

to have a live band or musician – honestly. What I have found though, is that if I save the worship to my phone and upload it to Youtube after ... they leave the music alone. Oh ... the things learned during this pandemic! Ha!

Words on the screen are backwards because I prop my phone on a music stand and record, and aim at the screen – that is why. It is NOT backwards if someone is holding my phone recording for us – which isn't always possible. We make due.

GOD-KISS – Sometimes, I get tired of it all And wonder if it is worth it All of this recording, talking to a cell phone propped on a music stand etc. and just when I'm feeling frustrated God sends a "KISS" ... like he did recently. I received a message on FaceBook from a High School friend who is an Activity Director at a Senior Living Center in Walker, MN. (much like our Lakeview Senior Housing I think). She said; "I just wanted you to know that our residents have been watching your Wednesday Night Church Service online and LOVE It! So much so that we have added it to our Thursday afternoon activities weekly. It has been so long since we have been able to have a Pastor in, or any sort of Church it has been a God Send to these people.

Isn't God Cool? So My next step is to perhaps make arrangements with some of our JAMers to become pen pals with some of these fabulous ladies ... and also find out if we can send a care package of goodies to keep this connection going brightening both them and us.

We keep on, keepin' on even though this time has been hard for all. I pray that God sends each of you a little "KISS" of some sort in these trying days.

LENT – begins Wednesday, February 17th – ASH WEDNESDAY. Because we aren't In Person JAM, Lent will look a little different this year too. I have ordered "ASH Tattoos" (Crosses) for our JAM Families that will be distributed prior to Ash Wednesday along with some other goodies. Vicar Rick and I will be offering 5:30pm Weekly half hour worship services alternating between Trinity and Sillerud ... Methodists are more than welcomed and encouraged to join in. ASH WEDNESDAY worship will be 5:30pm at TRINITY with Imposition of ashes by Vicar Rick and PL using masks, gloves, and Q-Tips (disposing of the Qtip after each person).

ONLINE OPTION – PL will pre-record some sort of a service and post this day. Still working through all.this.stuff stay tuned.

We have adjusted the JAM Facebook Live and Confirmation times slightly during Lent to accommodate this half hour service. We are trying our best to navigate LENT while still being cautious. Be gentle.

THIS AND THAT – I received my first dose of the COVID19 Vaccine last week through my work of Hospice Chaplain. I know that some have differing opinions on the vaccine. I am very grateful to be able to receive it. As your Pastor, I wanted you to know that I did. I will receive my second dose this month. If you have reservations if you should or shouldn't, be sure to consult your Physician (not the internet). There are a lot of falsities out there and conspiracy theories.

Just be sure that you take in accurate information. I have consulted my Sanford Physician Dr. Judy Chesley who stands firm on the vaccine. My Parents are also eagerly awaiting vaccination.

TOOTH – I had my first tooth extraction a week ago as well (It was an eventful week!) I had a cracked tooth. It's feeling better. Thanks for the prayers.



Tate Jacob – turns ONE this month! Hard to believe it has been a year already on so many levels wouldn't you agree? We will be celebrating his Birthday on February 14th. It has been a year ago too that I took a fall on the ice and suffered a concussion! I will tell you that I am a "Cautious Walker" these days, and thankful to be on the other side of that event too.

Some of you have checked in Feel free. I'm praying over you all.

May the Lord Bless You and Keep You And Smile Big Upon You As Only He Can Do.

Pastor Lori (PL)

PL'S FEBRUARY CALENDAR

Monday Feb 1st - Wednesday Feb 3rd - PL ONLINE ZOOM for Board of Ordained Ministry (at the Church)

Wednesday February 3rd - 6pm JAM Facebook LIVE
6:30pm-7:30pm Confirmation at UMC

Thursday Feb 4th - PL Board of Ordained Ministry Online ZOOM (morning)

Sunday, February 7th - IN PERSON WORSHIP RESUMES 9am at UMC with Communion
CHURCH COUNCIL after worship in Sanctuary

Monday, February 8th - PL and Jim have a Tax Appointment in Worthington (morning)

Wednesday Feb 10th - 6pm JAM Facebook LIVE 6:30pm Confirmation (at UMC)

Thursday Feb 11th - 10:30-11:30am Licensed Local Pastor Meeting (Online ZOOM)

Sunday February 14th - 9am In Person Worship (Happy Valentine's Day!)

Wednesday, February 17th - ASH WEDNESDAY
9am Hospice in Slayton - PL
5:30pm In Person Worship at TRINITY
6:15pm-6:40pm JAM Facebook LIVE at UMC
6:40-7:30pm Confirmation at UMC

Sunday February 21st - 9am IN PERSON WORSHIP 9am at UMC

Wednesday, February 24th - 5:30pm Lenten Worship at SILLERUD
6:15pm-6:40pm JAM Facebook LIVE
6:40pm-7:30pm Confirmation at UMC

Sunday, February 28th - 9am IN PERSON WORSHIP at UMC



NOTES FROM LOIS~

January sure flew by fast. When the weather is nice I guess that helps to make the days go faster. The days are getting longer also. There have been a couple days that were not so good otherwise we can't complain too much.

Got a call the other day from Denise, she said there was water in the furnace room. I thought oh no. I thought we had that fixed. After further investigation Jill and I figured out the hose had come off the furnace. That is where the water was coming from. We started cleaning it up. I think it had been there for a while because all the tiles were coming up. We pulled up all the tile, scrubbed the floor, put a fan and the dehumidifier in there and by the next day it was all dried up. Went home and got a clamp to put on the hose and hopefully that takes care of it. We put the tile in the garbage can but it was too heavy for us to carry so left it to someone who has more muscle than us. It also went underneath the floor in the hallway, not sure what will have to be done with that. While we were cleaning down there we found a frog in the furnace room, that is the second frog I have found in the basement, don't know where they are getting in at. I took him home and put him in the straw in the barn. Hopefully he will survive.

