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Administrative  
Assistant  
Office Hours:

Monday,  
Wednesday &  
Thursday:

9:30 am - 12:30 pm



# Faith Messenger

**DECEMBER**

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

**Volume 2023**  
**Issue 12**

## From the Pastor's Desk

A few thoughts,

I made a batch of cookies the other day, chocolate chip. As usual for me, I followed the recipe, kind of. By not taking time to follow the directions in detail, I accidentally put in twice the amount of brown sugar. As the cookies were baking, I re-read the recipe and discovered my mistake. Luckily, my little mistake did not alter the end product too much. The cookies came out a little sweeter and a darker golden color, to be safe, Nicki and I tested each cookie and found them to be quite tasty!

The world wants to tell us that our lives are like a recipe:

To be happy we need a cup of comfort, two sticks of cash (large bills), two children (stirred, not hard boiled), a teaspoon sarcasm, add one half cup of vacations and a tablespoon of spunk, then add a dash of cat or dog to taste. After carefully mixing, place into a quiet neighborhood and let live. Check periodically and remove the older members for placement in local care center.

I have met too many people who view their lives like this. It sounds so hopeless. But, it need not be this way. When the days are the darkest, the nights the longest, the hearts of Christians are the fullest. Overflowing with joy, hope and praise. For unto us a Savior is born! Good News! Filled to the brim! We are given ample opportunities to be a blessing in the lives of individuals and families. If we seize these moments, we can share the Christmas story with those wondering what possible meaning their lives could have. It's our God given time to help the world understand that Christmas is not a "thing" but a "Who". Life is not a recipe to be followed, it is a relationship with Jesus that is lifegiving. So I encourage all of us to put our Light on a stand and let it shine before others! Let us proclaim the GOOD NEWS! Jesus is life!

"Go and make disciples..." The words of Jesus Matthew 28:19

Have a blessed Christmas and may the love of the Savior fill your days.

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, Gloria Rollag

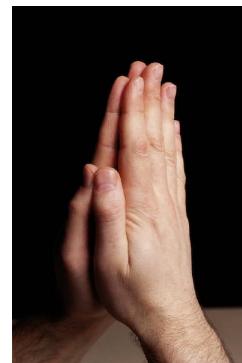
**Janesville Nursing Home:** Nina Youngberg

**Traditions Assisted Living Owatonna:** Ardella Draheim

**Latham Place:** Joe Tollefson

**Lakeshore Inn:** Margaret Hasslen

**Prayer Requests from Sunday Worship:** Sue Baldini, Tim Dahnert, Ron Dahnert, Gail Sauer, Beverly Peppenger, Deene Peppenger, Gloria Rollag, Bob Stephan, Margaret Hasslen, Sandy Barber, the Middle East, 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 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.

## Leadership Team

Members of the Faith United Methodist Church Leadership Team:

Rev. Jon Schultz, 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.**

## To Be United Methodist: What is Advent?

The season of Advent, which comes from the Latin word *adventus* meaning "coming" or "visit," begins four Sundays before Christmas and ends on Christmas Eve. Advent is the beginning of the church year for Christians.

During Advent, we prepare for and anticipate the coming of Christ. We remember the longing of Jews for a Messiah and our own longing for and need of forgiveness, salvation and a new beginning. Even as we look back and celebrate the birth of Jesus in a humble stable in Bethlehem, we also look forward anticipating the second coming of Christ as the fulfillment of all that was promised by his first coming.

Although we are accustomed to celebrating Christmas on a single day, in both Christian tradition and on the church calendar, the Christmas season lasts from sundown on Dec. 24 (Christmas Eve) through Epiphany of the Lord (Jan. 6). This is sometimes referred to as "the 12 days of Christmas." Advent begins with the fourth Sunday before Christmas Day.

The color for Advent has traditionally been purple, although some churches have adopted blue. In practice, however, as churches increasingly incorporate the symbols and decorations of Christmas during Advent, more and more red, green and gold are appearing. *The United Methodist Book of Worship* upholds the traditional color of purple for Advent, signifying penitence and royalty, but also allows blue, the color of hope."

*Adapted from "What is Advent?" and "[Understanding Advent](#)" by Dean McIntyre, retired director of music resources, Discipleship Ministries.*

*Originally published in Interpreter Magazine, November–December, 2017.*

## Worship on Christmas Eve, Sunday, December 24

At our November leadership team meeting, we discussed the possible options for the Christmas eve worship service. I shared with the team that Barb and Jarod will both be unavailable for a late afternoon or evening service. Because music is such an important and celebrative part of the Christmas Worship service, the decision was made to celebrate Christmas eve during the morning worship service.

I know that this is a departure from tradition, but it also gives us a unique opportunity to invite friends, neighbors and others who will be getting ready to travel and may not have an opportunity to celebrate Christmas eve. So let us get the word out in the community, Christmas Eve at Faith Church at 9:30 am! And yes, we will sing our closing hymn by candlelight!

