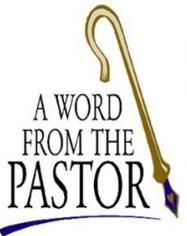
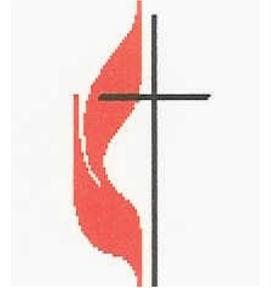


The Methodist

April 2020

Danbury Grace Siren Lewis UMC



This is a newsletter unlike any we've had before. I pray that it finds you healthy and can be a source of connection for you in these uncertain, quickly changing times. As we send this out towards the end of March, the truth is that as a church, we can't know what the month of April is going to look like for us. We are working to do what we can to let the church be a source of comfort and connection in a time when we all need to isolate ourselves. Please be patient as situations change, and always be in prayer. If you have Internet at home, the best place to check in is our charge website www.umc4pt.com. Please take special note this month of our homebound members and those in nursing homes. You can write cards to individuals or another way to share God's love is to write a card to a nursing home and simply address it to "Any Resident" and the staff can get the card to someone who normally does not receive mail.

Also, in this time I want to recognize that everyone is in a different place financially right now and there is a lot of uncertainty economically. This is a time that we all extend grace to each other and ourselves. Please look at your financial situation prayerfully and the church will extend grace no matter what you are capable of giving during this time. For the time being, the best way to give is to mail a check to the office in Webster, write your church in the memo line and we will make sure it gets deposited to your church. (PO Box 312, Webster, WI 54893)

We will continue to be in prayer for our churches, the most vulnerable, our leaders, and the world. I have included an order of worship for Sunday March 29 and April 5 so that you can physically have some materials to help you worship whether you have access to the internet or not. The Holy Spirit goes before us, guiding us, and when we do get to gather together in worship again we will have a joyful celebration. – Pastor Eddie **(If you need any assistance, please call Pastor Eddie at 715-733-0525)**

4-Charge/Community	1-2
Reflections in these times	3-6
Worship Service (March 29th & April 5th	7-8
Danbury News	9
Grace News	6,10
Calendar	11

Pending

- Sun. Apr. 5-Palm Sunday Services @ all 4 churches
- Thu. Apr. 9-Holy Thursday Service @ Lewis (6:00PM)
- Thu. Apr. 9-Holy Thursday Service @ Grace (6:00PM)
- Fri. Apr. 10-Good Friday Service @ Danbury (6:00PM)
- Fri. Apr. 10-Good Friday Service @ Siren (6:00PM)

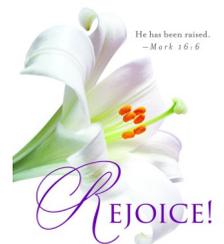
Easter Sunday



- 7:00AM-Son Rise Service @ Siren
- 8:45AM-Easter Sunday Service @ Lewis
- 8:45AM-Easter Sunday Service @ Danbury
- 10:15AM-Easter Sunday Service @ Siren
- 10:30AM-Easter Sunday Service @ Grace

EASTER FLOWER ORDER

Do you have someone you would like to remember or honor this Easter? The cost for lilies is \$13.00 and \$14.00 for any of the other flower choices. **In these unusual times, please call directly to Austin Greenhouse (715-866-7261) with your orders.**





Home Away From Home

email chgs. to: graceumchurch@live.com

Traditions of Frederic Assisted Living
107 E. Oak Street
Frederic, WI 54837
****Eunice Tollander**

Frederic Nursing & Rehab
205 United Way
Frederic, WI 54837
****Roberta Sahr**

Golden Horizons
1109 Lunderoff Dr.
Sandstone, MN 55072
***Clyde & Lillian Holmes**

Grantsburg Medical Center
257 W. St. George Ave. ((523)
Grantsburg, WI 54840
***Vivian Petersen**

