

# News from the



April 2020  
Circuit Rider



# He is risen!

BROOKLYN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

7200 BROOKLYN BLVD., BROOKLYN CENTER, MN 55429

9:00AM, 10:45AM, 11:30AM (beginning no earlier than May 10)

Ministry and Mission by social distance! This is not easy is it? I for one am struggling with what my role is these days ... Am I a preacher of a congregation I can't see, am I a teacher, a special education teacher, a cook and cleaner, a neighborhood watch leader, a supplier of food staples to Bonnie's Free Little Library, a take-out specialist, dog walker, a member of the sandwiched generation and I can't get to my parents to even help, a laundry service, essential or non-essential worker, a phone counselor, a delivery service ... I guess my answer to all of these is, yes I am. I am all of these and more and what I was and what I shall be is changing all the time. And no, seminary did not train me for this or I was at Wriggley Field watching my beloved CUBS and missed that class.

What I have realized these past few weeks that our community, our state, our nation and our world are in crisis. This pandemic is real and all of us are being asked to sacrifice and serve to lower the curve and defeat this virus. I feel so unequipped for this task: I can't sow, I am not a medical professional, I'm not a teacher, I can't manufacture ventilators, and my bank account is telling me I can't be a philanthropist. So who am I? I am the church! I am the church and so are you! And with that we have the opportunity and the power to change the world because God is with us. So I ask you during these troubled times to be the church. Do this: Pray 5 times every day and worship online or any way you can once a week! Read 5 verses of Scripture a day and once a week dive deeper for an hour! Practice 5 acts of intentional kindness a week and serve others. Extend 5 acts of generosity toward others this month and give generously to God through the church! Let others know you are a Christian and invite five people to church each year.

I don't know who I am right now, but I know this: I Am the church! And God is calling the church to service and though socially distance I will not be distant from my role of being the church. Join me, Pray, Study, Serve, Give and Share!



#### WHAT CAN I DO?

- + Wash your hands
- + Call 5 "pew mates" and check in with them
- + When you are cooking a meal, make a little extra and set it on the doorstep of a neighbor
- + Share your newspaper when you are done reading it
- + Never go to the grocery store for just yourself, ask if any neighbors need something picked up (and no hoarding)
- + Share your stockpile!
- + Call family
- + Set up a "Little Free Food Pantry" in your front yard
- + Set up a drive-by birthday party for someone
- + Send cards
- + Sew masks
- + Give blood
- + Stay home
- + Print off our newsletter and deliver it to a neighbor
- + Hold a worship watch party on your Facebook page
- + Give a special gift to BUMC over and above your regular offering
- + Read *The Walk* by Adam Hamilton
- + Pray our Pandemic Breakthrough Prayer daily
- + Order take-out from a locally owned place
- + **BE THE CHURCH!**

~Pastor Rich



7200 Brooklyn Blvd.  
Brooklyn Center, MN 55429  
Office Hours 9am-4pm (M-Th)  
9am-noon (F)

763-561-1684  
admin@bumc.org  
bumc.org

*Videos of Sunday's sermons can be  
found on our website under  
Worship/Past Sermons*

## BECOMING THE HEART OF THE BROOKLYNS BY ...

### REACH NEW PEOPLE

Through service, worship,  
discipleship, reaching new people  
with the grace of God

### LOVE GOD & LOVE NEIGHBOR

Living out the 2 great  
commandments of Jesus Christ  
in everything we do as a  
community of faith.

### HEAL A BROKEN WORLD

Serving alongside our neighbors to  
become the heart of the Brooklyns,  
the north side and beyond.

*A church for everyone!!*

## General Conference to be postponed

The Executive Committee of the Commission on the General Conference has been notified by the Minneapolis Convention Center that they are restricting events at the venue through May 10, 2020, following recommendations by the Minnesota Department of Health, the Governor of Minnesota, and the Mayor of Minneapolis to postpone or cancel events involving 50+ people in order to slow the spread of coronavirus. As a result of this decision, the Executive Committee is announcing that the General Conference will be postponed and will not occur May 5-15, 2020 as planned.

