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Administrative
Assistant

Office Hours

Monday through Friday
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.



JULY

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

**Volume 2017.
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Jesus Reminders by Philip Yancey

The image Jesus left with the world, the cross, the most common image in the Christian religion, is proof that God cares about our suffering and pain. He died of it. Today the image is coated with gold and worn around the necks of beautiful girls, a symbol of how far we can stray from the reality of history. But it stands, unique among all religions of the world. Many of them have gods. But only one has a God who cared enough to become a man and to die.

Dorothy Sayers says:

For whatever reason God chose to make man as he is – limited and suffering and subject to sorrows and death – He had the honesty and courage to take His own medicine. Whatever game He is playing with His creation, He has kept His own rules and played fair. He can exact nothing from man that He has not exacted from Himself. He has Himself gone through the whole human experience, from the trivial irritations of family life and the cramping restrictions of hard work and lack of money to the worst horrors of pain and humiliation, defeat, despair, and death. When He was a man, He played the man. He was born in poverty and died in disgrace and thought it well worthwhile.

To some, the image of a pale body glimmering on a dark night whispers of defeat. What good is a God who does not control His Son's suffering? What possible good could such a God do for us? But a louder sound can be heard: the shout of God crying out to man, "I love you!" Love was compressed for all history in that lonely, bleeding figure. Jesus, who said he could call down the angels at any moment and rescue Himself from the horror, chose not to – because of us. For God so loved us, that He sent His only Son to die for us.

What practical effect does Christ's identification have on the person who actually suffers? A dramatic example of the effect of this truth was seen in the ministry of Dr. Paul Brand while he was working among leprosy patients in Vellore, India. There he preached a sermon, one of his best known and best loved.

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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 Memory & Care Suites: Ann Swenson, Dick Westrum

Colony Court: Ardella Draheim, Nina Youngberg, Leona Quast, Muriel Jenkins, Fern Papke, Peter and Verna Fog

Lakeshore Inn: Florence Gutknecht, Liz Corchran

Latham Place: George and Lucille Kubista

Oaklawn Health Care Center: Jim Keller

Koda Living Community: Chuck Youngberg

New Richland Care Center: Marie Wells

Prayer Requests from Sunday Worship: Bruce & Deb Herring, Marie Wells, Dave Ferch, Darla Dahnert, Brenda Westrum and family, the Broughten family, the Decker family in the death of Barbara and Charles Decker, all families who have recently suffered a death, all who are battling cancer and those who love them.



Thank You

We deeply appreciate the support given by our Faith Church family during the past weeks. We are now living at Colony Court, number 108. Our new address is 200 22nd Ave NE, Waseca, MN 56093. Our phone number is the same and cell phone number is 507-461-5927. Come and see us any time.

Peter and Verna Fog

Faith Crafters & Stickers

Faith Crafters and Stickers will meet on **Thursday, July 13**, from **1:00 to 3:00 p.m.** in the Fellowship Hall. You are welcome to bring ideas or materials for Bazaar 2017 craft items or your own project to work on. Coffee and snacks will be provided. Haven't been to Crafters and Stickers before? Consider checking us out. If you have questions, call Sandy Voshell at 835-4122.

Thank You

Thank you to those who donated money toward the purchase of plants for the church gardens.

Clair Voshell

Faith at the Fair

The church service on July 16th will be held at the ITRON tent at the fair, beginning at 10:00 a.m. (PLEASE NOTE THE TIME). Come and enjoy great music and a fun get together with your friends. Please spread the word to others to attend.

4th of July Potluck Picnic



Come and join us for a 4th of July church potluck picnic at 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Everyone please bring a dish to pass. Plates, cups, plastic eating utensils and a beverage will be provided.

After the picnic, stay and watch the fireworks. There will be lawn games provided. Come and enjoy some fellowship time with prizes to help pass the time.

Come and join the fun at our fourth annual "Pop for a Cure" sponsored by the Faith for a Cure Relay For Life team. There will be popcorn, pop and water available for sale during the fireworks and all proceeds will be going to the American Cancer Society.

Trustee Meeting

Trustees will meet on **Thursday, July 20 at 6:30 p.m.** in the Lakeview Room.

Guest Night



Mabel: Could you tell me when is our special 'Guest night'?
I don't want to miss it.!

Cleo: Our guest night will be **AUGUST 8**
Starting at 7:00 in the church sanctuary with the program
called "**A TRIP DOWN MEMORY LANE**"
with **JAN JERDEE AND COMPANY**".

