



Trinity Chimes

Trinity United Methodist Church

Charles City, Iowa

July 2020

Pastoral thoughts...

How my lack of faith saved my life?

Did I ever tell you about the time my lack of faith saved my life? It was a Monday morning over 14 years ago. While sitting at my computer, I felt my heart fluttering and I became concerned. I asked Janet to take me to the emergency room and, sure enough, I was having “PVC’s”—premature ventricular contractions. They told me that PVC’s were very common, gave me some medication, and said not to worry about it.

Here’s my confession: I worried about it. I tried to make an appointment with my regular doctor a few days later but instead saw another doctor. The doctor said, “Don’t worry about it.”

But I did. The PVC’s continued and I continued to worry about it. I went to my regular doctor who told me it was nothing to worry about. However, just to ease my fears, he sent me to a cardiologist. Guess what the cardiologist told me? “Don’t worry about it.”

If you look at the sermon on the mount, Jesus said several times, “Don’t worry.” In Paul’s letter to the Philippians, he writes, “Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.” [Philippians 4:6 NRSV] Don’t worry about *anything*.

Still, I was worried. Finally, the cardiologist offered to give me a nuclear stress test (the one where they inject a radioactive dye), just to convince me that everything was fine. And there was good news—my heart had an above average pumping capacity! Yea, for me!

But then there was another area where the picture was not as bright as he would like. “It could be nothing. It could be the tip of an iceberg.” The cardiologist gave me a choice of either going home and see how I got along or I could have an angiogram done to make sure there was nothing to worry about.

To make a long story short (a little too late now, I know), my main heart artery—also known as “the widowmaker”—was 80-85% blocked. There’s a reason they give it that name.

So it’s quite possible that my lack of faith, my persistent worrying about this odd sensation in my chest, saved my life.

Or was it a lack of faith? Another interpretation of this story might be that God had something to do with it. Could it be that God was trying to warn me that there was a problem? Was my “troubled spirit” a God-thing rather than a lack of faith?

A church member called me last week to tell me that they didn’t feel comfortable coming back to live worship yet. This person wondered if that meant that they lacked faith? I mean, if we have faith, we shouldn’t be so worried about this coronavirus. Right? Forget about wearing masks, social distancing and all of the other coronavirus recommendations. God is watching over us and we just need to trust in God.

Where does this line of thinking lead us?

If we have faith in God, why go to the doctor at all? Why take medications? Why eat right and exercise? Won’t God take care of us?

If we have faith in God’s protection, why wear seat belts?

If we have faith in God, why buy health or life insurance? Why get a mammogram or colonoscopy? Why take your kids to get their immunizations? Why stay home when there’s a blizzard or an ice storm? Why not let your young children play in the street? Why worry about cooking your chicken thoroughly if God is going to keep you from getting food poisoning?

Maybe what we call common sense is a gift from God. Maybe it is one of the ways that God protects us. I think that we can have faith in God and still take common sense precautions. We do it every day.

“Soft” and slow

Re-Opening Begins

Most of you have already received a letter from the church, detailing our re-opening plans. We're doing what is often called a “soft” opening. Rather than just jumping into business as usual, we're testing the waters and seeing how it goes.

Live worship is beginning on June 21 and 28 with one service each Sunday at 9:00 a.m. Those of you who wish to attend need to pre-register by calling the church office at 641-228-5368. Limiting attendance during these first services allows the Re-Opening Team and the Safety Team to see how well our protocols work and hopefully will reassure our members and guests that we are concerned about their safety.

At the end of June, the Re-Opening Team will get together to talk about how the first services went. If things go well and people are wearing masks and social distancing, the team will consider what next steps can be taken. It all depends upon everybody's willingness to cooperate.

Worship Music?

Guidelines from Annual Conference and other sources recommends no congregational singing until the coronavirus threat is passed. However, we can have some special music, either instrumental (except for wind instruments) or soloists/duets if they are 12 feet away from the front row.