Homebound

Annie Hawkland
c/o Julie Seubert
815 N. Third Avenue
Edgar, WI 54426

Lois Willhard
24357 Cranberry Marsh Rd.
Siren, WI 54872

Joanne Daniels
7485 Burnikel Rd.
Siren, WI 54872

Gail Lane
Golden Oaks Apts. #108
104 3rd Ave. S. ,
Frederic, WI 54837



Siren/UMW News

Feed My Starving Children Event

The 4-Charge Youth giving back @ Feed My Starving Children





4-Charge News

Dear Church Family of the 4 Point Charge of Danbury, Grace, Siren, and Lewis United Methodist Churches

—We are living in unprecedented times as our country responds to COVID 19, but this is also a time where God is still active and leading us, leading us to be the church in a new way.

—Beginning immediately our charge will cancel all in-person worship, meals, meetings, and other activities through April 1 (including that day) We will re-evaluate and have more information about our church's plan at that time.

—Please continue to pray for one another and care for one another. In the days to come we will have more information about how we can stay connected spiritually. If you or a neighbor are concerned about leaving the house and would like help getting groceries, medication, or something else please call or private message Pastor Eddie.

—God's Spirit is among us as we pray for the future and with God's help we will get through this together.

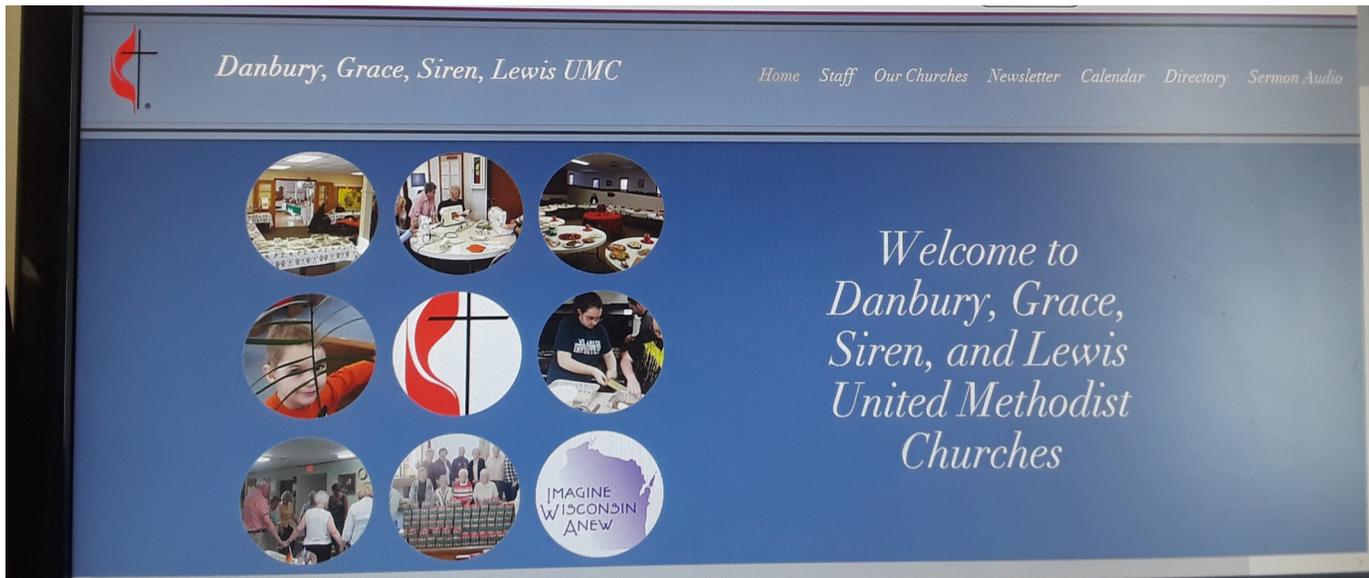
In Peace, Pastor Eddie (715-733-0525)(eddiecrise@gmail.com)

General Conference to Move to 2021

Subsequent to the announcement by the Executive Committee of the Commission on the General Conference that the 2020 General Conference will be postponed, the full Commission met March 21, 2020 to determine next steps to take in setting a new date.

