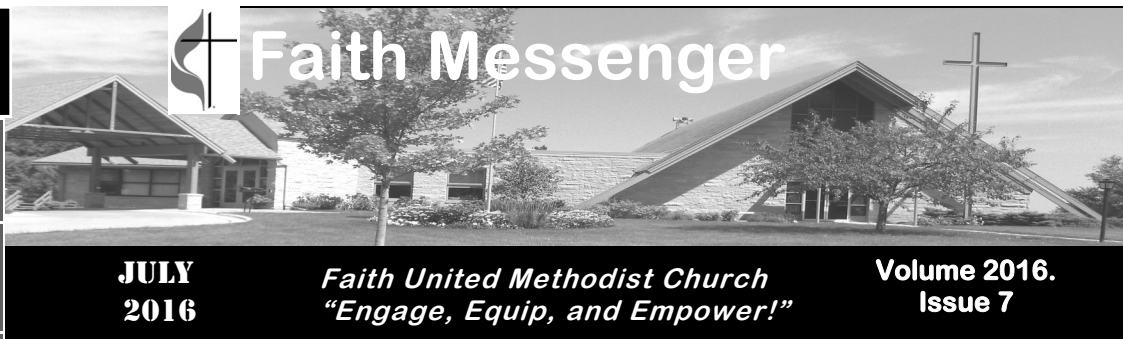


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Developing a Spiritual Plan

14 "Don't let this throw you. You trust God, don't you? Trust me. There is plenty of room for you in my Father's home. If that weren't so, would I have told you that I'm on my way to get a room ready for you? And if I'm on my way to get your room ready, I'll come back and get you so you can live where I live. And you already know the road I'm taking." 5 Thomas said, "Master, we have no idea where you're going. How do you expect us to know the road? 6 -7 Jesus said, "I am the Road, also the Truth, also the Life. No one gets to the Father apart from me. John 14:1-7 *The Message*

Bill and Mindy were a young couple in a Bible study I was leading when I was in seminary. They were new parents and loving it, their marriage was solid and Bill told me he had their finances planned out quarter by quarter for the next few years.

But when I asked him what was his spiritual plan he drew a blank and admitted he had none.

We are so good at planning and preparing for the future that we would never think of leaving our 401 k's to chance, or we think that we don't need to plan our days-we will just wait and see what happens.

Jesus offers us a spiritual plan of where we go from here.

STEP # 1 HEAR HIS CALL

"Don't let this throw you. You trust God, don't you? Trust me.."

In a 2008 survey 92% of those responding said they believed in God.

For ten years I worked with high school students and would often get the chance to ask them to tell me their spiritual beliefs.

One young lady I met was a member of an eastern religious group and she said how she agreed with what Jesus said and how Jesus was a wonderful teacher. She even believed that Jesus was "a god" but not God.

Jesus calls us to believe in Him not as "a god" among many but the God of scripture as revealed in Jesus Christ. Jesus did not hesitate to point to himself as the only way to God. The Way is narrow but the invitation is broad and inclusive.

(Continued on page 7.)

Special Points of Interest:

- Feed My Starving Children Photos, Page 2
- Monthly Meetings, Back Page
- July Birthdays and Anniversaries included with Calendar

Administrative Assistant Office Hours:

Monday:
8:00 AM-4:30 PM

Tuesdays-Fridays
8:00-10:30 AM

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

Lakeshore Inn: Florence Gutknecht, Hazel Henkensiefken

Latham Place: Liz Corchran

Oaklawn Health Care Center: Jim Keller, Bill Brooks

Tower Light, St. Louis Park: Darlene Lynch

Those who also need our prayers: Willie Mahler [Home Hospice]

Prayer Requests from Sunday Worship: Bruce and Deb Hering, Marilyn and Dan Possin, Chuck Youngberg, Lynne Swenson, Marie Wells, the Westrum family.



