

Inside this issue:

From the Pastor's Desk	1
Prayer Requests / Announcements	2 - 3
Ruth Circle	4
Elizabeth Circle	5
Re-Keying the Church	6
Leadership Team	7
Soap Closet	7

Special Points of Interest:

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

Pastor Office Hours:

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

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 2024
Issue 8

From the Pastor's Desk

We are all vulnerable. I sometimes fall and make mistakes. So I confess my weakness. However, if this is repeated, weakness becomes my strongest weapon, and I become used to excuses and rationalizations such as "I am weak," and despite having the strength to overcome all situations and reality, we give up. If weakness continues, it eventually becomes a habit, and habits degenerate into wrongdoing.

Jesus said to His disciples in John 14:1, "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me." There is a big difference between being heartbroken and being shaken.

A person who is mature in faith has a soft heart, and a person with a soft heart sympathizes with the pain of others. The more you empathize with the pain, the more you can love and the more earnestly you can pray. When Jesus was in pain, He prayed. His heart did not waver. On the other hand, the disciples' hearts were greatly shaken by anxiety about the future. Worry evaporates faith. It shakes up your whole life.

Jesus knew the hearts of His disciples. He knew how weak the human heart is in the face of an uncertain future. So He gives these words. "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God and believe in me."

Christians are able to feel pain toward our neighbors, the church, and the world. However, our mind must not be shaken. Our hearts must be deeply rooted in Jesus Christ. Please train yourself so that weakness does not become wrongdoing. And, believe in the Lord, rely on Him, and live with His heart. Amen.

Pastor, Dong H. Shin

Prayer Requests

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

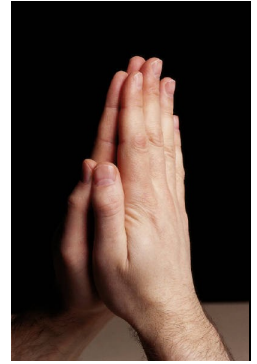
Colony Court: Shirley Burdick, Gloria Rollag

Janesville Nursing Home: Nina Youngberg

Traditions Assisted Living Owatonna: Ardella Draheim

Latham Place: Joe Tollefson

Prayer Requests from Sunday Worship: Sue Baldini, Tim Dahnert, Ron Dahnert, Kathy Dahnert Johnson, Gail Sauer, Gloria Rollag, Les Wells, Margaret Dahnert, Reilly Schumacher, Dennis Dahnert, Nina Youngberg, Tom Kuyper, the Ukraine, the Middle East, health care workers, first responders, those who battle cancer, chronic illness and pain.



Administrative Assistant Hours

Stacy's summer hours will typically be 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. Please note that Stacy will be out of the office August 19 through 23.**

A Prayer for our Church

Come Holy Spirit, fill our voices with praise, so that all we speak will glorify you.

Come Holy Spirit, give us such faith that we will go wherever you ask us to go.

Come Holy Spirit, help us to be a friend like Jesus.

Come Holy Spirit, warm our hearts, so that as we love our community, they see you.

In the name of Jesus, our Redeemer, we pray. Amen.

Faith UMC Mission Statement

Faith United Methodist Church Serves God through

Worship, Faith, Friendship, Outreach

Faith's Blessing Box

Just a reminder that we are continuously collecting donations of non-perishable food items for Faith's Blessing Box (please no glass jars). There is a donation box in the Narthex or you may bring your donations into the church office during office hours. Cash donations will also be accepted to purchase items for the blessing box; just make a notation that your donation is for the blessing box. We would like to build up a supply of items so we can keep replenishing the box as needed.

All Blessing Box items must be: shelf-stable (non-perishable), sealed and not past expiration date, able to withstand hot temperatures during the summer months, and able to withstand cold temperatures in the winter months (e.g. pouched meat instead of canned meat).

Trunk or Treat

Yes, it's still summer, but fall will be here before we know it! Area churches have been asked if they would like to participate in Trunk or Treat on Halloween night, October 31, from 4:30 to 7:00pm. We need to get an idea of how many people are able to participate before we decide whether or not to be part of this event and be added to the list of participating churches. If you know you can participate, please sign up on the sign-up sheet in the narthex during the coming weeks, or let Stacy know if you are able to participate. Also, ask friends, family members and neighbors if they would like to sign up.

