



Circuit Rider

THE BEAMAN AND CONRAD UNITED METHODIST CHURCHES

Rev. Gerry Kahler: continued...

Sisters and Brothers,

I am wondering have you ever thought about names; I don't mean like what to name a child, but about the images some names bring to mind when you hear them? You know what I mean, just the mention of a name say like; Jesus, Paul, Cher, Picasso, Lebron, Moses, Jezebel and a thousand others brings to mind an image or portrayal. In many ways, our names are our first introduction to others, even if we do not know it. Our names tell others who we belong to, by our last names; they may indicate a family lineage or heritage. Our first and middle names can also carry a family tradition such as being named for a parent, grandparent or some other significant person in the life of our family. For most of us our names are the one thing we will carry with us all our lives.

What is interesting to me is the fact that when I hear a certain name, I often form a mental image in my mind as to what this person may look like, how old they are, and what their personal characteristics may even be. I am wondering how many of us have thought or said, "You don't look like a ..." Now I know that this is not fair and can be a bit judgmental and I will own all of that, but I would not be surprised if all of us don't do this as well, and yes it still doesn't make it right.

I remember growing up many times Mom telling me to be careful what you do and say, because our actions and words will form the image that people carry when they hear our name. At the time, I didn't understand what she was trying to tell me; after all, how can you damage Gerry? As I grew I began to understand that just the mention of a name can carry with it all the things you have done or have been accused of and not only you but your family and its history as well, a name carries both the sins of the past as well a hope for the future. I imagine that if you would mention my name in my home town, to those who might know me would each come up with different adjective to describe me, simply based on hearing my name.

Now all of this is interesting and may have raised some questions about how people will think of you when your name is mentioned; while this is true for individuals, it is also true about groups we belong to or causes we support. I say this because we all carry a number of self claimed names as well. Like our personal names- they describe who we are what we believe, and to others, project how we will act or behave.

All of this is a bit frightening to me as I start to think about all the names and titles that I have carried, and do carry, at the moment. To describe me, we could use the words: Dad, husband, brother, son, friend, teacher, pastor,

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Rev. Gerry Kahler: continued...

Reverend, Doctor and a bunch more, each of them carries a meaning and an image.

Let me explain how this works with a story. Many years ago when I was working on my Master's degree, I had a group of friends. We were all from a variety of backgrounds, we had differing callings and desires for the ministry of our lives. For example, one wanted to be a large church pastor, one was called to start a new church, I believed I was called to be a small to medium sized church pastor, and others became a part of our group simply by enjoying our company. We all had similar yet different understandings of theology and Wesley. We also had similar political views, some more thought out than others. I will also admit that as a group, we wanted to have a voice in the conversations around campus. Some of us went on to be successful in our calling and others have left the ministry or found different ways to serve God and neighbor.

We did not have a name for our group, and actually, we were not really a group or club...we simply hung out together, shared meals, supported one another through the trials and rigors of Seminary including the Credo process, and we had good conversation. One other thing a few (I think 4) of us had in common was a tan corduroy sport coat. Somehow, we became known as 'the tan sport coat group' and that one element became our name and identity.

As one who did not have a similar sport coat, I was often privileged to hear others talk about those guys with the coats in some un-flattering terms. Those who were speaking often characterized us with words like closed, stuck-up, bossy, rigid. In general, giving us an identity we really didn't want, or to our minds, deserve.

Now, under normal circumstances, I would write about judging people and jumping to conclusions. But not today. Instead, what I want to talk about is that we unknowingly cultivated this image, with the way we conducted ourselves; little things like saving a table for ourselves and lunch, working together on projects, sitting with each other at class, living in a house together (at least - until the house of condemned), speaking with one voice often, and some other things as well. The truth of the matter is that we partially earned the image others had of us as exclusive. While this is not something we talked or planned, it is what happened due to how we went about our lives. What is really interesting is that we almost never excluded anyone who wanted to join us for a meal or conversation; we did, however, proclaim openly the values and truths we held, and were willing to stand up for and to those of differing opinions.

