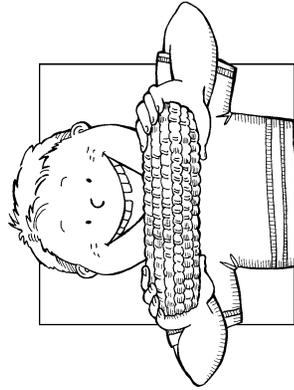


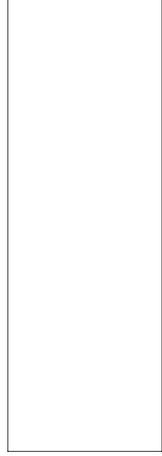
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August



The Reed

The United Methodist Church of Reed City

Learn — Grow — Serve — Share

August 2020



When Can We Sing?

Having in-person worship has been a blessed addition to our worship options, but not being able to sing definitely leaves something to be desired. The reason we aren't singing in worship is that initial studies showed that singing increased the potential for spread of the virus and that masks are not particularly helpful in combatting this. More recent studies are showing that masks may in fact prove useful while singing, but substantial results have not yet come forth. Rest assured that Pastor Kristen and leadership are closely monitoring the situation and praying that it is deemed safe to sing with a mask on. As soon as we see this information from a credible source we will move in that direction.

Many of you have also suggested that it would help to have pre-recorded special music, or even videos of worship music so that, at least, someone is "singing" in our services. We think this is a great idea! The challenge lies in our streaming process. While we are up and running as far as having worship available streaming online, there are still glitches that need to be worked out so that we can run at full capacity. The tech team is working diligently to expand our technical capabilities. We thank you for your patience and hope you are as excited as we are about what is to come!

Love INC's \$25,000 in 25 Days Campaign

The Corona Virus Pandemic has created a lot of changes in our lives and normal practices. Love INC, a Christian non-profit that provides resources for people in both Osceola and Wexford counties, has been forced to re-imagine their fundraising. Normally, much of the funding for their ministry comes from their annual fundraisers (a golf outing and a dinner) as well as donations from local churches. We have a history of supporting Love INC, but with the cancellation of our rummage sale, our church is not able to support them in the same way we have in the past. This is true for many other churches as well.

This year Love INC is trying something new. They are doing a letter writing campaign. They are sending out letters to people who have supported them in the past and asking for donations August 1 – 25. Their goal is to raise \$25,000, the equivalent of what their fundraisers brought in last year. If you have supported them in the past, please watch for your letter. If you would like to support them, you can give online at their website <https://loveinccadillac.org> or contact the church office for a copy of the letter (after August 1). This is one way we can work together with other members of our community to help people in need.





10:00 a.m. Worship Service

Worship Services Broadcast:

**Radio: WDEE 97.3 FM – 10:00 a.m. Sunday
AND on Facebook and YouTube**

OUR CHURCH STAFF:

Rev. Kristen Coristine Pastor
 Carolyn Sims..... Office Manager
 Courtney Piercey..... Chancel Choir Director
 OrganistSally Andrews

<u>Date</u>	<u>Theme/Scripture</u>
August 2	Romans 9:1-5 Matthew 14:13-21 “When You’re Tired, But They’re Hungry”
August 9	Romans 10:5-15 Matthew 14:22-23 “Are You Sitting in the Boat?”
August 16	Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32 Matthew 15:10-28 “Did Jesus Come for Them?”
August 23	Romans 12:1-8 Exodus 1:8-2:10 “What Can You Do?”
August 30	Romans 12:9-21 Exodus 3:1-15 “How to Fight Evil”

ATTENDANCE AND FINANCE FIGURES

A Report on our Presence and Gifts for Christ's Church

Attendance:

June 28 – 35 Sanctuary; 111 Live online viewers
 July 5 – 36 Sanctuary; 85 Live online viewers
 July 12 – 23 Sanctuary; 65 Live online viewers
 July 19 – 20 Sanctuary; 79 Live online viewers

Financial Update:

General Fund Offerings:

June 28 – \$3,443.00; July 5 – \$2,919.00;
 July 12 – \$1,696.66; July 19 – \$2,897.40

Income-to-Date (as of 7/20/20) = \$91,851.13;
 Expenses-to-Date = \$80,165.79

**Thank you SO MUCH for your faithfulness to God
 during this pandemic.**

**A full report on general fund and designated funds
 is located on the wall across from the church office.**

One and Only

God declines to sit atop an organizational flowchart. He is the organization. He is not interested in being president of the board. He is the board. Life doesn’t work until everyone else sitting around the table in the boardroom of your heart is fired. He is God, and there are no other applicants for that position.

There are no partial gods, no honorary gods, no interim gods, no assistants to the regional gods. God is saying this is not because he is insecure, but because it’s the way of truth in this universe, which is His creation. Only one God owns and operates it. Only one God designed it, and only one God knows how it works. He is the only God who can help us, direct us, satisfy us, save us.

