



The LUMinary

Laingsburg United Methodist Church • Rev. Tiffany Newsom • 210 N. Crum St • Laingsburg, MI 48848
517-651-5531 • Email: laingsburgumc@gmail.com • Website: www.laingsburgumc.org



A Message from the Pastor

March 2021

At this time last year, we were just getting into the swing of things for the Lenten season—traditionally a time for repentance, reflection, and renewal. Rumors and whispers of the extremely contagious and deadly Covid-19 virus had just begun to shape the landscape of our day-to-day lives. As we have come full circle, I would like to share a piece written by Rev. Shelly Petz entitled “Lent for pastors who have given up everything already.” As you read her work, imagine that she is also referring to all that our faith community and each of us has given up in the past year.

They have given up hospital visits because no one was allowed in.

They have given up time with family, friends, colleagues, parishioners, and community partners.

They have given up presiding over huge wedding celebrations because numbers for gatherings have been limited.

They have given up funerals and grief work as they knew it.

They have given up rituals in their own lives and in their communities of faith that mark mountain top journeys and valleys of deaths.

They have given up full sanctuaries for Easter and Christmas and are now looking at what another Easter will be like.

They have given up on doing things “like they have always done” because things are not the same as they have always been.

They have given up on sermons that have had to be rewritten and reworked so many times because things change everyday.

They have given up sleep, self-care, routines, plans and dreams.

They have given up potluck gatherings, handshakes and hugs, choirs of four-part harmonies singing side by side, sharing of a common cup for intinction, mission trips, in-person Annual Conference and Orders & Fellowship.

They have given up beautifully orchestrated worship, carefully thought-out plans, big ordination, baptism, confirmation and retirement celebrations, welcome parties for new pastors, and saying goodbye to congregations in ways that are familiar to itinerant pastors.

So what does this Lent look like for pastors who have given up so much?

Maybe it looks like embracing the gift of recognizing that they are not in control.

Maybe the pastors explore the reality that they do not have to and in fact cannot do all things for all people all of the time.

Maybe it looks like the early church, where awe came upon everyone because so many incredible things were being done by pastors and laity alike, in the name of God. Maybe we see and believe in the things we, as the Body of Christ, share in common and help each other as we have need. Maybe we spend much time in prayer, having glad and generous hearts, and praising God.

Maybe pastors this Lent are a part of a new awakening to the presence of God in their very midst like they have never experienced before, because they didn't know how much they needed to.

Maybe this Lent, for Pastors who have given up so much, it is a season of remembering their call, listening to the movement of the Holy Spirit, wrestling with what it means, and being open to this season between what was and what will be.

We have all given up so much already. The landscape of our lives has changed drastically. The season our world has lived through this past year, has inspired deep reflection and introspection and inspired us to identify what is really important in our lives. In other words, it has provided us with a prolonged opportunity to examine our hearts and redirect them toward God and the needs of the world.

In January, our congregation installed a new Leadership Team (one day soon, we will bless and commission them for the dedicated work they are already doing). The energy and enthusiasm they have brought to the table brings me hope for the future of our church. In the two short months we have been working together as a team, they have been faced with many tough decisions, but they have met each challenge with creative and open hearts. Remember to keep them and our church in your thoughts and prayers as we seek to move into a new chapter in the life of our church and be open to the new things God is working in us.

Most importantly, remember to give yourself some grace in the midst of all that you have faced in the last year. We have all lost so much. We are all doing this for the first time and learning as we go. Have faith that our God, who makes all things new, is working in all of this for our good.

May God bless you all,

Pastor Tiffany

MISSIONAL FOCUS TEAM REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

From the Worship Missional Focus Team:

We are thrilled to offer a couple of upcoming special worship opportunities.

PRAISE IN THE PARKING LOT—We will be holding a parking lot worship service in the parking lot of LUMC at 6:30 pm on February 28, 2021 and March 28, 2021 (time to be determined). You are invited to come and sing along with some hymns, listen to a message, and partake in Holy Communion, all from the comfort of your warm car!

ZOOM COMMUNION—We will continue to offer Zoom Communion at 8 pm on the final Sunday of each month for those who are unable to make it our Parking Lot Worship Service. If you would like to participate in Zoom communion, please stop by the church during regular office hours to pick up your communion elements and an instruction card explaining how to join.

From the Fellowship Missional Focus Team:

RESUMING IN-PERSON GATHERINGS—The Leadership Team has voted to resume all in-person small group meetings as of March 1, 2021. You can now join Prayer Group, Bible Study, United Methodist Women, Core Youth Group, and the Quilting Group in-person or via Zoom by clicking on this link <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/133177357> or by landline or other phone by dialing 1 312 626 6799 followed by 133177357# when prompted for the meeting ID number. The Leadership Team requests that all current Covid-19 protocols be followed at all times during these gatherings.