Out of concerns for the health and safety of all those affected amid the coronavirus pandemic, the Executive Committee has been monitoring the situation for some time and had scheduled a teleconference meeting of the full Commission of the General Conference for March 21 to discuss plans for the event. Only the full commission can set a new date or decide on an alternate plan. That meeting will go forward as scheduled, although it is not known at this time how quickly they will be able to announce new dates.

"This news is not unexpected based on the current guidance from health officials and we expect to move forward with new plans as quickly as possible," said Kim Simpson, chair of the Commission. While the Commission was already considering many requests to postpone the event due to the growing pandemic and processing the complexities which would result from that decision, the announcement by the convention center that those dates will no longer be possible means that the church will not incur significant financial penalties for cancellation of the contract.

"Our focus at this moment is not solely on the gathering of the General Conference for the work we have been called to do, but is on the individuals, families, churches, and communities around the world whose lives are being impacted by this pandemic," said Simpson. "We recognize the struggle to deal with the physical, emotional and spiritual needs which come with the unknown. We are confident that local United Methodist churches will be finding new ways to be in community with their neighbors and meet their evolving needs."

As of now the MN/DK Annual Conference scheduled for June is still on. The Bishop will make a decision on its continuation or postponement by May 1.

### Continue April with these goals

**"This is how I run—not without a clear goal in sight"**  
- Paul (1 Corinthians 9:26)

- \* Pray 5 times a day and worship online weekly;  
Prayer Walk at least once.
- \* Read 5 verses of the Bible daily and study the Bible in a  
small video group or Grab Gather Grow.
- \* Practice 5 acts of intentional kindness a week and serve others at least  
once.
- \* Extend 5 acts of generosity toward others each month, and give generously  
to God through the church.
- \* Let others know you are a Christian and invite 5 people to worship or a  
service event this year.

Since church communication is coming mainly through our Mailchimp email service, if you know of anyone who might not be getting them, have them go to [bumc.org](http://bumc.org) and sign up on the form in the bottom right of the page. Or print them a copy and drop it in their front door.

All Brooklyn United Methodist Women's activities for April have been cancelled. The TEA which was scheduled for April 18th may be rescheduled. Watch for updates in the Sunday bulletin and May newsletter!

We have also cancelled the Life Line screening scheduled for the end of April.

The North Memorial Hospitals as well as the Allina Health system are looking for donations of face masks, including hand sewn masks. We know there are experienced sewers among our BUMC brothers and sisters. BUMC sewers will be working with one standard CDC-compliant face mask pattern, following specific fabric requirements. If you are interested, please contact Lois Purdham (763-203-1927 or at [loispurdham@yahoo.com](mailto:loispurdham@yahoo.com)). She will forward to you all the information necessary to get you started. We also have some pre-cut kits, which are available for your use. You can drop off bags of completed masks at Lois' home (8647 Prestwick Lane No, Brooklyn Park, 55443) and we'll distribute them quickly. North Memorial is enthusiastically looking forward to receiving some as soon as possible as they have only requested their need for masks last week.

For those of you who do not sew, donations toward the fabric and elastic would be most welcome. Checks can be made out to BUMC and please note that they are for COVID face masks. Thank you so much.



**Breakthrough Prayer**

**Our Breakthrough Prayer**  
God of grace, breakthrough Brooklyn UMC with your Spirit during this time of uncertainty and challenge.

Show us how to be the Heart of the Brooklyns in the midst of this pandemic.

Show us how to be the church to all in the midst of this crisis.

Show us how to minister with those that are ill, those who are dying, those who are mourning, those who struggling with isolation, those who are serving and sacrificing...

Breakthrough my life, help me during this time of social distancing to not distance myself from loving you and neighbor.

Saving our change, making special gifts, to heal a broken world.