After hearing recommendations from Sara Hotchkiss, Business Manager of the General Conference, and discussion of possible alternatives, the Commission made a determination that the General Conference will not meet in 2020 as originally planned and elected to work toward setting a date in 2021.

In giving direction for next steps, the Commission resolved that holding the event in Minneapolis is a high priority and authorized the business manager to pursue negotiations regarding other dates available at the Minneapolis Convention Center in 2021.



This is a reminder that we have a website that our audio for our online services, sermons, newsletters, directories of all 4 churches can be utilized by all of you in this time of separation.

Website: UMC4pt.com

Directory password: Methodist

Please take a moment and introduce or re-introduce yourself to your website.



**Pastor Eddie's Column for
Burnett County Sentinel**

Woven Together: Faith During COVID-19

"I want you woven into a tapestry of love, in touch with everything there is to know of God. Then you will have minds confident and at rest, focused on Christ, God's great mystery." – Colossians 2:2 (The Message). With churches closed for the time being, it'll be a surreal feeling to look out at empty pews and grieve the fact that they will remain empty on Sunday mornings, while the country grapples with unprecedented restrictions to slow the spread of COVID-10. I will grieve the lack of hugs, the missing handshakes, all the ways that we physically connect on a Sunday morning. I'll miss so much about what I love about worshiping in person but I know we need to take so many extreme steps right now for the welfare of the most vulnerable. Jesus' life and ministry teaches us how important it is to care for those who are the most vulnerable. We are called to practice our faith in new ways, and right now practicing safety in ways that you never would have imagined a week or two ago is exactly the kind of thing that will weave us together spiritually.

Take time to rest and keep Sabbath. Now, more than ever, we need to remember that Sabbath is not just an hour of worship on Sundays; it is intentional rest, letting our hearts listen for God. Find something that fills your soul, count your blessings, trust in God, pray, and let God open new ways of experiencing holy rest. Care for one another and check on your neighbors.

As Paul encourages the early church in Colossae for unity, looking to the outside world as a tapestry of love, today we have an opportunity to be a great, interwoven community of love, even when that community can't meet together in person. We often picture great big events as evidence of God's work, but God is still moving in the quiet moments, and we can continue to be a loving, faithful community as we care for one another, grounded in our faith.

A Time Such As This (taken from our DS on last Sunday)

Sunday Greetings!

This morning I had the privilege of worshipping with a variety of congregations in the North West District beginning at 8:30 a.m. this morning! Thank you for providing spiritual nourishment during this time of uncertainty and anxiety.

As I contemplate this time in our lives, I take great encouragement from the book of Esther, specifically 4:14b, "...It could be that you were made queen for a time like this!" This pandemic has pushed us to be creative in our manner of worship that we would not otherwise sought out; to reach out more intentionally to those at higher risk of isolation; to think of others needs before our own (i.e. self-quarantines). We are the church for a time such as this, to serve, to love, and to give thanks.

As your District Superintendent, my role is to support and encourage you, as well as provide valuable information and resources for you and your congregation. I will provide essential reminders and links for your congregation in a weekly update.

You will need to let me know what else you need from me and how I might connect with you and your congregation as you wish and desire.

For updated Wisconsin Annual Conference information, please go to <https://www.wisconsinumc.org>. You will find on-line worship services, prayers and reflections, offering and finance resources, and more.

For updated Wisconsin State response and information, please go to <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/index.htm>. There you will find more information about the state's response and next steps.

For the General Church information and resources, please go to <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/>. There is the latest information to help churches respond to the Coronavirus pandemic.

For more information about General Conference, please go to <https://www.resourceumc.org/en/churchwide/general-conference-2020>. This site has updated press releases about the postponement, and proposed legislation.

