



UNILU NEWS & EVENTS

March 25, 2020

FROM PASTOR JON

Dear Friends, grace & peace to you +.

This is the view (please see photos at end of newsletter) from my new home office. In the first photo are numerous meaningful things. The white daffodils in bloom at the bottom are “Thalia”, and they were gifts from Judi Key. The big stump that the squirrel is using for a table is where we had to remove a dead oak tree when we moved in three years ago. Lesson learned: it’s hard to tell if a tree is dead in the middle of winter. (Please note, the sellers & agents were all honest, fair people, we just didn’t notice this.) Beyond the stump is a redbud. It took two years to bloom this nicely, but here it is! The pink azaleas I purchased & planted. On the other side of the natural pathway is another redbud, perhaps it will bloom as nicely next year. Going down the hill is one of my peonies, my first ones ever! To the right are irises, compliments of Judi and Laura & Pastor Chris. Proceeding down the hill is a clump of Winter Jasmine, a gift from Karin Kirby. I met her months ago while retrieving mulch from the Clemson Mulch Pile. She grows and cuts flowers for Alive Wesleyan Church’s various ministries.

So, in this my window to the world, I am surrounded by the generosity of a cloud of witnesses! I’m reminded of the beauty of God’s creation and the joy in tending it. It teaches me lessons of patience as shown by how it’s changed

since we moved in (Second picture. This shot is from the street looking up.)

As we all adjust to a new way of living during this health crisis, I hope you have some moments where you can refresh your soul. Please contact me at pastorjon12@gmail.com, text or call me at 843-304-5664, or now, since I'm on Facebook regularly, via [Facebook messenger](#), if you need a listening ear. Or two.

God's peace & hope,

Pastor Jon



WE CAN ALL MAKE A DIFFERENCE TO SLOW THE SPREAD

Matthew 18:20. *For wherever two or three are gathered in My name, there I am in*

the midst of them. These words written so long ago are very timely. What a week it has been for all of us, not only in our local community, but also our world community. Everyday brings new challenges and rules designed to help slow the spread of the coronavirus. We are now nine days into the national *Slow the Spread* effort.

The coronavirus is now present throughout our state and the number of infected people is increasing daily. On Monday, Governor McMaster issued a new executive order to limit gatherings of 3 or more people in parks and beaches. This order is meant to prevent gatherings like parties and groups forming for recreation – not essential functions of society. This rule does not include private homes or places of work, and is intended to reduce the spread of this highly contagious coronavirus. It is still permissible to walk in your neighborhood or local park with your immediate family.

In addition to the following above guidance, continue to:

PRACTICE GOOD HYGIENE!

- Wash your hands frequently.
- Avoid touching your face.

- **Sneeze or cough into a tissue, or the inside of your elbow.**
- **Disinfect frequently used items and surfaces as much as possible.**

IF YOU FEEL SICK, stay home. Do not go to work. Call ahead to contact your medical provider.

IF YOUR CHILDREN ARE SICK, keep them at home.

IF SOMEONE IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD HAS TESTED POSITIVE for the coronavirus, keep the entire household at home. Do not go to work. Do not go to school. Contact your medical provider.

IF YOU ARE AN OLDER PERSON or HAVE A SERIOUS UNDERLYING HEALTH CONDITION, stay home and away from other people as much as possible.

LIMIT OUTINGS TO ESSENTIAL ERRANDS and PRACTICE SOCIAL DISTANCING.

Thank you for doing your part in keeping our community as healthy as possible. Our individual actions and personal sacrifices will make a difference and help prevent our healthcare system from being overwhelmed. Also, take a few minutes to reach out to family, friends and neighbors to share your caring. Whenever we are gathered in two's and spiritually three or more, we are drawn together in Jesus Christ's name.