#### **Change for Change Offerings**

Using our change and special gifts, God calls us to give to change the world. Each Sunday we ask all of BUMC to save their change, bring it to worship along with any special gift you feel God is calling you to give, and place it in our Change for Change Offering. Together we shall change the world.

Until this pandemic is over, Change 4 Change will continue to support our Good Samaritan Fund.



# Five things every senior should do right now to protect themselves from Coronavirus

By Dr. Elizabeth Klodas

*We know you have more questions about COVID-19 and we will attempt to answer them as quickly as possible. To leave a question, please email us at [customer.support@steponefoods.com](mailto:customer.support@steponefoods.com) and visit [our Facebook page](#) regularly as this is where we will be posting the responses. As always, your health is our mission.*

Staying healthy is paramount for everyone. By now, you know that [social distancing](#), over-the-top handwashing, regular cleaning of frequently touched surfaces, and coughing/sneezing into your elbow or a tissue are vital to stopping the spread of COVID-19. But given that you're in a higher risk group, what else can you do to better protect yourself?

[Being proactive](#) has never been more important. To lessen your vulnerability to complications of a coronavirus infection, especially if you're older or have an underlying health condition, here is what you should do now:

1. **Continue to take all your medications as prescribed.** Keeping all of your ongoing health conditions managed as best as possible is really important at this time.
2. **Don't wait until the last minute to refill a prescription.** Many pharmacies offer medication delivery – but this is typically not a same-day service. Put in a request for the refill when you have at least 7 to 10 days of pills remaining.
3. **Avoid in-person ROUTINE medical visits.** That sounds strange, but you want to avoid ALL unnecessary mingling with other people whenever possible — and things like routine medical follow-ups and non-urgent health issues (like getting an eye exam or yearly mammogram) can typically wait. So either reschedule the visit for another time or find out if your doctor offers telemedicine. If the visit was primarily to authorize a prescription renewal, ask if this could be handled over the phone.

**Don't waste your money.** There's a lot of on-line chatter about products that claim to treat or prevent COVID-19. Don't be lured into purchasing them. There are no supplements, tinctures or home remedies that have been shown to help prevent or cure COVID-19. In fact, the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Federal Trade Commission (FTC) have cited multiple companies for making false claims. The most reliable source of updates about treatment and prevention of this coronavirus is the [Centers of Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\) website](#).

**Prioritize nutrition.** What you eat affects [37 thousand billion billion chemical reactions](#) occurring inside your body *every second*— and impacts a [gut microbiome](#) that contains more bacteria than the total number of cells you're made of! If there was EVER a time to focus on fueling the complex machine that is your body with the most health promoting foods, this is it! A healthy diet supports immunity, reduces inflammation, and helps fight constipation (which can be a real concern when you're less active because you're self-quarantined).

At Step One Foods, we never pretend to be the whole answer, but at this time, when having access to high quality, health promoting shelf stable foods is important, we're here and we can help. Finally, remember that wherever there are challenges there is also hope. The world community has come together in an unprecedented fashion with medical and bioscience researchers working around the clock to find solutions:

- Hydroxychloroquine, a generic drug used for decades to treat and prevent malaria, is showing promise as an effective agent against COVID-19 and remdesivir, a new antiviral medication, is in the final stages of testing.
- Antibodies are being created to directly attack the virus.
- An effective vaccine will be available in the future.

These are all encouraging developments signaling that the tide will eventually turn. In the meantime, limit in-person social contact, take the best possible care of your overall health, pay extra attention to nutrition, and hang in there! It might take several weeks, but we will get through this together.



## THE ELI PROJECT

"This summer has helped me see the 'behind the scenes' of ministry. Putting my gifts into action and 'testing the waters' of a career in ministry makes me want to fully dive in."  
-Joshua Simms, 2018 intern.



