



“Remember,
Look for the helper.
They’re everywhere!”

Mr. Rogers

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Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done

April Fourth Teller

April 2020



“Do Not Be Afraid” Adapt by God’s Grace

Scripture Memory Verse for April

*“Don’t worry about anything; instead, pray about everything.
Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done.
Then you will experience God’s peace,
which exceeds anything we can understand.
His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.”
-Philippians 4:6-7*

Dear Faribault: Fourth Avenue UMC Friends,

I did not see this coming. We are living in unprecedented times. The news about the coronavirus over the last week to ten days has us feeling anxious and unsettled—and this is a completely normal reaction to such changing circumstances! Yet as we respect the authorities and take seriously the advice of public health officials and follow their instructions to protect ourselves and our loved ones, now is also a great time to turn to the Lord with greater intentionality. Now is the time to lean on the Lord more deeply and to attend to the needs of the people around us.

Yes, we must take prudent actions, but our decisions don’t have to be based on panic or fear. They can be rooted in love. Our God is a mighty God who loves us and cares for us, and he’s inviting us right now to love and care for others. So let’s stay close to the Lord. Let’s remember the Apostle Paul’s admonition to turn to the Lord in prayer in the face of fear and anxiety and to ask boldly and confidently for what we need. And let’s dig into the promise that God wants to give us his peace in the midst of trial and uncertainty.

I want to encourage you to read Daniel, Chapter 3. Remember the story of the three men in the fiery furnace. They are on the hot seat (literally) because they are resolved to live faithful to God and not worship false gods. Make no mistake. These young men faced a very real and dangerous threat.



Prayer Chain

If you need prayer for any reason, there is an active group in our congregation committed to praying for you.

Contact **Carole Evans** at 507-210-6971 or e-mail her at caroleannjean@gmail.com.

You are welcome to join the prayer chain. Just call Carole.

If you notice a need for building maintenance, contact the trustees at:

Trustees.fourthaveumc@gmail.com

Worship services online!

- www.fourthaveumc.org
- click on the "VIDEO" menu—
- OR on HOME page
- Scroll down right side - see options for the worship service. OR go to

YouTube and search for 4th Avenue UMC to find several videos—choir, special music, and entire worship services.

Pastor's Page (Continued from page 1)

But they entrusted themselves to God:

*"If we are thrown into the blazing furnace,
the God whom we serve is able to save us.
He will rescue us from your power, Your Majesty.
But even if he doesn't, we want to make it clear to you, Your Majesty,
that we will never serve your gods or worship
the gold statue you have set up."*

-Daniel 3:17-18

Rather than give in to fear or anxiety in a serious time of trial, these men relied on God and God alone. They put their faith and their fate in his capable hands. They even praised him in the midst of their danger!

In a similar way, this can be a time of grace and opportunity for us. The word is *adapt* by God's grace. Most of our in-person events have been cancelled (including Sunday worship), and that means we will have more time to pray and reflect on the Scriptures, to praise the Lord, and to intercede for his people. What a blessing it would be if we could draw closer to him during these next few weeks of Lent!

During this time, we have launched a shepherding ministry. I trust that you have been contacted by now. Be sure to tell your shepherd about any needs you have or burdens you're carrying. Lean on your shepherds to pray with you and for you. I am also available on my cell phone (218-310-8813), so do not hesitate to call me. We will be producing worship and prayer resources for you to use and share while public worship is suspended. Check out the church's website and Facebook page. Watch for emails from me or the church office. If you are not receiving them, email me at pastorgreg.fourthaveumc@gmail.com.

Remember, too, that you are Jesus' hands and feet. God wants you to be Christ to the people around you. He wants you to extend his love to them. Even if you can't go out, you can still contact someone and encourage him or her by phone, text, email, or the multitude of tools that are out there. You can dust off that prayer list (or actually make one) and devote more time to interceding for other people's needs. If you aren't in a high-risk age or health group and if you're feeling healthy, maybe you can do the shopping or pick up prescriptions for an older brother or sister. It's important that we all care for one another even if we can't do it in person.

If you are feeling anxious, ask yourself, "What would Jesus say to me right now?" Then imagine him telling you what he told the disciples when their boat was being battered by a storm at sea: "Don't be afraid," he said.

“Take courage. I am here!” (Matthew 14:27). Remember, Jesus is as close to you as he was to his apostles in the boat. Our Lord is still the Lord of all creation whose love endures forever. By God’s grace, we can adapt.

Know that we are a people of prayer and that many (including myself) are holding you before the throne of God’s grace. May we all grow confident in God’s presence and comfort more than ever before. Jesus is so close to us!

In these uncertain times that call for us to adapt by God’s grace,
I am sincerely yours,

Pastor Greg

This piece is adapted from a piece written by Jeff Smith, president of The Word Among Us, a Catholic devotional magazine. You can find many resources for your faith journey at www.wau.org

A Lenten Prayer in an Hour of Crisis

**O God our deliverer, you led your people of old
through the wilderness to the Promised Land.
Guide now, your people, through our Lenten journey
tracing our Savior’s steps
from the wilderness to the grave.
Draw near to us in our present wilderness
when we’re fearful and uncertain
and isolated from one another in the body of Christ.
As we walk through these bewildering Lenten days,
transform us with your grace.
May we come to see Jesus more clearly,
love him more dearly,
and follow him more nearly, day by day.
Amen.**

Our sympathy to

Charlotte Glarner and the entire Glarner family upon the recent passing of her husband, **Colin**, (age 87). Please send cards to

Charlotte Glarner
3215 208th Street East
Faribault, MN 55021



The General Conference of the United Methodist Church meeting that was previously scheduled in Minneapolis for May 5-15, 2020 has been postponed and rescheduled for 2021. There will be more information available at a later date.

