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A NEW KIND OF CHURCH

When I began my doctoral program I had the vision to work on a church of the future. I could see the end coming for the church that was. I wanted to be on the front end of helping to develop the church of today and the future. There was no way I could have predicted that a pandemic was coming that would usher in a new way of church RIGHT NOW in the middle of my already crazy life.

The reality is that I wanted to usher in the future, and it be MY way. Controlled. At my pace. In the way I envisioned it. I know –totally foreign concept to everyone. Not really! We all want to be in control at some level! But here's a news flash: this isn't the way I planned it! (I'm sure this wasn't in any of your plans either!)

I am not saying that God caused a pandemic to bring about a new form of church. BUT I do believe that God causes good to come out of all circumstances—see Romans 8:28. So many struggling churches are now having a broader impact through this pandemic than they did before the pandemic. Will it last afterwards? I have no idea. I do believe though that this whole thing has forced the church to learn some hard facts—some that have always been there and some that were waiting for us. What are they?

Cont. next page

A NEW KIND OF CHURCH, cont.

1. The church is NOT a building. While it is nice to have a building and we are grateful for what we have, the building is not what is important—the people are. The people are the church. In Greek this is super clear. The clearest place in our English translations is Eph. 1:22-23, "...[Christ is] the head over all things for the church, which is his body..."
2. The METHOD is not important [irony for METHODISTS] what is important is the MESSAGE! In 1 Cor. 1 this is seen when people preferred one method/messenger over another and Paul makes it clear that what is important is the message -Christ crucified!
3. It is important that we REMEMBER OUR BAPTISMS. We need to remember that GOD is the one at work. We need to remember when we pass through the waters, God assures us we will not be harmed (IS 43:2) instead as we pass through the waters

we die to ourselves and come to life in Christ (RO 6:4). We rise and are given the Holy Spirit who works within us to make each one of us a part of the priesthood of believers (1 Peter 2:9).

4. In the power of the Holy Spirit and the call of our baptism we are EACH called to be workers for the kingdom—Apostles, Pastors, Evangelists, Shepherds, and Teachers. The Spirit has given us this ability—not just me—but each of us!

So church, it's 2020 and how we do things is changing. It's messy. It's different. It's not what we prefer. But this new way is here—at least for a bit. In this Beacon I have some additional articles for navigating some of the newness. Remember, one thing has not changed. God is with us. Thanks be to God!

Amazed by Grace, *PASTOR BRIDGET*

SECURITY CORNER

It is especially important to know your primary and secondary exits in both church and outside settings. The first item in the Run, Hide, Fight motto is RUN. You need to know where you are running to. Because harm may be at your nearest exit be sure to plan an alternate route of escape. Remember, EVERY industrial kitchen has an outside exit. Hopefully, you will never be in a run, hide, fight situation but we NEVER know.

Stay Alert, Stay Alive



Participate, Don't Watch

Two months ago you would have never thought of coming to church, sitting and just staring as people said the call the worship, the Affirmation of Faith, the Lord's prayer, etc. Virtual Worship should be no different!

As we worship virtually, or you are worshipping as a family with the worship booklet **ACTUALLY PARTICIPATE AND WORSHIP**. Say the parts out loud. Sing the songs. Sing loud and proud.

Needing help navigating some of the digital formatting? Here are some tips:

1. If you are not able to get online at all:

- Be sure to let us know and we will mail you a worship booklet.
- This worship booklet has prayers, hymns, and a reflection by Pastor Bridget
- Be sure to connect with us! Let us know how we can help you worship
- While you may also connect with Christian programs you find on TV be aware most are not United Methodist in their theology. Be sure to pray about what you hear, read scriptures about it, test it against what you know of church history and tradition, and your own experience and reason.

2. If you are not able to stream the service, but can access the internet:

- Download or Print out the worship booklet before the service.
- You can always watch the service after the live stream so that you do not have to deal with buffering issues.

- To find archives of the live stream services:
www.christumcnb.org/recent-sermons

- Go to the bottom of the page and follow the link under "Live Stream Archives"

- To find archives of just the sermon:
www.christumcnb.org/recent-sermons

- Go to the middle of the page and follow the link under "Sermon Archives"

- Be sure to fill out a connect card!

