

The Good News

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF
RUNNELLS CHRISTIAN CHURCH
APRIL 2020
VOLUME 239

WHO DO YOU SAY I AM?

LENT 2020

Healthy Holy Week @ Home



Palm Sunday (April 5) - Virtual Palm Parade & Worship Online

Maundy Thursday (April 9) - 24-Hour Prayer Vigil Begins @ Home

Good Friday (April 10) - "7 Last Words of Christ" Service Online with Other Disciples
Churches in the Metro Area

Easter Sunday (April 12) - Worship Online

Pastor Katie's Notes

Dear RCC,

When you think about Easter, you probably think about a sanctuary full of people and lilies. You think about singing “Christ the Lord is Risen Today” at full volume. You think about the big Easter breakfast we serve in the Fellowship Hall and the big Easter dinners you share with extended family in your homes.



Easter is busy and loud. It's full and joyful.

But the very first Easter wasn't like that at all.

In the Gospel accounts, the Good News of Christ's resurrection is first told to only a small group of women in the quiet stillness of a garden at dawn. Mark says the women were so terrified by the news that they didn't tell anyone what they had seen and heard. Luke says the women did tell the other disciples, but they thought it was “an idle tale, and did not believe them” (Luke 24:11b, NRSV). None of the Gospels say the people blew trumpets or shouted “Alleluia!” Most of the disciples stayed hidden in their homes because they were afraid. The first Easter happened without a lot of fanfare.

This year will be a different kind of Easter for us at RCC. I think it will actually be a lot like the first Easter described in the Bible. We will celebrate in the quiet safety of our own homes. Our church will post videos online, we'll gather on Zoom for prayer and communion, and we will worship together virtually. But it will not be what we are used to. I think that is ok.

The strange circumstances of this year allow us to focus less on the “fanfare” and more on the Good News of Easter. That Good News is the quiet, persistent message that God brings life out of death, hope out of grief, and goodness out of despair. The Easter message is one we always believe, but I think we need to hear it and proclaim it now more than ever.

In the season of Lent, Sundays are not counted as part of the 40 days because early Christians believed every Sunday was a “little Easter,” meaning we should celebrate the resurrection every week. So while we will observe a quiet Easter in our homes on April 12, I am also planning to celebrate a BIG Easter—with a packed sanctuary, “Christ the Lord is Risen Today,” and a whole lot of fanfare—whenever we can safely worship together again.

There was new life that first Easter; there will be new life for us this year, too.

Be safe & well,

Pastor Katie

RCC Youth Group News

Due to Covid-19, Youth Sunday is cancelled at this time. Once we are back to our regular face-to-face worship, Pastor Katie will discuss this with the youth.

Currently, the Youth mission trip with the Altoona Christian Church youth to Rippling Hope Ministries in Detroit, July 12-18 is on hold. Any youth who has completed grades 9-12 and is interested in this trip should contact Pastor Katie.

2020 Graduates



We understand that due to Covid-19, it is difficult to plan for graduations at this time. But we would still like to honor our graduates. We are looking for **pictures** of this year's graduates and **Open House information** for our May newsletter. Please e-mail a graduation picture to runnellscc@gmail.com or mail a picture to the office and we will scan it. Thank you.

Runnells Christian Church Scholarship Fund *(Disciples of Christ)*



In 2010 a scholarship fund was established for eligible youth in our congregation for higher education.

Applications are now available in the office for the 2019-2020 academic year.

Guidelines to Apply for the Runnells Christian Church Scholarship Fund

The high school student must be accepted by an accredited college, university or technical school, with a "C," or 2 point grade average.

The student must be enrolled in a course of study leading to an accredited degree, associate or undergraduate.

Eligibility for Scholarships:

1. Be an active member of the Runnells Christian Church, (Disciples of Christ), Runnells, Iowa.
2. Strive to attend church at least once a month.
3. Should maintain a minimum of regular attendance, at least once a month, in youth group.
4. Consideration for aid will be based upon character and personality, grade point average and involvement in church activities.
5. Scholarship applications are due by **April 30, 2020** for the 2020-2021 academic year.

