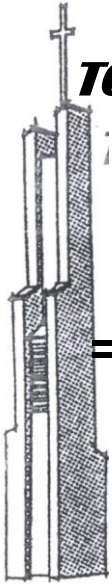


First Presbyterian Church
1803 - 83rd Street
Kenosha, Wisconsin 53143



TOWER TOPICS

Church Phone: 262-652-6838
Church e-mail: k1stpres@yahoo.com
Church Website: www.kenoshafpc.org
LANCE LOVEALL, Pastor

DATED MATERIAL

March 31, 2020

JUST A LITTLE
Reminder

All Sunday morning worship, Wednesday devotions, Holy Week services, and other ramblings are available on our website at www.kenoshafpc.org



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK



It was obvious early in the service, that Ted was one of those young preachers who pattern themselves after someone else.

I have recently been doing some reading on a most amazing treatment to many of life's ailments. It can help you achieve goals, ease stress, and even help alleviate some common health issues. "What is this miracle drug?" you ask. "Where can I get some?" Look no farther, because this miracle treatment is none other than simple gratitude. Yep, gratitude. That ability to look at your life, your day, your situation, and find SOMETHING (anything!) to be thankful for. And this is not just some hippy-dippy way of taking lemons and making lemonade. This drug has power. It has been shown in scientific experiments that if you feel gratitude, you

are more likely to set and achieve goals and be more generous with you own time and skills. It is way stronger than our normal go-to: will power.

We often tell ourselves that if we can just exert our will power, we can achieve our long-term goals. We can trade our instant gratification for delayed gratification if we can just buckle down and get through the cravings and desires. The problems are 1) will power often fails – we give ourselves too many ways out, and 2) even when it does work, the stress it puts on us mentally and physically takes a huge toll on us. However, it is not will power that God equipped us with in order to succeed in the long term. That emotional skill set includes things like gratitude, compassion, and healthy pride. These things allow us to work with others, delay gratification, and achieve goals that are beyond our immediate reach. Gratitude, in particular, is that feeling that someone gave us something at some cost to themselves: a gift, financial assistance, their time, a shoulder to cry on, etc. Because we value that thing, we want to go over and above to pay them back. That means we begin to focus on the future and make better choices. People who experience gratitude are more willing to save money rather than spend it on impulse buys, exercise more, eat healthier, and work harder on future goals. Rather than squashing the impulsive nature with will power, you bring to life the value of future goals with emotions like gratitude. I know, it sounds hippy-dippy. But I think you have probably experienced this phenomenon. Someone helps you out at work or does something nice for you in the office, or pays for

your coffee, or holds a door because your hands are full, or lends you their umbrella, or makes space for you to merge onto the interstate. What happens? You become more likely to see opportunities to help others and more likely to do so. Being thankful for something someone did for you helps you get out of your near-sighted focus on self and transports you into the world of caring for others. If you can care for others in that world, you are also WAY more likely to care for your future self as well. If I experience gratitude, I am more likely to treat myself better even as I treat others better.

So, how do we get more gratitude? This takes a little effort. There are many techniques, but a good one to begin with is just write down some things you are thankful for each day. Do not get hung up on the big ones – my wife, my children, food on the table, and so forth. Focus on the little things: Someone complimented my hair and that felt good, someone listened to me talk about my mom’s issues, someone helped me with my computer problem at work. Focus on those things, and take a little time to notice them and give thanks. You will be surprised at how much this helps your outlook.

Thanks for reading this!

Lance

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## **MISSION STATEMENT**

Called into being by God’s grace, we are Christians in progress;  
Called to grow together in God’s ways through worship, study, fellowship, evangelism, and service;  
Called to be servants of God’s love to one another, to our community, and to the world.  
We welcome all to our community of faith.

