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Special Points of Interest:

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- April Birthdays and Anniversaries included with Calendar

Administrative Assistant

Office Hours:

Monday,
Wednesday &
Thursday:
9:30 am - 1:00 pm



Faith Messenger

APRIL

Faith United Methodist Church
"Engage, Equip, and Empower!"

Volume 2023
Issue 4

From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Ones

Kirk and I have settled on a dwelling for our retirement. It definitely is not a yurt, or a camper, it is a modular home with 3 bedrooms, two baths, a living room and den and, of course, a nice kitchen. We are excited, but now we are going through all the paperwork necessary. It feels good to have a plan, even though we know there will be unexpected occurrences. It's important for the sake of sanity to stay flexible.

From the prophet Jeremiah, we hear these words: *For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.* We know that God sees a plan for our life, and it feels good to know that there is a plan, but of course we are free to make our own decisions. Remember to stay flexible, so that when the unexpected occurrences come, you can make good decisions that will yoke with the plan God has for us.

We are nearing Holy Week which will start on Palm Sunday with Jesus making his way into Jerusalem. Then, we will celebrate communion on Holy Thursday in the fellowship hall followed by Good Friday in the sanctuary. Both services will be at 7pm. We will have Sunrise service at 7:30 on Easter Morning in the sanctuary, followed by Breakfast in the fellowship hall, then our Easter service will begin at our usual worship time of 9:30. This will be a service of great joy and thanksgiving for the risen Christ who has defeated death and given us the hope of eternal life. I look forward to these special times of worship with you.

The promise of spring is here. As I look out my office window at the snow banks surrounding our parking lot, I'm not too sure about the arrival of spring, but then geese will fly by and remind me that God's plan for spring is about to unfold. I am reminded of the hymn "Hymn of Promise", *In the bulb there is a flower, in the seed, an apple tree, in cocoons, a hidden promise: butterflies will soon be free! In the cold and snow of winter there's a spring that waits to be, unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.* God is the master planner and we are the beneficiaries of God's plan. Can anything be more beautiful?

Blessings,

Pastor Carolyn



Prayer Requests

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

Traditions Assisted Living Owatonna: Ardella Draheim

Benedictine Living Community: Chuck Youngberg

Lakeshore Inn: Leona Quast,

Foxdale: Lucille Kubista

Prayer Requests from Sunday Worship: Sue Baldini, Roger Groskreutz and family, Kara Ecoff, Tim Dahnert, Gail Sauer, Beverly Peppenger, health care workers, first responders, and those who are most at risk and vulnerable to Covid-19, those who battle chronic illness and pain.



Administrative Assistant Hours

Stacy's hours are typically Monday, Wednesday and Thursday 9:30 am to 1:00 pm. Days or hours are subject to change at times. It is best to call ahead if you need to visit the office. Hours will be posted in the weekly bulletins. Stacy will be out of the office on Monday, April 10.

WE NEED TO DO BETTER

The Council approved the budget plan for 2023 at its February meeting, but only after using nearly all of the savings balance we had. That savings (about \$36,000) was established three years ago from the Gov't payment we got by retaining all of our employees during the Covid downturn. We have had to tap into that balance each year in order to pay all of our bills.

The giving levels at Faith have not kept up to our needs. In 2022, an analysis of the giving by individual members show that about 50% of our members gave or exceeded what they pledged or what we had expected based on their past giving levels. The other 50% fell short. This also appears to reveal itself in the Sunday attendance at church.

Looking at the numbers another way, when we see the giving over two years, it has dropped steadily from \$304,968 in the 2015 – 2016 period to \$236,910 in the 2021 – 2022 period. This is not sustainable for our church. Unless our giving levels increase substantially, we will have to implement several major cost reductions.

Soap Closet

Faith UMC is participating with Minnesota Valley Action Council (MVAC) as a drop off site for their "Soap Closet". It is a program to help those in need with hygiene supplies in our county. The drop off box is located in the narthex. Items they are looking for include the following:

- New men's, women's and children's underwear and socks
- Toothbrushes and toothpaste
- Body Wash or bar soap
- Q Tips
- Hand soap/hand sanitizer
- Toilet paper
- Feminine products
- Baby wipes/diapers/powder/soap
- Laundry detergent
- Dish soap
- Deodorant

Please consider donating items to help with this cause. Someone from MVAC will pick up the items monthly.

2023 Offering Envelopes

We were recently informed that our offering envelopes were on track to be shipped out at the end of March. It is our hope that this is correct and we will be able to distribute them in April. As a reminder, to save on cost, we did order less envelopes than normal. If your envelope number is higher than 75, you will receive a new number once the new envelopes are received. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

Sunday School

Please note that Sunday school will meet the third and fifth Sunday in April, April 16 and April 30.

Ruth Circle

Ruth Circle met Tuesday February 14, 2023. Anna Born acted as hostess. Her colorful table had us thinking of Easter and scrumptious chocolate. It added to the enjoyment of the fellowship.

Lucille Youngberg, a member of the Lions, presented information about donating glasses and hearing aids to the Lions Club. They then send them to third world countries.

An outreach idea that Faith church sponsors that was brought up at the meeting is monthly supporting the [Neighborhood Services Center](#) Food Shelf through 'Pancake Sunday'. Pancake Sunday is the 4th or the last Sunday of each month. Members of the congregation are asked to bring pancake/biscuit mix and syrup to church.

The 'Soap Closet' is another outreach program through Minnesota Valley Action Council (MVAC). Hygiene supplies are collected to help out those in need in Waseca County. Members are encouraged to utilize the drop off box that is located at church in the narthex.

