

Pastor Drollinger's
Daily Devotionals for March 18-25, 2020

March 18, 2020 - Day 2 of the Coronavirus Shut Down

Greetings to Friends and Family of Hallie and Zion UMC,

Well, by now you have probably been informed that Sunday worship has been cancelled for March 22nd and 29th. Please feel free to call me if there is any way I can assist or be of some help.

Last Sunday, we had a special time of worship we are calling, "Story and Song Sunday." At the Zion service, I had to go through a maze 5 times before I could finally get to scripture and preaching. At the Hallie service, I actually got down on my hands, knees, and belly to get through their maze. But, in both cases, it was so well worth it. At times, life does feel like a difficult maze and it does contain moments for struggle and even fear. But, Praise the Lord, we serve a God of life and light. We are in the midst of a Covid-19 maze, and we do not know what the immediate future holds. But...God does! Stay positive, hopeful, and by all means, wash your hands!!

"You, O Lord, keep my lamp burning; my God turns my darkness into light." Psalm 18:28

Keep shining bright,

Pastor Don

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March 19, 2020 - Day 3 of the Coronavirus Shut Down

Greetings to Friends and Family of Hallie and Zion UMC,

I got up this morning and decided to walk downtown for some fresh air and a bit of exercise. It was about 8 am, and things were very quiet. Walked by the "4:30 a.m. Coffeehouse" and only one customer was at the drive-thru window. It reminded me to support our local economy the best we can. For many of us this time of Covid-19 will be a struggle....and for some people it will really be a struggle.

As I turned and started heading home from my walk, I noticed something on the ground up close to the Southside of a house. I am pretty sure it was green, and it was some kind of early spring bulb coming through the ground. As I continued my walk I saw two robins acting like they never heard of the coronavirus. They were chirping and chasing each other, and just totally enjoying the day God gave them. Hmmm, I thought. In times like these we need to trust God's promises more than ever. So let's do just that....because,

"This is the Day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it!" Psalm 118:24

Keep shining bright,

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March 20, 2020 - Day 4 of the Coronavirus Shut Down

Greetings to Friends and Family of Hallie and Zion UMC,

Just a reminder that we have canceled our Sunday worship services for the next two weeks (March 22 and March 29); we will keep you updated. Last Sunday, in church, Abbie Martell (Hallie UMC) and Jadyn Waegli (Zion UMC) created "Word Search" puzzles that were based on a parable Jesus taught his followers.

The Parable of the Prodigal Son is really about a Heavenly Father's amazing love and desire to forgive and heal us, his children. As you fill out the word search, let it remind you of Gods' amazing and healing love for you.

Hallie Word Search
Words selected by Abbie Martell, Hallie UMC

Hallie UMC Prodigal Son

S L O S T I W Q U V F A N W H	ESTATE	REJOICE
R F Z Z K A M Y B I A N O S G	SWINE	
C B Y O N J R C A L F X T S X	HUNGER	
T K B F E S R E J O I C E S S	SINNED	
K O V U G G U E R R E O N W X	CELEBRATE	
U I T W L B C M C Y Z A I S S	LOST	
H U N G E R O F M A J N G R S	FOUND	
H T V R C T M A O O E J P G S	CALF	
K O Q Q T B M T O U N L R Y T	PRODIGAL	
P O G J E E A H A S C E O Q N	SON	
V Q D I D O N E T J U Y D R A	SERVANTS	
G K S W N F D R J Q P Y I B V	SUMMONED	
E S T A T E K V N X G B G B R	FATHER	
N F O U N D C E L E B R A T E	NEGLECTED	
E X S I N N E D J G X M L G S	COMMAND	

Words selected by Abbie Martell and puzzle design created by Jadyn Waegli

The story of the Prodigal Son can be found in Luke 15:11-32

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March 21, 2020 - Day 5 of the Coronavirus Shut Down

Zion Word Search

Created by Jadya Waegli

Parable of Prodigal Son

P S K X O L F T F A S T H Z H Z L
R I N H E R I T A N C E H N S D X
O S W I J Y J F K S H E E P F V F
D Y H F T Y F P N O S Y V D O Q S
I Z T H E A V E N L Y F A T H E R
G W U A S M B G U M O J Q J A I O
A Z X T S Y B N Q O A P H T I A F
L M Y S H R V T N W D I X K X C I
S M B O J E S U S C H R I S T K P
O M C L C C B D Y J P R A Y E R Z
N X P K Y O F R O E P L B Y Y U R
M S O Q I I W E X L H I R W M Q R
D N U O F N Z H S B T L O Y L B G
Z Q I B V R I P E A S M T H P N A
J G Z H B H H E C R R D H D M Y I
A F F G H K S H D A Y X E C C J C
W H I H N R J S K P C P R T G L U

fast inheritance brother found coin shepherd sheep faith
prayer prodigal son son heavenly father jesus christ lost parable

Greetings to Friends and Family of Hallie and Zion UMC,

Yesterday as you worked on your 'word search' I invited you to consider the Parable of the Prodigal Son. And to consider this amazing and healing love our Heavenly Father has for us. Today, let me invite you to claim some joy and gladness in spite of all the Coronavirus talk. Oh...the Coronavirus is real and inflicts real pain, but "Praise the Lord, God is Greater, and God is Eternal." As you fill out the word search today let your spirit rejoice and be glad.