Then around 8:00 – In the Fellowship Hall **DESSERTS!**
COME JOIN US!!

You may wear a favorite apron if you like!!



Jesus Reminders by Philip Yancey

(Continued from page 1)

At the time, Brand and his workers were among the few in the area who would touch or closely approach a person with Hansen's disease – townspeople quarantined them. Brand slipped in late to a patient's gathering, sitting on the mat at the edge of an open courtyard. The air was heavy with combined odors of crowding bodies, poverty, stale spices, treated bandages.

The patients insisted on a few words from Dr. Brand, and he reluctantly agreed. He stood for a moment, empty of ideas, looking at the patients before him. His eyes were drawn to their hands, dozens of them, most pulled inward in the familiar "leprosy claw-hand," some with no fingers, some with a few stumps. Many patients sat on their hands or otherwise hid them from view.

"I am a hand surgeon," he began, and waited for the translation into Tamil and Hindi. "So when I meet people, I can't help looking at their hands. The palmist claims he can tell your future by looking at your hands. I can tell your past. For instance, I can tell what your trade has been by the position of the calluses and the condition of the nails. I can tell a lot about your character; I love hands."

He paused and looked at the eager faces. "How I would love to have had the chance to meet Christ and study His hands! But knowing what He was like, I can almost picture and feel them."

He paused again, then wondered aloud what it would have been like to meet Christ and study His hands. He traced the hands of Christ, beginning with infancy when His hands were small, helpless, futilely grasping. Then came the hands of the boy Jesus, clumsily holding a brush or stylus, trying to form letters of the alphabet.

Then the hands of Christ the carpenter – rough, gnarled, with broken fingernails and bruises from working with saw and hammer.

Then there were the hands of Christ the physician, the healer. Compassion and sensitivity seemed to radiate from them, so much so that when He touched people they could feel something of the divine spirit coming through. Christ touched the blind, the diseased, the needy.

"Then," continued Dr. Brand, "there were His crucified hands. It hurts me to think of a nail being driven through the center of my hand, because I know what goes on there, the tremendous complex of tendons and nerves and blood vessels and muscles. It's impossible to drive a spike through its center without crippling it. The thought of those healing hands being crippled reminds me of what Christ was prepared to endure. In that act He identified Himself with all the deformed and crippled human beings in the world. Not only was he able to endure poverty with the poor, weariness with the tired, but – clawed hands with the crippled."

The effect on the listening patients, all social outcasts, was electrifying. Jesus – a cripple, with a claw-like hand like theirs?

(Continued on next page)

Jesus Reminders by Philip Yancey

(Continued from previous page)

Brand continued, "And then there were His resurrected hands. One of the things I find most astounding is that, though we think of the future life as something perfected, when Christ appeared to His disciples He said, "Come look at My hands," and He invited Thomas to put his finger into the print of the nail. Why did He want to keep the wounds of His humanity? Wasn't it because He wanted to carry back with Him an eternal reminder of the sufferings of those on earth? He carried the marks of suffering so He could continue to understand the needs of those suffering. He wanted to be forever one with us."

As he finished, Paul Brand was again conscious of hands as they were lifted, all over the courtyard, palm to palm in the Indian gesture of respect, Namaste. The hands were the same stumps, the same missing fingers and crooked arches. Yet no one tried to hide them.

They were held high, close to the face, in respect for Brand, but also with new pride and dignity. God's own response to suffering made theirs easier.

T.S. Eliot wrote in one of his Four Quartets:

*The wounded surgeon plies the steel
That questions the distempered part;
Beneath the bleeding hands we feel
The sharp compassion of the healer's art
Resolving the enigma of the fever chart.*

The surgery of life hurts. It helps me, though, to know that the Surgeon Himself, the Wounded Surgeon, has felt every stab of pain and every sorrow.

We often feel God is far away of somehow removed from our suffering. As I read this for devotional last week I was reminded Our God Jesus is not a stranger to suffering and when I suffer He is there with me to comfort and to heal.

Pastor Victor

Simpson Meal

On Saturday afternoon, July 22nd, a group of adults and youth will go from Faith Church to Simpson United Methodist Church in Minneapolis to provide a supper meal for the men and women who sleep in the overnight shelter. Around 110 persons will be served. Again this year the meal will be catered by Hy-Vee and taken to Minneapolis. Your support is needed to help pay for the meal as well as provide bread, milk, bananas, and cookies.

