

**Pastor Drollinger's**  
**Devotionals for August 24-September 6, 2020**  
**Devotionals will be available on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays.**  
**On-Line Worship will continue on Sunday mornings.**

**August 24, 2020 – Day 161**

Greetings to Friends and Family of Hallie and Zion UMC,

**Reflection by Barbara Certa-Werner:**

*“The second most important commandment says: ‘Love others as much as you love yourself.’ No other commandment is more important than these” (Mark 12:31)*

“To love at all is vulnerable. Love anything, and your heart will certainly be wrung and possibly broken. If you want to make sure of keeping it intact, you must give your heart to no one, not even to an animal. Wrap it carefully round with hobbies and little luxuries; avoid all entanglements; lock it up safe in the casket-safe, dark, motionless, airless – it will change. It will become unbreakable, impenetrable, irredeemable” (C.S. Lewis).

You know the saying, “You don’t know what you are missing until it is gone.” This seems to be a sub-plot in 2020!

At the Zoom LeaderWise clergy workshop, “Coping Through COVID” last week, I scrolled down the screen and realized that I had not seen most of my clergy colleagues since our School for Ministry gathering in October 2019! I was a little shocked that I had such an emotional reaction – not realizing how much I have missed everyone.

As we listened to the workshop leaders talk about the impact COVID has had on our world, and spoke specifically to the implications of the higher level of stress has on those that are called to serve. As Christians called to love and be in community, we struggle with isolation, loneliness, and disconnection during this pandemic.

We are called to love, to build relationships, to be there for each other, and to help others join us in this journey. This pandemic has really highlighted our human need for compassion, care, and kindness.

Here are my top ten things to continue to nourish the heart and soul:

1. Worship (there are lots of online opportunities)
2. Daily devotion, reading and writing
3. Prayer
4. Ending the day in reflection and gratitude
5. Donating (funds, clothes, food, supplies to church and non-profits)
6. Advocating for justice (read a book, watch a documentary, discuss)
7. Be creative (draw, dance, paint, plant, sing, share your story)
8. Sending notes of encouragement
9. Exercise
10. Rest

*Lord, this season has separated us one from another in ways that we could not imagine. We pray that you would help us know that we are one phone call, one Zoom meeting, one email, one card away from each other. Help us to find new ways to live out "loving one another" as Christ commanded. We offer this prayer in Your Holy Name. Amen.*

Keep shining bright,

**Pastor Don**



**August 26, 2020 – Day 163**

Greetings to Friends and Family of Hallie and Zion UMC,

In the midst of so many things happening in our communities, state, and nation regarding the fires in the west, the storms in the south, and the COVID-19 virus throughout. In the midst of political posturing and name calling, in the midst of getting our schools up and functioning safely. In the midst of all this and more...we are reminded that inequality and racism still continue in our nation and neighborhoods. I am not a political activist, and I lack advanced understanding of racism and inequality and the systemic reasons why they exist. But I am a follower of Jesus and I am convinced He would want me to pray for solutions to ending the inequalities that still persist in our nation. The following prayer was written by Rev. George R. Crisp on August 10, 2020.

### **THE FIRE PRAYER**

***There are fires in our streets, O Lord.***

Unholy fires in blazing buildings, on sidewalks, in parked cars, in trash cans. They are the fires of destruction, anger, frustration. These are fires born of hopelessness, weariness, impatience. The rifles fire bullets that are all too real, and tear gas canisters are fired into crowds filled with unanswered burning questions. The fire of justice seems to have grown dim, the fire of equality extinguished, the fire of common sense ignored, the fire of democracy displaced, the fire of fairness forgotten.

***You know something of fire, O Lord.***

Your Spirit's fire has baptized with holiness, sanctified souls, guided the faithful, taught the wavering, warmed the heart. You have been the pillar of fire that leads, the fire that calls us to action, the fire that fed hungry disciples, the fire that has heard our denials, the fire that exposes the truth, the refiner's fire that burns away the dross.

***Send your Pentecost fire again, O Lord.***

Build a holy fire in our hearts, a holy fire in our nation, a refining fire that cleanses the evil hatred of generations, a fire that purifies and heals your divided children. Clear away the dross poisoning our lives. Lead us in new directions, guide our steps along fresh pathways. Teach us your loving way of relating to others. Call us to healing action, hear our confession, warm our hearts until our souls' glow with your love for all people. In the holy name of Jesus, we pray. ***Amen.***

Let us continue to pray for our nation and all its people – “Red and Yellow, Black and White...”

