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Special Points of Interest:

- February Monthly Meetings, Back Page
- February 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 - 1:00 pm**



Faith Messenger



FEBRUARY

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

**Volume 2025
Issue 1**

From the Pastor's Desk

Happy New Year! As we begin 2025, I pray that God's grace and blessings fill your life throughout this year. May this year be a time of new beginnings and change for each of us. Today, I want to share some thoughts about habits. A habit is something we do regularly, often without thinking. It starts as an action that we repeat over time until it becomes a part of who we are. Habits can be physical actions, but they can also include thoughts and feelings. For something to become a habit, it often takes time and many repetitions. Just like the Israelites spent 40 years learning to trust God by eating manna, we too need time and effort to form new habits. Building a habit takes effort and often involves challenges. The Israelites complained that the manna didn't taste good, just as we may feel frustrated when trying to change old habits. But remember, these struggles are part of the process. In the end, the effort is worth it.

In today's world, many people have bad habits, such as complaining, feeling discouraged, or giving up too easily. To change these habits, we need to make strong decisions and put in the effort. For example, we should not just attend worship as a routine, but we should make worship a natural part of our lives. This is important because we are often reluctant to worship God on our own. Prayer should also be more than just a habit. We should often pray, and the more we pray, the more it becomes a natural part of our lives. It's easy to avoid praying, but by praying regularly, we grow closer to God. Also, singing praises to God should not just be a habit, but a change of heart. Instead of always complaining, we can turn our thoughts and words into praise for God. We often find ourselves full of complaints, but by praising God, we shift our hearts and minds to Him.

Sometimes, we think of habits negatively, especially when we think of them as routine. But the truth is, good habits shape who we are and guide our future. Therefore, we need to develop spiritual habits that will help us grow closer to God and live the life He calls us to live. Our lives are shaped by our habits. The things we do every day, even the small things, have the power to shape our future. If we change our habits today, we can look forward to a better tomorrow. Do you want to change your life? Do you dream of a brighter tomorrow? Then, start by changing your habits today. As we step into this new year, let's make a commitment to change our habits for the better. Let's build habits that bring us closer to God and lead us to a future filled with hope and joy. May God's grace and peace be with you all in 2025!

In Christ,
Pastor Dong Hun Shin

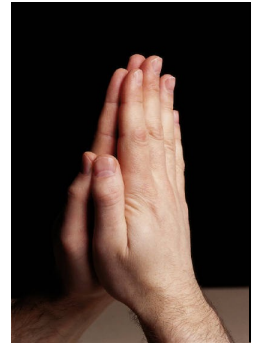
Prayer Requests

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

Colony Court: Margaret Dahnert

Latham Place: Joe Tollefson, Wally Ruedy

Prayer Requests from Sunday Worship: Sue Baldini, Tim Dahnert, Ron Dahnert, Kathy Dahnert Johnson, Gail Sauer, Les Wells, Margaret Dahnert, Dennis Dahnert, Tom Kuyper, Anna Born, Sherry Scholljegerdes, Sandy Voshell, the Ukraine, the Middle East, health care workers, first responders, those who battle cancer, chronic illness and pain.



Administrative Assistant Hours

Stacy's hours will typically be 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. **Please note that Stacy will be out of the office February 17.**

Leadership Team

Members of the Faith United Methodist Church Leadership Team:

Rev. Dong Hun Shin, Pastor
 Dave Baldini, Chair
 Clair Voshell, Trustees
 Jarod True, Finances, Trustee Treasurer & SPRC
 Stacy True, Recording Secretary
 Neil Fruechte
 Mary Jane Stauffer
 Karen Ferch
 Mike Morrissey
 Linda Griffin
 Les Wells
 Vada Dahnert

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.**

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).

Volunteer Opportunities

The beginning of the new year is a great time to reflect on how your time and talents can assist our church.

Areas that can always use volunteers:

- Fellowship Servers - Look for the sign up sheet in the narthex or down in the fellowship hall.
- Communion Stewards - Contact the church office or Karen Ferch. The schedule for this year has been set but it's always great to get more on the rotation or a few who would consider being back-ups for those on the rotation.
- Ushers - Contact the church office or Roger Walker. The next usher schedule will be made at the end of February.
- Liturgist - Contact the church office. The next liturgist schedule will be made at the end of February.

We would appreciate additional volunteers in any of these areas. Thank you for serving.

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

Ruth Circle

Ruth Circle met Tuesday, December 10 at the Tasty House. We were happy to have some guests join us. It was a great gathering of friends, a great way to end the year and a great way to celebrate Christmas.

Ruth circle met for their January meeting on Tuesday the 14th. We reviewed some of the events that happened at the last part of 2024. We talked about hosting the UMW unit meeting, had a fun gathering with Ardella D. in October, the Fall Bazaar, celebrating Margaret D's birthday in November, and going out to eat in December.

We discussed ways to reach out to others, such as, visiting people, helping out at the Nursing Home, donating to a cause, baking cookies for an organization.

The next meeting is Tuesday, February 11th at 1:00 in The Gathering Room.

Our program was on Garbage (Trash) cans.

The main point of the presentation was: There's a lot of garbage in our day-to-day life. Anxiety, anger, guilt and fear - Just a little of the baggage we accumulate each day, and it all adds up to an untidy pile of trash that weigh down our spirit, clutters our thoughts and contributes to rather stinky attitudes.

