



Living Faith
United Methodist Church

5310 South 182nd Avenue Omaha, NE 68135

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Pastor Sandy Webster

Sunday, May 3, 2020

Shine Brightly

John 10:1-10

Prayer Requests

Until further notice, we will not be meeting in person for Worship Services, Sunday School or Wednesday Night Live. Please watch sermons Sunday mornings at 10:10 a.m. on our church Facebook page.

<https://www.facebook.com/LivingFaithUMCOMaha/?ref=bookmarks>

- **Pastor Jaime Farais** and his family for transition from his current churches to Living Faith
- **Pastor Sandy and family** for transition into retirement and future endeavors
- **All who are feeling isolated and lonely**
- **Our children, teenagers, and young adults** who are learning online rather than in physical

classrooms.

- **Voters, volunteers, and voting location hosts** on May 12
- **Bishop Ruben Saenz, Jr.** for his leadership and for modeling life in Christ
- **Discernment and guidance for Living Faith UMC**
- **Transition for LF & All UMC's**
- **Joanne Raterman** ~ continued healing, Praise! Scans came back good on 2/19!
- **Protection from viruses and illnesses going around**
- **Ender** ~ health & strength
- **Shirley Morris** ~ healing, encouragement
- **Jon Davis—family friend of Pastor Sandy** ~ health, back in hospital
- **Larry & Karen Lakeman** ~ healing & encouragement
- **Donna Chaney** ~ health & strength
- **Gloria Peterson** ~ health
- **Rob Oesterle** ~ lung cancer
- **Wava Jean Carl** ~ strength
- **Our nation, our leaders** ~ wisdom and discernment
- **Vernon Thomsen** ~ health, pain management
- **Elderly, shut ins**
- **Adeng, Annie, Julie Kristin, and Renson Michael Chen**
- **Pray for Marriages, Families, Relationships**
- **LFUMC, and all of God's churches**

From The Pastor

I feel like I need to make some joyful declarations!

- God is good, all the time.
- Life in Christ at Living Faith goes on, although different from what we are used to.
- Our mission remains the same: To make disciples for Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world!

Please lift Pastor Tom Earhart up in praise, thanking God for Tom's talents at recording and putting together online services. I am so grateful for his expertise and I know all of you are too! And then a bonus is that he is fun to work with! Our work with recording our Sunday worship services will continue for awhile longer. I am quoting some of the letter we received from Bishop Ruben Saenz, Jr. and we will honor his leadership.

For all Sundays during the month of May, we will be worshipping online. Towards the end of May we will reevaluate our worship platform for June.

Excerpts from our Bishop's letter to all pastors of the Great Plains Conference dated April 27, 2020:

- 1) The Bishop first affirmed and thanked us for continuing with vibrant ministries despite struggles and concerns due to the COVID-19 restrictions.
- 2) If ever there was an opportunity to push a "reset" button, this is it. Now is the right time for local churches to reimagine their vision, set new priorities, and revise strategies to relaunch our ministries after the COVID-19 restrictions end. Now is the time to ask ourselves, what new things are we learning? What can we incorporate into our ministry going forward? How will we be more aligned with the mind and mission of Christ's outreaching love for our world that affirms the worth of all humanity and the value of the interrelationship in all Christ's creation? Let's ask those questions now so we can have answers and implementable action plans ready when the time comes to reboot our ministries.
- 3) There will come a time when all gathering-size restrictions are lifted. However, we must anticipate that our lives and timelines will be shaped for at least the next year by the behavior of COVID-19. If at any time within a recovery stage COVID-19 cases significantly rise, a reversal to the previous step may be necessary. When we do meet, we will practice public safety recommendations for safe distancing, disinfecting spaces, and for other contact behaviors particular to the church-gathering experience. The directed health measures we take are meant to ensure the safety of our congregations, especially our older adults and people of any age who have serious underlying medical conditions who might be at higher risk. I do not want to increase fear, but gathering in closed quarters, singing, our contact rituals, and decreased ventilation in our gathering spaces creates a ripe environment for viral transmission. I strongly urge you to err on the side of caution. To gather in person or not for worship at this time is not a matter of faith vs. faithlessness, or about some conspiracy to suppress Christianity; this is about honoring and doing our part individually and collectively to protect God's sacred gift of life, especially for the most vulnerable in our communities and our world.