Would you like to provide some special music for worship? Call Pastor Steve at 641-228-5368 and let him know what you have in mind.

A new Director of Discipleship?

Council Accepts SPRC Recommendation

A sub-committee of the Staff-Parish Relations Committee made a recommendation to the church council at their June 16th meeting to seek a new full-time Director of Discipleship. There was a lot of discussion about that recommendation. Concern was expressed about the church's overall financial situation. Can we afford to keep the position full-time? Concern was also expressed about the cost of not keeping the position full-time. What damage would be done to the youth program? Would failing to have a full-time person make Trinity less appealing to young people?

In the end, SPRC was instructed to begin looking for a full-time Director of Discipleship. It may be possible to save some money on the position. If our apportionments drop by 25% (\$13,720), that will be some relief. The conference is going to be encouraging “circuit ministries”—shared ministries among neighboring United Methodist Churches—and the idea has been suggested that this position could fit into that model. (Paul Wilcox will be leaving us as District Superintendent but his new responsibility is getting this circuit model started.) The job description could be tweaked to address some of the concerns expressed in the past.

There was also the recognition that we don't know what candidates are available. There may be great people available locally (in our own church?) who are only interested in a part-time position. There may be great people who need a full-time position to make it work. We won't know until we start looking.

But the big question is whether or not we're willing to make this investment in the future of our church. How much of a priority is children's and youth ministry in our church?

Please be praying about this. Pray for the SPRC, finance committee and council as they make their decisions. Pray for God to lead us to the right candidates.

Joys? Concerns?

Trinity Connection Shutting Down

Early on in the coronavirus pandemic, we instituted “Trinity Connection”—an email address and prayer chain to help us keep track of each other. Heather had been coordinating this ministry and as she leaves we're going to stop using that system.

Does that mean that people won't be able to share their prayer concerns and that we won't have an email prayer chain? Certainly not. We'll just use the regular channels to send in your prayer requests. Email the church office (trinity50616@gmail.com) or Pastor Steve (pastorsteveattrinity@gmail.com) or call us at 641-228-5368.

Please remember that, due to privacy restrictions, we don't automatically send out prayer requests for people. You have to request to put someone or something on the prayer list.

If you'd like to be a part of our Trinity Prayer Chain, let us know—we'd be happy to add you!

New New website slowly takes shape

www.trinitycharlescity.org

It is a long way from finished but you can at least get a feel for our new church website. Our worship videos can be viewed on the worship page and we hope to soon have online giving available as well. **website slowly takes shape**

Pastor Steve is trying to get the web site set up but it will take a while. Once the set up is complete, it should be fairly easy to add up-to-date information such as newsletters, ministry information, pictures and more. At that point we will need to enlist some people to help with the web site. If you might be interested, let us know.

Sound System Go-Ahead

“So whatever happened to that new sound system we’ve been hearing about?” After a bit of a delay, we are moving forward on the project. We are waiting to hear on a possible timeline. We’ll let you know when we know.

A pastoral care possibility...

Pastoral “Driveway Visits”?

Are you feeling isolated yet? One of the more difficult aspects of the coronavirus pandemic has been pastoral care. How can a pastor keep in touch with the congregation when we can’t go to the hospital or nursing homes—or members’ homes, for that matter?

I’m not sure if the time has come for this or not but at some point, as the weather warms up, I’d like to be able to do some “driveway home visits.” From what the experts are saying, it sounds like visiting with someone in their driveway or on their patio while maintaining social distancing, wearing a mask, and sitting in my own lawn chair is probably pretty safe. It may not be as good as sitting down at the dining room table or in the living room but at least it’s face-to-face!

What do you think? Would you be up for a “driveway visit”? Keep in mind the rules: Outside, socially distanced, masks, I bring my own chair and beverage. I know not everyone will be comfortable with these restrictions but if you are, I’d love to stop by for a visit. Please call the church to let me know if you’d like to be put on my “driveway visit” list.

So what’s happening with the 2020 Annual Conference?