3. If you can stream the service:

- Everything you need for a Sunday morning is available in the RED BOX on the homepage of the website at the top.
- You may still want to download or print out the worship booklet before the service. You may also choose to have it open on a separate device (have it open on your phone and stream the service on your computer).
- You can stream the service on your TV! Pastor Bridget will post a video on the church website to show you how.
- Be sure to fill out a connect card!

ISOLATION— A TIME OF TEMPTING

This is a really strange time in history. Not since the great flu epidemic of 1918 has the world seen anything even remotely close to what we're currently experiencing. It's really difficult to be isolated from your friends and school. Some people are even separated from their own family members. As hard as it is now, it's probably going to get even more difficult before things return to normal. In the meantime, it's challenging (to say the least) to follow the rules and maintain social distancing; especially since you are young and healthy. After all, this virus is just affecting old people, right?? This is where it becomes tempting. You might be tempted to hang out with your friends. To go to the beach. To meet up to make that TikTok. No big deal, right?

Well, let me tell you about another example of isolation and a time of tempting. Right after Jesus was baptized he went into a time of isolation in the wilderness. There he fasted and prayed for 40 days. During that time, the devil came and tested Jesus. He tempted Him with many things that were desirable to Jesus. But Jesus always had an answer and was able to resist the temptations of the enemy, and eventually, the devil gave up and left Jesus alone. (Matthew 4:1-11 The Message (MSG)) So what does that have to do with you? Well, I'm glad you asked.

Temptation always comes when we are feeling vulnerable, isolated, tired, alone, hungry, etc. Think of it like a lion who stalks his prey. The lion doesn't go after the strongest gazelle in the herd...no. He waits and watches to see which animals are weakest...then he isolates it from the herd

Youth News

INFORMATION YOU CAN USE

and pounces. Satan is the same way. He will take advantage of your feelings of loneliness, your fear of the "what ifs," and your mandated isolation to draw you away from the path of righteousness so that he can pounce!

But, Karen, what can I do? We're under a mandatory isolation order?

Well, just because you have to be physically isolated does not mean that you have to be spiritually isolated. We are still meeting online. There are online worship services. You're already on social media...make sure that you are connecting with other Christians on those platforms. Here's a list of our resources that can help you through the isolation. Just scan the QR code below for links.



Weekly ZOOM meetings: ID 2961708434

Weekly worship live stream: bit.ly/CUMCNB_YOUTUBE

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/CUMCNBYouth/>

Instagram: @CUMCNB_YOUTH

Our webpage: <https://www.christumcnb.org/youth>

Email Karen: youthleader.karen@gmail.com

Call/Text Karen: (352)263-6618

Parent Portal

YOUR DOORWAY TO INFORMATION

Confirmation and your involvement

The program is designed to study the beliefs of the United Methodist Church as well as to dive deep into what it means to be a Christian. Upon completion, students proclaim their faith and commitment Christ and to CUMCNB. Parents are involved throughout the process and are included in many of the activities.

Confirmation Retreat is an important component of the Confirmation process that provides an opportunity for students to bond with one another.

Mentors

Mentors make the Confirmation process more personal. Students meet with their mentor 10 times during the 15-week process. Choosing a mentor is an important decision as the mentor will help the student explore the decision to be a Christ follower and a member of CUMCNB.

Service Project: Serving others is a key practice of a Christ follower. Service projects give the students opportunities to discover their gifts and passions. Confirmands are asked to participate in a three-hour service project with their mentor.

LIFE LINE SCREENING

COVID—19 may impact the timing of this event. Please check the email blasts for more details closer to May.

Life Line Screening, will offer their affordable, non-invasive and painless screenings at Christ UMC on May 5, 2020. Five screenings will be offered that scan for potential health problems. Register for a Wellness Pkg. which includes 4 vascular tests and osteoporosis screening for \$139 with our member discount.

In order to register for this event and receive our \$10 member discount off any package priced above \$129,

- call (888) 653-6441,
- Visit www.lifelinescreening.com/communitycircle or
- text the word "circle" to 797979.