Blessings, Pastor Jon

## Choir Cantata

On Sunday, December 17, Faith Choir will present the cantata, "Simply Carols" during the worship service. Please plan to attend.



**Minnesota**  
**Annual Conference**  
of the United Methodist Church

## The Minnesota Annual Conference: Who We Are

### Our Mission

Making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

### Our Vision

For every congregation to become a vital expression of the scriptural imperatives to:

#### Grow in Love of God and Neighbor

*The Great Commandment  
(Matthew 22:37-40, NIV)*

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind, and love your neighbor as yourself."

#### Reach New People

*The Great Commission  
(Matthew 28:19-20, NIV)*

"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."

#### Heal a Broken World

*The Great Proclamation  
(Luke 4:16-21, NIV)*

"The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

### Our Values (Moving Forward—A Vision, Item 100, as approved by the 2019 Minnesota Annual Conference Session)

#### Rooted In Jesus

Jesus is our foundation, the One who teaches us to love our neighbor as ourselves, to love our enemies and welcome the stranger. Christ is the very embodiment of Love, Emmanuel—"God with us."

#### Grounded in Wesleyan Theology

Grace pervades our understanding of Christian faith and life. While the grace of God is undivided, it precedes salvation as "prevenient grace," continues in "justifying grace," and is brought to fruition in "sanctifying grace."

#### Inclusive of All Persons

We are committed to inclusiveness in all aspects of the life of the Church, by embracing the richness of diversity found in sexual orientation, race, physical or mental ability, national origin, marital status, gender identity, ethnicity, economic status, and age.

#### Engaged in the Work of Justice and Reconciliation

We are a Church created to participate in God's redemptive work in this world. We hold an unwavering commitment to the hard work of advocacy, justice, reconciliation and liberation.

### United Women In Faith Quarterly Meeting November 20, 2023 Faith UMC Waseca, Mn

The Waseca UMC, Waseca, Mn United Women in Faith Quarterly meeting was held on Monday, November 20, 2023 at 1:00 pm in the fellowship room. 12 members and 1 guest Cindy Kolander were present.

Sherry Scholljergdes gave the welcome. Cindy Kolander was our speaker. She is the Director of The Waseca County Service Center Food Shelf. The Waseca Neighborhood Service Center is now home for all programs including the Thrift Store and The Food Shelf. They are located at 203 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue NW, Waseca, Mn. Everyone in Waseca County is welcome to use the Food Shelf. Grants and donations are welcome. There are also Food Programs, the Senior Program and CSFP and Lutheran Social Services Frozen Meal Delivery and The Backpack Program for all eligible Waseca School Children Pre K-Grade 12 that have been identified as food insecure. Thrift Store- There is something for everyone, household, clothing, books and store vouchers for those in need and a Pinch Program. Additional programs such as Santa Anonymous and Holiday baskets.

Karen Ferch gave the devotion. Linda read the Secretary's Report. Sandy Voshell presented the Treasurer's Report. The budget for 2024 for The United Women was discussed. It was changed. Autumn Fest was on November 4, 2023. We had lots of very tasty, delicious food. We had very good comments from the community. We made some money which will go towards mission projects.

Sandy read the Thank You notes from Kirsten's funeral luncheon and money, Mary Schultz's luncheon and money, and from Wilda Smith ( Keith Smith's memorial service and money.).

Election of 2024 officers Mary Jane Stauffer read the officers.

President :Sherry Scholljergdes

Secretary: Linda Griffin

Treasurer: Sandy Voshell

Communications: Janet Welch

Nominations: Nancy Tollefson

Mardell Jacobson

Margaret Dahnert

### Directory 2024

World Thank Offering Sandy Voshell presented a lesson on Psalms 103:105. She will send this money to the district.

Next: Umw Meeting : April 15, 2024. Circles: Monthly Meetings.

Sherry Scholljergdes Beading Program from the Response Magazine.

Sherry S. gave the closing prayer.

A big thank you to all of you who made 2023 a success.

Your secretary,

Linda Griffin

## 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.

## One Minute Devotion

### God Loves Everyone

Numbers 14:18

We live in an angry world, and this rubs off on us. These things do not affect God. He is slow to anger and abounding in love, for you. He is also slow to anger and abounding in love for those you may not see eye-to-eye with. God is love.

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

### 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

## BIBLICAL CHRISTMAS WORD SEARCH

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

Advent  
Angel  
Bethlehem  
Census  
Christmas  
Flocks  
Frankincense  
Gabriel  
Gold  
Herod  
Immanuel  
Jesus  
Joseph  
Magi  
Manger  
Mary  
Messiah  
Myrrh  
Nativity  
Noel  
Shepherds  
Star  
Swaddling  
Wisemen



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, December 20** at **2:30 pm** in the Lakeview Room.

**Ruth Circle**

Ruth Circle will be meeting on **Tuesday, December 12** at **11:30 am** at The Tasty House for lunch. Please note the time change

**Conversation, Bible & Friends**

Conversation, Bible and Friends will **not** meet on Christmas Day or New Year's Day.