

The Yoke



A PUBLICATION OF PEOTONE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

THE YOKE- July 2020

SUNDAY SERVICE RETURNS

In co-operation with requirements set forth by state government and the Northern Illinois Conference, please follow these social distancing guidelines when attending services:

- Only sit in the approved areas pre-marked
- PLEASE BRING AND WEAR A MASK
- Please take home your bulletin. Do not leave in pew or discard at church. Please do not discard ANY garbage at the church, including tissues and gum or candy wrappers, etc.
- The offering plates and bulletins will be on the table at the back of the church. These will NOT be passed around. Please take a bulletin and submit your offering at the table.
- NO COFFEE HOUR

**BIRTHDAY SUNDAY
AND ALL OTHER
ACTIVITIES
CANCELLED UNTIL
FURTHER NOTICE**

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COVID-19 and How It Is Affecting Our Parish

All church activities have been cancelled until further notice.

The church office will be OPEN regular hours, 9:00am-2:00pm Tuesday through Friday.

Church operating expenses continue even when circumstances mandate the cancellation of activities. During this time, if you are not attending services, you are invited to mail your regular offerings to the church mailing address, 105 N. West St. Peotone, IL 60458.

**“Years may wrinkle the skin, but to give up enthusiasm wrinkles the soul.”
—Samuel Ullman**

FROM THE PASTOR:

Dear Friends,

We are living through a time unlike anything most of us have ever experienced. Our lives have been changed by the COVID-19 pandemic, and we have no promise that things will ever again be quite the same.

Even life in the church has changed. We have gone several months without the opportunity to meet together for in-person worship, and we are just now coming back together carefully. How do we navigate these times?

I have been remembering some very basic things about the church, things that provide direction for me.

Periodically, the church needs to recover its identity as a movement actively resisting the tendency to become only an institution whose primary mission is to maintain its own existence.

Every 500 years the entire Christian Church has gone through some type of major change. The last such change was the Reformation 500 years ago. The church changes slowly, and we have to learn to be patient without becoming cynical. Deep change happens when we realize we have lost contact with our culture. Without change, the church will die.

Clergy and congregations, willing to expend themselves in the mission of Christ's Church, are desperately needed in today's world. Clergy are appointed to a mission field to guide an existing

congregation in mission.

We are called to be uncomfortable with the status quo. Appropriate discomfort is a sign of vitality in a congregation.

We have the resources to do what we are called to do, not to continue doing what we are used to doing.

A church is one of the few institutions that reach out to people over their differences.

Management asks, "Are we doing things right?"
Leadership asks, "Are we doing the right things?"

We need to be in conversation about 3 pressing questions.

1. Who are we?
2. What is God calling us to do?
3. Who is our neighbor?

May God help us.

See you soon,

RLY

Pastor Richard Young



IN-PERSON WORSHIP

is scheduled
IN THE SANCTUARY
EACH SUNDAY OF
JULY
At 10:30 A.M.



FACE BOOK LIVE WORSHIP

Will live stream
at 10:30 a.m.
On Kathy Carter
Young's page.

Peotone United Methodist Church Health Team Report

The Peotone United Methodist Church with restart Sunday morning services (June 28, 2020) at 10:30am when the state moves to STAGE FOUR of the pandemic (June 26, 2020) reopening which will allow gatherings of up to 50 people. The Church Council has been designated as our church's Health Team. In accordance with the guidelines provided by the Northern Illinois Conference of the United Methodist Church the Health Team developed the following practices for our church during STAGE FOUR:

1. Please **STAY HOME** if you are sick or not feeling well.
2. Please **WEAR A MASK** when entering the building.
3. Practice **SOCIAL DISTANCING** in the building. Some seats will be marked out. (Family groups that live together may sit together.)
4. **PICK UP BULLETINS** at entryways and **TAKE THEM HOME WITH YOU**.
5. **DEPOSIT OFFERINGS** in plates provided in convenient locations.
6. **DO NOT HANDLE PEW BIBLES OR HYMNALS**. (Feel free to bring your own bible from home.)
7. **HAND SANITIZER** and a few masks will be available.

In addition to the above guidelines, the services will be a little shorter and communion services will be conducted slightly different with no intinction or common handling of elements. There will be no coffee hours after services. The church will receive deep cleaning after services. The Health Team hopes these measure will keep everyone safe and still provide the opportunity for communal worship.