# **TREASURER'S REPORT**

## **General Operating Fund**

|                            |                    |
|----------------------------|--------------------|
| Beginning Balance 2/1/2020 | \$49,109.17        |
| Receipts                   | \$30,543.15        |
| Disbursements              | <u>\$24,876.41</u> |
| Ending Balance 2/29/2020   | <u>\$54,775.91</u> |

## **Building Reserve Fund**

|                            |                    |
|----------------------------|--------------------|
| Beginning Balance 2/1/2020 | \$68,876.07        |
| Receipts                   | \$ 90.00           |
| Disbursements              | \$ 0.00            |
| Interest                   | <u>\$ 5.27</u>     |
| Ending Balance 2/29/2020   | <u>\$68,971.34</u> |

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UPDATES

Session met on Tuesday, March 17th and voted to suspend all public meetings at the church, both church groups and non-church groups, until both government restrictions have been eased AND the sessions deems it safe and wise to meet again.

Recently Sara Miles made contact with everyone in the directory to “pass the peace”. We then set up a call list for all of the elders and deacons to participate in contacting everyone periodically throughout this church closure. Expect some calls, emails, or cards during this time.

IDENTIFICATION STATEMENT

Tower Topics
Kenosha, WI 53143
Issue #269

DAILY LECTIONARY PASSAGES

APRIL 2020

- Apr 1** – Psalm 5, 147:1-11, 27, 51; Exod. 7:8-24; 2 Cor. 2:14-3:6; Mark 10:1-16
- Apr 2** – Psalm 27, 147:12-20, 126, 102; Exod. 7:25-8:19; 2 Cor. 3:7-18; Mark 10:17-31
- Apr 3** - Psalm 22, 148, 105, 130; Exod. 9:13-35; 2 Cor. 4:1-12; Mark 10:32-45
- Apr 4** – Psalm 43, 149, 31, 143; Exod. 10:21-11:8; 2 Cor. 4:13-18; Mark 10:46-52
- Apr 5** – Psalm 84, 150, 42, 32; Zech. 9:9-12; 1 Tim. 6:12-16; Luke 19:41-48
- Apr 6** - Psalm 119:73-80, 145, 121, 6; Lam. 1:1-2, 6-12; 2 Cor. 1:1-7; Mark 11:12-25
- Apr 7** - Psalm 34, 146, 25, 91; Lam. 1:17-22; 2 Cor. 1:8-22; Mark 11:27-33
- Apr 8** – Psalm 5, 147:1-11, 27, 51; Lam. 2:1-9; 2 Cor. 1:23-2:11; Mark 12 :1-11
- Apr 9** – Psalm 27, 147:12-20, 126, 102; Lam. 2:10-18; 1 Cor. 10:14-17; Mark 14:12-25
- Apr 10** – Psalm 22, 148, 105, 130; Lam. 3:1-9; 1 Peter 1:10-20; John 13:36-38
- Apr 11** - Psalm 43, 149, 31, 143; Lam. 3:37-58; Heb. 4:1-16; Rom. 8:1-11
- Apr 12** – Psalm 93, 150, 136, 117; Exod. 12:1-14; John 1:1-18; Luke 24:13-35
- Apr 13** – Psalm 97, 145, 124, 115; Exod. 12:14-27; 1 Cor. 15:1-11; Mark 16:1-8
- Apr 14** – Psalm 98, 146, 66, 116; Exod. 12:28-39; 1 Cor. 15:12-28; Mark 16:9-20
- Apr 15** – Psalm 99, 147:1-11, 9, 118; Exod. 12:40-51; 1 Cor. 15:30-41; Matt. 28:1-16
- Apr 16** – Psalm 47, 147:12-20, 68, 113; Exod. 13:3-10; 1 Cor. 15:41-50; Matt. 28:16-20
- Apr 17** - Psalm 96, 148, 49, 138; Exod. 13:2, 11-16; 1 Cor. 15:51-58; Luke 24 :1-12
- Apr 18** – Psalm 92, 149, 23, 114; Exod. 13:17-14:4; 2 Cor. 4:16-5:10; Mark 12:18-27
- Apr 19** – Psalm 93, 150, 136, 117; Exod. 14:5-22; 1 John 1:1-7; John 14:1-7
- Apr 20** - Psalm 97, 145, 124, 115; Exod. 14:21-31; 1 Peter 1:1-12; John 14:8-17
- Apr 21** – Psalm 98, 146, 66, 116; Exod. 15:1-21; 1 Peter 1:13-25; John 14:18-31
- Apr 22** – Psalm 99, 147:1-11, 9, 118; Exod. 15:22-16:10; 1 Peter 2:1-10; John 15:1-11
- Apr 23** - Psalm 47, 147:12-20, 68, 113; Exod. 16:10-22; 1 Peter 2:3-12; John 15:12-27
- Apr 24** - Psalm 96, 148, 49, 138; Exod. 16:23-36; 1 Peter 3:13-4:6; John 16:1-15
- Apr 25** – Psalm 92, 149, 23, 114; Exod. 17:1-16; 1 Peter 4:7-19; John 16:16-33
- Apr 26** – Psalm 93, 150, 136, 117; Exod. 18:1-12; 1 John 2:7-17; Mark 16:9-20
- Apr 27** – Psalm 97, 145, 124, 115; Exod. 18:13-27; 1 Peter 5:1-14; Matt. 3:1-6
- Apr 28** – Psalm 98, 146, 66, 116; Exod. 19:1-16; Col. 1:1-14; Matt. 3:7-12
- Apr 29** – Psalm 99, 147:1-11, 9, 118; Exod. 19:16-25; Col. 1:15-23; Matt. 3:13-17
- Apr 30** – Psalm 47, 147:12-20, 68, 113; Exod. 20:1-21; Col. 1:24-2:7; Matt. 4:1-11

