



# THE CIRCUIT RIDER

VOL. 184 · MAY 2020



Newsletter of the Mahomet United Methodist Church



COMING SOON!  
DATE AND TIME TBD

**WE ARE FINALLY OPEN!**

# GRAND RE-OPENING MAHOMET UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

*Ribbon Cutting, Worship, Lunch, Fellowship and Fun!*

## SWEET THOUGHTS

BY REV. CRAIG SWEET

It simply may be the place I am in my life as retirement comes closer, it may also be that some of the questions that the Bishop asked us clergy who are about to retire, and/or it may simply be a function of spending all this time in the basement over the last 6 weeks. But as I've said in other places, I have been thinking about the similarities and the differences between when I entered ministry after seminary and these times today as we Shelter-in-Place.

One of the differences certainly is the way we are Sheltering-in-Place and working from home as opposed to my daily commutes from where I was living in Madison, New Jersey to the Methodist Hospital in Brooklyn, New York. On the whole it was a 3-hour one-way commute and each day when I'd get on the train, I'd meet people who had already been riding, reading or sleeping for 1-2 hours. I'd walk the 10 minutes or so to get on the New Jersey Transit Erie-Lackawanna commuter train from Madison to Hoboken, then I had to switch to the Path Train and take that into the World Trade Center in lower Manhattan and there switch trains again and take the F Train to Brooklyn, get off at 7th and walk the last 10 min or so to the Hospital. In the evening if I ran, and I don't mean walk faster or jog – ran as fast as I could from the Hospital to the 7th ave station then through the crowds in each of the stations, I could catch a couple of express trains and cut almost an hour and a half off the trip.

This picture was taken in the Hoboken Terminal and I still have that blue jacket, though it is not quite as dark. I remember that I could not really afford to buy a paper each day, but if you paid attention to where you were sitting, someone else would have left one and you could pick it up and read it and then leave it again for someone else or take it with you.



I'd often take the New York Times or the Daily News or the Wall Street Journal into the Hospital with me and share it with the other Chaplains and staff. Which when you think about the way we live today and not just as we Shelter-in-Place, is just another way that life has changed, though it is still life.

Which really is the point. Yes, the way we are living in these days has and is changing the way in which we look at and interact with the world around us – but we are still living our faith. We are still called to be the light of Christ shining on the hill, even if we are not gathering in large numbers, even if we are careful about the way we reach out and touch, even if we breathe through masks – we are still Christian. Take the chance of faith and hope and love, reach out and connect with someone today, because you have the chance to make a difference in all the change and life that is happening. The life you lead, leads others ... where are you leading them? Because God in Jesus by the Spirit loves you and everyone else, no matter what; so, take the chance and connect. Enjoy Today!  
We'll talk again,  
Peace Pastor Craig



## A Pastoral Letter from Bishop Frank J. Beard

Resident Bishop, Illinois Area,  
The United Methodist Church

Dear Craig,

Thank you for all that you are doing to keep faith with Christ and with one another during our current Shelter-in-place order by the Governor. I appreciate your cooperation and your creativity. I have heard many exciting things that God is doing. Please keep up the good work!

As you are aware, there are many conversations about when and how we might begin in-person worship services. Several Counties have loosened restrictions and are now allowing "drive-in worship" services. The IGRC covers 85 of the 102 counties within the State of Illinois. It is essential that we all have one standard and are all on the same page.

The IGRC United Methodist Churches will continue to observe the current Shelter in Place order and we will not be gathering for in-person worship until notified. I will be meeting with the Cabinet and the Directors next week to explore when and how we will begin in-person worship. This will include decisions about drive-in worship. We will have a decision and an announcement on May 15. Thank you all for "staying the course" and for assisting in the process of maintaining safe practices.

God Bless,  
Bishop Frank J. Beard

Stay  
Connected



**Continued Conversations:** Check our Mahomet United Methodist Facebook page and/or subscribe to our YouTube channel to view Pastor Sweet's daily devotionals.