— Kyle Idleman, *God at War*

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS FOR AUGUST

PROJECTION

2 – Tyler Thompson
9 – Mark Posey
16 – Aaron Weiss
23 – Mark Posey
30 – Tyler Thompson

**THIS INFORMATION
IS NOT AVAILABLE
ON THE WEBSITE**

FLOWERS

ALL WEEKS IN AUGUST ARE AVAILBLE
TO PROVIDE ALTAR FLOWERS,
OR A GIFT TO MISSION OF YOUR CHOICE,
IN LIEU OF FLOWERS.



Dear Friends,

Thank you to my wonderful church family for all the cards and well wishes I received for my 93rd birthday. I can't tell you how much they mean to me.

Love,

Anna Lee White

Dear Friends in Christ,

We were indeed delighted by the many kindnesses extended in celebration of our fiftieth wedding anniversary. Thank you for remembering us!

Gratefully,

John and Carolyn Engel

Dear Church Family,

Thank you so much for the cards and phone calls we received for our 63rd wedding anniversary. Your kindness means so much to us.

God bless you all,

Harry and Charlotte Stuck

The Coming Flood

*From
Pastor Kristen*



"I just want things to get back to NORMAL!" While I haven't uttered these words aloud, other than in jest, I have definitely felt them a lot lately. I feel them every time I have to remind myself not to hug someone on Sunday morning, or even when I quietly hum the words to a favorite hymn. I feel them when I can't pray with someone (in person) before surgery, and as I try to figure out what we can "do" without gathering. It is frustrating having to distance and learning all of the new, ever changing rules. It is easy to get discouraged and feel hopeless, but then I am reminded of the disciples.

In August, we will be looking at the miracles of Jesus in worship. As I prepare even now for those worship services, I think about how the disciples must have felt. These were men who left their everyday normal lives and followed Jesus on a mission, stranger than they could have ever conceived. He showed up out of nowhere, called them to walk away from their jobs and families, spoke in riddles they rarely understood, and performed miracles beyond their wildest imaginations, usually in answer to their frustration.

The thing is, I really want things to get back to normal. I want that because I know what to do with normal. I know what to expect, how to react, and even what needs to be done. In the middle of this season I am tired of the unknowns, but I also know that progress requires change. When I was in college a pastor helped us understand change this way: Rivers have set paths. In order for a river to change course it requires a flood. Only when everything is destroyed and the flood waters recede can we see the new direction.

Friends, right now we are in the midst of the flood. We are up to our eyeballs in Covid "rain," and it seems like it may never stop. Here's the thing though; even when it stops we will still have the flood to deal with. There will be businesses that won't return, there will be families who have lost loved ones, there will be new school practices, and yes, the way the church functions will probably not be the same. This doesn't have to be all bad.

Already we can see ways that this has changed our course here in the church. We have become more technologically savvy, both from a church and an individual perspective. People who would have balked at the idea of worship online are finding the blessing in having it available. We have doubled our efforts in communicating with those who have been shut-in, and I know that has been a blessing for both the callers and the callees. In the future there will be many more things that we are forced to do differently and so we will do them better, or will do something new. Just like when Jesus called the disciples into something new, the good news is that God is on this journey with us. Even though we long for what was, even though our limited vision is frustrating, the good news is that God has something incredible for our future. We just need to hold on a bit longer and put our trust in him.

Blessings,

Pastor Kristen

Covid Questionnaire (repeated from July Reed)

As we are still working to craft our new worship environment and schedule after our long hiatus, we would like to share your thoughts, experiences and preferences. Your answers to the following questions will help guide us during the upcoming weeks and months as we evolve into our 'new normal' and continue to navigate the effects of COVID 19 on the operation of our church.

Please be open with your answers. We want to be responsive and nimble to the desires of our congregation, while maintaining the health and safety of all of us. We appreciate your time in completing this questionnaire.

1. Have you worshipped with us at any of the June in-person services at our church? _____ (If "no", please skip to question #11.) If "yes," continue with question #2:
2. Did you feel comfortable and welcome at the church? _____
Please explain: _____

3. Did you feel that good care had been taken to ensure social distancing and cleanliness of the church environment? _____ Please explain what you liked, or what you didn't: _____

4. Were the expectations (wearing a mask, contact free offering, distancing in narthex/sanctuary) made clear to you? _____ Did you feel they were reasonable/adequate? _____
5. Please tell us what you liked about the service, or supply any suggestions or ideas for improvement in making the worship experience safer:

6. What did you especially miss about our worship accommodations to COVID-19?
7. Regarding the in-person technology:
A. Could you hear adequately? _____
B. Did the projected "bulletin" help you follow the service? _____
8. Any thoughts on the length of the service, or what could be added/subtracted to make it more meaningful or enjoyable? _____

9. Were the prayers and sermons uplifting and meaningful to you? _____
10. Were you glad you attended in person? _____ Do you have any other thoughts or suggestions to share? _____

Leadership Team News, Continued

Our plans for further re-opening of our church are in a holding pattern, pending the local status of COVID-19. For now, we will continue with Sunday worship and the potential for ongoing outdoor Bible study, but will hold off in making other changes until we feel confident in doing so. We welcome your input and suggestions, and invite you to complete the survey enclosed (pages 4 and 5) if you have not already done so. If you have new ideas to share, we want to hear them!