"But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found." Luke 15:32

Keep shining bright,
Pastor Don

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Sunday, March 22 - Day 6 of the Coronavirus Shut Down

Greetings to Friends and Family of Hallie and Zion UMC,

Well, dear friends and family, it is Sunday and we are continuing our Journey through COVID-19. In the midst of anything you are going through personally or with your families, I want to encourage you to count your blessings. As followers of Jesus we are a people of light and good news.

My dad's favorite portion of the Bible was **Isaiah 40:9-11**, and it reads:

"You who bring good tidings to Jerusalem, lift up your voice with a shout, lift it up, do not be afraid; say to the towns, "Here is your God!" See, the Lord comes with power and His arm rules for Him. He tends His flock like a shepherd; He gathers the lambs in His arms and carries them close to His heart; He gently leads those that have young."

So listening to the prophet's words, let's keep lifting up our neighbors in need, let's lift our praises to God, and let's lift our prayers together trusting the Great Shepherd.

Keep shining bright,

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March 23, 2020 - Day 7 of the Coronavirus Shut Down

Greetings Dear Friends and Family,

In some very important ways, yesterday (Sunday) was a significant time. So many throughout our communities, state, and beyond were expressing great hope and care for one another. Many parts of the "body of Christ," the church, were sharing and telling the good news and powerful hope we have in Jesus. I hope you took some time yesterday to express both your fears and your faith, because God can bring to you such strength and encouragement.

Illa, from our Hallie church, sent me a reading from a book by Holly McKissick. It tells of great thanksgiving for the church that blesses us both within the walls and outside the walls.

Together, loving God and loving our neighbor, we will get through this COVID-19. Paul wrote this to the church in 1 Thessalonians 1:3, ***"We continually remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor promoted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ."***

Keep shining bright,

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March 24, 2020 - Day 8 of the Coronavirus Shut Down

Greetings to Friends and Family of Hallie and Zion UMC,

This past Sunday, Barb, Isabelle, and I took an early evening drive to get out of the house and escape the COVID-19 doldrums. Boy, did we have a successful ride counting the wild birds and animals. We saw and counted over 90 Canadian geese, 41 white tail deer, 3 eagles (one within 25 yards), 2 Strupps' (One - Jim and One - Vicky), one rabbit, and one quail. It was awesome and it was so much fun.

In the midst of this Coronavirus shutdown, the community, our friends, neighbors and co-workers need us to be salt and light. Many in our midst will find themselves in times of sickness, in times of loneliness, and in times of despair.

Let me encourage you to find those moments of renewal and happiness. Jesus said we were to know a joy within our lives because of His great love and eternal hope. He said don't hide your joy, and don't hide your good news. Claim His promises and share His good news. Find your places of renewal, fun, joy and light. And then, share it with others, (i.e. phone, text, email and or the 6' distance).

***"You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again?
It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot."***

"You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house.

In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven." Matthew 5:13-16

Keep shining bright,

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March 25, 2020 - Day 9 of the Coronavirus Shut Down

Greetings dear friends and neighbors,

Three months ago, I had never known or heard of the name “Coronavirus” or “COVID-19.” In the last 3-4 weeks, I hear that name used many times a day. Names are important. More important still...is your name. More important still, God knows your name. More important still, God knows YOU! More important still, God knows you and loves you still and, yes, God knows your name.

If you are over 30 years of age, you probably recognize the following words of a song...

*“Making your way in the world today takes everything you've got.
Taking a break from all your worries, sure would help a lot.
Wouldn't you like to get away? Sometimes you want to go
Where everybody knows your name, and they're always glad you came.
You wanna be where you can see, our troubles are all the same
You wanna be where everybody knows Your name.
You wanna go where people know, people are all the same,
You wanna go where everybody knows your name.”*

During this season of the Coronavirus, let us be reminded that just as God knows each star in the universe and calls each by name, God loves YOU so much more - claim that truth!

*“The LORD builds up Jerusalem; he gathers the exiles of Israel.
He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.
He determines the number of the stars and calls them each by name.
Great is our Lord and mighty in power; his understanding has no limit.
The LORD sustains the humble but casts the wicked to the ground.
Sing to the LORD with grateful praise; make music to our God on the harp.”
Psalm 147: 2-7*

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