

Pastor Drollinger's
Devotionals for September 16-27, 2020
Devotionals will be available on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays.
On-Line Worship will continue on Sunday mornings.



- 1) Jacey Lea's father, Jim, was hospitalized for a 2nd time in 2 weeks. He was transferred from the hospital in Rice Lake, WI, to the VA Hospital in Minneapolis last night with symptoms of pneumonia. Jacey's dad has Crohn's Disease. So, anytime he is hospitalized, it is scary. Continued prayers, please.
- 2) Please pray for Pastor Steve Ward and family of Siren, WI. His wife, Gail, died from COVID last week. Prayers of comfort.
- 3) 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 underwent a second surgical procedure last week. Please keep this sweet boy in your prayers and pray for "no infections."
- 4) Continued prayers for Norm Francis, best friend of Pastor Don and Barb, who had an eye removed because of an infection. He will need to learn how to work in life with only one eye. Prayers for his recovery and adjustment to this change in lifestyle.
- 5) The many folks (elderly) that are going through a sadness they may have never known as they are separated from loved ones for such a long length of time.
- 6) Prayers of protection during the current road trip Pastor Don and Barb, traveling for two full weeks to the state of Washington to visit Pastor's sister and husband.
- 7) Continued prayers for Ken Froelich's sister, Carole, as she started her chemo and became very worn down.
- 8) Continued prayers for a friend, Missie Rohrscheib, who is a 2nd grade teacher in Augusta. Missie broke her wrist and her knee. She's recovering but must live with "no weight bearing" for about 3 months.
- 9) Continued prayers for all teachers to stay safe and healthy in their classrooms. Specifically, Pray for Jessi Joles, Hallie, and Jacey Lea and Shirley Froelich, , Zion, as they are now teaching in their elementary classrooms.
- 10) Pray for a successful September Mission as we, once again, collect pairs of shoes for "Soles for Souls."

September 16, 2020 – Day 184

Greetings to Family and Friends of Hallie and Zion UMC,

Today, I share a recent “Reflection” from our district Superintendent, Barbara Certa-Werner:

"Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy; then they said among the nations, 'The Lord has done great things for them.'" (Psalm 126:2)

"God has made me laugh, and all who hear will laugh with me." (Genesis 21:6)

"A smile starts on the lips, but a good laugh bursts forth from the soul and overflows and bubbles all around us."- Carolyn Birmingham.

This past week, I noticed that I had not had a really “good” laugh in a while and that I had been neglecting that part of my daily habits. For most of my career, I have included a daily dose of some sort of pun, short skit, bloopers, or joke to help me alleviate stress and enjoy the God-given gift of laughter.

Considering this deficit, I invited the North West District clergy to a “holy laughter” time in which all were invited to share a joke with the group. We laughed, groaned, giggled, and waited in anticipation for the punch line. This laughter was a welcome diversion from the negativity that bombards each of us. Think about what a difference it would make if we would:

- start each day with a smile
- find ways to incorporate laughter and humor into our everyday life
- be intentional about setting time aside to have fun, to relax, to enjoy the life that God has given us
- add laughter to your reading plan, even if it is a pun a day!
- look for the positives in life
- pray - invite God to help you lighten up your days with laughter and joy
- invite others to join you

I invite you to read these words from a Sunday school song as a prayer of joy, “It’s bubbling, it’s bubbling. It’s bubbling in my soul! There’s singing and laughing, since Jesus made me whole. Folks don’t understand it, but I can’t keep it quiet! It’s bubbling, bubbling, bubbling, bubbling day and night!” (Lester Flatt and Earl Scruggs).

Amen!

Keep shining brightly,

Pastor Don

email: zionumcpastor@gmail.com

cell phone: 920-207-2341



September 18, 2020 – Day 186

Greetings to Family and Friends of Hallie and Zion UMC,

Today, I share a recent “Reflection” devotional:

God’s Work Will Be Completed by Jorge Luis Mayorga

“I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the Gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. (Philippians 1: 3-6) New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

Paul begins his letter to the Philippians with great joy, expressing his confidence that God will complete the work of faith and growth in those who are in Christ Jesus. Perhaps Paul's joy in these new Christians at Philippi was that he was seeing them by faith. Not as they were, but as they would be when God's work was done. He was looking at them with the eye of faith. He was sure that He who began a good work in them was going to finish it.

I heard of an artist who called a friend in and asked him to comment on a picture he was painting. He said, "this is my masterpiece. It is beautiful." The man said, "I guess I don't see what you see. It just looks like dabs of different colors to me, without form or anything." The artist said, "Oh I forgot. I'm seeing it as it will be when finished. You are seeing it as it is now."