SOUP KITCHEN

On Tuesday, March 3rd, we had 8 volunteers from church serving at the 39th Avenue Soup Kitchen site. There were fewer customers this month, but they were all just as hungry and appreciative! We served 51 adults and 13 children.

The Shalom Center Food Pantry has been completed at the same location as the Soup Kitchen and is up and running. It's big, beautiful and organized. Our monthly volunteers aren't involved in the operation of the pantry, but some church members do volunteer individually.

Normally, we do not serve in April, but continue again in May. Due to the current Coronavirus Crisis, we received a letter from the Director of the Shalom Center, informing us NOT to send Soup Kitchen volunteers until we get the all clear. The Shalom Center staff is currently making "to go" bag lunches for the customers who would normally eat there. If we are allowed to serve in May, the date would be Tuesday, May 5th. Watch for announcements in regards to the status of that date.

Thank you for your continued support of this worthwhile mission.

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## **FIRESIDE FRIENDS**

Sadly Fireside Friends will not meet on Tuesday, April 14, 2020 for our usual coffee and fellowship. We were hoping to take a field trip to Mileager's to see the plants beginning to grow in their greenhouses. So at 10:00 sit down and have a cup of coffee or tea and think about each other. Here's a little saying to help spring along:

“A Kiss of the Sun for pardon  
The song of the birds for mirth  
One is nearer God's heart in a GARDEN  
Than anywhere else on Earth”

Stay healthy everyone and hope to see all of you soon!  
If you have any questions contact Julie Iorio or Sheryl Becker

## **GARDEN UPDATE**

We shall be doing something different for the church garden this year. We have 10 four by four foot beds that we are making available to church members to use for themselves, their family or donations of produce to others. So far Linda Putrow, Jerome Huffendick and Steve & Elaine Azuma (hope I didn't forget anyone I have spoken to) have expressed an interest in having one or more plots. If you are interested in a plot, please let me know. I will help connect you all and you can get together (perhaps share watering chores) or work independently as you want. I can also give you suggestions as to what we have done in the past (square foot gardening, restoring beds, etc.). You can have from one to 10 beds, depending on how many want to participate. Thanks.