Keep shining bright,  
***Pastor Don***



**August 28, 2020 – Day 165**

Greetings to Friends and Family of Hallie and Zion UMC,

**Marks of a True Christian** by Jorge Luis Mayorga

*Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers. Romans 12:12-13 (NRSV)*

*We are known as true Christians not by the denomination to which we belong to, but by our character and love that come only from above. Jesus told Nicodemus “no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” (John 3:3)*

When I see what we are going through currently in our nation, I see many divisions, people getting angry toward each other sometimes just for being different. Different in the color of the skin, different in culture and language. There is discrimination and racism in different levels in our communities, and even in churches people experience discrimination and racism, which makes me wonder how can this be?

The Apostle Paul invites us through these verses to strive for something better in our Christian life: to rejoice in the hope that things will get better, that we need to practice patience, even in suffering, and to persevere in prayer. During these difficult times I have seen some churches providing for the needs of others and extending hospitality to strangers. I realized that it is easier to provide for those in need that we know than to extend hospitality to strangers, because this take us out of our

comfort zone and call us to risk in our relationships. That is why to get to this level people need a change of heart and mind, to be born again in Jesus Christ. John Wesley called this experience Justifying Grace.

***Prayer:*** Gracious and loving God, these are difficult times. Help us to rejoice in the hope that you walk with us. Give patience to those who are suffering and help us to persevere in prayer for each other. Touch our hearts so we can provide for those in need and furthermore, to welcome and extend hospitality to strangers, so we can experience the joy of your kingdom. In Jesus Christ, our Lord, we pray, Amen!

The peace of Christ be with you,

Pastor Jorge.

### **August 30, 2020 – Day 167**

Happy Sunday Morning,

We are completing our worship series on the Gospel of Luke, chapter 15. Today is the “Lost and Found Sons.” The text is Luke 15:11-32. The main idea I hope you discover is God’s great love for you. And, the best way to love God is to love God’s children. And, the way we hurt God the most is when we are cruel and hurtful to any of God’s children. Keep praying for our nation and our people. In many real ways, many of us are feeling a bit lost. Be sure to listen and enjoy the music video by Acoustic Grace, “God of Wonders.”

This is a new recording and video of the song "God of Wonders," composed by Steve Hindalong and Marc Byrd. The video features many members of Zion and Hallie United Methodist Church honoring "God of Heaven and Earth." It also features stunning photos contributed by Tim Abraham, Laurie Goeman, and Stan Rick. "God of Wonders" is performed by Acoustic Grace musicians Jacey Lea, vocals; Ed Ebert, vocals; Carol Dean, keyboards; Dan Lea, vocals, guitar, and bass guitar; and Pam Hotle, vocals.

Worship Service Link: <https://youtu.be/kGfsYEFAfz4>

Musical Link: <https://youtu.be/NA2HbbNiSHw>

Keep shining brightly,

***Pastor Don***

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**August 31, 2020 – Day 168**

Greetings to Friends and Family of Hallie and Zion UMC,

*Reflections by Barbara Certa-Werner, North West District Superintendent*

*“I hope, Lord.*

*My whole being hopes,*

*and I wait for God’s promise.*

*My whole being waits for my Lord—*

*more than the night watch waits for morning;*

*yes, more than the night watch waits for morning!*

*(Psalm: 130:5-6)*

I was so excited to take a walk through of the Permanent Supportive Housing apartment building for Harbor House Crisis Shelters in Superior, WI and see all the renovations. This was a cumulation of vision, prayer, planning, developing and hope.

As I walked through, I recalled the first time I did this:

- The first-floor apartments needed so much work – new flooring, new kitchen and bathroom cabinets, and new electrical and plumbing.
- The second floor was much better, but still needed new kitchen and bathroom cabinets.
- The third floor needed paint, wall repairs, new windows and bathroom and kitchen cabinets.
- The basement was in rough shape, but could be repaired.

Overall, the possibilities were endless - with enough support and vision!

Most people would have said, ‘Nope, that is way too much work,’ but I have always been the kind of person that sees the possibilities and my job was to help others see that as well. This project pushed it to the limit! The amazing thing is that I was able to see the work completed and my vision come to life!

In that moment, tears came to my eyes as I rejoiced in the faithfulness of God. As the renovation project nears completion, the next phase of ‘hope’ begins as homeless families begin moving in and receiving services.

My ‘hope’ is that Psalm 130 be offered as a prayer as our ‘whole being hopes.’ Amen.”