Continued →

From The Pastor Continued:

- 4) Annual Conference will now be a one-day teleconference on Saturday, May 30. A special session of Annual Conference is scheduled for October 1-4 in Grand Island.
- 5) I believe now is the right time for local churches, regardless of their numerical size, to organize themselves into groups of 10 to 12 adults for mutual accountability to faithful discipleship and mission. A spiritual leader chosen from within the small group will be responsible for staying in contact with the rest of the group members, organize pastoral care for members of the group as needed, and coordinate the group's mission within the local church and to the community. The spiritual leaders will stay in touch with the pastor for equipping, guidance, and support.

Click on the letter from the Bishop that is attached to your weekly email containing Connections to read the letter in entirety.

ACTION ITEMS FOR LIVING FAITH:

- 1) Continue to worship online during the month of May.
- 2) Organize groups of 10-12 people for mutual accountability to faithful discipleship and mission.
- 3) Resume planning ministry at our next Church Council meeting which will be held via ZOOM on Tuesday evening, May 19 at 7:00 p.m.

We are blessed to serve a mighty and powerful God!
Living Life in Him,
Pastor Sandy

**We will be continuing online worship for the
upcoming Sundays:
May 3, 10, 17, 24, & 31**

On Sunday, May 17 during online worship we will pray over and honor our 2020 graduates. Please take a minute to write a note or send a card to each of our Living Faith graduates. They are:

High School Graduates 2020:

Ben Earhart ~ Son of Tom & Dorinda Earhart
Kaleigh Ertz ~ Daughter of Dan & Heidi Ertz
Rebekkah Hale ~ Daughter Of Keith & Charlene Hale
Ben Hizer ~ Son of Mark & Lynn Hizer
Cy Stewart ~ Son of Mark & Schann Stewart
West Stewart ~ Son of Mark & Schann Stewart
Dylan Tipler ~ Son of Eric & Shirley Tipler



College Graduates 2020:

Austin Hizer ~ Son of Mark & Lynn Hizer
Ashley Thomsen ~ Granddaughter of Vernon & Grace Thomsen
Alison Greenfield ~ Granddaughter of Bob & Joan Greenfield
Hope Greenfield ~ Daughter-In-Law of Bob & Joan Greenfield

United Methodist Course of Study Graduate 2020:

Pastor Dick Webster ~ Husband of Pastor Sandy Webster

Dear Heavenly Father,


Thank You for our graduates! We ask that you bless them, care for them, and guide them as they enter the next phase of their lives. We lift them up to You and we are grateful that each has successfully completed their studies. We pray today in Jesus' name, Amen.

You may send your cards/letters/notes/gifts directly to our graduates, or you may drop them off at the church or mail them to the church and we will deliver them.

Living Faith UMC
5310 S 182nd Avenue
Omaha, NE 68135

Let's celebrate education with our graduates!



A hand is pushing a shopping cart with a green handle in a grocery store aisle. The background is blurred, showing shelves stocked with various products.

Debbie Beavers small group is willing to shop for any congregation members who are not wanting to or can't get out.

You can email Debbie directly at pemberly01@gmail.com



Some neighbors also wrote inspirational quotes as their drawings. (Courtesy Daphne Sashin)



Committees

Living Faith has a structure of committees to do our work. We have great volunteers, but attending evening meetings is difficult so attendance is low.

How would you re-structure?

- ♦ SPRC (Staff Parish Relations)
 - ♦ Finance
 - ♦ Trustees
- ♦ Congregational Care
 - Membership
 - Prayer
 - Care of Member

What would make it easier for you to serve?