Sandy Billingsley

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CRAFT FAIR

The May craft fair has been cancelled. Your deposit money will be returned to you. We will try this fun project again at a later date. Thank you for your interest.

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## **SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY**

LOUISVILLE — Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) students seeking their first associate or bachelor's degree are encouraged to apply now for scholarship awards through Presbyterian Mission Agency's Financial Aid for Service at [pcusa.org/apply4scholarships](http://pcusa.org/apply4scholarships). These scholarships can go up to \$4,000/year.

## **PARISH NURSE NOTES**

So, here comes April.....bunnies, daffodils, Peeps, Easter egg hunts, walks in the warm sunshine, church and then family dinners on Easter...right? Well, not this year! Remember that April starts with April Fool Day, and I kind of feel as if we are living in one great big, dangerous April Fool's world right now. My mantra these days is "this, too, shall pass." And it will. And most of us will be fine. I cannot emphasize enough how important it is for all of us to follow the simple rules of staying home, using social distancing if we must go out, and washing our hands...simply put, these actions can make the difference between life and death.

We ALL are at risk, and the pandemic hasn't yet reached its peak here in the Midwest. It is so very important to remember that "but I feel fine!" doesn't matter! We have all read and heard many times over, from reliable sources, that a person can feel fine and already be carrying the virus. Don't be a "Typhoid Mary" and infect any number of others. (You younger folks can Google that name and see what I'm talking about.)

We are a church family, and please, please contact Lance or the church office if you need something. We need to look out for each other, but we also must let someone know if something is needed...no mind readers in our congregation! Phone calls, texts, emails are great ways to stay in touch. Get out in your backyard, walk around the block, add some form of activity to your day. Eat well—when stressed, many of us default to snacks and junk food. Stay hydrated. And, remember how important adequate sleep is for our immune systems, our bodies and our emotional states. Naps help, too. Use wipes on door knobs and faucet handles and steering wheels. Use hand covering when you pump gas... (I bought doggie waste bags to use instead of gloves!) Listen to Lance's sermons online. Set up Face Time so you can see your friends and families while you talk. Don't listen to the news all day long. Play games or do puzzles with your family. Try a new recipe. Teach a child to cook. Be kind to each other. Reminisce about good times. Pray!

Back next month with better news, I hope. Stay safe!

Karen Sorenson, Parish Nurse



## **CONGREGATIONAL CHECK-INS**

Since both of us are in our 90's now, we have to depend on others sometimes, especially for transportation. We really appreciate the willingness of so many of you to offer to take us to and from church, grocery store, etc. So far, we have relied on the following for one or more trips:

Dana Anderson

Ron Bauman

Julie Iorio

Ralph & Theresa Kamphuis

Charles Leicht

Sara Miles

Jane Riley

Karen Sorenson

Janice (Jenny) Steinseifer

We are grateful for their service, but they are by no means the only ones who have offered transportation, though. We are, once again, so impressed with the "family" attitude shown by our church members: "Christianity in action," for sure!

Tom & Lois Van Dahm

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Some sunshine through clouds:

I would image the concept of "Dinner Time with the Family" has been redefined lately, with everyone not out and about doing their own thing. I'm curious as to how much of that "Family Dinner time" is in front of the TV or the "Boob Tube" as my mom loved to call it, when I was a kid. Maybe we should have the church chime in with a "new" show(s) that they had to marathon through, now with all this extra "Boob Tube Time" available. I personally have taken on to watching a series about Greek Myths on Amazon Prime. For me the major gods were an issue but then how they were all related to each other was fun to learn/watch.

- John Infante

To All who came-

Many thanks to all who attended my birthday party at the church on March 8!  
I am truly blessed to be recognized for reaching the "100" century mark on March 4!  
And, thanks for the many cards, E mails, and phone calls that I received wishing me the best!!  
The party was truly special and will forever be in my memory book!!

