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Administrative
Assistant
Office Hours:

Monday,
Wednesday &
Thursday:
9:00 am - 12:30 pm



Faith Messenger

APRIL

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

Volume 2022
Issue 4

From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Ones,

Last weekend, Kirk, our dog Merry and me went to Madison SD to see our son and his family. We make this trip enough that we have a routine – we stop at the same gas stations, and eat at the same places. So, this trip was proceeding as usual until we stopped for gas in Westbrook. Kirk always takes Merry out for a walk when we stop, so he started pumping the gas and I snapped Merry's leash onto her halter. Kirk took Merry and I went into the station. When I came out – I saw my worst nightmare coming true. Merry's leash had somehow come unhooked and she was running free.

Now you need to know a little about Merry. We rescued her about 10 years ago from the Humane Society of the Delta. She was running down a sidewalk in Helena Arkansas when the director of the Humane Society saw her and chased her down and caught her. Merry needed emergency medical attention as she has a very large burn circling her back and one side of her hind quarters. Kate, the director, then took her home to foster her until she was ready for adoption. When I met Merry, Kate was honest and said, "She is a sweet dog, but she has had some trauma in her life and will probably never be a lap dog." At that meeting, I could tell that Merry really wanted to be loved, but was terrified. I brought her home and after months of trying to make her feel comfortable, Merry finally laid down on my feet. After that, she slowly warmed up until she would jump onto my lap. But one thing that has not changed is her reaction be "being caught". Even today, when Kirk says "Merry, do you want to go walking?" Merry will run over to Kirk, but will not allow him to snap on the leash until she has gone to a corner. She wants to go, but is scared of the "catching" part of putting on the leash, so she walks herself into a corner. Once the leach is on everything is fine.

So, back to the nightmare. When Merry realized the leash was not connected to her harness, she was terrified. She didn't run away, she stayed right with us, but when we would attempt to catch her, she would retreat. Then she would come back and stand just far enough away so we could not reach her. This went on for AN HOUR! People tried to help us, and that just made it worse. Finally, she got tired enough that she stopped in front of a fence and let me grab her. She was so relived to be caught. I will not talk about my husband's mood while this was going on – let's just say he was less than pleased.

I think that when it comes to our relationship with God, we can be a whole lot like Merry. We want to walk with God, but the thought of being vulnerable enough to allow ourselves to be caught up in God's love can be terrifying, so, we keep ourselves at arm's length. We stay just outside of God's circle. We don't get too close, but stay close enough to feel the warmth of God's love. And God hangs around. No matter how long it takes for us to allow God to catch us – God will not leave us behind.

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, Janice Kaupa, Shirley Burdick

Janesville Nursing Home: Nina Youngberg

Traditions Assisted Living Owatonna: Ardella Draheim

Foxdale: Elaine Westrum

Koda Living Community: Chuck Youngberg

Lakeshore Inn: Leona Quast

Latham Place: Lucille Kubista

Prayer Requests from Sunday Worship: John Slattery, Leona Quast, Sue Baldini, government officials, health care workers, first responders, and those who are most at risk and vulnerable to Covid-19, those who battle chronic illness and pain.



Did You Know?

It is important for all of us to use our offering envelopes when we give to our church. This makes counting our offerings as well as documenting them so much easier for the people who volunteer their time to do this.

Also, it's important for us to sign the attendance sheets that are found on both ends of our pews each Sunday so that we have an accurate count of worshipers.

Calling All Volunteers

We are in need of volunteers who would serve as Bob Stephan's backups when he takes time off. If we all did a little, no one would have to do a lot. We will have a sign-up sheet available.

Confirmation Sunday

We have three youth who will be confirmed on April 24th. They are Alyssa Kilmer, Kaylie Morrissey, and Aiden Groskreutz. There will be a reception in the fellowship hall for our confirmands following worship.

Benefit Sale for Sue Baldini

Vada Dahnert will be having a benefit garage sale for Sue Baldini on Saturday, May 14 beginning at 8:00 am. She will be serving sloppy joes, chips, donuts, cookies and coffee. Sloppy joes will be \$5/plate. Donations are needed for the sale. Suggested items are small appliances, furniture, clothing (in very good condition please), jewelry, toys. Cash donations will also be accepted.

Update for Faith Church Finances

The Council met in early March and reviewed the financials for 2021 along with the first two months of 2022. The full 2022 budget was approved after discussion. The Council noted that we are not paying our own way! Even though we paid our Apportionments in full for the past two years, we were not doing it with current giving levels.

In 2020, we were able to meet all our expenses including Apportionments by allowing our cash balance to go down significantly. In 2021, we were able to use about \$6000 from savings to meet all our expenses. The 2022 budget anticipates having to use another \$6000 from savings to balance the expenses against the expected giving.

So where did that savings come from? Two years ago Faith Church applied for and received some funding from the Payroll Protection Program (PPP). This was a government program to help employers maintain their staffs during the decreased income associated with the pandemic. Faith Church followed all the rules of the program and had that funding forgiven by the government while we maintained all of our staff.

At the same time, staff reduced costs as much as possible by reducing hours worked and limiting other costs wherever it could. But this supplemental funding will not last forever, and we need to increase our giving so that we get back to paying our own way. In years past, we had "Special Asks" to fill the gaps. We would prefer not having to do that again but that will depend on our giving at a level that covers our necessary expenses each year.

