



From the Pastor's Desk

¹² "In everything do to others as you would have them do to you; for this is the law and the prophets.

Matthew 7:12 (NRSV)

We often quote the *Golden Rule* as a central component to our faith, and rightly so, for it is a central tenet. Jesus reminds us that in all things we should care for others. We should love others. We should do for others whatever we would want, or wish for, or hope for ourselves and our families. This takes on a new and special meaning in the time of the Coronavirus. We are living in a time when our need is no longer singular. It is fully communal. We need people to socially distance themselves. We need to worry more about the spread of the virus over and above any concerns we have towards what we would like to do. Our disappointments at the disruption to our normal routines are real. We are permitted to feel the pain of that disappointment, but we also must realize that our wellbeing is intimately intertwined with the wellbeing of our neighbors.

Sometimes we view this scripture passage as extremely altruistic, noble, or selfless, but I wonder, too, if Jesus does not recognize something about humanity that is true for all of God's creation. When we are in balance, when everyone has what they need, or when my needs do not supersede or overshadow anyone else's, then we begin to know, to feel, and to practice God's shalom. The reality is that we need each other. In a society that is singularly concentrated on "bootstraps" and our own self-determination, needing others can feel like an anathema to the "American Dream." However, a pandemic, like the Coronavirus, shows to us how flimsy our institutions can be. How hollow they can seem. The stock market is desperately letting us down. Employment seems like a tenuous notion. Travel looks frivolous and dangerous. What is it that really holds us together?

"In everything do to others as you would have them do to you." That is Jesus' answer. That is what holds us together. That is what gets us to God's shalom. The peace and wholeness where all creation has what it needs. "For this is the law and the prophets." Everything hangs on this concept. Everything hangs on these words. Help others as you would have them help you. Pray for others as you would have them pray for you. Love others as you would have them love you. God knows. God understands. What holds us together is the reciprocal and relational nature of God and God's creation. There is nothing so safe, nor so risky, as making oneself vulnerable to another.

The reality is considering someone else's needs is risky behavior even when everything is going well, but when the world around us seems unsustainable, our need to be vulnerable to each other is even more important. I cannot survive through the time of the Coronavirus without you. I need you. I need God. I need Jesus. I need the Holy Spirit, and I need my faith community to lift me up. I will pray for you. Will you pray for me?

May we experience God's shalom in unexpected ways over the next weeks and months. Regardless of when things go "back to normal," may we be forever predisposed to this truth: ¹² "In everything do to others as you would have them do to you; for this is the law and the prophets." May we live into this reality in word and in deed. May it be so.

Peace and blessings, pastor Joel Beachy

Grateful for our Goodly Heritage



60 years ago: 1960

April 10 - Deborah De Anne was born to Bro. and Sister Jay Rhodes on March 30.

April 17 - Sunday A.M., April 24, we are expecting Bro. Harold Hoeflinger, a missionary to men behind prison bars, to bring the morning message. Bro. Hoeflinger is an ex-convict who accomplishes much in prison evangelism.

April 24 - Ruth Ann is the name of the baby girl born to Leo and Ruby Cutshall on April 17.

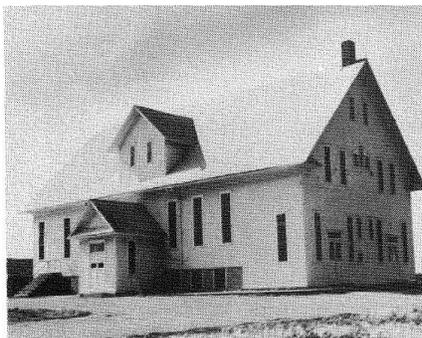
50 years ago: 1970

April 5 - This afternoon from 2-5 o'clock, Frank and Myrtle Kile will be honored at a Golden Wedding Anniversary open house at the Community Room of the Farmers Savings Bank, Kalona. Friends and relatives are cordially invited.

April 26- Marriage vows will be exchanged by Mary Helen Logan and Nelson Miller, Saturday, May 2, 1:30 p.m. You are invited to attend.

