

## From Your Pastor

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July 2020



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

# Revelation

Dear Congregation,

This is not my original “From Your Pastor” message for this newsletter. Things have changed again and as you know we were not able to have in-person worship this past Sunday as we’d planned.

No doubt, you’ve heard of the recent and ongoing outbreak of COVID-19 in our county. Many people have been exposed, and so the risk here in Concordia is actually higher than it’s been before.

I know that many of you were tremendously disappointed that we weren’t able to worship together as we’d hoped. I share your disappointment. Most of my work last week, as well as most of Dee Ann’s work, was focused on making things ready for our reopening. The trustees, led by Monte Wentz, have also worked hard in preparation for a reopening. But a reopening now must wait a while longer.

For now, we must go back to where we were previously: **no in-person worship until further notice.** I will continue with worship on our church’s Facebook page. And again I remind you all (and myself, too!) that this is NOT a forever thing. We will get through this. God is present.

The biggest thing I hear God saying to us right now is a word of reassurance. I hear God saying, “I am with you. Do not be afraid or anxious. Know that I am with you. Look for ways to share my love and to be the church in the midst of pandemic.”

The scriptures remind us of these things. Here are just a few verses which can speak to us

today:

“I can do everything through him who gives me strength.” -  
Philippians 4:13

“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you... Do not let your hearts be troubled & do not be afraid.” - John 14:27

“Find rest, O my soul, in God alone; my hope comes from him.” -  
Psalm 62:5

God bless you! Pastor Melanie

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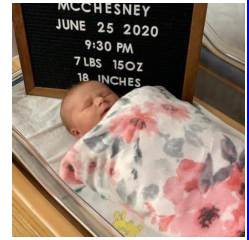
## Good News

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### Congratulations to:

**Nonnie Steinert** is a GREAT Grandma as of June 25th. Welcome baby girl **Avery Claire Steinert** to parents Kyle and Emily, and Grandparents of Kevin and Susan Steinert.

**Pam and Gerald Campbell** who are now GREAT Grandparents. Thanks to Brent Campbell. Welcome his Granddaughter **Gracie Marie McChesney** on June 25th 7- pounds. 15-ounces and 18-inches long.



**If you have any "Good News" you would like to share for next month's Newsletter, Please call the Church Office or email and let us know 785-243-4560/concordia1umc@gmail.com**

## All Aboard

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The First United Methodist, Lutheran, and Presbyterian Churches in Concordia are pleased to offer the Rocky Railway Vacation Bible School in the month of July. This year, Bible School will be different to comply with social distancing. Instead of an in-person event, the three ministries will be putting together take-home kits to distribute every Sunday evening in the month of July. These kits will include a Bible study, a musical component, a craft and a snack. The kit will also include a brief instruction sheet for parents. Kits can be picked up from 6-7pm curbside in the lower level of the First United Methodist Church parking lot every Sunday evening starting **July 5<sup>th</sup> through July 26<sup>th</sup>**

**All Signups are due June 30<sup>th</sup>.  
Contact: Angie Gabel, 785-243-5532**

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe22UQDerZleOIpbDsqdNdc1GwIGb3t\\_dvhWJ8O8e9nGBO8XQ/viewform?fbclid=IwAR1vYKBCO5py2mLaiXeUStG\\_ZVenkAYMdBUE1VhimL9LJblZoSxD-1XHA4](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe22UQDerZleOIpbDsqdNdc1GwIGb3t_dvhWJ8O8e9nGBO8XQ/viewform?fbclid=IwAR1vYKBCO5py2mLaiXeUStG_ZVenkAYMdBUE1VhimL9LJblZoSxD-1XHA4)

## Mission Buckets

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Thank you for your gifts of \$118.75 in April for the Native American Ministries Special Offering.

We will “pass” the missions buckets on July 19<sup>th</sup> for the Cloud County Resource Center. Online donations will also be accepted. In past years, we have collected school supply items and passed missions buckets for the food bank during the summer months. Funds will be donated to the CCRC to meet the most important needs they have during these difficult times. Please give what you can to help those in our community!



If you would prefer to purchase and donate school supply items, please take your donations directly to the CCRC so we can limit the number of people handling the supplies. The most needed items are loose-leaf notebook paper and 3 ring notebooks.