This is what Paul was doing. He was seeing these Christians as they would be and he thanks God it's going to happen. God uses even those difficult situations in our lives to transform us into the kind of people he wants us to be. Paul’s prayer for his readers is that they may grow in love, in knowledge and insight, and that they may produce the harvest of righteousness.

Prayer: Gracious and Merciful God, help us to find comfort in knowing that you are working in our lives, even to recognize that through the difficult times we are living now you are transforming us into a loving community that care for each other. In Jesus Christ, our Lord we pray, Amen!”

The peace of Christ be with you, Pastor Jorge



September 20, 2020 – Day 188

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

Today's message grows out of the Book of Matthew, Chapter 9, verses 9-13. Matthew, a tax collector, is invited to be a part of Jesus' ministry. Jesus invites Matthew to "come and follow me."

Let me encourage you to do the same as Matthew chose to do. When he was invited to follow Jesus, he accepted the call to believe and trust. Make no mistake that following Jesus will, at times, be difficult and will require sacrifice. Oh, but the joy of trusting and following Jesus; His ways are wonderful. Know a greater peace and a lasting joy... follow Jesus.

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

Worship Service Link: <https://youtu.be/Sg-icaQDZlW>

"From Here to There" is a song written in 2005 by Zion UMC Worship Leader Dan Lea. It is inspired by two pieces of scripture:

Matthew 5:9 - Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

Romans 12:18 - If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.

When people are in conflict with one another, the path to peace can be hard to find. Jesus and the apostle Paul call on us to do our part to be peacemakers in our world.

From "Here to There" is performed by Acoustic Grace musicians Carol Dean, piano and organ; Colin Orth, trumpet; Jacey Lea, vocals; and Dan Lea, vocals, guitar, and bass guitar.

Musical Link: <https://youtu.be/MantIWYVPsU>

Keep shining brightly,

Pastor Don

email: zionumcpastor@gmail.com

cell phone: 920-207-2341



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.

1) An update on Jacey Lea's father, Jim. Jacey's mother brought him to the VA hospital, again, because he was feeling worse. They did tests on Friday, Sept. 18th. The tests indicated he does, indeed, have

pneumonia in both lungs and a blood clot in one lung. They are treating him and we do not know when he will be home. Continued prayers please.

2) Please pray for Pastor Steve Ward and family of Siren, WI. His wife, Gail, died from COVID last week. Prayers of comfort.

3) 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 underwent a second surgical procedure last week. Please keep this sweet boy in your prayers and pray for “no infections.”

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8) Continued prayers for a friend, Missie Rohrscheib, who is a 2nd grade teacher in Augusta. Missie broke her wrist and her knee. She’s recovering but must live with “no weight bearing” for about 3 months.

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10) Pray for a successful September Mission as we, once again, collect pairs of shoes for “Soles for Souls.”

September 21, 2020 – Day 189

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

Today, I share a recent “Reflection” devotional:

The Antidote for Loneliness by Kate Croskery Jones

“If you love me, keep my commands. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever— the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you. (John 14:15-20)

Often a portion of John 14 is read at funerals when we need comfort and feel the deep emptiness and loneliness that comes with the loss of one whom we love. Loss is indeed all around us. Postponed funerals, closed buildings and canceled events compound our loneliness. A dear friend recently pointed out that Bruce Springsteen got it right (grammar aside) and of course Alfred Lord Tennyson before him: “Everybody’s got a hungry heart.”

Everybody's got a hungry heart
Everybody's got a hungry heart
Lay down your money and you play your part
Everybody's got a hungry heart
Everybody needs a place to rest
Everybody wants to have a home
Don't make no difference what nobody says
Ain't nobody like to be alone

Springsteen says we need to do our part. So does Jesus. Jesus promised that our love for him would serve as an antidote for our loneliness. "If you love me, keep my commands." It is our love for Jesus, our acceptance of him that brings our awareness of the Advocate and his presence. This is "our part." It is most apparent in the words from John that love and keeping commands yields the abiding presence of an advocate and his very presence in us. While others will leave us, Jesus won't. This may not take away all the pain of a loss, but Jesus's presence, invited in by our love for him, comforts us and assuages our loneliness. Perhaps this happens through an invitation into deep prayer or the Word, or perhaps as actions we are motivated to take as disciples of Jesus borne of our love for him.

