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### 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

**JULY**

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

**Volume 2025  
Issue 6**

## From the Pastor's Desk

In Luke 10:38-42, Jesus came to the village of Bethany where His friends Mary, Martha and Lazarus lived. They welcomed Jesus into their home. Martha immediately began to work very hard to get dinner ready for Jesus. But Mary sat down at the feet of Jesus and listened to Jesus as He taught her.

As I read this test, I found the pattern of busyness. It begins with good intentions. This is where busyness begins with good intentions. Martha wasn't bad. Martha was being hospitable. She had the right heart. She opened her home to Jesus. We also begin with good intentions. The problem is when distractions move in. Distractions make it difficult for us to focus on what is important. That's what happened to Martha.

There is a lot of work in the world for us to do. The list is never ending. And that list is important. It's also important to do things for the best, like Martha. However, busy life is not seasonal but our choice and pattern.

If we are under distraction, pressure, and resentment, stop right there. Turn to the Lord who is waiting for us. Because God's loving correction helps us to adjust our direction and to follow Him more closely. When the Lord comes to us, enter the space of the Lord who wants to be with us and heal us.

*"You are worried and upset about many things, but only one thing is needed. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her."*(Luke 10:41-42, NIV)

With Love and Blessings,

Pastor Dong Hun Shin

## Prayer Requests

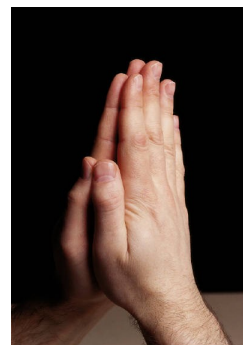
**Remember our church members & friends who are less mobile and are unable to join us as often as they would like, including:**

**Colony Court:** Margaret Dahnert

**Lakeshore Inn:** Peggy Deno, Sandy Voshell

**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, Anna Born, Sherry Scholljegerdes, Sandy Voshell, Bob Larson, Stuart Kuyper, Darla Dahnert, DJ Choi, 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 are typically 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. Please note that Stacy will be out of the office July 16 through 23.

## Faith Gardens

We are still in need of volunteers to assist with tending the flower gardens on our grounds.

We have the peace garden covered but still need help in the following areas: the garden around the flag pole, the island under the overhang by our main entrance, and the plants around the foundation of the church building. There are sign-up sheets available in the narthex to sign up to care for one of the gardens on a monthly rotation. It is our hope that one or two people could sign up to care for one or more gardens for a month at a time. If you have questions about what needs to be done in the gardens, Clair Voshell will be happy to answer any questions and show you what needs to be done. Please consider signing up so we can keep our grounds looking beautiful.

## Thank You

I want to thank my church family for helping to celebrate and recognize my graduation. You all have been so supportive and helpful. It means so much to me to have a great church family that supported me and continues to do so. Thank you all so much for believing in my success and encouraging me to work hard for my future. Thank you all so much.

Sincerely,

*Aiden Groskreutz*

### Faith's Blessing Box Update

We continue to see use of the Blessing Box.

We would welcome donations of canned pasta (ravioli, spaghettios, etc.), canned meats (tuna, chicken), spaghetti sauce (canned or plastic jar), canned fruits and vegetables, cereal, oatmeal, peanut butter, pancake mix and syrup. We are not in need of any dry pasta due to the previous generous donation from Hy-Vee.

We appreciate and are grateful for all food and cash donations for the blessing box. Your donations help us to keep this ministry going. Food donations can be placed in the donation box in the narthex or brought into the church office during office hours. Cash donations can be mailed or brought to the church with a notation that they are for the blessing box. Thank you for your donations!

**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). Please no glass jars.**

### "A Change is in the Air"

A couple of months ago, we decided to ask the women of Faith if they wanted to continue to be affiliated with UWF, formally UMW or do something else.

It was decided to put it to a vote: our membership of UMW on hold and concentrate on local projects and Emma Norton Housing. It was decided by the vast majority to keep our funding local. We can return to UMW when the time is right. For now, we will be known as "Women of Faith". We will meet about every quarter for a general get together and continue our circles for now.

All women are welcome!!