This summer at Brooklyn United Methodist Church we have applied for an Eli Intern to come and explore ministry with us. The Eli Project of the Minnesota Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church is a way for young adults, who feel called to some form of ministry in the church to explore that call. Deciding to go into full-time ministry is a big decision on the Eli Project helps some young adults explore the call into ministry and what better place to explore ministry than through Brooklyn UMC.

This summer we are hoping to have an Eli Intern come to Brooklyn UMC and explore their call to ministry by experiencing ministry through the Heart of the Brooklyns. If granted, an intern (the cost to BUMC is a \$1000 stipend) this young adult would explore ministry through working with our SUNNY program, preach and lead worship at least once, work with our Christian Education program, explore youth ministry, explore our care ministry, and any other ministry opportunities that come their way.

For us to secure an intern we need to know if anyone would be willing to house this young adult? We would simply need a room for him or her. They would be with us June, July and the first week of August. If you think you would have a room available for a young intern please let us know in the office ASAP. If we can provide housing our chance of being awarded an intern is almost 100%. If housing an intern is not your thing consider a donation to cover the cost of the \$1000 stipend.

I for one am very excited about the possibility of hosting an Eli Intern for I believe BUMC is one of the places anyone could ever experience to explore a future in ministry.

Pastor Rich



We are working on adding an FM transmitter to our sound system at church. If successful we will be able to have a drive-up worship experience in our parking lot. We will have to follow strict social distancing rules – meaning no one will be allowed to get out of their cars for any reason – but we may be able to gather as a community. Pastor Rich will preach his Easter message and you should be able to turn to a designated FM channel and participate. Our horns shall become our shouts of “hallelujah.” Hopefully this can become a reality by Easter Sunday so stay tuned for details.

And mark your calendars for the Sunday after we can assemble again, we are having **Easter Worship** – banners, choirs, etc. The Resurrection Story will be read and the church will be full. I’m encouraging all to have a big old fashioned Easter dinner with family and friends after the service.

## Camp Registration is Open

Camp sessions fill faster every year! Register early to avoid disappointment.

To register, fill out a registration form, a scholarship form and \$25 payment for each camper.

If you register during Early Bird Registration, before April 30th, you get a FREE \$25 in your camp store account!

Remember you can invite friends and family from outside Brooklyn Church to come to camp with you! You get a credit of \$25 for every new camper you register! All first time campers count.

Campers and friends will have a chance to do fundraisers in April and May at Cub Foods and to sell popcorn on Father's Day .

Contact Linda for brochures and information, watch your email, and look for Camp News in your mailbox and at the Welcome Desk.



Camps*		
Pathway 2/Koronis	9-13 years	June 21-26 (bus provided)
Teen Specialty Camp/Koronis	13-18 years	July 19-24
L.Y.F.E./Northern Pines	Completed grades 7-10	June 21-27 (bus provided)
Teddy Bear 1/Koronis	6-9 years	June 28-30 (bus provided)
Fundraisers	Cub Bagging	TBA
	Popcorn Sales	Father's Day June 21
Important Dates		
	Camp brochures & registration	Contact Linda anytime!
	Early Bird Registration	Closes April 30

\* There are many, many Camp Minnesota offerings. These are the camp sessions BUMC actively recruits to and supports.

See Mim for information on Mission trips for youth.

Contact Linda for more information and forms at [children@bumc.org](mailto:children@bumc.org) or 763-234-2019 call/text.





## MISSION MINUTE

### Report from Mission Trip to Midwest Mission Distribution Center

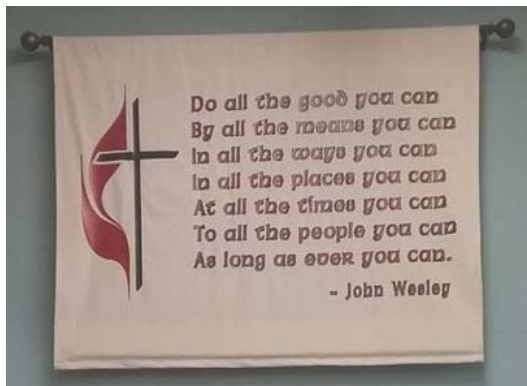
On Sunday, March 1, four carloads of BUMC worshippers set off for Midwest Mission Distribution Center (MMDC) in Chatham, IL for a week of working on mission activities. Sixteen people, all with different expectations of what the week would bring. Some were veterans of Midwest Mission, and others were newbies to MMDC but with experience from other mission trips. Here is a brief overview of what the BUMC team experienced and accomplished during our week in the "Land of Lincoln".