Sit and Fit

A new exercise class is on **Tuesdays at 10:00 a.m.** This exercise will be stretching and relaxation from the comfort of a chair. If you are not able to take the walks you see other people doing, or attend the Silver Sneakers class, but still would like to participate in some type of exercise, I encourage you to try the "Sit & Fit" class. We will be using a DVD with chair exercises. Be sure to check with your physician before attending the class. Come and try something different.

Mark Norby Contact Information

Mark Norby, Spinal Cord Injury and Disorder Unit, 1 Veterans Drive, Minneapolis, MN 55417

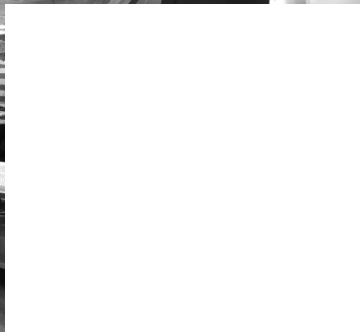
Phone: 612-629-7200 Room: #165

Trustees Meeting

There is a Trustees meeting on Thursday, July 21, at 6:30 p.m. in the Lakeview Room.



Feed My Starving Children 2016



Faith Crafters and Stitchers

Faith Crafters and Stitchers will meet **Thursday, July 14**, from **1:00-3:00 p.m.** in the **Fellowship Hall**. You are invited to bring your own project to work on or share ideas and supplies for Bazaar 2016 items that we can all work on. Snacks will be provided. Call Sandy Voshell at 835-4122 if you have any questions.

4th of July Church 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,

Don't Count Us Out

Dear Editor:

Adults 65 and older are an asset to our communities. They volunteer at a remarkable rate. According to Minnesota Compass, from statistics gathered by the US Census Bureau, 42% of adults age 65-74 volunteer and those 75+ at a 35% rate. Minnesotans are more generous with their time than the general population of the US, volunteering at a 27% rate and 21% respectively. Volunteering is defined as unpaid activities performed or for an organization. This would not include person to person volunteering. These adults have knowledge and experience to share. They can stand as role models for upcoming generations.

The point here is that adults 65 plus are a valuable part of the community. They contribute without pay for the common good.

It's annoying when the media uses adjectives such as "An elderly man of 70," a "69 year old grandma." I feel this is subtle form of ageism! We stopped using the phrases "over the hill" at age 40 long ago. It's time to realize that age does not define us.

Recently, I participated in the "Aging Mastery Program" sponsored by Waseca Area Caregiver Services. We learned that 15 to 20 years after retirement is the gift that previous generations didn't have. The aim of the program is to empower this group to be as productive and healthy as possible.

I encourage the media and society in general, not to count us out. We are with you trying to make our part of the world a better place.

Sherry Scholljegerdes

4th of July Celebration

Start your 4th of July celebration at fellowship on Sunday, July 3rd. There will be a small display of the signing of The Declaration of Independence. There is also a plan to have some musical entertainment. Do plan on joining us at fellowship.

M&M Night

Movie and meal on July 10th at 5:30 p.m. at Faith UMC. The movie will be 'Little Boy'. In a heartwarming tale of faith, hope and love, a little boy tries with all his might to achieve the impossible: bring his father home from war.

The meal will be Sloppy Joes, chips and bars. Plan on attending and ask a friend to join you.

Faith at the Fair

The church service on July 17th 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 by Bob and Kozy and a fun get together with your friends. Please spread the word to others to attend. Fellowship time with refreshments will follow worship.

Birthday Wishes

Florence Gutknecht will be 99 years old on July 25th. It would be great if her church family could help her celebrate her birthday with lots of birthday cards. The Hospitality Committee would like to collect cards from congregation members and they will be taken to Florence on her birthday. It would be wonderful if she had enough cards to keep her busy for some time. Please drop your card off by Sunday, July 24th. There will be a large basket in the Narthex right before you enter the Sanctuary doors.

