



280 E Stillwater
Fallon Nevada
89406

775.423.4714

www.epworthfallon.org

Rev Dawn Blundell
Senior Pastor

pastor@eumcfallon.org

775.671.5553

April 27, 2020

Hello church family!

I pray that this letter finds you and your family well, beloved. Things at the Blundell house are fine and dandy, and it has been so good to connect with some of you this week in prayer and conversation. As we have discussed before, sacrificing a thing – even when it isn't forced on us by law or circumstance – really can help us appreciate things. I am feeling especially grateful for *people*, and the way just being in each other's life is such an incredible gift.

I ran across this amazing poetic reimagining of the Beatitudes that I thought you might love as much as I did.

Blessed Are You

by Rev. Barbara Nixon

Blessed are you, healers and helpers, for you offer care without measure.

Blessed are you who must recover your health in solitude – may you know you are loved.

Blessed are you, mask-makers, for you help us breathe easier.

Blessed are you who stay at home, for you are protecting all.

Blessed are you who work to provide essentials of every kind, for you are lifelines.

Blessed are you who are worried, for you anticipate what can go wrong.

Blessed are you who worry not, for you show us hope and courage.

Blessed are the introverts, for you show us the joys of solitude.

Blessed are the extroverts, for you remind all of a bigger life.

Blessed are you who create in all ways, for you feed our spirits with beauty and laughter.

Blessed are you who are working in newsrooms, for you keep us connected in the search for honest answers.

Blessed are you, good neighbors, for yours is an appreciative neighborhood.

Blessed are you who never lose sight of the big picture, for you remind us to notice more than our limited experience.

Blessed are you who pray and ponder and meditate and hold silence and speak with heart, for you ground us all in the truth of love.

Blessed are you who dream, for you are helping us rise into a more beautiful life together.

Blessed are you, friends. In the endless love of God,

Pastor Dawn

Kitchen Table Worship

Your worship team and your church council want to try a new way of doing virtual worship, as we continue for the next little while “sheltering in place.” So this week, you are invited to worship LIVE AND IN PERSON (sort of) using your phone or computer! At our usual worship time, 9am on Sunday morning, click on the Zoom link you will receive via email from Pastor Dawn. If you have a computer with



video, you will see a screen pop up with the faces of your friends at church, and we can all talk and pray and share Holy Communion together before the sermon at 9:30am. If you don't have a computer with video, you can also join in by phone! You will be able to hear everyone just as well, just won't be able to see them.

As you prepare for worship, here is what you can do:

1. Make sure Pastor Dawn has your email address correct. If you have been receiving prayers and stuff during the week, she does. If not, or if you don't have email, please call Pastor Dawn on her cell phone at 775-671-5553 so that she can give you the call-in information for worship.
2. If you have never used Zoom before, Pastor Dawn would love to teach you! It's not nearly as good as being in person, but it does feel so good to see and talk with our friends. Give her a call and she will get you all set up.
3. For Holy Communion this week, you are invited to use your own bread and cup. When you sit down for worship at 9am, have some bread or cracker with you, and either water, wine, or juice to have with it. Pastor Dawn will lead us in a service of Holy Communion and bless the elements from afar, and then you will be invited to receive the body and blood of Christ right there at your own kitchen table.

Part of this live-and-in-person service will be recorded, too, so that we can share it with church members who aren't able to join in. Fear not, you won't be on screen if you don't want to be...only the main speakers will be.

Oh, and! Don't forget to share your God sightings and prayers! Time limitations prevent us from sharing them during that Zoom call (remember, we normally do them after the sermon because we don't quite have enough time at the beginning half of worship), so please send them to Kathy Reynolds at kmreynolds3@gmail.com.

Where are You Seeing Signs of Resurrection?

We asked you to send pictures and thoughts about where you are seeing signs of new life in you or in the world around you. On the left hand column here and on the next page, you will see some of the beautiful photos you sent in! Signs of new life and God's continued creation, everywhere. And below, some other responses:

"Our bushes have budded and started blooming. They are always so beautiful but never last long enough for me. Now we also have busy bees and birds in our front yard." *Ashlee McGarity*

"In my garden!" *Kathy Fraker*

"In my desire to write and how that is going. But I must also confess to struggling with an anxiety-induced shorter attention span." *Chris Weitzel*

"The birds singing. A neighborhood cat sunning himself on the brick wall. Kids outside playing (and observing social distancing). Our pastor asking about signs of resurrection 😊" *Barbara McGarity*

"Lilacs blooming, harvesting rhubarb and making a pie." *Mary Gissell*

"A lilac that I accidentally had my 7 year old cut to the ground a few weeks ago! It was a cutting from a dear friend last Spring, and I mistook it for a volunteer plum that I can't seem to get rid of 😞 But now instead of the one original shoot – there are three!" *Ruth Dunning*

"My shoulder is resurrecting!! After Jan 8 surgery and after 8 weeks of PT (the oweeee kind), I was diagnosed with frozen shoulder. Had to pretty much start PT all over again (the eweeee kind). But I am feeling progress. It's alive!!! Amen." *Linda Clark*



“The green hills and new foals being born to the herd of wild horses in my neighborhood.” *Cindy Sabatini*

“Every time I manage to make myself get out of bed in the morning...” *Chris Fairbairn*

“Because kittens!” *Blanche Nonken*

“I’m seeing resurrection in myself, if that’s a valid answer.” *Keely Shaye*

Oh yes. That is the best answer. ♥

News and Fun Stuff!