Prayer for First Responders and Essential Workers

Lord, we pray for those who run to danger to keep us safe and those who serve the common good. Embrace them with your mantle of protection and comfort the fears of their families. We ask this in Jesus' Name. AMEN



Prayer for The Nations

Lord, the pandemic opens our eyes to see each other as brothers and sisters in one human family. We pray for people of every nation and their leaders, asking that they be inspired to seek the good of all and quell the voices of division. We ask this in Jesus' Name. AMEN

Prayer for Health Care Workers

Lord, we are ennobled by those who put their lives at risk in caring for the sick. Keep them safe and embolden them when they are weary. We ask this in Jesus' Name. AMEN

The Christian Review

The “wow!” Factor

After the final notes concluded at a recent symphony performance in Boston, the conductor hadn't yet lowered his baton when a child exclaimed, “Wow!” The break in protocol, magnified by excellent acoustics, didn't upset the participants or audience, however. Instead, several later said it brought them great joy. One even called the moment life-changing.

The incident was especially meaningful because the child, a 9-year-old named Ronan, has autism and is generally nonverbal. Music, his family says, tends to attract his interest and make him happy. When symphony officials learned Ronan's identity, they arranged a private performance so he could meet some musicians.

How often do you shout “Wow!” – in a good way – at what you see and hear? You may tend to do so on vacation or while observing God's natural wonders, but what about during your day-to-day life? Think about the people you encounter and their talents – and your own. When have these sparked a “Wow!” of thanks to God?

Every blessing, large or small, is a wow-moment – a gift from God that warrants our praise.

–adapted from HomeTouch Ministry

The Weight of Hate

Word lovers, delight! The lexicon has tongue-twisting terms that describe hatred for just about anything.

According to *Mental Floss*, if you're a misodotakleidist, for example, you hate practicing the piano. Misogelasts hate laughter, while misopogonists hate beards and misophonists hate certain irritating sounds. There's even a word for someone who hates hatred (in the form of war or strife): a misopolemist.

Some of these words may make us smile, yet hate is deadly serious. No matter the target, hatred weighs us down and distracts us from Godly living.

That's why Paul instructs followers of Jesus to “put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander, together with all malice” (Ephesians 4:31, NRSV). Once that hateful weight is gone, we'll be freed up to “be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you” (verse 32).

CHRISTIAN SYMBOL

Jerusalem Cross

This complex cross, also called the Crusader's Cross or Fivefold Cross, has several interpretations. The main cross is composed of four tau (T) crosses representing the Old Testament law. The four small Greek crosses symbolize the fulfillment of the law in the gospel. The five crosses together represent the church's mission: to spread the gospel to the four corners of the earth. They're also said to symbolize Christ's five wounds (hands, feet and side).



ACTIVITIES

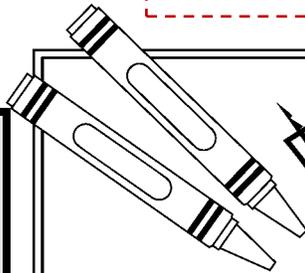


TRIVIA

What seemingly small act did Jesus specifically say would be rewarded?

- A. Giving a child a toy
 - B. Giving a lost traveler directions
 - C. Giving someone a cup of cold water
 - D. Giving a sad person a hug
- Last month's trivia answer:

Answer: B (See Ecclesiastes 3:1-8.)



PUZZLE

WATER WORKS!

The gospels record Jesus' miracles, many of which involve water.

Directions: Using the illustrated equations, fill in the blanks to describe each miracle. Use the Bible references for help.



+ e

Water changes to

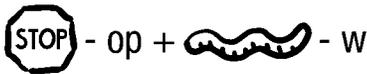
JOHN 2:1-11



- k + d

Heals a man born

JOHN 9



- op + _____ - w

Calms a

MATTHEW 8:23-27



f + _____ - d

Catch of

LUKE 5:1-11



- ch + er

Walks on

MATTHEW 14:22-33

July 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4
5 <i>Service 10:30am</i>	6	7	8	9	10	11
12 OPERATIONS Committee Meeting <i>Service 10:30am</i>	13	14	15	16	17	18
19 NOW Committee Meeting <i>Special Sunday Offering UMCOR</i> <i>Service 10:30am</i>	20	22	23	24	25	26
27 <i>Service 10:30am</i>	28	29	30	31		
			<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Helping Hands - July</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">The NOW Committee encourages you to bring your contributions of the following items to church so they can be delivered to Helping Hands: <u>PAPER PRODUCTS:</u> <u>toilet paper, paper towels, and tissues.</u></p>			

Peotone United Methodist Church

105 N. West St.

Peotone, IL 60468

Phone: (708) 258-6876

www.peotoneumc.com

July 2020

**SO IT WILL BE AT THE
END OF THE AGE. THE
ANGELS WILL COME OUT
AND SEPARATE THE EVIL
FROM THE RIGHTEOUS.**

M A T T H E W 1 3 : 4 9