I guess I tell you this story simply to illustrate two points: first, that people are always watching and judging you based on what you do, who you hang with, what you wear, how you conduct yourself, and so many other characteristics that you might portray. This judgment is attached to your name and can become your legacy. However, and this is important, I am not talking about changing your beliefs and practices to fit in, but just to be aware that people are always watching and that you must be willing to be who you are in spite of their opinions. Second, the image that goes with our name is constantly being defined and refined, but not always on purpose. People are watching and interpreting that which they see through the lens of their experience or that of their friends, neighbors or philosophies. These judgments - fair or unfair - are attached to our names and to our lives.

The good news is that our image and legacy are constantly changing and being influenced by current events. This means that a negative can become a positive or vice versa. This also means that we can combat community and cultural thinking by intentional actions and words that do not fit into the image that others may have. This is particularly true for the church and for Christians, the culture portrays us as one thing or another, often in an unflattering light, but we do not have to let that define us, we can live our faith locally, vocally, and joyfully; projecting love and grace, offering forgiveness and renewal, bringing healing for those who are hurting.

In short, we may not be able to control what others think of us simply by name, but what we can do is to offer a new definition of what it means to be named Christian.

Grace and Peace, Pastor Gerry

Reopening Our Churches

Great news! The Conrad and Beaman United Methodist Church Administrative Councils have voted to cautiously lift the suspension of in-person worship services beginning June 7th!

We will be following the Iowa Department of Public Health's guidelines to keep everyone safe during these worship services. We urge all members and friends to be responsible. If you are showing symptoms, feel sick, or have a fever—please stay at home and join us online or when you are feeling better! If you are well and choose to join us for service, please practice social distancing, put on a mask or bring your own, and use hand sanitizer (provided).

We have included the proposal that Conrad UMC council members (with full guidance on recommendations and mandates from the Iowa Department of Public Health) have put in place. Simply put, if we follow these practices, we can have safe in-person services.

We hope this proposal will answer any questions you may have, so please read carefully. Information can be over-whelming, so rest assured – we will walk you through these steps as you enter the building on Sunday mornings, should you choose to attend!

We have many in our church family who are still at-risk of the more serious complications from the Covid-19 Virus, and we urge them to use extreme caution. We will take all the necessary precautions to help create a safe environment for all who come to worship, but no methods are fool proof. We are continuing to provide online worship services via Facebook live, DVD's, and CD's.

The sanctuary will be available for Sunday services only, and closed for sanitation purposes for the rest of the week. The building is not yet open to other events, groups, or meetings. Conrad UMC offices will be open. With the CoVID19 pandemic came new opportunities to worship, and we will continue these methods alongside reopening our doors. We continue to allow these experiences to bless us!

The guidelines created by the Conrad Methodist Church Council is attached. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the office!

With our utmost love, understanding, and care,
Conrad United Methodist Church Council

CDC At-Risk Information (www.cdc.gov):

People Who Are at Higher Risk for Severe Illness

COVID-19 is a new disease and there is limited information regarding risk factors for severe disease.

Based on currently available information and clinical expertise, older adults and people of any age who have serious underlying medical conditions might be at higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19.

Based on what we know now, those at high-risk for severe illness from COVID-19 are:

People 65 years and older

People who live in a nursing home or long-term care facility

People of all ages with underlying medical conditions, particularly if not well controlled, including:

People with chronic lung disease or moderate to severe asthma

People who have serious heart conditions

People who are immunocompromised. Many conditions can cause a person to be immunocompromised, including can-cer treatment, smoking, bone marrow or organ transplantation, immune deficiencies,

(Continued next page)

Reopening Our Churches: continued

poorly controlled HIV or AIDS, and prolonged use of corticosteroids and other immune weakening medications

People with severe obesity (body mass index [BMI] of 40 or higher)

People with diabetes

People with chronic kidney disease undergoing dialysis

People with liver disease

Our purpose continues: Be prepared, stay connected, and receive God's peace

Our continued plans, when possible:

Utilize Internet and Email:

Pastor Gerry will continue to create video files to deliver messages to the congregation. These files will be uploaded to social media, email, and the Conrad UMC webpage

Utilize Facebook:

We will continue to stream Sunday services with the public through Facebook Live's option.