From the Minnesota Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church

Governor Tim Walz issued a “stay at home” executive order for Minnesota that will be in effect from 11:59 pm Friday, March 27 to 5 p.m. Friday, April 10. Faith leaders are listed as exempt in order to perform the absolutely critical and necessary components of their work. What does this really mean for churches? Here's how we interpret it:

- Churches should not have in-person worship (Bishop Ough has asked all churches to suspend it until at least May 10 and our Church Council will comply).
- Pastoral care visits should be done by phone or online.
- Staff, leadership team, ministry team, youth group, and other group meetings should be done virtually.
- Church volunteers should cease activities that require them to leave their homes.
- Having a few people record or live stream worship from your church sanctuary is permitted. If you do this, be sure everyone in the building follows social distancing guidelines and that the number of people does not exceed 10 in compliance with Minnesota Department of Health recommendations.
- Clergy can leave their homes in order to do essential work that cannot be done remotely; they should remain at home and connect with people virtually whenever possible.



Sue and I have been safely working together a little bit in the church office these days. We have been catching up on projects, working on conference reports and updating lists.

Without service on Sundays, our contact with you as the congregation has been VERY LIMITED. We would like to send out a shorter version of the monthly Fourth Teller (just a couple of pages) twice in April to keep everyone informed of our news and activities, and updates from the Minnesota Conference.

My financial report will appear in the next two weeks. I'm still waiting for the final bills from the soup luncheon to arrive so I have the final picture.

Please watch for future emails and mailings from the church office. **Thank you for your continued financial support and your prayers for Fourth Avenue.**

Kathy DuChene

Let the church office know if:

You would like Pastor Greg to contact you.

You have an updated address, phone number or email address.

Call 507-334-4308.



The Upper Room devotional booklet includes daily reading of the scriptures & a brief life story. Stop by the Annex to pick one up. Donation - \$1.00.

APRIL Birthdays

Lois Christen	03
Brad Prange	08
Donna Schuenke	08
Karen Hauptli	09
Bonnie Hammer	10
Eric Hatfield	12
Richard Caron	14
Richard Michel	15
Jean Vincent	15
Kathy DuChene	18
Steven Twiehoff	20
Brody Hatfield	30

APRIL Anniversaries

David & Kathy DuChene	07
Ronn Kotsmith & Donna Schuenke	13

Students in the News

Congratulations to **Chloe Kucera** who received a scholarship through the STRIVE program of the Rotary Club!

Our own Pastor Greg is an active member of Rotary.

Congratulations to **Ella Prange** who had a eventful March. She competed in the DECA Competition in Integrated Marketing Campaign and competed in the MN State High School League Dance Tournament. What a month!!

Thank-you to the Luedke's (Jack, Jackie & Kim)

The nursery has new animals on the walls. Bright colors, cute faces will put a smile on your face. The enjoyment they had in making the animals. Thank you so much, Linda Wilde

Dear Pastor Greg,

Thank you so much for all your help and leadership with my aunt Phyllis's "non-service". I was really pleased with how it all turned out. I think she might forgive me for not following her direction! The service was lovely and the song was perfect. Thank you again, Jennifer Struss (Niece of Phyllis Borchert)

United Methodist Women (UMW)

The United Methodist Women are in need of a treasurer. If anyone has the skills to help out in writing and depositing checks, please see **Joyce Buresh or Donna Schuenke**. The treasurer would not need to attend meetings.

**Fourth Avenue United
Methodist Church
219 4th Ave NW
Faribault, MN
55021-5170**



“RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED”

- ◆ Sunday Worship/9:00 AM
- ◆ Coffee Fellowship/10:15 AM

Website:

www.fourthaveumc.org

Like us on Facebook

Join us at 2:42 PM daily as we pray our church's Breakthrough Prayer.

April 2020 Fourth Teller

Pastor Greg Ciesluk

Phone: 218-310-8813

Pastorgreg.fourthaveumc@gmail.com

**Contact for Church Office &
Fourth Teller Editor:**

Sue Allen

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fourthaveumcoffice@gmail.com

Phone: 507-334-4308

Office Hours: 9:00 am-1:00 pm
Tuesday-Thursday

Staff

Choir Director: Kelly Landsverk

Accompanist: Doug Madow

Nursery Attendant: Kim Luedke

Custodian: Robert Baden

Secretary: Sue Allen



Passion/Palm Sunday, April 5

*Stay tuned for our creative plan to distribute palms
Reading of Passion from Matthew in Word and Song*



Holy Thursday, April 9

*A Celebration of the Institution of
the Last Supper & Holy Communion*



Good Friday, April 10

*A Community-wide solemn reading
of the Passion from Gospel of John
with community servants and ministry leaders.*



Easter Sunday, April 12

*Pastor Greg's Easter Message
with Celebratory Music*