

Pastor Drollinger's
Daily Devotionals for April 24-May 1, 2020

April 24, 2020 – Day 39

Greetings to Friends and Family of Hallie and Zion UMC,

Today, for my words of devotion and thanksgiving, I will simply express some realities regarding our churches ministry and mission.

We are in our 6th week of closing our buildings to activities and worship. According to experts and government officials, it appears our buildings and activities will be shut down four or more weeks. People have been faithful in sending their offerings to the ministries. We are keeping our heads above water and let me thank you and invite continued financial giving. We have applied for financial stimulus monies to support our staff and payroll expenses.

As you are supporting your families and your churches, please do the best you can to help others. As you are able, please continue to be generous in helping the wonderful missions and community support groups in the Chippewa Valley. Continue checking on neighbors and friends. For some, this time and this battle with the COVID-19 Shut Down is devastating to employment and finances. Our mission's monies and Easter Tree monies are benefitting the Chippewa Falls Mentor Program. In this difficult time, I have to believe our Lord Jesus is smiling when he sees the many places of caring, kindness, and trust in all his loving promises. Stay strong and keep the faith.

*The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
The Lord is good to all, and His compassion is over all that He has made." Psalm 145:8-9*

Keep shining bright,

Pastor Don

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April 25, 2020 – Day 40

Greetings to Friends and Family of Hallie and Zion UMC,

Wow, what a beautiful day we were blessed with on Friday. I hope you were able to get out a bit and enjoy the beauty of the day. As I take my walks, I am seeing more and more spring flowers, especially the dandelions. Well, I guess dandelions are technically weeds, not flowers . . . but, oh my, they sure are a welcome sight this year as so many of us need to see those wonderful signs of Spring.

Spring is here and a hint of normalcy is also not too far away. As we hear chatter about reopening our businesses and economy, please practice those needed Christian virtues of patience and humbleness. If we are not careful and kind, very quickly our attitudes, opinions and comments become more self-centered, more political, and more harmful. We will get through this difficult time and we will be much healthier if we follow the words of James:

¹⁹ My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry. James 1:19

Keep shining bright,

Pastor Don



April 26, 2020 – Day 41

Greetings to Friends and Family of Hallie and Zion UMC,

You are in my prayers today. Let us not grow weary in acts of kindness and prayers for an end to this destructive COVID-19 virus. Our devotion for this Sunday is found on the designated video below. We will use Ephesians 4:7-16 as scripture for our lesson today. After my video message, be sure to check out the song, “Hello. Lord” by our praise team “Acoustic Grace.”

Pastor Don’s Video Message: <https://youtu.be/5PZgX9iFY18>

Musical Link to Hello, Lord: https://youtu.be/qpl_SkwT3UM

Keep shining bright,

Pastor Don

April 27, 2020 – Day 42

Greetings to Friends and Family of Hallie and Zion UMC,

We are in our 42nd day of having our church buildings closed, and many of you have been staying “safer at home” through self-quarantine and social distancing. I think we can all agree this lifestyle really stinks. We are all tired of this stay-at-home protocol. However, most of us here in the Chippewa Valley have not suffered as others have. In our area, a few have been sick, many have lost jobs, and many of our businesses have, indeed, suffered.

In parts of our state and nation, there has been great suffering, great sickness, and even much death. Continue praying for healing and prevention. Continue praying for our people on the front lines of the COVID-19 virus. Pray for our leaders and pray for wisdom and generosity throughout our land. It is getting better, but we have a long way to go.

As President Bush often stated, *“Stay the course.”*

Winston Churchill said, *“Never, never, never give up.”*

Nelson Mandela said, *“I never lose, I either win or learn.”*

Winnie the Pooh said, *“A day without a friend is like a pot without a single drop of honey left inside.”*

I do hope this COVID-19 protocol is safely put away soon. Until that happens, keep practicing the good guidelines and safe practices.