**Worship:** Please note that we will be streaming one Worship Service on Facebook Live at 9:30 am Sunday mornings this can also be found on YouTube.

**Church Phone Tree:** We will be starting an All-Church phone tree, so expect a call! We look forward to hearing your voices!

**Giving:** Although we cannot currently be at worship together your contributions are still very much needed and appreciated. You can give online by going to our website, [mumc.org](http://mumc.org) and clicking the blue box at the top of the screen that says "Give Online". You can also mail checks directly to the church.

**Donations:** We are still collecting food and money to help our community. Checks written to Helping Hands should be mailed directly to Mahomet Helping Hands at P.O. BOX 259 Mahomet, IL 61853. Food and Toiletry donations can be taken directly to Mom's Pantry located on the north side of the Mahomet-Seymour High School on Mon., Wed. and Fri. between 12:00pm - 12:30pm. (They have a distribution Mon., Wed. and Fri. from 10:00 - 12:00, so make sure if you are dropping items off you do not get in the way of their distribution process.) Thank you for your contributions!

**Prayers:** Look for our weekly Prayer List sent out in an All-Church e-mail and by US Mail if requested. To submit prayers call (217-586-2147) or email the church at [mumc.org](http://mumc.org), you can also post prayers in the comment section on Facebook during our 9:30 Sunday Worship Service.

**How to Reach Us:** The church office is closed, but voicemail will be checked daily and you can always reach us via e-mail at [mumc@mumc.org](mailto:mumc@mumc.org). See the last page of this newsletter for more communication details.

**Update from Finance:** Due to limited office hours we are not going to be sending out quarterly giving statements. If you need to see yours, please send a request to [finsecretary@mumc.org](mailto:finsecretary@mumc.org).

**Mahomet Business Relief Fund:** The Mahomet Area Chamber of Commerce is coordinating a Business Relief Fund for Mahomet Area Businesses. They will also be providing a delivery service for CVS, Walgreens and the IGA, benefiting residents who are anxious about being out at this time. Please consider making a donation. To donate, call the chamber office at 217-586-3165. If you are a business owner looking for assistance contact the office for a Business Relief Fund Application.

<http://mahometchamberofcommerce.com/>

**COVID-19 Screening:** Carle Foundation Hospital has launched two new screening resources that can help patients determine if they need further assistance when experiencing symptoms of coronavirus.

Coronavirus Hotline: Call 217-902-6100 and Press 1

Online self-assessment go to: <https://carle.org/home/covid-19-screening>



### SCHOLARSHIP

The Isabell Parnell Scholarship is now available for those entering or currently in college. Please go to [mumc.org](http://mumc.org) or contact the church office for more info.

### CONGRATULATIONS

To Paige Cramer and all of the graduating class of 2020! The best is yet to come! May God Bless you on your journey.

### MAY PRAYER WALK

Go for a drive or walk in the streets around your neighborhood, imagining that you are a family in which one or more of those people is in the process of moving away, graduating, leaving, or dying. Pray that the people in each house you pass will open the doors of their hearts to Jesus and the chances that God's love gives them to love and let go of the people around them.

### THANK YOU

Dear United Methodist Women, The Board and Staff of Neighborhood House hope that you are staying home and healthy during this unprecedented time of social distancing. The majority of our staff are working from home at this time. However, our Seasoned Circle Café is considered an essential service so that staff is still making meals for area seniors. We would like to thank you for being a very special part of our ministry. Without your love and support our ministry would not be possible. With payments from the state slowing down, due COVID-19, we are depending on our donations more than ever. Thank you for your generosity. It really means a lot to us at this time.