We will continue to share scripture, stories, and Pastor Gerry's devotions.

Maintain contact with all:

There are members and friends who do not have access to email or internet. Our biggest concern is maintaining contact with them via phone calls and mailings. Currently, these friends are receiving Gerry's devotions and newsletters from our church.

Continuing to be the church – outside of the building:

Check in with those without internet and email to continue to bring the message of Jesus Christ to them – using caution.

Communicate with Pastor Gerry and Laurie with any needs – See something? Say something/do something.

We will continue to bring you a newsletter – remember the submission deadline is the 20th of each month.

Please continue to tithe, if able.

For Your Information:

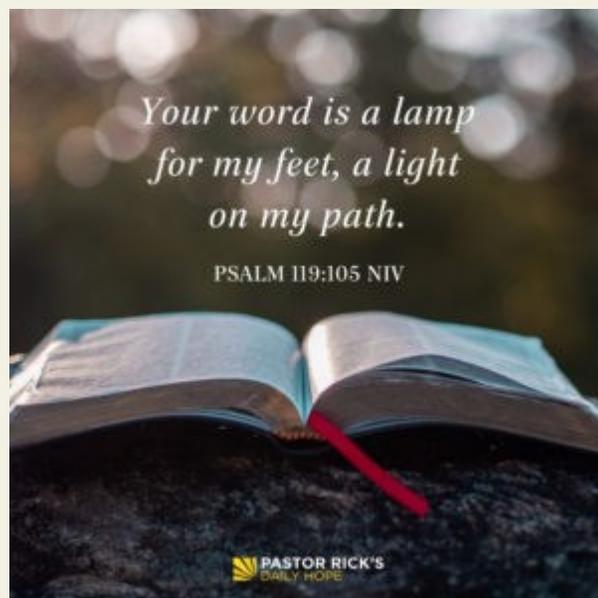
Proclamation information from the Governor, State of Iowa, May 27, 2020:

MASS GATHERINGS

(Effective June 1, 2020)

SECTION SIX. Pursuant to Iowa Code § 135.144 (3), and in conjunction with the Iowa Department of Public Health, unless otherwise modified by subsequent proclamation or order of the Iowa Department of Public Health, effective 12:01 a.m. on June 1, 2020, and continuing until 11:59 p.m. on June 17, 2020:

C. Spiritual and religious gatherings: Spiritual and religious gatherings, including any funerals or weddings, are not prohibited by this section. But a church, synagogue, or other host of a spiritual or religious gathering shall implement reasonable measures under the circumstances of each gathering to ensure social distancing of employees, volunteers, and other participants, increased hygiene practices, and other public health measures to reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19 consistent with guidance issued by the Iowa Department of Public Health.



Reaching Out

The office is working hard to make sure The Word gets to EVERYONE in our Conrad and Beaman Congregations!

We have been:

- Mailing CD's or DVD's of the Beaman/Conrad Facebook Live services to those without internet
- Mailing devotions and messages to those who without an email account or computer
- Emailing and mailing out newsletters when they come available
- Sharing lots of content on Facebook including inspirational messages from Pastor Kahler, Scripture verses, and photos

If you have not received any of these items and wish to be added to our mailing list, please email or call the office! We look forward to hearing from you!