The **Annual Conference Legislative Session** is scheduled for Saturday, July 18 - 9am to 5pm. This is when votes will be taken on the legislative issues coming before the conference. One of these agenda items is a plan to significantly cut the conference budget and, therefore, apportionments.

The only live meetings that are scheduled are two **2020 Iowa Annual Conference Ordering of Ministry Services** for ordination, orders recognition, and graduation from the Course of Study Program. The sessions are scheduled for (1) Saturday, July 11 at 2 p.m., First United Methodist Church, 718 Clay Street, Cedar Falls, and (2) Saturday, July 25 at 2 p.m., Broadway United Methodist Church, 11 South 1st Street, Council Bluffs. Attendance will be limited to the people involved and their families but the services will be livestreamed.

And finally, annual conference Worship Planning Team is preparing the **2020 Memorial Service and the 2020 Retirement Service** as pre-recorded services of worship. An announcement will be released through Conference Communications giving the date and time of their first showing so that everyone may experience these meaningful events online together. Following their first showings, the services will be available on the Conference website for viewing and downloading:

<https://www.iaumc.org/ac2020>.

Our Summer Series continues...

“The Bible’s Supporting Cast”

We hope you’re enjoying our summer worship series, “The Bible’s Supporting Cast.” Already we’ve been introduced to Uriah the Hittite, Eutychus, and Jabez. Here’s a look at the rest of the summer:

June 28: “Supporting Cast: Rhoda”

Scripture: Acts 12:12-18

July 5: “Supporting Cast: Rahab”

Scripture: Joshua 2:1-7; 6:22-25

July 12: “Supporting Cast: Orpah”

Scripture: Ruth 1:1-14

July 19: “Supporting Cast: Onesimus”

Scripture: Philemon 1-25

July 26: “Supporting Cast: Shiphrah and Puah”

Scripture: Exodus 1:15-22

August 2: Todd Yeaton

August 9: Paul Wilcox

August 16: “Supporting Cast: Vashti”

Scripture: Esther 1:10-22

August 23: “Supporting Cast: Jethro”

Scripture: Exodus 18:5-8, 13-27

August 30: “Supporting Cast: Eunice and Lois”

Scripture: 2 Timothy 1:1-7

September 6: “Supporting Cast: Theophilus” (Labor Day Weekend)

Scripture: Luke 1:1-4; Acts 1:1-5

Pastor Steve will be on vacation the weekends of August 2 and August 9. However, we’ve got some great plans for those weekends. Todd Yeaton will be preaching on August 2 and hopefully, we will have our former pastor and district superintendent, Paul Wilcox, preach August 9! ***Because of the extra work recording and posting the videos, there will be no online worship services those weekends.***

A “Supporting Cast” bonus:

Weekly On-line Bible Study

Pastor Steve is continuing to provide a brief online Bible Study this summer to help you get ready for the following weekend’s worship service. Each Monday a video study about the next week’s “Supporting Cast” member is posted on Trinity’s YouTube channel (trinityCONNECTIONs). The videos are available each Monday.

Coming next fall/How would you describe it?

“The Church You’ve Always Longed For”

As I think about the church I’ve always longed for, what I want in a church, the following characteristics immediately come to mind. I’m looking for a church...

...where people love to serve

...where there is a sense of joy

...where missions are a priority

...where people can disagree and still respect each other

...where people appreciate their church’s past but also believe in their church’s future and prepare for it

What about you? How would you describe the church you’ve always longed for? Send me your thoughts and help me plan this sermon series!

And then, let’s join together to make Trinity the church we’ve always longed for—the church Jesus has always longed for!

Financial Update

We continue to do better than expected since our coronavirus shut-down. We're still lagging behind on apportionments but giving has kept up with payroll and local bills. Here's how we've done since March 22, the first weekend we didn't offer live worship.

It is anticipated that Annual Conference will be passing a budget that will significantly lower apportionments next year by around 25%. However, along with the lowered apportionments will be the expectation that all churches will need to pay 100%.