Sincerely, Gary L. Gaston CEO, Lessie Bates Neighborhood House



### THANK YOU

Dear Mahomet UMW Friends, Just as our staff "are here" for Becca and all the youth we serve, so are you. Your spring meeting gift allows us to continue to provide complete care to all of our kids. Thank you. Wishing you all peace, wellness and stability,  
Ginger Mills  
Director of Advancement  
Cunningham Children's Home

### CONGRATULATIONS

To Kate Donahue on the birth of her son, Leonardo Andrew Coffin, born April 4th, 2020

### CONGRATULATIONS

To Kathy Tock on the birth of her granddaughter, Aurelia Marie Tock, born April 13th to Adam and Trisha Tock.

# WONDERFUL OUTREACH WEDNESDAY'S

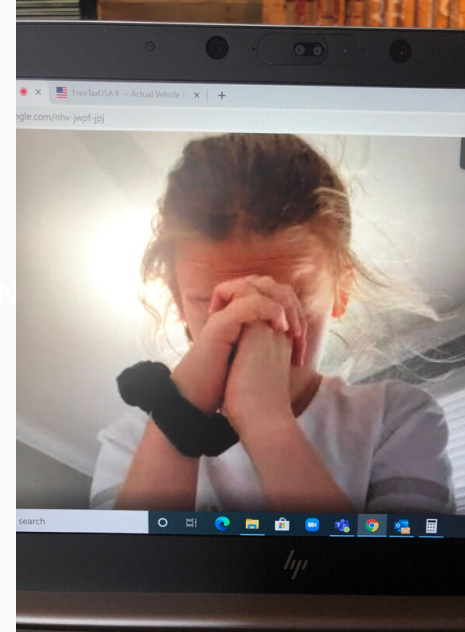
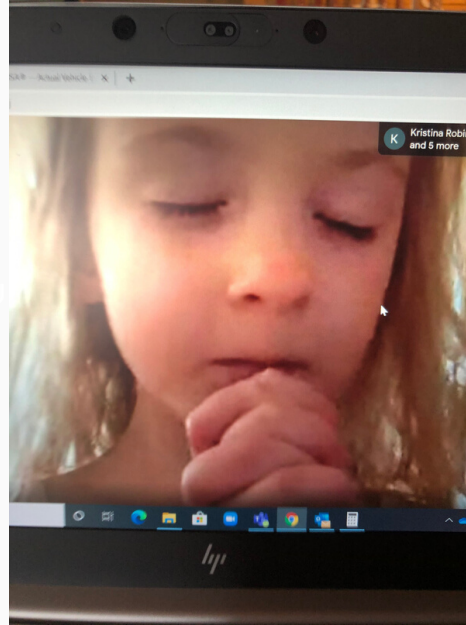
W.O.W. IS AN AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAM FOR KIDS KINDERGARTEN-5TH GRADE.



## Virtual W.O.W

We just can't miss a week with our W.O.W. buds! We are staying connected through Google Hangouts so we can talk and see each other. Looking forward to fun online activities and staying connected!

M A Y
6
13
20



**ALMOST**

**IT'S TIME FOR**



**SAVE THE DATE FOR:  
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**

**JULY 27TH-30TH**

**9AM-NOON**

**FOR AGES 4 YEARS OLD -ENTERING 4TH GRADE  
YOUTH HELPERS ENTERING 5TH GRADE-12TH GRADE  
FAMILY PARTY JULY 9TH PM**

**VOLUNTEER INFORMATIONAL MEETING  
APRIL 19TH AT 9:30AM  
REGISTRATION OPEN APRIL 26TH AT NOON**

**WE WILL NEED MANY BOXES TO TRANSFORM THE  
CHURCH INTO A CASTLE, SO PLEASE BREAK DOWN  
YOUR BOXES AND SAVE THEM FOR US.**



## Loving OUR KIDS in the Midst of Pandemic

How spiritual life leaders at our Illinois Great Rivers Conference children and family serving agencies carry on ministry in this time of physical distancing.

It takes more than a pandemic to stop the ministries for children and families in the Illinois Great Rivers Conference! Each of our agencies is doing their very best to provide new, creative, and safe ways to keep OUR KIDS and their families moving forward with hope and healing.

