



# Circuit Rider

THE BEAMAN AND CONRAD UNITED METHODIST CHURCHES

*Rev. Gerry Kahler*

I was getting ready to come down the stairs at the parsonage this morning. It is not an unusual thing, in fact I go up and down these stairs several times a day. Not only do I go up and down these steps, I go up and down the steps at the church regularly, too. I know this sounds like a really crazy way to start this church newsletter article, but stick with me for a moment.

Most of us don't even notice the stairs when we head up or down them, though I do think the older we get the more we notice them, but even then most of the time we do not think about them much. They are pretty much like walking; we put one foot in front of the other and keep our balance as we proceed. We do this from the youngest age as we learn to walk until we are older, and we use a care to navigate these wooden or concrete planks. In fact, going up and down the steps are almost an automatic function.

Oh, one fun fact about steps, we almost always step first with the same foot, and if that foot will not be the first one to step up; we will studder step so that it is. I know now you all are going to watch, aren't you?

Anyway, this way of doing steps is not the way I do them, I will always only go one step at a time having both feet on the same step, and then taking one step and bringing the other foot to that step. So instead of skipping every other step with a foot, like most people, I touch every step with both feet, both on the way up and the way down. I also have a fear of steps. Why? you might ask do I do this, well it is how I learned. You see, my mom had polio as a child and had no muscles in one leg, so she had to use her good leg to go up or down the stairs, and she adapted. When I learned to do stairs, she was my model, so I did as she did. This is also where my fear of stairs came from, I always hold on to handrails when going up or down as well.

Now, I can do steps the regular way, but I have to stop at the top or bottom and think about what I am going to do and how I am going to do it, and even then it is a frightening experience for me, as I feel like I will fall.

So, as I thought about this, I wonder how many more things we do that are so automatic, especially when it comes to our faith! I mean, not so much lately, but I have been in places where if we did not use the same order of worship for every service, it wasn't church for some. If the candles were not lit properly then God was not present. We have to offer the same prayers in the same order. We sit in the same spot. We act churchy at the right times and places.

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## Beaman United Methodist Church

306 McMartin St Beaman, IA 50603 641-366-2142 | Facebook: Beaman United Methodist Church

## Conrad United Methodist Church

206 E Maple Ave Conrad, IA 50621 | 641-366-2324 | email: [conradumc@heartofiowa.net](mailto:conradumc@heartofiowa.net)  
Services are available on our Website: [conradumc.org](http://conradumc.org) | Conference Center website: [www.iaumc.org](http://www.iaumc.org)  
Facebook: Conrad United Methodist Church

## Pastor Gerry Kahler

e-mail: [pastorg1@heartofiowa.net](mailto:pastorg1@heartofiowa.net) Cell: 712-621-6209

## Rev. Gerry Kahler: continued:...

We see with eyes that look for the same things we like and judge others by those standards. We only pray the easy stuff and hide the rest. We act like friends but only want a casual friendship. We have our church friends and our regular friends and many many more ways that we live out our faith in an automatic manner; never thinking about what we are doing, just going through the motions. In short, we do what we have learned to do and to do anything else is frightening and uncomfortable. Can you imagine having to stop and think about doing a new thing in worship, maybe actually growing into something beyond what we know. It is a sad state of affairs when faith and worship become so automatic it is like breathing and walking. I am sure it should not be this way, not comfortable and not done without risk or thinking, so what shall we do!

Okay, so where is all of this leading, well we are in a time when no one really knows what normal is, so it seems to me to be a time to break old habits and to try something really radical.

So, what am I proposing, I am proposing honest and real prayer. That we as a church and we as individual dedicate ourselves to intentional and honest conversations with God and for each other.

Prayer is what is called a “means of grace” and a primary spiritual discipline. What I am proposing is that we take it seriously, praying for specifics and yet in God’s will not our own. Telling God where we are honestly and in our hearts. Sharing the joys and real sorrows. Admitting to God and to ourselves our real flaws, sins and struggles. Also praying for others and the concerns they have.

To do this we must be honest with one another and also be the friend we each need. This is not easy I realize because it means being vulnerable with another, a prayer partner, and someone that you trust.

In short, for us to become a truly praying church, to pray with passion, concern and sincerity. I believe and have seen where if we do this, God will move and renew us as a people and as a church in new and miraculous ways.

Grace and Peace,

## UMYF

The middle school and high school youth will meet at Nile and Gloria Dielschneider’s every Wednesday evening from 7-8:30pm. We will continue to meet outdoors as long as weather permits.