Ferch Family Update

This past year has been one of many blessings to us; it has also included several challenges we had to work on. It has been a year since I suffered several falls on the stairway at our house and I am happy to say that I've fully recovered and feel good. I have also had unexpected issues resulting from cataract surgeries last July and am soon going to see an eye specialist at Rochester Mayo; I don't know where that will lead. In late November we moved to Realife Senior Co-op, which is a wonderful place to be, although the process of moving from a fifty-three year tenure in our old house was probably the most difficult thing we've ever done. My firm belief is that God has had His hand in all of this...to God be the Glory. Blessed be the prayers of the faithful; please continue as we deal with this eye situation.

Thank you. Blessings, Karen & Vern Ferch.

New address: 1212 3rd St. NE. Apt. 121 (Waseca)

Ruth Circle

Ruth circle met Tuesday, March 8th at 1:00 in the Gathering Room. Those in attendance were; Vada Dahnert, Linda Griffin, Margaret Hasslen, Nancy Tollefson, Roberta Walker, and Lorraine Wick. Edy Barber, Anna Born and Sherry Schollejerdas were guests at our gathering. Vada and Margaret hosted and set a beautiful 'green' table with wishes for St. Patrick's Day.

The program included information about St. Patrick, Shamrocks, the Holy Trinity and some information about St Patrick's Day.

While trying to convert the Irish into Christians, St Patrick used the shamrock to explain the Holy Trinity with each leaf representing the Father, the Son and Holy Spirit. The three leaves of a shamrock are also said to stand for faith, hope and love.

The shamrock helped to show God as One and Three. It also shows how each clove is equal and made of the same nature as the others. Each of the three cloves is 'part' of the shamrock but is not fully the 'leaf' without the other. We know that God isn't divided into three parts. Each Person of the Trinity is fully God on their own.

The gathering, the program and the fellowship was just in time for St. Patty's Day!

Ruth circle's next meeting will be on Tuesday, April 12th at 1:00 in The Gathering Room. Nancy will serve as hostess. Linda will do devotions. The program will be: 'What the Cross means to me'.

It's Time to Rock!!

Rock Painting Party scheduled for Tuesday, May 17th 4:00 to 6:00. A light meal will be served at 5:30.

Anyone can come and paint rocks. We hide them for someone to find. Then whoever finds them can keep them or rehide them somewhere else.

It always makes us feel so good when someone comments on our website how finding a rock 'made their day', or 'they needed that!'. So come and paint a picture, a design or write a message.

It's a fun time, and the fellowship is great. Hope to see you there.

Spring Luncheon Planning

Spring Luncheon Planning Team will meet Monday, April 4 at 10:00 am in the Fellowship Hall.

Breaking News: UMW is Now United Women in Faith

We are in the middle of a change! UMW has changed its name to United Women in Faith. Our mission is staying the same, with our focus on women, children and youth. There will be new opportunities for all women to become involved. We will be continuing on as we have, with our meetings, circles, and fundraisers. The hope is to inspire younger women to know the joy that we all have had being part of this dynamic Christ centered group.

Take Courage that God is in control every step of the way!

Sherry Scholljegerdes,
Your UWF Waseca President

Ukraine Relief

United Methodists and others wishing to provide humanitarian assistance to the Ukrainian people in the wake of the Russian invasion of their country may contribute to **Advance #982450, UMCOR International Disaster Response and Recovery**. This fund will provide direct assistance to those in Ukraine as well as assistance to Ukrainians fleeing to neighboring countries.

Gifts can be made in the following ways:

Online at <https://umcmmission.org/advance-project/982450>

By toll free telephone: 888-252-6174

By check with "Advance 982450-Ukraine" written on the memo line, either mailed and addressed to Global Ministries/UMCOR, GPO, P.O. Box 9068, New York, NY, 10087-9068, or given at or through any United Methodist church

One hundred percent of all Advance contributions go to the designated cause.

Holy Week Services

Our Holy Thursday Service will be on April 14th, at 6:30pm. We will meet in the fellowship hall, join in a table communion service, then share in a potluck supper. This is the first potluck to be held in two years! Bring your favorite dish and celebrate with us.

Good Friday service will be held on April 15th at 6:30pm in the sanctuary. This service will include "The Stations Of The Cross"

Easter Sunrise Service will begin at 7:30am in the sanctuary, followed by Easter breakfast and then our Easter Service at 9:30am.

Springtime Sandwich Luncheon

Faith United Methodist Church
801 4th Ave. NE Waseca MN
Weds. April 20 11:00 – 1:00

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

Menu

Egg Salad Sandwiches
Sloppy Joes *Macaroni Salad*
Chips *Pickles*
Assorted Cakes *Coffee*



**** Please stay home if you are sick. God will forgive you!**

To keep all of us safe, please stay home from church if you have any of these symptoms:

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat

When you do come to church or visit the church building, please remember to wear a mask at all times.

If you are unable to attend worship, you may view the service online via a link on our Facebook page, Faith United Methodist Church, or our website, wasecafaithumc.com. The service is also aired on the local PEG television, channel #8 at the following times:

Sunday 12:30 PM

Thursday 4:30 PM

Tuesday 8:30 AM

Saturday 6:00 PM

A Little Humor

I once asked my third grade Sunday school class to stand up and share, in just one sentence, "What Easter means to me." Some of the answers were sweet and some poignant, however, this is the one I remember the most: "Egg salad sandwiches for the entire week."





Faith United Methodist Church

"Engage, Equip, and Empower"

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Change Service Requested

Come Worship with Us
We have room.

MONTHLY MEET-UPS:

Elizabeth Circle

UMW Elizabeth Circle will not meet in April.

Ruth Circle

UMW Ruth Circle will meet **Tuesday, April 12 at 1:00 pm** in the Gathering Room.

Conversation, Bible & Friends

Conversation, Bible and Friends will **not** meet on Monday, April 18.