Epworth Swag 😊



As you read in last week’s mini-newsletter, back in the fall several of you ordered replacement t-shirts, sweatshirts, or hats because yours didn’t fit, or because you wanted additional ones after our first order came in. That second round of orders went astray somehow. So, in the interest of supporting our local businesses AND in the interest of having super cool clothing, with the added bonus of inspiring friends and strangers to ask questions about our church, we would love to place a new order. Thank you to those who have given us your order within the last week or so! If you placed an order in that second round last fall/winter, please re-place it now and let us know if you already paid for it. If you don’t have any Epworth gear yet, we hope you’ll consider ordering some! The hats are especially cool. The order form is attached...either mail it back to us, call the church with your order, or take a photo of it and email it to office@eumcfallon.org. We hope to place the order with Buttsup Duck in the next couple of weeks, or whenever we reach the 24 item minimum (not including hats, those are separate).



By the way, just as a fun tidbit, I (Pastor Dawn) just talked with Kelly at Buttsup and they are working on a MASSIVE mask order for a construction company with 10 locations, printing their logo on fabric and doing all of the design and sewing. Because our local businesses are THAT good. **#shoplocal #supportfallonbiz**

An Update from Your Finance Team

Thank you for your faithfulness in giving! In this time of quarantine, and for plenty of other reasons, lots of us are finding our income a bit limited right now. Some of us are supporting kids and family members who have been laid off or furloughed, others of us are finding our retirement accounts shrinking (hopefully temporarily!), and our income is a bit lower because the outside groups that rent our facility are not able to meet right now. But because so many of you are keeping your giving steady, and some are able to give a bit extra, we are doing fairly well financially. All of our bills are paid, we are making payments toward our Conference Tithe, and our local ministries are well supported thanks to the generosity of our members and our community.



As you know, even with the suspension of worship and in-person Bible studies, our bills remain largely the same; some of our ministries are more important than ever. As someone once said, the Gospel is a free gift! Sharing it, and living it out in worship, study, and service can cost a bit. If you have never given before, we pray that you begin...you will find it an incredible gift of grace in your own life when you do. Thank you for being such a vital part of sharing the Gospel in our community! ♥

May Birthdays!

♥ Shasta Kelley, 5/2
Bailey Stritenberger, 5/13
Ailene Brown, 5/18
♥ Bob Johnston, 5/19
Jeanie Fahl, 5/20
Kate Pinder, 5/23
Ernie DeCoux, 5/24
Cathy McKean, 5/28
Margaret Knox, 5/30
Maggie Neidigh, 5/31

♥ Shasta Kelley,
daughter of Kelli Kelley,
passed away some
years ago.
Bob Johnston, Gaye
Johnston's beloved
husband, passed away
in 2017. They were
deeply loved, and are
sorely missed.

So When Are We Getting Back to Normal, Anyway?

TL;DR: We don't know.

We know, that's not what any of us wants to hear. Our governor has not given us a new target date, which makes sense really because every target date just gets changed anyway. But because of the lack of clarity, you are undoubtedly seeing local businesses making their own decisions, with some planning to open on May 1. We as a church will not open that soon. Pastor Dawn is in continued contact with our DS Blake Busick, and with our Bishop, for their guidance; the latest word is that we should remain closed until at least the end of May.

Your Church Council met on Sunday, April 26 and heard a very helpful report from our Churchill County Health and Safety Officer, Steve Endacott, regarding protective measures we should put in place when we do meet together for in-person worship. It will remain advisable for those over 65 (roughly) or with underlying health conditions to worship from home, and so we will continue all of the virtual worship, Zoom Bible studies, and mailings that we have been doing. At church, we will likely have to limit how many people can be in the building at once, and thus we may add a second worship service to accommodate everyone. We will all be required to wear masks, and hand sanitizer will be plentiful. And there are things to consider regarding childcare, our choir and praise team, alternative ways to share Holy Communion, and alternatives to the important fellowship of coffee hour.

It's a lot to think about. But the blessing of it is, God will STILL BE PRAISED, no matter what, or when, or what "obstacles" might seem to be in the way. And our hearts will be warmed by the powerful presence of the Holy Spirit who, after all, entered a small, dark room of people and set fire to the whole world. God is great, life is good, and CHRIST IS RISEN!

Baseball, Picnics, and Summer Movies

With everything up in the air as yet, none of these dates are certain. But! Here's some things to look forward to, that we will do in one way or another. Keep in mind, dates and locations will likely change on the fly, based on what our community and our country authorizes:

- **Faith and Family Night with Reno Aces Baseball**
Back before the quarantine, we reserved (but didn't yet pay for) 40 tickets to Faith and Family Night in Reno on July 24, in the shade on the 3rd base side. As of now, the Aces schedule says we are still on! Keeping our fingers crossed. We will let you know the minute we know for sure.
- **Gospel in the Park Multi-Church Picnic**
We REALLY are looking forward to this one. We are in conversation with other Fallon churches to plan a date (likely late August or September) to share music, silly summer games, and maybe a bbq picnic.
- **Summer Movie Series**
This June, we will do a series of 4 family-friendly movies together. If we can do them at the Fallon Theatre, we will! If we can do at least one of them outside on the Epworth front lawn, we will DEFINITELY do that too, and invite the neighborhood! If we can't, then we will watch each movie in our own homes, in our own comfy space with our own favorite snacks, and come back together on Sundays to talk about them. ♥