Sincerely-  
J. Sanford Kennedy

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Enzo still has school, online. Mornings are taken up with this requirement.  
Then we bake cookies and paint ceramics, play board games.

- Jean Bourque

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While thinking of our Covid Crisis, for some reason my mind called up the story of the Israelites wandering in the wilderness. Perhaps they had similar anxieties. Where are we going? When will this be over? How will our needs be taken care of? Do the people in charge really know what they're doing? Why can't we just go back to the Good Old Days in Egypt?

Now we're traveling through a different wilderness. And we get fearful and frustrated and complain at times, just like they did. If we superimposed our circumstances onto theirs, I wonder what it would look like?

"Moses, we have no bread to eat! Give us bread!" Moses would've covered that with manna.

"Moses, there's no hand sanitizer ANYWHERE!" I suppose Moses could have struck the rock and rivers of hand sanitizer would have flowed forth.

"MOSES, there's no more TOILET PAPER!!! What are you going to DO about that?" Wonder what God and Moses would have cooked up for that one?

I especially wonder how that journey would have gone while practicing social distancing? It's hard for me to be separated from my church family these days. Being able to hear Lance's familiar voice and some lovely music for the Sunday service did bring a measure of calm to my day. And while connecting with everyone online for Wednesday night Bible study, it was so good to hear everyone's voices. I felt in community again.

During this time, I hope everyone is reaching out to each other in our church family. We need to hear each other's voices. We need to feel connected. And we need to be willing to provide 'toilet paper' (or a phone call, a prayer, a gift, some\_\_\_\_\_, you name it) for each other when endurance runs low. I confess, it's easier to focus on my own fears than think about some little kindness I could do to relieve others' anxieties. But we need to! I need to! Let's get creative!

Linnea Elrod

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KINDNESS, THOUGHTFULNESS AND LOTS OF LOVE IS WHAT WE NEED TO GET THROUGH THIS. God bless all the medical workers and everyone else who are truly putting their lives on the line, for the rest of us. We can do this if we all literally (don't come together)

Love to All!!!!

Bert

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We rescued a sweet pup named Roxy just in time to be quarantined with her. All of this time together has helped her acclimate to us very quickly and we are head over heels in love with this pawfect little soul. Missing all of you!

Love,  
The Berry's

In this time of covid 19 concerns, I thought an article on keeping our immune systems healthy might be of help and interest. So - a bit of Dr. B's advice:)

Eat good foods - whole foods, organic when possible, more veggies and fruit (fresh or frozen), good fats (olive oil, avocados), lean meat, safe fish, nuts

AVOID sugar, starchy and refined carbs (the whites - starches break down into TWO sugar units as soon as they hit enzymes in mouth and stomach).

Some superfoods include: dark leafy greens (kale, spinach, etc. - frozen OK), sprouts, crucifers (broccoli, cabbage, brussel sprouts), garlic, onions, citrus fruits, berries, grapes, apples

For fun Google what nutrients these food include. Or look for foods with these nutrients: Vitamin C, quercitin, bioflavonoids, sulfurones, resveratrol, selenium, zinc. Make a game of eating well!

Stay hydrated - water, lemon or fruit infused water, unsweetened teas - green or herbal very healthy

AVOID sweetened, artificially sweetened or artificially colored drinks

Exercise - stay moving, get outside when possible (enjoy the fresh air and nature) maintaining social distancing. Planet Fitness, other exercise & yoga programs can be found free online for now.

Sleep - Regenerates the body! Try to get 7-9 hours on a regular schedule each night (amount required varies with age).

Supplements - can also be helpful

Mutivitamin - A,C,E, B complex, and others - fairly low basic doses here

Vitamin C - wide dosing range - 100 mg - 1000mg/day - limited by inducing diarrhea. I try to mostly just eat vitamin C rich foods.

