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Hello church family!

As I sit down to write, I can hear that it's raining again outside. I cannot tell you how much I love the sound of the rain. Especially in the dark. Probably it's from a lifetime of living in the desert, but I think it is my favorite sound on earth. Hearing it makes me feel instantly calm and warm inside. Feels like a gift.

It might be my favorite smell, too. I have had allergies all my life, constant congestion and sniffles and itchy eyes, every season of the year, and so I don't really have much of a sense of smell left really. A bummer for someone like me who loves to cook, but a small thing. I love the smell of my mom's spaghetti sauce. The roses outside my front door. A real woodburning fireplace. Clean laundry. The morning air, out camping. Beloved people. This morning coffee in my hand.

I love the sound of a running refrigerator. Probably that sounds a little weird, but when I was little that was the sound I heard at bedtime and in the morning at my grandmother's house, when everything else was quiet. That, and the sound of a train in the distance. Love that. Coyotes howling, far off. Really heartbreaking harmony.

The taste of a meal someone else has cooked. The feel of a sweet furry creature snuggled up close. New socks. Warm towels. Brand new recipes in a brand new place, filled with new spices and strange vegetables and long histories and love. Antiques that were a part of someone's ordinary, everyday life. Old houses carefully and simply restored. The wonder and surprise of learning a new thing. Growing things to eat in my very own garden.

This world God has created is so full of goodness.

There is a lot to consider during Holy Week, especially this particular Holy Week. Depths of the heart to explore, serious things to do, sacred ceremonies and rhythms to complete. Wrongness then and now, in the world and in our own hearts, to see clearly and honestly and sorrowfully; miraculous, earth-shaking rightness to claim and celebrate and cling to. Almighty God to trust in. I pray that you enter into it boldly and fully, mind and body and heart and soul, because it is essential. Every part.

May the wealth of goodness God has surrounded you with help renew your trust in God's love and power, and grant you the courage to do the hard things. Fear not, beloved. Salvation awaits.

In God's unfailing love,

Pastor Dawn

Kitchen Table Worship

Holy Week and Easter Worship

“Comfort Food” Love Feast, Maundy Thursday April 9 7:00pm on Zoom.

Prepare a table with something you love to eat and drink, and a bowl of water and a towel, and hand sanitizer. At 7pm, join Pastor Dawn on Zoom for a special service remembering Jesus’ command to love one another. Zoom is a video conferencing service that allows us to talk together in real time! You can call in by phone, or use your computer if it has a camera (they almost all do). Pastor Dawn will send everyone the instructions by email; if you don’t have email, or don’t receive those instructions, or need any help, call her on her cell phone at 671-5553.

Stations of the Cross, Good Friday April 10 at 3pm.

After the Love Feast on Thursday, consider taking Good Friday to fast and pray. You might consider a fast from TV, or recreational computer or phone use. You might fast from meat, or sugar, or all but the simplest foods. If it is safe for your health, you might skip a meal, or have nothing but water all day. Whatever you choose, let it guide you into deeper prayer. At noon, join Bishop Carcano for a special Good Friday video worship service (you can find that on our Conference website at www.cnumc.org). At 3pm, join Pastor Dawn on Facebook Live for beautiful music, prayer, and scripture readings from the Epworth sanctuary. Watch with us live, or the video will be available afterward for you to watch at whatever time works best for you, on Epworth’s new YouTube channel.

Easter Sunday, April 12 at 9:30am.

Surround yourself with the stuff of Easter or whatever brings you joy, put on your Easter bonnet, and celebrate the Risen Christ! We will just do it in the same way we have been, at 9:30am on KVLV AM 980, and on Facebook Live. And then, open your front door, step out onto the porch or run right out into the street and shout “CHRIST IS RISEN!” and see who shouts back “HE IS RISEN INDEED!”

News and Fun Stuff

Holy Week with Bishop Carcano

Join our Bishop for devotions each morning of Holy Week, on www.cnumc.org. She will also lead a special Good Friday worship service of prayer and lament on Friday, April 10 at noon, and a Sunrise service at 6:15 Easter Sunday morning. May these moments of prayer and worship comfort and inspire you!

April Birthdays!

Jim Hertz, 4/1

Elena Wolf, 4/2

Kyle Dugan, 4/4

♥ David Clodius, 4/7

Dana Endacott, 4/8

April Butcher, 4/9

Jake Coval, 4/9

Lexi Pidlypchak, 4/16

Joanne Brown, 4/21

Meghan Hockenberry, 4/24

Ashlee McGarity, 4/24

Nadine Miller, 4/24

Michele Berney, 4/27

Deanna Brown, 4/49

Wilva Blue, 4/30

♥ David Clodius passed away on March 8 this year, after a short illness.

