

Words of Wisdom

The monthly publication of Plainfield United Methodist Church



The Pace of Grace

Most all of you have heard about my rescue dog Shadow. She goes with me almost everywhere. The picture above is from last year when I lived in the Indian Boundary parsonage. One weekend day I trimmed the trees in the front yard which was quite an undertaking. I have a little chain saw and as I was working away, I noticed Shadow moved into the fray, noise, wood-chips and all. Here is all this debris and, in the midst, Shadow is sitting there watching me, calm as can be.

This seemed to me to be highly unusual because she is still very skittish around loud, unexpected noises, or in situations where she doesn't know what is coming next. Shadow is very nervous around groups of people or people she doesn't really know. Yet if I am in her sight and she is close enough she is calm, rooted.

I've finally figured out what her deal is. Over the last 3 ½ years she has come to trust me, not just on a surface level but on the deepest level she has. If, she is aware that I am present, she can handle anything. Tell me if that reminds you of anything.

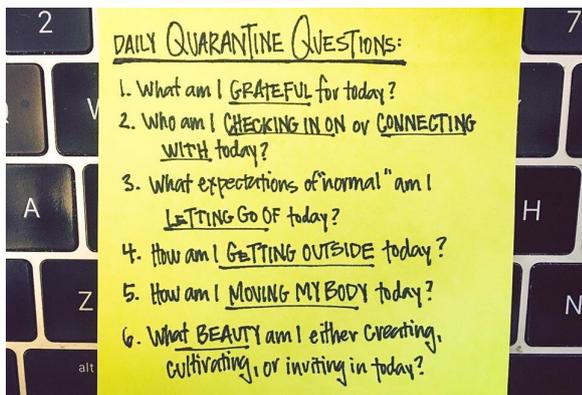
If we are immersed and rooted in our relationship, our trust, of Jesus, then we can experience the same core peace that silly dog does. As I think about it, what we are talking about is the Pace Of Grace, steady, rooted, solid in our knowledge built through trust that we are not alone and that as long as we are connected we are going to be ok.

May it be so with each of you!

Pastor Dick

Calendar Note

DUE TO THE CANCELLATION OF IN-PERSON ACTIVITIES, WE ARE NOT INCLUDING A CALENDAR THIS MONTH. AS SOON AS WE GET THE "ALL CLEAR" WE WILL SEND OUT A CALENDAR



Some Ways to Help

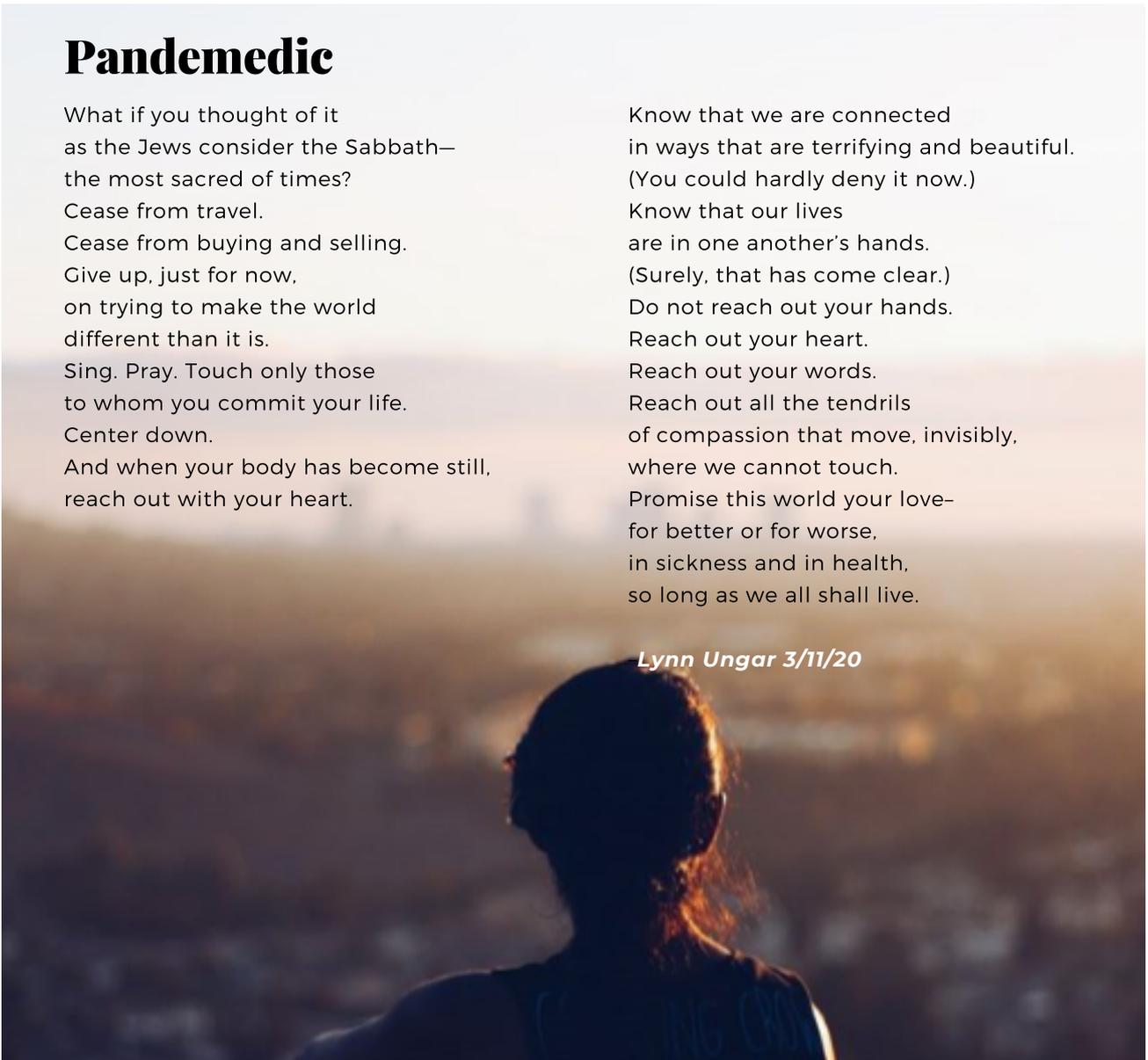
We're living in a strange time right now. We also are feeling the strain of being separated from friends and family. The questions in this graphic can help us sort out our feelings and have a conversation about these tough times. Spend some time with them: Read them, Think about them, Talk about them with a loved one, Pray about them – asking God to help you sort out your thoughts and feelings as we continue to adapt to our new reality.

