

# Strahan-A-Gram

Editors

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**Mission Statement—“Growing Disciples for Jesus Christ”**

Strahan United Methodist Church, 64632 360<sup>th</sup> St., (rural) Hastings, IA 51540

## April 2020

**Around the Community**—Last week we were saddened to hear of the death of Dennis White. The celebration of Life will be at a later date due to the Coronavirus. Our thoughts and prayers go to Lana and children—Peter, Melissa and Jordan at this very sad time in their lives. Luckily Peter lives close so could quickly be with Lana. Her address for cards is 35809 Paddock Ave., Hastings, IA 51540. Or [lanarwhite@yahoo.com](mailto:lanarwhite@yahoo.com)

**Myron and Jacquie Morrical** will be celebrating their 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on April 4. Their land address is 64112 360<sup>th</sup> St., Hastings, IA 51540. Congratulations to you.

### From Helen's notes.

The only items I'm putting on the calendar are holidays, birthdays, and anniversaries. Call me pessimistic, but I fear that we won't be meeting in April. IF somehow a change occurs and the ban of gathering is lifted, I will send an updated calendar and worker list at that time. Helen

Please remember that even though we are not worshipping in the church building, we are still incurring expenses. Please mail your April contribution directly to Pat Wortman, 36480 Minard Avenue, Hastings, Iowa 51540.

Two young men of our community are planning weddings. Brad Smiley will be married in June to Sarah Miller. Bill Honeyman and Peyton Tobin are planning a September wedding. We are giving a church couples shower for Bill and Peyton, so if you would like to serve on that committee, please contact Helen 370-5999.

March 9 was an important date for our congregation. 33 full members attended the church conference to vote on whether to move forward on the proposed church building renovation. The vote was 23 in favor, 9 opposed, and 1 abstained. Since that time, we have learned that the proposed lift from Kohl's Pharmacy will pass code. The required changes have been made to the drawings (at no additional expense), so they are ready to be submitted to the zoning department for first review. We would like to extend a special thank you to Carol Vinton, Mills County Supervisor, for meeting with us with the Zoning Dept. to get plans worked out.

The next step is fund-raising. We realize that with the economic catastrophic time we are experiencing due to

the virus, this is a terrible time to ask for money. Yet, we need to make progress and move forward if we possibly can. On the back page where there is usually a worker list, this month you'll find a pledge form. We are not setting a deadline for those to be returned yet, because many may want to wait to see when the markets turn around, when you have jobs again, etc. However, if you want to make a donation at this time, please use the form provided.

We also want to be brainstorming about fund-raising ideas for after we get to function as normal again. One suggested idea is to have a churchwide / community-wide auction. We would each donate items we no longer use or need, and the proceeds of the sale will go to the building fund. At this point it is just an idea, but if some of you are cleaning houses, garages, basements, sheds, and have things to get rid of, you might want to find a storage spot for a few months to see if this idea progresses.

At the last Administrative Council meeting, it was approved to have a Website developed for our church. *Media on Main* is designing the site for us, which should be ready during April or May. It will be [strahaniowachurch.org](http://strahaniowachurch.org) when launched. Exciting times! Remember we already have a Face Book page, so like and follow it!

Also at the March 18 meeting, the Ad Council decided to send \$150 each to the Tabor Ministerial Association's Food Pantry in Tabor, Mills County Storehouse in Glenwood, and Christ's Cupboard in Red Oak from the remaining turkey dinner money. We have recently received thank you letters from UMCOR, Tree of Life Ministry, and Women at the Well which were supported earlier from the turkey dinner. When we get back to the building, those letters and notes will be on the bulletin board for you to see.

### **Greetings from Pastor Joni!**

God wants us to lean on Him, and maybe we need to now more than ever.

Recently, I must have appeared to be under a lot of stress, because a well-meaning friend told me, "Remember, God doesn't give you any more than you can handle." How many times have you been told this? Is it in the Bible? If you think so, where do you find it? Actually, it's not in the Bible. It is thought that this saying originated from 1 Corinthians 10:13 because of the

similarities between the scripture passage and the saying. However, there are a couple of things about this saying that are just WRONG!

First, in this passage, Paul is not talking about pain and suffering, but temptation. Relating this passage to pain and suffering is a result of misinterpretation and error in translation of the Greek. 1 Corinthians 10:13 from the Common English Bible reads,

No temptation has seized you that isn't common for people. But God is faithful. He won't allow you to be tempted beyond your abilities. Instead, with the temptation, God will also supply a way out so that you will be able to endure it.

And I would add, ". . . you will be able to endure it *if you choose to do so.*" You can't blame God if you make the wrong choice and fail.

Since the Common English translation doesn't sound much like "God doesn't give you any more than you can handle," I was curious and looked it up in the King James Bible. That translation reads,

There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.

Now I see the similarities between the saying and the scripture passage. Do you?