Prayers Needed

Ron Brinkman, Rex and Janelle Day, Alicia Holden, Phil & Teri Huntley, Lawrence Kahler, Sabrina Hendershott, Carol Hoff, Don Peters, Chris Rhinehart, Inez Slinker, Stacey Stover, Cawren Sobotka, Jim Ward, Jerry Zehr, Don Zern; all affected by the CoVID19 Virus;
 those working in missions in the US and overseas;
 those impacted with natural disasters;
 the men and women of our Armed Forces and their families;
 the men and women of our Police, EMS, Fire, State and Highway Patrol, and Sheriffs Department;
 those without jobs or with financial difficulty;
 others in need of the ministry of the Holy Spirit for comfort, strength, healing, and hope.

If there is anyone that needs to be added to this list, please contact the office (366-2324). Names on this list will only be removed upon request.

Continued Prayers for the Families of:

Molly Kaput, Warren King, Jerry Brown, Rose Shine, Bob Slinker, Bill Gearhart, and Beth Kenney.

Announcements

Sue Stambaugh has the Upper Room devotionals at her house. If you would like one for yourself or to deliver to someone, please call Sue to make arrangements. Sue Stambaugh 641-751-6289.

Also, just a reminder for those of you that shop at Hometown Foods, the church collects the UPC symbols off of the Best Choice products. If we collect enough they can be redeemed for cash, which will be given to the children's Sunday School.

Communication: Would you like to receive our emails? We try our best to keep everyone updated on the happenings here at the Beaman UMC and Conrad UMC, and want to keep you updated, too! If you are not receiving our weekly emails already, please contact Laurie at the Conrad office to get on the distribution list: conradumc@heartofiowa.net, 641-366-2324

News: If you have an event, story, article, thank you note, or announcement that you wish to publish in the monthly newsletter, please have your information in to the office by the 20th of each month.

Thanks, everyone. I look forward to hearing from you! -Laurie Jacobson, Secretary

UMC Financials

Thank you to everyone who has continued to give generously to both Churches during this difficult time. It certainly causes us to be intentional in our giving, and find new ways to do it.

Conrad—If you look for an easy way, consider the automatic electronic donations. Contact the office for an EFT form through VANCO. They have proven safe and reliable, as over 20 different members of our congregation have used this method for a long time; you can stop online giving whenever you choose. Call Brenda to discuss any questions. Otherwise, mailing your gift to the church (PO Box 370) or dropping it off at MidWest One bank to Joni's attention works well also.

Thank you again!

For Fun!

A new pastor was visiting in the homes of his parishioners. At one house it seemed obvious that someone was home, but no answer came to his repeated knocks on the door. He took out a business card, wrote "Revelations 3:2" on the back of the card and stuck in the door. When the offering was processed the following Sunday, he found that his card had been returned. Added to it was the cryptic message. "Genesis 3:10". Reaching for his Bible to check out the citation, he broke up in gales of laughter. Revelations 3:2 begins, "Behold I stand at the door and knock". Genesis 3:10 reads, "I heard your voice in the garden and I was afraid for I was naked." (Story submitted by Cloris Zern :))

Happy Anniversary!

Happy 50th Wedding anniversary to Roger and Jan Beeghly (June 19th)!

Scriptures

June 14, 2020 Gen 18:1-15; Ps. 116:1-2, 12-19 (UMH 837) Romans 5:1-8; Matthew 9:35-10:8 (9-23)

June 21, 2020 Gen 21:8-21; Ps 86:1-10, 16-17 or Ps 17 (UMH 749); Romans 6:1b-11, Matthew 10:24-39

June 28, 2020 Genesis 22:1-14; Psalm 13 (UMH 746); Romans 6:12-23; Matthew 10:40-42

July 5, 2020 Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67; Psalm 45:10-17 or Psalm 72 (UMH 795); Romans 7:15-25a; Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

July 12, 2020 Genesis 25:19-34; Psalm 119:105-112 or Psalm 25 (UMH 756); Romans 8:1-11; Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

Thank You

I would like to thank everyone who donated items for the Personal Dignity Kits in early March. When ever we are able to resume meeting in the church, we will finish collecting items for the kits.

