

Pastor Drollinger's
Devotionals for September 28-Oct. 4, 2020
Devotionals will be available on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays.
On-Line Worship will continue on Sunday mornings.



Carol Tracy's sister-in-law, Hazel Wright, has been put in the hospital and is on a ventilator with COVID-19. As most of you know, Hazel has many compromising illnesses which make this very serious for her. Any and all prayers are much appreciated. Praying that the Lord wraps his healing arms around her.

Please continue to lift Laurie Goeman's "sweet momma," Alverna Lewis, up in prayer. She is hospitalized in Critical Condition with COVID-19. Laurie's sister, Donna, also has COVID-19, although, presently, she is asymptomatic.

Please pray for the family of Diane Krueger, Illa Russell's cousin, who passed away a few days ago. Prayers of comfort and strength at this difficult time.

Please keep Gail Laudenslager's husband, Ron, in your prayers. He was in St. Joseph's Hospital last weekend with a serious infection. Please pray for comfort and healing.

Carol Mueller has taken a fall and is now at the Chippewa Manor. She will be seeing doctors today, Friday, Sept. 25th, for her leg and she is also experiencing heart issues. She is quarantined for the next 14 days as a COVID precaution at The Manor.

Please remember the family of Diane Harp, Hallie UMC. Diane's sister passed away Saturday, Sept. 19th. Prayers of comfort and peace at this difficult time.

An update on Jacey Lea's father, Jim. He had pneumonia in both lungs and a blood clot in one lung. He was treated at the VA Hospital in Minneapolis. He is now at home. Jacey's dad has Crohn's Disease. So, anytime he is hospitalized, it is scary. Continued prayers, please.

Please pray for Pastor Steve Ward and family of Siren, WI. His wife, Gail, recently died from COVID. Prayers of comfort for their family.

Please continue to keep a young boy, Sammy, age 5, in your prayers this week. Sammy is the great-nephew of Laurie and Ben Goeman and lives in Texas. He's had two second surgical procedure and has dealt with much infection. There seems to be slow improvement and,

presently, no fever. Please continue to keep this sweet boy in your prayers and pray for healing and “no infections.”

Pray for a successful September Mission as we, once again, collect pairs of shoes for “Soles for Souls” through Sunday, October 11th.

Pray for our October Mission – World Communion Sunday. This offering supports a diverse mix of national and international ethnic young adults to make a global impact for Christ. Half of the offering benefits World Communion Scholarships for graduate students from the U.S. and other countries; the remainder assists Ethnic Scholarships for U.S. and international undergraduates studying in the U.S. and Ethnic In-Service Training.

September 28, 2020 – Day 196

Members and Friends of Hallie and Zion UMC,

Today, I share a Reflection from Bishop Jung:

Therefore, I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord God. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord God. Turn, then, and live. (Ezekiel 18:30-32)

Some Christians have lamented about the coronavirus pandemic, “What have we done to deserve this?” A few have answered that we are being punished for our sinful ways, and the global pandemic is a call to repent. But the God of Israel, the parent of Jesus, and the source of the Holy Spirit doesn’t work that way. Certainly, God calls us to righteousness and to abstain from doing harm to others, but God is not sending plague and affliction upon us. “I have no pleasure in the death of anyone,” Ezekiel reminds us. The “turn, then, and live” is not a threat, but a further invitation to “get yourselves (ourselves) a new heart and a new spirit!”

So, what then is this new heart and spirit? Other prophets offer some excellent interpretation. Jeremiah relates, “I will give them a heart to know that I am the Lord; and they shall be my people and I will be their God, for they shall return to me with their whole heart” (24:7) and, “But this is the covenant that I will make with the House of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people” (31:3). Joel states,

“Then afterwards I will pour out my spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions” (2:28). Jesus himself tells us, “I have said these things to you while I am still with you. But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid (John 14:25-27).

