

Pastor Drollinger's
Devotionals for July 13-July 26, 2020
Devotionals will be available on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays.
Worship Words and Videos will continue on Sunday mornings.

July 13, 2020 – Day 119

Greetings to Friends and Family of Hallie and Zion UMC,

Today, our devotion comes from our church's District Superintendent, Rev. Barbara Certa-Werner. Enjoy her thoughts and have a great start to a new week.

Reflection for July 13, 2020 by Barbara Certa-Werner

God says, "Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth" Psalm 46:10.

A couple of weeks ago, I went on a camping vacation with my family. We decided to go to the United Methodist Camp, Wesley Acres, in North Dakota. The camp, which is usually filled with campers, noise, and actions, was eerily quiet - even without internet and cell service!

One afternoon, I decided to go and sit and swing in the camp hammocks. As I laid back and got comfortable, I gazed up and spotted a camel, then an angel sitting next to a mushroom, and then a bow and arrow. As you might have guessed, I was cloud watching. I was fully in this moment, listening to the gentle breezes that morphed the clouds from one image to the next.

After a while, I realized that I had not cloud-gazed in years - probably not since my kids were young. I miss this time of just being: swinging in the breeze, looking around, and allowing my imagination to run free. This was an intense God-moment for me: my soul was at peace, my mind was not preoccupied with things that needed to be done, or worries of things yet to come, and my body was relaxed.

In this very moment, God speaks to my being, inviting me to, "Be still and know that I am God." This time I answered that invitation by listening, seeing, and feeling the moment. I am given a gift beyond measure – a rejuvenation that reaches into the very depth of my being and creates connective stillness.

Friends, we are invited by the Almighty to intentional times of rest, sabbath, and renewal. We need times to connect with our Creator, Savior and Sustainer. I am including a link of cloud formations, to encourage you to see what you are missing and to invite you to stop and look up. God has a wonderful gift of stillness and assurance for you in the clouds.

Link to Cloud video: <https://www.youtube.com/embed/ydviUcOkN6w>

Keep shining bright,

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July 15, 2020 – Day 121

Greetings to Friends and Family of Hallie and Zion UMC,

There is so much going on in our world today that is difficult, political, challenging, and just plain stinks. Today, I want to invite us to pray for our school systems and the decisions they must make regarding their fall re-opening plans. Should the schools be open, partially open, or on-line? What is safe? What will work? What if the virus hits our children, teachers, or others in the school system? There is so much at risk. So, my invitation today is to pray for guidance and good discernment regarding the re-opening of our school systems. Pray for our teachers, administrators, bus drivers, coaches, crossing guards, helpers, and all who assist in educating and caring of our students.

Dear Lord,
Keep them safe.
Help them grow strong.
Surround them with good people.
Help them find joy.
Amen!

Keep shining bright,

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July 17, 2020 – Day 123

Greetings to Friends and Family of Hallie and Zion UMC,

Happy Friday morning to you all. I hope you and your family have a great weekend. I also hope you have a safe weekend with very little or no spread of the COVID-19 virus. Just a reminder that some very important people in our state and nation have now suggested that wearing a mask when with other people is very important. President Trump, Dr. Fauci, Governor Evers, Grandma Barb and my granddaughter, Isabelle, all now agree wearing a mask often makes sense.

In Matthew 7:12, Jesus is recorded as saying, 12 “So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets.”

Remember, wearing a mask is not just about protection, it is also about caring for others. Take Care!

Keep shining bright,

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July 19, 2020 – Day 125

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

Today's message grows out of Psalm 105:1-11

To know more hope and joy in life . . .

1. become an Evangelist
2. become a Worship Leader
3. become a Historian

Sermon Link: <https://youtu.be/awZaE9ZozDE>

Be sure and listen to the special song by Acoustic Grace following today's message.

