



Pulpit Supply:

Friends, Our Sunday Services have been cancelled through April 5 at this time. The Session will reassess at the end of these 2 weeks to decide what our next step will be. If we are able to resume our regular worship schedule this is what it will look like:

April 9~ Maundy Thursday, A Joint Worship at 7pm, with the United Methodist Church at Waterman Presbyterian Church with Pastor Jake Cho officiating.

April 12~Easter Sunday, Pastor Lauri Allen -Worship Service at 10 am.

April 19~CLP Wendy Keller -Worship Service at 10 am.

April 26~Pastor Lauri Allen -Worship Service at 10 am.

May 3 ~Reverend Robert Conner, Worship/Communion Service at 10 am.

May 10~Pastor John Omerod -Worship Service at 10 am.

May 17~Pastor John Omerod -Worship Service at 10 am.

*During this 'stay at home' period, Michele Houghtby, our secretary, will be collecting mail, checking e-mail and snail mail each week. If you stop at the church for some reason, please allow her to work in her office and respect her 'personal space'. Give her a wave instead!! Thank you!

***Thanks to all who have led services, worked in the office and cleaned in the last month. Your church family appreciates you!**

To our March Pulpit Leaders , “Thank You” for your generous time:

March 1: Worship/Communion with Rev. Robert Conner.

March 8: Worship with Rev. Mary Gay McKinney.

March 15: Worship with Pastor Lauri Allen.

March 22: Worship Service cancelled

March 29: Worship Service cancelled

LIVE-STREAMED WORSHIP OPTIONS, In Blackhawk Presbytery:

*DeKalb Westminster streams on Facebook (10 am Sunday)

*Geneva Fox Valley - access through their webpage.

*Oswego Presbyterian uses YouTube.

*Rockford Third's radio station WTPB-LP 99.3FM broadcasts as well as live streams.

~Please contact the Presbytery office with your questions, concerns or suggestions.

815-732-6111 Ext 610 (for Loreen)

*****Other live stream options *****

*Waterman United Methodist Church– 9:30 am,

you can watch it at their Facebook page under “videos”

*Calvary Lutheran in Lee: uses Facebook .

*First Lutheran in Lee: uses YouTube .

Have no fear! Melba is here! During Jeanetta Boughton's recuperation, Melba Speelman will be mailing out necessary greeting cards: birthday, special occasion, holiday and sympathy. If you need Melba for such an occasion, please call her at 815-758-5953.

Jeanetta Boughton's address : Bethany Rehab/Healthcare CNTR ,
3298 Resource Pkwy RM #208, DeKalb, IL 60115.

Jeanetta thanks the Deacons and Church for her planter that contained a plant with pink, yellow and purple flowers. She said she felt as if each flower was a little prayer going out for her.



Please Pray for: Jeanetta Boughton, Corie Wild (Christine & Jay Monteiro's sister-in-law) The Family of Robert D. "Baret" Johnson, The Family of Roger Votaw, The Family of Nancy Coss, Amy English, Medical personnel, First responders, Service-related workers, all businesses and Our Church.

Our military personnel: Sgt. Joel Bergen, Staff Sgt. Vadon Loudermilk Jr., Major Garrett Slack & Lieutenant Colonel Bob Mitchell.

Please pray that this virus will abate and we will all be together for worship soon.

Hope Haven is Wednesday, April 29. It is the our Church's turn to serve.

This month we will be not be asking for food donations. Instead we are asking for donations of money to go towards ordering food from a nearby restaurant/pizza parlor and having it delivered to Hope Haven.

We feel that at this time, this would be the better option of serving Hope Haven.

I hope everyone is doing well and staying healthy.

In prayer,
Linda Loudermilk

Easter lily order deadline is Sunday, March 29th. Order forms are in the March newsletter, posted on our website at www.watermanpres.com in the newsletter link.

There are a few churches that support NICE by doing a monthly collection of a named item from their congregations. It is usually an item that is expensive for the Center to buy or that is very popular.

We are now collecting for the month of April and we would like to collect ranch dressing.

