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The Federated Courier

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From the Pastor's Desk

By this time they were nearing Emmaus and the end of their journey. Jesus acted as if he were going on, but they begged him, "Stay the night with us, since it is getting late." So he went home with them. As they sat down to eat, he took the bread and blessed it. Then he broke it and gave it to them. Suddenly, their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. And at that moment he disappeared! Luke 24: 28-31

Greetings of Grace, Peace, and Safety,

The Coronavirus has brought confusion, fear, risk, illness, and more to the world's populations. We are living in unpredictable times. The future of how society will be impacted into the future remains unknown. The pandemic has brought out the best and the worst of humanity. Yet, we can have some control in our lives and into the future by the way we live each day.

Many of us have been warmed and inspired by the dedication of frontline workers to show up for work each day, many times working double shift or more. The list is long of frontline workers from EMTs, hospital workers: doctors, nurses, dietary aids, housecleaning personnel, to pharmacy, grocery, and store clerks, charitable food servants, postal workers, and truck drivers. There are many others.

The disciples that walked with Jesus to Emmaus were blessed by including another to join in and walk along, even though

they were in fear, discouraged, afraid, and perhaps angry.

They chose to be kind. They were doubly blessed when they



invited the “stranger to stay with them- for it was almost evening when they arrived at Emmaus. The kind gesture of hospitality allowed them to deepen their understanding and faith as Jesus blessed and broke the bread.

During the COVID 19 pandemic I am amazed and inspired by the kindness of...

...The thousands of doctors and nurses who have responded to the call for additional help in the hospitals and satellites.

...Small business owners who transformed their beer equipment to make hand sanitizer to give away for free.

...To the student in Uxbridge vocational school who designed a PPE facemask and brought it to his teacher as a proposal for the students to make more from their 3D printers.

...For the Uxbridge teacher and Superintendent who took the challenge of making the much-needed PPE facemasks instead of allowing fear to rule.

...For relentless hours medical folks work.

...From New York to California, many USA cities turning the lights of the towers or bridges to blue in honor of health care workers and first responders on the front lines of the COVID-19 pandemic.

...For the residents of Wuhan, Lombardy, Milan, Madrid, Paris, London, Istanbul, Atlanta, Buenos Aires, Tamil Nadu, India, Britain, Canada, and the United States cheering, playing instruments, honking horns in the evening celebrating life and thanking essential workers.

...For larger companies joining along with small and mid-sized companies to produce the much-needed ventilators.

...For workers and restaurant owners working to provide food for folks in need and for tired medical worker.

These are just a few of the many, many kind deeds that are taking place all over the world. It warms the heart and connects us in true gestures of loving our neighbors, even when we are physically distanced.

We have control over the way we live today. As we choose to love our neighbors, we are planting seeds of love and kindness for the future. May we not live in fear, anger, and sadness, but choose to live in the light and love our neighbor(s) in small and large deeds.

Blessings of Safety upon you,

Pastor Pat

With fewer commitments in our schedule, I hope you take the time to get out and enjoy the beauty around you. Take time to notice new life, to smell, to listen, to breathe deeply, to pray and give thanks for God's Presence and creation.



From the Deacons' Bench

As we meet one another at this difficult time, let's try to remember that we are reminded that each of us have a moment to carry out the mission of God as taught by His son, Jesus.

So let us remember: I am available Lord to be used by You each and every day. So we ask that You guide me and lead me in what I say and do.

May my words and actions be a witness that You are living in me.

To the one that is lonely, help me to be a friend.

To those that are burdened by the difficulties of living with and through today's virus attack, help me, Lord; help me to be a friend.

To those heavily burdened by the events of today, help me to be one of your shepherds to meet their needs.

Lord, I commit to live in You and ask your guidance in all you want me to be and do.

Amen, so might it be.

Hayden Tibbetts , Deacon

Be
kind



Servers for the Month

Deacons

May	Linda Hornig
June	Carmel Grant
July	Karen Anable

Anniversaries

Jeremy & Kristi Tessier	05/03
Patricia & David Baker	05/04
Dennis & Sandra Chaffee	05/06
Jesse & Kathleen Lee	05/15
Robert & Mary Howell	05/18
Richard & Jeanne Regnier	05/20
Carl & Karen Gatchell	05/24
Dale & Amy Varney	05/30
Lauren & Keith Hummel	05/31

Congratulations



Sunday School Birthdays

Philip Castellano 05/02

Robert Fernandes 05/14



May Birthdays

Birthday Greetings to the following adult members of our church who celebrate birthdays in May.

