



THE GLAD TIDER

Stevensville United Methodist Church

August 2020

Ode to Kids

To the ones who can laugh for minutes on end because of a wonky sound
And cry just as hard, broken hearted it seems, when bed time comes around.

To the ones who ask why? and how? and what's this mean? with minds ready to
soak in

And also dance, and run, and dig, and read, and hug to squeeze together what's
broken

To the ones who connect the strangest of things as if they're an obvious link
And explain or write or sing or build what matters most, what makes us think.

We rejoice in you, today and ever.
Keep up the hard work of being fun and clever.
And when you need a nudge, a boost, a lever,
May we be there with trust and love, forever.



An incredible attribute about kids comes in their resilience. This built up, encouraged, tested, and honed trait also seems to reside deep within, giving them permission over and over to be themselves...to be kids. Does self-consciousness creep in? Do other people's perceptions or accolades matter? Can their feelings get hurt by a single word? ABSOLUTELY! And kids rise beyond expectations, offer empathy and care at surprising moments, and astonish anyone who is willing to pay attention with their creativity and connections made of seemingly unrelated ideas. They play hard, love hard, seek discovery, and even on the worse days, really do want to embrace life and those dear ones in it.

As the school year draws closer, this quality of resilience will again be tested even as it has been over a strange summer with fewer camps, travel and reunions. As uncertainty looms, kids look to the elders (moms, dad, grandparents, coaches, mentors, and teachers) to see if they can trust this quality to be an aid or misplaced energy. I trust kids to rise to the occasion, and I pray that each of us can support and bolster them. Let us bless these dear ones, Generation Resilient.

~ Your humble servant, Pastor Sarah



Flathead Lake UM Camp

News from Flathead Lake United Methodist Camp (FLUMC)

On the shores of Flathead lake a cabin waits for you . . . or an RV site, even a tent site.

There is great availability this year and a wonderful opportunity for you to help support our camp. As you may be aware our United Methodist Camp on Flathead Lake was covid'd this year. Many of our summer offerings to include Methodist camping, Band Camp, and the MCT Camp were either canceled or postponed until we move into Stage 3. That translates, unfortunately, into lost revenue for the camp, but also a wonderful opportunity for you to rent a cabin or cabins for a night or more and come relax on Flathead Lake "on the shores where water meets the spirit."

Canoes— we have them, a dock and swimming area— those too, even a water trampoline I'm told. Campfire area? Check. Playground area for the kiddos. Check. Incredible views across the lake to the Mission Mountains. Check. Shaded porches on all the cabins. Check. We have all that and more. Come rediscover camp.

We have three cabins which have been winterized meaning they have their own bathrooms. We have two bathhouses, east and west, to accommodate the remaining 9 cabins at FLUMC. Come get away, it's Flathead cherry season, and I'm sure there are huckleberries to be picked somewhere close by.

Can't make it up there, but you still want to help us get through this unfortunate season, please consider giving a tax-deductible donation to OUR United Methodist Camp.

For more information:

Check us out on the web at <http://flatheadcamp.org>, or call Steve Hermes, camp manager, at 406.844.3483, or send an email to manager@flatheadcamp.org.

joey diers, FLUMC Trustee





August 2020 Worship Extending the Cup

The cup of communion is a rich symbol that confers amazing gifts: belonging, grace, healing, and community. Such is possible because Jesus said, "This is the cup of a new covenant." The "cup of blessing" as Apostle Paul states becomes both the reconciling expression passed down for generations from when the Israelites found freedom from Egypt to the freedom embodied in God himself as Jesus took up the cross. Jesus offered a new promise of freedom that gives us the desire for God. The blood represented by grape juice is the extent to which God in Jesus is willing to suffer with humanity.

The cup can also hold the ongoing nourishment of water, living water, as Jesus would call himself. This, too, confers healing and the continual flow of the holy in and through us. May we allow the cup of freedom, blessing, cool water, belonging, and hope shared by Christ Jesus move us to extend the cup.

