



LETTER FROM REV. LORI HARVEY

God On the Move

Jesus didn't stay in one place for long. His journey was a physical movement towards Jerusalem but also a movement through human experience, encountering everything from temptation, to joy, to suffering and even death. As we encounter the life and ministry of Jesus, we cannot stay the same. We ourselves are moved to grow and change as followers of the gospel. The good news is that we are not alone. God is walking with us every step of the way.

Keep your eyes open to seeing God in our community. Where there is a need, people of faith can answer the call, "Here I am. Send me." We do this through acts of kindness and prayer. Lent is a time of personal transformation but it can also be a time of inviting others to experience God's transforming love and grace. Don't journey through Lent without inviting someone else to come with you.

We are offering easy ways to invite people through the arts: a watercolor painting meditation time, creating a blessing rock and putting it on a path to bless another person (side note: don't put the rock in a place that will trip someone but put it in a place where it will catch someone's eye). Invite someone to come to the prayer time on Good Friday. We will have a prayer labyrinth set up and cross where you can leave your cares and hurts. Our M&M group and Missions ministry team are partnering on Good Friday to create prayer tie blankets. You can come help tie these blankets that will cover someone in love.

Easter is the first Sunday of April. We will celebrate this as a faith community outside. One service is at sunrise and the second will be at 9:30 a.m. Because we are outside, we are not limited by the number as long as we use recommended precautions; distance and masks. Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

Continue to support our church with your prayers, your presence, your gifts, your service and your witness. We are called to lead people to Jesus and help them grow as disciples.

Blessings,
Rev Lori

LENT

Sundays at 11 am "The Wesleyan Way"
Lenten Study **Zoom Session**
Meeting ID: 982 7554 9656
Passcode: MUMC

Wednesday 3/3; 3/10/ 3/17/; 3/24; 3/31
7 pm Lenten Devotional on Youtube

Fridays Music meditations available on our youtube channel.

Sunday, March 21 – 10:30 a.m. - noon bring your rock to church to paint. Details P. 2

HOLY WEEK

Maundy Thursday – April 1

We ask you to sign up for this experience on the website or by calling the church. Here's the time slots: 3; 3:15; 3:30; 3:45; 4 pm and 5; 5:15; 5:30; 5:45; 6 pm. There will be table communion and a reflection for groups of people 10 at a time. This event is in person in the welcome center inside the church.

Good Friday – April 2 Prayer 11am-7pm **Family Blanket 1-3 pm or 5-7 pm Details P 2**

We invite you to come by the church for personal prayer anytime between 11 am and 7 pm. You will find a prayer labyrinth and a cross for you to nail your concerns to, as a way of giving them to God. This event is in person outdoors. Families can come **tie knots to complete the tie blankets** the M&Ms group has prepared. Sign up for this on website.

Easter Sunday Worship Under a Tent
April 4 – 6:30 am & 9:30 am – NO SIGN UP
All are welcome at our outdoor worship services under a tent.

Bring your own chair!



ROCK MEDITATION

March 21 from 10:30am to NOON



You can bring your rock to church to be painted. We will have a paint station set up and Pam Parker will be our rock painting guide. It is our hope you will come and enjoy this in person activity for all ages.

Or you can do this at home.

This meditation may be performed as a way of perceiving the Divine within the physical universe or simply as a way of appreciating nature. In Jewish mystical tradition, stones have been referred to as "domemim" or "silent beings". Stones have the wisdom to teach us. They represent eternal knowing and remembering. The high priest wore twelve stones on his breast plate to remind the Holy One of the twelve tribes, and we place stones on a grave site in memory of the deceased.

Preparation: Choose a stone. It can be one that is either particularly beautiful, or unusual in your eyes. It could be a stone that represents a time or place you love. It could be a stone that came with your Lenten Box, that you might wish to paint and leave in the community as a Blessing Stone.

Sit comfortably with it, either inside or outside if the weather cooperates. You may want to have a small jar of water or oil with you. Begin with a wordless tune, a prayer to the Divine.

Feel in your body that you and the stone are both resting on the same earth. Holding your stone, or sitting in front of it, close your eyes and meditate on the stone without looking at it. Feel the silence.

Ending: When you open your eyes, you can offer a blessing to the stone. You can do this by saying words, by singing.

You can place the rock in a designated place in your home or return it to its natural setting.

MAUNDY THURSDAY

Sign up link for Maundy Thursday is linked on our website under HOLY WEEK sign up.

GOOD FRIDAY APRIL 2 BLANKET PROJECT

During a season when we aren't able to give hugs away freely we thought a warm fleece blanket might be the next best thing. We have fabric cut and ready to be tied, can you help us so we can give warm hugs blankets to some people in need of warmth?

We will host small groups of people of all ages for this activity indoors alongside our outdoor GOOD FRIDAY reflection stations. The link to sign up for this project is included in our HOLY WEEK sign up linked on our website.



