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*The Dorchester/Friend  
United Methodist Church  
Newsletter*

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**May 2020**

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## **PASTORAL POINT**

“Peace Be With You!”

John 20:

<sup>19</sup> *On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!”* <sup>20</sup> *After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.* <sup>21</sup> *Again Jesus said, “Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.”*

<sup>22</sup> *And with that he breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit.*

<sup>23</sup> *If you forgive anyone’s sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.”*

<sup>24</sup> *Now Thomas (also known as Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came.* <sup>25</sup> *So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord!” But he said to them, “Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe.”* <sup>26</sup>

*A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!”* <sup>27</sup> *Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe.”* <sup>28</sup> *Thomas said to him, “My Lord and my God!”* <sup>29</sup> *Then Jesus told him, “Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”*



According to John’s gospel, the disciples had not yet encountered the resurrected Jesus. John and Peter had seen the empty tomb and Mary had excitedly told them of her witnessing the risen Christ, but the disciples had not seen Him yet. It was on the evening of the first Easter, and they were all gathered in a room behind locked doors. They were gathered there and were in fear of what had taken place, they huddled together in fear, perhaps wondering if life would ever be the same again. It seems we are in a similar situation, not because people are losing their lives due to persecution, but to the pandemic. Like those disciples of long ago, fear still has a way of gripping us making us wonder if life will ever be the same again. Something we need to know is that Jesus handled the biggest problem; He has conquered death and there’s no

problem we may have that He can’t conquer today. In Him, God created the beauty and splendor of the heavens; there’s nothing that happens in our lives that He can’t handle.

The disciples were overjoyed to see Jesus and I’m sure they celebrated together as they witnessed that most glorious event. We, too, need to continue the celebration of the resurrection of Christ each time that we gather together or apart. His death on the cross offers pardon for all and His resurrection provides us with the power to hope and have joy in this life and of the eternal life. For those who have placed their faith in Christ, they have been born into the family of God, yet sin and darkness continue to war against our souls and we feel weak and incapable of living the life God expects of us. Guilt and fear often seem determined to win the battle and we

may feel like giving up. But Jesus appears and breathes in us and provides us with the very life that God breathed into the nostrils of Adam.

Paul reminded us of the Lord's presence, when he said, "Rejoice in the Lord always, again I will say, rejoice! God is never far away from us. In Psalm 139, David spoke about this wonderful truth when he said; *"Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence? "If I ascend into heaven, You are there; If I make my bed in hell, behold, You are there. If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, even there Your hand shall lead me, And Your right hand shall hold me."* (Psalm 139:7-10).

Are you worried and in fears? Rightfully so, but let us continue to have faith and hear again the first words of the resurrected Jesus, "Peace be with you". Let us draw close to Jesus, as He is closer to us. He wants to meet us in a face to face moment, so close that we can feel His breath upon us. Our fears and doubts will be changed into a confidence and strength. Life may not be the same, but the peace of the Lord is with us. AMEN.

### May Scripture

- 3<sup>rd</sup> Acts 2:42-47; Psalm 23; 1 Peter 2:19-25; John 10:1-10
- 10<sup>th</sup> Acts 7:55-60; Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16; 1 Peter 2:2-10; John 14:1-4
- 17<sup>th</sup> Acts 17:22-31; Psalm 66:8-20; 1 Peter 3:13-22; John 14:15-21
- 24<sup>th</sup> Acts 1:6-14; Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35; 1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11; John 17:1-11
- 31<sup>st</sup> Acts 2:1-21; Psalm 104:24-34, 35b; 1 Corinthians 12:3b-13; John 7:37-39



Follow the Facebook pages of Friend United Methodist Church and Dorchester UMC for any church related stories including Worship services/Sermons and Bible Study.

Thank you to Carolyn Taylor and Margaret Eberspacher for their musical talents via Livestream.



Carolyn Taylor at the pipe organ.



Margaret Eberspacher at the piano.

**United Methodist Church of Friend  
1st Quarter 2020**

Annual Budget \$90,435.23  
 Needed to Meet Budget  
 Weekly \$ 1,739.14

**Year-to-Date Receipts**

Identified Givings	\$17,600.00
Cash In Plate	\$ 968.00
Fund Raisers	\$ 0
Miscellaneous	\$ 289.76
Upper Room	\$ 5.00
Ash Wednesday	\$188.00
Rent	\$ 75.00
Sunday School	\$ 21.76
Budgeted to Date	\$22,608.82
Collected to Date	\$18,857.76



*Save the date ~ June 3, 2020*

Dear United Methodist Women,  
 "Springtime Greetings from the UMW Ladies  
 at Seward United Methodist Church!"  
 I am very hopeful that you and your loved  
 ones are adjusting to the challenges of this  
 unexpected and menacing health emergency.  
 Our UMW Unit members have accepted  
 that our April and May UMW Unit gatherings  
 have been canceled. We also understand that  
 our 2020 calendars have become very 'fluid'  
 this Spring, but we very much hope to be able  
 to host our **ANNUAL SUMMER GUEST DAY**  
 event. What a celebration that would be!

Here is your

**" SAVE THE DATE ANNOUNCEMENT "**

**WHAT?** Salad Luncheon and Program  
**WHEN?** Wednesday, June 3, 2020  
 11:30 am - 2:00 pm  
**WHERE?** Seward United Methodist  
 Church Fellowship Hall

Please share this information with your  
 Unit members. We always look forward to  
 seeing everyone. More specific information  
 will be provided in late-April.

Together in Christ Jesus' love and care,

Jeanne Gee and Maxine Moore,  
 Seward UMW ~ Seward United Methodist Church

**FRIEND UNITED METHODIST WOMEN**  
 No meeting in May.  
**DORCHESTER UNITED METHODIST WOMEN**  
 No meeting in May.

*Happy  
 Birthday!*

- May 1 Boone Payne
- May 2 Shirley Rohrig
- May 4 Lois Nohavec
- May 5 Devin Lott
- May 6 Joe Vossler
- May 10 Kathryn Vossler, Loren Vyhnalek,  
John Weber
- May 12 Darin Kotas, Bailey Velder
- May 13 Susan Horner, Sam Pendleton
- May 14 Trevin Stutzman, Tyler Sysel
- May 15 Jack Schweitzer, Linda Sealey
- May 16 Isaac Steuk
- May 17 Heather Odoski
- May 19 David Betka
- May 21 Clarissa Bors, Makayla Schlueter
- May 22 Lori Vyhnalek
- May 23 Jeremy Pliva
- May 24 Neal Ladely, Greg Ricenbaw
- May 28 Brant Pracheil
- May 30 Melanie Kunc, Allen Bruntz



- 5-01 Brent & Lindsey Zoubek (16)
- 5-05 Kevin & Kathy Spicka (41)
- 5-16 Rick & Yadira Mason (5)
- 5-18 Michael & Marla Weber (41)
- 5-27 Bob & Rose Paulsen (66)