August 2: Jesus Moved by Compassion

The life of Jesus holds extraordinary depth and breath from his identity, to his partnerships, his mission, to his methods. Was he prophet, priest, pastor, teacher, healer, brother, friend, or God with us? To divide those roles would be to diminish the enormity of his presence. Yet, all those roles were informed and motivated by compassion. With this compassion, he could embody not only the character but also the purpose of the part. His compassion became tangible, and not by power over or by stealing dignity. He had abundant compassion, he could serve and give and be in relationship with abundance, including the abundant capacity to

suffer with and for others. When we slow down to hear, taste, know, experience, intuit the abundance that is ours- individually and collectively- to claim in God, we too can let go of our ego and take hold of another's out stretched hand.

Scripture: Matthew 14:13-21

Prayer: Gracious and Holy God, grant me the humility to know the compassion you pour upon me so that I may be truly grateful. From that gratitude of abundance, guide me in extending your compassion in tangible, dignifying ways that put you as love, healing and grace at the center. Amen.

August 9: Generations of Hope

The Jewish tradition goes back millennia and with it the stories, wisdom, and fortitude. Such generational perspective is an enviable trait to embrace collectively and individually, as religious affiliates and as a society in general. With a long-view of time, one can understand or grapple in a current experience with more tools including humility, resiliency and ease amidst fear. This wisdom informed Jesus mission from the outset as he recognized that the prophets and the ancestors had all sought to live into a relationship that set people free of chains, illness, disenfranchisement, and insignificance. Similar trappings may grip us today in our pandemic stricken world, but generational wisdom can offer generational hope. Molly Hackett, Ellyn Jones, and

Pastor Sarah consider how the long-view, particularly in comparing COVID-19 to polio, may offer a breath of understanding, hope, and freedom to claim trust over fear.

Scripture: Deuteronomy 6:4-7, Matthew 6:25-34

Prayer: O God, our ancestors have continually turned to you for hope, strength, and assurance. When we worry, help us let go. When we future think away life, forgive our misguided energy and turn to you in the present. When we need comfort, remind us of your words spoken throughout the generations, "Do not fear. I am with you." May the wisdom formed over generations by your spirit bring peace and call forth courage of agency. Amen.



August 16: Missed Connections: [A Meditation from Bishop Karen Oliveto](#)

Take a moment to remember what today is. Did you shower or brush your teeth? When did you talk to your mom or friend or grandkid last? What bit of news did you last take in? Particulars like this in our current time and place can wake us up, help us be present, and remind us of what is truly important. Strangely, these very acts can be spiritual disciplines if we consider how they help or hinder our ability to relate with ourselves, God, others, and the natural world better. Would you make sure you had showered if Jesus were coming over for tea or your dog could thank you for good hygiene? It's not that

these acts make you worthy, but they make us aware and call us to move from apathy to connection, disengagement to investment.

Scripture: Isaiah 55: 1-3, Psalm 100, Matthew 10:40-42

Prayer: Lord of hope, when the dark clouds assail, you ask us to bear the light of your love and truth. When fears seem to immobilize us, you give us courage and strength to bear your witness. We thank you for your call to us. We praise you for your sustaining love for us. We honor you with our lives and our service to you; for it is in Christ's Name, we offer this prayer. Amen. *(By Nancy C. Townley)*

August 23: Blessing of the Animals

To confer blessing on another has often been relegated to a "professional," a holy person that somehow has a fast pass to connect with God, both in sharing and receiving. Likewise, sometimes blessings are only given to those (particularly humans) that deserve it. Thankfully, from the very beginning God said it differently. God blessed each thing, living, moving, growing, communing by saying, "That is good. That is good. That is very good."

On Aug. 23, we will bless our animals (big and small) to remind us of their holy place in our lives even as we recognize our communion in the whole. Bring your animal, on leash, bridal

or crate to the 9am Outdoor Service or a picture to the 10:30 service. At home, take this day to say a prayer for the animal in your life; offer gratitude and name the creature's goodness out loud as a gift.

