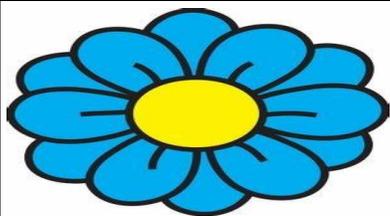
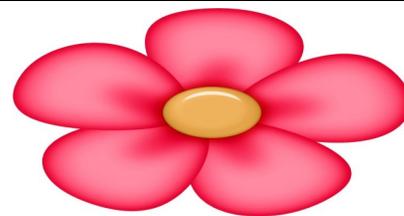


# UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



# MAY



DENISON UPC

205 North 24th St., Denison, IA 51442

2020

Office Hours: At Home  
Office Telephone:  
712-263-4130

Goes to Pastor's Cell

Pastor:  
Rev. Jennifer Olson  
317-797-5860  
pastorjennolson@gmail.com

Office Administrator:  
Barb Kessel  
712-269-1968

Scott Schurke, Custodian  
712-269-4078

Website:  
[www.upcdenison.com](http://www.upcdenison.com)

Email:  
[upcdenison@gmail.com](mailto:upcdenison@gmail.com)

Facebook:  
UpcDenison

## Session

Shar Hulstein  
Kendall Von Glan  
Bill Bruce  
Pat Chapman  
Wayne Igou  
Kyle Bohnker  
RoseMary Mason  
Carolyn Bukacek  
Clerk of Session:

Penny Kinney

## Deacons

Joyce Bohnker  
Marge Meyer  
Corrine Mehaffey-Kinney  
Jayne Lyons  
Denise Philipp  
Rebecca Brown  
Eric Olson  
Mary Ann Irwin  
David Moen

## Pastor's Ponderings

I'd love to be able to look into your eyes while I preaching! Do you know that sermons are not just words that a preacher gives to a group of listeners? No, something holy happens when people gather together to hear God's word. In all of the years I have preached sermons, I've experienced the sense that God is present. That the words of scripture come alive when there is a reading and a hearing. When I speak the words I've written, the words I've prayed over, and composed with this congregation in mind, and I look at your faces, see your interest, your smiles, your nudging of the person next to you when something hits home. . . I can see and feel the hand of God among us. It's the interaction of the Holy Spirit amongst, I believe. Some days it is stronger than others.

I miss that interaction and exchange between us when I preach a sermon to an empty sanctuary or in my living room with my husband behind the camera. I try to imagine your faces and it encourages me. I wonder if you ever realized how important you are to the worship service. As Presbyterians, we strongly believe (thanks to our friend John Calvin) that worship is the work of the people.

As we continue down this path of unknown, learning ways to be a community while physically apart, our time of worship becomes even more important. Since I cannot see you, your words of encouragement and support are very much appreciated.

May the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of God's Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

With love and prayers,

*Pastor Jennifer+*

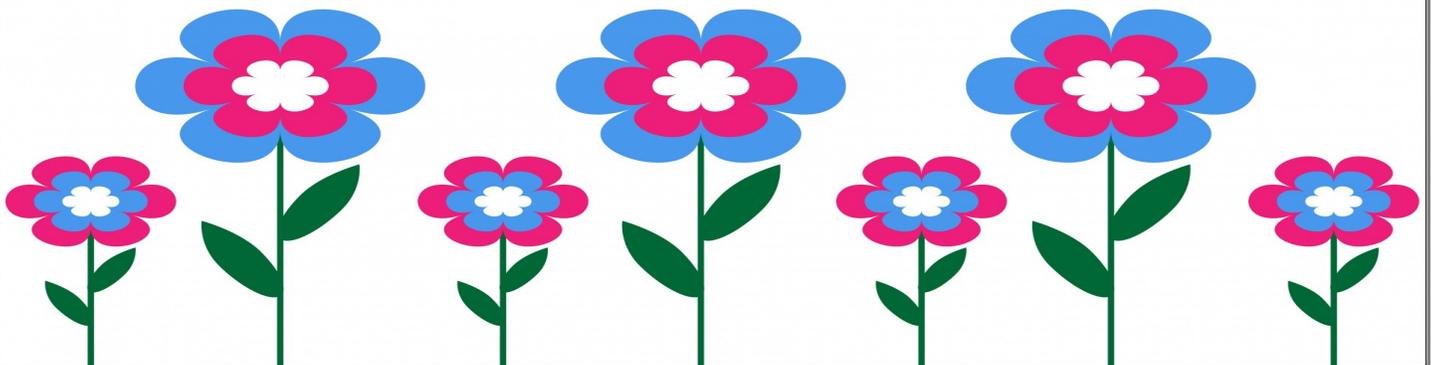
# MAY WORSHIP

The Session and Pastor Jenn are concerned about each and every one of you. Because of the uncertainty of the safety in group gatherings, we will continue to worship online.