Zinc - most people are somewhat deficient - can take up to 15-20 mg a day temporarily.

Melatonin - 3mg at night (levels decrease with age & has been found to lessen effects of Covid 19 on lungs) - may also help you sleep.

Stinging Nettles tea (protects lungs)

Finally - Keep taking your blood pressure meds! Avoid NSAIDS (advil, ibuprofen, aleve, etc). Tylenol is OK - but stay to recommended dose & do not take with alcohol.

STAY WELL - this too will pass - love to all

Sandy B.

-----

Things I have observed from my corner: honest-no filter

-My children and I are very privileged in this world.

- Walking around UW Parkside campus is akin to when 9-11-01 happened and the campus was silent. I do not like it.
- The arts are saving so many of us with entertainment over social media (for those of us who have access).
- You really find out what people are really like in times like these.
- It is hard to think about the kids and adults whose house is not a safe place to shelter in place.
- I am SOOOOOO thankful my kids are not little right now and that I have a great job with benefits.
- Some people are really selfish
- Family time is seeing an uprising.
- My heart hurts for seniors in college and in high school for all the things they have lost.
- When this happens again, we will all be prepared.
- Yes the doctors are important-but all the other people who are now "essential" are blue collar workers and they are willing to leave their families each day to provide the public with what is needed.
- Church can be done outside the building-we forget that sometimes.
- If you don't have a hobby-find one for next time this happens.
- If I see a zombie-I'm out.

Love to you all!  
Kelly Andrichik

-----

Our family has established what we call, "The Circle of Trust", those of us who have vowed to be "Safer at Home". Having a large family, it is difficult to "gather" (such a taboo word for now) in groups of five or less. We are thinking perhaps to station one person per acre on our property in Brighton for a grand Easter egg Hunt come Easter Sunday! We have established new ways to greet and say good bye to each other, which although we try to be positive and have fun in doing so, does make me a bit sad. My girls and I now curtsy when we say good bye, while some family members prefer to wink. Now that can get a bit awkward! Oh, how I can't wait for those big comforting hugs to return! We realize everyone will have their opinions on the best ways to maneuver through this current crisis, but for now we are doing what works for our family. We are becoming little Betty Crockers, and Pioneer Women with gardens being planned, fresh chicken eggs being gathered, and the such! Having time to reflect on the importance of faith, family, and friends has been a silver lining in all of this.

Carl is thankful his business has been designated "essential", but I think more so because he was overwhelmed with my "Honey - Do List " I had composed for him during this quarantine period!

I will leave you with these two thoughts I heard early this week: the first is this: If we feed our fears, we starve our faith, but if we feed our faith, we starve our fears; the second is: After every storm comes the calm.

Many Blessings to you ALL.

Eagerly awaiting to return to our front row seat at church!

Hugs, Carl and Karen Edenhofer

P.S. Carl wants me to leave you all with this thought: Remember when we used to cough to hide our farts? Now we fart to hide our coughs!

-----

Pete Wynstra says the days are long. He misses all of the church activities especially the Soup Suppers, Senior Luncheon, and church services. He misses the contact with his church family and hopes that everyone is healthy and well!!

Judy Wynstra misses her class and realizes just how technologically challenged she is!! She also misses going to church, misses seeing her church family, and of course, misses Harold's chocolate chip cookies!! Stay safe, healthy, and happy!!



Our silver lining during this crazy time is a lot of baby cuddles with our son Justin. We look forward to him meeting Pastor Lance and all of our church family one day. Love, Justin, Aimee and Justin II.

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*Theresa and I have been very satisfied to see my occasional stories in the Country Today being published alongside those of Alan Guibert, a syndicated farm policy writer. This month, we want to share his poignant story with our congregation because it speaks to such a time as this. – Ralph and Theresa Kamphuis*

## **‘Behold the fowls of the air. . .’**

**(From the farm and food column of The Country Today  
by syndicated columnist Alan Guibert)**

My father wasn’t a stoic. Instead, his temperament was one of acceptance. He simply accepted the fact that he wasn’t in complete control of most things on the southern Illinois dairy farm of my youth.