Faith Church Financial Update

During Fellowship Hour on Sunday, June 12, members of Faith Church were updated on the financial results for Jan – May, 2016. Neil Fruechte, Finance Chair, stated that we have been able so far to pay our bills in a timely manner this year. The giving level is a bit above last year probably due to some members paying ahead of schedule. Expenses have run slightly below last year. On balance it was a positive report; however, he said that we will still have to carry out a Special Ask in late July.

Paul Lohse, Trustee Treasurer, stated that the Trustees are responsible for costs of the physical assets of the church and parsonage – buildings, equipment, yards. They run about \$12,000 a year including the assessment for the street improvements of a couple of years ago. These assessments are being paid off over a five year period. The giving for the capital improvement budget is less than the costs charged to it, but there is still money available to pay those related costs.

Fruechte also presented the idea of creating a special fund within the Waseca Area Foundation whereby the annual earnings of that fund would benefit Faith Church. A summary of that presentation is included as an insert in this newsletter. The idea received positive feedback from the group in attendance, and specific plans for further development will proceed.

Three people at the meeting volunteered to work with Fruechte to flesh out the details of the plan over the next few weeks. Any additional Faith Church members would be welcome to join this group to work on those details and should contact Neil Fruechte at 507-384-1454 or speak to him on a Sunday within the next couple of weeks. We intend to have those details completed by the end of July.

(See next page.)

An idea for the Long Term Financial Stability of Faith Church

In summary this idea

- Helps assure the long term financial viability of Faith Church
- Provides a vehicle for individuals and families of Faith Church to leave a legacy for the long term benefit of the church
- Creates an endowment fund to last into perpetuity
- Annual earnings of the fund would be distributed to Faith Church to be used as determined by the Council or its designee
- The fund would accept both small and large gifts
- Investment management of the fund carried out by seasoned professionals
- In the event Faith Church should no longer exist the annual earnings would be distributed within the community as determined by the board of the Waseca Area Foundation within guidelines stated in the fund document.

The Foundation began in 1989 with about \$6,000 left over from the All-School Reunion in 1988. The idea has really caught on as a way for people in Waseca (and more recently in New Richland and Janesville) to build a legacy for the betterment of our communities. The Waseca Area Foundation is one of many community foundations in Minnesota that are affiliated with Minnesota Philanthropy Partners which is further affiliated with the St. Paul Foundation, Minnesota Community Foundations, the Bigelow Foundation and the Mardag Foundation. These foundations work together for maximum impact particularly with investment professionals to realize favorable and consistent investment returns.

As of the end of last year, the Waseca Area Foundation assets had grown from the initial \$6,000 to \$7.2 million. In addition to the asset growth, annual grants to 100+ organizations have totaled over \$3 million. These grants were directed to support Arts & Culture, Education, Health & Human Services, Recreation and Community Services.

The Foundation Rules of Operation (Bylaws) state that the Advisory Committee (Board) shall be comprised of at least 14 but no more than 20 members representative of the area it serves. The Advisory Committee shall strive to achieve a well-balanced membership of active, participating members who exhibit personal integrity, special competencies or skills, personal leadership, interest in philanthropy, knowledge of the community and its needs, and are well connected within the community. The Advisory Committee should include members with varied backgrounds such as financial planning, banking, law, education, healthcare, local government, business, and the general public; be representative of the geographic areas it serves; and exemplify diversity.

(Continued on next page.)

An idea for the Long Term Financial Stability of Faith Church

(Continued from previous page.)

Investment returns have varied over the years with the general economics of the times ranging from 15-20% or more annually to lower levels most recently. In nearly all years, the returns achieved by the Foundation have compared favorably to the policy index appropriate to the nature of the organization. The investment manager is directed by an Investment Committee made up of seasoned professionals.