As we process through the stages of containment, I invite you to read from the book of Psalms with me. I offer this Psalm 1 prayer to start us off,

Teach us Your ways, God of Wisdom,
for You are righteous and just.
Plant Your Word in our hearts,
water it from the streams of Your everlasting mercy,
that it may bloom and produce in us the fruit
that is a blessing to You and pleasing in Your sight. Amen.
(Upper Room Worshipbook)

Grace and Peace,
Rev. Barbara Certa-Werner, District Superintendent,



A Word from Bishop Jung About the Coronavirus Pandemic

And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone,

Matthew 14:23

My beloved family in Christ across Wisconsin, know that I am praying for you. We are going through an extraordinary time. It is a time of anxiety and worry, a time of fear and uncertainty, and a time of testing for our faith. But our God is good, our God is with us, and our God loves us.

In the best of times, we are stronger together. It is right and good that we worship together, that we pray together, study together, work together, and minister together. But there are times such as these where we are most faithful when we care for each other from a distance. Following the example of Jesus, this Lenten time may be one where we must withdraw and be by ourselves more. We are in a time when it is inadvisable to gather together for worship. In fact, **we are strongly suggesting that we refrain from publicly open worship services minimally until April 5, Palm Sunday. It may mean we need to suspend worship this year through Easter.** While this is difficult and painful, it is also a glorious opportunity to show our creativity and commitment. The White House, the Center for Disease Control, our state government and health care officials are asking that we not gather in groups larger than ten members for at least the next two weeks. Some reports are saying we shouldn't gather in groups of 50 or more for at least eight weeks. Regardless the parameters of the advice, we are in a time of necessary voluntary separation and face-to-face isolation.

But this in no way means we cannot be in ministry with each other. We are blessed with phones, email, computers, tablets, and multiple technologies to allow communication across distance. We can form prayer chains. We can create online devotion and worship circles. We can keep in contact with the most vulnerable in our faith communities and develop healthy and faithful ways to meet their needs and offer them care. We can join streaming worship services broadcast without congregations physically present, and we can engage in family devotions and worship. This is

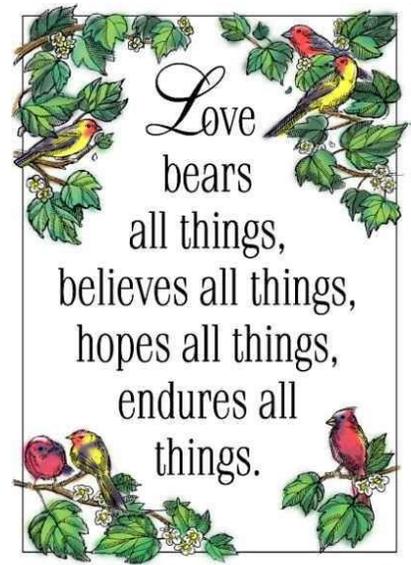
indeed a challenging time, but God is with us right where we are. This is a critical time for us to care as much about as many as we possibly can! We are in ministry through our prayers, our phone calls, our emails, and our video chats. Congregational leaders can still connect for ministry meetings in a variety of ways. It is too easy to be swept away by all we cannot do; let us make a faith commitment to focus on what we CAN do. Please continue to support the ministry of your congregation in whatever possible ways you can.

The Wisconsin Conference is cancelling or postponing all in person meetings, gatherings and events for a minimum of the next four weeks. We will announce further cancellations and postponements, if needed. We will regularly post updates and resources on our website to help local congregations navigate this difficult time, and to support you in your ministry. Conference and district staff can help you set up Zoom video meetings if that would be helpful. We will do all in our power to help you do effective ministry in the weeks to come.

I want you all to know how much I appreciate your leadership and your faithfulness in this pandemic time. It is scary, especially for the most vulnerable among us. There are no clear or easy answers. We do not know how long we must take exceptional precautions. We do not know when the dangers will pass. What we do know is that we have God, we have each other, and we have a faith that will keep us strong through even the greatest challenges.

Grace and Peace,

Bishop Hee-Soo Jung





Reflection

By Jorge Luis Mayorga

A Reflection for Difficult Times

“God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.
Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change,
though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea;
though its waters roar and foam,
though the mountains tremble with its tumult”....

“Be still, and know that I am God!
I am exalted among the nations;
I am exalted in the earth.”

(Psalm 46: 1-3, 10a.)

