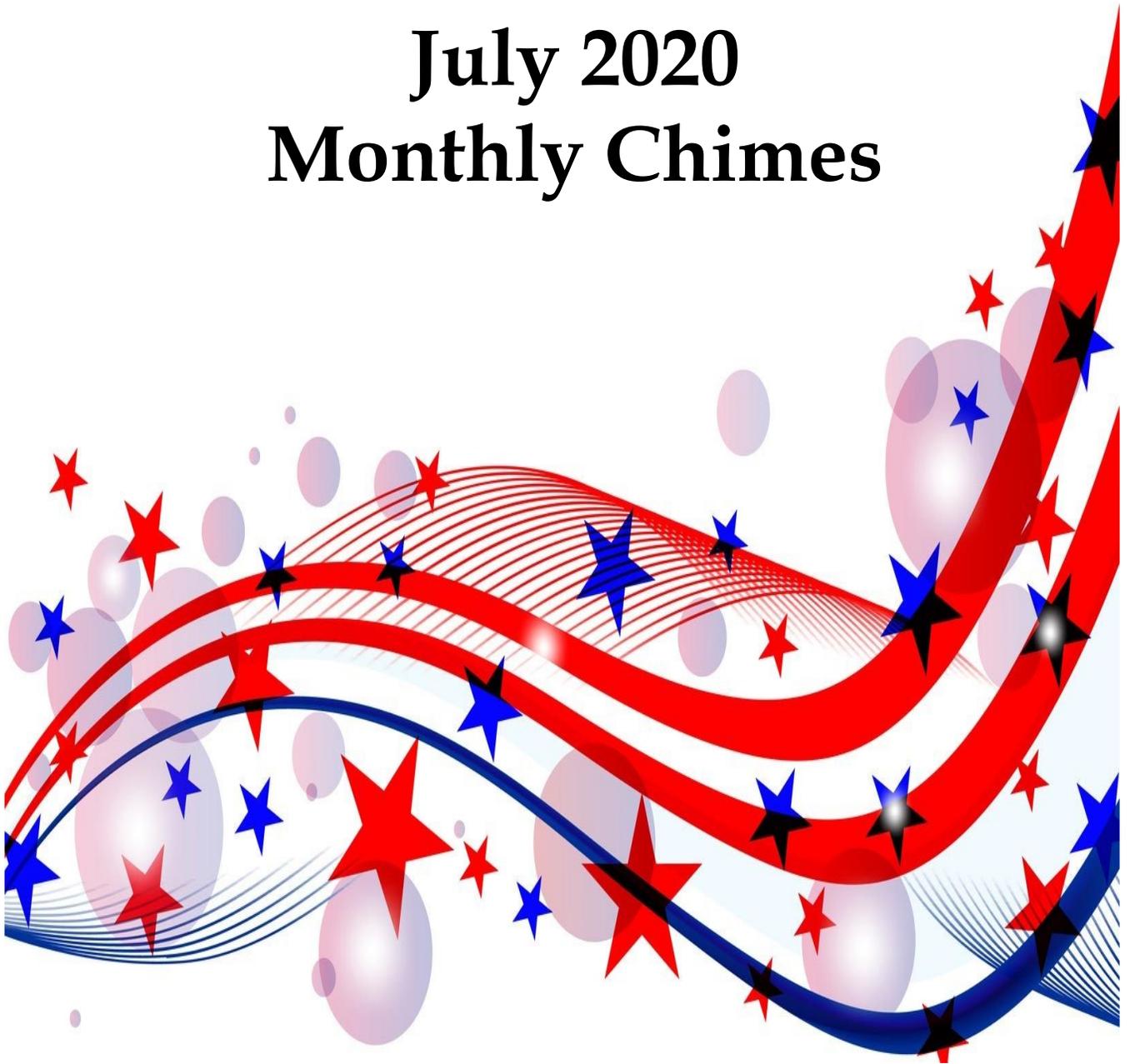


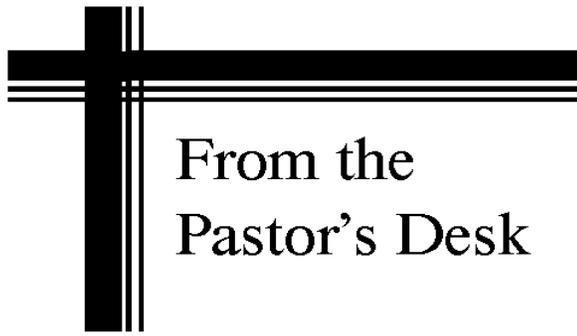
Concordia United Methodist Church

July 2020 Monthly Chimes



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From the Pastor's Desk

This is a day of new beginnings,
time to remember, and move on,
time to believe what love is bringing,
laying to rest the pain that's gone.
Christ is alive, and goes before us
to show and share what love can do.
This is a day of new beginnings;
our God is making all things new.