God's Peace, Lena Jones, RN BSN MS

Parish Updates

PARISH FUNCTIONS DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

The pastors and others have been working hard to try to develop and implement plans for continuation of church functions during the COVID-19 public health emergency. Here are some highlights:

- The first online worship service via Facebook Live was very successful, with ~60 devices tuned in (representing 60 family groups and/or individuals) and 380 views on Facebook!
- Worship videos will also be posted on the church website for viewing.
- Pastor Jon has daily morning devotions on Facebook Live (7:30 am). <https://www.facebook.com/uniluclemson/> You can tune in live in your pajamas or watch later. These are averaging 90-100 views each!
- Pastors had their second hymnal distribution. At this time, to be extra cautious for all, they will stop this practice. If you would like to access these resources online, please contact Abi or Pastor Jon for our Sundays & Seasons account sign-in.
- LCM Wednesday night meals will be packaged and available for student pickup (THANK YOU, Cindy Sanders!)
- Rebecca Quesada is heading the Congregation Care Calling Task Force (THANK YOU!). This task force will contact designated lists of people. This serves as a wellness check for the body, mind, and spirit. Even though we can't be together, we need to make sure we are not alone.
- The executive committee is meeting weekly to discuss these and other items. Highlights from these meetings and full council meetings will be in the newsletter weekly.

A big thank you to our pastors for their hard work in quickly figuring out so many ways to connect with all of us!

THINGS TO KEEP IN MIND AS WE NAVIGATE COVID-19 PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY TOGETHER (Subject to Change as Circumstances Change)

- All worship services and church meetings will be conducted online through April 4 in accordance with current government recommendations. Sunday school and Bible studies will not meet. Sunday service livestreamed at 9 AM on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/uniluclemson/> and later posted to our website www.uniluclemson.org.
- Council has requested that the pastors not have in-person pastoral visits, except in the case of life-threatening emergency.
- Pastors will use telecare or other methods for the duration of this public health emergency.

- Pastors can be reached via cell phone 24/7. Please **DO NOT CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE**. Pastor Jon: 843-304-5664; Pastor Josh: 919-744-1590.
- Church administrative assistant, Abi Donhauser will work remotely from her home office. She can be reached during normal office hours Monday - Thursday, 7 am to 12 noon & 1 pm to 2:30 pm; Friday 8 am to 12 noon at 864-722-5504 or by email; unilusecretary@gmail.com.
- LCM meals will be provided as boxed/to-go meals rather than usual group meals. A small number of people will help with meal preparation.
- This public health emergency may leave people feeling isolated. To combat this, Council and others in the congregation, who desire to do so, (volunteers are welcome!) will be asked to contact others regularly to check in (lists will be provided).
- Church facilities remain available to congregation members, but we suggest that this be for **INDIVIDUALS ONLY AND NOT FOR GATHERINGS/MEETINGS**.
- Clemson Community Care will continue their regular schedule of operations. Donations can be made at the church (baskets in narthex) or can be brought directly to their facility. Online monetary donations are also greatly appreciated

Community Ministry

A REFLECTION FROM JEAN MEHLMAN

My thought for the day is not my own. It has been shared by Judi Key and our retired pastor, Larry Hartsell. The speaker is Nadia Bolz-Weber, a Lutheran Pastor in Denver, CO. She was my grandson Hugh's favorite speaker from the National Youth Gathering that he attended. The message is right on. For us "older folks" the messenger does not fit our picture of a pastor.

Don't let that bother you!

Maybe the opposite of fear isn't bravery. Maybe the opposite of fear is...love.

-Nadia Bolz-Weber

Click on this link to watch:

[https://www.facebook.com/watch/?](https://www.facebook.com/watch/?ref=search&v=1335052923363395&external_log_id=dac63d1dcf4e1fa62c944eboe8fe6b0a&q=nadia+bolz-weber)

[ref=search&v=1335052923363395&external_log_id=dac63d1dcf4e1fa62c944](https://www.facebook.com/watch/?ref=search&v=1335052923363395&external_log_id=dac63d1dcf4e1fa62c944eboe8fe6b0a&q=nadia+bolz-weber)

[eboe8fe6b0a&q=nadia+bolz-weber](https://www.facebook.com/watch/?ref=search&v=1335052923363395&external_log_id=dac63d1dcf4e1fa62c944eboe8fe6b0a&q=nadia+bolz-weber)

**OPERATION INASMUCH
ALTERNATIVE**

**When: Now Thru End of Social Distancing
*Serve Eagerly!***

Jesus said in essence, *Inasmuch as you serve the least of these, you serve me.* We want to serve, we need to serve, but we need to respect social distancing. Unfortunately, we will not be able to gather together March 28 and serve as a group. However, here are some **THINGS WE CAN CONTINUE TO DO** to serve our neighbors.