Musical Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=djfW-agNY6o&t=2s>

This is a new music video for the song, "The Earth is the Lord's," composed by Zion UMC worship leader Dan Lea. The song was featured on the 2012 Acoustic Grace CD, "Lift it Up in Prayer."

Many of the nature and wildlife photos were graciously provided by Terry Hays. Others were taken by Acoustic Grace members and their families.

"The Earth is the Lord's," is performed by current and past Acoustic Grace musicians Jacey Lea, vocals; Ed Ebert, vocals; Patty Mewhorter, vocals; Julie Miller, vocals; Randi Lea, vocals and bass guitar, Dan Lea, vocals and guitar; Ben Moore, piano; and Justin Reed, drums.

Keep shining bright,

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July 20, 2020 – Day 126

Greetings to Friends and Family of Hallie and Zion UMC,

Today, our devotion comes from our Bishop Jung. Enjoy his thoughts and have a great start to a new week.

Reflection for July 19 by Bishop Jung

On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and those members of the body that we think less honorable we clothe with greater honor, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; whereas our more respectable members do not need this.

(1 Corinthians 12:22-24a)

As is true with many Greek words and concepts, our English translations leave much to be desired. One such concept, rich and textured in Greek, is a word we translate “respect.” Often, we think of respect as a formality, being tactful and kind to someone in a position of power or prestige. We may be told to “respect our elders,” but we hear “be nice.” Perhaps today, more than ever, we need to recover a much deeper and broader understanding of respect.

Respect is a central feature of many world religions, especially Hinduism and Buddhism. It is said that children in Buddhist households learn respect before they learn any tenet or teaching of their faith. Respect for elders, ancestors, and traditions are of paramount importance in Hinduism. And this was also true historically in Judaism and Christianity. So, what has happened?

True respect, like grace and love, is unearned, undeserved in many cases. In our faith tradition, what we reduce to respect actually holds meaning that includes reverence, adoration, homage, value, honor, and admiration. To respect, biblically speaking, is to raise to glorious heights. To respect one another is to recognize the God and Christ in each person, and to treat that person the way you would treat Jesus in the flesh. Our goal should be to honor, admire, and even adore others – whether they deserve it or not. How might our country, church, and world be different if respect were the foundation upon which we built every relationship? How might we be transformed? And how might this glorify and please our Creator God who gave us to one another to love and respect?

Let us pray: In each of us, O Lord, is the divine seed of your creation. We exist in your image, gathered through our baptism to be the very body of Christ on earth. Help us to treat each other with sacred and blessed respect, seeing Jesus in everyone we meet. We praise you and glorify and ask your blessing in Jesus' name. Amen.



Keep shining bright,
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July 22, 2020 – Day 128

Greetings to Friends and Family of Hallie and Zion UMC,

I was told one of our local radio stations was playing Christmas songs during the month of July...Yes, Christmas in July! The idea was that we needed something to give many of us an emotional boost, during this time of COVID-19. Hmmm, they may be correct. We do need an emotional boost.

JOY TO THE WORLD...YUP, WE NEED JOY!

I'LL BE HOME FOR CHRISTMAS...YUP, so many of our Nursing Home families and friends sure could use a time at home.

JOLLY OLD SAINT NICHOLAS... YUP, we need moments of laughter 😊

HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING... YUP, we need to hear more singing in our churches and schools.

LOVE CAME DOWN AT CHRISTMAS... YUP, it sure did. Actually, the love of God is for all seasons and all times including these times of COVID.

So, if the midsummer times “COVID-19 blues” are getting you down, grab a “Blue Raspberry Slushy” from McDonalds and start singing JOY TO THE WORLD, and you will find some refreshing moments and hope.

Take Care!

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We remember the following individuals in our prayers:

Velma Wesenberg from Zion UMC - Velma is recovering from surgery after a fall resulted in a broken hip.

Jerry Russell, husband of Illa Russell, Hallie UMC, will have a surgical procedure this week.