Anne Marie Matzko 05/01

Regina Germain 05/02

Barbara Schofield 05/03

Jodi Brodeur 05/03

Gail Romano 05/04

Paul Olesuk 05/05

Donald Ogonowski 05/05

Sandra Howell 05/05

Geraldine Kruger 05/08

Beverly Burnell 05/08

Sandra Dodd 05/09

Carroll Willey 05/11

Beatrice Moriarty 05/12

Lois Pixley 05/14

Joyce Ogonowski 05/17

Cheryl Patterson 05/18

Scott Olesuk 05/18

James Bliss 05/20

Lori-Beth Sterling 05/20

Stephen Libby 05/24

Ruth Haley 05/26

Amy Bliss 05/28

Kylie Walulak 05/29

Rita Spencer 05/29

Bonnie Howell 05/30





Prayer Corner



Evie Meacham

Peg Stearns

Julia Winetrout

Judy Ingle

Audrey Burger

John (Jack) Bennett

Janet Brehaut

Beverly Pease

Winnie

Joyce Libby

Dennis

Gail Banning

Otto Kern

Christopher

Carol Darnley

Gwen Wills

Lelum

Jackie Prior

Karen Kielb

Protection for first responders, including Lori Beth, Joshua, Matt, Meghan, Brendan, Sherry & Rebecca, care givers, community workers, and governing officials trying to deal with all of this.

*Be
kind*

Help to Curb Hunger

On Saturday, May 16th from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm, we invite you to drop off food to the curb of the church. Folks will offer curbside pick-up of groceries from your trunk, so you do not have to get out of your car. We are collecting non-perishables from the community. They will then be taken to local food banks including, but not limited to **Community Survival Center, Inc., Gray House, and Springfield Rescue Mission,** depending on the number of donations.



Please be kind and generous.
There are many hungry people
around.

JOIN US ONLINE FOR



Virtual Coffee/Fellowship Hour

Beginning May 5th at 11:30 and the following Tuesdays in May, please join us for a time of connection and conversation on Zoom. (Invitation follows and it will be in the weekly news as well.) Please note there is no cost to join. You simply have to "click" to join in on a laptop. You can download Zoom on a phone and connect the same way. If you do not have ability to connect through computer, laptop, or phone, there is a telephone number which you can call and join in the conversation with us. I hope you will consider joining us. I miss seeing you all.

Pastor Pat

“A Different Kind of Epidemic”

Submitted by Shirley Fuller

Smiling is infectious,
You catch it like the flu,
When someone smiled at me today,
I started smiling too.
I passed around the corner,
And someone saw my grin,
When he smiled I realized,
I'd passed it on to him.
I thought about that smile,
Then realized its worth,
A single smile, just like mine,
Could travel round the earth.
So, if you feel a smile begin,
Don't leave it undetected.
Let's start an epidemic quick,
And get the world infected.

“A Miracle Grows”

A poem written by Marilyn Connor

In my garden I grow
Love and flowers
Love spreads the word
And the flowers bloom
Oh, how magnificent they are
Like the colors of the rainbow
Gently swaying in the summer breeze
I watch them grow from under
the earth up towards the sun.
Shining so great.
I pick them just for you
For you are a miracle too.



Opportunities for Church Leadership Training

NYDIS and NDIN will continue to offer free [Webinars for congregation leaders](#) until the need is met – including weekly Continuity of Operations Plan Writing Webinars and Pandemic Virtual Exercise Webinars. Please share this information with your networks of congregations and faith-based organizations who may be interested.

Link to read more and register: www.nydisnet.eventbrite.com.

Other Useful Resources for Congregation Leaders:

- NYDIS' COVID-19 Page, with links to government agency resources for faith communities: <https://www.nydis.org/covid19/>
- SAMHSA's [Coping with Stress During Inf. Disease Outbreak](#)
- CDC [Talking with children about Coronavirus Disease 2019](#)
- NYDIS Tip Sheet: [Continuity of Operations Planning for Congregations and FBOs](#)
- CDC [COVID19 Guidance for Community and Faith-Based Organizations](#)

If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Pat.

Virtual Coffee/Fellowship Hour

Join us for a time of connection and conversation
on Zoom.

Every Tuesday in May @ 11:30 am

Begins on May 5th