One of my favorite hymns is Brain Wren's beautiful composition "This is a Day of New Beginnings." I love the juxtaposition between the sadness of leaving behind the past and the hope of welcoming in the present and the future. I love its beautiful lyrical melody and its calm assurance of goodness to come. Wren wrote this hymn to be sung for New Year's services and it serves as a constant reminder of the boundary between past and present. But whenever I hear this hymn, I can't help but giggle just a bit to myself as I remember the last time, I saw my Dad attempt to choose this beloved hymn.

On my Dad's first Sunday beginning ministry at his last church, my Dad and I got up early in morning and drove together to church. I was already in seminary when he took his last appointment and happened to be home on summer break. As we arrived, I remember being in awe of his quiet nervousness and hoped that one day I could live up to his example. He began the service with his usual warmth and energy and was doing an absolutely flawless job leading worship, when he asked the congregation to join with him in singing this very hymn, "This is a Day of New Beginnings." Well, what my Dad didn't know was that Snuffy, the church's pianist, was amazing at learning music by ear, but he couldn't read a single note of music. Snuffy could play every gospel hymn known to man and had an impressively large repertoire of music that he could summon from memory at a moment's notice, but he had never heard "This is a Day of New Beginnings" and so it was simply not going to happen. Snuffy asked my Dad if he had a second choice song and for a millisecond my Dad stood in utter confusion, until they both broke into spontaneous laughter. In that moment what started out as a confusing beginning turned into a wonderful and warm friendship.

I have been at Concordia UMC for a year now and in all honesty, this has not exactly been the beginning I expected. There have been moments of laughter, warmth and friendship. There have been moments of sadness, confusion and letting go. And I am going to guess that I have not been alone in these feelings. Never in my wildest dreams did I imagine walking alongside you all during a time when we were unable to use our church building. Never did I imagine a season in the life of the church when we would spend so much time praying for safety and comfort in loneliness. But I still believe that this is a day of new beginnings and that every day God offers us the opportunity to rise again and start anew. In the book of Isaiah God says to the Israelites, "I am the LORD, that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to idols. See, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare; before they spring forth, I tell you of them.' Sing to the LORD a new song, his praise from the end of the earth!"

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Pastor Claire's Letter continued...

Beginnings are always bittersweet moments because a beginning is always a time of letting go. The truth is there are a lot of things we are all struggling to let go of right now and it can be tempting to be overwhelmed by our sadness and grief. But as the hymn "This is the Day of New Beginnings" reminds us, God offers us each day and each day is in and of itself a new beginning. This moment is another opportunity for us to "sing to the Lord a new song." While this time is not the beginning I personally would have chosen, I believe that even in this unexpected time, God is offering us an opportunity to live in hope. I believe God is calling us into new directions as a church and is providing us with opportunities to live out this new day. I pray that even in the midst of this confusing and unexpected new beginning, we can hear the call of God leading us "to show and share what love can do."

Pastor Claire Office Hours

Pastor Claire holds office hours every Thursday from 2:00-3:30 on Zoom. Everyone will receive the link to join Pastor Claire during this time. All are welcome!



Second Quarter Giving Statements

Statements will be sent out the week of July 6th. If you would like a paper copy and normally receive them through mail, please contact Laila at concordiasaukprairie@gmail.com

1st—Sutton Enge
 2nd— Gordon Carncross
 4th— Nolan Carncross
 9th— Dave Dickson
 9th— Cody Paske
 10th— Aaron Lang
 14th— Betty Katzman-Tank
 14th— Amanda Lang
 22nd— Judy Fowler
 24th— Vern Fowler
 24th— Ryker Koenig
 29th— Sam Drescher
 31st— Jan Cole
 31st— John Fritsch
 31st— Jordan Evans

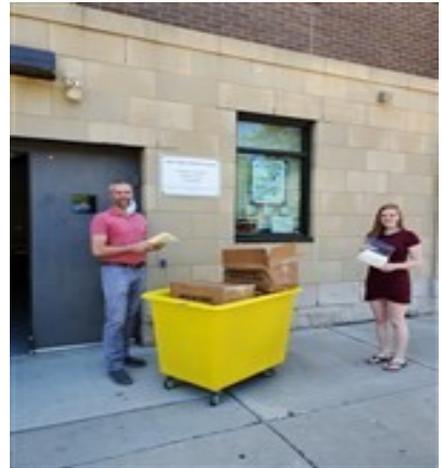
Outreach

Mission...Mercy...Justice

UMCOR Kits delivered!