Our Thanks to Everyone who Purchased an Easter Lily

Jerry Adams	In memory of Carole Adams
Bracewell family	In memory of Gary Bracewell and Gene Reed In honor of Dorothy Reed and Nancy Bracewell
Jon and Tammy Gaudette	In memory of Donald Kain
Jake & Katie Hainline	In memory of our Grandparents, Francis & LaVonne Hainline, Cecil & Grace Rowland, Harold & Joan Cowdin, & Janet Russell In honor of Grandpa Roy Russell
Janice Kain	In memory of my husband, Donald Kain
Tom and Joyce Miller	In memory of our Parents
Bernie Mills	In memory of Delbert Mills and Clair Bowers
Dorothy Reed	In memory of my sister, Vesta Mae Chapman
Katie Temple	In memory of Sikke Temple In honor of Beulah Temple

Weather permitting, we will use the lilies to decorate the outside of the church on Easter Morning. If you purchased a lily you may collect it on Easter. If you didn't purchase a lily, but would like one, please stop by on Monday and pick one up.



Pray-Hour Prayer Vigil Sign Up

We will continue our tradition of holding a 24-hour prayer vigil from Maundy Thursday to Good Friday. There will not be a prayer room set up at church; instead, we ask participants to pray at home during their scheduled time.

If you'd like to participate, you may contact the church office or sign up online at:
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040b4da8aa22a0fb6-prayer>

Stay Connected to RCC!

We are trying a lot of new things to stay connected during this time of "social distancing." Here are some ways you can stay connected:

- Watch the church Facebook page for new posts
- Watch Pastor Katie's sermon meditation on Facebook or YouTube; YouTube links will be sent via email and Facebook posts will be posted each Sunday morning
- Join Pastor Katie & members of RCC for communion and prayer over Zoom, Sundays at 10:30; Zoom allows you to video chat with large groups of people from your computer, phone, or tablet (watch for a link in an upcoming email).

If you are not receiving the weekly emails or regular emails from the church, please send an email to the church office at runcellscc@gmail.com. Thank you.



While the church is closed, we still have expenses. We are committed to paying our staff and our bills through this crisis. We depend on your tithes and offerings. You can give through PayPal on our website (runnellscc.org/give). You can ask your bank to help you set up automatic payments to the church. You can mail your offering to RCC, PO Box 30, Runnells, IA 50237. We thank you for your generosity and support—you will sustain the church in this difficult time. If you are in need of assistance, please contact Pastor Katie at 515-669-6036.

The RCC Book Group is reading

The Hate You Give

by Angie Thomas

Once we can meet again, we will discuss this book and the March book.
Until then, *just keep reading!*

From Amazon: Sixteen-year-old Starr Carter moves between two worlds: the poor neighborhood where she lives and the fancy suburban prep school she attends. The uneasy balance between these worlds is shattered when Starr witnesses the fatal shooting of her childhood best friend Khalil at the hands of a police officer. Khalil was unarmed. Soon afterward, his death is a national headline. Some are calling him a thug, maybe even a drug dealer and a gangbanger. Protesters are taking to the streets in Khalil's name. Some cops and the local drug lord try to intimidate Starr and her family. What everyone wants to know is: what really went down that night? And the only person alive who can answer that is Starr. But what Starr does—or does not—say could upset her community. It could also endanger her life.

Everyone is welcome!



Noisy Offering Report

March donations will go toward the RCC CYF Mission Trip.

We will re-evaluate the Noisy offering schedule, once we return to worship

Thank you for your generosity!

A photograph of a hand dropping a gold coin into a red collection bucket filled with coins.

One Call Now

when messages matter

In order to improve how we communicate with our congregation at important times, like worship cancellations or prayer concerns in our church family, we purchase ONE CALL NOW. With One Call Now we hope to eliminate miscommunication as everyone receives the same message at the same time by either text or phone.



