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Faith Messenger

JULY

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

**Volume 2020.
Issue 7**

Order From Chaos

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light.

Dear Ones,

These words from the 1st chapter of Genesis are familiar to all of us, however, they may mean more to us now than ever before. In the beginning, all was chaos and the earth was a formless void. Even so, God's spirit was present. Then, God spoke and with God's voice, the chaos was given structure and purpose, and God saw that it was Good.

You may feel like you are in a time of chaos right now. I know I do. We are living in a pandemic, and while things are opening up and life looks a little more like normal, we still are living with concerns for our health. Unrest in our cities and towns continue due to the racial inequality so many of our citizens experience. We are worshiping in ways that are foreign to us, and on top of that, we are in a time of pastoral transition.

While there is much uncertainty, there is one thing I know for sure. The Spirit of God is hovering over us, and God will work in this situation to bring order from chaos. Paul tells us in Romans 8:28 *We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose.*

Kirk and I are look forward to this new season God is starting in lives as we move to Waseca. I am excited to get to know all of you and to walk with you as we nurture our congregation and reach new people with the love of Jesus Christ. We have a lot of work to do, but with the power of the Holy Spirit, there is nothing we cannot accomplish!

Blessings!

Pastor Carolyn

Special Points of Interest:

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

Administrative Assistant

Summer Office Hours:

Mon., Wed. Thurs.:
9:00 AM - Noon

Tues.: 1:30 - 3:30PM

Prayer Requests

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

Janesville Nursing Home: Nina Youngberg

Traditions Assisted Living Owatonna: Ardella Draheim

Colony Court: Muriel Jenkins

Foxdale: Gordy Miller, Joe & Gloria Tollefson

Koda Living Community: Chuck Youngberg

Lakeshore Inn: Liz Corchran, Leona Quast, George Kubista

Latham Place: Lucille Kubista, Elaine Westrum

Prayer Requests from Sunday Worship: Michael Schumacher, government officials, health care workers, first responders, and those who are most at risk and vulnerable to Covid-19, those who battle chronic illness and pain.



Update on Finances

A special thank you all of you who continued to give to Faith Church during the several weeks that we didn't have regular Sunday services. Each week, your giving was dropped off or mailed in to the office and was deposited in the bank. During this time the grass needed mowing, phone bills came regularly, salaries needed to be paid, as well as all the other normal expenses. Your faithful and continuous giving enabled us to pay all of the bills on time. Hopefully, every one of you continue to stay safe during this pandemic, and we can return to our near normal activities before the summer is over.

Trustee Meeting

Trustees will meet on **Thursday, July 16 at 6:30 pm** in the **Fellowship Hall**.

Conversation, Bible & Friends

Conversation, Bible & Friends will **not** meet in July

Minnesota Annual Conference Guidelines for Re-Opening

With our Minnesota Annual Conference guidelines in re-opening the church there are 5 different phases that we have to meet before we can move to the next phase. With each new phase we must submit a written plan to the District Superintendent for his/her approval and they normally come back with follow-up questions. These phases can also be reversible if we don't follow the guidelines we had in our written plan or there is a spike in COVID-19 cases in the state or within our region.

During the last three months we came to understand, like never before, that the church is not a building but it is the people who make up the church. These acts have been shown many times during this period of time how people have looked out for one another.

We would like to share with the congregation some of the obvious guidelines for each of the different phases.

Red Phase (When we closed down the church in the middle of March):

Some of the guidelines were as follows:

- Churches needed to worship online only.
- Pastoral care visits should be done by phone or online only.
- Staff, leadership team, ministry team, youth group and all other groups meetings should be done virtually.
- Weddings and funerals should be postponed if at all possible.
- Outdoor wedding and graveside services could be conducted provided no more than 10 people are gathered and needed to keep social distancing and family units remained six feet apart from one another.
- Church volunteers needed to cease activities that require them to leave their homes.
- Clergy can leave their home in order to do essential work that cannot be done remotely.

Orange Phase (Moved into this phase with our Parking Lot worship service on Sunday June 7th):

Some of the guidelines were as follows:

- Churches are encouraged to worship online and/or through drive-up worship service in which people gather in parking lots without ever leaving their vehicles.
- Groups can worship outdoors if strict social distancing of six feet on each side of each person is maintained and attendees wear face masks.
- Not more than 25% of church capacity to meet outside.