I have delivered some of the Christmas ornaments, some are in your boxes at church and some I still have to deliver yet. Anyway we have a couple left over and Gayle and I have gone through the list a couple of times, let us know if you have not gotten one.

Just looked at the calendar, I can't believe Lent will be starting soon. February 17th is Ash Wednesday. Not sure how Lent is going to be this year. Everything is so uncertain yet. All the Covid 19 just started happening around this time last year. Doesn't seem possible we have been dealing with this for a whole year already, hopefully the vaccinations will help when it becomes available. I just hope schools can keep going as they are and not go back to distance learning.

I have been trying to catch our church mouse. I have had traps set for over a month and still nothing. Pastor Lori said she heard and saw it in her office when she was on a zoom call. He is a sneaky little mouse.

Thanks to Craig for pushing the snow way back in case we get a lot more of it. Thanks to Pastor Lori and Denise for all they do to keep things going. Thanks to Peggy for keeping our bills paid. Even though we are not in church we still have bills to pay.

Mike and I and the rest of our family are doing well, hope it stays that way. We really haven't been anywhere. Only to Marshall and Tracy. Christmas was different this year but still good. We celebrated Jocelyn's 10th birthday on Sunday. Hard to believe she is 10 years old already.

Doug Christiansen is out of the hospital and they are staying at Kerry and Kelly's for a week or so until he gets a little stronger.

Guess that is all for now.

Lois



U.M.W. Update

Hard to believe its newsletter time again!

We, like everyone else are just waiting to meet again and learn where we are and what the next move should be. Hopefully we can get things back on track soon.

I talked to Verlane and we got caught up on a few things. One being that she had balanced our books and she would take them to Rose to Audit. I don't know when we'll be able to have the U.M.W. Sunday but we will still have pins to give out. I believe Nancy Iversen got one last year.

Verlane said that several church members had given to the Bakeless Bake Sale so we want to say a sincere "THANK YOU" for your generosity.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL *Annual Dues*

For us U.M.W. members it is time for dues and another bakeless bake sale. I believe the dues are \$12.00 and \$5.00 for bakeless bake sale. We can just send the check to Verlane, please.

I called Rose to catch up with her and she shared she had gotten a card from Pastor Fair. Pastor Fair is doing well and she shared with Rose that when she left here (Balaton) she left a part of her heart in Balaton and I think we feel the same way about Pastor Fair.

I hope you are managing to stay away from Covid and hopefully get the vaccine. Stella and I got the first shot because we work at Lakeview and we will be getting the second the second week of February. It feels good to be that far into it.

Once again, "Thank You" for supporting our U.M.W.!

Take Care and God Bless!

June Terhark, U.M.W. President

Newsletter/Calendar Note:

If anyone has birthdays or anniversaries that are not included in the calendars, please let Julie or Denise know so that we can make sure they get added to the month they need to be in. I have started a spreadsheet with all of the dates on and will just keep adding as there are new babies, members or weddings.

We want to make sure that everyone is included!!

Thanks!

Julie & Denise



Also, if you would like to receive the Newsletter via email, please email us your address to

balatonumc@gmail.com

February

Balaton United Methodist Church Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>1</p>  <p>9:00 IN PERSON Worship w/communion Church Council after worship</p>	<p>2</p> <p>PL ZOOM mtg for Board of Ordained Ministry Keith Pickering B-day</p>	<p>3</p> <p>PL ZOOM mtg for Board of Ordained Ministry Mason Scharfe B-day</p>	<p>4</p> <p>PL ZOOM mtg for Board of Ordained Ministry 6:00 JAM! Facebook LIVE 6:30 - 7:30 Confirmation UMC Jasa Smidt B-day</p>	<p>5</p> <p>PL ZOOM mtg for Board of Ordained Ministry Jeff Chandler B-day</p>	<p>6</p> 	
<p>7</p> <p>9:00 IN PERSON Worship w/communion Church Council after worship</p>	<p>8</p> <p>PL & Jim Tax Appt</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p> <p>6:00 JAM Facebook LIVE 6:30 Confirmation</p>	<p>11</p> <p>10:30-11:30 Licensed Local Pastor mtg (ZOOM)</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Dawn Schelhaas B-day</p>	<p>13</p>
<p>14</p> <p>9:00 In Person Worship Easton Lustfield 3rd B-day</p> 	<p>15</p> <p>Carol Chandler B-day Tate VonHoltum 1st B-day</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Ash Wednesday 9:00 PL Hospice-Slayton 5:30 In Person Worship @ Trinity 6:15 JAM! Facebook LIVE 6:40 Confirmation Virginia Yearous B-day</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p> 
<p>21</p> <p>9:00 In Person Worship Bruce & Dawn Schelhaas Anniv</p>	<p>22</p> <p>Mike Swanson B-day</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p> <p>5:30 Lenten Worship-Sillerud 6:15 JAM! Facebook LIVE 6:40 Confirmation Denise Hoek B-day</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Denise Crumrine & Allen Chandler B-days</p>	<p>27</p>
<p>28</p> <p>9:00 In Person Worship</p>						



Be still and know that I am God
Psalms 46:10

Balaton United Methodist Church
Lori VonHoltum, Pastor
220 2nd Street West
Balaton MN 56115



Remember our Nursing Home Residents:

Avera Morningside Heights Care Center-Marshall: Neva Manguson

Remembering & praying for Brandon Swanson..... missing from his family since May 2008