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Pastor: Doug Carroll
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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Praising Christ Every Sunday at 8:30 am

MARCH 2021



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



facebook.com/pcumcil

www.pearlcityumc.org

From the Pastor

Jesus said, “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me.” Luke 9:23 NIV

Below is a daily devotion resource I read from Seedbed.com. The devotion challenged me in a good way and I want to share it with all of you.

J.D. Walt Seedbed.

Following Jesus: Rise and Shine! February 10, 2021

Mark 1:35-37 (NIV)

Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed. Simon and his companions went to look for him, and when they found him, they exclaimed: “Everyone is looking for you!”

CONSIDER THIS

Most of my days begin with me thinking, “Everyone is looking for me!” From my four children and their complex lives to my email to text messages to Facebook messenger to my leftover list from yesterday and the day before that. I wake up thinking, “Everyone needs something from me.”

Do you know the only person really looking for me every morning?

Jesus.

Jesus woke up every morning knowing only one person was looking for him—his Father. He knew everyone and their mother-in-law was after him too, but he knew he must get to the meeting with Father first and foremost.

If I’m honest, and you know I try to keep it real out here on the Daily Text, more days than not I let myself get pulled into the swirl of the many things, which the Bible translates as, “Everyone is looking for you!”

Why do I do this? I’ve been asking myself, and even better, inquiring of the Lord.

Here’s what I think he’s showing me. I’ll put my understanding in first person—him to me.

“John David, you still think this morning meeting with me is a spiritual practice. It’s not practice. This is the game. This is not like practicing meditation or yoga or even the way you tend to think about ‘spiritual disciplines’ or even having a ‘quiet time.’ This is a meeting with me. I am discipling you. We sit together in silence. I bring my Word into your mind and you contemplate it in your heart, storing it up like treasure so it will be available in the field as needed—bread for the eating, seed for the sowing.

I breathe my Spirit into the lungs of your spirit day by day expanding your capacity for me to indwell you all the time. I put thoughts in your mind and impressions in your spirit. In this meeting, John David, you behold me and I bless you. You pour out yourself and all your insecurities, and I fill you with my life, and all my provisions. When you miss this meeting, it’s not like you skipped practice. You missed the game.

If there’s one thing you need to understand, it is that you just can’t miss meetings with me. There is just too much at stake for you and for all the people who are looking for me to show up through you in their lives every day. Our meeting every day—it’s not practice. It’s the game.”

Very early in the morning,

I'm not sure there is any other way, really. Doesn't matter if you are a so-called "rooster" or "owl." The meeting is very early in the morning. And in case there was any confusion, we get this added bit:

while it was still dark,

Why do we need to know these little details? Because we are following Jesus. If he gets up before dark, we get up before dark. It will probably mean going to bed earlier. To be clear, I am not a morning person. I do have an early meeting every day with Jesus—when I don't give in to everyone else.

Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place,

Why are we given such specificity here? Somehow, I think it matters. Jesus didn't go to his cozy overstuffed Jesus chair. He went outside. Why? I don't know. I'm wrestling with it still.

Am I taking this too literally? Maybe so. Maybe not. I want to take it seriously. I want to err on the side of literally following Jesus.

I'm definitely more of an inside person and not so much of a solitary place person. Truth be told, I could probably use a bit of a pattern interruption. It will be cold but I'll let you know how it goes.

THE PRAYER

Almighty God—Father, Son and Holy Spirit—my Lord Jesus Christ, I am not a morning person, not an outside person, not a solitary place person, and yet I want to be a Jesus person. What if I started there and just followed you for the rest of the way? I would love to meet with you every single morning very early, even before dark, outside if necessary, and even in a solitary place. Sort this out for me. I don't want to miss the meeting. Thank you for wanting to meet with me. That is incredible, Jesus. I pray in your name, Amen.

THE QUESTION

What are you making of this? Are you challenged? Perturbed? I can take it.

For the Awakening,

J.D. Walt

Sower-in-Chief

seedbed.com

Daily following Jesus with you, your fellow servant in the Lord.

Pastor Doug Carroll



Upcoming Events At A Glance-Mark Your Calendars:

Mar 7	8:30 am	Communion/Sunday School Begins
Mar 14	6-8 pm	Youth Group Meeting
Mar 18	6:30 pm	One Board Meeting
Mar 28	8:30 am	Palm Sunday



April Newsletter items are due on March 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 March 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>
Mar 7	Jason Barklow	-	Melissa V.
Mar 14	Jason Barklow	-	Melissa V.
Mar 21	Jason Barklow	-	Melissa V.
Mar 28	Jason Barklow	-	Melissa V.

<u>Communion Setup</u>	<u>Pianist/Organist</u>
Mar 7 (pre-packaged)	Ann Pals

	<u>Greeters/Door</u>	<u>Liturgist</u>	<u>Sunday School</u>
Apr 4	Jason Barklow	-	Melissa V.
Apr 11	Jason Barklow	-	Melissa V.
Apr 18	Jason Barklow	-	Melissa V.
Apr 25	Jason Barklow	-	Melissa V.