The items can be put into the collection box in the Narthex. Watch the newsletter and bulletins for what we will be collecting each month. As always, monetary donations are accepted. **The families that come to the NICE Center are very appreciative of all that you do.**
****Thank you for your support.****

Dear Friends,

When my daughter was young, she would exclaim 'it's a be continued!' at the end of some television programs, ones that obviously weren't going to finish the story in that episode. The story of our world has certainly taken an unexpected turn; clearly this, too, 'is a be continued.' As we sit in our homes, we wonder what the next chapter will hold. Anxiety and fear may build as we face the unknown, but our lives have always included waiting and not knowing what lies around the corner. Our current situation is just a little more extreme. As Christians, we know – we know – that God is with us. Psalm 130 includes: "I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in God's Word I hope." Hold fast to that hope as we navigate new waters, care for each other, and wait for the corona virus to be contained. These are times that none of us anticipated: the restrictions on our usual routines, the forced inactivity of many juxtaposed against the stressful work environments of others, the disruption to much of what we have taken for granted. The hope we have in God can make the difference for us.

Imagine with me for a moment what life was like for the twelve disciples as they followed Jesus. They were asking people to live in a new way, to love and care for everyone. Tax collectors and money changers in the temple were called out by Jesus for unfair practices. The Pharisees saw Jesus as a threat to their position and livelihood. The Roman Empire was not pleased with the social unrest that was brewing. Jesus and the disciples had to be careful where they went and how long they stayed; their well-being was often in danger. It was a stressful and uncertain time for the followers of Jesus and yet they had hope in Jesus and his message of love. Jesus' palm-strewn entrance to Jerusalem was exhilarating, but the disciples were stunned and despondent with what soon followed: the arrest and execution of their beloved Jesus. They wondered how this could have happened. Jesus had told them he was there to change the world, that he was the Son of God. What they didn't immediately understand is that this was a "be continued." It wasn't the end of the story; there was more to come (and there still is more to come!).

Easter celebrations are just around the corner. Without a doubt they will be different than what we were expecting or hoping for. We may need to forgo large gatherings or community egg hunts. Perhaps not even gathering in person to worship and celebrate Christ's resurrection. None of that will change the empty tomb! There is still reason to celebrate and we can do that together whether or not we are *physically* together. The followers of Jesus were gathered in small groups, not venturing out much, similar to what we are being asked to do. They spent time considering what the empty tomb meant, celebrating the resurrection of Jesus, and wondering what the next chapter would be. We can and should celebrate as well, although we may need to find creative ways to do it.

How can we honor Jesus' death and resurrection? How can we share his message of love for all? Be considerate of those around you. Call, email, text, wave and smile. Pick up a few extra cans of food and donate to a neighbor or food pantry. Write a "thinking of you" or "praying for you" card to someone who could use the support. Be nice to others; practice patience. Try not to judge. And remember to take care of yourself. You are just as valuable to God as each of those around you. "Therefore, encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing." I Thess. 5:11

Blessings, Pastor Lauri

Below are Scriptures for Palm Sunday through Easter Sunday with a devotional thought.
Submitted by Pastor Lauri Allen

Triumphant Entry Into Jerusalem: Matthew 21:1-11

When He entered Jerusalem, the entire city was moved, saying, "Who is He?"

Devotional thought: The followers of Jesus laid palms and clothing on the road, singing "blessed is he who comes!" Is your faith in Jesus obvious to others?

Washing the Disciples' Feet: John 13:1-17

So when He had washed their feet, and put on His garments, and sat down again, He said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you? . . . For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you.

Devotional thought: Jesus humbly served the disciples. In what ways do you serve others? Do you maintain a humble attitude?

The Arrest of Jesus and Peter's Denial: John Chapter 18

Then the servant girl, being the doorkeeper, said to Peter, "Are you not also one of this Man's disciples?" He said, "I am not."

Devotional thought: Peter wanted to blend in with the crowd and avoid association with a suspected criminal. Are you willing to speak out and stand with those who live on the edges of our society?

The Death of Jesus: John chapter 19

So [Joseph of Arimathea] came and took away His body. Nicodemus, who at first came to Jesus by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, weighing about seventy-five pounds. Then they took the body of Jesus and wrapped it in linen cloths with the spices, as is the burial custom of the Jews.

Devotional thought: Nicodemus gave expensive spices for Jesus' burial. When you give, is it the unused, forgotten can at the back of the pantry or a gift of something you hold dear?

The Resurrection of Jesus: John 20:1-18

Jesus said to [Mary Magdalene], "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?"

Devotional thought: Mary did not recognize Jesus standing beside her. Open your eyes and your heart to see the ways that God is beside you "in plain sight."

Looking for ways to stay connected to God, worship, and the Christian community?

www.dailygood.org a quote and a story each day of positivity

www.ucc.org/daily-devotional United Church of Christ daily devotions written by pastors across the US

www.dancingwiththeword.com a blog written by Janet Hunt, pastor at First Lutheran, DeKalb, IL

