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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Praising Christ Every Sunday at 8:30 am

FEBRUARY 2021



Love God. Love God's Children. Love God's Creation.



facebook.com/pcumcil

www.pearlcityumc.org

From the Pastor

In January, 2020, I wrote a newsletter entitled “God give us your 2020 Vision.” I had no idea that come March of 2020, COVID-19 would cloud our lives, our way of life, making it very difficult to discern what God’s 20/20 vision would be for 2020. Below is an excerpt of what I wrote:

“Several years ago, I had to start using readers. You know those cheap glasses that you buy just about anywhere that help you read things that previously you had no problems reading because well, your eyes were good. For many of us, we had 20/20 Vision. If you were like me, when I was younger, I didn’t really think about my eyes; I kind of took them for granted. Well things have changed some. Now a days, I usually carry a pair of readers with me all the time. I haven’t admitted that I need eye glasses yet, just the readers. But it does make for some interesting and admittedly humorous experiences.

Why all this talk about one’s vision? Well, this year let’s ask God for His 20/20 Vision. This year, like every year, is going to have a lot of unknowns. But we don’t have to be fearful of the unknowns because when we keep our eyes on God, He will guide us through them – with 20/20 vision.

Regardless of what the unknowns are in 2020, if we make the decision today to say, “I will trust God in every situation that I face” then when the unknown trials of life come our way, we are already on the right side of victory because, we have already made the decision to trust God in every situation. It’s when we get our eyes off of God and on our problems that we get dismayed, frightened, worried and anxious and we lose our focus. One’s problems or the news around us can seem daunting, but let us make the commitment to keep choosing to turn our vision back to God. When we do, we will be reminded that God is in control of each and every day – because God always has 20/20 vision.”

As I said above, “I had no idea that come March of 2020, COVID-19 would cloud our vision” the way it has. Our vision to love our family members. Our vision to love those who used to be our closest friends. Our vision to love our neighbors. Our vision to love our co-workers. Our vision to love those we don’t agree with politically. Our vision to love our fellow brothers and sisters in the Lord Jesus Christ. And our vision to “show the love of Christ, in us, to a lost and dying world by our actions and our words.”

COVID-19, 2020, really let us know that we all needed to buy some better glasses. If only we would have had better glasses that would have given us clearer vision on how to react to each other. We could have loved our family members, our close friends, our neighbors, our co-workers, our political rival’s, our fellow brothers and sisters in the Lord, and lost people so much better. If only we could have seen through the cloud.

At least that is what we like to tell ourselves. If only I knew COVID-19 was going to happen before it happened, I could have loved others so much better, like Christ loves me! But that statement isn't really true it is. The truth is none of us know what tomorrow, or next week, or next month, or next year is going to bring. So, really COVID-19 didn't reveal that we needed better glasses. Instead, it has revealed that we needed and still need softer hearts, shaped and formed more by the love of Christ instead of hearts shaped and formed by our old way of doing things the same we have always done them.

You are probably saying "I am being very harsh on you." My answer is "yes I am, but I am being even harsher on myself." I wish I could say I have loved others through this COVID-19 time with flying colors. But I cannot.

So, is there any good news, pastor Doug, that you can share with us?

YES, THERE IS!

The good news is that the Lord Jesus Christ is allowing us to see our real selves SO THAT we can humble ourselves, repent of our selfish ways, and truly become more like Christ; truly become disciples of Jesus Christ. The fruit, that will come from humbling ourselves before the Lord, is that He will truly show us and teach us how to love our family members, our close friends, our neighbors, our co-workers, our political rival's, our fellow brothers and sisters in the Lord, and lost people as He loves us. When we begin to love others the way Christ loves us, we will begin to see the Lord change our lives and other peoples lives in amazing ways we could have never imagined, for their good and for God's glory.

Lord Jesus, give us your 20/20 vision for 2021.

Lord Jesus, help us to truly follow Your greatest commandment.

²⁷ **Jesus said, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind"; and, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'"**

Luke 10:27 NIV

Your fellow servant in the Lord.

Pastor Doug Carroll



Upcoming Events At A Glance-Mark Your Calendars:

Feb 7 8:30 am Communion/Seth Carroll Preaching
 Feb 14 8:30 am "Ash Sunday" Service (in place of Wednesday)
 Feb 14 6-8 pm Youth Group Meeting
 Feb 18 6:30 pm One Board Meeting



March Newsletter items are due on February 22nd



Office Hours: Rhonda will be working from home for the church all day on Thursdays. She will be in the office on occasion, but will not have regular office hours. If you need anything, please don't hesitate to call, text or email her. You can email her at pearlcityumc@gmail.com or call her cell at 815-275-5959 (leaving a voicemail is fine). She also checks the messages left on the church answering machine daily. She will be working at her other job from 8:00 am-1:00 pm on M, T, W & F.