Congratulations to Morgan Besser and Devin Stankiewicz who were united in marriage at Faith UMC on June 29, 2024!



Ruth Circle

Ruth circle met Tuesday, July 16th at Roberta Walker's She Shed/Granary.

Summer is a busy time for everyone and our turnout was small but we still had a great time visiting, listening to the program and treats.

The table was set with a cracked pot holding a beautiful Hydrangea flower. Each lady had a mini clay pot with treats and a friendship quote to complete the setting for the program.

"A true friend is someone who thinks that you are a good egg even though he knows that you are slightly cracked." Bernard Meltzer

The program was, 'The Cracked Pot'.

An elderly Chinese woman had two large pots, each hung on the ends of a pole which she carried across her neck. One of the pots had a crack in it while the other pot was perfect and always delivered a full portion of water. At the end of the long walks from the stream to the house, the cracked pot arrived only half full.

For a full two years this went on daily, with the woman bringing home only one and a half pots of water. Of course, the perfect pot was proud of its accomplishments. But the poor cracked pot was ashamed of its own imperfection, and miserable that it could only do half of what it had been made to do.

After two years of what it perceived to be bitter failure, it spoke to the woman one day by the stream. 'I am ashamed of myself, because this crack in my side causes water to leak out all the way back to your house.'

The old woman smiled, 'Did you notice that there are flowers on your side of the path, but not on the other pot's side?' 'That's because I have always known about your flaw, so I planted flower seeds on your side of the path, and every day while we walk back, you water them.'

For two years I have been able to pick these beautiful flowers to decorate the table. Without you being just the way you are, there would not be this beauty to grace the house.'

The author of the Cracked Pot story is unknown; yet the wisdom that it holds is displayed in our lives daily through God's working in and through us!

Have you ever felt like this pot with its crack – imperfect and ashamed? There may have been something in your life that caused you to feel "cracked." In all honesty, probably most of us have felt this way at one time or another. Yet what we neglect to realize is that God is sovereign; He created us each unique and when we depend upon Him, amazing things can happen!

A short meeting was held discussing mission projects, membership, programs, hosting meetings, Faith church and other topics.

Due to the primary election taking place in the Fellowship Hall on August 13, the next Ruth circle meeting time and location is to be determined.

What Does HOPE Mean to You?

Elizabeth Circle met on Wednesday, July 17, at 2:30 in the Lakeview Room at Faith UMC. It was a beautiful afternoon to open the windows and enjoy the summer breezes.

Karen Ferch served as hostess and also led the lesson/devotions.

As is always our custom, as well as an important focus of each meeting, we began with conversation, treats, and coffee. And laughter. Lots of that...In all times and particularly now, the gift of laughter truly is the best medicine.

Summer is a perfect time for weddings...Sherry Scholljegerdes told us about her grandson's recent wedding, showing us a few photos of the newlyweds; still in the weeks to come Mary Jane and Lucille both have grandsons' weddings to anticipate. They will be beautiful affairs to be sure...but never mind the bridal attire – we wanted to hear about these grandmas' lovely finery for these very special events!

Congratulations were in order for Sherry, who won some 22 award ribbons for items entered at the Waseca County Fair last week; several categories from material goods to preserves.

It was an easy segue into our lesson, "What Des HOPE Meant to You?" Laughter, while not mentioned in our texts, is surely one of the greatest gifts from our God, lifting our spirits and sometimes lingering long after it's been shared.

Excerpts from a study book by D. & S. Larsen begin with Scripture texts from Psalm 71:14-24. The Larsens write: *'In the past few years we have lost three large oak trees at the edge of our woods. Each was a shock to me because the trees had "always been there" (in other words, during my lifetime.)*

I am grateful that my favorite tree, a huge pin oak, still stands. I used to say, casually, that I hoped it never fell. Now I've changed that to "I hope it doesn't fall in my lifetime."

Like us, trees have a lifespan. Like us they will all fall sometime, no matter how much we hope to the contrary. In order to have indestructible hope, we must place our hope in the eternal God.'