Please call the office if you are not currently receiving a phone call or text message from the church concerning prayer concerns or worship time changes or weather cancellations.

Thank You for Recycling Ink and Toner Cartridges

Bring your empty cartridges to Church or drop them off at Staples.

(Church acct is 515-966-2587 Runnells Christian Church/Barb)

If we donate 20 a Month the Church will receive
\$480.00 a year for office supplies.



Nicaragua Mission Trip 2020

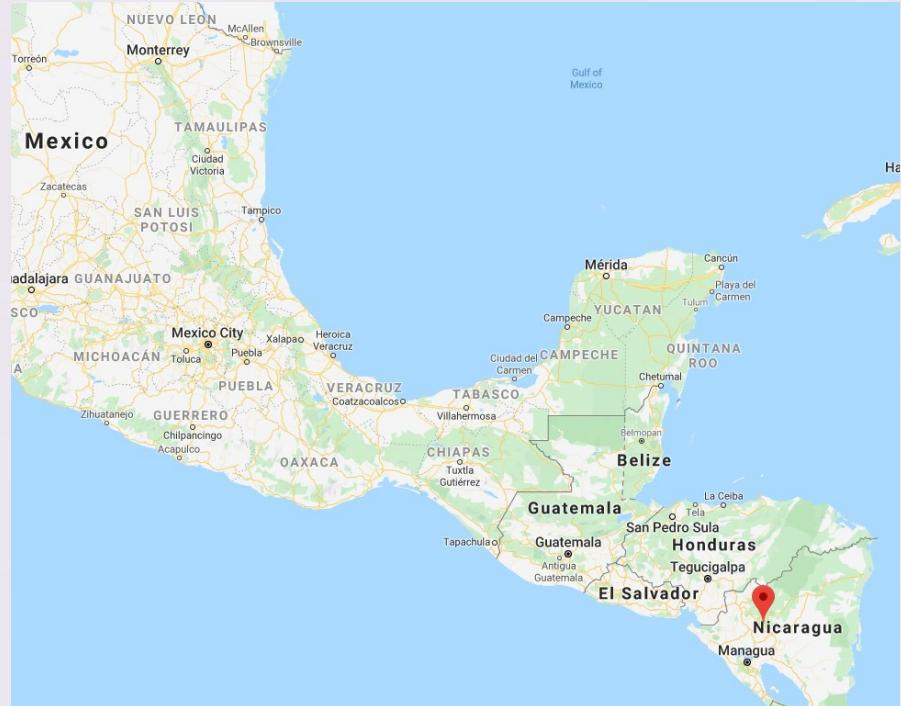
By Katie Temple

A month ago, February 29 through March 7, twenty-three people under the Disciples of Christ of the Upper Midwest, undertook a mission trip to Nicaragua. I had the pleasure of working with my son Seth Reeve, on this trip! We worked in Santa Emilia, a village of about 2,000 located about 12 miles east of the city of Matagalpa. The village is dominated by a coffee plantation owned by State Street Coffee. Most of the people of the village work with the coffee plantation, typically as coffee pickers during the three month harvest season. A really good picker can earn up to \$6 a day, more typical is \$4 a day. It is understandable why students don't go to school during harvest. While the average income for Nicaraguans is \$750 per year, in Santa Emilia it is closer to \$350. Shacks and dirt floors are the norm.

The group worked as directed under Pastor Pat Nixon, who has been working in Santa Emilia since 2007. Currently he is the Pastor of the First Christian Church in Pittsburg, KS. Santa Emilia has a village committee that comes together to determine future projects they would like to see accomplished. Our group was charged with working on the Assembly of God church which will serve as school classrooms and lodging for future mission trips as the plantation apartments will soon be unusable. Also, to build a guardrail along the highway.

The group did a lot of manual labor. First the ground had to be leveled using shovels and checked with a string and level. Cement was mixed by hand, 6 wheelbarrows of sand, 3 wheelbarrows of gravel and 3 bags of cement mix, all blended back and forth, then forming a hole in the middle to add water. This was mixed until all was wet and the consistency just right. The cement was carried to the site with 5 gallon buckets, smoothed with trowels and long boards.

