March 25, 2019 Huntley UMC weekly email

Dear friends,

The bad news is that I found that our Huntley United Methodist Church building had been broken into when I arrived in Huntley on Sunday morning. Unknown persons entered by breaking a window, rummaging around in places looking for things to steal, making a general mess, and taking a few miscellaneous items on their exit. The damage to the building and contents was fairly minimal, and for that we feel blessed. The Sheriff's office responded, and a deputy worked with us to make a report and assess the damage. Several other vehicle break-ins were reported around town as well, so ours was not an isolated incident.

The good news is that we all showed up for worship, and worship celebration went off without a hitch, and we prayed for the misguided people in our midst along with all the other known needs of our community. Word reached us that before the end of the day the mischief makers were apprehended, most of our missing items were recovered, and order was restored in our hearts and souls, if not completely throughout our community.

In worship we talked about 'why bad things happen in our world,' (I kid you not), with the sermon titled simply 'Why?' It seemed to all of us that that was definitely a God-thing in our midst, and it got our attention. We learned that there are some things we cannot understand, that there are tragedies in our lives for which we are not responsible, but that God understands our sufferings and walks with us in all circumstances. And I believe that most of us felt blessed after worship, and a little more tolerant and forgiving of the misdeeds of others.

Companions in Christ group meets on Mondays at 10:00 a.m.

Huntley WCI Team meets on Tuesday, March 26<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.

Huntley United Methodist Women will meet on Wednesday, March 27<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 p.m.

Huntley United Methodist Church will host a Huntley Community Blood Drive on Wednesday, May  $1^{st}$  from 3:00-6:30 p.m. You will be hearing more about this event in the coming weeks.

Please continue to feed your 'fish banks' during Lent.

I will be on vacation for the next two weeks. If you have pastoral needs during this time, please contact Pastor Ruth McKenzie in Worden. She will be covering for me in my absence.

See you in worship, Pastor Gary Geiman