Patti Boeve, Zion UMC, had surgery on her wrist/arm on Monday. She will be in a cast for 3-4 weeks after surgery. Prayers of comfort and healing.

Carole, sister of Ken Froelich, Zion UMC, Carole's breast cancer has returned after being cancer-free for 15 years.

Jake, grandson of Elmer Sharp, Hallie UMC. Jake was hit by a car on his motorcycle. He has a broken back and some additional broken bones. Prayers for healing, comfort and strength.

Mona, sister, and **Andy**, nephew of Annette Shafer, Zion UMC, who both have COVID-19.

Kent, a relative of Annette Shafer, Zion UMC, who is having surgery.

We rejoice with **Kathy Mohr** who has found relief and healing in a new medication for Lupus.

We pray for **Morgan Crabb** who is healing from an injury.

Karen Lea, Zion UMC, who will have surgery in the near future.

Denny Gezel, Zion UMC, who will have heart surgery (a pacemaker implant) next week on Tuesday.

We pray for everyone impacted by yesterday's storm near Cadott. We pray for safety as many individuals/families, and a local church assess damage and begin their clean-up and repair tasks.

With a grateful heart, Lord, hear our prayers.

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July 24, 2020 – Day 130

Greetings to Friends and Family of Hallie and Zion UMC,

As we continue through this very difficult time for our community, the nation, and, indeed, the world, let us remain a strong people...the church of Jesus the Christ. Keep sending in your offerings, keep helping your neighbors, keep the prayers going, keep the faith, and keep hope burning in your hearts. More than ever, the world needs the people of God to act and be the people of God. Today, I am so thankful for the church's witness to a world that needs the light and healing Jesus can bring. Do not grow weary in doing good. You are needed and making a difference in so many wonderful ways! Thank You!

I Am My Church

My church is composed of people like me.

We make it what it is.

It will be friendly, if I am.

Its pews will be filled, if I help fill them.

It will do great work, if I work.

It will make generous gifts to many causes, if I am a generous giver.

It will bring other people into its worship and fellowship, if I bring them.

It will be a church of loyalty and love, of fearlessness and faith, and a church with a noble spirit, if I, who makes it what it is, am filled with these traits.

Therefore with the help of God, I shall dedicate myself to the task of being all the things I want my church to be.

Submitted by Ann Rodewald

Keep shining bright,

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July 26, 2020 – Day 132

Good Sunday Morning,

Today, our on-line worship experience will include additional worship elements along with my sermon and special music from Acoustic Grace.

For my Sunday message, we will look at Matthew 9:35-10:8. We will discover two important keys to being in effective ministry. Jesus invites us to be a people of ‘Good News’ and a people who are ‘salt and light’ to a troubled world. We will find a greater success or “harvest” in building the community of faith if we practice the following two instructions:

- 1) Ask and Pray
- 2) Share Faith with Family and Friends

“Hello, Lord” is a song about answering God’s call, even though we may not always be listening for it (or we may pretend we don’t hear it!) This new video features many members of the Zion and Hallie UMC congregations answering God’s call to work in the church, the community, and beyond. We thank you all for your efforts!

“Hello, Lord” was composed by Zion UMC worship leader Dan Lea and was featured on the group’s 2012 CD, “Lift it Up in Prayer.” It was recorded by current and past Acoustic Grace musicians Jacey Lea, vocals; Ed Ebert, vocals; Patty Mewhorter, vocals; Julie Miller, vocals; Randi Lea, vocals and bass guitar, Dan Lea, vocals and guitar; Ben Moore, piano; and Justin Reed, drums.

Worship Service Link: <https://youtu.be/7j-QjuE3TRw>

Please remember Shirley Grokowsky, Hallie UMC, and her family in your prayers as Shirley’s husband, Bill, passed away Saturday morning.

Keep shining bright,

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**Together in
Ministry**

1. Ask and Pray
2. Share Faith with
Family and Friends

Matthew 9:35-10:8

