

**FAITH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
**SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**  
**FESTIVAL OF THE CHRISTIAN HOME**  
**MOTHER'S DAY**  
**May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023~9:30 A.M.**

*Welcome to Faith United Methodist Church. It is our heart and desire to **engage** the community of Waseca with the Gospel of Jesus Christ, **equip** those who respond to be the next generation of disciples of Jesus Christ and **empower** them to go into the world as partners with God for the healing of the world.*

PRELUDE

GREETING/ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord of hosts! My soul longs, indeed it faints for the courts of the Lord, my heart and my flesh sing for joy to the living God.

**Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young, at your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God.**

UNISON PRAYER

**In you, O God, every family on earth receives its name. Illuminate the homes of this earth with the light of your love, granting courage to those who are hurt or lonely, endurance to those who care for sick family members, and wisdom to those in fearful times of change. We thank you for gifts of love as we have received, from mother, father, spouse, child, or companion. As we have been loved by you and by others, so may we love. Grant us your peace, through Jesus the Christ. Amen.**

HYMN....."Pass It On" .....UMH #572

BLESSING OF OUR INDIVIDUAL CREATION.....Bob Hunter

Fathering God, you have searched us and known us. You know when we lie down and when we rise up; you discern our thoughts from far away.

Mothering God, it was you who formed our inward parts, you who knit us together in our mother's womb. We praise you, for we are fearfully and wonderfully made!

Holy Son, you have come into the world as the Word made flesh and dwelling among us, as a constant and abiding reminder that God is always with us, even to the ends of the earth. You are the light that has shined in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

Creating Spirit: Where can we go that you are not with us? If we ascend to heaven, you are there. If we make our bed in the depths, you are there. If we perceive the darkness overwhelming us, we know that even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is as bright as the day, for darkness is as light to you. You hem us in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon us. When we come to the end, you are still with us.

Let us pray: (Unison)

**Loving God, in your wisdom you have created us and given us many gifts. Today, we thank you for all that we mean to each other and to our friends and families. We thank you for the love that has brought us to this time and place, and for your love which abides to tie us all together. Where you are, O God, there is love. Amen.**

HYMN....."The Gift of Love" .....UMH #408

BLESSING OF OUR RELATIONSHIPS.....Pastor Carolyn

God, in your wisdom and love, you have created us and called us good. You have created us in your image, and blessed us as men and women. Today we celebrate the joy that we have found in relationship with one another. As you have created us and called us good, so have you said that it is not good that we should be alone, so you have given us helpers as partners. You have given us choice in who we build our relationships with, and we are able to say to one another, as Ruth said to Naomi:

Where you go, I will go; where you lodge, I will lodge;  
Your people shall be my people, and your God, my God.

Let us pray: (Unison)

**God, your strength is sufficient for us all. We have committed ourselves one to the other in your presence, so we pray that you will continue to be with us in the unfolding of our future. Give us strength and courage in times of difficulty, wisdom and love in times of opportunity and challenge, and the sharing of joy in times of happiness and success. May we continue to grow in your love; through the power of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

HYMN....."Through It All" .....UMH #507

BLESSING OF OUR FRIENDSHIPS AND FAMILIES OF CHOICE.....Bob Hunter

Incarnate Christ: You have modeled to us what it is to be in relationship with one another. You have broken bread with the weary, comforted the lonely, healed the sick, and wept with friends. We see in your witness what it means to love one another as God has loved us. We thank you for calling us friends, because you have made known to us everything that you have heard from our Father in heaven. Thank you for sharing in relationship with us as equals, and help us to continue to love our friends as you have loved us. Bless us as we form relationships with one another that, as we speak, our souls will be bound up in one another, so that we may love our friends as our own souls, just as Jonathan loved David.

Let us Pray: (Unison)

**God of friends and families, we are linked together in a community of friendship and support. We pray for one another. We remember those who cannot be with us today. May we all continue to share in your gifts of love, strength, courage and wisdom, and to know your joy. Give us growing understanding, sympathy with each other's difficulties, patience with each other's faults, and grace to walk in your ways. Amen.**

HYMN....."In Unity We Lift Our Song" .....TFWS #2221

BLESSING FOR FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN.....Pastor Carolyn

Creator Spirit: You have worked in us to make us open to loving one another in selfless and life-giving ways. For some of us this means the responsibility and joy of raising children. For these lives, which have touched us and blessed us, we thank you. Today we bring to you our children in order that they may be blessed as Christ blessed the children of his day saying, "Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as

these that the kingdom of God belongs.” And he took them up in his arms and blessed them. Help us to bless them as they have blessed us.

Let us pray: (Unison)

**Loving God: We come today carrying children and youth in our hearts – the children we brought into this world, the children we parent, our grandchildren, nieces, nephews, Godchildren, mentees, the children we care for in our work, and the children we speak out for in our witness. Lord, help us not to be so preoccupied with our purposes that we fail to hear their voices or see their special vision of truth. Keep us with them, ready to listen and to love even as you have loved us, your grown-up and sometimes wayward children. Amen.**

THE LORD’S PRAYER

And now, with the confidence of the children of God, let us pray:

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day, our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

TIME FOR YOUNG METHODISTS AND FRIENDS

ANTHEM....."You Are Mine" .....Faith Choir

OFFERTORY

DOXOLOGY.....UMH #95

OFFERING PRAYER

**God of all creation, you offer us so many blessings, we thank you and ask that you create blessings, even miracles, through the gifts we now bring. That others may sense your abiding presence and know your extravagant love. Amen**

SCRIPTURE READING.....Bob Hunter

**1 Peter 3:13-22**

Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you, yet do it with gentleness and respect. Maintain a good conscience so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight lives, were saved through water. And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

This the Word of God for the people of God

**Thanks be to God**

SCRIPTURE READING.....Pastor Carolyn

**John 14:15-21**

“If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

“I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me, and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.”

MESSAGE.....Pastor Carolyn

## RECEIVE THE GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

*All are welcome to come forward to receive the flame of the Holy Spirit for your home. If you like, you may come as an individual, or with your spouse or partner, children, or with friends and family of choice. All are welcomed. All are loved.*

HYMN....."Sweet, Sweet Spirit".....UMH #334

## POSTLUDE

### **REMEMBER OUR CHURCH FAMILIES IN YOUR PRAYERS...**

Remember our church members & friends who are less mobile and are unable to join us as often as they would like, including:

**Colony Court:** Joe Tollefson, Shirley Burdick

**Janesville Nursing Home:** Nina Youngberg

**Lakeshore Inn:** Leona Quast

**Foxdale:** Lucille Kubista

**Benedictine Living Community:** Chuck Youngberg

**Traditions Assisted Living Owatonna:** Ardella Draheim

**Prayer Requests for Sunday:** Sue Baldini, Family of Roger Groskreutz, Kara Ecoff, Tim Dahnert, Gail Sauer, Beverly Pippenger, government officials, health care workers, first responders, and those who are at risk and most vulnerable to Covid-19, those who battle chronic illness and pain.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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Sunday school will meet on May 28. Sunday school will not meet during the summer months. We will resume again in September

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United Women in Faith is holding a Tea Party on Monday, May 15 at 1:00 in the Fellowship Hall. Fancy dress is fun but not required. The business meeting will follow with Prayer & Self Denial service and offering.

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Please note that Stacy True, Administrative Assistant, will be out of the office on Thursday, May 25.

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