In this Scripture, the Psalmist exalts the glory of Jerusalem as the “City of God”, and the place where the Almighty dwells. It’s also a profession of Faith in God’s Power; it affirms that God is always present among his people to set them free from any dangerous and troubled situation.

In these difficult times that we are living with fear and anxiety caused by the COVID-19 and its implications, this psalm reminds us and assures us that God is present even in the midst of the uncertainty. The feeling I am experiencing during this time, it brings to my mind the time that I lived during the civil war in my country El Salvador in the early 80’s. It was a time of fear and uncertainty in which I woke up every day wondering what is going to happen next? But in the midst of this wondering, always came a scripture with a word of Hope and Trust.

As we go through these difficult times, may we make our own the words of the Psalmist “God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble”

Peace be with you,

Pastor Jorge

*God of light, and life, and grace,
Be with us to calm our hearts and minds,
To remind us that you are Lord of all.
Grant us both wisdom and courage that we might
stay non-anxious and be a source of calm and comfort
and strength to others. Help us to truly understand – we are all in this together, and you are with us every step of the way.
We ask your healing, comforting, strengthening
grace, dear God. In the name of our Savior, Jesus
the Christ, we pray. Amen.*

Grace News

Meet a Member



Phil and Lynn Stromberg are Edina MN high school sweethearts who are enjoying their quarantine time at home

making maple syrup!

The Strombergs were married in 1977 and moved to Webster in 1980 when Phil became the Forest Ranger. He retired after 30 years with the DNR and is a private forestry consultant.

Lynn worked a variety of part time jobs while raising their two children. Her favorite was at Northwest Passage. Sarah and Caleb were raised at Grace, and Sarah made our communion chalices when she was in high school. Sarah and family (the Strombergs have two granddaughters) live in Stillwater; Kaleb and his wife live in Jackson WY.

Phil and Lynn built their log home on the Yellow River. Besides maple syruping, they harvest and process wild rice. Phil loves hunting and fishing; Lynn prefers ping pong and Mahjong.

Lynn served on the school board for 15 years. Phil was a Boy Scout Leader for 15 years, with troop meetings held in the Grace basement.

They have been to Costa Rica, Mexico, Switzerland, and Sweden, but their favorite form of travel is taking the backroads across America and camping at state and national parks.



Order of Worship March 29, 2020 (5th Sunday in Lent) (intended to be a guide to worship @ home)

Thought for the Day

"It is not easy to convey a sense of wonder, let alone resurrection wonder, to another. It's the very nature of wonder to catch us off guard, to circumvent expectations and assumptions. Wonder can't be packaged, and it can't be worked up. It requires some sense of being there and some sense of engagement."

– Eugene Peterson

Call to Worship

Today as we center our hearts for worship, we will be focusing on the raising of Lazarus from the dead. God still raises us up from the depths of spiritual death and despair into a new life filled with the Holy Spirit.

Opening Prayer

Loving God, you hold us and this world in your hand. Let me never forget that. Thank you for all who are working to fight this pandemic. Give us the courage, the faith and the hope we need. In the hope Jesus offers us, Amen.

(From Scott Carlson)

Scripture Readings

Ezekiel 37:1-14, Romans 8:6-11, John 11:1-45

Questions to Consider

- What stood out to you in these scriptures?
- Can you identify with anyone in the Lazarus story?
- What does it mean to follow a Messiah who wept? What does it mean that our Savior cried?
- What do you need to be unbound from?
- What is God doing to bring new life?

Time of Prayer

Let us pray
for the people of this congregation...

for those who suffer and those in trouble...
 for the concerns of this local community...
 for the world, its peoples, and its leaders...
 for the earth you have given to our care...
 for the Church universal—its leaders, its members, and its mission...
 in communion with the saints...
 Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory for ever. Amen.

Closing Blessing

Lord, open our eyes to new life that is coming forth even in a dark hour. Amen.