-Nile and Gloria Dielschneider

## Scripture

September 13, 2020 15th Sunday after Pentecost Exodus 14:19–31; Ex 15:1b-11, 20–21; Romans 14:1–12; Matthew 18:21–35

September 20, 2020 16th Sunday after Pentecost Exodus 16:2–15; Psalms 105:1–6, 37–45 or Ps 78 (UMH 799); Philippians 1:21–30; Matthew 20:1–16

September 27, 2020 17th Sunday after Pentecost Exodus 17:1–7; Psalm 78:1–4, 12–16 (UMH 799); Philippians 2:1–13; Matthew 21:23–32

October 4, 2020 18th Sunday after Pentecost Exodus 20:1–4, 7–9, 12–20; Psalms 19 (UMH 750); Philippians 3:4b-14; Matthew 21:33–46

# Reopening Our Churches

**UPDATE—Will be singing during services again! Hymnals are now available in each pew, and we urge everyone to continue to wear masks.**

As the Conrad and Beaman United Methodist Church Administrative Councils have voted to cautiously lift the suspension of in-person worship services, and reopened the buildings to small group gatherings, the following is still in place:

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*

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## Reopening Our Churches: continued...

### **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 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.



## UMC Financials

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

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!

## Coffee Fellowship

Coffee fellowship is making its triumphant return on Wednesday, October 7th at 9am in fellowship hall!

As of now. 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 Don Zern; 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, Jerry Tobias, Jim Ward, Jerry Zehr; 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:** Rose Shine, Bob Slinker, Bill Gearhart, Beth Kenney, Bob Prosser, Sabrina Hendershott.

## Announcements

We are looking for help with broadcasting services on Sunday mornings. We are needing more people to run the sound board, projection slides, and Facebook live. All are simple to do, and there is minimal training.

Help us bring the word of Christ to all !If you are interested please contact the office.

**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

*Thank you to all who donated items for ingathering kits! We appreciate your help!*

# Confirmation: Sunday School

We will be keeping everyone posted on continuation of Sunday School and Confirmation classes for PreK-12th grades. The Education Committee and Conrad UMC Ad Council thought it would be best to wait and see what happens now that schools are opening back up. Thanks in advance for your patience!

# Thank You

Dear Conrad UMC friends,

Jim and I cannot begin to thank you all for embracing our daughters and loving them as your own. They moved to Conrad while we were in Turkey, and perhaps you felt sorry as they, as military “brats,” claimed no hometown! In 52 years of marriage we have lived in 8 states, 5 countries, and 28 homes. You gave them a home and we are grateful. Thank you, too, for your generous financial support of Beth. We had so hoped to celebrate her life as she had planned before the virus struck, but it is not happening. Thank you for the cards, notes, food, flowers, visits, and calls. Everyone has been a treasure, and it has eased our hearts that Beth was loved and not alone, even up until the day of her death.

Thanks to you all,  
*Jim and Chelly Kenney*

# Outreach

**At Home in Conrad:**

Marj Bunn  
 203 W Grant St  
 Conrad IA 50621

Inez Slinker  
 212 N Dwight  
 Conrad IA 50621

**Oak Estates:**

Art Bine  
 110 Alice St  
 Conrad, IA 50621

Marva Bristley  
 110 Alice St  
 Conrad, IA 50621

**Birth Date:**

4/13

11/20

7/30

1/15

**Oakview Nursing Home**

PO Box 785  
 Conrad, IA 50621:

Jean Hoppenworth

Shirley Lynch

Virginia Sharp

Cawren Sobotka

**Birth Date:**

7/27

8/25

5/3

2/15

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

Remember to contact the office by Sunday, September 13th (641-366-2324, conradumc@heartofiowa.net) if you wish to join us for lunch following the barn service! We will be catering in box lunches from HyVee. Thanks!

JOIN US FOR OUR ANNUAL  
Beaman & Conrad Methodist

# *Barn Service*

Sunday, Sept. 20th, 10:00 am

at the Dielschneider Barn  
16465 310th St, Conrad, IA

*Featuring: The Anderegg Family*



**No potluck this year, but a box lunch will be offered!**

If able (not required), please contact the office to reserve your box lunch by Sunday, September 13th.

**OPEN JAM AROUND THE  
CAMP FIRE**

**Saturday, Sept 19th starting at  
7:00.**

Bring an instrument if you play  
or just come and enjoy the evening.



**There will be plenty of room to distance**