

Pastor Drollinger's
Devotionals for August 10-August 23, 2020
Devotionals will be available on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays.
On-Line Worship will continue on Sunday mornings.

August 10, 2020 – Day 147

Today, I share the recent words of our District Superintendent, Barbara Certa-Werner.

Reflections by Barbara Certa-Werner

“That according to the riches of Jesus’ glory God may grant you to be strengthened with power through the Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.” Ephesians 3: 16-19

Something was bugging me, and no it was not an annoying mosquito! At first, I was not sure why I kept looking at my schedule, noting that I needed to meet with a congregation, and I would be traveling. Was the traveling making me uneasy?

No, it was something else. After, some prayer, a name came to mind: Cadott. Then it struck me, I needed to call the supply pastor and check in. When I called, and before I knew it, I had made an appointment with him. I arranged for us meet the next day.

As I traveled, I prayed for the congregation, their leadership and community. Driving into Cadott, I realized that something major had happened. A tornado had struck the night before, and folks were cleaning up the mess. There were trees down, roofs torn off, homes and cars damaged, and electrical lines torn down.

I drove up to the church, surprised that it was untouched by the tornado. I met with the pastor and his wife in the dimly lit fellowship hall, conversing about the tornado, God, and ministry, all while we held the community in our hearts and prayers. As we prayed – in that place at that time – the Spirit was surrounding us.

This was the “why” I had the nudge – to allow me to be a supportive and loving presence to the Cadott United Methodist Church and community. My firsthand witness also allowed me to share what I saw with others and promote engagement and action.

?God was nudging me, prodding me, prompting me into action. I have not always been attuned to these promptings nor have I always followed through on them. But when I do, I feel empowered and my soul rejoices with obedience to Christ.

My invitation to you is to be open to the whisper in your heart and soul; listen for the breeze of encouragement; follow

the path with courage and hope. My prayer is that the Holy Spirit move mightily in our lives so that we may connect and grow in faith and compassion. Amen.”

Keep shining bright,

Pastor Don

email: zionumcpastor@gmail.com

cell phone: 920-207-2341

August 12, 2020 – Day 149

Greetings to Friends and Family of Hallie and Zion UMC,

In the 143rd Psalm, the writer is in some kind of trouble and he calls to God. He seeks answers and direction for his life. Yes, he seeks answers, but what he really seeks is God’s mercy.

“1 Hear my prayer, O Lord; give ear to my supplications in your faithfulness; answer me in your righteousness. 2 Do not enter into judgment with your servant, for no one living is righteous before you. 3 For the enemy has pursued me, crushing my life to the ground, making me sit in darkness like those long dead. 4 Therefore my spirit faints within me; my heart within me is appalled. 5 I remember the days of old, I think about all your deeds, I meditate on the works of your hands. 6 I stretch out my hands to you; my soul thirsts for you like a parched land 7 Answer me quickly, O Lord; my spirit fails. Do not hide your face from me, or I shall be like those who go down to the pit. 8 Let me hear of your steadfast love in the morning, for in you I put my trust. Teach me the way I should go, for to you I lift up my soul.”

As we continue in this COVID-19 journey of life, we will be questioning many things. We want answers and we want them now. Life has taught us that is not going to happen. However, life and the Bible have taught us that God’s abiding presence and love will always be with us. Let us join with the Psalmist and claim the hope found in verse 8:

“Let me hear of your steadfast love in the morning, for in you I put my trust. Teach me the way I should go, for to you I lift up my soul.”

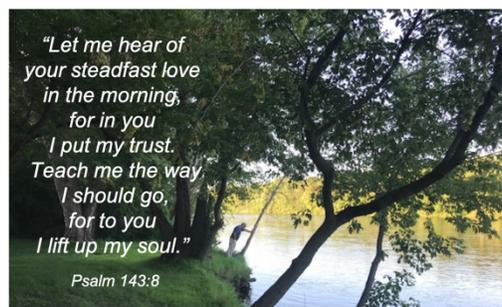
Keep trusting...

