



Living Faith  
United Methodist Church

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**Pastor Sandy Webster**

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**Sunday, May 24, 2020**

**Start More Fires**

**John 17:1-11**

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### **Prayer Requests**

- **Rob Oesterle** passed away, Prayers for his family please.
- **Our Graduates**
- **Family of Bill Milks** ~ Grieving
- **Camp Fontenelle**
- Praise for a healthy baby girl born to **Terry Unterseher's daughter Sarah. Welcome Lillian Joy!**
- **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**
- **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
- **Protection from viruses and illnesses going around**
- **Shirley Morris** ~ healing, encouragement
- **Jon Davis—family friend of Pastor Sandy** ~ health
- **Larry & Karen Lakeman** ~ healing & encouragement
- **Donna Chaney** ~ health & strength
- **Gloria Peterson** ~ health
- **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**

**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>**

## From The Pastor

I like change. I do. I embrace it. Change is good. OK, I cope with all of these statements by reminding myself that "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow." Regardless of what changes we encounter today or in the future, we know we can count on God to be the same. I just really need to hear that and know that today. Scripture is so powerful in helping us through life and Scripture is so relevant to each of us. When life seems to be too weird, which to me is a lot of the time right now, I rely on knowing that my God never changes. Even though I can't go to a store and try on a new shirt or take our grandkids to the park and watch them play, I can feel God's presence and governance over each day.

Our leadership team made some tough choices at our Church Council meeting this week. We decided that the risk of inviting children into our building for VBS is too great so we will not be having VBS this summer. Handling personal items of others and inviting the public into our building to purchase the goods of others also seems like a great risk so we will not be having the rummage sale this summer. After discussion, we decided these rather easily. Not happily mind you, but easily because the risks seem so clear and the liability is great.

What we are struggling with is worship because all of us miss gathering and all of us miss each other! We have two more Sundays in May and we will be worshipping online for sure for these two Sundays. More than likely we will still be worshipping online into June. Although there are guidelines published by the CDC and also by the UMC, adhering to them and ensuring the protection of our people is daunting. This COVID 19 virus is real and it is contagious. We want to use our minds to make decisions with wisdom, not to make decisions based on fear.

Please know that I pray for each of you every single day. There has been some benefit to this extra quiet time for me and that has been deep and intentional prayer, much time spent in God's Word as printed in The Holy Bible, and substantial time to quietly reflect on my life in Christ. I hope you are finding good uses of your extra time these days.

Be blessed!

Pastor Sandy

**Our annual rummage sale, scheduled for June 11-13 has been cancelled and no future date has been decided upon at this time.**

## Church Council Minutes

May 16, 2020

Present: Pastor Sandy, Pastor Tom, Joan Smith, Carol Brantz, Pat Cotton, Terry Elwood, Valorie Halsey, Lynn Hizer, Gene Latham, John Maxell, Courtney Nixon, Rita Pfingsten, Richard Phillis, Rosalie Weber.

Richard gave a finance report:

- Currently mail-in or dropped off offerings are strong, approximately \$40,000 balance
- Operating expenses very low last month
- We received \$300 from United Methodist Foundation
- We receive a small business emergency grant (forgivable) for \$4,000
- We received Paycheck Protection from federal government (forgivable) for \$26,000
- Applied for and granted three months of reduced mortgage payments
- Requested we send out a message reminding people to continue giving, especially since we will not receive the typical income from the rummage sale since it is cancelled

Staffing: We remain at four paid staff (Sandy, Tom, Tracy, and Leah)

Mowing has begun, sprayed for dandelions and weeds, car hit one of the trees on our property (no one was hurt). Entire row of trees is dead, Courtney will get an estimate for cost to remove them.

Members are being cared for via phone calls, texts, emails, and mailings.

Special Events: Decided no VBS this summer and no rummage sale. Still discussing Car Show since it would be outside.