Thank you Concordia for putting together 45 kits!

Lynnette Jordan, Assistant Disaster Response Coordinator for the Wisconsin Conference, recently delivered 168 UMCOR Hygiene Kits to each of three sites on June 2. Those non-profit sites included Harbor House, United Methodist Children's Services of Wisconsin and Northcott Neighborhood House. Supplies gathered from the UMC collection sites around the state were processed at Midwest Mission Distribution Center for quality control. Jordan shared that the health and welfare agencies and homeless shelters who have received hygiene kits have been both very busy and very grateful for the donations. Many thanks to those who contributed either entire kits or supplies for kits.



Concordia UMW Masks Available!



UMW has sewn a stock pile of masks that are ready for members if they are needed. Contact either Marty Virchow or Mary Clark if you need a mask and we can arrange delivery.

MELODIES OF COMPASSION

The loose coin offerings for the months of July and August will go to United Methodist Children's Services in Milwaukee. If you would like to make a contribution to the MOC while worship services are suspended, please indicate that in your offering mailed to the church or by using the Vanco App. Thank you for supporting UMCS!



Nurture Team Congregational Care Spiritual Formation

Prayer Circles on Zoom

You will be receiving some zoom invites to join other members at friends from Concordia to pray together. The sessions are intended to last 15-20 minutes.

Youth Group Virtual Mission Trip to Peru!

July 12-19 on Zoom-

Daily Devotions

Sunday- 7:00pm Worship

Monday- History of Peru

Tuesday- the work of the UMC in Peru

Wednesday- 7:00pm Bible Study

Thursday- Medical Projects in Cusco Region

Friday- Make a Peruvian Recipe

Saturday- Tour Machu Picchu and The Sacred Valley of Lima

Sunday- 7:00pm Closing Worship

Experience a new culture, discover missions, intentional learning and discovery about Peru, its people, faith, food, culture, history, beauty and more!

To register contact Laila Drescher
concordiasaukprairie@gmail.com

Living Out Our Faith

Concordia invites you to join this small group on Saturday mornings at 8:00am. The group meets to pray, read scripture and discussion on how our faith is growing every day. All are welcome to attend. If you are interested, please contact Laila at concordiasaukprairie@gmail.com



Christ caring for people through people

**STEPHEN
MINISTRY**

Our Congregation offers Stephen Ministry to provide confidential, one-to-one Christian care to people who are going through a difficult time. A Stephen Minister is a well-trained caregiver who listens, cares, prays, encourages and offers the love of Christ during a time of need.

If you would like to talk to a Stephen Minister during this time of social distancing, please contact Pastor Claire at 608-338-8084
pastorclairedouglass@gmail.com

Witness

Worship, Hospitality, & Telling the Story



Sunday Fellowship On Zoom!

Join us on Sunday mornings at 10:00am on Zoom for Fellowship time! Bring your own coffee or beverage and click on the link or call in to talk with friends from Concordia. The link is sent weekly!

Sunday Worship

In the month of July, we will continue to share our Worship on Zoom and DVD (sent to those by request or without internet). The service will be posted on Facebook on Sunday morning and a link sent out via email. If you need help accessing the service, contact Laila.

Coming Soon: Drive Thru Communion

Keep an eye out for a date for drive thru communion in the month of July or August. Sign up for a time slot, bring your own bread product and liquid and celebrate God's table and pray with Pastor Claire from the comfort of your car. More information coming soon.



Zoom Communion

Join Pastor Claire on Sunday July 12, 2020 at 1pm for prayer time and communion over zoom. Gather your own bread product and liquid, bring your prayer requests and we will spend time as a community celebrating at the table of Lord



United
Methodist
Women

FAITH • HOPE • LOVE IN ACTION

United Methodist Women

Notice: Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the in person Wisconsin Conference UMW Annual Gathering scheduled for Oct. 16 and 17 at First UMC- Baraboo has been cancelled. A virtual meeting on **Sat.**, Oct. 17 is being planned. More information will be coming out about the virtual opportunity.

UMW Announcement for the Bazaar

The UMW Bazaar Committee met, and after much discussion we have decided to cancel our Annual Holiday Bazaar for November 2020. We are considering some other ideas and options that we will be sharing with everyone in the near future. We are looking at ways to help some of the organizations and missions that we have supported in the past. We realize these missions may need our help more than ever this year.