You can watch the services at the church's Facebook page (upcdenison) or access through the link sent out by email to congregation.

You can watch them anytime, but new ones come out each Sunday at 10:30 am.

If you'd like to read scripture, sing, play an instrument, or do a Children's Time, let Pastor Jenn know. You can record it on your phone and send it to her to be included in the worship service. Thanks to Shar Hulstein and Lisa Langholz for their participation, and of course, to Marilynn Jepsen for her weekly organ music.



## Bible Verses to Investigate...

1 Peter 4:12-14

Acts 17:22-31

John 14:1-14



**Question:** Which area of Palestine was especially wealthy?

**Answer:** The area around Jordan. The banks were always overflowing.

# Stewardship & Finance

Online giving is available on our website @

www.upcdension.com

You can also leave in our church mailbox, drop off at the Crawford County Bank drive thru, or mail.



GENERAL FUND:

BALANCED 03/3120

The most recent report is from our month of March. All totaled, our assets did decrease by about            This was in large part due to the decrease of            in value of our Edward Jones Endowment fund. On the bright side, we did have two positives!

For the **month of March our congregational giving was**            an increase of            over February, and

As a result of a very large team effort that included the Finance Committee, Session and the Crawford County Bank **we did qualify and received a loan from the Small Business Administration for            As long as we use the funds for payroll and utilities the loan will be turned into a grant, with no repayment required.**

In essence, we nearly recovered all of our loss for February!

However, **going forward our challenge will be to continue our gifts to the church** to enable UPC to continue with our ministry in service to God. I know in these trying times we are all challenged personally with the Covid 19 pandemic. As we ask for God's help, please keep our Church in your prayers and continue to know that your personal contribution does make a great deal of difference.

*Bill Bruce, Finance Committee Chair*

# SESSION

Next Meeting: Thurs. @ 7PM

The Elders met via Zoom on Tuesday April 14, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. in a Special Called Session meeting. Rev. Jennifer Olson served as moderator. The Session approved the application for the Paycheck Protection Program (SBA) loan. The Presbytery's Coronavirus Mission and Technology Grant application was discussed, Elders should get their requests to the Finance Committee as soon as possible so application can be made. The Session accepted the resignation of Steve Fitzgerald as church treasurer with regret, and thanked him for his years of service. A motion was made to appoint Denise Philipp as Treasurer to serve the remainder of the current year term, and for Kendall Von Glan to serve as Treasurer if Denise Philipp is unavailable, which includes all the duties of Treasurer (signing checks, counting offerings, etc.).

The Elders met for their regular Session meeting via Zoom on Thursday April 30, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. Rev Jennifer Olson served as moderator. The Elders voted to continue online worship services and to keep the church building closed at this time. The Session will continue to monitor the Coronavirus status in the community, and will make the decision to reopen during a regularly scheduled Session meeting or a special called Session Meeting. The Finance Committee reported that the Paycheck Protection Program (SBA) loan had been funded and deposited. The Finance Committee reported that new signature cards needed to be signed at the Crawford County Bank due to the change in Treasurer. A motion was made seconded and approved to update the authorized signatures, Finance Committee Chair, Bill Bruce and Clerk of Session, Penny Kinney will work with the bank to get the authorized signatures updated. The Elders discussed the Presbytery's Coronavirus Mission and Technology Grant funding. A motion was made to apply for the grant, \$1500 will be for Mission (\$1000 to be a sponsor for the Gifts of Hope Program, and \$500 for the Temporary Aid Program (TAP); \$1500 will be for technology costs incurred, and for updating the church's website.



## May Bible Trivia

Which female judge described herself as “ a mother in Israel”?