Rev. Lori Bultemeier, Christian Life Coordinator at The Baby Fold, is also taking care of the staff who work on the front lines with OUR KIDS and families who need The Baby Fold's expertise. What started as weekly prayer and devotion times on each campus has now become regular email "sermonettes" offered to the whole Baby Fold leadership team and staff.

Virtual program staff meetings begin with prayer and words of encouragement offered through Lori's thoughtful and prayerful leadership. In a time when we are to practice physical distancing, God is at work through God's Word taking staff members by the hand spiritually, strengthening the bonds between themselves and God.

The story of Jesus walking on the water in the New Testament Gospel of Mark, chapter 6, verses 48-51, is just one of the many passages that enable staff members to find encouragement and spiritual resources beyond their own as they care for OUR KIDS.

"When (Jesus) saw that (the disciples in the boat) were straining at the oars against an adverse wind, he came towards them early in the morning, walking on the sea. He intended to pass them by. But when they saw him walking on the sea, they thought it was a ghost and cried out; for they all saw him and were terrified. But immediately he spoke to them and said, 'Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid.' Then he got into the boat with them and the wind ceased. And they were utterly astounded...."

Clearly, Jesus will use a "storm" to make His way to us, even walking on rough waves to show us His love.

This is an assurance that Lori imparts to the staff, who are then able to be like Jesus as they walk into the storm in the lives of OUR KIDS and their families to offer support and peace.

Thanks be to God for these and all the ways in which our spiritual life ministries continue undeterred in loving OUR KIDS even in the midst of pandemic!

Your prayers and support are crucial in sustaining their efforts in sharing the love of Jesus Christ.



### Mission Mondays

M&M's have been working on projects at home. They have provided 2 prayer shawls to Dover AFB for Fallen Soldiers and 1 prayer shawl was sent to a soldier's mother in Missouri.

### May Breakfast

The UMW May Breakfast scheduled for May 1, will be rescheduled. Hope to see you there!

### THURSDAY READING CIRCLE

The Reading Circle hopes to meet in June. More information will be sent out later.

The book we will be discussing in June is *The Long Flight Home* by Alan Hlad. Inspired by fascinating, true, yet little-known events during World War II, *The Long Flight Home* is a testament to the power of courage in our darkest hours—a moving, masterfully written story of love and sacrifice.

### UMW

### Meetings

Next general meeting is scheduled for **June 4th at 1pm.**

There are tentative plans to meet Thursday, June 4 at 1:00 pm.

Devotions & Program: Pam Parker. Hostess: Carmileta Clark. A final decision about our meeting will be made by May 28. Look forward to seeing everyone.





## FINANCE REPORT

At our April meeting the finance committee discussed the CARES act and in particular the Federal Payroll Protection Program loan. This loan is to provide funds for payroll and utilities for a period of eight weeks. At the end of the eight weeks we can apply for forgiveness for the portion of the loan we used for Payroll and Utilities which will make it a grant. We passed a motion to apply for the payroll protection loan through the Fisher National Bank. We were approved and received the loan on April 16th. This will provide funds to pay for payroll for the next eight weeks. We also discussed three other changes that came out of the CARES Act that you should be aware of:

- **Cash Gifts** - Individuals may deduct \$300 above-the-line. This charitable deduction enables a taxpayer who is one of the 90% who take the standard deduction to also benefit from his or her charitable gifts. The \$300 above-the-line deduction must be gifts of cash by a nonitemizer, and may not be to a donor advised fund or supporting organization.

- **100% Charitable Deduction Limit** - The usual deduction limit for cash gifts to public charities is 60% of adjusted gross income (AGI). For 2020, gifts of cash to charity (excluding donor advised funds and supporting organizations) are deductible to 100% of AGI. The gift may be for any charitable purpose and is not limited to gifts for Coronavirus relief.