Keep shining bright,

Pastor Don

email: zionumcpastor@gmail.com

cell phone: 920-207-2341



August 14, 2020 – Day 151

Greetings to Friends and Family of Hallie and Zion UMC,

Paul wrote the following words to the new churches in Corinth:

4 I always thank my God for you because of his grace given you in Christ Jesus. 5 For in him you have been enriched in every way—with all kinds of speech and with all knowledge— 6 God thus confirming our testimony about Christ among you. 7 Therefore you do not lack any spiritual gift as you eagerly wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed. 8 He will also keep you firm to the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 God is faithful, who has called you into fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. 1 Corinthians 1:4-9

Today, during COVID-19, we are also experiencing many new things and dynamics in our lives. Some of those new things we find hope-filled and good. Some of those new things we really do not like at all. Paul reminds us, by his words, to find places in our lives where we can offer thanksgiving. As we eagerly wait for answers and clarity in our present situations, the promise is that God will provide us strength. Lean on God's faithfulness to help those areas of our lives where we are weak. Stay in fellowship with God; keep a spirit of thankfulness. Keep waiting and keep expecting. Together, we are going to get through this season of challenge as we deal with the Corona virus.

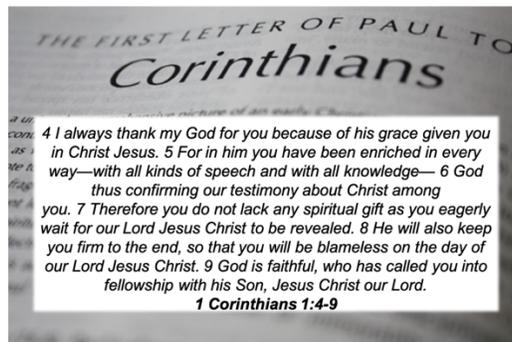
Please keep Betty Zimmerman in your prayers for healing. She is recovering from a heart procedure.

Keep shining bright,

Pastor Don

email: zionumcpastor@gmail.com

cell phone: 920-207-2341



August 16, 2020 – Day 153

Greetings to Friends and Family of Hallie and Zion UMC,

“This is the Day that the Lord Has Made, Let Us Rejoice and Be Glad in It!”

1. We are presently offering worship services in our buildings on Sunday mornings. Hallie UMC service at 9:00 a.m., and Zion UMC service at 1030 a.m. MASKS ARE REQUIRED (mandated) and physical distancing is practiced (6 feet or more). We will also continue to offer a worship service online and Facebook.

2. Thank you for faithfully supporting our mission and purpose with your offerings and gifts. If worshipping online, be sure to send your offerings to our Hallie and Zion Church addresses. We are grateful and dependent upon your gifts and prayers.
3. August mission projects are: a) Local Food Pantries b) School Supplies



Our Gospel reading and message for today is based on Luke 15:1-7. Jesus tells the parable of the lost sheep and teaches his followers to be inclusive, forgiving and sacrificial. Enjoy the message today and the music by Acoustic Grace. Worship Link: <https://youtu.be/yx7MvYdjV5Y>

Keep shining bright,
Pastor Don

email: zionumcpastor@gmail.com
cell phone: 920-207-2341

August 17, 2020 – Day 154

Greetings to Friends and Family of Hallie and Zion UMC,

Today, I share a devotional from our District Superintendent, Barbara Certa-Werner:

Our dog, Ezekiel, loves to spin around before flopping next to me in bed. Sometimes this shoves me over, but most of the time my blanket is yanked off me and lands under him! I am cramped and cold. Then, to top it off, he places his head on my legs and promptly falls asleep. Now, I can't move!

Some may wonder why I would put up with this. And the answer is simple: I adore this dog. I am happy that he wants to be with me and that he is part of my "pack." I put up with these inconveniences because I am happier with Ezekiel than without. I happily extend a generous amount of grace.

It's one thing to have grace for a dog, but how are we with giving grace to ourselves and others - especially when we are frustrated by our own stupid decisions or annoyed by someone else's actions? We are called to be living examples of God's grace. God's grace is freely given to us simply because we exist (i.e. prevenient grace). Think about that for a minute: we are loved - unconditionally and fully - for simply being part of God's "very good" creation. Each one of us!

So, accept this gift (i.e. justifying grace) by remind yourself often that you ARE loved, and then - and here's the hard part - share that love with the world (i.e. sanctifying grace). As followers of Jesus and the Wesleyan tradition, we have an opportunity every day to be extenders of God's grace and love.

- We can choose to be listening for combat or understanding
- We can choose to be speakers of despair or hope
- We can choose to be examples of battle or peace
- We can choose.