- A) Rehab                      B) Ruth  
C) Barak                      D) Rachel

*\*look for the answer in next month's newsletter*

## MISSION

The mission committee would like to thank you for your monetary response to the Presbyterian Hunger Aid program in East Africa. We were able to send \$405 from our congregation with ANOTHER \$405 from our anonymous donor.

In this time of a stay at home unless necessary order, the mission committee is asking you to find a mission of your own. Whether it be helping a neighbor, sharing food, contributing to Hunger Fighters and Denison Cares, sending cards and letters, being a prayer warrior, etc., you can make someone's day just by making them feel they are important! No matter how big or small, people love to be noticed in this time of isolation.



## April Bible Trivia Answer

What type of bird did God provide for Israel in the desert?

C) Quails

See: Exodus 16:13



“The man called his wife’s name Eve, because she was the mother of all living.” – Genesis 3:20

“Her children rise up and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her: ‘Many women have done excellently, but you surpass them all.’” – Proverbs 31:28-31

“And his mother treasured up all these things in her heart.” – Luke 2:51

## The Merton Prayer

*(with apologies for changing it from "I" to "we.")*

My Lord God, we have no idea where we are going.

We do not see the road ahead of us.

We cannot know for certain where it will end.

Nor do we really know ourselves,

and the fact that we think that we are following your will

does not mean that we are actually doing so.

But we believe that the desire to please you

does in fact please you.

And we hope we have that desire in all that we are doing.

We hope that we will never do anything apart from that desire.

And we know that if we do this

you will lead us by the right road,

though we may know nothing about it.

Therefore will we trust you always,

though we may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death.

We will not fear, for you are ever with us,

and you will never leave us to face our perils alone.

*- Thomas Merton (Trappist monk, writer, theologian, 1915-1948)*

# Come pick out something special for MOM AND Honor LIFE at Crossroads!



**FREE t-shirt with all donations over \$100 to Crossroad's LIFE LAUNCH CAMPAIGN**  
Or \$15 each (pre-paid order)



*Stop out!*  
**Thursday, May 7th**  
12-5:30 p.m.  
**Friday, May 8th**  
9-5:30 p.m.  
**Saturday, May 9th**  
9-1:30 p.m.

We will have a walk or drive by style of mixed choices of items for a combined value of \$25, \$35, or individually sold items!

  
**Crossroads**  
of Crawford County  
712.393.4673  
3707 Timberline Drive, Suite #3  
Denison, IA 51442

*Life Launch*  
Every purchase, every donation to Crossroads is DOUBLED by Heartbeat International for a matching grant opportunity!

*Choose from:* 

- **4" annuals** (THANK YOU Phil's Landscaping)
- **Jumpy Monkey coffee** (Whole Bean or ground)
- **Fun cups, travel mugs, and coasters**
- **Handmade Door signs**
- **Farmhouse style wooden signs**
- **T shirts on hand** (or orders will be placed May 11th)



## BOARD OF DEACONS

The Deacon Meeting for April 7, 2020 was not held as a formal meeting. Instead several email conversations were held and it was decided to continue what was being done to stay connected with church members and friends.

Each Deacon was given a list of several families/people to contact during this time while we were staying home and not gathering together in the church building. We were to contact them to make sure they were doing fine, in terms of having what they needed for themselves and any pets they might have. Several contacts were made to check on folks and to encourage them during this time of isolation. Offers to help were made if/when there was a need.

The Deacons continue to use the daily prayer lists to pray for each church member/friend every day by name. Monthly tasks also continue of sending cards/letters (64 sent), making telephone calls (75 calls), sending texts/emails (57 sent), and making contacts (3 contacts - 6 feet apart). Facebook (multiple contacts made multiple times) contacts continue as efforts to stay in touch and check up on church and community folks and family members.

Deacons have also been seeking ways to assist in the community as a need is seen. Activities have included: 1) Making face masks for the hospital and or folks needing them. One person is working on the third batch of masks and another is/has worked on 100 masks; 2) One Deacon is picking up around the church yard and woods during her walks; 3) One Deacon is helping the Pastor with online worship services each week since church gatherings have halted; 4) One Deacon has been busy baking - making dozens of loaves of bread, and many rolls and cookies - and sharing them with the congregation and the community; 5) One Deacon plans to plant a bigger vegetable garden this spring and by summer to have more to share from the garden.