Submitting a Prayer Request: Please email prayer requests/joys to pearlcityumc@gmail.com and we will add them to our bulletin and they'll be included in our worship service. These can be a prayer or even a joy! You can also leave a message on the Pearl City UMC answering machine at 815-443-2177. **We also have a sheet on the table in the Narthex that you can add your joys/concerns to before the service begins.**

Offerings: Please remember that if you are financially able, you can continue to mail your offerings to the church: Pearl City UMC, PO Box 236, Pearl City, IL 61062.



***One Board Meeting is scheduled for February 18th at 6:30 pm**



Lenten Lunches have been cancelled for this year due to COVID.

Those Who Serve

***Greeters and Readers will continue to remain as we have been currently doing due to COVID.**

	<u>Greeters/Door</u>	<u>Liturgist</u>	<u>Sunday School</u>
Feb 7	Jason Barklow	-	TBA
Feb 14	Jason Barklow	-	TBA
Feb 21	Jason Barklow	-	TBA
Feb 28	Jason Barklow	-	TBA

Communion Setup

Feb 7 (pre-packaged)

Pianist/Organist

Ann Pals

	<u>Greeters/Door</u>	<u>Liturgist</u>	<u>Sunday School</u>
Mar 7	Jason Barklow	-	TBA
Mar 14	Jason Barklow	-	TBA
Mar 21	Jason Barklow	-	TBA
Mar 28	Jason Barklow	-	TBA

Communion Setup

Mar 7 (pre-packaged)

Pianist/Organist

Ann Pals

If there is a conflict with your schedule, please find someone to trade with you, then contact Rhonda at the office with the change at 443-2177, email her at pearlcityumc@gmail.com or text her at 815-275-5959.

Worship SCHEDULE

We are back in person to worship! We will continue to stream the worship service via Facebook live at 8:30 am on Sundays and this service will also be posted on our website by Monday evening.

February 7th-8:30 am-Communion/Seth Carroll preaching
February 14th-8:30 am– Ash Sunday Service (in place of Wednesday)
February 21st-8:30 am
February 28th-8:30 am



Website: Stay up to date on events and other information by visiting www.pearlcityumc.org You can see our on line services, upcoming events, announcements, daily messages, view our church calendar/schedule, worship schedule, youth information, food pantry information and also view the newsletter.



Facebook: Visit our Facebook page at:

facebook.com/pcumcil

You can find our on-line services there, daily messages and many other updates/announcements.



The youth group will meet on the second Sunday evening of the month from from 6-8 pm for all 7th-9th grade youth. If you have any questions, please contact Devin Martens, pastor Doug Carroll, or Kathy Sleezer.



February Celebrations



Birthdays

Feb 1 Judy Barklow
Feb 4 Trudy Peterson
Feb 4 Lori Heck
Feb 5 Kevin Kohl
Feb 6 Howie Kluck
Feb 10 Aaron Eaton
Feb 10 Connie Drane
Feb 12 Larry Roach
Feb 14 Verda Werkheiser
Feb 15 Linda Johnson
Feb 16 Karen Aurand
Feb 17 Sue Kohl

Feb 19 Terry Phillips
Feb 22 Cade Voss



Anniversary's

Feb 8 M/M Luke Sheffey
Feb 12 M/M Marvin Edler
Feb 20 M/M Jon Peterson

****If any birthdays or anniversaries have been missed or are incorrect, please let Rhonda know so she can update our records. Thank you!***



Pearl City United Methodist Church One Board Meeting Jan 21, 2021

Present: Calvin, Jason, Janis, Dennis, Sarah, Greg, Jennifer, Janine, Phyllis, Lucy, Katie, Cindy, Ann, Jolene, and Pastor Doug.

Calvin called the meeting to order at 6:32 pm.

Checking account balance at the end of Dec was \$2,764.72.

Motion was made by Dennis to approve the consent calendar, Janis seconded, motion passed.

Trustee items:

Darin fixed the squeaky floorboard by the pulpit and we had the huge icicle removed that was forming by the basement door.

McConnell is going to pay for a new microwave and stove for the parsonage.

Discussion was started about worship times, there was talk about McConnell possibly switching to 8:00 and we would start at 9:30 so all three churches can have an hour worship. We are still in the process and will keep everyone informed. For now Sunday worship will stay at 8:30 for 45 mins.

Lenten lunches have been cancelled for this year.

Jason made a motion to adjourn, Katie seconded, meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.

Jennifer Barklow

Secretary