Come and fill our heart with your love, Jesus, that we may connect with you and with one another. Amen."

Keep shining brightly,

Pastor Don

email: zionumcpastor@gmail.com

cell phone: 920-207-2341



September 23, 2020 – Day 191

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

Today, I share a recent "Reflection" devotional:

Reflection from September 22 by Sue D'Alessio

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. (Philippians 2:1-2)

In this letter to the Philippians, Paul seems to be asking: Is there any encouragement in Christ? Is there any consolation from love? Is there any sharing in the Spirit? Is there any compassion and sympathy?

If there is, Paul says to the early church in Philippi, then make my joy complete: get it together – or get together – think and love and work together as one.

How we need this message in these divided and distressed times! Can we find any of these joy-giving questions from Paul?

Where do you find encouragement in Christ? I have experienced it in ways that people are serving and caring for others even in this physically distanced time. Where do you find consolation from love? Consolation has appeared in shared prayers, in the love shared as people support one another through illness and death, through hurt and pain, through hope and celebrations. Where do you find people sharing in the Spirit? I have heard it in our national grieving, remembering, and honoring the gift of the life and service of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg. Where have you discovered compassion and sympathy? It comes when communities join together to make a difference – around ending violence and racism, around recovery from floods and fires, around caring for those who are in deepest need.

And yet, there are still divisions. We still judge and demonize others. The issues which divide us keep us from living into the fulness of what it means to be the body of Christ in the church. There is still so much inequality and suffering and violence in our communities and world. Paul's message is for us as well, to get ourselves together – to think and love and work together as one. This does not mean we have to agree about everything. It does mean that we are called to love more strongly than our disagreement. This does not mean we have to be perfect. It does mean that we are called to be mindful and attuned to one another. How does Paul's message speak to you?

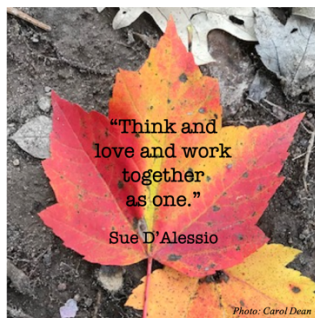
Holy God, may we find new ways to live into Paul's vision of complete joy, as we learn and explore, day by day, better ways to love with full accord and to be of one mind – the mind, the love, the grace and oneness you give us in the Spirit of Christ. Amen.

Keep shining brightly,

Pastor Don

email: zionumcpastor@gmail.com

cell phone: 920-207-2341



September 25, 2020 – Day 193

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

Today, I share a recent “Reflection” devotional from the North West District Superintendent, Barbara Certa-Werner:

One day children were brought to Jesus in the hope that He would lay hands on them and pray over them. The disciples shooed them off. But Jesus intervened: "Let the children alone, don't prevent them from coming to Me. God's Kingdom is made up of people like these." After laying hands on them, He left.
(Matthew 19:13-15, The Message)

This morning I sat in the sanctuary at Faith United Methodist Church in Superior and watched the sun rise through a stained-glass window depicting Jesus holding small children. As the light began to spread across the window, it seemed to burst forth with life. In the silence, stillness, and darkness of the early morning, the light invited me, in this moment, in this place, to come to Jesus as a little child.

I find that the older I get, the harder it is for me to remember how to embrace all that is offered to me as a child. As adults, we are not supposed to shout with joy (except at sporting events), laugh with abandonment, or giggle with anticipation. We need to be guarded, calculated, and suspicious.

This moment with Jesus holding the children and inviting others is what I need right now. I need to be held by God, comforted during these times of tremendous grief and mourning. I embrace this moment of connection and recognize the light that is shining through Jesus, the light-bearer, Who gives me hope, purpose, laughter, and love. It is a “Jesus-inspired” moment – to come and sing, “Jesus loves me this I know, for the Bible tells me so, little ones to Him belong, they are weak but He is strong. Yes, Jesus loves me. Yes, Jesus loves me. Yes, Jesus loves me. The Bible tells me so” (Anna Bartlett Warner). Amen.

Keep shining brightly,

Pastor Don

email: zionumcpastor@gmail.com

cell phone: 920-207-2341



September 27, 2020 – Day 195

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

Today’s worship and music is brought to you by Bishop Jung and the cabinet members of the Wisconsin Annual Conference. Our United Methodist leadership offers an online worship service once a month.

Today, I share a recent cabinet worship service with our church family. Follow this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4j9z-T8luj0&feature=youtu.be>

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email: zionumcpastor@gmail.com

cell phone: 920-207-2341