As one Deacon said, "I think it is vital we all continue to reach out to our congregation and be a light for them. What we do in these times is a true reflection of the church and the message of Christ we are to be sharing. Staying connected to each other and supporting each other in times like this will shine light and lift up hope in places that need it most.

*Mary Ann Irwin*  
*Moderator*



## JIGSAW PUZZLES

As many of us are spending more time at home, jigsaw puzzles have grown in popularity. Pastor Jenn and Eric have a lot of puzzles they would be happy to share with you. They are mostly 1000-piece, but a few are less and a few are more. Let one of us know if you would like one and we can put it out for you to pick up.

*Thank  
you* 

**With much appreciation,  
we give a big “Thank You”  
to Steve Fitzgerald  
for serving as Church Treasurer**

**Question: Who was the greatest female financier in the Bible?**

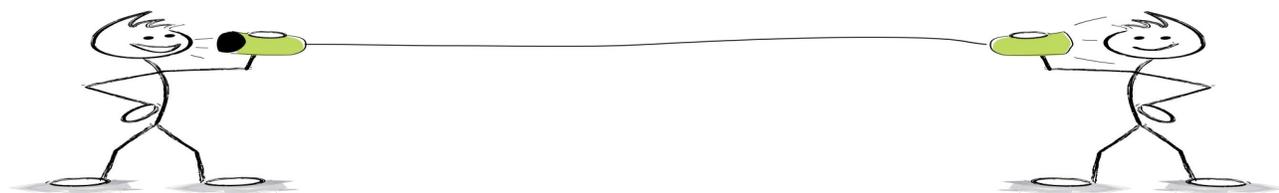
**Answer: Pharaoh’s daughter. She went down to the bank of the Nile and drew out a little prophet.**

### **To stay in touch....**

Please remember to update the church’s email address to: [upcdenison@gmail.com](mailto:upcdenison@gmail.com)

Find us on the web at [upcdenison.com](http://upcdenison.com)

Or Look for us on Facebook: UpcDenison



**A message from Rev Ian McMullen, Transitional General Presbyter  
for Prospect Hill & North Central Iowa Presbyteries**

Iowa Governor Kim Reynolds modified her [Proclamation of Disaster Emergency](#)...All social gatherings are restricted to fewer than 10 people through May 15<sup>th</sup> except worship services. This change poses significant questions...[Consequently], bishops and executives from the ELCA, Methodist, UCC, Presbyterian, Catholic, Episcopal, and Reformed Churches in America have prepared the following [statement](#):

***The Presbyteries of North Central Iowa and Prospect Hill recommend churches continue to meet electronically and postpone in-person worship until the end of May or until Iowa as a whole has seen a 14-day decrease in new cases of COVID-19 whichever is later.***

PC(USA) national leadership also [recommends](#) waiting to gather for in-person worship.

Projections indicate that COVID-19 cases will continue to climb into May. At a recent press conference, Iowa DPH's assistant director, Sarah Reisetter said, "We're thinking we might see a peak, a first peak, in the next two to three weeks..." "First peak" infers a 'rebound' of infections as people gather in groups after the first wave subsides.

All North Central Iowa and Prospect Hill congregations serve many members categorized as high-risk. No church wants a single person to get sick, let alone be the source of an outbreak of COVID-19 among the most vulnerable of our population.