Amount needed per week to meet budget	
	\$7,596.00
Date	Offering-General Fund 2020
1-Mar	\$9,181.00
8-Mar	\$9,525.00
15-Mar	\$4,590.00
22-Mar	\$4,605.00
29-Mar	\$8,188.44
5-Apr	\$4,040.00
12-Apr	\$4,935.00
19-Apr	\$5,163.00
26-Apr	\$3,218.00
3-May	\$9,100.00
10-May	\$4,095.00
17-May	\$7,926.00
24-May	\$3,255.00
31-May	\$4,298.00
7-Jun	\$6,915.00
14-Jun	\$4,285.00
21-Jun	\$4,306.00

Sympathy

Our sympathies go out to the family of Bill Schneider. Bill passed away June 8th. Pray for Sharon as well as she recovers from a surgery.

Prayers also for the family of Freida Hart. Freida died June 17th.

Ice Cream Tubs?

Anybody got any one gallon ice cream pails? Pastor Steve could use some. Just drop them off at the church.

	MAY, 2020
<i>Beginning Checkbook Balance</i>	296.36
Pledges Received	28,674.00
Other Receipts	4,879.00
PAYROLL PROTECTION PLAN LOAN	29,926.75
Disbursements	28,020.61
<i>Ending Checkbook Balance</i>	35,755.50
UNPAID: as of 05-31-2020	
Invoices	-
Apportionments	20,335.50
District Askings	440.00
TOTAL UNPAID	20,775.50

Committee Reports:

Church Council

Re-opening plans
Hire full time Director of Discipleship
Committee reports

Finance

Review of current finances
Status of PPP Loan

Trustees

Centrum air conditioner is 95% installed and working
Church sidewalk needs repair. City will do the work
Small jobs around the church building:
Clear some bushes and shrubs
Landscape work
Painting doors and windows

Mother's Day Offerings:

Bonita Sullivan

Sharon Schneider

Mark & Deb Bonzer & Family

Carnette Starr

Father's Day Offerings:

Sharon Schneider

Judy & Roger Mulcahy

Mark & Deb Bonzer & Family

Carnette Starr



BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Birthdays

- | | | | |
|----|--------------------|----|--------------------|
| 1 | Jaxon Daniels | 22 | Mark Domino |
| | Kip Hartwell | | Greyson Rippentrop |
| | Chris McGregor | 24 | Betty Keifer |
| | Lloyd Sternes | | Nancy Lorenzen |
| 2 | Phyllis Huxsol | | Cathy McGregor |
| | Evelyn Mayhew | | Madonna Trask |
| | Dean Tjaden | 26 | Madison Meyer |
| 3 | Kim Christiansen | | Montana Schmidt |
| | Janet Dunkel | 29 | Barbara Banks |
| | Kim Kellogg | | Ron Fish |
| 4 | Scott Nolte | | Josh Litterer |
| 5 | James Jones | | Kevin McEnany |
| | Lorrene Tumilson | | Sharon Uetz |
| 6 | Lori Aird | 30 | Chuck Bonzer |
| | Bryce Hamm | | Judy Mulcahy |
| | Jack Tynan | | Samantha Springer |
| 7 | Megan Nolte | | Miyah Stevenson |
| 8 | Dorothy Hook | | Colsten Whipple |
| 10 | Mary Ann Parker | 31 | Cindy Noah |
| | Richard Wyborny | | |
| 11 | Duane Lynch | | |
| | William Ritzman | 1 | |
| 12 | Ava Marie Ellis | 3 | |
| 13 | Susan Jacob | | |
| | Don Rague | 7 | |
| | Emerson Siewertsen | 8 | |
| 14 | Allison Cuccuini | | |
| | Kevin Kingery | 11 | |
| | Jessie Shawhan | 17 | |
| 16 | Felicia Kurt | 30 | |
| | Bert Sheffner | | |
| 20 | Kay Brunner | | |
| | Chuck Redenius | | |

Birthdays Continued

Anniversaries

- | | |
|----|--------------------------|
| 1 | Carl & Susan Jacob |
| 3 | Josh & Veronica Litterer |
| | Teri & Jeff Lokenvitz |
| 7 | Josh & Rachel Mack |
| 8 | Dale & Joy Frank |
| | Keith & Jackie Vickerman |
| 11 | John & Jody Flint |
| 17 | Bree & Brian Lahr |
| 30 | Joe & DeDe Maloy |

UMW—Bakeless Bake Sale!

