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Special Points of Interest:

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

Administrative Assistant

Office Hours:

Monday,
Wednesday &
Thursday:

9:30 am - 12:30 pm



Faith Messenger

AUGUST

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

Volume 2023
Issue 8

From the Pastor's Desk

Greetings,

Let me begin by saying that I am honored and blessed to be your pastor. It is indeed a joy for myself and my delightful bride Nicki. You are always welcome to stop in the office, call, text or e-mail and share any thoughts, concerns, comments, fears, joys...whatever is on your heart. Or even just to say hi!

As we journey into August, you will find some familiar items returning to our worship service. I have been rediscovering how to create power-points for worship and how to integrate the music and words for our hymns into power point as well. Also, the children's time will be returning soon. Basically, our normal rhythm of worship will return.

I'm sitting in my office here at the church, staring out the window at the "Andy Stink". We all know this little overflow/ outlet from Loon Lake by that name. In fact, you say that to most anyone who is a long-time resident of Waseca, they know exactly what you are referring to. It is the same way with our church property. If you say "Faith United Methodist Church", the most common response is "where's that church?" But if you say "The Church by The Lake", everyone knows what you are talking about and where it is located.

So, let's add another facet to our identity, we nailed geography, so let's add "The Church that Helps to provide Food Security to Families". Sounds big, scary and labor intensive. But it's not. In fact, it's so simple it almost takes care of itself. (Details coming soon!) My hope is that as we move forward with this project, the community of Waseca will know us as the church who loves them and just happens to own some lakeshore property.

Now that I have piqued your curiosity, I want to encourage you to pray for the church, pray for each other, and to pray for our community. Stay in love with God, stay in love with each other!

Blessings and peace, Pastor Jon

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: Shirley Burdick

Janesville Nursing Home: Nina Youngberg

Traditions Assisted Living Owatonna: Ardella Draheim

Benedictine Living Community: Chuck Youngberg

Latham Place: Joe Tollefson

Lakeshore Inn: Leona Quast, Marian Broughten

Foxdale: Lucille Kubista

Prayer Requests from Sunday Worship: Sue Baldini, Kara Ecoff, Tim Dahnert, Gail Sauer, Beverly Peppenger, Gloria Rollag, Bob Stephan, health care workers, first responders, those who battle cancer, chronic illness and pain.



Administrative Assistant Hours

Stacy's hours are typically Monday, Wednesday and Thursday 9:30 am to 12:30 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 August 7 through August 11.**

Good News from the Conference Office

We received a letter from the Minnesota Conference office on June 22. Here is an excerpt from that letter:

"Over the years, Faith UMC had accumulated an unpaid apportionment balance of \$115,022.96." As you may be aware, it is the annual conference's policy to automatically release 25% of this accumulated unpaid apportionment balance for each year apportionments are paid in full. Because of your full payments in 2019, 2020, 2021, and 2022, we have released another 25% or **\$28,755.74** of the total accumulated balance. This leaves a remaining balance of accumulated unpaid apportionments of **\$0.00.**"

A special thank you to each of you who have consistently supported Faith Church in a manner that made this possible! Please note, however, that our members' receipts have been steadily declining over the past several years. It is unknown at this time whether Faith Church will be able to pay all of its apportionments in 2023.

Ruth Circle

Ruth circle met Monday, July 17th. Edy was hostess and was all decked out in her butterfly attire and served a tasty ice cream cake and treats. The program was 'Butterflies'.

The Bible doesn't specifically reference butterflies anywhere in Scripture, but as part of God's natural creation, they provide a beautiful picture of spiritual transformation. The metamorphosis from caterpillar to butterfly has striking parallels to Christian conversion, resurrection, and transfiguration. And that is exactly what being a Christian and living a life for and through Christ is all about! Letting go of what we were so we can become something much better!

When a butterfly starts its journey, it is a small helpless caterpillar. It has only two jobs to do, to eat and to grow. Does that sound similar to a new Christian? When we are first saved, it is crucial that we begin to feed on God's Word. This is how we grow and mature in order to be used by God.

