

Pastor Drollinger's
Devotionals for June 29-July 12, 2020

Devotionals will be available on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays.
Worship Words and Videos will continue on Sunday mornings.

June 29, 2020 – Days 105-106

Greetings to Friends and Family of Hallie and Zion UMC,

Reflection for June 28 by Bishop Jung

When you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. So what advantage did you then get from the things of which you now are ashamed? The end of those things is death. But now that you have been freed from sin and enslaved to God, the advantage you get is sanctification. The end is eternal life. For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 6:20-23)

It is always interesting to me how many faithful Christians, justified by God's grace and sanctified by God's Holy Spirit, still spend so much of their time thinking about sin. And not even really the condition of "sin," but individual acts we have come to consider "sins." Our brokenness, our separation from God through the power of sin, is the whole reason Christ came to earth, died for us, and was raised. Because we cannot be pure and holy and good through our own human efforts, God did for us what we could not do for ourselves. We are the recipients of God's grace, not because we deserve it, but because we don't deserve it. God loves us in spite of, and transcendent of, the condition of sin that separates us.

Those of us who have been blessed to receive grace should never be selfish in that grace, but we should always seek in every possible way to share that grace with others and spread that grace to all the world! God's amazing grace is not given to us alone. God's grace is given to sinners; to all sinners including you and me. And through this unmerited and underserved forgiveness, acceptance, and love, we are sanctified – included in the glory of God and eternal life. Thanks be to God.

Gracious God, hear our prayer. First, we give you thanks for the gifts of justification and sanctification you extend to us. Second, we are grateful that you call us to share this justifying and sanctifying grace with others. Third, we ask that you help us not to feel self-righteous or selfish with the grace we receive, but instead break down all our barriers, so that we might share your abundant grace with everyone who needs it. This is our prayer in Jesus' name. Amen.

Keep shining bright,

Pastor Don

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July 1, 2020 – Days 107-108

Greetings to Friends and Family of Hallie and Zion UMC,

Yes, we are meeting for Sunday worship, and we are practicing good, safe guidelines. If necessary, we will discontinue meeting, if warranted.

Let us be faithful in prayer and let us be careful in our actions. My hope is that you enjoy a beautiful 4th of July holiday, but stay wise and stay safe.

Proverbs 13:20 reads: ²⁰ *“Walk with the wise and become wise, for a companion of fools suffers harm.”*

So...walk with wisdom, avoid harm, and wear your mask!”

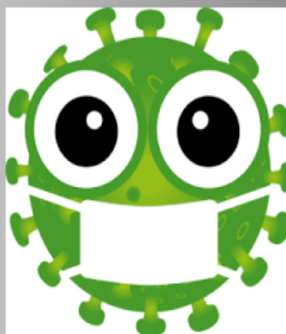
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**WEAR YOUR MASK!
USE SOCIAL DISTANCING!
AVOID CROWDS!**
(Crowds make social distancing difficult)



July 3, 2020 – Days 109-110

Greetings to Friends and Family of Hallie and Zion UMC,

Today, I am inviting us to offer thanksgiving to all the folks who continue to serve the community during this time of the COVID-19 virus. I have the opportunity to stay more safe and isolated from the public and crowded places of people. Not all have that luxury. So, again, a sincere thank you goes out to all the people who provide service and assistance to the community at large during this time.

As we move into the 4th of July weekend activities, we also take time to give thanks for the land we call our home, the United States of America. Thank you for opportunities, freedoms, and wonderful possibilities we have because we live in this the “home of the brave.” As you celebrate, use your masks, sanitize, and keep your distance.

Have a safe and blessed weekend.

Keep shining bright,

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July 5, 2020 – Day 111

Greetings to Friends and Family of Hallie and Zion UMC,

Good Sunday morning to you all, I hope you had a good 4th of July, and were able to take time to reflect and give thanks for living in this land of opportunity.

Today's scripture lesson reminds us to be real and authentic followers of Jesus. We are reminded that our "Christian Talk" needs to match our "Christian Walk."