If you have a hankering to help this summer, please call our church office and let us know. Until we begin opening the other areas of the church, we have work to do outside the church and from home. You can continue to be the hands and feet of Christ in our church and in our community!

We continue to pray for patience, in our current situation, and with one another. Thank you for being responsive and supportive of our church. We continue to be "in this together." The words of Bishop David Bard are especially appropriate at this time. If you've already read his message, it bears repeating:

*"I understand that wearing face coverings feels uncomfortable and inconvenient, but I think it remains in the interest of public health, the common good and the well-being of others. I understand that this may feel like an infringement of freedom, but the **Christian understanding of freedom is that it is freedom for love and service. "For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters; only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but serve each other through love" (Galatians 5:13).***

Thank you for your patience with me and with one another. Thank you for your love and care for others. Thank you for witnessing to your faith in Jesus Christ in countless ways, including in caring for public health, the common good and the well-being of others.

'Let all that you do be done in love' (I Corinthians 16:14)."

As the Bishop explains, we do this together, in the interest of the common good. We do not judge those who cannot, or choose not to wear a face covering. However you observe the confinements of this pandemic, please consider it in terms of your Christian response to duty in loving one another as you love yourself. Take care of yourself, and take care of others. And, have patience—in all situations. God is good. God is STILL good. ALL THE TIME, God is good! Blessings to you, dear friends!



Covid Questionnaire, continued (repeated from July Reed)

Leadership Team News

Yet another month has passed, and as much as we could have wished it, August is before us with 'more of the same.' If you have ever watched the movie "Groundhog's Day," this feels a bit like that comedic plot, with each day repeating itself in similar fashion. We aren't able to move forward with much certainty, and today looks much like yesterday did. Yet, we're very aware that things are changing, and we have little control. COVID19 has ushered in concerns about healthcare, employment and the economy. Cultural unrest and politics fuel the uneasiness we are bound to feel. In all of the uncertainty, we know that our faith in God provides us the assurance that we are loved, we are cared for, and that He remains with us in all circumstances. His love is constant, and He is our rock in all trials. Our church remains strong and vital, even as we are distanced socially. We are all in this together, and our Lord God is firmly in charge!

Our church Leadership Team continues to prioritize the wellbeing of our church family as we weather this rough patch. We re-evaluate best practices and are educating ourselves to provide a safe environment for those who choose to worship in person on Sunday mornings. We are masked, distanced and sanitized. For those not comfortable being in the sanctuary, you will still find our services on the radio, on Facebook, our website and You Tube. Pastor Kristen continues to connect with our church family and others with her messages, Bible studies and prayer times on Facebook. An outdoor/distanced/masked Bible study has taken place. Compassionate callers are phoning to touch base with those hunkering down at home. Our prayer chain supplies faithful warriors for those requesting prayers. We lean on one another and on God.

Even though our church continues to be closed between Sunday services, its work continues. In its July meeting, Leadership Team heard several reports: 1) In the parsonage, there will be two replacement windows installed on the south side of the building, and the aged water heater has been replaced. 2) At church, faucets have been replaced in the education wing, and maintenance or replacement of the dishwasher and office printer will be a matter for upcoming discussion. 3) Our church finances are stable, and we are 'holding our own,' thanks to the continued tithing/offering support of our church family and Conference. 4) Online giving is available, and some of our congregation have already found this option to be convenient. 5) Additionally, a designated fund is being established for COVID-related needs within our church and our community. If you wish to contribute to this fund, please make note on your offering envelope. 6) On July 5, we were able to offer Holy Communion in our sanctuary for the first time since March, using no-touch pre-packaged elements. It worked well, and we will continue with this practice through flu season, and as long as Covid concerns are with us.

11. If you answered "no" to question #1 and did not attend in-person worship during June, what were your reasons? (Was not in town, did not feel comfortable in group setting, preferred to listen/watch in my own home, etc.) _____

12. If you worshipped from a distance, were you: Online/Facebook____
Online/YouTube____ Online/Website____ WDEE FM Radio____
13. If you answered yes to any of #12,
 - A. Regarding the technological experience: How was the audio?