Pandemic

What if you thought of it as the Jews consider the Sabbath—the most sacred of times?
Cease from travel.
Cease from buying and selling.
Give up, just for now,
on trying to make the world different than it is.
Sing. Pray. Touch only those to whom you commit your life.
Center down.
And when your body has become still,
reach out with your heart.

Know that we are connected in ways that are terrifying and beautiful. (You could hardly deny it now.)
Know that our lives are in one another's hands. (Surely, that has come clear.)
Do not reach out your hands.
Reach out your heart.
Reach out your words.
Reach out all the tendrils of compassion that move, invisibly, where we cannot touch.
Promise this world your love—for better or for worse, in sickness and in health, so long as we all shall live.

Lynn Ungar 3/11/20



Lockdown

Yes there is fear.
Yes there is isolation.
Yes there is panic buying.
Yes there is sickness.
Yes there is even death.
But,
They say that in Wuhan after so many years
of noise
You can hear the birds again.
They say that after just a few weeks of quiet
The sky is no longer thick with fumes
But blue and grey and clear.
They say that in the streets of Assisi
People are singing to each other
across the empty squares,
keeping their windows open
so that those who are alone
may hear the sounds of family around them.
They say that a hotel in the West of Ireland
Is offering free meals and delivery to the
housebound.
Today a young woman I know
is busy spreading fliers with her number
through the neighbourhood
So that the elders may have someone to
call on.
Today Churches, Synagogues, Mosques and
Temples
are preparing to welcome
and shelter the homeless, the sick, the
weary
All over the world people are slowing down
and reflecting
All over the world people are looking at
their neighbours in a new way
All over the world people are waking up to a
new reality
To how big we really are.
To how little control we really have.
To what really matters.
To Love.

So we pray and we remember that
Yes there is fear.
But there does not have to be hate.
Yes there is isolation.
But there does not have to be loneliness.
Yes there is panic buying.
But there does not have to be meanness.
Yes there is sickness.
But there does not have to be disease of the
soul
Yes there is even death.
But there can always be a rebirth of love.
Wake to the choices you make as to how to
live now.
Today, breathe.
Listen, behind the factory noises of your
panic
The birds are singing again
The sky is clearing,
Spring is coming,
And we are always encompassed by Love.
Open the windows of your soul
And though you may not be able
to touch across the empty square,
Sing.

Written by Richard Hendrick
March 13th 2020





Prayer Shawl Ministry

Comfort, Fellowship and Support is for Everyone

There are several ways you can be part of our ministry. One of the nice things about our ministry is that we can continue working on prayer shawls and pocket squares from home.

