



Circuit Rider

THE BEAMAN AND CONRAD UNITED METHODIST CHURCHES

Rev. Gerry Kahler

Don't you just hate those moments when all of a sudden you come to the great realization that what you hoped you were, you're not?! Well, this week has been one of those times and in some ways, it is both depressing and freeing at the same time.

I have mentioned often of my desire to be a great orator and thinker. I know most people grow up wanting to be something exciting (and I did, too) but instead, God had a different plan. Here we are now, 58 years later, yet the desire to be something greater still nags at my mind and soul. I had hoped as an extension of my desired oratory skills and thinking prowess I would become a famous and well-read writer of great think pieces, and life changing books. Well, I have been trying to accomplish the last part at least over the past few months and years. As a part of my work, I have been reading a lot of what others are saying and writing about on-line in relation to theology and the life of the United Methodist Church in the world.

As I read them, I thought "I could offer something to the conversation—and to these pages—all at the same time." As a result, I have nearly 15 of these little missives part way written and stopped. It really is depressing; I had hoped to move into the realm of what I perceived as more substance. I wanted to speak on important and timely topics, but I just couldn't finish any of those writings. I also noticed that it became more work than joy and more about what others thought than what I was thinking. One of the problems is that the topics would require many pages to do justice to, and that is not what I wanted for these pages. I almost came to the point that I was going to have to choose either to write a book and give this up, or rethink what I was called to do. The thought of giving these pages up was terribly sad for me as I did enjoy writing these little letters. After all, we have talked about so many things.

Well, last night as I sat and thought about all of this, I realized for the 150th time, I needed to be who I am and not try to be someone else. (I know—earth shaking isn't it.) If I am to accomplish this, then I also need to do what it is that I can do, and not what others do, and that will be enough. In other words, use the gifts and talents I have and stop wishing for someone else's. More importantly, I needed be thankful for my gifts because God thought enough of me to trust me with them. So here I am back writing and telling a story; the fun and joy has returned.

Part of the lesson, at least for me, is to take stock of what I have and be thankful for what I have done. If this sound selfish, I do not mean for it to be, but it is important. In all of my pondering about this I have learned
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Conrad United Methodist Church

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Rev. Gerry Kahler: continued:...

something else: The extraordinary things of life are often the result of people doing the ordinary things of their daily lives to the best of their abilities! In other words, not trying to be someone else but learning to be the best you that you can be.

Through all of this I have thought about the scripture that says, "we are fearfully and wonderfully made." This seems to say it all; that God made each of us for a purpose and a place. By extension if this is true then when we choose to use our gifts woven into our lives for God's purpose then will God not also bless that purpose; multiplying the results by one, five, or ten maybe a thousand or million times! Actually, it doesn't matter how many times only that through our gifts we touch someone else's life.

So here I am, back to being me and hoping to share some of the things I am thinking about with you on a daily basis. Who knows what God will do with these simple words, but I am sure that He has a purpose for me and for you.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Gerry

UMC Financials

Thank you to everyone who has continued to give to both the Beaman and Conrad UM Churches during this 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!

UMYF

On July 15 the Middle School, High School, and college youth enjoyed a beach party themed gathering at Nile & Gloria Dielschneider's.

The event was planned by the youth and included food, beach ball volleyball, music, karaoke, fellowship, and a lesson about Jesus and his disciples on the lakeshore. The evening concluded with sparklers and a viewing of the comet! -Nile and Gloria Dielschneider

Scripture

August 2, 2020 Genesis 32:22-31; Psalm 17:1-7, 15 (UMC 749); Romans 9:1-5; Matthew 14:13-21

August 9, 2020 Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28; Psalm 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b (UMH 828); Romans 10:5-15; Matthew 14:22-33

August 16, 2020 Genesis 45:1-15; Psalm 133 (UMH 850); Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32; Matthew 15: (10-20) 21-28

August 23, 2020 Exodus 1:8-2:10; Psalm 124 (UMH 846); Romans 12:1-8; Matthew 16:13-20

August 30, 2020 Exodus 3:1-15; Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45c (UMH 828); Romans 12:9-21; Matthew 16:21-28

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, and have now reopened the buildings to small group gatherings!

