

**FAITH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
**SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**  
**June 11<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.*

**THE GREETING**

Leader: Lord, You have been our dwelling place in all generations

People: **You are the one true God who reigns forever.**

**OPENING PRAYER**

Leader: Almighty God, You search our hearts and you see every part of us. All our desires are known to You, and from you no secrets are hidden. By the inspiration of Your Holy Spirit, cleanse our hearts so we may perfectly love you and glorify Your holy name. We pray this through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

**THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Leader: Now as God's dearly loved children, let us pray together:

People: **Our Father in heaven, holy is Your Name  
Your Kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as in heaven  
Give us today Your daily bread  
And forgive our sins as we forgive those who sin against us  
Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil  
For the Kingdom, the power, and glory are Yours, both now and forever. Amen.**

**HYMN**....."Morning Has Broken" .....UMH #145

**SCRIPTURE LESSON(S)**

**2 Kings 23:1-3.....Linda Griffin**

Then the king directed that all the elders of Judah and Jerusalem should be gathered to him. <sup>2</sup>The king went up to the house of the Lord, and with him went all the people of Judah, all the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the priests, the prophets, and all the people, both small and great; he read in their hearing all the words of the book of the covenant that had been found in the house of the Lord. <sup>3</sup>The king stood by the pillar and made a covenant before the Lord, to follow the Lord, keeping his commandments, his

decrees, and his statutes, with all his heart and all his soul, to perform the words of this covenant that were written in this book. All the people joined in the covenant.

**Psalm 50.....Linda Griffin**

The mighty one, God the Lord,  
speaks and summons the earth  
from the rising of the sun to its setting.  
Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty,  
God shines forth.

Our God comes and does not keep silent;  
before him is a devouring fire  
and a mighty tempest all around him.  
He calls to the heavens above  
and to the earth, that he may judge his people:  
“Gather to me my faithful ones,  
who made a covenant with me by sacrifice!”  
The heavens declare his righteousness,  
for God himself is judge. *Selah*

“Hear, O my people, and I will speak,  
O Israel, I will testify against you.  
I am God, your God.  
Not for your sacrifices do I rebuke you;  
your burnt offerings are continually before me.  
I will not accept a bull from your house  
or goats from your folds.  
For every wild animal of the forest is mine,  
the cattle on a thousand hills.  
I know all the birds of the air,  
and all that moves in the field is mine.

“If I were hungry, I would not tell you,  
for the world and all that is in it is mine.  
Do I eat the flesh of bulls  
or drink the blood of goats?  
Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving,  
and pay your vows to the Most High.  
Call on me in the day of trouble;  
I will deliver you, and you shall glorify me.”

But to the wicked God says,  
“What right have you to recite my statutes  
or take my covenant on your lips?  
For you hate discipline,

and you cast my words behind you.  
You make friends with a thief when you see one,  
and you keep company with adulterers.

You give your mouth free rein for evil,  
and your tongue frames deceit.  
You sit and speak against your kin;  
you slander your own mother's child.  
These things you have done, and I have been silent;  
you thought that I was one just like yourself.  
But now I rebuke you and lay the charge before you.

Mark this, then, you who forget God,  
or I will tear you apart, and there will be no one to deliver.  
Those who bring thanksgiving as their sacrifice honor me;  
to those who go the right way,  
I will show the salvation of God."

**HYMN** ..... "Victory In Jesus " ..... UMH #370

**1Peter 1** ..... **Pastor Carolyn**

Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ,

To the exiles of the dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, who have been chosen and destined by God the Father and sanctified by the Spirit to be obedient to Jesus Christ and to be sprinkled with his blood:

May grace and peace be yours in abundance.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, so that the genuineness of your faith—being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. Although you have not seen him, you love him, and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

Concerning this salvation, the prophets who prophesied of the grace intended for you made careful search and inquiry, inquiring about the time and circumstances that the Spirit of Christ within them indicated when it testified in advance to the sufferings intended for Christ and the subsequent glory. It was revealed to them that they were serving not themselves but you, in regard to the things that have now been announced to you through those who brought you good news by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven, things into which angels long to look!

Therefore prepare your minds for action; discipline yourselves; set all your hope on the grace that Jesus Christ will bring you when he is revealed. Like obedient children, do not be conformed to the desires that you formerly had in ignorance. Instead, as he who called you is holy, be holy yourselves in all your conduct, for it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy."

If you invoke as Father the one who judges impartially according to each person's work, live in fear during the time of your exile. You know that you were ransomed from the futile conduct inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish. He was destined before the foundation of the world but was revealed at the end of the ages for your sake. Through him you have come to trust in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your trust and hope are in God.

Now that you have purified your souls by your obedience to the truth so that you have genuine mutual affection, love one another deeply from the heart. You have been born anew, not of perishable but of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God. For

"All flesh is like grass  
and all its glory like the flower of grass.  
The grass withers,  
and the flower falls,  
but the word of the Lord endures forever."