At this time while we are staying in, "social distancing" to help prevent the spread of the Coronavirus, we would love to have you join our efforts. If you like to knit or crochet, we welcome your assistance. If you can only help during this time of quietness, that's fine. Hopefully, you'll enjoy it so much, you will join our group on a more permanent basis. If you have an interest, please contact Debbie Obrecht at (815) 436-5369 or debbieobrecht.com to receive further information regarding patterns, etc.

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Moms Encouraging Moms

If you are a mother, grandmother, step-mother, etc, Moms Encouraging Moms is a great way to keep in touch from a distance, support one another, pray for each other, have some laughs, and share information! If you'd like to join, you can check out our Facebook page or email Megan Marconi & Sharla Brender at momsexcouragingmomspumc@gmail.com

ARE YOU HUNGRY?
¿NECESITA USTED ALIMENTOS?

If you don't have enough to eat, Northern Illinois Food Bank's Mobile Pantry can help.

Si usted no alcanza lo suficiente para sustentar su comida, la Despensa Móvil de Northern Illinois Food Bank puede ayudarle.

Northern Illinois Food Bank's Mobile Pantry distributes nutritious food in high-need areas.
 La Despensa Móvil de Northern Illinois Food Bank distribuye comida nutritiva en lugares con necesidades altas.

Food is free to low-income neighbors in need.
 La comida es gratis para vecinos con necesidad y de bajo ingresos.

Please bring bags or boxes in which to package your food.
 Favor de llevar cajas o bolsas para empacar su comida.

➔ Food is distributed on a first-come, first served basis, while supplies last.
 ➔ La comida se distribuye por orden de llegada, hasta agotar la existencia.

NORTHERN ILLINOIS FOOD BANK
 Feeding Our Hungry Neighbors

For additional food resources, visit www.solvehungertoday.org/gethelp
 Para recursos adicionales de comida, visite www.solvehungertoday.org/gethelp

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Date: Wednesday, April 8, 2020
 Time: 5 pm-6:30 pm
 Where: St. Mary Immaculate Parish
 15629 IL Rte. 59, Plainfield, IL 60544

Fecha: Abril 8, del 2020
 Hora: De 5 a 6:30 PM
 Lugar: Iglesia de Santa Maria Inmaculada
 15629 S. Route 59, Plainfield, IL 60544

**bags or boxes will be provided as this will be a drive-through style distribution*

Lent Activities

FOR MORE FUN LENT ACTIVITIES PLEASE VISIT
[HTTPS://ILLSTRTDM.IN/LENTWEEK4](https://illstrtdm.in/LENTWEEK4)

PSALM 23 * LECTIO DIVINA

Lectio Divina is a way of prayerfully reading scripture that slows you down, creates space to listen, reflect, and respond to God as you center yourself on a scripture passage. This practice can be done by yourself or in a group and at your own pace. You can use the inclusive language translation provided or any translation you enjoy.

Scripture Reading: Psalm 23 – a Psalm of David
(translation from The Inclusive Bible)
YHWH, you are my shepherd, I want nothing more.
You let me lie down in green meadows;
You lead me beside restful waters: you refresh my soul.
You guide me to lush pastures, for the sake of your Name.
Even if I'm surrounded by shadows of Death,
I fear no danger, for you are with me.
Your rod and your staff, they give me courage.
You spread a table for me in the presence of my enemies,
And you anoint my head with oil, my cup overflows!
Only goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life,
And I will dwell in your house, YHWH, for days without end.

Lectio Divina

Prepare to listen. Find a comfortable sitting position and take a few moments to prepare your heart, mind, body, and soul to listen to the Word of God. This might mean doing some breathing exercises to quiet your mind and slow your body down, lighting a candle, or saying a prayer.

Slowly, read Psalm 23 aloud. Notice any words, phrases, sentences that stand out to you or resonate with you now. Allow for a few moments of quiet.

Read Psalm 23 aloud again. Draw your focus to the words, phrases, or sentences that stood out to you. Reflect on and be curious about why they resonate with you. You can even write or color in the phrases on the provided coloring page. Allow for a few moments of quiet.

Read Psalm 23 aloud again. As you hear the words, phrases, or sentences that stand out to you, offer up any emotions, feelings, thoughts you have to God as a response of prayer. Allow for a few moments of quiet.

Read Psalm 23 aloud one last time. This time, reflect on what was meaningful to you as you read or listen to the scripture. Allow for a few moments of quiet, and then offer a prayer to God as you end your Lectio Divina time.

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Roger Beitzel, Youth Director

Roger.Beitzel@Plainfieldumc.com

Worship Services

8:30am Worship

9:45am Sunday School (*all ages*)

9:45am Confirmation

11:00am Worship