

Pastor Drollinger's
Daily Devotionals for April 15-23, 2020

April 15, 2020 – Day 30

Greetings to Friends and Family of Hallie and Zion UMC,

Today, my words for this devotion are simply to pray. Be diligent and faithful in doing all the “safe” practices in fighting the COVID-19 virus . . . and pray. Scripture invites us to pray for one another in our needs. I received prayer requests for Pastor Eric Nelson, Ruth Rosenow, and Kevin Rivera. We pray for family and friends who need a special touch of healing and improved health. Let us lift in prayer our leaders, and the difficult decisions that need to be made. Let us lift in prayer President Trump, Governor Evers, Mayor Hoffman, and other elected officials.

Lord, we pray for those who are actively assisting those affected by the virus and other illnesses that cause hurt and despair. We pray for our nurses, EMT's, doctors, technicians, and all who are connected with medical jobs and responsibilities. We pray for caring hearts, minds, and a strength to move us through the COVID-19 pandemic. For your abiding presence, we give thanks. For your gifts and blessings, we give thanks. For our healing and love, we offer prayers of thanksgiving.

Keep shining bright,
Pastor Don

email: zionumcpastor@gmail.com

cell phone: 920-207-2341



April 16, 2020 – Day 31

Greetings to Friends and Family of Hallie and Zion UMC,

As of this Thursday, April 16, many churches in our community have been closed for 31 days. In addition to that grim fact, it may be a few more weeks before they are open again for activities and worship gatherings. During this time, the “Body of Christ,” the church, has been vital and very much open for business and ministry.

Let me thank all those who are assisting, helping, contributing, volunteering, sharing, and checking on the needs of others.

The COVID-19 virus is powerful but, the “people of God,” working together, are so much greater. Let me encourage Chippewa County to continue to do all you can to stay safe and continue sharing in abundant and generous ways.

Jesus told his followers to be light and salt. As salt brings flavor and zest to food, we are to bring joy and hope to people. As light always overcomes darkness, we are to bring light and love to a sometimes dark and hurting world.

As the song says . . . “This Little Light of Mine, I’m Gonna Let it Shine!”

Link: <https://youtu.be/yRhDi2aK5ac>



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email: zionumcpastor@gmail.com

cell phone: 920-207-2341

April 17, 2020 – Day 32

Greetings to Friends and Family of Hallie and Zion UMC,

On this Friday, April 17, our devotion for today is to offer Thanksgiving for our many different families. When families are more in harmony and less in discord, the world can be such a beautiful place. With this COVID-19 virus wreaking havoc in our country and throughout our world, more than ever, we need families to be working in positive and healthy ways.

So our prayer is that:

1. Moms and Dads grow in patience.
2. Coworkers practice forgiveness.
3. Employers remain optimistic.
4. Neighbors watch out for each other.
5. Badger fans keep jumping around.
6. Christians, Muslims, Hindus, Jews, yes, “red and yellow, black and white,” support and pray for one another. Today, we need families to be strong and healthy, and working together.

“Love is patient, Love is kind, it is not envious or boastful, or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way, it is not irritable or resentful.” 1 Corinthians: 13

Be sure to watch the video that shares pictures from our Hallie family. Tomorrow, we will show a video from our Zion family. Also, praise the Lord, Pastor Eric Nelson is healing from the COVID-19 virus. Keep praying!

“Let’s Make Someone Happy” Link: <https://youtu.be/zTvmR9aFS0A>

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email: zionumcpastor@gmail.com

cell phone: 920-207-2341

April 18, 2020 – Day 33

Greetings to Friends and Family of Hallie and Zion UMC,

Today, we continue our theme of the importance of Family. Family is a powerful and critical part of humanity. Sometimes it is unique, small, and intimate, and exactly what we need.

Sometimes it is diverse, large, and even holds places of disagreement. And, yet, when this large family works and plays together, it can be beautiful and wonderful.

To all of us living, working and playing in Chippewa County, keep following the good guidelines established to fight and prevent COVID-19. Keep offering places to help and keep offering hope to neighbor, stranger, and friend. Together, we will move forward and overcome. TOGETHER!!

1 How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity!

2 It is like precious oil poured on the head, running down on the beard, running down on Aaron's beard, down on the collar of his robe. 3 It is as if the dew of Hermon were falling on Mount Zion.

For there the Lord bestows his blessing, even life forevermore. Psalm 133

Be sure to watch the “Make Someone Happy” video of our Zion UMC church family.

Link: <https://youtu.be/YXO9pC-Advo>

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cell phone: 920-207-2341

April 19, 2020 – Day 34

Happy Sunday to All,

If you have a Bible handy, go to the Gospel of John 20:10-23. In this lesson from the Scriptures, we are reminded that God not only sent His son to forgive and save the world, He sent His son into the world to forgive our sins and bring joy to our personal lives as well.

Below is a link designated to see today's video presentation of devotion and time of praise.