Bible Verse:

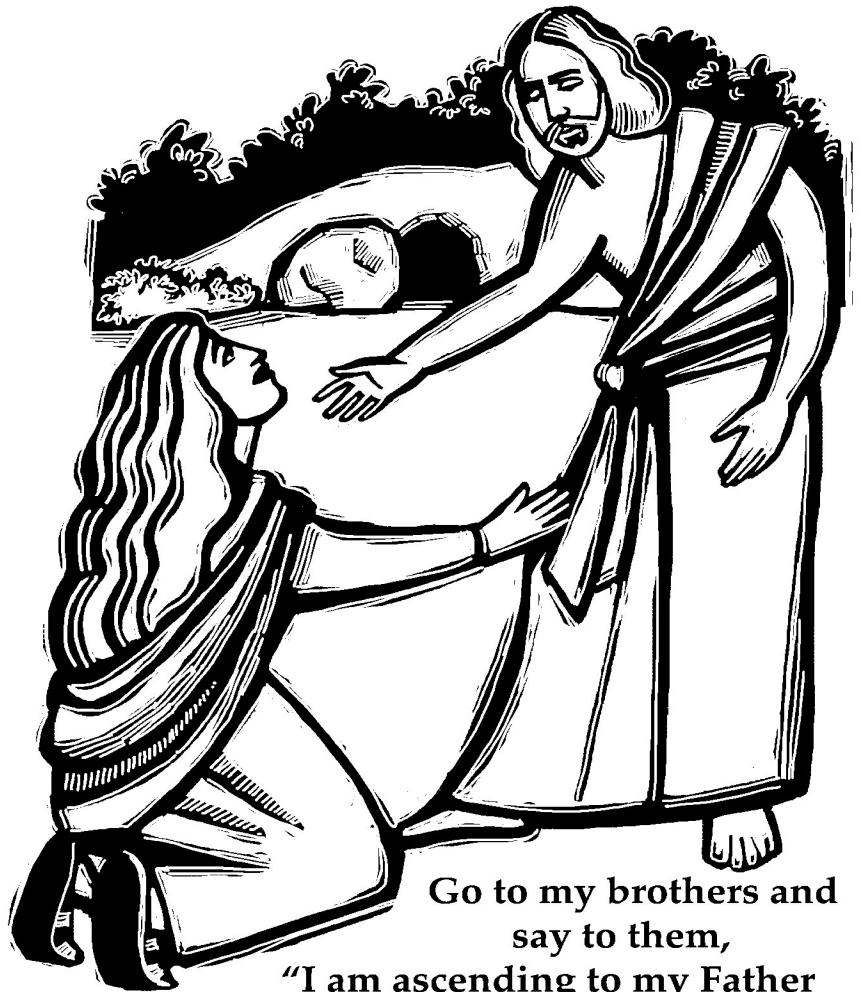
"He is not here for he is risen."

Matthew 28:6



Prayer:

"Thank you for parents dear, who read to me and hold me near.
Amen"



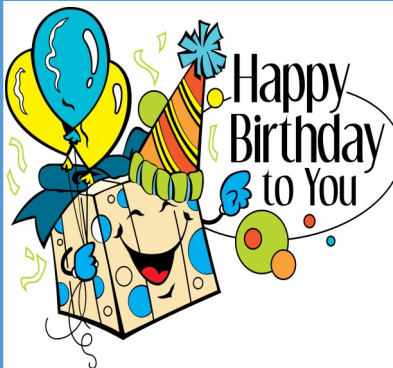
Go to my brothers and say to them,
"I am ascending to my Father and your Father,
to my God and your God."

John 20:17, NRSV



Anniversaries This Month

10 Steffanie & Terry Stuart
11 Jane & Michael Mezza
28 Kevin & Bridget Thornton



1 Norman Gamble
1 Victor Young
3 Mary Ann Belisario
3 Karyn Wade
4 Pat Heathouse
6 Kathy Scott
8 Bunnie Boyd

9 Juanita Crockett
9 Teresa Romano
11 Carol Boyd
12 Courtney Wood
15 Carmen Johns
16 Pauline Muzik
20 Sue Keck
20 Dan Long
20 Eileen Sloth
23 Nell Webster
26 Dorothy Boutwell
26 Josette Gamble
26 Nick Wade
28 June Baldwin

EASTER BREAD RECIPE (no boiled eggs!)