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Minnesota Annual Conference Guidelines for Re-Opening

(Cont. from page 3)

- Recording or live streaming of worship can be done from church provided that there are no more than 10 people and that everyone wears face masks and everyone keeps social distancing.
- In person wedding and funerals may be conducted provided no more than 10 people are gathered indoors and they must follow social distancing guidelines and remain six feet apart from one another.
- Groups should continue to meet virtually as much as possible and pastoral care visits should be done by phone or online as much as possible.
- Small groups of up to 10 people are permitted to gather in person in large areas and must keep their social distancing.
- After each event the areas must be thoroughly sanitized with special attention to restrooms.
- No singing of hymns while inside the church or in small group meetings
- Church staff should work from home as much as possible.

Yellow Phase (Moved into this phase on Sunday June 14th with worship inside the Church and Currently in this phase):

Some of the guidelines that need to be followed:

- No more than 25% of the building capacity for worship and we may need to have people sitting in the choir loft or up in the balcony to keep the social distancing.
- Everyone must wear a face mask while inside the church at all times, unless you have a medical reason not to.
- Have individuals use the hand sanitizer and take their own bulletin and go directly to the pew and also use the hand sanitizer leaving the sanctuary.
- Keep social distancing in the pews and do not pass the attendance books down as there is one on each outside edge of the pew.
- There will be no singing of hymns during the service.
- Announcements and special prayer requests can be emailed to the church or call the pastor.
- If you need to use the restroom while at church there will hand wipes and we ask that you wipe any surface which you may have touched. Please leave the door open after you leave the restroom.
- Drinking fountains have been shut off and covered.
- Offering plates will be set out by each exit to place your offering into.

Continued on next page

Minnesota Annual Conference Guidelines for Re-Opening

- Children's Time, children should not come forward. Instead, create from you-to-the-pew story moments engaging children from safe distancing.
- Ushers will be dismissing you by rows starting in the back of the church and moving forward.
- No outside group for non church events or meetings. Church meetings shall be no more than 10 people.
- After each event or worship service the church will go through a thorough cleaning before it can be used again.
- Funerals, weddings, graduation and confirmation celebrations pay special attention to limited guests and keeping proper physical distancing.

Blue Phase: (Next step for us):

Some of the guidelines that need to be followed:

- COVID-19 is still circulating but the infection is low and somewhat larger gathering can take place with capacity restrictions and physical distancing requirements.
- Churches offer both in-person and online worship so those with significant risk factors have an option for remote participation.
- Continue all sanitation practices from the previous phases. All toys and materials in the nursery and children's areas should be cleaned after each use.
- Continue to use no-touch alternatives for passing the peace and greeting each other. This includes the greeters before the worship service and the pastor after the worship service.
- Serve communion in individual cups and pre-cut bread or wafer. (This has been ordered and waiting for them to ship the packages to us).
- Serve food on single-use dishes and with single serving utensils. (Best to use paper plates and plastic utensils).
- More guidelines will be coming down both from the state and also our conference. (Once we have them we will share those additional requirements with you).

Green Phase: (Last phase in re-opening the church up):

Some of the guidelines that need to be followed:

- COVID-19 is no longer considered a risk, and there are no limitations on group size.
- Churches, meetings can gather with no restrictions.
- Continue the excellent protocols for hygiene and sanitation that have been developed in the earlier phases in order to do all we can to minimize illness and ensure parishioners' health and safety.

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Minnesota Annual Conference Guidelines for Re-Opening

(Cont. from page 5)

- Continue to provide multiple avenues of engagement through online and in-person in accessibility for all persons and to reach more people in the name of Christ.
- More guidelines will be coming down both from the state and also our conference. (Once we have them we will share those additional requirements with you).

We understand that these guidelines will be stressful for all of us. We need to say a special “Thank You” to the congregation for hanging in there with us, writing an encouraging note to one another, telephone calls, and any of special acts of kindness that were shown to each other and will continue to show in the future.

If you have any questions or concerns please contact Jarod True or Dave Baldini, and we will more than happy to talk about any of the above phases.

