

HOPE SHINES THROUGH UNSEALED BLINDS

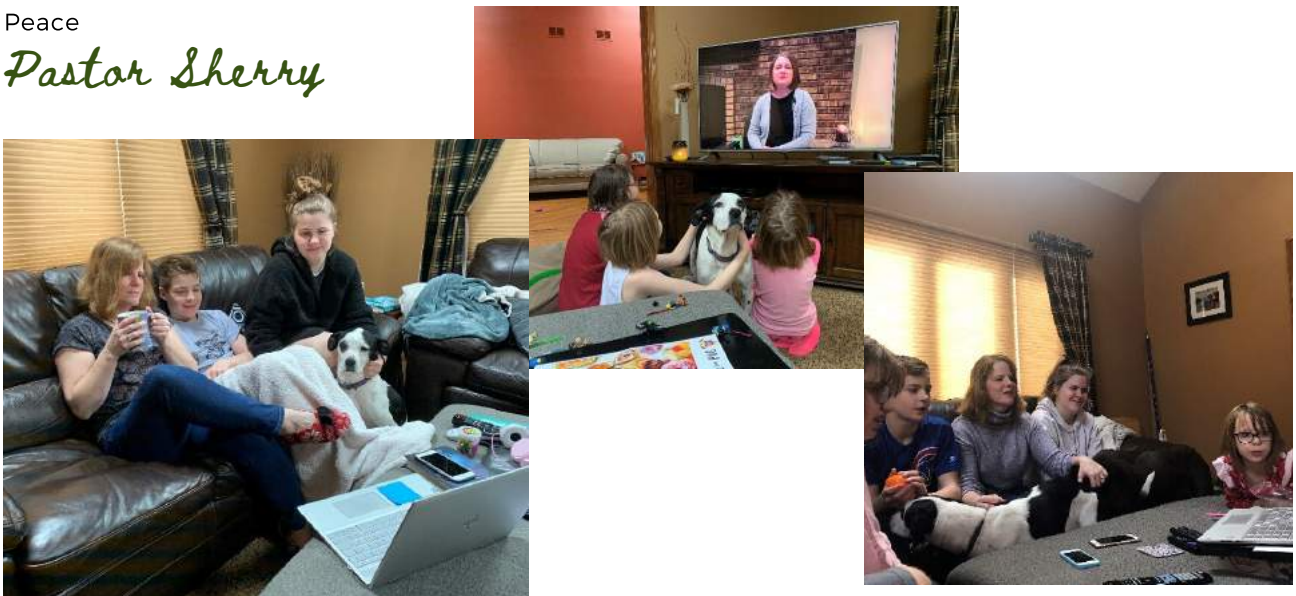
Words of Wisdom

Told By: Pastor Sherry

We made it through April! As the days turn a bit warmer and the world a lot greener, we continue this time of “sheltering at home.” So much of our regular routines have changed in a very short amount of time. I used to fill my gas tank in my car about every four days. Now I can go 3-4 weeks on a tank! I used to spend part of my day off wandering around the grocery store browsing for what was new. Now I suit up like I am going into battle, organize my list by aisle, and it still takes me twice as long to emerge “victorious.” I used to choose what to make for dinner based on what I could prepare, cook, and eat in the time between piano lessons and the next meeting. Now, we are digging deep into the cookbooks looking for things we never had time to make before. But one of the biggest changes for our family is how we worship. On Sunday mornings, we all gather around the computer or TV. My kids have to get out of bed and be ready to go by 10am (not the usual 7:30am), and they don't even need to comb their hair. We all sit together, smooshed on one couch. And without fail, our two dogs, Samson and Ella, come to join us. So, we pet the dogs, remark with joy about who we are “seeing” check in online, and set our attention to God. After PUMC's service, we watch my husband Tedd's service at Wesley UMC. Two church services in one hour! I rarely got to sit with my kids in worship (and the dogs, never!). I almost never attended worship with my husband and the girls. It's a whole new thing. And it's not the same. And we MISS a lot of what we love best about church (seeing everyone, communal singing, and coffee hour, not necessarily in that order). But unexpected blessings have blossomed in this time. And I have a feeling I will MISS some of these new blessings when we return to our usual practices. Look for the blessings all around you. These are hard days and they require a lot of patience and trust. If you are struggling, please reach out to me or to Pastor Dick or a friend. We are here to support you. We know that the road can be long and difficult. But blessings abound. Even now, even today. This is the day that the Lord has made! How will you rejoice and be glad in it?

Peace

Pastor Sherry



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.



Giving Thanks

We are grateful for the awesome volunteers who served 49 families at the food pantry on April 22! Elmer and the Big Red Truck picked up over 1500 pounds of fresh produce, bread, and milk to give away alongside the non-perishables and frozen meat. Give thanks to the Lord for he is GOOD!

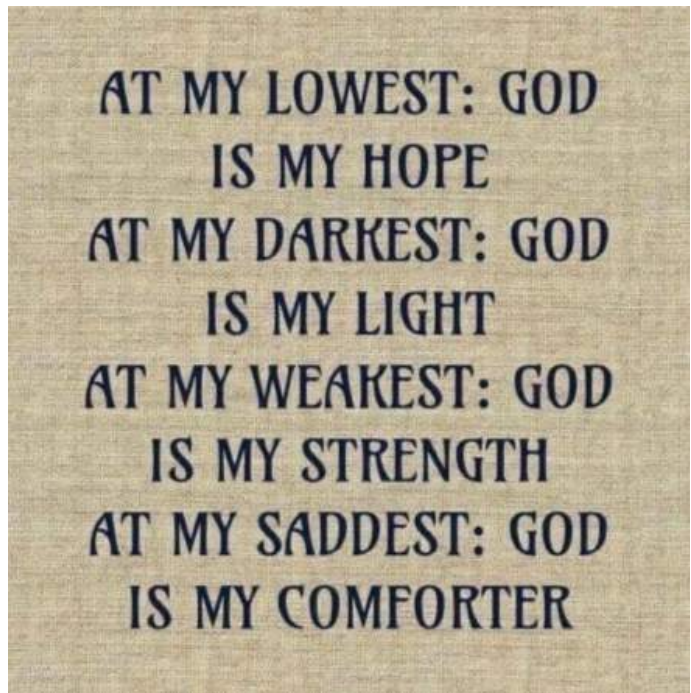


VBS Registration Begins May 15, 2020

Some of you have been wondering about our summer kid's programming here at PUMC. So much has changed recently, and this will change too, but you won't BELIEVE the exciting things we have in store for you!