That word is the good news that was announced to you.

**John 15:1-8 .....Pastor Carolyn**

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

## **THE PROCLAMATION**

Leader: Dearly loved brothers and sisters, the Christian life is a life found in Christ, redeemed from sin, and consecrated to God. We are those who have entered into this life and have been admitted into the new covenant of Jesus Christ. He is the Mediator of this covenant. He sealed it with His own blood so it would last forever.

On one side of this covenant stands God, who promises to give us new life in Jesus Christ, the author and perfecter of our faith. Every day God proves His goodness and grace to us, showing us that His promise still stands firm.

On the other side, we stand as those who promise to no longer live life for ourselves but instead to only live for Jesus Christ because He has loved us and given His life for us.

There are times in our lives when it is important for us to remember and reaffirm our promises and vows. In this same way, we come today to renew our covenant with God. Many generations have done this before us. Today we make the covenant our own, renewing with both joy and sincerity the covenant that binds us all to God.

## **THE CONFESSION**

Leader: We are those who seek to live as true disciples of Jesus Christ, but sometimes we fall short. Let us now examine ourselves before God, humbly confessing our sins and submitting our hearts so that we do not deceive ourselves and cut ourselves away from God. Let us pray:

**People: Father God, You have set forth the way of life through Your Son Jesus Christ, whom You love dearly. We shamefully confess that we have been slow to learn of Him and have been reluctant to follow Him. You have spoken and called to us but we have not listened. You have revealed Your beauty to us, but we have been blind. You have stretched out Your hands to us through our friends, but we have passed by them. We have accepted Your gifts and offered little thanks. We are unworthy of Your unchanging love.**

Leader: We now confess to you our sins.  
Please forgive us for the poverty of our worship...  
for the selfishness of our prayers...  
for our inconsistency and unbelief...  
for the ways we neglect fellowship and Your grace...  
for our hesitation to tell others about Christ...  
for the ways we deceive others...

**People: Forgive us for when we waste time and when we misuse the gifts you have given us. Forgive us for when we have made excuses for the wrong things we have done and when we have purposefully avoided responsibility.**

Leader: Forgive us that we have been unwilling to overcome evil with good and that we have not been ready to carry our cross. Forgive us that we have not allowed Your love to work through us to help others and that we have not made their suffering our own. Forgive us for those times when instead of working for unity we made it hard for others to live with us because of our lack of forgiveness, inconsiderate judgment, and quick criticism.

**People: Forgive us for when we have not tried to reconcile with others and when we have been slow to seek redemption.**

Leader: Forgive us also for these sins that we silently confess to you now.

## WORDS OF ASSURANCE AND PARDON

Leader: God, the Father of all mercies, is faithful to cleanse us from our sins and restore us to Christ's image. Praise and glory be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! Amen.

## OFFERTORY

DOXOLOGY.....UMH #95

## THE INVITATION

Leader: Let us gathered here before the Lord now in covenant commit ourselves to Christ as his servants. Let us give ourselves to Him so that we may fully belong to Him. Jesus Christ has left us with many services to be done. Some of these services are easy and honorable, but some are difficult and disgraceful. Some line up with our desires and interests, others are contrary to both. In some we please both Christ and ourselves, but then there are other works where we cannot please Christ except by denying ourselves.

Jesus Christ, we offer You this prayer:

**People: Let me be Your servant. Let me follow your commands. I will no longer follow my own desires. I give myself completely to your will.**

Leader: The power and strength to live as true servants is given to us in Christ. We accept the place and work that He gives us, acknowledging that He alone will be our reward.

**People: I am not my own. I am Yours alone. Make me into what You will. Rank me with those You will. Put me to use for You. Put me to suffering for You. Let me be employed for You. Let me be laid aside for You. Let me be lifted high for You. Let me be brought low for You. Let me be full or let me be empty. Let me have all things or let me have nothing. With a willing heart, I freely give everything to Your pleasure and disposal.**

Leader: Christ is Savior to those who are His true servants. He is the source of all salvation to those who obey. To be His servant is to consent fully to His will. Christ accepts nothing less. Christ will be all in all, or he will be nothing.

Now confirm this truth in holy covenant. Make it a reality in your life in these three ways:

First, set apart time in your day, more than once, to be spent alone with the Lord. Seek to perceive God's special care for you and gracious acceptance of you. Carefully think through the words of this covenant and its conditions. Examine your heart, even if you have freely given your life to Christ. Name the sins in your life. Reflect on whether you are willing to choose Christ's holy laws and strict commands. Be sure you are clear in all of these so you do not lie to God!

Second, uphold a serious spirit of holy awe and reverence.

Third, claim God's covenant. Do not trust in your own strength and power but rely upon God's promise of giving grace and strength. In this way, He will empower you to keep your promise.