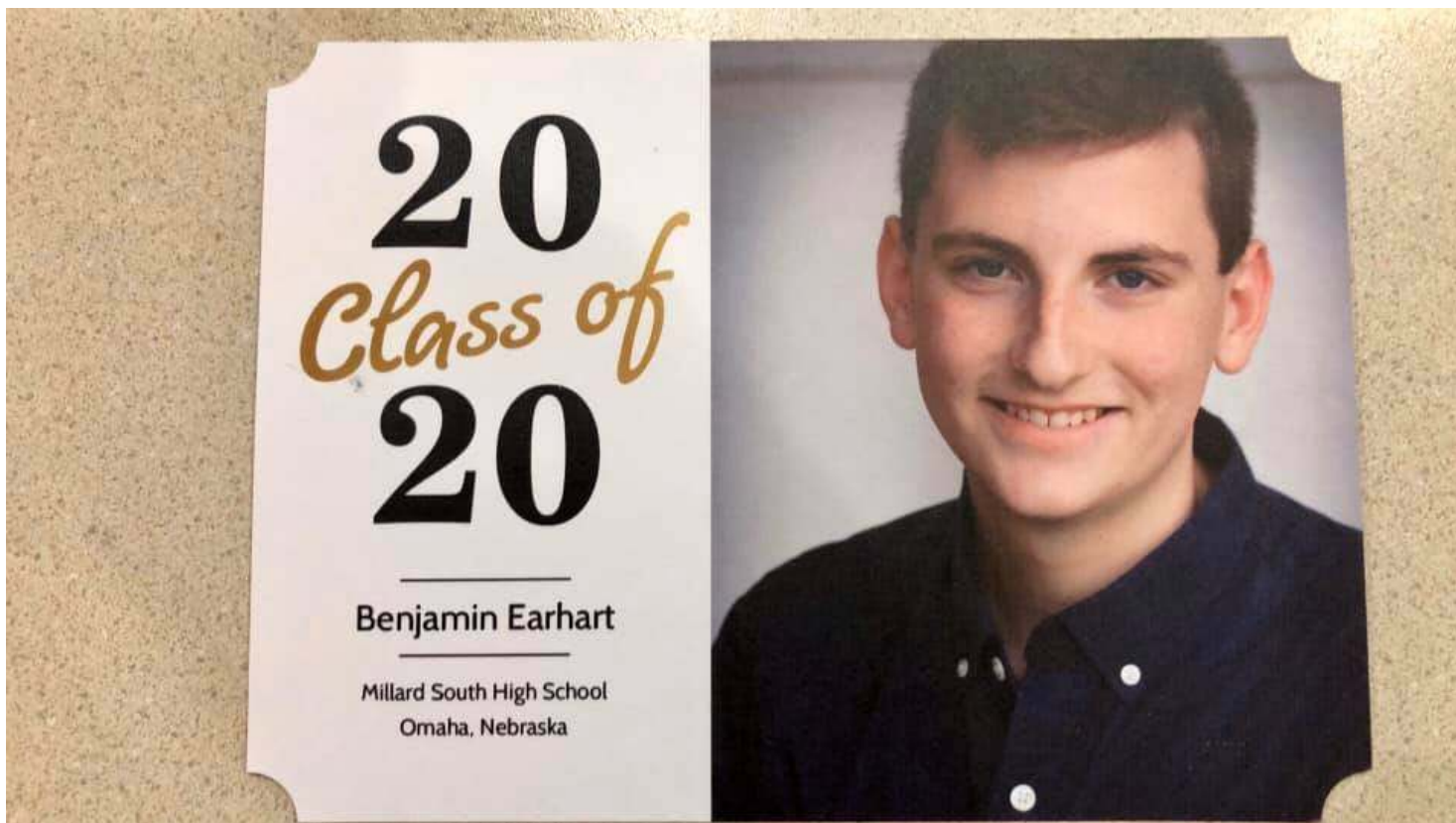
Tom asked that scouts be allowed to meet in our building in June. Gene motioned OK for scouts to meet as long as Tom sees that sanitizing practices are met and social distancing practiced. Courtney seconded. Vote was not unanimous, but it passed that scouts can meet.

SPRC meets Tuesday, May 26. Council suggested inviting Pastor Jaime to join this Zoom meeting and also to invite him to the June 16 Church Council meeting. Brief discussion of how to welcome Pastor Jaime and his family and also how to ensure closure with Pastor Sandy.

Joan asked for committee chairpersons to form a "Return to Worship" Team to plan and prepare for when and how we can worship together in the sanctuary. A date was not established.

Zoom meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Pastor Sandy



**Grad Party for Ben Earhart**

**May 23, 12:00pm-3:00pm**

**16135 W St, Omaha, NE 68135**

To comply with social distancing guidelines, we will have a “stay in your car” party where you can drive up and chat with the graduate, get some goodies to take home, and toss your card for Ben in a box. Hope you can drive over and say hi anytime between noon and 3 pm on Saturday May 23.

**There are daffodil bulbs at the entrance by  
the bench if you would like any!**

**Please take what you can use!**



## Scripture and Sermon Titles

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

### **Sunday, May 24**

Start More Fires

John 17:1-11

### **Sunday, May 31**

Pentecost

John 7:37-39

Acts 2:1-13

### **Sunday, June 7**

Live A Life Worthy Of Your Calling

Ephesians 4:1-7

### **Sunday, June 14**

Now THIS Is Eternal Life!

John 17:1-5, 17-24

### **Sunday, June 21**

Trust In Jesus

John 14:1-7

### **Sunday, June 28**

Grace And Peace To You!

John 14:15-19, 25-27

1 Thessalonians 3:16-18

## A Look Ahead

**May 25** ~ Memorial Day

**May 26** ~ Office Closed


Finance May Update:

Our pledges have remained strong. Thank you for dropping off your offering or for mailing them into the office.

Tithing has not been cancelled.

Thank you for faithful giving!

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



**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](mailto:pemberly01@gmail.com)**

**GOD CAN RESTORE WHAT IS BROKEN  
AND CHANGE IT INTO SOMETHING  
AMAZING. ALL YOU NEED IS FAITH**

**- JOEL 2:25**

# 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](mailto: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**

**Sale Dates TBD**





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

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

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## **Check Us Out**

[www.livingfaithumc.com](http://www.livingfaithumc.com)

**Facebook! Search: Living Faith UMC**

**Sync up with our Google Calendar – look for us at [info@livingfaithumc.com](mailto: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>

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