My prayer is offered through the hymn, "The Gift of Love" number 408 in the United Methodist Hymnal, which is based on Paul's writing in 1 Corinthians 13 of the Bible:

Though I may speak with bravest fire, and the gift to all inspire, and have not love, my words are vain, as sounding brass, and hopeless gain.

Though I may give, all I possess, and striving so my love profess, but not be given by love within, the profit soon turns strangely thin.

Come Spirit, come, our hearts control, our hearts long to be made whole. Let inward love guide every deed; by this we worship and are freed. Amen.

Keep shining bright,

Pastor Don

email: zionumcpastor@gmail.com

cell phone: 920-207-2341



August 19, 2020 – Day 156

Greetings to Friends and Family of Hallie and Zion UMC,

I serve two wonderful small churches here in the Chippewa Valley. During this season of COVID-19 that we have been dealing with over the past 5 months, I am so grateful for my church family. Time and time again, I have been encouraged or found healing, shared in laughter, and have been strengthened in my faith.

Our Hallie UMC mission statement is:

“Joyfully Sharing the Good News of Jesus”

Our Zion UMC mission statement is:

“To Share the Joy of God’s Love”

My hope and prayer for you is that you experience the healing joy of knowing God’s love in your life. May the Good News of forgiveness bring you a renewed sense of hope and joy.

Psalms 28:7 reads:

The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in him, and he helps me. My heart leaps for joy, and with my song I praise him.

Keep shining bright,

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cell phone: 920-207-2341



Mission Statement:
"Joyfully Sharing
the Good News of
Jesus"



Mission Statement:
"To Share the Joy
of God's Love"

August 21, 2020 – Day 158

Greetings to Friends and Family of Hallie and Zion UMC,

Oh, my, the summer is slipping away too fast. I hope you are taking time and making the opportunities to enjoy the crazy summer of 2020. In the midst of uncertainty regarding school openings and trying hard to follow good safety guidelines, be sure to find time to embrace the beauty of summer. We who live in Wisconsin are blessed to experience the four seasons of the year. The second verse of the great song, "Great is Thy Faithfulness," reminds us that in all the seasons of the year . . . God is faithful. Take comfort in that fact and find some time to enjoy this crazy summer of 2020.

"Summer and winter and springtime and harvest, sun, moon, and stars in their courses above join with all nature in manifold witness to thy great faithfulness, mercy and love."



"Summer and winter
and springtime and harvest"

"Great is thy faithfulness,
Lord, unto me!"

**"Great is Thy faithfulness!
Great is Thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed thy hand hath provided;
great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!"**

Keep shining bright,

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email: zionumcpastor@gmail.com

cell phone: 920-207-2341

August 23, 2020 – Day 160

Good Sunday Morning ,

Welcome to this time of worship.

Today, we continue our preaching series from the Gospel of Luke chapter 15.

Jesus is teaching 3 parables and this one titled “The Lost and Found Coin.” Some things in our lives are so very important that we should work hard to find them if they get lost.

The Lost and Found Coin from Luke 15:8-10

Do not lose your:

- 1) Children
- 2) Church
- 3) Friends

Following the scripture and message be sure to enjoy the music video by Acoustic Grace, “Spread the Word.”

This is a new recording and music video for the song, “Spread the Word,” composed by Zion UMC worship leader Dan Lea. It is a reminder that we’re not supposed to keep the good word about God’s love to ourselves, but rather to share it all around the world.

Mark 16:15: He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation.”

“Spread the Word” is performed by Acoustic Grace musicians Colin Orth, trumpet; Jacey Lea, vocals; Ed Ebert, vocals; Carol Dean, keyboards; Dan Lea, vocals and guitar; and Pam Hotle, vocals. The video features many members of the Zion and Hallie United Methodist Church family helping to spread the word!

Service Video Link: <https://youtu.be/ViD2oLhONNA>

Song Video Link: <https://youtu.be/3F3AYGBokes>

Keep shining bright,

Pastor Don

email: zionumcpastor@gmail.com

cell phone: 920-207-2341

THANK YOU NOTE to Zion UMC:

I believe the Lord had a detour planned for me this summer with my arm surgery and severe case of shingles. I’m doing much better. A big “Thank You” for all the cards, phone calls, and food delivery, and the 6-ft. distance, curbside “air-hugs.” I’ll always remember the compassion and thoughtfulness. Hopefully, I’ll see you soon. Much Love, Patti Boeve