Second, do you notice that the saying breeds negativity towards God? The saying implies that God is the one dumping the pain and suffering upon the hurting person; that He is the one responsible for the pain and suffering. In the midst of pain and suffering, people need to be able to look to God for hope, healing, comfort, and peace. Where is their hope if they are told that God is the one responsible for their pain and suffering? To use this statement in an effort to console a hurting person could be considered borderline cruel. It robs them of their hope in God, which is many times the only hope that they have left under their burden of pain and suffering. I hope that you have concluded that you will never use this saying again.

As Christians, we know that we have pain and suffering because of Adam and Eve and their disobedience to God. Because they sinned when

tempted by Satan, we inherited pain and suffering, which includes illness and earthly death. We have to remember, however, that many people, especially non-Christians, don't know this and believe that God *IS* responsible for pain and suffering. The last thing that we as Christians want to do is reinforce this false belief.

As Christians, we also know that God loves us so much that, by His grace, He gave us a remedy for the curse of sin, our Lord Jesus Christ who redeemed us through His death on the cross. He shed His blood and bore our sins so that we could have eternal life.

During Lent, we mourn Christ's suffering and death. Many of us are also mourning the death of a family member or friend. We may be mourning for the lives that have been lost due to the COVID-19 virus. But God is not responsible for this suffering and death! God is the giver of hope. He is the one that gives us life, not death! In Christ's resurrection, we rejoice! When Lazarus died, Jesus assured Martha: "Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me will live, even though they die. Everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?'" (John 11:25-26 CEB)

How about you? Do you believe this? If not, maybe now is the time to confess your sins and give your life over to Jesus Christ. Without Christ, you live without hope, and when you die an earthly death, you are lost forever. With Christ, you live with hope, and will spend eternity in heaven with Him. Life on this earth may give us more than we can bear on our own, but we have God's promises of peace, love, hope, joy and eternal life. He is always with us. He loves us and cares for us. He will carry us and bear our burdens *if we will only allow Him to*. Let Him find your heart and welcome Him into it. Believe in Jesus Christ as your Savior. This hurting world needs Him. We all need Him.

If you are aware of someone that needs to hear this message, please share it. It may be the only opportunity they will ever have to hear about and accept Christ. If you would like a digital version to forward on, please let me know and I will send it to you. God bless all of you, our communities, our nation, and our world.

News for the **May 2020 issue of the Strahan A Gram** will be due on **Apr. 27** for distribution on Apr. 30<sup>th</sup>. Please respond to Karen and Helen. Check the letter-head logo for email addresses.

# April 2020

Strahan United Methodist Church  
 “Growing Disciples for Jesus Christ!”

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Pastor Joni’s office hours are Wednesday 1-5 p.m. and by appointment.						
			<b>1</b> <a href="#">Happy Birthday</a> Brooke Johnston & Lillian Irvin <a href="#">Happy Anniversary</a> Jeff & Kelsey Spicer	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> <a href="#">Happy Birthday</a> Jayce Wade	<b>4</b> <a href="#">Happy Birthday</a> Sharon McCall <a href="#">Happy Anniversary</a> Jacquie & Myron Morrical
<b>5</b> <b>Palm Sunday</b> <a href="#">Happy Birthday</a> Jennifer Frazee	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> <a href="#">Happy Birthday</a> Nathan Paul <a href="#">Happy Anniversary</a> Curt & Jennifer Frazee	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> <b>Maundy Thursday</b>	<b>10</b> <b>Good Friday</b> <a href="#">Happy Birthday</a> Luci Olerich	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b> <b>Easter</b>	<b>13</b> <a href="#">Happy Birthday</a> William Angus Gabi Pollock	<b>14</b> <a href="#">Happy Birthday</a> Bryce Christensen	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> <a href="#">Happy Birthday</a> Tara Goodman
<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> <a href="#">Happy Birthday</a> Cathy S. Pollock	<b>21</b> <a href="#">Happy Birthday</a> James Paul	<b>22</b> <b>50<sup>th</sup> Annual Earth Day!</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>		

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**Yes, I am excited about the Accessibility Renovation Project and I want to make a generous gift.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

**Amount of My Gift**

\$10,000 \_\_\_ \$5,000 \_\_\_ \$2,000 \_\_\_ \$1,000 \_\_\_

\$500 \_\_\_ \$250 \_\_\_ \$100 \_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

**Payment Plan**

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ per year for (up to two) \_\_\_\_\_ years

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ per month for (up to 24) \_\_\_\_\_ months

Notes:

Remember your contribution is tax deductible, and we will be happy to issue you a receipt. Please make checks payable and mail to

**Strahan United Methodist Church  
64632 360th Street  
Hastings, Iowa 51540**

**Thank you for your support!**

STRAHAN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
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IMOGENE, IA 51645-4014

FIRST CLASS