

La Grange Messenger August 6th, 2020

Greetings: I am discovering as I go new thoughts and experiences while producing this communique, now into its 2nd week. What I am discovering is that there are a lot of busy folks in our congregation thinking about and working to nurture our church in its ministry and fellowship. In this week's messenger you'll read thoughts and reports from several committees and from Janet our choir director and pianist. Plans are being made, meetings are being scheduled and the life of the La Grange UMC moves on. I am encouraged by the energy and the many hands that work to "serve God and our community" which is our church motto.

A new wrinkle if you will, is that given our Governor's Executive Order, I will be wearing a mask while preaching this next week. This is the new normal for a while. I trust it will not impede your hearing of the worship service and sermon.

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Emergency Fund Report: So many of you have contributed to the Emergency Fund over and above your tithes and offerings in these past months and for that I am very appreciative. You see the distress and troubled lives of folks just trying to hold on during this pandemic. I am taking a more active approach in searching/discovering where the need is vs. just putting the word out that those in need can call us. I have reached out to local agencies that are feeding, clothing, and trying to make life a little easier for those in need. Our funds do no good if they stay in the bank!

Hymns and Texts for this Sunday, 8/9/20:

- Here I Am, Lord
- Praise to the Lord, the Almighty
- Jesus, Savior, Pilot Me
- Texts: Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28 & Matthew 14:22-33

Concerns & Celebrations:

- Jim Treder – suffered a broken hip and is coming home today
- Willy Holden – has recovered from COVID-19 and is back to work
- Terri Holden – celebrated a birthday
- The casualties and survivors of the Beirut bombing

Committee & Work Calendar:

- Church Diner: Clearing out the Wiswell Center, Saturday August 8th @ 8 AM; contact Eric Taylor for further information – etaylor002@centurytel.net
- Worship Committee meeting, August 20th, 7 pm at the church

Missions & Ministry:

This summer our church members have been helping out Twin Oaks Homeless Shelter.

In June we collected personal care items for them.

In July we collected fun family friendly indoor activity items.

In August we will be collecting a variety of items that have been highly requested or needed for them to continue to run their shelter successfully.

Below is a list of items that can be dropped off at the church in the bin provided:

Hand sanitizer, baby wipes, women's deodorant, larger band aids, gauze, and white tape to secure it, Calamine lotion, hydrocortisone cream (for rashes and mosquito bites). They could also use copy paper and clear Scotch tape, for in their dispenser. Newly requested items are as follows: pillows, twin blankets, stamps, dentures adhesive, laundry pods.

Being that this is our last month we may need to put out a bigger request to our members. With the new items needed it seems like our help is really needed right now.

If anyone would like to contribute and can't make it to the church, let me know and I can arrange to come pick it up. Monetary donations can also be made, and I will happily shop for the needed items.

I will deliver our newly collected items on August 24, my last day of summer.

Chelli Taylor

Mission Chairperson

262-215-9364

Janet's Musical Musings:

Dear Church Family,

I miss seeing you and boy, oh boy, do I miss hearing you!

Does anyone remember a series of recordings from years ago called "Music Minus One"? If I remember correctly it was all the other vocal or instrumental parts of selected songs that a musician could practice with on their own so they would be prepared to perform with the whole group. It struck me that since the pandemic my church music life has been "One Minus Music". I so miss hearing and seeing all of you singing while I play. I am so looking forward to when we can make music together again. I fear it may be through a mask, but it will still be singing at La Grange United Methodist Church.

Who was it that said, "you never know how much you appreciate something until it is gone"? I have always known how special the music at La Grange has always been, but I've come to appreciate that even more since it has been taken from us.

I'm full of hope that we will make music together again and will be waiting for you on the piano bench!

Until then, stay safe! Janet

Trustees Church Care:

The La Grange Trustees are working on a couple of things to improve the church. 1) We are looking forward to the day that our parking lot will become necessary again. We are discussing and reviewing bids for repairing and repaving the lot. 2) We have submitted a grant application to obtain some church video equipment and will be looking at other options that other churches are doing to hold services in safe manner. Jon Marshall

Pastor Don's Weekly Reflections:

Let's reflect a minute or two on Jesus coming to his disciples in a boat pummeled by a seriously violent storm, walking on the tossing sea (Matthew 14:22-33). I think we can all relate to the disciple's fears; an angry sea is frightening. What we cannot relate to is the walking on water part. When the disciples saw Jesus, they did not know who he was, his apparition could not possibly be the actual Jesus, for humans do not walk on water. But there was something in Peter that knew it was Jesus and dared to test this out by saying, "if it is really you Jesus, call me to come to you". What a dangerous and reckless risk to take. You know the rest of the story, Peter did step out of the boat, walked a bit, and then his fears took over. He'd have sunk like a rock had Jesus not caught him, lifted him up and they both got into the boat. To some degree we all have had experiences of risk taking, stepping out, going for it. Perhaps our stepping out has not been to the magnitude of Peter's "I dare you" moment. Peter sure had an experience that stayed with him for the rest of his life. What a story to tell. There is risk in being a follower of Christ, of stepping out in faith. Risking to make friends with someone totally different from ourselves; making ourselves vulnerable in giving up our hurt and long-held grudges for another and forgiving and asking for forgiveness; and in seeing the needs of others and giving to feed and help, and ease their suffering never, questioning the need. Just stepping out, just giving, just being Christ to those that come our way; that is how we can bring to life our faith. And yes, we will have discomfort, fear, and even sink. But we also will have an adventure, many of them if we are so blessed, to step out. Christ will not let us sink and we will surely have a story and/or stories to tell, to the glory of God.

Pastor Don