Our workday began at 8:30 am. We worked until 3:30 pm, when we stopped to clean all the work areas, and were finished for the day by 4:00 pm. In addition to lunch, we had morning and afternoon breaks. The breaks were opportunities for us to learn about the various projects of MMDC. It was amazing how many of these projects start and end as "God things". A need was made known and suddenly connections were made that fulfilled that need, often in ways that could only be explained as being orchestrated by the Master. We lived in the dormitory as a family and had three delicious home-cooked meals per day prepared by Sheila Weber and her assistant, Peggy Strickland.

Work was split between the on-going need for student desks made from reclaimed bleachers, sewing projects, verifying and assembling specific kits (such as school kits, personal dignity kits, etc.) and writing thank you notes to donors. All work was determined by what was the most immediate need at the time. We had four people working on sewing projects, six people working on the desks, and the remainder working on kit verification and assembly and occasional help in the other areas. When we finished one job or needed a change of pace, we moved on to another job and helped wherever it was needed. During the week our team, along with local volunteers, accomplished making 18 school desks, as well as verifying 1,410 student kits, sewed boys and girls outfits and other items to be used in the feminine hygiene kit, as well as counting a variety of items into inventory.

During one of our breaks we learned about MMDC's recent acquisition of a used ambulance. The ambulance originally cost about \$200,000 was bought for \$8,000. The plan was to make sure the ambulance was in good shape, refit it with needed medical supplies and send it to Belize where it is greatly needed to get patients safely to the hospital in Belize City. It is MMDC's policy to only purchase things when they have the funds on hand, but this was too good of a deal to pass up. We were delivering a check from our Change 4 Change offerings, so we requested that this money go directly to the ambulance fund. It was another "God thing"! On our last day there, our team wrote notes of encouragement to the people who will be manning the ambulance. The messages will be put in the various drawers and will be a surprise upon opening. MMDC works in conjunction with many other organizations, including the US military, for transportation and other needs to get aid to the people that need it. They are funded by private donors and are not financially connected to UMCOR.

BUMC will be sending another team to MMDC in September 2021. Peggy Strickland will be leading the team and if you are interested in making the trip, let her know. It is a great experience living and working together with members of your church family to serve God and heal a broken world.







### To our Communion Servers and Liturgists:

Mike Colbert, Colleen Colbert, Sana Eakins, Sherry Leboeuf, Mary Hooper, Jill Michael, Candy Mattson, Kathy Carter

**And our Greeters:** Arlene Swanson, Paul & Gail Stone, Kathy Carter, Sharon Jensen, John & Sana Eakins, Betty Andersen

Please take a moment to share expressions of care and prayer for the following people....

#### People with Specific Health Concerns

Lewis Logan, Toni Vikse, Pastor Howie Baird, Bill Barott, Stephen Brown, Jim Hoffner, Marge Clyde, Sherry Lindner

#### Ongoing Concerns

Sharon Kephart, Maxine Chapman, Bernice Nelson, Sharon Van Denbos, Leslie, Her Family & Care Givers