It's Okay

It's ok
to turn your computer off.
It's ok
to leave your phone in the other room.
It's ok
to not take every piece of advice offered
about teaching and entertaining your
children
about working from home
about using technology
about...
about...
about...
It's ok to not check for coronavirus updates
everyday.
It's ok.
It's ok.
It's ok.
It's actually
probably
healthy
Rev. Anna Voinovich, Downer's Grove UMC





Women's Choir

Cooped up during quarantine? Want some musical motivation? How 'bout joining PUMC's new Women's Choir?! If you are high school-age and above, have some interest in music, and would like to try something new, consider joining our new small group choir! We are living a "different normal" right now, but we can still plan for and look forward to the future! Once we are back in our beautiful church home, our plan is:

- to have rehearsals every other week (day/time TBD)
- to share music every couple of months during church services.

In the meantime, we will:

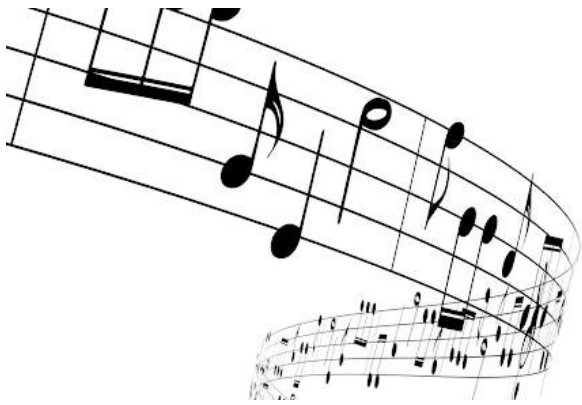
- receive music electronically to rehearse in the comfort of our own homes
- receive assistance with music electronically
- meet via Zoom once in a while to chat, develop friendships and a rapport as a choir, and discuss questions about the music

Questions? Want more information? Interested in joining? Contact Megan Marconi via cell phone or email at (815)302-5781 or mamarconi1029@gmail.com Don't be afraid to try something new!



Really Really Free Market Update

Missions & Green Team regretfully announce that this years' Really Really Free Market will be cancelled due to ongoing uncertainties surrounding the pandemic. It is our hope that in 2021 we can resume our yearly event, so please keep saving those items! Stay Well, Emily & Donna and Missions Team; Carol and Green Team



Special Music Needed

Once we are able to be together in person, not just virtually, we will be attending one service on our summer schedule. We would love to have singers and instrumentalists who can provide special music for that time. We will need music for May 24 through September 6; the first few Sundays would need to be video clips to be included in our virtual services (dates TBA). Please contact the church office to leave your phone number and date preferences. We'll confirm with you as soon as possible. Thank you for sharing the gifts God has given you!

Youth Mission Trip Canceled

Due to the Coronavirus pandemic, PUMC Youth Ministries has decided to cancel the Mission Trip for 2020. This decision was discussed by the Youth Ministry Advisory Panel, and it was agreed that there is just no safe way to have a Mission Trip and follow social distancing guidelines.

There are just too many risk factors with cramming 50 youth and adults into vans and sleeping in close quarters for a week. In addition, all the contact with the staff at JOSHUA and the residents who would be served would cause additional issues. This was a hard decision that was made only after YMAP felt they had exhausted all the other possible options.

Here is some important additional information.

First of all, this does not reduce or change the commitment and passion PUMC Youth Ministries has for mission and serving others. YMAP is committed to exploring opportunities that will allow our youth to engage in local mission work that is in compliance with CDC guidelines. So, please watch for information on that in the coming weeks.

Secondly, we are planning to go to JOSHUA in 2021. Two important details regarding that. First, we want to invite all our current high school seniors to join us then, so they can participate in their last Mission Trip with PUMC. Second, if you paid money toward the 2020 trip, there are two options. We can keep your payments on record and apply them toward the 2021 trip or if you would prefer, we can refund the money you have paid. Just let Roger Beitzel, Youth Director know your desire.

Finally, we will be doing a couple different things to support JOSHUA given that we will not be able to go and help them in person. We will be putting together a virtual Talent Show – featuring our youth – as a fundraiser to benefit JOSHUA. Please think about what music or other talent you might be able share. The other thing we will do is have a Prayer Guide available for the week we were originally scheduled to go to JOSHUA. We will use it to pray for their staff, their ministries, and the people they serve.

GOD
OF

PRESENCE & Strength

Help us feel you
here with us...

...when we are
anxious and afraid

WHEN THE future Feels

UNWIELDLY

AND

UNCERTAIN

we know nothing is unknown TO YOU

WAO GOD WAO

WE KNOW YOU ARE OUR ROCK

AND OUR COMFORT IN TIMES OF

TROUBLE.

Give us WISDOM and COURAGE...

...to make CHANGES that will help...

THINGS
GET
BETTER.

Amen.

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Worship Services

8:30am Worship

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

9:45am Confirmation

11:00am Worship