He has lived with his sisters Diane and Carol in California for years, but was a longtime member of Epworth. We remember him for his optimistic, outgoing nature and his very silly jokes.

Consider the lilies,
 how they grow:
 they neither toil
 nor spin, yet I tell
 you even
 Solomon in all his
 glory was not
 clothed like one
 of these. But if
 God so clothes
 the grass of the
 field, which is
 alive today and
 tomorrow is
 thrown into the
 oven, how much
 more will he
 clothe you!

~ Luke 12:27-28

Easter Bonnet/Easter Tie/Easter Mask Challenge!

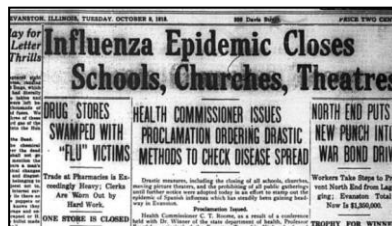
Let's celebrate Easter joy by making colorful Easter apparel! Use an existing hat or tie and decorate it, or make it from scratch using whatever you have around the house or can pick up when you are getting essentials at the store. Make it lovely, make it hideous, make it simple, make it wild. Whatever brings you joy. Post photos of yourself wearing them on Facebook or email them to Pastor Dawn, and whenever we are able to worship together again, wear them to church! Here are some photos to inspire you:



A Quarantine Poem

History repeats itself. Came across this poem written just last month by Kitty O'Meara, which has been going around the internet claiming to be reprinted from the era of the 1918 flu epidemic. There are a whole lot of similarities between then and now, but this isn't one of them. Still, a lovely, hopeful poem to brighten the days.

And people stayed at home
 And read books
 And listened
 And they rested
 And did exercises
 And made art and played
 And learned new ways of being
 And stopped and listened
 More deeply
 Someone meditated, someone prayed
 Someone met their shadow
 And people began to think differently
 And people healed.
 And in the absence of people who
 Lived in ignorant ways
 Dangerous, meaningless and heartless,
 The earth also began to heal
 And when the danger ended and
 People found themselves
 They grieved for the dead
 And made new choices
 And dreamed of new visions
 And created new ways of living
 And completely healed the earth
 Just as they were healed.



**Surely he has
borne our
infirmities
and carried our
diseases;
yet we
accounted him
stricken,
struck down by
God, and
afflicted.
But he was
wounded for our
transgressions,
crushed for our
iniquities;
upon him was the
punishment that
made us whole,
and by his bruises
we are healed.**

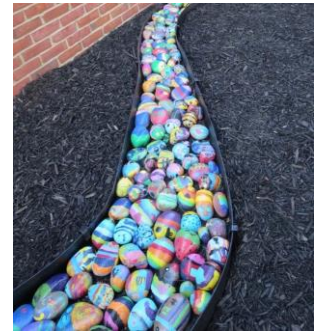
~ Isaiah 53:4-5

Saturday Mornings for the Young at Heart

Every Saturday morning at 11:30, join us on Zoom (yay technology!) for a Word for the Young at Heart. It might be a story we tell together, or an activity, or a song, or something else altogether! Pastor Dawn will email all of the parents and grandparents the instructions each week. All the kids need is a computer with a video camera so that we can all see each other and talk together. If you have any questions, call Pastor Dawn at 775-671-5553. Hope you and your kiddos can join us!

Creating a Path of Easter Joy

Here's an idea! While you're sheltering at home, find a few (or a bunch!) palm-sized rocks (give or take size-wise, anything you can pick up in one hand really) and paint them like Easter eggs. Bright colors, designs of any kind... paint flowers on them, or butterflies, a cross or fish symbol, a Bible verse, anything at all. Stripes, swirls, sparkles, anything. Paint as many as you'd like, the more the better! When we come back to church, we will use them to make a beautiful, colorful path in front of the Wolf Center.



20,000 Pounds of Donated Produce!

Some restaurant produce suppliers have donated 20,000lbs of produce to folks in need in Fallon!! What an incredible gift. Some intrepid Epworth volunteers and others from our community are on the way as of this writing to meet the truck in the Wolf Center parking lot, bag up the produce, and get it ready to give away to folks at the Pennington Life Center, Fallon Daily Bread, the Epworth Community Food Pantry, and whoever else needs it! **HUGE thanks to Kelli Kelly**, director of the Fallon Food Hub and candidate for Fallon County Commissioner, for thinking of us at Epworth and facilitating all of this!

New Epworth YouTube channel

Technology can be a blessing. For you who might miss the Sunday sermon on the radio or on Facebook, you can catch it now on YouTube. You can find our YouTube channel by going there and searching for Epworth UMC (although there are a lot of churches all over the world with that name), or go to our website at www.epworthfallon.org and click on the link on our worship page. When you see this picture, you'll know you're at the right place.