The tough question for today is the following:

If Jesus had a visit with you this day, would he find you more of a disciple or more of a hypocrite?

After hearing the message for today, be sure to listen to a new song sung by Jacey and Dan, and written by Dan Lea, entitled, "Daily Bread."

Link to Sermon: <https://youtu.be/JnyHq3cpz5Y>

Today's Scripture Lesson comes from Matthew 23:23-28

Link to Music: <https://youtu.be/QBVedKPdKP4>

Have a safe and blessed weekend.

Keep shining bright,

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July 6, 2020 – Day 112

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.

Reflections By Barbara Certa-Werner from July 3, 2020

At 12:30, Tuesday morning, I was startled awake by the sound of crushing metal, tires spinning and glass breaking. Then a sudden sound of my son running down the stairs, waking up my husband, Joel, and both rushing outside.

Next door at the church Joel is serving, a pickup had ripped through an iron handrail and then crashed into the church building. The driver attempted to flee the scene, but was quickly apprehended by the police, and arrested for drunk driving.

The sirens, lights, noise, and adrenaline kept me awake. When I did doze, it was only for short spurts. Usually, I can brush these types of situations off, but not now with so much that is crazy and unexpected happening in our world. I could not make the mental leap to let it go.

I know what this is – I am unsettled. This is not the first time I have felt this way in recent months, nor will it be the last. It is the acknowledgement that there is a lot of unexpectedness lately in life of which we have all witnessed firsthand.

Once I am unsettled, it can be difficult to find the groove of peace again. There are three things I do that help me “settle” into Christ, I:

1. take some deep breathes – reminding myself that I am God’s beloved
2. offer up prayers of gratitude
3. recite this Scripture verse, “I have told you these things, so that in Me, you may have peace in this world. You will have trouble, but take heart! I have overcome the world!” John 16:33.

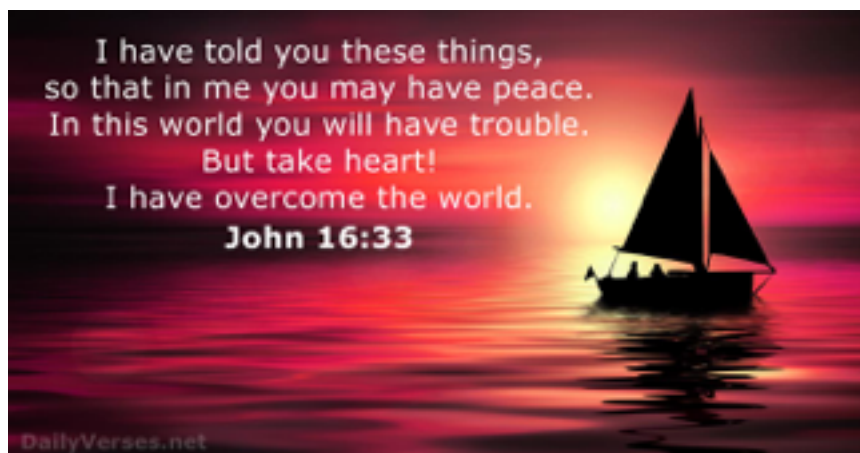
I hope and pray that when life is unsettling, that these three tools help you to find the peace that Jesus offers. Amen.

Keep shining bright,

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July 8, 2020 – Day 114

Greetings to Friends and Family of Hallie and Zion UMC,

NEWS! NEWS! DID YOU HEAR THE NEWS?

Somewhere in the city of Chippewa Falls, a young bear has been sighted many times! For many of us living in Wisconsin, we have a love of nature, wildlife and the great outdoors. Yet, finding a good balance is always difficult and problematic. Should we find space for wolves and elk? Are there too many deer or not enough? What about the coyotes? What about the number of bears, and so on? It can be problematic, political, and confusing.

In Scripture, we find the prophet, Isaiah, talking about a time when all of God's creation will live in harmony and a sense of peace. Can you imagine that? We, as a people, struggle so greatly getting along with other people, let alone with the animal kingdom.