Just as we regularly empty our trash cans, take time to examine our hearts and minds, acknowledging the negative thoughts and behaviors that might be weighing us down. Bring them to God in prayer, asking Him to cleanse us and fill us with His peace and renewal.

Do you need your trash removed?

Call on Jesus, he'll take it in a heartbeat!

Devotional from the Upper Room

Jesus said, "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid." John 14:27 (NIV)

When our oldest son was 18 months old, he started biting other kids. No matter what I said or did, he kept doing it. I stayed away from playgroups to avoid incidents, and I was anxious even when going out to lunch or visiting friends. I would cry at night feeling like I was being punished. I felt like this phase would never end, but eventually it did.

It's the same with life and what goes on in the world. When we dwell on current events, we lose our sense of peace and feel anxious. We forget that Jesus said, "My peace I leave with you." God doesn't wait for the storms to pass before giving us peace. Christ's peace is already here; it is ours.

The best way to keep the peace God has given us is to keep our eyes on God. How do we do that when we are bombarded with news of a world that seems to be breaking down? We read God's promises and spend time getting to know the Prince of Peace. We can only put out what we take in, so let's take God's word into our hearts.

Elizabeth Circle Notes from mid-November, 2024:

Oh, the weather outside was frightful...but the warm, welcoming Gathering Room at Faith Church was so delightful! On a brisk (read: windy, cold, wet, dreary) November Wednesday, the 20th, seven women did gather for the monthly meeting of Elizabeth Circle.

There was an abundance of creature-comfort for which to be thankful...a beautiful and colorful table laden with plates of dessert, bowls of chocolates and salted nuts, pots of hot coffee...all served by our hostess-of-the-month, Sandy Voshell. We were delighted to welcome as our guest, Roberta 'Berts' Walker.

One of our long-ago Pastors firmly believed that there were three crucial components that make up a church, each as important as the others: Worship, Education, and Fellowship. While I personally disagreed with him on a few ideas (minor), I have since 100% been on board with this particular triumvirate, each equally essential. So we follow this gladly with women's Circles; some learning and discussion, some goodies to enjoy, and some worship. And a short commercial: to any of our Faith ladies, if you are not in a Circle, you don't know what you're missing--and, we would love to have you...and you...and you come and visit. Elizabeth or Ruth--come.

Sherry Scholljegerdes provided the afternoon lesson, "Gratitude Attitude", which was read by Karen, in Sherry's absence. The focus was on being grateful for the things--and people--we often take for granted. God always accepts our heartfelt thanks and praise for His gifts and blessings. Easy conversation happened as we shared expressions of thankfulness.

We are all very grateful for once more hosting the annual Fall Bazaar. People from Faith and all our guests were very generous in their monetary donations. For all who helped and worked in any capacity, we THANK YOU. Your efforts did not go unnoticed. A portion of these proceeds has been donated to several worthwhile charities (local) in addition to Emma Norton Services (transitional housing for women & children).

In the time between the date of this meeting and now, as I write this in January '25, we have lost our dear friend, Shirley Burdick. We at Faith Church were blessed to host the celebration of her life in December. Another of our Elizabeth sisters, Peggy Deno, is now in her new home, Lakeshore Rehab Center, here in Waseca. She loves to have company and is very comfortable there.

There will be no meeting of Elizabeth Circle in December, but plan to resume our get-togethers in January.* We would love to have a tableful of women as we begin a new calendar year. Please think and pray about it...even on the coldest, blusteriest winter days you will be warmly welcomed...Let it snow, let it snow, let it snow!!

*Our dear friends, Sherry and Sandy, are battling serious illnesses as I write this; please keep them and their loved ones in your hearts and prayers as they work their way to recovery. I'm sure cards would be very welcome. I'll close with an oft-quoted phrase from Sherry the nurse: 'Doctors treat, God heals.' Amen to that. K. Ferch

PRAY for California

As countless families and communities face the overwhelming aftermath of these wildfires, UMCOR is supporting the efforts of conference disaster response ministries across the region. Evacuees are receiving food and other essential supplies. Trained volunteers are preparing to assist where it is safe to do so.

Pray for all those impacted by this disaster, as well as first responders and volunteers. The road to recovery will be long, but together, we can bring hope and healing.



Photo: Rev. Garth Gilliam, California-Pacific Conference

**Support relief and recovery efforts
by donating to UMCOR.**

ONLINE bit.ly/umcorusdr

BY PHONE 1-888-252-6174

BY MAIL

By check made out to Global Ministries/UMCOR with "Advance #901670-Calfires" written on the memo line and mailed to Global Ministries/UMCOR, GPO, P.O. Box 9068, New York, NY, 10087-9068



UMCOR

The United Methodist Church

umcmmission.org

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



Faith United Methodist Church

"Engage, Equip, and Empower"

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Waseca, MN
56093

Change Service Requested

Come Worship with Us
We have room.

MONTHLY MEET-UPS:

Elizabeth Circle

Elizabeth Circle February meeting TBD.

Ruth Circle

Ruth Circle will meet on **Tuesday, February 11** at **1:00** in the Gathering Room.

Conversation, Bible & Friends

Conversation, Bible and Friends TBD.