#### Loss of Loved Ones:

Comfort Railey Tuah's father in Liberia

#### April Birthdays

Apr. 5 – Keith Crook, Larry Mortenson, Jeanne Peterson  
Apr. 6 – Gracia Kitelinger  
Apr. 7 – Abigail Anderson, Bill Christianson, Maddie Kleven  
Apr. 8 – Mercy Ansah, David Steiskal  
Apr. 9 – Ann Bystrom  
Apr. 10 – Robert Schroeder  
Apr. 12 – Dawn Thrift  
Apr. 13 – Betty Andersen, Gary Blosberg, Dorothy Martinson  
Apr. 15 – Troy Pullis, Claire Stinson  
Apr. 17 – Theodosia Harris, Edmund Ocansey  
Apr. 21 – Karen Hoffner, Laurene Rick  
Apr. 22 – Janice Clarke  
Apr. 26 – Akintunde Cadmus  
Apr. 27 – Karen Long, Mercy Osanyintola  
Apr. 28 – Mindy Klemm, Jeloleh Pajibo  
Apr. 30 – Karen Larsen, Gloria Stoldorf



### March is Women's History Month

Brooklyn United Methodist Women would like to recognize that in 1987, after a national lobbying effort, congress declared March National Women's History Month. Coincidentally, the last time General Conference was held in Minnesota was in 1956. A successful vote was taken to ordain women as pastors in the United Methodist church. That was 64 years ago! Perhaps additional rights will be restored to individuals at next year's General Conference.

### Happy Birthday UMW-151 years!

On March 23, 1869, eight women gathered at Tremont Methodist Episcopal Church in Boston, Massachusetts, and organized the Women's Foreign Missionary Society, what would become United Methodist Women. Those women raised money to send a doctor, Clara Swain, and a teacher, Isabella Thoburn, to India as missionaries to serve the women of that nation. Consider a gift to the Legacy Fund of \$18.69 or \$15.10 to honor the years of mission and supportive community. These gifts will ensure a firm foundation for generations of UMW to come. Laurene Rick is the treasurer of BUMW.



Loaves & Fishes is serving drive-up meals every Monday, Wednesday & Friday from noon-1pm through May 8th. All are invited to get a meal.

Additionally, the West African Family & Community Services (housed out of BUMC) is also distributing food to all, Monday-Friday from 9am-5pm.



Our ministries can't succeed without your support. Please continue to give by mailing an offering to Brooklyn UMC, 7200 Brooklyn Blvd., Brooklyn Center MN 55429 (checks only please) Visit our giving page on our website at <https://www.simplechurchgiving.net/app/giving/broo7200139>

Text "give" to 651-240-2862 or download the app

## Check Out Our Church App!

Access sermons, prayer requests, events and more.



1. Download Church by MinistryOne in App Store



2. Search for Our Church



3. Select & Explore!



facebook.com/BrooklynUMC



bumc.org



@BrooklynUMC



BrooklynUMC

## STAFF & OTHER CONTACTS

### Lead Pastor:

Rev. Rich Zeck - [pastor@bumc.org](mailto:pastor@bumc.org)

### Associate Pastor:

Rev. Henry Dolopei - [hdolopei@bumc.org](mailto:hdolopei@bumc.org)

### Church Administrator:

Mindy Klemm - [admin@bumc.org](mailto:admin@bumc.org)

### Children & Family Ministries Director:

Linda Browning - [children@bumc.org](mailto:children@bumc.org)

### Director of Developmental Ministries:

Mim Campbell - [youth@bumc.org](mailto:youth@bumc.org)

### Music Leaders:

9am - Clayton Heidbreder - [music@bumc.org](mailto:music@bumc.org)

10:45am - Lexi Bergevin - [encounter@bumc.org](mailto:encounter@bumc.org)

11:30am - Carl Doe - [acm@bumc.org](mailto:acm@bumc.org)

### Circuit Rider Editor:

Marlys Carls-Steiskal - [crider@bumc.org](mailto:crider@bumc.org)

### Bookkeeper:

Diana Pennington

The CIRCUIT RIDER is a monthly publication of Brooklyn UMC. Its purpose is to highlight life in the church for members and friends. Comments, articles and information can be emailed to [crider@bumc.org](mailto:crider@bumc.org). The monthly deadline is the 3rd Wednesday of the month.

**Church office phone: 763-561-1684**