<u>Communion Setup</u>	<u>Pianist/Organist</u>
Apr 4 (pre-packaged)	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

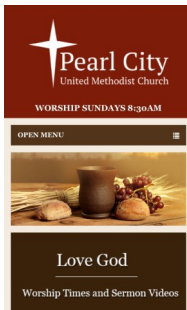
We are back in person to worship! We will continue to stream the worship service via Facebook live at 8:30 am on Sundays and this service will also be posted on our website by Monday evening.

March 7th-8:30 am-Communion/Sunday School Begins "God's Will For You"

March 14th-8:30 am "Christ Over All"

March 21st-8:30 am "Christ Working on Our Behalf"

March 28th-8:30 am-Palm Sunday "Mysterious Labor"



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 6-8 pm for all 7th-9th grade youth. If you have any questions, please contact Devin Martens, pastor Doug Carroll, or Kathy Sleezer.



March Celebrations



Birthdays

Mar 1	Kris Liebenstein
Mar 6	Joyce Murray
Mar 7	Maxton Freier
Mar 8	John Werkheiser
Mar 11	Matt Freier
Mar 20	Greg Frank
Mar 25	Kassidy Linnemann
Mar 27	Dustin Martens
Mar 27	Sandy Martens
Mar 30	Briella Voegeli



Anniversary's

None

****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 February 18th, 2021

Present: Calvin, Jason, Jennifer, Jolene, Katie, Greg, Phyllis, Pastor Doug, Janis, Dennis, Rhonda, Janine, Cindy

Calvin called the meeting to order at 6:32 pm

Checking account balance at the end of January, 2021 was \$3,373.74

Motion was made by Greg to approve the consent calendar, and Katie seconded, motion passed.

Trustee items:

1. Dollar General Updates

Dan from Dollar General said they are offering \$5,000 more than previously accepted, for a total of \$20,000 for parcel of land.

Conference previously approved to remove the restriction from the parcel of land sold

Paperwork was signed Feb 9th by Jason and it will be a few weeks more for the title company to complete the paperwork

Greg shared that there is a drain that construction needs to be made aware of. The drain is dumping into the Dollar General purchased property and will need to hook on to it

2. Boiler Issues in the Church building

With the severely cold weather the past few weeks, the temperature in the building was noticed to be dropping into the 50s. Jason and Rusty are checking on the building temp a couple of times per day and watching the building integrity

Loescher was contacted and did come to assess the boiler. No quote for repairs was given at this time. No work needs to be done immediately, as the temperature in the building seems to be keeping steady at this time

3. New oven and remodel work at parsonage is moving forward. The McConnell parish is paying for the expense

Pastor Doug shared that the wall heater downstairs in the parsonage is having electrical issues and is a possible hazard to use. Joe came and took the heater apart and will look into repairing

Old Business:

1. Worship times

No changes at this time

McConnell is still reviewing options with their congregation

New Business:

1. Establishing Process to Canceling Sunday morning worship if/when necessary

Pastor Doug made the decision 3 consecutive weeks in a row to cancel worship service due to extreme weather

Pastor Doug requested assistance in creating a Pearl City UMC process to make the decision to cancel services when necessary. Pastor shared that each of the three churches must make their own policy

Members present at the meeting stated that they would like to take Pastor Doug's safety into consideration as he has a distance to drive each Sunday morning. Pastor Doug shared that our most vulnerable members (seniors, those with small children) must be kept safe; knowing that our seniors may be our most apt to venture out in any weather to make it to the service.

Options considered: Windchill temperate; Road conditions

Decision was made to establish a committee that would make the decision to cancel by Saturday evening.

Members of the committee are as follows: Calvin, Greg, Jennifer, Phyllis, Pastor Doug

Members of the committee will call one another on Saturday when extreme weather is predicted. When the decision to cancel is made, Rhonda will be notified and a notice will be sent via email to the congregation as well as post on the church Facebook page



One Board (Continued)

Walk-in Items:

1. Greg asked about the ice that is accumulation on the roof of the church building over the door to the entrance that is used for the Food Pantry. Jason shared that he is keeping an eye on it and has a large stick that he can use to knock the ice down with. Jason stated that he will be watchful in the next few weeks with the expected raise in temperature

2. Rhonda shared that she needs all financial reports ASAP.

3. Pastor Doug shared that Rhonda is in need of a new laptop. There are 2 laptop computers that are used regularly, and both are at least 7 yrs old. Pastor Doug recommended purchasing at least one new laptop for Rhonda to be able to keep up with her duties.

Jason made a motion to approve a sum of \$850 to be made available for Rhonda to purchase a laptop of her own decision. Rhonda shared that she has recently researched many laptop options and she will be able to make a sensible and economical choice. Motion was seconded by Cindy and motion passed.

Jason made a motion to adjourn, Janis seconded, and meeting was adjourned at 7:26 pm

Jolene Martens

Secretary



Maundy Thursday, April 1st-6:30 pm PC UMC

Good Friday, April 2nd-6:30 pm PC UMC

Easter-April 4-TBA