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 Beaman and 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 cancer treatment, smoking, bone marrow or organ transplantation, immune deficiencies, 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

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Reopening Our Churches: continued

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 some-thing.

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:

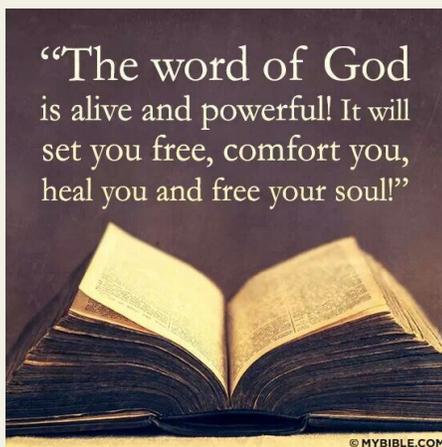
Proclamation information from the Governor, State of Iowa, May 27, 2020:

MASS GATHERINGS

(Effective through August 23, 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.



Save the Date—Barn Service



The annual Service at the Barn is set for Sunday,
September 20th!

More details to come in the September 2020
Circuit Rider!

Coffee Fellowship

Coffee fellowship is making its triumphant return on Wednesday, August 12th at 9am in fellowship hall!

Please bring your own coffee or drink, as we are unable to serve food and beverages, as recommended by the Iowa Department of Public Health.

See you then!

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 (if you are having difficulty playing your item in you player, please contact the office!
- 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



The Family of Robert Prosser, the Family of Sabrina Hendershott;
Ron Brinkman, Rex and Janelle Day, Alicia Holden, Phil & Teri Huntley,
Lawrence Kahler, Carol Hoff, Don Peters, Chris Rhinehart, Inez Slinker, Stacey Stover,
Cawren Sobotka, Jim Ward, Jerry Zehr, Don Zern;
all affected and impacted by the CoVID19 Virus;
for the unrest in our country;

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: Jerry Brown, Rose Shine, Bob Slinker, Bill Gearhart, 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

Missions

The Conrad United Methodist Church will be collecting items for school kits for the Ingathering.

Items needed are:

spiral notebooks 8" x 10 1/2"

eraser 2" or longer

blunt-tip child's scissors

unsharpened pencils

pencil sharpener 1" or larger

12" ruler with metric

box of 24 crayons

box of 12 colored pencils

Please bring your donations to the Conrad UMC's main entrance. Thank you! -Sue Stambaugh, Missions

Thank You

Malcolm and I and our family would like to thank the Beaman and Conrad United Methodist Church families for your cards, texts, calls and prayer support at the time of the passing of our dear mom and grandma, Ruth Brewer. Your kindness was greatly appreciated and will never be forgotten!

-Ardelis, Malcolm and Family

Dear Members,

Thank you all for the beautiful prayer blankets that were delivered to our home by Sue Kitzman. We are so very grateful for your prayers and will treasure the wonderful blankets. We have for the most part recovered from the COVID 19 virus as of now. Rex continues his cancer treatments and we are currently waiting to hear back from doctors as to what new treatments may be available to him. Janelle will undergo another spinal surgery July 17th at the University of Iowa to fuse her lower back with spinal rods and other hardware from L3-S1. She will be in Iowa City about a week and then rehabbing at Grundy Hospital for another week to 10 days. Please accept the enclosed donation as a contribution for more prayer blankets to be made for others. This is such a wonderful thing that the church does! They will have many years of use in our home. -Rex and Janelle Day

Outreach

At Home in Conrad:

Birth Date:

Marj Bunn
203 W Grant St
Conrad IA 50621

4/13

Inez Slinker
212 N Dwight
Conrad IA 50621

11/20

Oak Estates:

Art Bine
110 Alice St
Conrad, IA 50621

7/30

Marva Bristley
110 Alice St
Conrad, IA 50621

1/15

Oakview Nursing Home

PO Box 785
Conrad, IA 50621:

Jean Hoppenworth

Birth Date:

7/27

Shirley Lynch

8/25

Virginia Sharp

5/3

Cawren Sobotka

2/15

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