We are looking for someone willing to donate their photography talents for a photo booth for Easter Sunday. This person would take photos before and after our 9:30 outdoor worship time on April 4th. Know anyone that might have fun helping with this project? Email mumc@mumc.org

KAYAKING THROUGH CONFIRMATION CLASS

Rev. Lori is putting a Confirmation Class together for this summer. This group will be Kayaking through Confirmation. This is ideal for **STUDENTS ENTERING 7TH GRADE THROUGH 18 YEARS OLD**. Text @kayak2021 to the number 81010 to hear more about this!



SYMPATHY

Our sympathy is extended to:

- Chris and Reba Karr and Cynthia Karr following the February 6 death of J.C. Karr.
- The family of Ruth Marrett following her death on February 25
- Margaret and Ron White following the February 27 death of Margaret's mother, Dolores Hawley

Angel Whisper Ministry



These scripture pictures are easy to find on a cell phone or computer. They can be sent to those on our churches prayer list, family and friends.

If you are interested in participating in the outreach mission of **ANGEL WHISPERS**, call Joyce Livesay, 217-369-1643.

THANK YOU

"Thank You" to all who have helped me get through this past year! Thanks for your calls and visits and food brought to the house.

Thanks also for flowers, and the Christmas bags with many cards and surprise gifts. I really appreciated the "outdoor Chorus". Special thanks to those who transported me to appointments.

Thanks for your prayers.

Marilyn Mohr

MASKS FOR MISSIONS

Think spring! Maybe a cheery, colorful mask would help. Or maybe you'd like to support your favorite team. The Monday Missions group will be selling masks at \$5.00 each starting the first Sunday in March before and after service. All money received will help to support missions.



KLEENEX FOR HELPING HANDS

Many thanks to our congregation for responding with 39 boxes of Kleenex! Helping Hands currently serves 55-60 families monthly. Having that many boxes or more donated by our church each month would be terrific. As mentioned before, Helping Hands cannot buy Kleenex from the Eastern Illinois Foodbank but can purchase all varieties of canned goods at 33 cents a pound. Helping Hands is very appreciative of these donations, as well as monetary donations made by many members of our congregation. Thank you for your thoughtfulness and compassion.

Karen Wilkinson

Mahomet UMC Helping Hands Representative



NEXT UMW MEETING

We invite all women of the church to the next UMW meeting on Thursday, March 4 at 1 pm **at the church**. Connie Weick who teaches English in mainland China through the Amity Foundation will present our March program. Even though we will be zooming with her the meeting will be at the church. You can also join the Zoom Meeting from your home if you are unable to attend in person.

Meeting ID: 987 9434 5265 Passcode: 2021

Masks and social distancing will be observed. We look forward to seeing you.

THURSDAY READING CIRCLE

On Thursday, March 11, the Reading Circle will be discussing *The Authenticity Project* by Clare Pooley.

Julian Jessop, an eccentric, lonely artist and septuagenarian believes that most people aren't really honest with each other. But what if they were? And so he writes—in a plain, green journal—the truth about his own life and leaves it in his local cafe. It's run by the incredibly tidy and efficient Monica, who furtively adds her own entry and leaves the book in the wine bar across the street. Before long, the others who find the green notebook add the truths about their own deepest selves—and soon find each other In Real Life at Monica's Cafe.

The Authenticity Project's cast of characters—including Hazard, the charming addict who makes a vow to get sober; Alice, the fabulous mommy Instagrammer whose real life is a lot less perfect than it looks online; and their other new friends—is by turns quirky and funny, heartbreakingly sad and painfully true-to-life. It's a story about being brave and putting your real self forward—and finding out that it's not as scary as it seems. In fact, it looks a lot like happiness.

The Authenticity Project is just the tonic for our times that readers are clamoring for—and one they will take to their hearts and read with unabashed pleasure.

Future Books

April – *What Comes With The Dust* by Gharbi M. Mustafa
May – *One For the Blackbird, One For the Crow* by Olivia Hawker

THANK YOU

Thank you for being a light that helps to brighten the lives of the youth, adults and families we serve. Thank you very much to our wonderful Mahomet UMW friends for thinking of our kids! In what has been a challenging year for all, you are what has kept us going. As I think about how we forge ahead, I keep coming back to the enclosed story with Chaplain Gay. Your gift, your prayers, your love – that is the light ahead for us this year. We are grateful!!

Brooke Buzard
Associate Director of Advancement
Cunningham Children's Home

CHAPLAIN GAY CREDE'S STORY: *LIFE IS A JOURNEY*

The topic of a recent chapel exercise with Chaplain Gay Crede and a small group of boys from Cunningham's residential program was "Life is a Journey." She shared pictures of people hiking and walking through national parks and talked about how some parts of the journey were fun while others were scary. She then asked the boys, "What are three things you have discovered on your life's journey?"

The youth said things like, people care about me, I am loved, I believe in myself, I am forgiven, I am valued by staff. As they continued to talk, Chaplain Gay was delighted with the many responses that included the theme of "light at the end of the tunnel." The youth shared that even with the hardships and struggles they've experienced; they knew they were going to be okay. They could see the light ahead and have hope for a brighter future.