The very Holy Spirit of God is within all who confess Jesus Christ and Lord. The love of God transforms our hearts, moving us from judgment and condemnation to forgiveness and patience. By God’s grace, we are people filled with love and joy, kindness and generosity, mercy and compassion. We are committed to justice, to defending and supporting the poor and marginalized, to feeding the hungry and healing those who suffer. We welcome immigrants and strangers. We visit the prisoner and help them in their redemption and restoration in our communities. We champion all the good that can be done in all the places possible whenever opportunity arises. We are a people of unconditional love and unmerited grace even in the depths of a pandemic because God is working to give us a new heart and new spirit. So my beloved siblings in Christ, turn from doing harm, turn then toward the good, and experience the abundant life God so wants to give.

Prayer: Almighty God, make us new people with new hearts, new spirits, and a new resolve to love all people. Grant us an extra measure of your Holy Spirit that we might be a glory and witness to the world of your amazing grace and beauty. Amen.

Keep shining brightly,

Pastor Don

email: zionumcpastor@gmail.com

cell phone: 920-207-2341



Almighty God, make us new people with new hearts, new spirits, and a new resolve to love all people. Grant us an extra measure of your Holy Spirit that we might be a glory and witness to the world of your amazing grace and beauty. Amen.

Members and Friends of Hallie and Zion UMC,

This is just a small reminder that we are in the process of collecting shoes for the Soles4Souls Mission. We are continuing to collect shoes during the first 2 weeks of October.

All of the shoes from our drive will go into micro-enterprise programs in developing countries around the world. These programs serve as long-term opportunities to break the cycle of poverty for those in need. When the shoes arrive, they are sorted and, together with our partners, we determine where they need to be sent to make the most impact.

Here's a great short video that explains how your shoes might help someone make a living.
Link: <https://youtu.be/gXX8MUxBc-A>

Hallie is open every Sunday from 8:30 am-10:00 am for shoe drop-off.
Zion is open every Sunday from 9:00 am-12:00 pm for shoe drop off.

Please contact the office if you'd like to make other arrangements for drop off.

We would be happy to send your Financial gifts to Soles4Souls as well.

Thank you for making a difference!



Keep shining brightly,

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September 30, 2020 – Day 198

Dear Friends and Family of Zion and Hallie UMC,

In Philippians, chapter one, we find Paul writing to the early church in Philippi the following:
“I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.”

Today, I share that same expression of joy and of thanksgiving. As a ministry and as a people of Jesus the Christ, our partnership has kept our churches faithful and effective. During the month of October, let me invite and encourage you to support our two areas of outreach.

1. **“Soles 4 Souls”** Bring your good, used shoes to church or drop them off at Pastor Don’s home (1108 Superior Street in Chippewa Falls or call 920-207-2341 for a shoe pick-up). This ministry is blessing many in wonderful ways!
2. Make a financial donation to **“World Communion Sunday.”** This offering supports a diverse mix of national and international ethnic young adults to make a global impact for Christ. Half the money benefits scholarships for graduate students in the United States and other countries, and the remainder assists undergraduates studying in the United States. These monies contribute to healing places of injustice and racial inequalities. (Be sure to note on your check’s memo line – *World Communion Sunday*. We will raise funds for this effort during the entire month of October.

Link to WCS Video: <https://youtu.be/W7EUjvYcBnk>

Keep supporting our local businesses.
Keep our schools and kids in your prayers.
Keep loving your neighbor.
And, last, but certainly not least:
Keep shining brightly!

Pastor Don

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cell phone: 920-207-2341

Friends and Family of Zion and Hallie Ministries:

October is Pastor Appreciation Month – We will acknowledge Pastor Drollinger with a short video on Sunday, October 11th, Pastor Appreciation Day.

Pastors have an awesome responsibility that they don't take lightly. Pastors dedicate their lives to serving others by preaching and teaching the word of God and bringing souls to Jesus Christ. The job gets tough, but those who are dedicated and committed rest in the assurance that they are doing what God has called them to do.

Perhaps more than ever in these difficult times, your pastor is working hard to keep the ministries in your congregation going. We all know that issues such as hunger and homelessness do not stop because of COVID-19.

So how can we thank Pastor Don?

- Take time to send him a card. Pop it in the mail this week!