Scripture: Genesis 1

Prayer: O sweet maker of all, we ask your blessing on every creature gathered here today, the large and the small. May they live peacefully in praise of you. Bless us all to love your creation, and revere its sacredness. We ask this blessing in the name of the one who was is, and always will be, our Creator, to whom every creature belongs. *(Duke Chapel Blessing)*

Aug. 30: Blessing of Backpacks & Crossing Thresholds

In January, a couple of students and Pastor Sarah embarked on the work of confirmation: a time to continue and/or begin the internal and community conversation we have about faith (aka the trust in and seeking of God), how we understand it, how we live it (or don't), and how it informs how we move in the world. Right in the middle of this "conversation" COVID struck and everything turned topsy-turvy. Now the conversation is not a theoretical exercise, but one that had to be tested in the last couple months. This is a mighty threshold to cross, from a place of wondering, studying and considering faith to a place of living with or without it. Each of us face this threshold everyday, and we're invited to step through bravely. Thankfully, the threshold is just that, not a slammed door of irreversible decision, but

a marked space that allows living and learning to guide a life of trusting in God.

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 5:17-20

Prayer (by Jan L. Richardson)

And so we take the ragged fragments, the patches of darkness that give shape to the light; the scraps of desires unslaked or realized; the memories of spaces of blessing, of pain.

And so we gather the scattered pieces the hopes we carry fractured or whole; the struggles of birthing exhausted, elated; the places of welcome that bring healing and life.

And so we lay them at the threshold, God; bid you hold them, bless them, use them; ask you tend them, mend them, transform them to keep us warm, make us whole, and send us forth.



Update from the Building Team

Greetings from your Building Committee! We hope this update finds you all well & enjoying our beautiful Montana summer. The Building Committee met twice in July. On July 9, in addition to committee members, Paul Beck of Beck Construction & Angela Stringham of String Line Designs joined us to go over plans including timing and cost. On July 23, Pastor Sarah shared the good news, that literally hours before, the Mountain Sky Foundation gave the final "Yes" to a million dollar loan. The Foundation will provide flexibility and partnership in fundraising to make the loan and payment feasible. Following our collective, **Amen** we settled in to embrace the realities of our moment in time, specifically COVID-19.



SUMC's mission states, *"As disciples of Christ, we offer a path to hope, inclusion and purpose for a community in need of healing care, community engagement, faith formation and compassionate love."* Sapphire Early Learning Center is one expression of this lived mission. Running parallel to that is the design and construction of a facility to house this ministry and enhance the capabilities of SUMC with a new Fellowship Hall and a roof for our historic church building. As we await the many decisions faced by Stevensville Schools, we are considering ways to serve school-aged children and families by providing a learning environment for them regardless of which phase of the building's construction we are in. This may take the form of an after school program, a drop-in space for parents working tentative schedules, etc. Although many things are up in the air due to the pandemic, our ministry is clear, to serve the families in our community.

Other work continues with securing a few more estimates on the current building plan and completing those plans and engineering by September 1st. The very important work of defining the business structure, finalizing the board of directors, drafting by-laws, solidifying capital campaign goals and identifying potential grants are on-going. We will keep the congregation informed through not only the Glad Tider but with the new Sapphire Early Learning Center website! While the date for breaking ground needs to be redefined from delays, many due to COVID, we're confident that the building project and early learning center will continue to take shape in just the right way.

We invite the congregation to join us for a Town Hall at 9:45 on Sunday August 9. Your comments, questions and prayers are ever welcome.

Sara Malo



Small Group Connections

Wednesday Morning Bible Study is taking a short break during August. We will return to do a study on Alternative Orthodoxy: the Legacy of St. Francis, from the perspective of Father Richard Rohr. September 2nd will be the first day of this study.

Fearless Conversations: Racial Justice

Our small group opportunity to study racial justice and time to immerse ourselves in the conversation at hand in our communities near and far continues this month with study and conversation on:

July 30-Aug 4: Economics & Race

Aug. 6-11: Access to Health Care & Children

Aug. 13-18: Policing & Justice system

Aug. 20-25: Solutions & Reflections

Contact Pastor Sarah to join the group!