### Faith at the Fair

Be sure to join us for Faith at the Fair on Sunday, July 13 at 10:00 am (**Note the time**). The service will be held at the Free Stage. In the event of inclement weather, we will be moved to building 4. Come and enjoy a fun get-together with friends. Please spread the word to others to attend.

### Pastor Travel Expenses

At the June meeting, the Leadership Team made a decision that we would like to collect a free-will offering to help offset some of Pastor Dong's additional travel expenses to and from South Korea as a result of DJ's unexpected surgery. If you would like to donate to this offering, you may place a donation in the offering plate or mail it to the church. Please note that the donation is for "Pastor Travel Expenses".

## Ruth Circle May Meeting

Ruth circle had a busy May meeting. Talked about missions that have been done in the community.

The women were happy with the things that have been done for individuals in their homes, those residing at the Nursing Home and Meals on Wheels. There was discussion on some projects for the coming year.

The program for the May meeting was 'Spring Cleaning'.

Spring is an exciting and beautiful time of year. It feels fresh and new. It feels like a new beginning.

Maybe that's why [spring cleaning](#) was invented - Nature is refreshing itself, so it seems like the perfect time to make our homes clean and orderly again. We'll be the first to admit, we don't 'love' cleaning. Who does? But there's something about this time of year that really motivates us to start with a clean house.

It's the season of cleansing and renewal! Many of us will turn our houses upside down with our long list of spring cleaning rituals. We'll sort, organize, de-clutter, and deep-clean. Hopefully, the result will be a sparkling, spotless house all ready to functionally shelter us through another year of living.

But what about our minds and hearts?

Are we as faithful to focus time and energy each year on a spiritual spring cleaning? Do we prepare our hearts to face another year with the same attention to detail we give our homes? As we ponder this question for ourselves, we should be challenged by Psalm 51 to cry out to God and ask Him to give us a clean heart.

A spring cleaning should be a time to reflect on and cleanse your hearts, similar to how we clean our house. We need to consider how we think, act, and treat others. We should identify what needs to go: Let go of broken or cobweb-covered things, including sins and negative thought patterns.

We should ask God for forgiveness and turn away from our sins.

We should take a look at our spiritual routines and improve them if needed.

This is a good time to ask God to "cleanse" our heart and mind, allowing room for fresh beginnings and a closer relationship with Him.

Think about areas in our lives where we might need to let go of negativity, resentment, or bad habits, and ask God to help us shed these burdens.

Spring is the perfect time for all of us to do a little spring cleaning of our hearts and let go the things that separate us from God.

When doing your spiritual cleaning enjoy the beauty of God's creation when it erupts in color when things happen like when the flowers start to bloom, and the bees are buzzing, birds singing and when the sky appears bluer and the grass greener.

It's not only a delight for our senses, but uplifting for our souls.

So this spring, take time to smell the roses and remember to do your spiritual cleaning.

Prayer:

Dear Lord, forgive us for sometimes paying more attention to cleaning our houses than to cleaning our hearts. Please rid our hearts of anything that is displeasing to You.

As the season changes and new life bursts forth, we ask you to renew our spirit as well. Help us to let go of anything that is holding us back and open our heart to receive your love and grace."

Cleanse our thoughts, our words, and our actions, and guide us to live a life that pleases you. Amen

## Ruth Circle June Meeting

Ruth circle met Tuesday, June 10. We had a short meeting going over topics that were brought up at our last meeting.

We enjoyed the 'Too Much Chocolate Cake' and coffee and everyone got a treat in a miniature watering can.

Watering cans

Devotion:

Imagine a simple watering can, a humble tool, yet essential for nurturing life. Just as a gardener uses a watering can to bring forth beauty and abundance, so too does God pour His grace and love into our lives.

Scripture: [Isaiah 58:11](#) speaks of God's continual guidance, satisfaction, and strengthening. He promises that we shall be like a watered garden, a spring of water that never fails.

God is not just a distant provider; He is actively involved in our lives, nurturing and sustaining us. Just as a plant thrives when properly watered, so do we grow in faith and love when we allow God's grace to flow into our hearts. We can be a well-watered garden, reflecting His love and beauty in our actions and words.

I feel great using my watering can to water my plants. The heat of the day makes some of them more droopy and drained than others, and it is to these ones I can take off the spout of the watering can and give it a good gulp of fresh water. They seem to be saying they need it.