Total time: 5 hours, 10 minutes

(you've got nothing but time right now!)

Yield: 12-14 servings

INGREDIENTS:

- One 1/4 ounce packet active dry yeast (2 1/4 teaspoons)
- 6 cups all purpose flour, plus more for your work surface and kneading
- 2/3 cup granulated sugar
- 1 & 1/3 cups milk
- 6 tablespoons unsalted butter
- 1 teaspoon fine salt (if you have only salted butter, cut the salt to 1/2 tsp.)
- 2 large eggs for batter, 1 egg for wash
- 1/3 cup sliced almonds, optional
- 1 tablespoon sprinkles or mini white nonpareils, optional

DIRECTIONS:





1. Pour 1/3 cup warm water into the bowl of a stand mixer. (You can totally do this recipe by hand—get a workout!) Gently whisk in the yeast, 1 tablespoon of the flour and 1 tablespoon of the sugar. Set aside until bubbly, 5-10 minutes.
2. Meanwhile, heat the milk in a small saucepan over medium heat until bubbles start to form around the edges. Remove the pan from the heat, and stir in the butter, the remaining sugar and the salt. Let cool, 10 minutes.

DIRECTIONS, cont:

3. Using bread hook/paddle, set mixer on medium-low speed and pour the milk mixture into the yeast mixture. Add 2 beaten eggs. Gradually mix in the remaining flour and beat until a soft dough forms. Increase speed to medium-high, and beat until the dough pulls away from the sides and begins to form a ball, about 5 minutes. Dough will be sticky.
4. Place dough on a lightly floured surface and knead, adding more flour as needed, until smooth and elastic, about 5 minutes. Put the dough in a lightly greased bowl, cover and place in a warm spot to rise, away from drafts, for about 90 minutes.
5. Line a baking sheet with parchment or grease well. Punch down the dough. Transfer it to a lightly floured surface and cut into 3 equal parts. Gently roll each piece into a 16 inch long rope. (The kids will love to do that for you)
6. Place all three ropes on the baking sheet, lined up next to each other. Press the ropes together at one end and begin to braid them one over the other. Pinch the other end and tuck both ends under to form one long loaf. Cover and let rise for 1 hour.
7. Preheat the oven to 350 degrees. Beat the last egg and brush over the loaf, careful not to pool egg in the crannies. Scatter with almonds and nonpareils on top, putting more in the middle because the bread will rise as it bakes. Bake until dark golden brown, 50-60 minutes. Let cool 30 minutes before slicing. (That's the hardest part!)

2020



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>5 10:15 am Worship online www.christumcnb.org</p> <p>PALM SUNDAY</p>	<p>6 10 am Disciple Class By conference call 6:30 pm Disciple Class By conference call</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>1 10 am—2 pm Dig Local Farmer's market</p> <p></p> <p>8 10 am—2 pm Dig Local Farmer's market 1 pm Worship Design Remote mtg.</p>	<p>2 10 am Easter Donation from World Market and distribution to needy</p> <p></p> <p>9</p>	<p>3 Camp Gladiator will meet off site via Zoom for the next 6 weeks</p> <p></p> <p>10</p>	<p>4</p> <p></p>
<p>12 10:15 am Worship online www.christumcnb.org</p> <p></p>	<p>13 10 am Disciple Class By conference call 6:30 pm Disciple Class By conference call</p>	<p>14 7 pm R Coordinators Remote mtg.</p>	<p>15 10 am—2 pm Dig Local Farmer's market</p>	<p>16 10 am Congregational Care Remote Mtg.</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p>
<p>19 10:15 am Worship online www.christumcnb.org</p>	<p>20 10 am Disciple Class By conference call 6:30 pm Disciple Class By conference call</p>	<p>21 6:30 pm Church Council Remote mtg.</p>	<p>22 10 am—2 pm Dig Local Farmer's market</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>
<p>26 10:15 am Worship online www.christumcnb.org</p>	<p>27 10 am Disciple Class By conference call 6:30 pm Disciple Class By conference call</p>	<p>28 6:15 pm Operations Remote mtg.</p>	<p>29 10 am—2 pm Dig Local Farmer's market</p>	<p>30</p>		