Please make your checks out to Faith United Methodist Church and put Simpson meal on the memo line.

This is one of the ways we as the people reach out to our brothers and sisters in need in very concrete ways. Thanks for all that you are able to do.

Nurses Notes - Sexual Ethics in the Church

This is a tough subject, but the United Methodist Church is talking about sexual ethics out in the open. We have a special ministry of the General Commission on the status and role of women in the United Methodist Church. Their role is:

- Raising awareness.
- Preventing sexual abuse.
- Promoting healthy boundaries.
- Fostering justice and healing.

The United Methodist Church defines misconduct of a sexual nature as any "unwanted sexual or gender-directed behavior," and may include such things as comments and jokes, pornography, harassment, sexual touching, kissing or taking sexual advantage of a person in a way that is "demeaning, intimidating or coercive." (*The 2008 Book of Resolutions*)

Upholding a sacred trust

"Do not seek your own advantage, but that of the other."

(1 Corinthians 10:24 NRSV)

Ministry is a sacred trust. Clergy and laity in ministerial roles of leadership have a duty to act in the best interests of those they serve. Sexual misconduct is a violation of that sacred trust and is against church law.

The General Commission on the Status and Role of Women (GCSRW) promotes awareness, justice and healing in cases of ministerial misconduct of a sexual nature. Through our website (umsexualethics.org), onsite training and one-to-one coaching, we offer:

30%

of laywomen report having been sexually harassed at church, most often by another church member

1 in 33

women who worshiped in church last month is a survivor of sexual harassment or abuse by clergy.

Victim/Survivors. If you believe you've been a victim of—or have witnessed—sexual misconduct in any United Methodist setting, contact the bishop in your area. Or call GCSRW toll-free at

800.523.8390
for free, confidential support.

umsexualethics.org
gcsr.org



50%

of United Methodist clergywomen say they've been sexually harassed by a parishioner.

Wishing you courage and faith,

Sherry Scholljegerdes, RN
Parish Nurse

Faith in the Future Fund

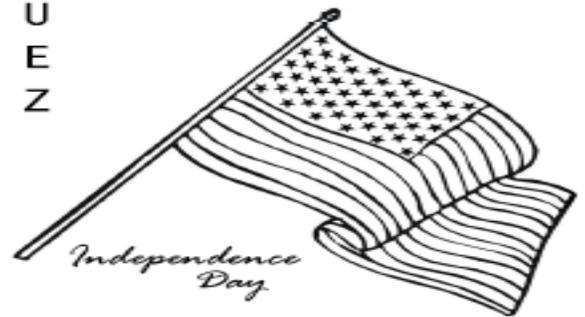
Earlier this year Faith Church received a grant of just over \$1,000 from the Waseca Area Foundation. This represents the earnings of the initial contributions given to establish the Faith in the Future Fund with the Waseca Area Foundation. Regular gifts as well as gifts from estates are encouraged to build this Fund to help ensure the financial future of Faith Church. The annual earnings of the Fund balance are expected to be approximately 4% or a bit more each year. Additional earnings of the Fund are retained to increase the fund balance over the years.

If each of us included a contribution to the Fund in our estate planning, we could continue our annual giving to Faith Church after we pass. For example, if we regularly give \$2,000 to Faith Church, a gift to the Faith in the Future Fund in the amount of \$50,000 would pay an annual grant to Faith Church in the amount of \$2,000 or more. It's a matter of simple math – a gift of \$25,000 would provide an annual grant of \$1,000. A gift of \$100,000 would provide an annual grant of \$4,000.

We encourage you to leave a legacy to Faith Church through your contribution to the Faith in the Future Fund. Contact Neil Fruechte, Finance Chair, if you have any questions.

Fourth of July Word Search

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



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|-----------|---------|------------|
| AMERICA | FOURTH | STATES |
| BARBECUE | JULY | STRIPES |
| BELL | LIBERTY | UNCLE |
| BLUE | RED | UNITED |
| FIREWORKS | SAM | WATERMELON |
| FLAG | STARS | WHITE |



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Non-profit Org
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Permit 30
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Change Service Requested

Come Worship with Us
We have room.

MONTHLY MEET-UPS:

Elizabeth Circle

UMW Elizabeth Circle will not meet in July.

Ruth Circle

UMW Ruth Circle will not meet in July.