Stay tuned for more announcements.





Take Time to Talk, Prepare to Act

7

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:

*a time to be born, and a time to die;
a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;
a time to kill, and a time to heal;
a time to break down, and a time to build up;
a time to weep, and a time to laugh;
a time to mourn, and a time to dance;
a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together;
a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;
a time to seek, and a time to lose;
a time to keep, and a time to throw away;
a time to tear, and a time to sew;
a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;
a time to love, and a time to hate;
a time for war, and a time for peace. (Ecclesiastes 3:1-8)*

We can be better. We **MUST** be better. And the only way this can happen is if we all work together to bring about revolutionary systemic change. It is time. The COVID-19 global pandemic occupied almost all of our time and attention, interrupted briefly by the Ahmaud Arbery tragedy and the killing of Breonna Taylor. Then, the senseless and brutal murder of George Floyd knocked the 24-hour news cycle reporting of the pandemic almost completely off the screen, and our country erupted in protests for justice, for retribution, for restoration, and above all for change. The mask was ripped away revealing the deeply seated, pervasive, and highly resistant racism at the core of our culture.

For some, the issue of race is so huge and overwhelming that they don't want to face it. Many still deny that racism is much of an issue in the United States. A few are actually proud of their racism and believe that there are qualitative differences between nations, races, and cultures. Too many believe that racism is simply too difficult to address and that nothing much will ever change. For Christians, at least, apathy and indifference are not options. The people of God, baptized in Christ, filled by the Holy Spirit, are agents of God's mercy, love, peace, justice, equity, compassion, and grace. It is impossible for Christians to stand by and say, "this is not our issue." Any time a child of God is abused, oppressed, unjustly treated, or violated; it is the responsibility of every Christian to get involved.

At the 2019 session of our Wisconsin Annual Conference, we overwhelmingly supported requests to address racism in our churches and communities. One of the reasons that this is so important for us – and actually a request that we should actively enjoy engaging in – is that 40% of appointed clergy in the Wisconsin Conference represent racial and ethnic minority populations. We have excellent Hmong, Korean, Hispanic, Latino, African, African American (and a variety of other ethnicities including but not limited to Italian, German, Indian, Filipino, Myanmarese...) pastoral leadership. We have an abundance of cross-cultural appointments that celebrate the diversity of our Annual Conference. But diversity can be a two-edged sword. It is a joy to gather together as an Annual Conference and see the rich diversity of races, languages, nations, ethnicities, and heritages represented in the room. We are truly a global faith community.

But if all diversity does is highlight our differences, then it fails to bring about change. Having colorful threads in a bunch may look nice, but until and unless they are woven together in a tapestry, they have not achieved their full potential. The non-political definitions of pluralism could shape our vision: while diversity focuses mainly on how we are different, pluralism focuses on how much better we are together than apart.

Continue on next page

A true and healthy pluralism is synergistic – everyone contributes their unique history, culture, and gifts to the greater whole, which in every way is more than the sum of its parts. Our diversity should not simply be an appearance, it should strengthen the very foundations upon which we do our ministry. We are the beautiful tapestry of God, woven together through Christ and the Holy Spirit.

So, how do we change? I want to offer a few simple reflections to guide our Wisconsin Conference and to encourage the vital leadership of all of our clergy and laity:

1. Make intentional time and space for conversation (electronically or safely in appropriate gatherings as we begin to move toward reentering our churches in the months to come) – talk to one another about what has been happening in our country concerning race. However, I want to offer a caution. We must move beyond talk about “racism.” Racism becomes a safe abstraction that allows us to share opinions that fail to lead us to action. We need to be specific about what we want to talk about. Outrage about George Floyd wasn’t just “racism”; it is about “anti-black violence.” We focus on Black Lives Matter instead of a sweet, well-intentioned, but highly misinformed “All Lives Matter” because black people specifically have been singled out for unjust and unjustifiable violence. When we talk about immigration from Mexico for Mexicans and Central Americans, this is not simply “racism”; this is “anti-brown xenophobia and oppression.” In our conversations, we must name what is going on and not hide behind abstract labels. Anti-Asian, Anti-African, Anti-Black, Anti-Brown attitudes and bigotry are indeed all forms of racism, but to fully understand systemic reform, you need to dig through the covering to get to the roots. We should be talking in our churches, between our churches ecumenically, in our circuits and districts, with our communities about issues of racial justice. The more we open space for conversation, where the intention is to share, listen, and better understand, the better we prepare the soil for fertile and fruitful growth.