Danbury UMC

Grace UMC



Lewis UMC



Order of Worship April 5 (Palm Sunday)
(intended to be a guide to worship @ home)

Thought for the Day



"Our tendency in the midst of suffering is to turn on God. To get angry and bitter and shake our fist at the sky and say, 'God, you don't know what it's like! You don't understand! You have no idea what I'm going through. You don't have a clue how much this hurts.' The cross is God's way of taking away all of our accusations, excuses, and arguments. The cross is God taking on flesh and blood and saying, 'Me too.'" — Rob Bell

Call to Worship

This year, Palm Sunday hits us in a bitter-sweet way. We shout hosannas because we know the king that we serve is a king unlike any other. But it's important to remember that the exuberance of Palm Sunday was setting the stage for the passion of Holy Week.

Opening Prayer

God of light, and life, and grace,
Be with us to calm our hearts and minds,
To remind us that you are Lord of all.
Grant us both wisdom and courage that
we might stay non-anxious
and be a source of calm and comfort and
strength to others.
Help us to truly understand – we are all in
this together, and you are with us every
step of the way.
We ask your healing, comforting, strength-
ening grace, dear God.
In the name of our Savior, Jesus the
Christ, we pray. Amen. (From Dan Dick)

Scripture Readings

Psalm 118, Matthew 21:1-11

Questions to Consider

- What stood out to you in these scriptures?
- Can you identify with anyone in the Palm Sunday story?
- Why start Holy Week this way?
- How do we celebrate Jesus' arrival knowing that it will lead to his death?

Time of Prayer

Let us pray
for the people of this congregation...
for those who suffer and those in trouble...
for the concerns of this local community...
for the world, its peoples, and its leaders...
for the earth you have given to our care...
for the Church universal—its leaders, its members, and its mission...
in communion with the saints...
Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory for ever. Amen.

Closing Blessing

Lord, help us to come not just for the parade, but for the cross as well. Amen.



Siren UMC



Danbury News

**OPEN HEARTS
OPEN MINDS
CLOSED DOORS**

WHAT A SAD SIGN IT IS—at least from *our* viewing point. God, however, may use this opportunity to remind us that open minds and open hearts are living fuel for moving The Church forward. Many religions and denominations around the world will not gather until the Coronavirus is no longer a monumental threat. We prayerfully ask to remain grateful and cheerful during at least some weeks of isolation. **WE** are the Church. **WE** are also the wilderness in which this viral threat lives, hides, moves. May each who takes part in prevention be blessed and strengthened for ministry.



The picture lacks life! What's missing is the **WE**: a physically-scattered Church that remains spiritually-connected by God's golden cord. **Let's pay attention to the gentle tugs telling us exactly with whom to connect--in Jesus' name—for their sake and for ours.**

LENT CONTINUES: We are grateful to have been together on Ash Wednesday at Siren UMC and on

the following two Wednesday evenings at Lewis and Danbury Churches—thanks for those meals! *It would be wonderful to gather in our four Churches for a Palm Sunday Worship, and at Lewis & Grace on Maundy Thursday, at Danbury & Siren on Good Friday. It would be glorious to sit in our favorite places on Easter Morning! TODAY we remain at home to pray for the World, prepare for the worst, and hope for the best. God's Grace is for ALL! God loves us just as much as God loves those who are NOT the Church—it's a wonderful Truth, which we can speak with confidence from wherever we find ourselves!*

CONNECTING FROM CHINA: Doug & Marlene Erickson's granddaughter, Courtney Farber (Sherrri's daughter), lives in Weifang, China, where she and two other teachers started the American International Academy about two years ago. Before lockdown, the academy's students, grades 1 through 5, spent mornings in Chinese school and afternoons at the academy where they learn English and other subjects. For some time now, Courtney has been teaching online and buying food from a grocery store in her apartment building. On Facebook, Courtney briefly describes life behind closed doors in China. *Those who use Facebook can find her letter on Grandma Marlene's Page.*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE FOR: A Hurting World and its Caregivers; Clyde Holmes; Courtney Farber.

APRIL BIRTHDAYS: (Lillian Holmes had a birthday on **March 30**); **Clyde Holmes** will be 96 on **April 27**; **Kathi Kramer** shall remain ageless on **April 28** and thereafter.