Fourth, be determined to be faithful. You have given your heart and life to God. You have opened your mouth to dedicate yourself to the Lord. With God's power, never go back to your former way of living.

And last, be prepared to renew your covenant with God. Fall on your knees. Lift your hands. Open your hearts.

## **THE COVENANT PRAYER**

Leader: Let us pray together:

**People: My righteous God, for the sake of Your Son Jesus Christ, see me now as I fall down before You. Forgive my unfaithfulness when I have not done your will. You promise mercy if I turn to You with my whole heart.**

Leader: God requires that you rid yourself of every idol in your life.

**People: From the bottom of my heart, I here and now renounce every idol in my life, covenanting with You that I will not commit any known sin. By turning against Your will I have turned my love toward the world. In Your power I will watch for any temptation that will lead me away from You.**

Leader: Through Jesus Christ, God offers to be your God again, if you allow Him to be.

**People: Before all heaven and earth, I here and now acknowledge You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, as my Lord and God. I vow to give all of myself, body and soul, to be Your servant and to serve You in holiness and righteousness all the days of my life.**

Leader: Jesus Christ is the only way and means to God. God has given us Jesus as the way and means to salvation.

**People: Jesus, I here and now accept You as the only new and living Way. I join myself in covenant with You. I come to You hungry, sinful, miserable, blind, and naked, unworthy even to wash the feet of Your servants. With all my power, I accept You as my Lord and Head. I renounce my own unworthiness, and vow that You are the Lord, my righteousness. I renounce my own wisdom and take You for my only guide. I renounce my own will and take Your will as my law.**

Leader: Christ has told you that you must suffer with him.

**People: Jesus, I here and now make this covenant with You and accept whatever comes in life. Through Your grace I promise that neither life nor death will separate me from You.**

Leader: God has given holy laws as the rule of your life.

**People: I here and now willingly take on Your yoke and burden. All Your laws are holy, just, and good. I accept them as the rule for my words, thoughts, and actions, promising I will strive to**

**order my whole life around your direction. I will not allow myself to neglect anything I know to be my duty.**

Leader: The Almighty God searches and knows you, even the thoughts of your heart.

**People: O God, You know that we have made this covenant today in sincerity, without deceit or reluctance. If You find anything false in us, guide us and help us to set it right. And now, glory be to You, God the Father. From this day forward, I shall look upon You as my God and Father. Glory be to You, God the Son. You have loved me and washed me from my sins in Your own blood. From this day forward, I shall look upon You as my Savior and Redeemer. Glory be to You, O God the Holy Spirit. By Your almighty power, You have turned my heart from sin to God. From this day forward I shall look upon You as my Comforter and Guide. O mighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, you have now become my Covenant Friend. And I, through Your infinite grace, have become Your covenant servant. You are mine and I am Yours. So be it. May this covenant that I have made here on earth be ratified in heaven. Amen.**

**HYMN....."May You Run and Not Be Weary" .....TFWS #2281**

**DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING**

Leader: May our God, who establishes covenant relationship with those who seek to enter the Kingdom, be with you always. May Jesus Christ, who seals the new covenant with his blood on the cross, bring you peace. May the Holy Spirit guide your life both now and for ever. Go in peace to serve the Lord!

**People: Amen.**

**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:** Shirley Burdick

**Janesville Nursing Home:** Nina Youngberg

**Lakeshore Inn:** Leona Quast

**Latham Place:** Joe Tollefson

**Foxdale:** Lucille Kubista

**Benedictine Living Community:** Chuck Youngberg

**Traditions Assisted Living Owatonna:** Ardella Draheim

**Prayer Requests for Sunday:** Sue Baldini, Kara Ecoff, Tim Dahnert, Gail Sauer, Beverly Pippenger, Bob Stephan, 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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Please note that Stacy True, Administrative Assistant, will be out of the office Monday, June 12 through Friday, June 16.

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Ruth Circle will meet this Thursday, June 15 at 1:00 pm in the Gathering Room. Please note the change of date. The program will be "Turkey".

## THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE...

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06/11/2023 (Sun.)	9:30 am - Worship Service 10:30 am - Farewell Potluck Brunch for Pastor Carolyn
06/12/2023 (Mon.)	3:00-4:30 pm-Conversation, Bible & Friends (*LV Room)
06/13/2023 (Tues.)	9:00 am - 3:00 pm - UWF Day Apart at Montevideo UMC
06/15/2023 (Wed.)	1:00 pm - Ruth Circle (Gathering Room)
06/18/2023 (Sun.)	FATHER'S DAY 9:30 am - Worship Service 10:30 am - Fellowship

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\*Lakeview Room \*\*Fellowship Hall

### **Administrative Assistant Hours this Week:**

**\*\*OUT OF THE OFFICE THIS WEEK**

### **Pastor Carolyn's Contact Info.:**

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