2. Read and study together – Of course, the Bible, but this pandemic and the time of racial unrest call us back to the Hebrew Testament and the many ways plague and ethnic clashes defined “normal” life. Our Council of Bishops and the leadership of the Wisconsin Conference are reading the book *We Want to Do More Than Survive*, by Bettina Love. Two other excellent resources are Ibram X. Kendi’s, *How to Be an Antiracist*, and Jennifer Harvey’s, *Dear White Christians*. These are just a few excellent places to start to gain good information that provides a basis for productive, rich, and transformative conversations.

3. Reach out to your community organizations that are actively engaged in multi-cultural, racial/ethnic, mercy and justice work – Our United Methodist Churches do not mirror the communities in which they exist in well over 80% of our current locations. Wisconsin United Methodist Churches rarely represent the diversity present in the city, township, or suburb in which they are located. If we only talk to ourselves, we limit the amount of change we can expect. This is a priority time for community engagement. Our congregations need to actively seek to take their place at the table in the civic life of the community. We will open our hearts, minds, and doors to a full panorama of race, language, heritage, culture, and life if we will simply engage in conversation with our larger communities.

If we will begin with just these three things, I believe we will see God work the miracle of transformation in our churches. We will discover a wide range of new ministry possibilities that engage us in the work of racial justice and systemic change. We will be moved from the abstract to the concrete. We will become doers of the word in addition to being faithful hearers. We will become the God-called, God-inspired, God-intended catalyst for change that fulfills our mission to “make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.” The time has come. The time is now. Let us be better, together.

Grace and Peace,
Bishop Hee-Soo Jung

GIVING

The Only Constant In Life Is Change

No woman/man steps into the same river twice. For it is not the same river and she/he is not the same woman/man. - Heraclitus of Ephesus

What will church be like after the pandemic? We should plan for it to be different. The Israelites returned from exile to rebuild the temple, as well as their religion. However, neither was the same as it had been.

Around the same time, the Greek philosopher Heraclitus noted that, "The only constant in life is change." No one can step into the same church twice, especially post-Covid-19. In the post-Covid-19 church:

Worship will be online. Most churches find that the number of links to online worship is greater than their average attendance before the epidemic. Who would go back to serving fewer people? Therefore, we will have in-person and online services. However, we will need new ways to reaching out to people who may not live nearby.

Buildings will be less important. We spend a quarter to a third of our budgets on physical properties. That will likely change, though slowly.

Time will be less important. Many churches record their worship and people can watch anytime. No more will our churches be able to ignore those who work, travel, or spend time with family on Sunday mornings.

How you support the church will change as well. You may not be present, but God will still be working through the church. Thus, your giving will have to be digital.

How we relate to the community will change. We will have to be more adaptable to changing circumstances. For example, right now a famine is starting. As food grows scarce, rising prices thrust many families into famine-like circumstances. How will our church help feed others, not just at home, but around the world?

Jim Wells, Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation

Since we have received the closure recommendation from the state, at the end of every service we have sung about how Concordia UMC is not the building, but its people. The people of Concordia are meeting and doing wonderful ministry in this unexpected time of changes. To continue to support the ministry of Concordia and those we support around the world, you can give in two ways:

- You can give using the Vanco App- Give plus. You can give a one time gift or ongoing

- You can mail your offering to:
Concordia United Methodist Church
585 5th Street
Prairie du Sac, WI 53578

GIVEPLUS⁺
YOUR CHURCH GIVING APP

The mail has been picked up and secured. Thank you for all the ways you support Concordia UMC.



July 2020



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 8:00pm Youth Group on Zoom	2	3	4 8:00am Living out our faith
5 10:00am Fellowship on Zoom	6 6:00pm Covid-19 Task Force Meeting	7	8 5:00pm Youth group at Food Pantry	9 2-3:30 Pastor Claire office hours on Zoom	10	11 8:00am Living out our faith
12 10:00am Fellowship on Zoom 7:00pm Youth Virtual Mission Trip to Peru opening worship	13	14 6:00pm Finance 7:00pm Church Council	15 7:00pm Youth Virtual Mission Trip to Peru Mid-week worship	16 2-3:30 Pastor Claire office hours on Zoom	17	18 8:00am Living out our faith
19 10:00am Fellowship on Zoom	20 7:00pm Nurture Meeting	21 6:00pm SPRC Meeting	22 8:00pm Youth Group on Zoom	23 2-3:30 Pastor Claire office hours on Zoom	24	25 8:00am Living out our faith
26 10:00am Fellowship on Zoom	27	28 9:30am WCC at Junge Park	29	30	31	