Keep shining brightly,

***Pastor Don***

**ZION's HELEN's CIRCLE –Lunch at IRVINE PARK ON SEPT. 10<sup>TH</sup> after 10:30 am meeting at Jane Bowe's home.**

*A MESSAGE FROM CONNIE MURPHY:*

**Update to our meeting:**

Since we will be getting together Sept. 10th for our meeting, wouldn't it be fun to go to Irvine park after and have a casual picnic 🍉🍉 together. Because this crazy Covid -19 has made our lives very different, let's take this time to reconnect.

Bring your lunch, or pick up something on the way to the park, bring what you want to drink and a lawn chair. We'll gather after our meeting on Flag hill at one of the covered areas. Bring your smiles and laughter for a fun lunch!!  
Connie

**September 2, 2020 – Day 170**

Greetings to Friends and Family of Hallie and Zion UMC,

Paul wrote these words of invitation to the early church in Galatians 6:6-10:

“6 Those who are taught the word must share in all good things with their teacher.

7 Do not be deceived; God is not mocked, for you reap whatever you sow. 8 If you sow to your own flesh, you will reap corruption from the flesh; but if you sow to the Spirit, you will reap eternal life from the Spirit. 9 So let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give up. 10 So then, whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the good of all, and especially for those of the family of faith.”

Today, let me simply thank you for all the efforts being made to the many ways of encouragement and kindness. As Paul stated, let us not grow weary in doing good. God will make a blessing known immediately or ultimately.

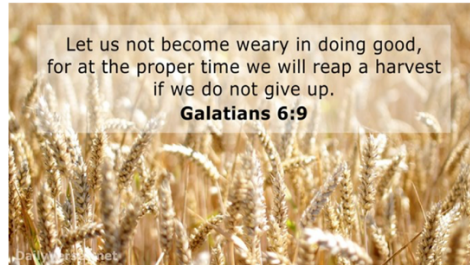
- 1) Please keep Carol Mueller in your prayers regarding heart related concerns.
- 2) Please keep Pastor Dave Busker in prayers and his cancer battles.
- 3) Our Mission Money this month will continue to support our local CDC food pantry and school supplies.
- 4) We are presently worshipping on Sunday morning at both churches and online through Email, Facebook, our website ([www.zhumc.org](http://www.zhumc.org)), and YouTube.
- 5) Pastor Les Munnik will be our guest speaker on Sunday, September 20th, and September 27th at both churches.
- 6) Sunday, September 13th is our CELEBRATION SUNDAY, a special service is planned for all our members and friends. We will be giving thanks for God's goodness and the hope that Jesus brings us. Special music, preaching, and great Thanksgiving will be expressed and shared. Together, online, and in our buildings we will praise and worship with great hope and great joy.

Keep shining brightly,

**Pastor Don**

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**September 4, 2020 – Day 172**

Greetings to Friends and Family of Hallie and Zion UMC,

Paul wrote the following to the early church at Corinth:

“3 I thank my God every time I remember you, 4 constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, 5 because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. 6 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. 7 It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God’s grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. 8 For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. 9 And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight 10 to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, 11 having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.” Philippians 1:3-11

As we step into the beginning of the school year and the Labor Day Weekend, it’s important to consider where most of us are coming from. Over the last 5 months, in so many ways we have fought the COVID-19 virus by practicing good, safe guidelines and protocols – social distancing, staying home, sanitizing and washing hands, and wearing masks have all helped us minimize the virus in our community. Thank you for your care and faithfulness in these areas.

With our children and youth now in school, let’s continue our partnership and good work as, together, we carry on the fight against this virus. Keep praying for one another . . . brighter days are coming.

Keep shining brightly,

***Pastor Don***

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**September 6, 2020 – Day 174**

Good Sunday Morning,

Today's scripture and sermon will grow out of the Gospel of Mark 12:38-44. In this account, Jesus observes a poor widow putting some coins into the offering. We will discover that her gift is an example to us in regard to our giving to God's work. We will see that we need to learn the art of:

- 1) Sacrificial giving
- 2) Risk giving
- 3) Joyful giving

As we learn this way of "giving," we will discover our "receiving" will be even richer in purpose and in joy.

Consider the message and enjoy the music by our Acoustic Grace worship team.

### **Lift It Up In Prayer**

This is a new music video for the song, "Lift It Up In Prayer." What better time than now to lift up our cares to the Lord in prayer? The video features several members of Zion and Hallie UMC showing off their prayerful dancing skills.

"Lift It Up In Prayer" was composed by Zion UMC worship leader Dan Lea and was the title song on the group's 2011 CD. 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. The recording was produced by George House.

Worship Link: <https://youtu.be/IoqgFRmheX0>

Musical Link: <https://youtu.be/6z6QX2Ar8s4>

Keep shining brightly,

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