1) **Keep sending cards!** This is of the utmost importance at this time when we are asked to avoid face to face contact. See the list of names of our “LCM Friends”, “shut-ins,” those who are ill, and healthcare workers/first responders by clicking **[HERE](#)**. Send them a word of encouragement and love. If you are creative, or are looking for a project with your children, make a card! You might consider sending one card a day. Addresses can be found in the Church Directory. If you need assistance using the Directory, contact me or one of the pastors. If we have left anyone off this list, please let us know and we will send out an updated list.

2) **We have many members who work in health care or are first responders.** We would like to get a list of all these individuals. Let us know who they are! Pray for them during this time

3) **Hospitals are experiencing a blood shortage right now.** We regularly have blood drives at UNILU, thanks to the organization skills of Carol Miller. Although we cannot host one here at this time, if you are healthy and qualify, you can still donate!!!

4) **The church is organizing a group to make sure each of us in our church family is contacted each week.** You too can reach out to others, your neighbors, family or friends. Facetime or Skype with them!

5) **View Pastor Jon’s messages each day on Facebook. Participate in online**

worship. <https://www.facebook.com/uniluclemson/>

- 6) When grocery shopping (if you still go out), pick up items for Clemson Community Care (CCC). Alternately, make an online donation to CCC. Also, offer to get groceries for a neighbor and leave them on their doorstep. If you cannot or should not go out, ASK someone to shop for you! Those who can want to help!
- 7) Take pictures and share them with us through email or Facebook.
- 8) The kids' scrub hats are done! Thanks to everyone who helped or offered to help!!!! If you have fabric or wish to order fabric online you can continue to make hats. They are always needed.
- 9) Share any ideas you have to stay busy and feel productive during this time!

There has been a desire amongst many of us to make masks for the hospitals. While this sounds like an awesome idea, until we can get exact specifications on if and what the hospitals will use, we are holding off on this project. At this moment, Prisma Upstate Hospitals are not accepting hand-made masks of any kind.

Blessings to all during this unique time.

Any questions, contact Judy Aikens, 724-831-8104, jbaikens57@gmail.com

UniLu Concerns & Celebrations

UNILU PRAYER CONCERNS

PRAYER CONCERNS for University Lutheran Members, Family and Friends:
Ada Lou Steirer; Herm Spitzer; Gail Paul; Pat Wagner; Rosalyn Flanigan;
George Harris; Tony Quesada; Gene Copenhaver; Randy Gilchrist; Larry
Bock; Joyce Lillehamer; Judy Morrison's nephew, Christopher Stott;
expecting parents, Donny & Cathy Harris .

UNILU CELEBRATIONS

Pastor Jon's Photos



Parish Information

Click [HERE](#) for UniLu Calendar

Click [HERE](#) for Prayer Fellowship List

LINKS

[SC LUTHERAN MAGAZINE](#)

[UNILU WEBSITE](#) • [LECTIONARY/READINGS](#)

[LUTHERAN CAMPUS MINISTRY](#) • [SC SYNOD](#)

[ELCA GOOD GIFTS](#)

* **Miss a service?** The recorded church sermons, audio and video, are posted weekly to the website: www.uniluclemson.org and to the University Lutheran Facebook page.

* **Church Office Hours** *

Monday–Thursday 7 AM–12 PM; 1 PM–2:30 PM
Fridays 8 AM - 12 PM

University Lutheran Church Mission Statement

University Lutheran is a family of faith, called by the Holy Spirit to be one ministry serving both our community and university. The Spirit calls us to make known, by word and deed, the story of God's love in Jesus. Our worship together empowers us to grow as disciples as we receive, celebrate, and share God's gifts with all of God's creation and created ones.