We shared our thoughts about these passages, reflected again on many experiences we've had in life and how very important it is to share what we've lived and learned with younger generations. It is an urgent commitment we all have to tell about HOPE in our Lord's faithfulness that never ends.

Minutes of the June meeting were read. Mary Jane reported that we have an adequate sum in our Sunshine Fund. In June, she, Lucille, and Karen visited Nina Youngberg to observe Nina's upcoming birthday. We had a wonderful afternoon together.

Elizabeth Circle will meet next on Wednesday, August 21 at 2:30. Sherry will be hostess and Mary Jane will present a lesson.

Karen Ferch, Secretary

P.S. About that treat I mentioned at the beginning of this writing...it received a hearty "2-thumbs-up" from everyone. It has all the components of a great dessert: Easy-Fast-Inexpensive-Delicious!

You may wish to try it. (Thanks to my sister Jean; Arlington MN UMC)

1 box yellow cake mix...prepare just as directed on the box and add 2 mashed very ripe bananas
blend well 9 x13 cake pan bake; let cool

1 4-serving box banana instant pudding mix Combine with **1 cup milk** let rest for a few minutes

Combine thickened pudding with a regular-sized container Cool-Whip
Spread over cake Refrigerate till ready to serve

Re-Keying the Church

The church is scheduled to be re-keyed on Thursday, August 1 . As a reminder, the criteria for who will get keys is listed below. Key assignments and check out can be done through the church office during office hours.

Elevator Key - (Kept in the Church Office)

Master Keys

- Pastor
- Administrative Assistant
- Principal of Hartley School (the church is Hartley's emergency evacuation location)
- Leadership Chairperson
- Cleaning Service Supervisor
- Financial Leader
- Memorial Leader
- Trustee/Financial Secretary
- Choir Director/Organist
- Cantor
- Head Ushers

Generic Keys

- Fellowship Leaders
- Members of the Leadership Team
- Leader of Saturday morning Bible study group
- Leader of the Church Bible Study group(s)

Criteria for Signing out a Church Key:

(Check out key 72 hours in advance of meeting and return back to Church Office within 72 hours after the meeting. Only exception is if it had been approved before checking out the key).

- Must be signed out by a church member/approved community leader
- Special meeting(s) within the church (excluding the church sanctuary)
- If for any reason an individual feels he/she needs to have a key permanently, they must have written reasons as to why and submit them to the Leadership Team for their approval. If the request is turned down, there will be a meeting with the individual to explain the reason why it wasn't granted.

Miscellaneous Requirements:

- When an authorized key holder passes away, the Leadership Team will (within a reasonable period of time) ask the family to return the key to the church.
- Paid positions within the church, your last paycheck will be withheld until the key is turned back into the office. Once your key is turned in, your last paycheck will be authorized to be released by our accounting firm. (This will be included in all the job descriptions of the church)

NOTE:

All the extra keys will be kept in the church office.

Leadership Team

Members of the Faith United Methodist Church Leadership Team:

Rev. Dong Hun Shin, Pastor
Dave Baldini, Chair
Clair Voshell, Trustees
Neil Fruechte, Finances
Duane Griffin, Lay Leader
Jarod True, Trustee Treasurer & SPRC
Stacy True, Recording Secretary
Karen Ferch
Mark LaMont
Michelle Hyatt
Mike Morrissey

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact one of the members.

****Copies of approved Leadership Team minutes can be found on the shelf by the bulletin board in the narthex.**

****Copies of church financial statements can be reviewed by church members in the office upon request.**

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.



Faith United Methodist Church

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Postage Paid
Permit 30
Waseca, MN
56093

Change Service Requested

Come Worship with Us
We have room.

MONTHLY MEET-UPS:

Elizabeth Circle

Elizabeth Circle will meet on **Wednesday, August 21 at 2:30 pm** in the Lakeview Room. Our hostess will be Sherry Scholljegerdes with Mary Stauffer leading devotions. We welcome guests and visitors.

Ruth Circle

Ruth Circle August meeting time and location is to be determined.

Conversation, Bible & Friends

Conversation, Bible and Friends will meet every Monday in August.