What keeps you from volunteering?

What could change that would turn your “no” to “yes” for committee work?

Please send and email to Tracy
info@livingfaithumc.com

**Pray
Pray
Pray**

Bishop Saenz has asked all United Methodists to unite

In prayer each day at noon.

Pray The Lord's Prayer at 12:00 noon everyday.

**We lift our prayers together—
one body, one LORD.**



Habitat for Humanity is a mission that many of us feel passionate about, even though we no longer go to the worksite together as a team.

If you want to volunteer, go to their website and sign up for the date & time you'll work.
They will be glad to have you!

<https://habitatomaha.org/volunteernow/>



Rummage Sale

**Training Dates:
TBD**

June 10 - 13 Sale Dates



MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR OUR SPRING PLANT SALE

*...a fundraiser where every dollar you spend supports
our school garden education programs!*

April 16th - May 16th
9am-2pm every Thu, Fri, Sat
5602 Read Street, 68152

- high-quality vegetables, herbs, and prairie plants
- organically-grown in our greenhouses
- wide variety of heirlooms
- cash, check, and credit card accepted

BigGarden.org/plant-sale-2020



**1st Sunday Prayer
Following Worship**

**Personal individual prayer
with two people.**

Meet in the FH

OUR MISSION

To make disciples for Jesus Christ
to transform the world

OUR VISION

- 1) To be disciples for Christ
- 2) To bring others to Christ

OUR GOALS

- 1) Become & remain Spiritually Strong
 - a) Attend Worship Regularly
 - b) Be Part of a small group
 - c) Pray faithfully
- 2) Share God with our Community & the world
 - a) Mission Shares
 - b) Service to others
 - c) Reaching out
- 3) Interact with The Holy Bible Daily
 - a) Educate & guide our children & youth
 - b) Christian Education for all ages

Scripture and Sermon Titles

You are invited to read the Scriptures prior to Worship Services.

Sunday, May 3

Shine Brightly

John 10:1-10

Sunday, May 24

Start More Fires

John 17:1-11

Sunday, May 10

Fan The Flame

John 14:1-14

Sunday, May 31

Pentecost

John 7:37-39

Acts 2:1-13

Sunday, May 17

Spread Wildly

John 14:15-21

Sunday, June 7

Live A Life Worthy Of Your Calling

Ephesians 4:1-7

A Look Ahead

May 7 ~ National Day of Prayer

May 12 ~ Mother's Day ~ Accepting small items for rummage sale

May 17 ~ Accepting big items for rummage sale

May 25 ~ Memorial Day

May 27—30 ~ Annual Conference

Finance March Update:

If you buy 50 rolls of toilet paper, how many should you give to the church? 5!

Tithing has not been cancelled.

Thank you for faithful giving!

**Our mission is to make disciples
of Jesus Christ for
the transformation
of the world.**

Check Us Out

www.livingfaithumc.com

Facebook! Search: Living Faith UMC

Sync up with our Google Calendar – look for us at info@livingfaithumc.com

Click the link below to get set up with our calendar:

<https://accounts.google.com/ServiceLogin?service=cl&passive=1209600&continue=https://www.google.com/calendar/render?tab%3Dwc&followup=https://www.google.com/calendar/render?tab%3Dwc&scc=1>

Make a DONATION TODAY ~ Scan the QR Code from your smart phone to be taken to our Donation Page on our website.



How to watch live via Facebook:

Login to your Facebook account in the search bar (if you can't find it hit the magnifying glass at the top of the page) type in Living Faith UMC: Click on the page.



Once on the page, the live should be at the top of the page, if not click on video's on the right side.

How to watch live via our website:

Go to: <http://www.livingfaithumc.com/worship2>

Click on the green button that says: Live Sermon, Sundays at 10:10 a.m.

That will direct you to a different page to watch the live sermon.