We painted! We painted inside. We painted outside. We painted pillars. We painted trim. The paint was thinner than what we use. (It was thinned down.) We painted stucco and cement. We roughened cement with hatchets to ready it for stucco. Our electrician wired lighting. The group dug out an area beside the church to ready it to be used as a breezeway. In places it was 3 feet deep, heavy clay with large rocks, all moved with pickaxes and shovels. It was loaded into wheelbarrows and taken across the street to an area that needed dirt and rock.



A guardrail was erected by a culvert along the highway in Santa Emilia. There is a sidewalk along the highway that narrows by the culvert. There is a ten foot drop-off onto large rocks. Recently a fellow fell and died at the site. One of our mission team had formerly been an ironworker. He created a design for the rail, with approval from the committee. The welder, who was doing work at the church, welded the metal pieces. The posts were cemented in place. It is a safer place now.

All along we had workers from Nicaragua working with us. We had a translator, thankfully because my Spanish is still rudimentary. We distributed food and supplies for a month for 30 elderly families and 6 families with handicapped children.

Blessing to all of you! The costs of these projects were part of the trip fees. Your prayers were essential as well. While I am not sure when or if I will be able to share about this trip at a worship service, know that you have helped make this a reality.

Proverbs 31:8-9 "Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy."

**CAMP REGISTRATION
DEADLINE is
Sunday, April 26!**

A late fee will be assessed by the Conference Center if received after May 1.

Runnells Christian Church and our CWF will pay **50% of one camp** each child or youth wish to attend.

The camper pays 50%, the Church pays 30% and CWF pays 20%.



Church Camp

*For example:
If camp cost is \$230.00*

*Camper pays \$115.00
Church pays \$69.00
CWF pays \$46.00*

You may submit your completed registration and your payment share (*payable to RCC or Runnells Christian Church*) to the church office by **April 26** or you may register and make your payment share online at:

<https://www.uppermidwestcc.org/copy-of-summer-camp-2018>

Click on the “Register Here for Camp.” If you have questions with online registration, please call 641-792-1266.

New this year you can pay your portion online and forward your confirmation email to the church. Please print the form/receipt for the church office.

Pastor Katie counsels CYF1 (June 14-19)

SUMMER CAMP 2020

SUMMER CAMP SESSIONS AND DATES



Live. Love. Camp.

Why send a child to Church Camp? Here are just a few reasons...

- The average kid gets more Christian education at one week of church camp than they do in 1 year of Sunday school.
- Camp builds strong peer relationships that can last a lifetime.
- Many children and youth say their first “mountain top” God moment occurred while at a summer camp.
- Camp is where we seek to live out God’s perfect love and acceptance in the real world. Kids need that opportunity.
- Camp teaches kids to try new things and overcome new challenges.
- Camp brings children, youth and adults closer to God!

LIVE. LOVE. CAMP.

Grand Camp
(Kids age 4 to Grade 2 who attend with one or more grandparents)
Session 1: June 12-13
Session 2: July 10-11

Family Camp
(Kids ages 0-18 who attend with one or more adults)
Session 1: June 26-28
Session 2: August 14-16

Beginner Camp
(Grade 2)
Session 1: June 29-July 1

Junior Camp
(Grades 3-5)
Session 1: June 7-12
Session 2: June 21-26
Session 3: July 5-10
Session 4: August 2-7

Middle School
(Grades 6-8)
Rustic Chi Rho 1: June 7-12
Rustic Chi Rho 2: June 14-19
Rustic Chi Rho 3: June 21-26
Rustic Chi Rho 4: July 5-10
Cabin Chi Rho: August 2-7
ADAM Camp: July 19-24
Adventure Camp: July 26-31

High School
(Grades 9-12)
CYF 1: June 14-19
CYF 2: July 12-17
ADAM Camp: July 19-24
Adventure Camp: July 26-31
Standing Rock Camp: June 6-13

Senior Adult Retreat
(Ages 55+)
Session 1: June 29 - July 1

REGISTRATION OPENS FEBRUARY 1ST



Christian Conference Center
5064 Lincoln Street
Newton, Iowa 50208
Phone: 641-792-1266
www.uppermidwestcc.org



LIVE. LOVE. CAMP.