Some others thrive in the sun and spring up with just the sprinkling from the many-holed spout. They all have let me know they are thirsty and I fill my watering can so that they may flourish.

God is our watering can. He is always with us, ready to nourish us that we may continue to grow. He knows when we are exhausted, drained, and droopy. He knows when we need Him the most, and when our troubles are tiny. He only asks that we let Him know we need Him; that we ask for His help. And just like the watering can, we must put something *in* to get something *out*.

A garden needs water to grow, and so does our spiritual life. Just as a watering can delivers life-giving water to plants, we can use the "watering can" of prayer and scripture to nourish our inner lives, helping us to grow and thrive

A watering can, a seemingly simple tool, can be a powerful symbol of God's nurturing and care. It reminds us that just as we water our gardens, God nourishes and sustains our spiritual lives, and we should strive to be a well-watered garden, open to receive His grace.

We can put something *in* by giving thanks and living our lives the way He would have us live them, every day.

Prayer:

Let's be open to receiving God's water, His grace and love, through prayer, scripture, and service to others. Like gardeners tending their plants, we can nurture our spiritual lives by seeking God's guidance and letting His presence fill our hearts.

Let us thank God for His constant care and love, and pray that we may be a well-watered garden, a testament to His grace in this world.

We thank you Father, for nourishing us with your living water. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

## Elizabeth Circle

Elizabeth Circle Meeting  
Weds. May 21, 2025. 2:30 P M  
Faith U.M. Gathering Room

Present (6): Sherry S., Mary Jane S., Linda W., Wilda S., Karen F. Guest-Berts Walker

Plans to meet again at Lakeshore Rehab Ctr. (From April mtg.) were changed due to a virus situation that has been circulating among some of the residents. We will put that plan on hold until we get the go-ahead. We've found the staff to be very welcoming and helpful, and it is so good to spend time with Sandy and Peggy.

May mtg.—Karen F. furnished chocolate cake and coffee to be enjoyed along with plenty of good conversation. The importance of these connections we nourish cannot be stressed enough. Food for the soul...

Roberta Walker shared several comments from the recent meeting of Ruth Circle; their members voted unanimously to officially withdraw from United Women of Faith/United Methodist Women. Much thought and prayer has gone into this matter over the past year or so, and considerable conversations shared as we have dealt with our numbers shrinking. While our hearts will always be with UWF/UMW, our Faith women will concentrate on efforts and donations toward local needs as we are able.

Following discussion on this matter, Elizabeth Circle members, via written ballots, voted three (3) to two (2) in favor of withdrawing from UWF/UMW.

To be clear, Faith Church women are by no means calling it quits. On the contrary, we will work to nurture our faith-individually and together—, growing spiritually and serving in ways the LORD leads. We treasure our Faith Friends and cannot stress strongly enough how much we desire to grow in numbers and community.

On the 26th of June (Thursday) at 10:00 in the morning there will be another FAITH FRIENDS gathering in the church Fellowship Hall...coffee, tea, coffeecakes, conversation, and laughter will be the order of the day. Ladies of all ages—please circle this date on your calendars...take an hour out of your morning and come enjoy.

On Mothers Day (Sunday) candy treats were given to all the women at Worship Service. Can Fathers Day be far behind??

A reminder to all who serve as Liturgists on Sunday mornings—be sure to issue the invitation to the congregation—please stay after the service for fellowship time downstairs.

Linda Wilson gave us a most interesting lesson on one of her favorite topics: jungle animals, some of God's most intriguing creatures. We learned a few things!

It is our hope that we'll get the all-clear to have Elizabeth women meet again at Lakeshore for the June meeting. Whenever it is prudent to do that, Sandy V. will be hostess and Wilda S. will do devotions.

-Karen Ferch

## **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

### **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

Janet Welch

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 United Methodist Church

*"Engage, Equip, and Empower"*

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**Change Service Requested**

**Come Worship with Us**  
We have room.

**MONTHLY MEET-UPS:**

**Elizabeth Circle**

Elizabeth Circle will meet on **Wednesday,  
July 16** at **2:30** in the Gathering Room.

**Ruth Circle**

Ruth Circle will meet on **Tuesday, July 8** at  
**1:00** in the Gathering Room.