- **Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) Waiver** - The RMD is waived for IRA and other qualified retirement plan owners for the year 2020. This provision will permit IRA and other qualified retirement plan owners to retain funds in their IRAs. Because the markets declined substantially after the current RMD was calculated based on the plan value on December 31, 2019, Congress determined that it was beneficial to waive the RMD for 2020. Loyal donors may still wish to use IRA funds to make a qualified charitable distribution (QCD). The QCD is available up to \$100,000 for individuals who are over age 70½.

For the month of March 2020, our Unrestricted Giving Income was \$39,717 and our expenses were \$35,196 for net income of \$ 4,521 for the month of March. Year to date as of March 2020, our Unrestricted Giving income was \$103,398 and our expenses were 105,816 leaving a \$ 1,878 net loss. Last year January through March unrestricted total giving was \$112,090 and total expenses were \$101,533 for a net income of \$10,557.

The 2019 conference annual audit form has been submitted. Thanks to Kay Williams, Sherri Kenner-Orenic and Pastor Craig Sweet for coming in on a Saturday and completing the audit. Remember you can go to our website and click the blue button at the top of the page to set up an account for giving once or a recurring giving. Click on the link and enter your cardholder name and credit or debit information. Once your registration is complete you will receive text verification and a receipt. For future giving, simply send a text with the amount you wish to give, and it will process automatically. Or send your check to the Church office at 1302 E South Mahomet Rd, Mahomet IL 61853. As always, we are a transparent organization. The reports are always available on request. We thrive as a church because of our congregation's generosity and faithfulness.

Sincerely, Finance Committee



## SERVING TOGETHER IN WORSHIP

*When we can join in Worship in person again, please consider volunteering.  
Your efforts are needed and greatly appreciated!*

### ALTAR FLOWERS:

May 3: Chris and Reba Karr in honor of our anniversary

May 10: In honor of all Mothers

May 17:

May 24: Shannon and Tracy Patterson in honor of their wedding anniversary



## April Attendance

April 5th Worship  
9:30 - 384 VIEWS

April 8th W.O.W.  
35

April 12th Worship  
9:30 - 616 VIEWS

April 15th W.O.W.  
26

April 19th Worship  
9:30 - 160 VIEWS

April 22nd W.O.W.  
25

April 26th Worship  
9:30 141 VIEWS

April 29th W.O.W.  
28



## COMMUNICATION

### Facebook

Find Daily Devotionals, Worship Videos and church updates on our MUMC Facebook page. <https://www.facebook.com/MahometUMC/>

### YouTube

Subscribe to our MUMC YouTube channel to see Church Videos including Worship, Devotionals and more.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCP5XgdmXybxOKaiuiqjZ0KMQ>

### Newsletter

Read through our monthly newsletter publication "The Circuit Rider". It can be found electronically on the News Page of our Website. Paper copies can be picked up at the church or we are happy to add you to the list of people that receive the newsletter in the mail.

### Website

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

There is so much to see on our website. Take the time to look through all of tabs. You can find the newsletter on the news page. Also, there is a calendar of events tab that is updated regularly.

### E-mail

If you do not receive our church e-mail listing please send an e-mail to [mumc@mumc.org](mailto:mumc@mumc.org) and we will get you added. We send 1-2 emails a week.

### Phone & Voicemail

217-586-2147

Our office hours are Monday-Friday 9AM-1PM or by appointment. As of April 1, 2020 the office is currently closed, but voicemail will be checked daily.

## TEXT ALERTS



Remind App:

Want a new way to stay connected to events happening at MUMC? Use your smartphone or cellphone to receive notifications with important updates and events.

Smartphones: Open your browser and go to the following link [rmd.at/fd2h62](http://rmd.at/fd2h62). Follow the instructions to sign up for Remind. You'll be prompted to download the mobile app.

Cell phone (non smartphone): Text the message @fd2h62 to the number 81010. If you are having trouble with 81010 try texting @fd2h62 to (972) 776-2460.