Sure, he was boss over everything in sight: hundreds of acres, 100 dairy cows, five farmhand sons, three hired men and his unpredictable iron-bending Uncle Honey.

But control? Never. And yet, little ever moved him to anger or anxiety.

For example, when Jackie, the farm's principal hired hand, destroyed an Oliver 77 by driving it off the corn silage pile, Dad's only question to the still shaking man – who was never known for his speed – was how he managed to jump to safety so quickly.

Years later while sharing one of our thousand evenings in the milking parlor, I asked him why he hadn't even cursed when he saw the mangled 77.

Ah, he said with a wave of a wet hand, once he saw Jackie was OK, the tractor didn't matter. "It was old and insured. Jackie was neither."

Acceptance. Somehow he just knew that there was little he could do to prevent bent cultivator bars (Uncle Honey), overturned silage wagons (Uncle Honey), and two plowed-out telephone poles (Uncle Honey and Uncle Honey).

In fact, I once thought that if our family had a coat of arms, its motto would have read, "I can't prevent it but I can fix it."

Decades later, in one of our weekly conversations, I asked my father how his best friend was dealing with a recent cancer diagnosis. "Not good," Dad said. "He doesn't want to see me." Why?

"Well, he said, "I think it's because he hasn't accepted the idea that dying is the cost of living." Wow, what insight.

I asked him what he could do. Oh, he said, he'd find a reason to go to the friend's house to talk about the weather or the Cardinals or the peach crop. Just chat, you know, about things that, when rolled together, make up today and tomorrow.

"I just want him to know that each day is a gift from God regardless if it brings a baptism or a funeral," he announced.

That really was the essence of my father. Life ebbed and flowed and he rode it back and forth without fear or favor. He never asked for love or loyalty, he didn't lighten his load by adding to anyone else's, and he was religious but never preachy.

Two, almost opposite, traits might explain him better: he was a very good fisherman and he loved to play cards.

Fishing, he would say, is mostly preparation – the right bait, local knowledge, good tackle – and patience. Neither, however, ensures you'll catch fish. That's why "It's called 'fishing' and not 'catching'," he'd say on the days we spent fishing more than catching.

Card playing, however, is mostly luck; you literally play the cards your dealt. Skill in playing them also matters, but skill rarely trumps the luck of the draw.

My father embodied those near-opposites; he was prepared for whatever luck – fishing or catching – brought.

One last memory: I once asked him, a diligent Bible reader (King James Version please) what his favorite passage was. After reciting his baptism, confirmation, and wedding verses, he settled on one that made perfect sense to him, Matthew 6, verse 26:



“Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they?”

Ye – we – are, my father might say, today and tomorrow and everyday. That said, I’m pretty sure he’d still keep one eye fixed on Uncle Honey.

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I’ve given a lot of thought to Lance’s invitation to contribute something to Tower Topics this month, and I decided to take it as an opportunity to applaud another idea put into action by our church in the early stages of the pandemic. I really enjoy being and talking with people, whether it’s at church, at book club, wherever. I’m incredibly lucky that I am surrounded by family and friends that call to talk to me regularly. I have also gotten called and written to by church members. If I appreciate these contacts, imagine how much someone secluded both socially and physically feels to know they haven’t been forgotten! I found this wonderful quote to share from Albert Schweitzer:

Sometimes our light goes out, but it is blown again into instant flame by an encounter with another human being. Each of us owes the deepest thanks to those Who have rekindled this inner light.

Sheryl Becker

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Song of a Tree (by Harper Behling)

I had once been a sapling, no more tall than a newborn giraffe. Children danced around me, celebrating what I had once prided; creamy bark I’d had; the thin, pretty green locks I’d once bragged about to the neighboring tree; and the bird’s nest with three blue Robin’s eggs I treasured and kept as a decoration for my topmost twig.

