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 Berwick Congregational Church
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THE DOVE

BERWICK CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

PASTORS:

Rev. Kay Miller-Todd & Rev.
 Richard Miller-Todd

(Jan-March and
 July-September)

Rev. Theron (Tom) Conrey

(April-June and
 October-December)

Sunday Services and
 Sunday School:
 9:00 AM

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We will always remember the year of 2020 with the Covid-19 pandemic! Our lives have been turned upside down, including the life of the church. We have had our doors closed since March, 2020, and they will remain closed until it is safe to re-open. However, a number of good things are happening at the church!



The Thursday weekly Food Co-Op continues and we serve approximately 45 families each week. Our thanks to our dedicated group who put this together each week!



Books are distributed to the young people in the area, and we are keeping in touch with our youth and families.



Pastor Tom has been posting on Facebook each week his sermon and bulletin for the week. (See separate article on page 4 regarding the new way the service will be handled June 28 as well as during the month of July by Pastor Kay.)



Jerry, our organist, has posted on Facebook two organ concerts so far and there will be others to come.



The congregation has continued to support the church with their contributions so we are managing to pay our bills
THANK YOU!

LITTLE FREE LIBRARIES

After closing the Little Free Libraries for about two months, the libraries were again opened in May. The church is grateful to those who have donated books and who have purchased books for distribution to the community. Books have also been sent for the children of many of the families receiving food. Beryl Horton has spent many hours organizing all the books that have been donated, particularly those from Judy McClain and her mother, Maggie Carlson. Maggie had a great collection of devotional books that are now in the church library. In the pews, are other books, particularly series from Guideposts that many folks might enjoy. These are available to anyone who would like to pick them up.

THANK YOU!
A huge thank you to our pastors, who are quietly contributing greatly to the support of the church and those it serves!

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

- Charles Neagle
- Gerald Banning
- Donn Henderson
- Mary Fetters
- Sue Conrey
- Jim Farrell
- Dave McClain
- And others who need our prayers and concerns.



AIR CONDITIONER AND HOT WATER HEATER

Thank you to all who contributed to our fund raiser for a new furnace and air-conditioner for the church! Both have been installed.

We also were in need of a new hot water heater and there was just enough money remaining in the air-conditioner fund to take care of this so a new hot water heater will soon be installed.

The church sanctuary will be repainted when it is safe for a group to be in the sanctuary doing the painting. We are buying the paint and wonderful volunteers will do the painting! Thank you to Manuel for heading up this project and providing workers to get this accomplished! We also plan to paint the church kitchen.

CHURCH ELEVATOR

The church elevator is showing its age and it is difficult to find new parts for it. Fortunately, it is still working with a little special attention. It is mostly used now for transporting food for the Food Co-Op. Due to groundwater seepage, it is showing some rust underneath the shaft. It is hoped that this imperfect workhorse will continue to operate for a while longer!

OUR GARDENS

A special thanks to Lois Allen for being in charge of all of our gardeners: Shirley Sprague, Beryl Horton, Judy Sprague, and Paula Wishman. The gardens are looking great and the produce will be used in the Food Co-Op when it is ready for harvest. Thanks also to Jim Farrell and Judy Sprague for keeping the yard mowed and the weeds under control.

COVID 19

It is good to report that although many in the church are at a vulnerable age for the virus, all are healthy and mostly happy. In the activities that still take place around the church, every effort is made to keep everyone safe. The Church Council has been meeting through Go To Meeting each month. The Food Co-Op Committee has also been meeting through Go to Meeting to address all the issues that have been raised by the Food Co-Op over the last few months. It has been most interesting to watch how churches have met this new challenge through learning to communicate in ways they never dreamed of. Some churches have chosen to use Facebook for worship (like us) and some have chosen to do drive-up worship and some are now choosing to worship outside. Some have even continued choirs and Bible studies online. Outreach continues in safe and meaningful ways.

LAY MINISTRY STUDENT

Patty Smith has continued with her lay ministry studies. She has had lots of time to work on her many papers and readings during the last few months. She has definitely kept her minister mentors busy with her studies. Keep up the good work, Patty. Furthermore, requests have gone out for Advent devotionals, do not be surprised to find one or more of her devotionals in the next edition.

**THANKS TO OUR
MANY HELPERS**

Thank you to everyone who is keeping our church running smoothly during this pandemic.