Due to the virus, the UMW was not able to hold our annual Spring Salad Luncheon or ABC Sale. So we are asking for help in another way;

A bit of news we have today

A **Bakeless Bake Sale** is on the way.

These busy days, who has time to bake pies, cookies, or even a cake?

We've thought of a plan that's truly grand, and feel quite sure that you'll understand.

In an envelope, please put the price of a pie, or cake, or something nice.

No fuss or bother! You've done your part!

This is the end of our little tale,

Help make a success of a

Bakeless Bake Sale!

Please make checks payable to

Trinity UMW and mail them to

Nancy Lorenzen

403 S. Johnson Street

Charles City, IA 50616

Or drop off an envelope marked UMW to the church from July 5 to July 19.

*May the Lord bless you on your
birthday
and
anniversary!*



I appreciated the wonderful notes, texts, and calls while I was with family in North Carolina receiving cancer treatment.

The Welcome Home Parade was a sweet surprise!

Thank you!
Genni Smith



90+ BIRTHDAYS

Dorothy Hook - 90

RADIO BROADCAST

KCHA 95.9

10:30 am

July 5— TUMC Members - In thanksgiving for all our blessings

July 12— Mark & Deb Bonzer - In honor of their 40th wedding anniversary - June 14th
and Zach & Kristen's 1st wedding anniversary - June 15th.

July 19— Harry & Maxine Riden Family - In loving memory of Gary Riden

Mercedes & Craig Gallagher, Darlene Laeher, Keith Riden & Sandi Waite, Dan & Jeanine Yeager

July 26— Kip & Jessica and Alaina Hartwell -

Health Ministry

Karen Cutler, RN BA



Volunteer Parish Nurse

Much is unknown about how the virus that causes COVID-19 spreads.

We believe it spreads mostly from person to person through respiratory droplets produced when someone who is sick coughs or sneezes. You can help prevent the respiratory diseases like COVID by following simple daily precautions.

Practice Social Distancing

Social Distancing is putting space between yourself and others.

Stay at least 6 feet (about 2 arms length) from other people.

Wash Your Hands

Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.

Stay Home If

you are Sick
have a fever
are coughing
have drainage from your nose

Avoid Touching Your Face

Clean and Disinfect Frequently Used Surfaces

Wear Cloth Face Covering

(If you have a child, remember those under age 2 should not wear a face covering)

When you go out, make sure it is an essential trip and you wear a cloth mask covering **correctly**

Reaches above the nose, below the chin, and completely cover the mouth and nostrils

Fits snugly against the sides of your face

Be made of multiple layers of fabric that you can breathe through

Be able to be laundered and machine dried without damaging the material or shape.

If you would like to keep in contact with Heather after she leaves, her email address is dixonh1@gmail.com. Unfortunately, she will not be keeping her cell phone number but will remain on social media.

The Youth Group

**decided to donate the cost of their mission trip
to our host site so they may continue to serve their community.**

Given Red Bird's inability to host our group due to COVID-19, we felt the funds we've raised would be best used to support their on-going mission. Our group's inability to serve doesn't stop their feeding of children. Our travel restrictions don't stop them from serving three low income counties. The Iowa Annual Conference's Re-Entry Plan, cancelling all youth mission trips this summer, hasn't cancelled the need for Jesus to be known in their community. Given that we cannot physically serve, the next best thing we could do, was financially support the good they are doing for people, community and Jesus.

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July 2020

July