40 years ago: 1980

April 6 - Next Sunday our congregation will vote on the proposed expansion project at IMS. Plans are posted on the bulletin board in the foyer. **March 30** - Maribeth Yoder will be baptized



30 years ago: 1990

April 15 - Last week Michael visited Dennis Showalter and Tom Miller at COE College in Cedar Rapids. This past week he visited Tim Miller at Northeast Missouri State University and Greg Hochstetler at Indian Hills Community College.

April 15 - Thanks to everyone for the love and concern shown to me following my hand surgery. A special thanks to Eleos Sunday School class for the gifts of delicious food. It means a lot to have a caring church family. - Marianna Miller

20 years ago: 2000

April 23 - Congratulations to Jen Harvey and Kathy Zook who are graduating from Easter Mennonite University this afternoon, April 30th.

10 years ago: 2010

April 4 - Church Dinner April 18 - Honduran dinner with a dessert buffet by the Koinonia women. The Koinonia Sunday school class has sponsored some children at an orphanage in Honduras through Helping Honduras Kids since the time of our Honduras mission trips. The proceeds from this dinner will be a gift to Helping Honduras Kids. Please come and bring your family and friends.

Can you help?

A friend of ours is moving this week and needs a few things for her new apartment. She has been laid off due to the Corona virus, so the money she saved to purchase these items she will need for future rent. If you have been planning to get rid of any of these items and are willing to donate them please let us know and Joel and I will figure out a time to come get them.

- full or queen mattress and box spring (we found a frame for her that will fit either size)

(couch & vacuum have been supplied)

Thank you! Catrina & Joel Miiller

FINANCIAL UPDATE

We are attempting to report the generous giving at East Union in new ways to help encourage our congregation in these efforts!

Below you will find the giving by month so far this year, as well as the previous year.

	2019	2020
January	18,787.00	17,571.88
February	19,514.00	18,927.40
March	25,009.00	29,835.00

The total budget for 2019 was: \$291,090.00

This year's total budget for 2020 is: \$326,590.00

If you have any questions or suggestions for additional reporting, please contact Joel Miiller, Greg Yoder, Joel Beachy, or Crystal Wade. Thank you!

God So Loved the World

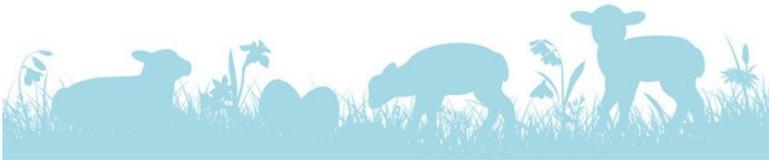
For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16 (NIV)



The puzzle is based on John 3:16-17

M L I Z D Q X P T H R O U G H
 V D J P Q W T W V L R C I D A
 C Y U L I F E O K D D E D B V
 I T S H B N R W L Z K O H M V
 S H Z N D G G J L G B S E N D
 J G O D B M A M R Y F N I L O
 S Z E N K D L V M R A W O N
 R A J M C P K V E F Q H X V O
 Y I V L G C S P L H E O J E U
 B W E E B O M E Y I V E O D U
 P O J S U N R R K M P V R W Z
 X R C V T D P I P F P E R S H
 S L S G C E X S Z N I R Z D T
 V D B Q G M F H E T E R N A L
 U G Y W P N V B E L I E V E S

LOVED	GOD	SON	CONDEMN	BELIEVES
THROUGH	SEND	WHOEVER	LIFE	SAVE
PERISH	ETERNAL	GAVE	HIM	WORLD



The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.
 He maketh me to lie down in green pastures:
 he leadeth me beside the still waters.
 He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the
 paths of righteousness for his name's sake.



APRIL 2020



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Colton Litwiller Chance Litwiller	2	3	4
5 Morning Worship via Zoom  Annie Troyer	6	7	8 Oliver Nixon Steve Dachtler	9 	10  Bruce & Karen Harvey '71	11
12 Morning Worship via Zoom 	13	14 Lisa Schmidt	15 Greg Schmidt Doug Moberly	16	17 Chris Charles Jill Moberly	18
19 Morning Worship 9:30am	20 April Schrock	21	22 James Boller	23 Eric Yoder	24	25
26 Morning Worship 9:30am	27 Kerry Saner- Harvey	28	29	30		