UWF is sponsoring a Pampered Chef Event Saturday, April 1st at 1:00 at the church. Members were encouraged to bring a friend.

Spring Luncheon is Wednesday, April 12th from 11:00 -1:00. There is a signup sheet available to sign up for items needed and helpers needed. The funds will go to the church.

The district United Women in Faith (UWF) Spring Gathering will be Saturday, April 22nd. It will be held at Belgrade in North Mankato. Members were encouraged to attend. Roberta will let you know when we need to register.

The next meeting date has been changed due to Spring Luncheon being held the day after our scheduled date. The April meeting will be **Monday, April 17th at 1:00** in the Gathering Room. Lorraine and Roberta will serve as hostess. The program will be 'Sugar and cream'.

The program presented at the March meeting was 'Quilts'. The group was asked to bring quilts that they made or on that someone gave them. There was a beautiful display of different quilts. Each lady shared their story about their quilts.

The devotion that we had at the meeting summarizes the message in the quilt presentation.

DEVOTION 'The Golden Thread'

It was LOVE at first sight. Grandma's crazy quilt was a kaleidoscope of color, texture, pattern, and shape. Velvet nestled near silk, cotton calms satin. Scraps of children's clothing, lace from a wedding gown, and the wide end of Grandpa's tie were all added. The crocheted corners of handkerchiefs lay comfortably together.

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I watched Grandma's fingers patiently pinch three strands of gold thread through the eye of needle. Intricate stitch patterns outlined each patch, joining them together. The quilt was painstakingly crafted with love and prayer. The finished masterpiece pleased the eye, mind, and heart- bound as one by the beautiful golden thread.

That's how God patterns our lives. Individual days and events sometimes seem random. They just don't seem to fit. Some experiences we would just as soon toss away while others, we'll never forget. Yet, God is near, and we find encouragement in Romans 8:28. God promises...*every detail in our lives of love for God is worked into something good.*

God created all things. He imagined the initial design for all our lives and sees it through from the first stitch to the last. The pattern, fabric, and texture were all chosen before we were born...and God has a vested interest in the final product.

A Little Humor

Mary loved to cook, and food was her ministry. In fact, it was her job to organize the weekly Wonderful Wednesday supper, a meal held in the church basement for all church volunteers.

When the new pastor arrived, among the changes he instituted was a policy of no desserts at Wonderful Wednesdays during Lent. Mary, who loved indulging people's sweet teeth, reluctantly quit making her usual pies and cakes and instead began to offer vanilla pudding with fruit in it, which she called "fruit salad."

When the pastor observed that it certainly seemed more like a dessert than a salad, Mary told him firmly, "Desperate times require desperate measures. If Jesus could turn water into wine, I can turn pudding into salad."



Waseca United Women In Faith Quartely Meeting February 20, 2023

The Waseca United Women in Faith meeting was held on Monday, February 20, 2023 at 1:00 pm in the Waseca United Methodist Church fellowship room. Seven members were present. Sherry Scholljegerdes opened the meeting. Sandy Voshell gave the Treasurer's report. The Secretary's report was in the newsletter. Two thank you notes were read from Norma Buland's family.

The Elizabeth Circle hosted the meeting with Valentine's Day as their theme. The tables were beautifully decorated and the desserts were delicious. We played a couple of games which added to the fun and fellowship.

Karen ferch gave a devotion that was a humorous story.

Kelly Boeddeker came to do a presentation on The Waseca Care Giver Services. She explained the services they provide, handed out a brochure and demonstrated a Tai Jai Quon exercise for better balance. Their program has steadily increased the services they provide.

Pastor Carolyn did the installation of UWF officers. Sherry Scholljegerdes – president, Sandy Voshell-treasurer, Janet Welch- Communications, Linda Griffin- Secretary, Nominating committee- Lucille Youngberg, Mary Jane Stauffer, and Mardell Jacobson.

Prayer and Self Denial will be presented at The May Unit Meeting.

The Unied Women in Faith Waseca booklets are completed and there are a few corrections. Two new members have joined UWF: Marian Keller and Barb Klampe.

We will have a Pampered Chef Party on Saturday April at 1:00 pm in the fellowship hall. There will be chips and dips, soups to try.

April 22, 2023 Spring Gathering at Belgrade UMC in North Mankato, mn.

Birthday Cake Packets for The Waseca Food Shelf, We will do as a church wide activity.

Our next unit meeting is on Monday, May 15, 2023 at 1:00 pm. For a Tea Party theme. Ruth circle servers. Also Bingo.

Spring Luncheon April 12, 2023 11 am- 1:00 pm. Everyone help with the luncheon.

Secretary Pro Tem,

Roberta Walker



Springtime Sandwich Luncheon

Faith United Methodist Church
801 4th Ave. NE Waseca MN
Wed. April 12 11:00 – 1:00

Free-will Donations Accepted
Take-out Meals Available
Public is Cordially Invited



TODAY'S  **SPECIAL**

Egg Salad Sandwiches

Sloppy Joes

Macaroni Salad

Chips

Pickles

Assorted Cakes

Coffee





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Change Service Requested

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MONTHLY MEET-UPS:

Elizabeth Circle

Elizabeth Circle will meet **Wednesday, April 19 at 2:30 pm** in the Lakeview Room.
Hostess: Karen Ferch, Devotions: Sandy Voshell. Guests and visitors are welcome.

Ruth Circle

Ruth Circle will meet on **Tuesday, April 17 at 1:00 pm** in the Gathering Room. Lorraine and Roberta will serve as hostess. The program will be "Sugar & Cream". **Please note the date change.**

Conversation, Bible & Friends

Conversation, Bible and Friends will **not** meet on Monday, April 10.