Jarod True and Dave Baldini

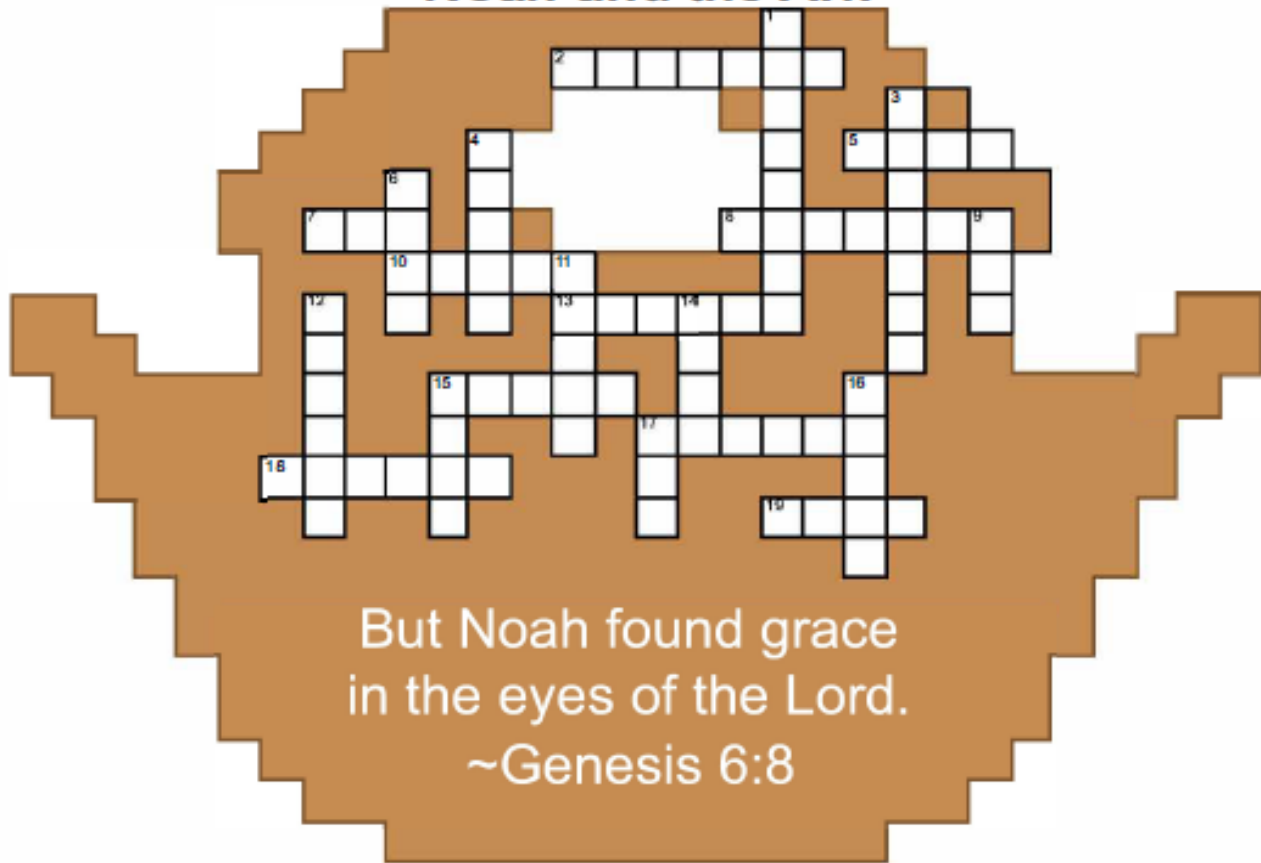


AMERICA
 BLUE
 CELEBRATE
 FIREWORKS
 FLAG
 FOURTH
 FREEDOM
 HOLIDAY
 INDEPENDENCE
 JULY
 PARADE
 PICNIC
 RED
 STARS
 STRIPES
 SUMMER
 UNITED
 WHITE

4th of July

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

Noah and the Ark



Across

- 2. The sign of the promise that God will not destroy the earth with a flood again.
- 5. Noah's name means this
- 7. The number of each unclean animal brought onto the ark
- 8. One of Noah's son
- 10. Noah built one and offered a burnt offering on it after the flood
- 13. The mountain where the ark landed
- 15. The number of each clean animal brought onto the ark

- 17. Two of each kind of these were brought on the ark
- 18. The ark was made of this type of wood
- 19. Nourishment; Noah brought some onto the ark

Down

- 1. An agreement
- 3. The story of Noah and the ark is in this book of the Bible.
- 4. The number of days and night it rained

- 6. He built the ark
- 9. One of Noah's son, the father of Canaan
- 11. Noah sent this bird out; it went to and fro until the waters dried
- 12. The ark had one of these one cubit from the top
- 14. Water that falls to the earth
- 15. One of Noah's son
- 16. An overflowing of water
- 17. The large boat



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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

Ruth Circle July Meeting TBD.