In Sympathy

With Prayers and Heartfelt Sympathy

Our prayers & Christian sympathy go out to
the family & friends of:

Polly Grove,

Larry Grove's mother,
who passed away on February 27.

Dear Runnells Christian Church,

Thank you for the donation of \$390 for the Nicaraguan mission trip I took in March. Two hundred and fifty dollars came from the international mission budget, and the rest from the noisy offering collection. The cost of the trip was roughly \$1600, which included plane fare, room and board (beans, rice and coffee three times a day), and supplies for the projects. Thank you for allowing me to be the physical presence of RCC in Nicaragua.

Warmly, Katie

To Marti Ingle's Mission Fund,

Thank you for the generous donation of \$1,000 for the 2020 Nicaraguan mission trip. It was an enormous gift. The cost of the trip was about \$1,600 which included plane tickets, food and supplies. I was able to take a week off of work and had to get my immunizations up to date. I worked hard, mixing cement by shovel, digging with a pickaxe, moving dirt, sand, gravel and rocks with a wheelbarrow, carrying wet cement, hauling water from a well across the street and down a slope, you get the picture, physical labor. I had fun taking Marti's picture to work every day. You helped make this a possibility. I tried hard to be a good representative of Runnells Christian Church. I hope others will be inspired to go on an international trip. Thank you! Seth Reeve

All Military Personnel
and Veterans

Merlyne Ackes

Jim Adams

Jason Adkins (recently diagnosed with kidney cancer)

Gary Beck

Lisa Bistline

John Browers

Theo Bullington

Barb Calhoun

Debbie (Sherry Johnson's friend paralyzed after back surgery)

Penny Edwards' brother-in-law (who is in the final stage of his life)

Greg Frye (nephew of Colleen & Jim Adkins)

Carol Bartelma Holcomb (began chemotherapy)

Eugene Hunter (Tonya Boos brother-in-law, recovering from back surgery)

Kaiden (Jane Charls' grandson recovering from surgery)

Shannon Lane-St.Pierre's father

Jennifer Lessard

Lisa (Mike Miller's sister-in-law who has kidney stones)

Dale Miller

Joyce Miller

Wanda Mitchell

Courtney Neal

Doug Redhead

Prayer Concerns



Mari Rowe

Betsy Simonsen

Stan Simonsen

Tim (co-worker of Jack Merkle)

Tom (Tonya Boos father experiencing health problems)

Jan VanDyke (Pam Jordan's friend whose cancer has spread to her brain)

Jay Wilson (Tonya Boos' uncle)

Pleasantville Christian Church (whose building was destroyed in a fire)

All those whose employment has been affected by Covid-19.

The health and safety of all essential employees still working, especially for health care workers.

The leaders who must govern during this crisis.

Home Communion—Due to Covid-19, our elders are currently unable to take communion to our remote members. Once it is safe again, please contact elder chair, Katie Temple at 515.966.2580, if you or someone you know would like to receive communion at home.

Prairie Vista Village
2785 1st Avenue South
Altoona, IA 50009

Dorothy Bowers#231

Bill Henry—#122

Doris Miller—#237

Nancy Moore—#242

John & Norma Grinstead—#230



Prairie Vista
VILLAGE

Altoona's Continuing Care Retirement Community

Valley View Village:

Jeanne Vermie

2555 Guthrie Ave. Bldg. C
Des Moines, IA 50317

In an effort to keep our prayer concerns current, names will remain on the list for four weeks. At that time names will be removed unless you have called the office to ask that a name remain on the list and give an update on the person's well-being. Thanks for your help!