Thanks to three-generations of the Hansen family, the flags were displayed on Flag Day. The community voiced their

appreciation of this effort. The family intends to display the flags again on July 4, Labor Day and Veterans Day.

**MISSIONS WE CONTINUE
TO SUPPORT**

- July—Compassion Fund
- July - Food Co-op: School Supplies
- August—Bread of Life Ministries
- August Food Co-Op: Cereals/Boxed Meals

CONTRIBUTIONS

Thank you so much for your contributions to the church during this pandemic. Our expenses continue even though we are closed and they are greatly appreciated!

Contributions may be sent to:

Berwick Congregational Church
Box 308
Berwick, Iowa 50032



Food Co-Op and Blessing Box

The Berwick Food Co-Op has continued throughout May and June on Thursdays from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. Food pick ups have continued at Fareway, Panera Bread, HyVee and the Food Bank. The food from the Food Bank has increased considerably during the month of June. People in the community have made appointments to drive to the church to receive prepackaged food which is placed in their cars. About 20 families have been taking advantage of this opportunity. In addition, food is delivered to the homes of about 24 families. Until recently, food was packaged for 11 Cornell Elementary families and delivered to their homes. All of this has been safely accomplished by a dedicated group of volunteers: Shirley Holmes, Patty Smith, Scheryl Comegys, Amy Hansen, Don Hansen, Russell Hansen, Larry McCreery, Manuel Catalon, Linda Sanny, Beryl Horton, Pastors Rich and Kay and social workers. In addition, people in the community have continued to donate food and money to help with this ministry.

In May, the Governor of Iowa began to lift restrictions that had been in place in March and April. Therefore, the church is again filling the Blessing Box with food for people in the community. It has become clear that a need is being met.

The church has also offered its parking lot to the Saydel Community Schools and a Food Truck comes to the church three days a week. This service will continue until the end of July.

CONGRATULATIONS TO FRIEND OF THE CHURCH JAKE DAKOVICH, WHO GRADUATED RECENTLY!
The congregation remembered him with a card and gift.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Although the Church Council voted in May to cancel Vacation Bible School in July, efforts have continued to be made to keep in contact with the children and youth who have been a part of the church activities. Frequently, the children receive books and children's bulletins. On occasion, they have also received other activities and games. Rich has also been repairing bicycles for the children in his new bicycle shop in the back of his home garage. Activities will resume with the children and youth when it can be done safely.

To contact Berwick Church:

Church Phone: 515-262-0949
 Revs. Kay & Rich 515-669-2202 (Jan-Mar; July-Sept)
 Pastor Tom: 515-480-3396 (Apr-June; Oct-Dec)
 Church Secretary: 515-262-9047 (Karen)

CHURCH SERVICES FOR JUNE 28 AND MONTH OF JULY

Pastor Kay plans to do these services a bit differently than Pastor Tom has been doing them since mid March. She will do the services live through Go To Meeting. The June 28 service will be done from her home, but the July services will be done from the church with just Pastor Kay and our organist, Jerry, present in the sanctuary. The congregation will be able to participate by signing into the Go To Meeting App (instructions and the weekly bulletin will be emailed to you). One change—the services will take place at 10:00 AM rather than 9:00 AM as many of us have become accustomed to sleeping in later than usual on Sunday mornings! If you wish to drive up to the church parking lot, you can even participate from your car on your cell phone (6 feet apart please) during the month of July. The church building will be closed.



Berwick Congregational Church

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

BEST WISHES TO:

Judy & Gil Gillman-Anniversary 7/3
 Gerald Banning-Birthday 7/7
 Dorothy Hull-Birthday 7/11
 Tayler Fetters-Birthday 7/21
 Jerry Milholin-Birthday 7/22
 John & Janice McKinney-Anniv. 7/29

Janice McKinney-Birthday 8/1
 Unyke Beyer-Birthday 8/7
 Eli Weissinger-Birthday 8/8
 Aiden Weissinger-Birthday 8/8
 Rich & Kay Miller-Todd -
 Anniversary 8/9
 Jameson Presnall-Birthday 8/11
 Bill & Shirley Sprague-
 60th Anniversary 8/13 **
 Jim Farrell-Birthday 8/19
 Scott Kirstein-Birthday 8/25



**** 60th Anniversary Cards for Bill & Shirley Sprague may be sent to:
Box 307, Berwick, Iowa 50032**