Items still needed are:

washcloths & hand towels

combs (6 inch or larger, sturdy)

nail clippers

toothpaste (2.5 oz or larger)

shampoo (15 - 18 oz)

deodorant (2-3 oz stick, roll-on, or pump)

If you have any questions contact me. Thank you!

-Sue Stambaugh.

This is to thank Jennifer, and others, for all the cards, notes, treats, etc. given to Robert Prosser, my Dad, at the Oakview nursing home. They are so much appreciated and enjoyed, especially during the CoVID-19 pandemic when he is restricted inside and not having visitors. It is a blessing. We thank our great and good God, for you.

God bless you as you serve Him!

In Christs Love,
Diane Heim



Outreach

<u>At Home in Conrad:</u>	<u>Birth Date:</u>	<u>Oakview Nursing Home</u>	<u>Birth Date:</u>
Marj Bunn 203 W Grant St Conrad IA 50621	4/13	PO Box 785 Conrad, IA 50621:	
Inez Slinker 212 N Dwight Conrad IA 50621	11/20	Jean Hoppenworth	7/27
		Shirley Lynch	8/25
		Robert Prosser	3/3
<u>Oak Estates:</u>		Virginia Sharp	5/3
Art Bine 110 Alice St Conrad, IA 50621	7/30	Cawren Sobotka	2/15
Marva Bristley 110 Alice St Conrad, IA 50621	1/15		

If there is anyone we have missed or have not added, PLEASE notify the office (366-2324).

Happy Fathers Day to all dads!

“We never know the love a parent until we become parents ourselves.” **Henry Ward Beecher**

“One father is more than a hundred schoolmasters.” **George Herbert**

“The older I get, the smarter my father seems to get.” **Tim Russert**

“By the time a man realizes that maybe his father was right, he usually has a son who thinks he’s wrong.”

Charles Wadsworth

“I think that my strong determination for justice comes from the very strong, dynamic personality of my father. I have rarely ever met a person more fearless and courageous than my father. The thing that I admire most about my dad is his genuine Christian character. He is a man of real integrity, deeply committed to moral and ethical principles. He is conscientious in all of his undertakings. If I had a problem I could always call Daddy.”

Martin Luther King, Jr.

“The quality of a father can be seen in the goals, dreams and aspirations he sets not only for himself, but for his family.”

Reed Markham

“My father gave me the greatest gift anyone could give another person: he believed in me.” **Jimmy Valvano**

“A father carries pictures where his money used to be.” **-Steve Martin**

“Having children is like living in a frat house – nobody sleeps, everything’s broken, and there’s a lot of throwing up.” **-Ray Romano**

Romano

“My daughter got me a ‘World’s Best Dad’ mug. So we know she’s sarcastic.” **-Bob Odenkirk**

“There should be a children’s song: ‘If you’re happy and you know it, keep it to yourself and let dad sleep.’” **-Jim Gaffigan**

“You can tell what was the best year of your father’s life, because they seem to freeze that clothing style and ride it out.” **-Jerry Seinfeld**

“When I was a boy of 14, my father was so ignorant, I could hardly stand to have the old man around. But when I got to be 21, I was astonished at how much the old man had learned in seven years.” **-Mark Twain**

“A 2-year-old is like having a blender, but you don’t have the top for it.” **-Jerry Seinfeld**

“Raising kids is part joy and part guerilla warfare.” **-Ed**

Asner

“My daddy? He was somewhere between God and John Wayne.” **-Hank Williams, Jr.**

“Having one child makes you a parent. Having two kids makes you a referee.” **-David Frost**

“When I was a kid, I said to my father one afternoon, ‘Daddy, will you take me to the zoo?’ He answered, “If the zoo wants you, let them come and get you.” **-Jerry Lewis**

“Sometimes I am amazed that my wife and I created two human beings from scratch yet struggle to assemble the most basic of IKEA cabinets.” **-Greg Kinnear**

“It doesn’t matter who my father was; it matters who I remember he was.” **-Michael Ratnadeepak**