"They began to open up and recognize how a light at the end of the tunnel represented hope in a time of struggle," Chaplain Gay said. "While each of these boys are 14 or younger, they have all experienced dark times and past trauma. I am so thankful they are at Cunningham where they are cared for and can heal."



FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Dear Friends,

Pledged giving for the month of January was approximately \$42,000 and non-pledged giving was approximately \$14,000 making total giving about \$56,000. Total operating expenses were approximately \$25,000 generating net income for the month of over \$30,000. This represents a very positive financial start for 2021. The Illinois Great Rivers Conference required 2020 annual audit report and online reporting are on track to be filed before the March 1, 2021 due date.

I thank the congregation for their generous support of our church's mission.

Financial reports are always available upon request.

Doug Beckmann
Chair, Finance Committee

GIVING MADE EASY

Did you know we offer electronic giving? You can contribute anywhere, anytime right from your computer, smartphone or tablet.

To give  online at

mumc.org: Download our free mobile App by searching for "GivePlus" in the App Store or Google Play

ALTAR FLOWER SPONSORES NEEDED


If you would like to sponsor a week you can contact the church office at 586-2147 or email the church office at mumc@mumc.org. Open dates are:

- March 7, 14, 21, 28
- April 11, 18, 25
- May 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

Each sponsorship is \$20. Make checks to Mahomet UMC. Indicate "Flowers" in the memo line.

EASTER LILIES

Easter Lilies in 6 ½ inch pots with foil and bows will decorate the church during the Easter season. Please fill out the form below if you'd like to order a lily. **The deadline to order is Friday, March 26**



Enclosed is \$ _____ for _____ Lilies at \$12.50 ea.

Given by _____

In _____ honor _____ of _____

In memory of _____

"Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."

2 Corinthians 9:7



SHARING TIME VIRTUALLY TO MAKE LIFE BETTER.

COVID-19 has brought many challenges to our lives. Being separated from our friends and family has been especially hard. Carle Friends can help. Carle Friends visit with you by phone or video. You can talk with them about anything on your mind – your hobbies and interests, sports, a great book or article you've read, or anything else. These trained, screened volunteers offer residents in the Carle service region a warm voice and trustworthy ear. Remember, you don't have to

face these months alone. Carle Friends are here for you.

REQUEST A VIRTUAL VISIT WITH A CARLE FRIEND, OR VOLUNTEER TO BECOME A FRIEND FOR OTHERS:

carle.org/giving/Carle-Friends



CHRISTIAN YOGA

Christian Yoga is the intentional practice of connecting our entire being, body, mind and spirit with God. Yoga invites us to surrender and introduces us to Grace. This particular class welcomes all skill levels and ages.

"Be still and Know that I am your God"
Psalm 46:10



This class will be in the comfort of your home via Zoom:

Thursday, March 25th

Join Zoom Meeting

Meeting ID: 970 7875 5829

Passcode: MUMC

Instructor Valerie Wright

MEDITATIVE WATERCOLORING

Reflection can come through creation. During a time of quiet meditation, allow God to move through you while painting with watercolors! Join us while we follow Jan Harvey-Smith's instruction into painting! Jan, Rev. Lori's sister, is a distinguished artist, teacher and set designer in Seattle, Washington. She will be leading a Zoom class for personal meditative time apart. It is important to note that ALL SKILL LEVELS are welcome! The Lenten box supplies a watercolor set with brush and watercolor paper. You only need to supply a black pen or sharpie.

This class will be offered in two different time slots on Zoom. Pick the one that best fits your schedule.

Sunday, March 7th at 4:00 pm

Connect by joining the Zoom Meeting at:

Meeting ID: 915 3454 9216

Passcode: 2021

or

Monday, March 8th at 7:00 pm

Connect by joining the Zoom Meeting at:

Meeting ID: 992 8173 5199

Passcode: 2021

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come. The old has gone, the new is here!"
2 Corinthians 5:17

Mahomet United Methodst Church

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CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Lori Harvey ~ pastor@mumc.org

Kathy Tock, Worship Music Director ~ tockwoman@gmail.com

Jay Simpson, Assistant Praise Band Leader

Kristina Robinson, Director of Inclusion ~ krobinson@mumc.org

Dr. Carlos R. Carrillo Cotto, Organist

Eileen Waters, Parish Nurse ~ enie@mediacombb.net



MAYC Virtual Auction

March 6, 2021 at 6:00pm

This year's event will feature a week-long silent auction that will begin on March 1. Then on March 6 from 6 to 7 p.m., bidders can enjoy a live auction from the comfort of their own home! To register for free, visit <https://mahomeityouth.org/auction>. Only registered participants will be able to bid on auction items.

The MAYC Auction is the club's largest single fundraiser. Money raised from this event will go directly to our programming to help youth including:

- Providing over 300 scholarships for BLAST, Kid's Club, and Out of School Programming for local youth.
- Sponsoring a free after-school program at the jr. high.
- Supporting a vocational jobs program at the high school.
- Funding Bulldog Makers at the high school to give students hands on training with technology, assembly, and shop equipment.
- Sharing our facilities on school days with ATLAS.
- Hosting all-day programming at our clubhouse during summer, winter, and spring break.