

Inside this issue:

From the Pastor's Desk

1, 4

Prayer Requests / Announcements

2 - 3

Scripture for Life

5

Word Puzzles

6 - 7

Special Points of Interest:

- August Monthly Meetings, Back Page
- August Birthdays and Anniversaries included with Calendar

Administrative Assistant

Summer Office Hours:

Mon., Wed. Thurs.: 9:00 AM - Noon

Tues.: 1:30 - 3:30PM



Faith Messenger



AUGUST

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

**Volume 2020.
Issue 8**

From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Ones,

Little by little, Kirk and I are getting unpacked and the parsonage is beginning to look and feel like home. Again, I want to thank George and Bruce for the beautiful deck rail and gate they built for the deck and Berts and Sharon for taming the back garden. Our dog is loving the freedom to hang out on the deck and the cat has even ventured out once or twice.

In these challenging times, I am reminded of one of my favorite unlikely bible heroes – Gideon. You can read Gideon's full story in the book of Judges beginning with chapter 6. Today I want to focus on Judges 6:1-14. The following translation is from the Living Bible

Then the people of Israel began once again to worship other gods, and once again the Lord let their enemies harass them. This time it was by the people of Midian, for seven years. The Midianites were so cruel that the Israelis took to the mountains, living in caves and dens. When they planted their seed, marauders from Midian, Amalek, and other neighboring nations came and destroyed their crops and plundered the countryside as far away as Gaza, leaving nothing to eat and taking away all their sheep, oxen, and donkeys. These enemy hordes arrived on droves of camels too numerous to count and stayed until the land was completely stripped and devastated. So Israel was reduced to abject poverty because of the Midianites. Then at last the people of Israel began to cry out to the Lord for help.

However, the Lord's reply through the prophet he sent to them was this: "The Lord God of Israel brought you out of slavery in Egypt, and rescued you from the Egyptians and from all who were cruel to you, and drove out your enemies before you, and gave you their land. He told you he is the Lord your God, and you must not worship the gods of the Amorites who live around you on every side. But you have not listened to him."

But one day the Angel of the Lord came and sat beneath the oak tree at Ophrah, on the farm of Joash the Abiezrite. Joash's son, Gideon, had been threshing wheat by hand in the bottom of a grape press—a pit where grapes were pressed to make wine—for he was hiding from the Midianites.

Continued on Page 4

Prayer Requests



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

Janesville Nursing Home: Nina Youngberg

Traditions Assisted Living Owatonna: Ardella Draheim

Colony Court: Muriel Jenkins

Foxdale: Gordy Miller, Joe & Gloria Tollefson

Koda Living Community: Chuck Youngberg

Lakeshore Inn: Liz Corchran, Leona Quast, George Kubista

Latham Place: Lucille Kubista, Elaine Westrum

Prayer Requests from Sunday Worship: Michael Schumacher, Gordy Miller, family and friends of Gabi Krablicherova 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.

Financial Update

Faith Church giving has held up amazingly well during the first six months of 2020. An analysis is helpful:

Total active giving units	75
Total pledges	25

Thru June 30 total gifts for Operating and Cap Improvements

Annual Pledged and Estimated	\$137,000
Actual giving first six months	\$ 78,000

Actual vs Pledged and Estimated 57%

Number of givers at 50% or more as of June 30	35
Number of givers at 40 – 49%	15

Estimated giving by those who did not submit a pledge for 2020 was based on their actual giving in 2019.

We extend our sincere thanks to all who have consistently supported Faith Church during this time. This was particularly helpful since most of our expenses continued on unabated when there were no Sunday services. Now that church services have resumed, this is a good time to catch up on any giving that has fallen behind.

Conversation, Bible & Friends

Conversation, Bible and Friends will meet on Mondays from 3:00 to 4:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Seating will be one person to a table. Please wear a face mask.

Thank You From the Minnesota Conference

Thank you for your continued connectional support through apportionments during this difficult time. Apportionments and your Reach Renew Rejoice contributions allow investments into church planting and revitalization, work that is needed to reach new people, make disciples, and transform lives!

Your apportionment dollars also fund our internship program, The ELI Project, clergy leadership such as the Clergy Leadership Academy and Shmita, conference lay servant ministries, the Disaster Response Team, and Hopeful EarthKeepers. Thank you!

Church Website and Facebook Pages

Just a reminder, if you are unable to attend Sunday worship, you may view the service online. Links to the service can be found on our website homepage, www.wasecafaithumc.com and on our Facebook page, Faith United Methodist Church. Sunday bulletins are also available on our website.

There are currently two Facebook pages for the church, Faith Umc and Faith United Methodist Church. If you have not done so already, please like and follow our new page, Faith United Methodist Church. This is a business page rather than a personal page. In the near future, we will only be updating and maintaining the business page.

UMW Meeting

Attention all women of Faith: UMW has not been forgotten! Our Waseca Faith UMW will meet on **Monday, August 17** in the church Fellowship Hall at **10:00 a.m.** Masks will be required and we will follow all the protocols in place for social distancing, etc. Refreshments will be served following appropriate safety guidelines for group gatherings.

There will be a brief meeting and Sherry Scholljegerdes will present a program "Learning to Be a Light". All women are welcome and urged to attend.

PLEASE NOTE: THERE WILL **NOT** BE A MEETING OF THE UMW EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ON MONDAY AUGUST 10.

Administrative Assistant Hours

Please note that Stacy True, Administrative Assistant, will be out of the office the following dates in August: 11 through 13 and 17.