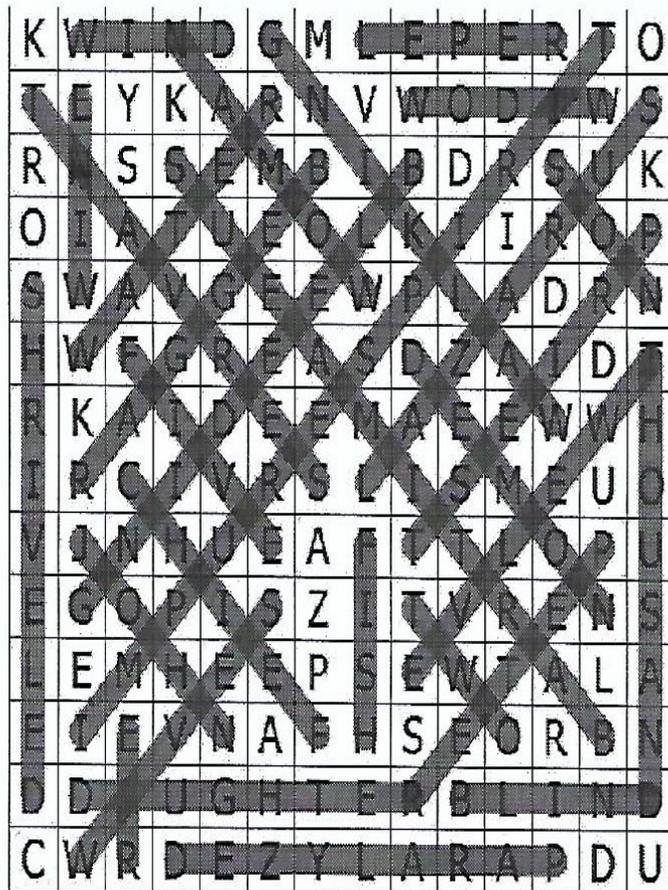
Yes, big box stores have remained open and now, some businesses in 77 counties will be permitted to reopen at 50% capacity. However, just because we can *legally* meet inside a church building doesn't mean we *should* meet in groups of any size.

I grieve with you over the loss of control and our ability to congregate. We mourn together the postponement of our traditions. We all ache to return to fellowship. But this is also an opportunity to rebirth God's ministry in new and creative ways. Since mid-March, churches have been conducting worship in imaginative ways online. [Every organization including churches can now consider themselves a startup](#). We've never been here before. What a great opportunity to proceed with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love. Be safe, be hopeful, be in prayer, and at least for May, worship from home.

APRIL PUZZLE ANSWERS

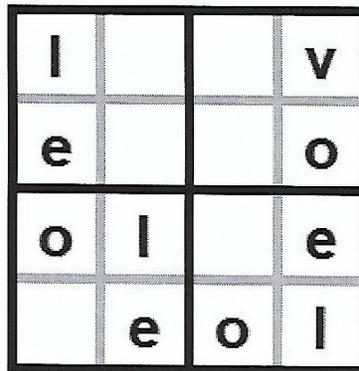
Twenty Miracles of Jesus  
Answers

1. water, wine
2. son
3. demon
4. Peter
5. John, fish
6. leper
7. servant
8. paralyzed
9. shriveled
10. widow
11. wind, waves
12. impure spirit
13. woman, bleeding, twelve
14. blind
15. thousand, five, two
16. walking
17. daughter
18. Lazarus
19. beggar, Bartimaeus
20. ear, priest

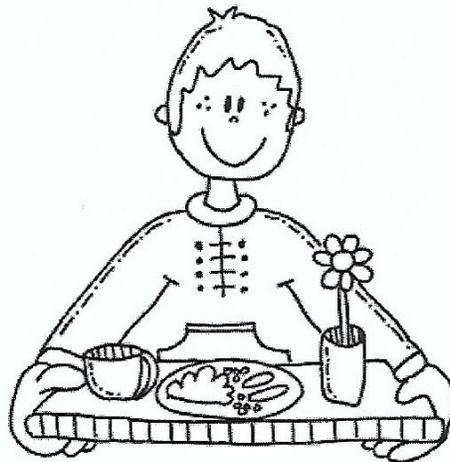


## 4 x 4 Mothers Day Sudoku

Mother's Day is a celebration to honour mothers and mother figures. Cards and presents are usually given to honour the day. Children also often organise a special day out or a treat such as breakfast in bed!



Celebrate Mother's Day with our special "love" Mother's Day Sudoku. Fill in the grid with the letters L, O, V, and E making sure no letter is repeated in every row, every column and within each mini grid.



# MAY BIRTHDAYS

5/4 Jacob Halsey

5/4 Robert Lyons

5/11 Megan Swanson

5/11 Nancy Voggesser

5/13 Melissa Mohr

5/15 Les Lewis

5/16 Deb Fitzgerald

5/21 Donna Miller

5/22 Kendall Von Glan

5/25 Barb Blair

5/26 Penny Kinney

5/31 Shar Hulstein

5/29 Scott Schurke

# MAY ANNIVERSARIES

5/7 Doug & Kellie Prussing

5/10 Rebecca & Rev. Marshall Brown

5/10 Don & Marvis Krough

5/31 Jerry & Patti K Boettger

## Church Mice

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