ZOOM "PARTY LINE" FELLOWSHIP TIME—We are excited to offer a fellowship opportunity via Zoom on Sundays at noon. For those of you have not used Zoom or are hesitant to try something new, you can join by computer or by phone and it will be just like being on a "party line" phone chat in the old days. You can join by computer or smart phone by clicking on this link <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/133177357> or by landline or other phone by dialing 1 312 626 6799 followed by 133177357# when prompted for the meeting ID number. Note, there is no in-person option for this gathering yet.

PRAYER GROUP—Prayer Group continues to meet every Monday and Thursday at 10:00 am. This is a time to voice some things that are weighing heavy on your hearts, lift them up to God in prayer, and to know that others will be holding those things in prayer, too. You can join in-person or by computer or smart phone by clicking on this link <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/133177357> or by landline or other phone by dialing 1 312 626 6799 followed by 133177357# when prompted for the meeting ID number.

From the Service Missional Focus Team:

The Service Missional Focus Team will be gathering in the coming months to plan out our mission projects for the year ahead. If service is an area of Christian Discipleship that you are especially passionate about or interested in, then please contact John Peck or Pastor Tiffany to be added to the group and to be notified when they begin meeting.

From the Outreach Missional Focus Team:

The CARE Group continues to send out cards and notes to many folks.

Pastor is still visiting folks upon request. If you have not met her and would like to, please give the office a call and a visit can be arranged. She would love the opportunity to get to know many of you better. All best safety practices will be followed during these visits for your health and Pastor's.

The Laingsburg Area Food Bank continues to operate out of our building and continues to meet the needs of some of the most vulnerable members of our community. If you know someone in our community who is in need, please refer them to the Food Bank. It is open Mondays 1:00-3:00 pm and Thursdays 6:00-8:00 pm.

From the Discovery Missional Focus Team:

BIBLE STUDY—Bible Study continues to meet on Wednesday at 10 am in-person or via zoom. We are currently focusing on the Lenten Devotional Packet created by Illustrated Ministries entitled "Where the Heart Is." A link to download and print this packet recently went out in a churchwide email. You may print it off at home or you can come by the church office to pick up a packet. This is a great devotional resource for kids, families, and adults of all ages! If you would like to join our Bible Study Group for further reflection on the devotional materials, you may join us in-person or by computer or smart phone by clicking on this link <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/133177357> or by landline or other phone by dialing 1 312 626 6799 followed by 133177357# when prompted for the meeting ID number.

New Covid-19 Protocols from the Leadership Team

[Beginning March 1, 2021, small groups may resume in-person gatherings under the following protocols:](#)

No more than *10* individuals.

All individuals must *sign-in*.

Temperatures must be taken.

Masks must be worn at all times.

Proper *hand hygiene* should be practiced.

Social Distancing should be maintained at all times.

All meetings should be held in the *Fellowship Hall* or *Narthex*.

Groups should *clean all surfaces* following your gathering.

No food or *drinks* will be allowed at this time.

To limit the exposure and points of contact for our staff, *no one will be admitted to the church office during, immediately prior to, or following any small group gathering.*

If your group needs to make copies, please email that information to the church office prior to your meeting and Karolyn will have those items printed for you.

If you are coming for a small group and would like to drop something off for the office, please leave it in Karolyn's mailbox to the left of the office door.

If you would like to pick something up from the office while you are at the church, please call to let Karolyn know in advance, and she will leave the items on the counter of the welcome center.

If you would like to chat with Karolyn or Pastor Tiffany, please contact the church office by phone or email to schedule a time to do that.

PARKING LOT SERVICE

Sunday, February 28

6:30 pm



Come join us for singing, scripture, a message, and Holy Communion all from the comfort of your car.

Giving Envelopes

If you are using giving envelopes, it would be helpful if you could drive up to the church and pick up your 2021 envelopes. The church office is open from 9:30-2:30 Monday through Thursday. If you are not able to come to the church, please call and I will be happy to mail them to you.

Thank you,
Karolyn

Although we are not having in-person worship, your giving is still vital to making sure we, as a church, make it through this time in a financially healthy way. You can set up online giving by going to our website and clicking on the Donate button, or you can mail in your check. You can also bring your donation to the church during office hours. We want you to know that your giving is very much appreciated.



Online Worship

We continue to offer online worship each Sunday morning at 10:00, on either Facebook or YouTube.

A bulletin is sent out each week with a link, or you can go to our website and click on the link there.