I had once admired the kingdom of pines that towered above me; how I’d longed to touch their golden throne of sunlight; but my roots had been too short, and too short in two ways; those roots were just starting to feel out for the stories buried below; those roots had not enough wisdom.

I had once been a fully fledged tree, exactly the height of 1000 acorns, one on top of the other. I had once watched the children who had once encircled me, now too big and busy helping and working; although they still stopped sometimes, to admire my chocolate colored bark or to listen to the wind whipping through my golden-red crown and to watch the spiders spinning stories through my strong, hefty limbs.

Indeed, I have had my share of seasons — of children, of birds, of flood, of new found wisdom. Someday, I will fall in death. Indeed, leaving in a sudden wake my composted story for another seed to spin its roots, to grow.

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I heard on the radio the other day how hospitals and first responders are having to re-use their face masks because of a desperate shortage. Although the government is trying to ramp up production of particularly necessary items during this crisis, it isn't filling the need fast enough.

I thought it would be a good idea if those of us in the congregation who sew were to make face masks to donate to the Kenosha County Health Department for distribution. Those of us who don't sew could donate material for the cause.

You can call me at (262) 358-3193 to leave a message about your thoughts and whether you are interested in contributing. I work during the week and, unfortunately, would not be able to take them to the Health Department, so we would need a volunteer for that.

Here is the website with instructions on how to make a mask:  
[www.craftpassion.com/wp-json/mv-create/v1/creations/19/print](http://www.craftpassion.com/wp-json/mv-create/v1/creations/19/print)

--Tana Baldwin

## Less of Me, More of Thee

As I go through the day,  
As I walk in your way,  
May they see less of me, more of Thee.

While I try to do good  
and the things that I should,  
May they see less of me, more of thee.

In the words that I say,  
Both at work and at play,  
May they see less of me, more of Thee.

In the songs that I sing,  
In the tithes that I bring,  
May they see less of me, more of Thee.

Take my talents and time,  
For they really are thine;  
Let them see less of me, more of Thee.

At the foot of the cross  
I count everything loss,  
So they'll see less of me, more of Thee.

Hear the prayers that I pray,  
Help me trust and and obey  
As they see less of me, more of Thee.

Lois Stanton Van Dahm  
March 26, 2020



## April Birthdays

Leslie Pottorff  
Jean Bourque  
Gary Anderson  
Jane Djuplin  
George Serpe  
Kurt Koesser  
Lucelia Pollock  
Pat Koesser  
Emily Loveall  
Dave Robinson  
Becky Rasmussen  
Karen Rasmussen  
Mike Shaner  
Krist Pottorff  
Julia Robinson  
Edith Kosman

## SESSION

Gary Anderson (Fellowship, Memorial)  
Kelly Andrichik (Worship & Music, Personnel\*)  
Scott Barnes (Building & Grounds, Worship)  
Mark Bourque (Building & Grounds\*)  
Walter Deignan (Building & Grounds)  
Cris Doil (Stewardship & Finance\*)  
Marcy Hufendick (Christian Ed\*, Personnel, Memorial)  
Shari Infante (Fellowship\*, Mission, Memorial, Nominating)  
Todd Kotten (Building & Grounds)  
Ron Meinhardt (Worship and Music\*)  
Leslie Pottorff (Mission\*, Fellowship, Personnel, Memorial)  
Jodi Prince (Fellowship, Nominating)

( ) indicates committee assignments;  
\*indicates Team Leaders

## DEACONS

Lori Barnes, Ron Bauman, Renee Brueckert,  
Sherry Craig, Teddi Griffin, Lisa Hawley, Penny  
Ingraham\*, Brenda Langerman, Nancy  
McGovern



## April Anniversaries

Linda & Mark Putrow