The Bible says that anyone who belongs to Christ has become [a new creation](#). The old life is gone, and the new life has begun ([2 Corinthians 5:17](#)). The same God, who takes a caterpillar and changes it into a butterfly, transforms sinners into saints.

When a butterfly emerges its wings are limp and unusable. It is not until the butterfly has done some work that it can actually use its wings and fly. We as Christians are like this as well. We are saved by God's grace but the transformation does not stop there. The next step that we have to take is to be sanctified, which means that we allow the Holy Spirit to come in and change us from the inside. Once the Holy Spirit has come in and done a work in us, then we can begin to do God's Work.

The minutes of the June meeting were printed in the newsletter.

Members of Ruth circle were asked for ideas to put on the agenda and if they had any ideas for future programs.

Ideas for Mission/Outreach were discussed.

It was stated that Faith at the Fair was enjoyed by those who attended.

Our next meeting will be Tuesday, August 8th at Real Life at 1:00. Roberta will be hostess and the program will be 'Yellow'.

UWF Upcoming Dates

United Women in Faith Executive Board meeting will be held on **August 28 at 10:00 am**.

United Women in Faith Unit meeting will be held on **September 7 at 12:00 pm**. It will be a potluck picnic.



Shirley Burdick celebrated her birthday with Elizabeth Circle friends!

One Minute Devotion

Genesis 50:20

Joseph realized that the bad things his brothers did to him; God used for good - the saving of lives in famine-stricken Egypt. God cares enough about you to take the worst life has to offer and make it good; He is in the re-creation business.

Taken from 100 Minutes with God, 1 Minute Daily Devotions of Timeless Inspiration.

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.

Mary Oberg May 27, 1924 — June 17, 2023

Mary Oberg (nee Grife,) 99 formerly of Brainerd, passed away peacefully on June 17, 2023. She was preceded in death by her husband, Rev. Clayton A. Oberg. She is survived by her children, Allen, Susan Hick, Paul, Sara Perry, and Diane Clemens; 7 grandchildren; 4 great grandchildren; and many other beloved family and friends.

Included herewith is a portion of a poem called The Dash by Linda Ellis.

"I read of a man who stood to speak at the funeral of a friend. He referred to the dates on the tombstone from the beginning... to the end. Through tears he said what mattered most of all was the dash between those years. For that dash represents all the time they spent alive on earth and now only those who loved them know what that line is worth."

Mary had a wonderful, love-filled life and most certainly shared her dash with compassion, understanding and a profound commitment to making people smile and cherish their relationship with her. The family of Mary would like to invite each of you to share your memories of her dash, for this is what matters most.

A time to share memories will take place at 3 PM on Saturday, July 22, 2023 at Mueller Memorial, 4738 Bald Eagle Ave, White Bear Lake, MN, with a time for visiting beginning at 2 PM. Those who are unable to join us in person can join us via live stream for the service. If you would like to share a memory or a story to be read during that time you can share below on our virtual guestbook or submit to info@muellermemorial.com attn: Mary Oberg Memorial Service by Wednesday, July 19, 2023.

Family would like to express a special thank you to the caregivers at St. Anthony Park Home. Family asks for no gifts or flowers, Thank you



Church is Fun

Word Search

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

Word list:

BELIEF
BLESSINGS
CHRIST
CHURCH
COMPASSION
COURAGE
ETERNAL
FAITH
FAITHFULNESS
FORGIVENESS

FRIENDSHIP
GIVING
GOD
GRACE
GUIDANCE
HEALING
HEAVEN
HOLY
HOPE
JESUS

JOY
LOVE
MERCY
OBEDIENCE
PATIENCE
PEACE
SALVATION
SPIRIT
TRUTH
WISDOM





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Change Service Requested

Come Worship with Us
We have room.

MONTHLY MEET-UPS:

Elizabeth Circle

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

Ruth Circle

Ruth Circle will meet on **Tuesday, August 8**
at **1:00 pm** at Real Life. Roberta will be the
hostess and the program will be "Yellow".

Conversation, Bible & Friends

Conversation, Bible and Friends will meet
all Mondays in August.