Sermon Link: <https://youtu.be/z35TeJmSk9A>

Also, check out a second video link to the song “Have You The Eyes to See Jesus?” composed by Dan Lea and recorded by Acoustic Grace in 2012. Link: <https://youtu.be/3tpulevM28A>

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cell phone: 920-207-2341

April 20, 2020 – Day 35

Greetings to Friends and Family of Hallie and Zion UMC,

Hope you all had a good Sunday, yesterday. It was a beautiful day with the sun shining brightly. Today's devotion comes to us from our Bishop Jung and his reflection for April 19, 2020:

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' (John 20:26)

"A full week has passed since the resurrection. John tells a wonderful story of the disciples gathered together, when Jesus appears among them. Theologians and historians have asked the question, "What were they doing there?" and the church has provided an answer: they were celebrating! In our Christian tradition, the Sunday following Easter was known as Divine Mercy Sunday, and it qualified as one of the many feast days known as "solemnities." Solemnities were celebratory meals honoring the many mysteries of Christian belief – the Holy Trinity, the virgin birth, miracles of Jesus and of the saints, and the greatest mystery of all – resurrection. I want to invite all of us to make this a day of celebration, feasting, and joy. In the midst of bizarre and worrisome days, allow the great joy of God to prevail.

God of joy and singing and dancing and feasting, hear our prayer! Turn our eyes and our minds from the stories of sorrow and anxiety and loss to the promises of your gospel and the hope of your Son. We have given much time to fear; receive now our faith. Hear our praises, hear our adoration, hear our thanksgiving, hear our joy. We pray all this in the glory of the Risen Christ. Amen."

In the midst of whatever is going on in your life, I hope you are also giving thanks and finding joy. Christ is Risen, Indeed! Please keep Elmer Sharp and family in prayer. His sister in law, Nona died this past week. Please keep Betty Zimmerman and family in prayers also as her brother, Tom died this past week.

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April 21, 2020 – Day 36

Greetings to Friends and Family of Hallie and Zion UMC,

46 Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts. Acts 2:46

In the early Church, the people spent time together, had fellowship with food, experienced joy in their lives, praised God, and helped with the needs of others. And, in so many real ways continues to this very day.

Today, I want to express great thanksgiving for the many friends and families that are keeping the mission and the ministry of our churches vital and strong.

Following are some of the many ways the church is being the church:

- Five (5) women are making masks for the protection of COVID-19
- Blood donations to Red Cross
- One lady checks on ten (10) individual families weekly
- Another individual checks on five (5) families and another individual checks on six (6)
- Drive by waves visits to friends are being done regularly
- Giving of offerings to our local church ministries has been wonderful
- Daily Devotionals sent by Email and Facebook
- Devotional packets are being sent to shut ins and non-internet families weekly
- Financial support of youth ministry and Chippewa County Mentor Program
- Support of 'Feed My People' food programs
- Prayers
- Keeping a safe distance in line at the grocery store or the post office
- Cards
- Texting
- Facebook
- Phone Calls
- Smiles and Waves
- Facetime (face-to-face seeing loved ones)
- Donations to Loopy's and other small businesses
- Helping with chores for neighbors
- Four (4) ladies making calls to friends they know are lonely without the weekly contact of church friends
- Buying goods from local businesses to share with others while supporting the community

Keep being the church of Jesus Christ and we will get through this together!

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April 22, 2020 – Day 37

Greetings to Friends and Family of Hallie and Zion UMC,

Throughout much of the world and by a significant amount of people, today is Earth Day. To those who believe in God, and certainly we who are followers of Jesus the Christ, every day is Earth Day. Perhaps at this time, in the life of creation and in the midst of COVID-19, we should get outside and consider the majesty of God's creation, look out the window, open the door, take a walk, open your eyes and consider the beauty and power of God's Spring and symbols of the resurrection.

Today, take time to enjoy and give thanks for this land we live in, and for all of God's creation. Be sure to link to the song by our Acoustic Grace praise team as they sing, "The Earth is the Lord's."

1 Praise the Lord. Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise him in the heights above. 2 Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his heavenly hosts. 3 Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you shining stars. 4 Praise him, you highest heavens and you waters above the skies. 9 you mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars, 10 wild animals and all cattle, small creatures and flying birds, 13 Let them praise the name of the Lord, for his name alone is exalted; his splendor is above the earth and the heavens.

Psalm 148:1-4, 9-10, 13

"The Earth is the Lord's," composed by Dan Lea and sung by Acoustic Grace.

Link: <https://youtu.be/wiFwgJLiT0>

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cell phone: 920-207-2341



April 23, 2020 – Day 38

Greetings to Friends and Family of Hallie and Zion UMC,

This virus and these times we are going through have such an effect on our attitudes and our spirits. Which of the two personalities, below, would better describe your attitude today?

PERSONALITY #1

I am so tired of this COVID-19 crap. Why should I be happy my church just cancelled Easter service? I hate being considered a “nonessential” employee. My boss said I was furloughed, and I don’t even know what furlough means. This is not fair, my senior year in High School and there is no graduation party!

OR

PERSONALITY #2

“We must always look for the silver lining. Before we see the rainbow, the rain must fall. This too shall pass. Everybody has a laughing place, so turn your frown ☹ upside down ☺”

Well, whichever best describes you this day? Please be comforted in knowing God has a deep and abiding care and concern for us all. Stay Strong and Stay Safe!

9 “As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. 10 If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commands and remain in his love. 11 I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. 12 My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. John 15:9-12

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