Pastor Don Drollinger
1108 Superior Street
Chippewa Falls, WI 54729

— or —

- Send him an email thank you message of appreciation: zionumcpastor@gmail.com

A financial gift to honor Pastor Don:



The [#IGiveUMC](#) campaign will highlight clergy and the blessings they offer to our families, communities and churches. You can show your appreciation by supporting your own local United Methodist church and the ministries provided in the community with a donation. **Donors are encouraged to give to their own congregation in appreciation of their pastor** who has made a difference in their life and then express your reasons for giving on social media. If you're writing a check, please write "pastor appreciation" in the memo line.

Thank you everyone!
Carol Dean

email: zion54729@yahoo.com

October 2, 2020 – Day 200

Greetings, Friends and Family of Zion and Hallie UMC,

In the book of Isaiah, chapter 40:25-28, the prophet of God speaks these words on God's behalf:

“²⁵ To whom then will you compare me, or who is my equal? says the Holy One.²⁶ Lift up your eyes on high and see: Who created these?

He who brings out their host and numbers them, calling them all by name;
because he is great in strength, mighty in power, not one is missing.

²⁷ Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel,

“My way is hidden from the Lord, and my right is disregarded by my God”?

²⁸ Have you not known? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God,
the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary;
his understanding is unsearchable.”

In the midst of political debates, in the midst of COVID-19, in the midst of very personal brokenness and hurt, in the midst of anything the world can throw our way, let me remind and encourage you that God is still creating, healing and sustaining. Consider the changing colors and the beauty of the trees. Consider the geese flying south, the return of brisk temperatures. Consider the kindness of friends, the abundance of good food, refreshing water, and warm homes.

To whom do you think brings these blessings and these gifts? Is it not our Creator God who is the everlasting God and the Creator of the ends of the earth? Take time to enjoy the cool temps and beautiful colors. Take time to give thanks and experience the joy of the Lord in places and moments of friendship and nature.

Remember in prayer:

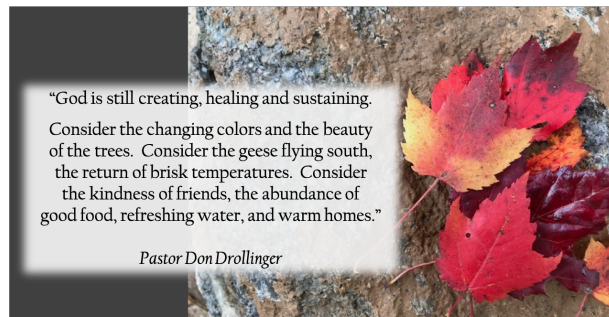
Please take a moment to lift Laurie Goeman's "Sweet Momma," Alverna Lewis, up in prayer. She is hospitalized in Critical Condition with COVID-19. Also pray for Laurie's sister, Donna, who also has COVID-19, although, she is currently not showing symptoms.

Keep shining brightly,

Pastor Don

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October 4, 2020 – Day 202

Good Sunday Morning, Friends and Family of Zion and Hallie UMC,

Today, we will begin a 4-week preaching series with a study on the book of James. You will be invited to become a student and, from the Bible, James will be our teacher. In these very difficult times that we live in, the lessons we learn will bless us in wonderful and life changing ways. This week's lesson is from James 1:17-27. The primary verse is the following: "My dear brothers, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, for man's anger does not bring about the righteous life that God desires."

I hope you find blessing in our time of praise and worship today. Be sure to listen to the music and message by our Acoustic Grace praise team.

Link to Online Worship: <https://youtu.be/n7Sje68xAD8>

"Right Now," sung by Acoustic Grace

As my mother would often say, "there's no time like the present!" As I reflected on this old adage, the words "right now" kept coming to mind as I began to create this simple piece of music. What can we do "right now?" Well, we can take time to sing or time to pray. We can take time to be grateful, to love, to serve, to show compassion, to learn or to be inspired. We can take time to forgive and find forgiveness in God's grace. Truly, there's "no better time than this!"

After spending years accompanying choirs and leading people in musical worship – traditional, blended, and contemporary – I'm making a conscious effort to take time, right now, to find my own musical voice through composition. Even though I possess a "thimble full" of musical talent, I continue to be surprised at how God has used my musical offerings to bless others.

What are you waiting for?
How about taking the time "right now!" Carol Dean

Musical Link: <https://youtu.be/tkNNKO-uaRY>

Keep shining brightly, *Pastor Don*