6 The wolf will live with the lamb, the leopard will lie down with the goat, the calf and the lion and the yearling together; and a little child will lead them. 7 The cow will feed with the bear, their young will lie down together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox. 8 The infant will play near the cobra's den, and the young child will put its hand into the viper's nest. 9 They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. 10 In that day the Root of Jesse will stand as a banner for the peoples; the nations will rally to him, and his resting place will be glorious. Isaiah 11: 6-10

My prayer, today, is that we grow in our ability to offer justice, equality, and hope to all the children of the world. "Red and yellow, black and white, all are precious in His sight." As a community, may we grow in our understanding of welcome and justice for all peoples. Amen.

(But the bear, has got to go!!)



Keep shining bright,

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July 10, 2020 – Day 116

Greetings to Friends and Family of Hallie and Zion UMC,

As we step into this second weekend of July, I hope you have the opportunity to find some rest, find some beauty, and time to celebrate life. For most of us, if we're willing, we can find these in great abundance in the world God created. In the midst of COVID-19 and political tensions, if we but open ourselves up to the gifts of God in nature; we will find blessings. In the weekend, that is before us, be sure and take some time to consider the blessing in your life and the God who blesses.

As you take time for prayer, please keep our friend, Velma Wesenberg, from our Zion Church in your prayers. Velma is recovering from surgery after a fall resulted in a broken hip. We ask for prayers of comfort and healing for Velma.

*¹ Sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth. ² Sing to the LORD, praise his name; proclaim his salvation day after day. ³ Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous deeds among all peoples. ⁴ For great is the LORD and most worthy of praise; he is to be feared above all gods. ⁵ For all the gods of the nations are idols, but the LORD made the heavens. ⁶ Splendor and majesty are before him; strength and glory are in his sanctuary. **Psalm 96: 1-6***

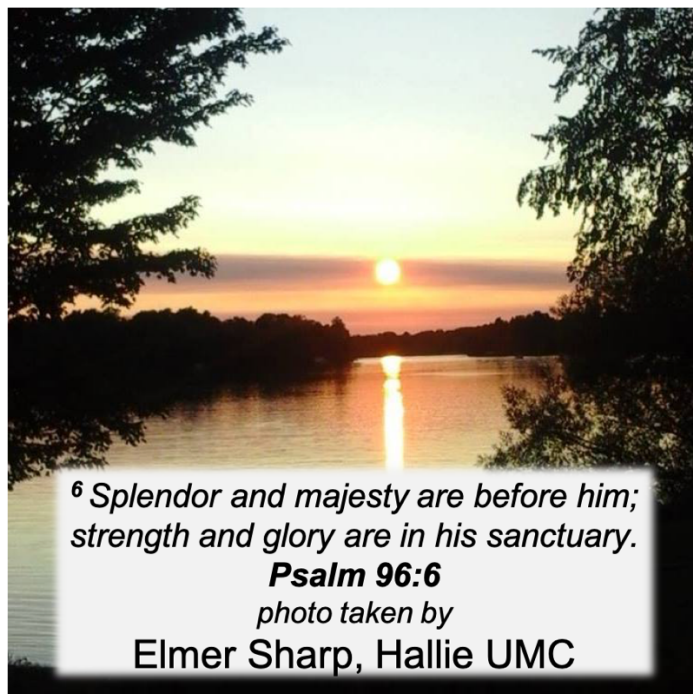
Have a safe and joy-filled weekend.

Keep shining bright,

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July 12, 2020 – Day 118

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.

Sermon Link: <https://youtu.be/v7vpfiyo79A>

Musical Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xa5SPwI9mw0>

This is a new recording and music video for the song, "Hear The Word," composed by Zion UMC worship leader Dan Lea. The video features notable special appearances by Abe and Myra Naves and Nolan Goeman.

"Hear The Word" is performed by Acoustic Grace musicians Colin Orth, trumpet; Jacey Lea, vocals; Ed Ebert, vocals; Pam Hotle, vocals; Dan Lea, vocals, guitar, and programmed instruments.

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