## Meetings and Office News

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**Trustees: Tuesday, July 7th @ 7:00 pm**

**Finance: Monday, July 13th @ 7:00 pm**

**ADCO: Monday, July 20th @ 5:30 pm**



### Cloud County Resource Center Needs

**The Food Bank is open and accepting donations of cash or food items for distribution on Monday and Friday from 9 am – 12 pm and Wednesday from 9 am – 2 pm.**

If you would like to volunteer at the CCRC, please contact

Tonya Merrill at 243-1065 or [ccrc@nckcn.com](mailto:ccrc@nckcn.com)



## Plans for reopening

- ◆ The upper and lower doors are open but the lower hallway is closed.
- ◆ Please wear a mask-masks and hand sanitizer available at each entrance.
- ◆ Ushers will provide guidance to your seat and also be taking attendance.
- ◆ Please maintain social distancing.
- ◆ Please exit the church immediately after service.

## July Birthday Blessings



1st, Peyton Johnson	22nd, Don Pearson
1st, Dorothy Swenson	22nd, Justin Poore
2nd, Lane Campbell	23rd, Kathy Poore
6th, Lily Terrill	23rd, Samantha Terrill
8th, Mike Wentz	23rd, Bruce Nutter
8th, Kristin Peltier	30th, Angie McConkey
16th, Bill Conner	30th, Les Dethloff
20th, Donna Reedy	31st, Jeanne Keazer

### Retirement Celebration Announced for Pastor Ken and Nancy Parker

**\*NOT CANCELLED, JUST POSTPONED\***

Meriden United Methodist Church is inviting friends of Ken and Nancy to a socially distanced open house on **Sunday, September 13th**, at Meriden United Methodist Church from 12:30 to 2 pm

You may also send cards to their new home:  
3217 Yankee Tank Lane, Lawrence, KS 66047-3924

More information is on the church bulletin board for those who wish to send video greetings or contribute a letter to a special scrapbook. Ken and Nancy would love to hear from you!

## Online Worship

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Have you been joining us for Facebook worship? Join us at [www.facebook.com/concordialumc](http://www.facebook.com/concordialumc)! Online worship will continue even after regular services resume. Pastor Melanie plans to live stream the scripture reading and sermon, so the exact start time may vary but will always be available for viewing at a later time. If you need help getting setup to view the service online, contact the church office.



## Enhanced Online Giving

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Additional options have been enabled for online giving through our web site. You can access [Online Giving](#) or scan the QR code with your phone.

Through online giving, you have the option to give with a credit card or to setup direct deposit from your checking account. These gifts can be setup for a one-time gift or as a recurring gift. There is even an option to setup giving by text!



**We encourage you to create an account using the e-mail address you receive e-mails on from the church so your giving is associated with your account in the ChurchTrac membership system and will appear on your annual giving statement.**

By creating an account, you will also have access to all of the giving options mentioned above. If you do not want to create an account, there is an option to give as a guest.

**\*Please note** there is a fee for online giving. You have the option to mark ‘add the service charge to the amount of giving’ **to add the cost of the fee to your gift.**

## Lenten Boxes

Don't forget to return your Lenten boxes in July! Money collected in Lenten boxes will go to [Missions Agency Support](#) in the Great Plains Conference. So far we have received \$155.72 in Lenten box donations.



## Food Distribution

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June was a busy month for us here at United Methodist Church: June 3rd was the DHD (Disaster Household Distribution) serving 274 household members and Commodities was held on June 17th, serving 24-Singles, 7-Couples, and 20-Families. Next Distribution will be Commodities again however at this time we only have a tentative date of July 22nd. We will advertise when confirmed.



## Little Free Pantry

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We know that many area residents are experiencing food insecurity as a result of COVID-19. In particular, we have seen grocery prices rising quickly and we know this is affecting everyone in our community.

**If you would like to help feed those in our community who are food insecure, we ask you to place items directly into the pantry at your convenience. If you prefer, you can also make a monetary donation to help purchase food for the pantry. This helps us to provide a variety of food on a daily basis.**

Thanks to those that have been placing food from our store in the pantry daily: Cindy Kocher, Pam Campbell, Melanie Adams, Nancy Wentz, and Dee Ann Lightfoot!



### Meal on Wheels

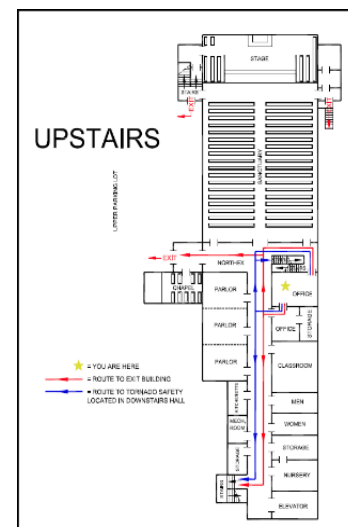
The Senior Center is looking for volunteers to deliver Meals on Wheels. To volunteer, contact **Lori Raccagno at 243-1872**. Meals on Wheels provides a hot meal and human contact for the homebound.