How was the video (if applicable)?: _____

What was your impression of the content of the service?
(Ok, Great, Needs improvement, etc) _____

What would be helpful in improving the remote service quality or content (other than any technology related issues)? _____

 - B. Do you foresee continuing your online/radio worship at RCUMC for the immediate future? _____
Under what circumstances would you return/attend worship in person at church? (ex: when COVID is not an issue, when masks/social distancing is done, when I feel healthier, etc)
Please be specific: _____

14. Have you felt connected to RCUMC during this time of COVID closure? _____ If yes, what was helpful in that regard? (ex: newsletter, prayer chain, informational email contact, phone calls, etc). _____

If no, what can we do to better communicate and connect during upcoming weeks and months? Would you appreciate more informational emails from our church? _____

15. Please feel free to share anything additional about these questions, or any others you may have, by email to rcumc@gmail.com, by leaving a private message on our Facebook page, or by speaking directly to Pastor Kristen or any member of the Leadership Team. You may also return this survey by mail.

Thank you for your time and patience!

We remain, together through our challenges and our joys!

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Our sympathy, love and prayers are extended to the family and friends of **Gloria Baumgart**, mother of Barb Schneider, who passed away June 22 at the age of 94.



Ryan Alexander Baar was born July 10 to Eric and Jennifer Baar, of Salt Lake City, Utah. He weighed 7 lbs. 10.5 oz. and is the first grandchild of Larry and Karen Baar; and the first great-grandchild of Ellen Baar. Ryan is also the great-grandson of the late Ed Baar.

Information Sought for New Phone/Address Directory

A new phone/address directory will be published soon. If you have any corrections in your information that is in last year's directory, please let Carolyn know by August 15th. Also, if you are not listed in the directory and would like to be included, please contact the church office at 832-9441 or carolynsims@reedcityumc.com. Thank you!

Church Scholarships Awarded

Madilyn Allen, received the Lillian, John and Mark Thiel Memorial Scholarship in the amount of \$1,000. Madilyn is pursuing a degree in Dental Hygiene.

Emily Weiss, received the Mable Poling Memorial Scholarship in the amount of \$1,000. Emily is pursuing a degree in Early Childhood Education.

Congratulations and God's blessings to these ladies as they further their education.

People Sought to Make Phone Calls

During the stay at home order, Carolyn worked from home on Fridays making phone calls to folks who we don't often see out and about. Since Sunday Worship has resumed, Carolyn is back working in the office on Fridays. We are now seeking people who would be willing to make phone calls to check in on some of our folks. If this is something you would be willing to do, please call the church office (832-9441) or Pastor Kristen (810-252-4547).

Thank you!



Would You Like a Sunday Bulletin Mailed Each Week?

At this time, weekly Sunday bulletins are not being printed. They are available on the church website, and the Order of Worship is projected on the screen. If you are worshipping from home during this time and would like a bulletin mailed to you (and are not already receiving one), please let Carolyn know.

Bring A Can of Fruit for the Food Pantry

What a joy it has been to see the contributions to our Food Pantry! During the month of August, we are asking for donations of cans of fruit of any brand or type. You may leave your donations in the hamper next to the front door of the church. Thank you for all of your gifts!

Our Bright Beacon

We are frequently advised to read the Bible with our own personal needs in mind, and to look for answers to our own private questions. But better still is the advice to study the Bible objectively without regard, first of all, to our own subjective needs.



Let the great passages fix themselves in our memory. Let them stay there permanently, like bright beacons, launching their powerful shafts of light upon life's problems – our own and everyone's. Following such a method, we discover that the Bible does “speak to our condition” and meet our needs, not just occasionally or when some emergency arises, but continually.

— Frederick C. Grant

Summer Fruit Basket:

Taste some fruit of the Spirit
(Galatians 5:22-23)

perfect for summer, and all year long!

- ♥ Love: "There is always an 'again' with love."
— Unknown
- ♥ Joy: "I don't think of all the misery, but of all the beauty that still remains."
— Anne Frank
- ♥ Peace: "Peace begins with a smile."
— Mother Teresa
- ♥ Patience: "The purposes of God may sometimes seem delayed, but they are never abandoned."
— H. C. Myers
- ♥ Kindness: "Kindness is the language which the deaf can hear and the blind can see."
— Mark Twain
- ♥ Goodness: "Goodness means to do things for the glory of God."
— Martyn Lloyd Jones
- ♥ Faithfulness: "Do small things as if they were great because of the majesty of Christ, who does them in us."
— Blaise Pascal
- ♥ Gentleness: "There is nothing stronger in the world than gentleness."
— Han Sugin
- ♥ Self Control: "God gave us a spirit not of fear, but of power and love and self-control."
— 2 Timothy 1:7

— Newsletter Newsletter August 2019

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Calendar Pages