APRIL JANITORS: **Linda Kulbeck & Kathy Swingle.**

"We are called to practice our faith in new ways . . ." -- Pastor Eddie Crise

DEAR HEAVENLY PARENT, THANK YOU FOR THE PASTORS YOU HAVE NAMED AS OUR EARTHLY SHEPHERDS.



Grace/UMW News

Grace UMW met on March 10th with Elaine Wilson providing the program " Call to Prayer and Self Denial" Following discussion, it was agreed that we want to continue the annual Kapes Lakeside visit, and serving dinner at Faith Lodge. We pray that we will be able to continue with our local mission work.

Pastor Eddie informed the group that Liz Dempsey is attending the Lewis UMW meeting on April 15th at 6:30pm and all charge women are invited.

UMW Spring Day is being held at UMC in Rice Lake on April 25th, 2020.

Annual salad supper will be Wednesday, May 12th. Invitations to the women of our charge churches will be sent by Elaine. Musical entertainment will be provided by Sue and Don Rasmussen.

Prayers are requested for Jake (Donna Mangelsen's nephew). Jake has had a major set back and is in the St Croix Regional Hospital. Please keep Jake in our prayers for healing.

Birthday & Anniversaries

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------------|
| 4/1 Mary Olson | 4/6 Brad & Mitzi Alden |
| 4/12 Gladys Beers | 4/27 Tom & Becky O'Brien |
| 4/15 Shari Roper | 4/28 Don & Sue Rasmussen |
| 4/30 Penny Eckland | |



THOUGHTS FROM MY COUCH: (some humor)

1. THAR'S MOLD IN THEM THAR HILLS!: Hard to imagine that it lies beneath the snow, waiting to leap onto our heads to attack our sinuses! --Repeat to Self: You do *not* have *Coronavirus!*
2. CORONAVIRUS CAUSES FLU-LIKE SYMPTOMS: Fever, sore throat, headache and body aches, and might very well contribute to the growth of household clutter, dust bunnies, numbers of unmatched socks--and *whatever happens to the male ear when a spouse speaks.*
3. HOPE FOR THE FUTURE: Epidemiologists may one day use this virus to transmit every robocall ever created *to the brains of their makers* for one uninterrupted year.
4. HOPE FOR A MOMENT IN TIME: The newly-washed jeans hung on my hips today--*nobody explained that flattening the curve means a leaner profile!* (Gotta roll up the cuffs a couple times and practice the John Wayne swagger!)
5. HOPE DASHED IN AN INSTANT: Husband missing his favorite Levis.

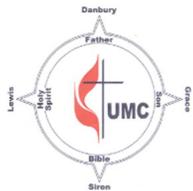


Danbury Grace Siren Lewis

April 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4 6pm Gospel Jam @ Lewis
<p>The Governor has issued a safe at home order through April 24th. The churches will be closed to groups of 10 or more unless the directive changes.</p>						
5 Palm Sunday	6 1pm BS-D	7 10am Admin @ Grace 1pm BS-G	8 9am BS-S	9 6pm Worship @ Lewis & Grace 	10 6pm Worship @ Siren & Danbury 	11
12 EASTER SUNDAY 7am Son Rise @ Siren 	13 1pm BS-D	14 1pm BS-G 2:15pm UMW @ Grace 6pm Finance & Ad Council-S	15 9am BS-S 6:30pm UMM/ UMW-Lewis	16 2pm SPRC Mtg. @ Siren	17	18
19	20 1pm BS-D	21 1pm BS-G	22 9am BS-S 6pm All Board Mtg. @ Lewis	23	24	25
26	27 1pm BS-D	28 BS	29 BS	30		

Pending



Danbury Grace Siren Lewis
United Methodist Church
P.O. Box 312
Webster, WI 54893-0312

Non-Profit
U.S. Postage
Permit#24
Siren, WI

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

SEE INSIDE

**Worship Materials at home for
March 29 and April 5**

Faith IS NOT KNOWING
WHAT THE FUTURE HOLDS,
BUT KNOWING
who holds the future.

