

2021 May Pastors Report

Volunteers came through for baking cakes and taking them to Armada as they provided meals for MCREST once again this year. The usual friendships that happen because of housing the guests, of course, did not happen as the men are housed down in Mt. Clemens because of COVID. The opportunity to make new friendships was missed by the ones who are usually around during that week of MCREST. Two from the list provided at the last council meeting as inactive opted to make cakes. Maybe we just haven't had the right kind of activities that some feel comfortable partaking in **OR** they just were not asked.

Its been noted that of forty persons healed by Jesus in New/Christian Scriptures, thirty-four were either brought to Jesus by friends or Jesus was taken to them. Only six came to Jesus by their own initiative. Our task remains to reach out to persons in Jesus' name and to bring them to the One who can satisfy their needs. Believers and non-believers need a place to pray and be in community. Invitations have to begin with the leadership.

I think the office computer should be password protected. I was shocked that someone with COVID was in there using the computer on a Monday. Along with her were two people who I had never seen. I do not know if they had ben vaccinated.

Shelley Champion is still on oxygen and not allowed to drive. We should have her on sick leave and Glen should be paid. Shelley has been out for a month already. She is really weak.

PPP via the bank is available for a one time use. Other UCC churches have used it. \$10,000 for one time only to cover salaries in COVID time. First Congregational UCC New Baltimore used it if anyone wants to talk with Cathy about how to apply and owe nothing back. Cathy is in the office on Monday and Thursday mornings.

The **Nadine Moses** prayer vigil came up rather suddenly and was posted on our facebook. Besides the family and friends of Nadine some of our membership came to also lend support. Nadine has been missing for two weeks now. Our parking lot was full and some parked along the street. The weather was strange that evening: it was cold, then it sprinkled, then it poured and then surprise of all surprises the sun came out and there was a rainbow. That arc in the sky lending to hope was a wonderful welcome to the many that had gathered.

When **Mr. Bartell** passed the church was not contacted by the family but by the pastor they wanted do the funeral. Rev. Kim Newport from the Romeo Congregational Church called in the evening of the 13th of May to ask permission to do the funeral.. That pastor was between connections to go to her own family funeral. Only because Mr. Bartell was so instrumental with the merging of the

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churches did I see no problem with visitation at the church **but that Council would have to be contacted.** Visitation is usually an hour prior to the funeral/memorial service. I called the Miller home early the next morning, May 14, to offer condolences and talked with the Amelia as nobody else was there. Amelia then informed me that it was posted that the visitation - - - - - I did not have time to contact council and the family went ahead and posted on the funeral home site.

Well, that is a huge lesson learned. Once more florist do not usually do delivery on a Sunday and have been calling as to when they can deliver. Nobody is at the building on Saturday. Helen is there until 1:00 on Friday, so that will be when delivery can happen. The Richmond Florist, when contacted, said they will deliver on Sunday between 9-10:00 a.m. and hopefully they will not disrupt worship. I am so sorry that this happened and that before I could even contact Ron or any of council the family went ahead and posted immediately. Why they posted on May 14 early in the a.m. for a happening on May 23 puzzles me. May 23 would have been Mr. Bartell's birthday. The oldest of the daughters did serve on Church Council and she had to know that Council had to be contacted. Being contacted by another pastor and no communication from the family was very disturbing.

Most who come to weekend in-person worship have been vaccinated. According to the latest from the governors office those NOT VACCINATED must continue to wear a mask indoors. Because our gathered want to sing, I am suggesting we **all** continue to mask so that we can sing.

The Eastern Association Pastors continue to meet weekly and we are reminded each week about the July Synod and the need to have representation from each local church. It is on line, no cost, no travel time so I pray that some will step up to represent First UCC Richmond. We do have autonomy but we should still be informed about the Conference and National Office happenings.

Respectfully submitted by Rev. Katie Dailey