From the Pastor's Desk

(Cont. from page 1)

The Angel of the Lord appeared to him and said, "Mighty soldier, the Lord is with you!"

"Stranger," Gideon replied, "if the Lord is with us, why has all this happened to us? And where are all the miracles our ancestors have told us about—such as when God brought them out of Egypt? Now the Lord has thrown us away and has let the Midianites completely ruin us."

Then the Lord turned to him and said, "I will make you strong! Go and save Israel from the Midianites! I am sending you!"

In this story, Gideon goes on to become a successful military leader (see Judges 7). But that's surprising when we consider how the story begins.

The angel of the Lord greets Gideon with the words, "The Lord is with you, mighty warrior." But where is Gideon when the angel greets him? Polishing his armor? Mustering the troops? No. He's threshing grain in a winepress, hiding out from marauding Midianites, who are a constant threat to the Israelites at that time. So Gideon is not acting like a mighty warrior but more like a coward.

Repeatedly we see Gideon as timid and uncertain, but we should not be too hard on him. His anxiety and hesitation simply highlight the fact that God is setting him up with impossible odds. By using Gideon and just a small army, even though many thousands of soldiers were available (Judges 7:3, 8), God is teaching his people that the battle belongs to the Lord. When Gideon and his men finally enter the Midianite camp at night, smashing clay jars, carrying torches, and blowing trumpets, God himself routs the enemies of Israel.

Weak men and fragile jars point to the coming of the Lord and Savior as a helpless, human baby. The battle belongs to the Lord.

Prayer

By ourselves we are like clay jars, Lord, and only in you, Jesus, can we become mighty warriors of your kingdom. Frail though we are, please use us for the coming of your kingdom and your glory. Amen

Be Blessed!

Pastor Carolyn

Scripture for Life

When you are afraid:

Psalms 23:4 Deuteronomy 31:6 Isaiah 41:13, 49:15-16

When you need inspiration:

Proverbs 3:5-6 John 16:33 Psalms 119:50 & 119:71

When you need encouragement:

Isaiah 41:10 Psalms 46:1-3, 16:8 & 55:22 1 Peter 5:7

When you have doubt or sadness:

Jeremiah 29:11 Psalms 34:8 Isaiah 40:31 Romans 8:28, 8:31 & 8:38-39
James 1:2-4

When you need hope:

Genesis 8:1 Psalms 3:2-6 Joshua 10:25 1 Peter 1:3-6 Romans 5:2-7

When you need forgiveness:

Matthew 6:14-15 Acts 3:19 Ephesians 1:7 Colossians 1:13-14

When you need to forgive others:

Matthew 6:14-15 John 1:9 Mark 11:25

When you have money issues:

Proverbs 13:11 Ecclesiastes 5:10 Matthew 6:24, 6:21, 19:21 & 6:1-4

When you are worried or have anxiety:

Matthew 6:25-34 Luke 12:24-34 John 14:27 Psalms 55:22 & 56:3
Philippians 4:6-7

When you need to feel loved:

John 15:13

When you need to resolve conflict:

Matthew 18:15

When you need the right answer:

James 1:5-6



Books of the Bible Word Scramble



- 1. svrbproe _____
- 2. ervleaonit _____
- 3. smtletanaoni _____
- 4. omrnas _____
- 5. gnseisie _____
- 6. bwserhe _____
- 7. eouxsd _____
- 8. haeos _____
- 9. snaaltagi _____
- 10. ojnha _____
- 11. eudtermooynd _____
- 12. rcahahezi _____
- 13. nbuesmr _____
- 14. nsppailiiph _____
- 15. seiephans _____
- 16. oieplmnh _____
- 17. eihemjra _____
- 18. eugjds _____
- 19. hobaaid _____
- 20. hrtsee _____

Bible Word Search: CALLED TO BE MERCIFUL

N C O Q B T X D T P S U J L S
 O E O O F F N U B A J C J N T
 I C A M S U O E L U E L O S R
 T N O L P V Q V M G L I R I E
 A E V O L A A P A G S D W N S
 I I X U D T S R J S D E V N P
 L T R W I S U S E O Q U T E A
 I A A O D O V R I Q Z H J R S
 C P N K C F G P E O S M D S S
 N P W B N S J W D V N L N R E
 O A W E N E M I E S E D P M S
 C F O A F O R G I V E N E S S
 E P R Z B N R C X O T R G K S
 R T N E R H T E R B C E G E B
 J M P N X R B M J Y M B E J G

- | | | |
|----------------|----------------|------------|
| BRETHREN | COURAGE | COMPASSION |
| ENEMIES | FORGIVENESS | JUDGMENT |
| LOVE | MERCY | PATIENCE |
| RECONCILIATION | REVENGE | SALVATION |
| SINNERS | TRANSGRESSIONS | TRESPASSES |



Faith United Methodist Church

"Engage, Equip, and Empower"

801 Fourth Ave. NE

Waseca, MN 56093

Phone: 507-835-3167

Fax: 507-835-5400

E-mail: faithwaseca@gmail.com

www.faithwasecaumc.com

Non-profit Org
Postage Paid
Permit 30
Waseca, MN
56093

Change Service Requested

Come Worship with Us
We have room.

MONTHLY MEET-UPS:

Elizabeth Circle

UMW Elizabeth Circle will **not** meet in August.

Ruth Circle

Ruth Circle August Meeting TBD.