



## CLEARWATER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH NEWSLETTER - May 2021

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### **PRAISE GOD!**

- Spring is hopefully finally on the way!
- Green grass and birds singing!
- For in person church services again!
- Lower Covid numbers in our state!

### **OUR CHURCH WEBSITE:**

[www.clearwaterumcmn.org](http://www.clearwaterumcmn.org)

– Please remember to log in and check it out.

### **MAY BIRTHDAYS:**

Sue Solberg – May 16

Gail Goenner – May 23

### **FOR NEXT NEWSLETTER –**

Please send any announcements, articles, projects, thoughts, recipes, etc. to Carol. Thanks

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

#### **IN-PERSON WORSHIP:**

We went back to in person worship on March 14.

Services are at 9:30 AM.

We will be following all of the Clearwater UMC Covid policies detailed below.

#### **WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY:**

Mondays at 10:30 AM

### **THANK YOU:**

For those who helped Margaret get the church cleaned up again after so long of dis-use!

### **CLEARWATER UMC COVID POLICY** approved by the board:

As a congregation who loves our neighbors, who longs for health and wholeness for all, and who cares for our community, we are putting this policy in place to keep us as safe as possible. This policy is for church goers and other building users.

- If you are sick, please do not come to the church building for any reason.

- Masks must be worn in the building at all times. They must cover both the nose and mouth.
- We will be recording the names and contact information of each person who comes to the church building for group activities.
- If you have been in close contact with someone who has tested positive for CoVid, please do not come to the church building for any reason, including worship and Bible study.
- If you test positive for CoVid, and have been at church in the last 14 days, please let Margaret know (or Kitty for non church groups).
- If we have someone test positive who has been in the church building, we will not worship in person that following Sunday. We encourage everyone who has been in church at the same time as the person who has tested positive to quarantine

themselves, and to get a CoVid test.

- If you choose to attend a 'super spreader' event, (any event with a large crowd - over 50 people), please choose not to come to church for at least fourteen days after the event.
- If a worship service is cancelled, Pastor Alison will email out a written or videoed sermon to all who are interested. Email [alisonhendley@yahoo.com](mailto:alisonhendley@yahoo.com) to be put on the list

## RECIPES:

### CONTEST-WINNING RHUBARB PUDDING

-from Taste of Home

#### INGREDIENTS

- 8 slices bread, lightly toasted
- 1-1/2 cups milk
- 1/4 cup butter, cubed
- 5 eggs, lightly beaten
- 3 cups chopped fresh or frozen rhubarb, thawed
- 1-1/2 cups sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 cup packed brown sugar

## INSTRUCTIONS

1. Remove crusts from bread; cut into 1/2-in. cubes. Place in a greased 1-1/2-qt. baking dish.
2. In a large saucepan, heat milk over medium heat until bubbles form around sides of pan; remove from the heat. Stir in butter until melted. Pour over bread; let stand for 15 minutes.
3. In a large bowl, combine the eggs, rhubarb, sugar, cinnamon and salt; stir into bread mixture. Sprinkle with brown sugar. Bake at 350° for 45-50 minutes or until set. Serve warm. Refrigerate leftovers.

#### Editor's Note

If using frozen rhubarb, measure rhubarb while still frozen, then thaw completely. Drain in a colander, but do not press liquid out.

## .....From Pastor Alison Hendley.....

We are beginning a new sermon series this week: 'Walking With God'. Those of you who know me may think if I had my way the series would be called 'Walking with Dog!', and, in all honesty, you would not be far off! For I find when I am out walking with my dog, God is always the third One present, walking with us, pointing out new things along the way, drawing my attention to the things around us as well as the things within. And this has long been the way, even before there was a dog in my life. I remember really annoying my mom as she walked me to school, stopping to look at a flower or lady bug or look up at the sky, day dreaming or praying as we went, often ending up being dragged by the arm to hurry me along. I was thankful when I was allowed to walk myself to school, leaving a few minutes early and able to bask in what caught my attention, while never being late to school. Much later, when I was at university, I lived in a beach town, sharing a house with 3 or 4 others. We lived down by the estuary, and one way to walk to class was through town. My friends never understood why I would leave an hour before classes and wander along the beach and up the hill, often stopping to look at the waves, instead of the shorter route through the streets, but, again, wandering with God filled me and allowed me to be present in classes, and walking that way home again let me decompress so all the things we had learned found a way to settle.

Nowadays, often when I walk I do so with a scripture reading on my heart, listening to how God may be unfolding it, watching for signs around me that deepen it, letting it settle in to my heart as I walk. At times I think I know what God is going to say to me and get totally surprised by God's twist, and at others I have no idea, still being surprised. But I always find it is a way to decompress from all that is going on in the world around me, the horror that comes through the news each day, the injustices that surround us, the ways creation is being damaged, the hate we can show one another as human beings, the grief that has come into all our lives recently. As I walk, all this can fade to a whisper and I am restored, ready to return to the challenges of our world after wandering and wondering with God.

Today, I invite you to take a walk with God. Read the scripture and prompts below and see what happens! The scripture is from Luke 24 when two disciples were walking from Jerusalem to Emmaus and Jesus joined them, but they did not know it was him. *"As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over." So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?""*

Read these words. As you walk (or imagine walking, or sit under a tree, look out your window, or even lie in bed), I invite you to be one of those walking to Emmaus. A seven mile journey along a dusty road, stones shifting beneath your sandaled feet, the sun shining on you. Feel the weight of the death of Jesus, the curiosity and doubt at the women's vision of seeing a risen Jesus when all you saw was an empty tomb. Maybe bring to mind something that you are doubtful about at this time, a longing you have, a sadness that Jesus seems so far away. Walk with that doubt, that uncertainty. Stay in that place until you see a glimpse of Jesus breaking through, until your eyes are opened to new hope, until a word of grace floods your being. It may come though a bud opening, a tiny flower showing, a bird calling, the way the sun shines through the trees, a feeling inside that re-connects you to God, an answer or thought that is different. Let it come, without forcing it. Allow that answer to unfold as you continue to walk or sit, deepening within you, filling you.

Say thanks to God as you step back into the tasks of your day.

I'd love to hear how this was for you if you want to share!