# Healthy Congregation

Healthy Congregations is nearing the end of our grant year and have completed several projects!



**Installation of signage to mark the Tornado Shelter area!** Did you know the designated tornado shelter area is in the lower level cross-hallway (under the sanctuary near the staircase to the choir loft)? Signage has been installed to designate this area and to direct everyone to this area.



**Emergency Evacuation route signage has been in all areas of the building!** Thanks to Jason Johnson for helping create this signage.



**Purchase of sporting equipment for use by the youth!** Two bags of balls are now hanging on the coat rack near the lower entrance and an air pump is available in the storage room in the Fellowship Hall. Thanks to Marsha Wentz for making the labels for the ball bags.

A special COVID-19 Grant from the United Methodist Health Ministries Fund has been used for the following projects:



**Step-n-Pull devices** have been installed on the inside of each bathroom door at the church for hands free door opening! Thanks to David Edwards for installing these devices at the Trustee Workday!

**Masks** for distribution to the congregation and through the Little Free Pantry. As you enter the upper and lower entrance of the church, masks will be available if you need one. If you have masks to donate, we will gladly accept them so we have more on hand in the coming months! If you need supplies to make masks, please contact Nancy Wentz ([ndwentz@gmail.com](mailto:ndwentz@gmail.com)).



**Hand Sanitizer Dispensers** will be purchased to install in locations around the church as soon as they become available.

# July Heroes Needed

Worship Volunteers	July 5th	July 12th	July 19th	July 26th
Greeters				
Media Sound		Mark Mc Conkey		
Worship Leader	Jason Johnson	Angie Mc Conkey		
Liturgist				
Children's Moment	None until further notice	None until further notice	None until further notice	None until further notice
Fellowship Hosts	None until further notice	None until further notice	None until further notice	None until further notice

**Special Thank You** for those who have cleaned the church or helped with the Trustee Workday:  
**Carol Ruud, Janice Swenson, Cindy Kocher, Mary Lisa Thoman, Jan Novlan, David Edwards, Christy Hasch, Marvin Petersen, Kathy Poore, Loren Swenson, Pam Campbell, and Monte Wentz.**

**Areas not in regular use still need a light cleaning. Please call the Office to be added to the volunteer list or see the Bulletin Board.**

Area to Clean	Volunteers
Sanctuary	
Chapel/Entry/Balcony	
Bathrooms	
Nursery	Jan Novlan
Parlor & Kitchen	
Classrooms/Choir Room	
Fellowship Hall	
Halls/Stairs	
Youth Room	
Kitchen	



# July 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5 10:30 am Worship 6-7 Pm VBS	6 10:30 am Worship 6-7 Pm VBS	7 7:00 pm Trustees Meeting	8	9	10	11
12 10:30 am Worship 6-7 pm VBS	13 7:00pm Finance Meeting	14	15	16	17	18
19 10:30 am Worship 6-7 pm VBS	20 5:30 pm ADCO Meeting	21	22 10:00 am Commodities	23	24	25
26 10:30 am Worship 6-7 pm VBS	27	28	29	30	31	



**Return Service Requested**  
**First United Methodist Church**  
**740 West 11<sup>th</sup> Street**  
**Concordia, KS 66901**

**Sunday Services**  
 Adult & Youth Sunday School at 9:30 am  
 Worship at 10:30 am  
**Table Talk every Wednesday Evening (during the school year)**  
 Dinner at 6:00 pm  
 Classes for all ages at 6:30 pm

**Pastor: Rev. Melanie Adams**  
 Administrative Assistant: Dee Ann Lightfoot  
 Christian Education Coordinator: Kathy Poore  
 Groundskeeper: Devin Pearson  
 Choir Director: Renata Knox  
 Organist: Pam Campbell  
 Nursery: Jan Novlan

Contact Information:  
 Email: concordiafumc@gmail.com  
 Pastor's Email: madams@greatplainsumc.org  
 Church Phone: 785-243-4560  
 Pastor's Cell: 308-920-0917  
 Parsonage: 785-262-4224  
 Website: www.concordiafumc.com

**Concordia First United Methodist Church**

Belong | Believe | Become