Today, my prayer for you is, soon and very soon, you will know the sweetness of many friends and family hugging, kissing, and celebrating life.

Keep shining bright,

Pastor Don



April 28, 2020 – Day 43

Greetings to Friends and Family of Hallie and Zion UMC,

Yesterday morning as I looked out the window and saw the rain and the dark clouds, I thought to myself, it's going to be a dark and gloomy day. Ten minutes later, my weatherman, Tucker, mentioned something about "April showers bring May flowers." Immediately, I thought, "oh fine, I suppose I should be positive and grateful," even though it was dark and gloomy.

During this time of darkness with the COVID-19 virus, it can be difficult to find the silver-lining or the promise of a better tomorrow. However, and no matter what, the promise of a better tomorrow is true and real. Don't get me wrong, the pursuit of happiness is a very good thing, but the pursuits of faith, hope, and love are even greater. Difficult times, moments of sadness, and even dreams that are broken, will always be a part of the journey of life. Yet, greater still are the promises of God.

*And now these three remain; faith, hope, and love.
But the greatest of these is love.
1 Corinthians 13:13*

Keep shining bright,
Pastor Don



Wednesday, April 29, 2020 – Day 44

Happy 'Hump Day' to all,

Last year a number of women from church would surprise people by secretly putting a "large camel" in people's yards, porches, and/or offices. It had a sign around its neck that said, "Happy Hump Day" from your friends at Zion United Methodist Church.

It was a small, fun gesture that reminded each individual and family that they were thought of. It was fun to receive some unexpected joy in the middle of the week! Hump Day is another way of saying 'it's Wednesday, and we are halfway done with the week and over the hump.'

During this continued journey with the COVID-19 virus, thank you for the many places you have shared some joy and kindness with another. Let me encourage you to keep doing the important little things that help and heal.

My prayer is that today, Wednesday, you know a joy that blesses and brings a smile.

Have a great 'huMp DaY!'

"This is the day that the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it"
Psalm 118:24

VIDEO LINK - Happy Hump Day: <https://youtu.be/KRnfUSgUMsQ>

Keep shining bright,

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April 30, 2020 – Day 45

Greetings to Friends and Family of Hallie and Zion UMC,

Barb and I were driving by Olson's Ice Cream and it was good to see folks out enjoying the sweetness of life. Then, we recognized some of those folks. It was our neighbor, Kelly, and his kids! They were eating some of their ice cream treats and so enjoying themselves that it made us happy just to see their joy.

Please keep doing the good guidelines and staying safe. Slowly, but surely, we will get to a much better place and we will, again, enjoy the goodness and the sweetness of life. Hopefully, we are all learning to be grateful in new ways and perhaps rearranging some of our priorities in life.

Lord God, we continue our prayers for those who are sick, for those who are lonely, and for those who struggle so in life. We pray for healing, for a robust economy, and for those who are sad. We pray, dear Lord, for a new healing, a new hope, and a new joy. And, today, we give thanks for ice cream. Amen.

Keep shining bright,

Pastor Don



May 1, 2020 – Day 46

Greetings to Friends and Family of Hallie and Zion UMC,

As we continue this journey against COVID-19 virus, let us, again, remind ourselves to be vigilant in stopping the spread of this disease. Many throughout our state and beyond have suffered physically, emotionally, and financially. We welcome all people to continue the big and little things that make this journey less hurtful and discouraging. And, yes, we are turning the corner and beginning to move in more positive ways.

Today, let me encourage those who have the ability to help neighbors, businesses, churches, and community outreach programs, to do so in generous ways financially. Jesus made it very clear to his followers that our neighbor is the one who we see is in need.

For all your help, financial contributions, prayers, and kindness...thank you! The big and little acts of caring are making such a difference in the healing of our neighbors and friends.



¹⁹ “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. ²⁰ But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. Matthew 6:19-21

Keep shining bright,

Pastor Don