Thank You

A great big Thank You to everyone that has prayed for Lynn, my daughter, also cards & calls after the passing of Lynn from cancer.

Love to you all,

Lorraine Broadhurst

Let's Celebrate

BIRTHDAYS

August 3—Lorraine Broadhurst

August 4 —Palmer Maclay-Schulte

August 9—Carol Gragg

August 12—Marilyn Murphy

August 14—Orion Johnston

August 15—Phyllis Clevidence

August 17—Becky Boykin

August 18—Kathy Clark

August 23—Sue Pearson

August 24—Terry Youtsey



August 26—Ginny Mellgren

August 30—Doris Hubler

August 31—Sara Malo

ANNIVERSARIES

August 2—Rich and Bonnie Gray

August 4—Sarah and Mac Merchant

August 14— Dave and Blakey Lockman

August 15— Les and Hazel Smith

August 16— Dan and Debbie Severson

August 19— John Soper and Marilyn Murphy

August 34—Lila and Terry Youtsey



Stewardship/ Finance

At the end of our fifth month of covid disruption, the Stewardship and Finance Committee is grateful that our faith community has responded to the financial needs of our church with faithfulness and generosity. We went into March with a significant deficit in our annual budget. Since that time we have made up that deficit, and have a small surplus thanks to faithful giving and the recent vacancy at the Church administrative assistant position. In addition to this, Lenny Johnson worked very hard on securing a \$17,000 PPP federal loan for our church as well. It now appears that we will fully fill the criteria required to enable us not to repay any portion of that loan, Thank You Lenny. Our church is current on Church Council's decision to commit 10% of our giving to Mountain Sky Conference Mission Shares and UMC apportionment. The Church Council, and the Stewardship and Finance Committee thanks the members and friends of the Stevensville UMC for their generosity in these uncertain times.

God Is Good!

Dean Diers, Chair

Trustees

The dish wash/sanitizer has been repaired. The Hobart technician who serviced the machine said they see this error message frequently when too much soap is used. Their recommendation is to use no more than 1/4 teaspoon (yes, teaspoon). He suggested starting with an 1/8 teaspoon to see how effective that was, then if needed use 1/4. If you have any questions or concerns please contact John Fisher.

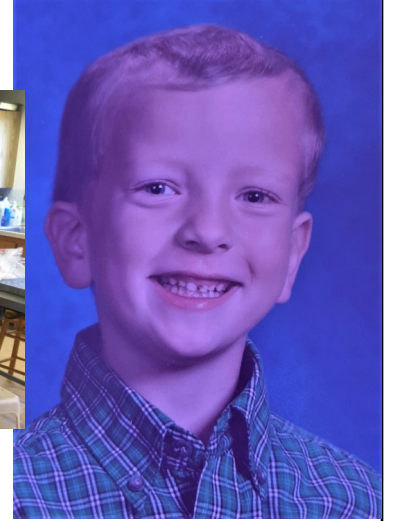
John Fisher, Trustees Chair

SPRC

SPRC put our search for a new administrative assistant for the church on hold during the spring, both due to COVID and also while we determined what impact the SELC project would have on the position. Now the search is moving forward, so if you know someone with office expertise, please send them our way! We need someone who is proficient in the various MS Office products as well as Quickbooks and online tools such as Mailchimp. Of course, they also need to be reliable, with good communication skills and the ability to maintain confidentiality. Currently, Cammie Edgar is filling in while she is furloughed.

Upcoming Dates

- Aug. 8 Leadership Retreat, 9am—12pm
- Aug. 9 Town Hall: 9:45 in person & Zoom
- Aug. 23 Blessing of the Animals at 9 am service.
Bring your pets or dear animals.



~ CHANGES OF ADDRESS ~
Bulk-rate mail is not forwarded.
If your address changes, if we have it wrong,
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The Glad Tider

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