The earnings distributed by the funds in the Foundation follow a long term investment policy that seeks to preserve the purchasing power of the assets and maximize the amounts available to meet current needs. The spending rate from each fund is based on a five-year rolling average of the fund's market value. The annual spending rate will not be less than 4.25% or more than 5.5% of the fund's current market value. Investment returns in excess of the spending rate are added to the balance of assets in the fund. Administrative fees for the investment services are very reasonable at 0.9% on the first one million of assets in the fund and 0.35% thereafter.

Faith Church membership is made up of many families who have been long term members of the congregation. Many of these families regularly give generously to the financial needs of the church not only for the regular operating expenses but also for special causes that are presented from time to time. Some who have already passed on have left some money to the church which has been used for special purposes.

Bequests received have not been particularly large or plentiful. Part of the reason for that may be the uncertainty that people have regarding the use of their money when they have died. Additionally, we have not made available a vehicle for people to contribute to in a way that helps assure the long term financial viability of Faith Church.

The Plan

A member or selected members of Faith Church would establish a special non-profit fund with the Waseca Area Foundation to be held in perpetuity. The annual earnings from the fund, consistent with the spending rate of the Foundation, would be distributed to Faith Church to be used as directed by the Council, the Finance Committee, or whoever we choose to make that decision. A minimum of \$25,000 is needed to create the fund. After that, any amounts are eligible to add to the fund.

Doing the math, a fund totaling \$500,000 would generate somewhere in the neighborhood of \$20,000 to \$25,000 of grants to the church each year. A \$1 million fund would generate twice that amount.

Individuals and families would be invited to contribute to building this endowment fund annually or as often as they can. In addition, bequests would be actively sought. All contributions to the fund are deductible from state and Federal income taxes.

In the event that Faith Church would no longer exist (as is the case with Evangelical United Methodist Church), the fund would remain with the Waseca Area Foundation, and the fund document could specify any particular wishes for the annual grants within the Waseca community. This would be assured by having individual members or families create the fund instead of having Faith Church create it and, by implication, be considered an asset of the church.

Developing a Spiritual Plan

(Continued from page 1.)

STEP # 2 RECEIVE THE INVITATION: JESUS OPENS WIDE HIS ARMS INVITING ALL TO COME

There is plenty of room for you in my Father's home. If that weren't so, would I have told you that I'm on my way to get a room ready for you?

Jesus has a place prepared for us when we leave this place we temporally call home. It will be tailor made for each of us. It will be the home our hearts have yearned for ever since we drew our first breath.

We have tried to satisfy this longing for home through our achievements and successes, through the accumulation of things, through financial security and through relationships that we give our hearts to, through being loved and accepted by those we hold dear, and through our children.

While each of us experience joy in all these they are not enough to satisfy our deepest needs.

We find our hearts still longing to be at home. St. Augustine wrote this about our heart's longing....

"You have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless, until they can find rest in you."

- To be at home in Jesus does not mean you feel spiritual.
- To be at home in Jesus does not mean you are a regular attendee at church.
- To be at home in Jesus has nothing to do with how many good works you have done or even your being a good person.
- In fact it has nothing to do with you or me but everything to do with what Jesus has done for us.

STEP # 3 RECOGNIZE OUR NEED

Jesus said, "I am the Road, also the Truth, also the Life. No one gets to the Father apart from me.

Step #3 is necessary even though it may be an uncomfortable one.

It involves confession or agreeing with God that

- We are all broken and we need the forgiveness Jesus offers to each of us through his death on the cross.
- We have to receive the gift he offers us, not just intellectually understand it or emotionally feel moved by it .. by faith reach out and embrace it.

When we do that we become His son or daughter. We become part of His family and we have a place in his house:

A place where grace abounds

A place where we are free from our past

A place where we are loved and not condemned

A place we can call home.

May we all be a part of God's good plan for our lives.

Pastor Victor



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

UMW Elizabeth Circle will **not meet** in
July.

Ruth Circle

UMW Ruth Circle will meet **Tuesday**
July 12, at 10:30 - Noon at the
parsonage, 800 4th Ave NE. All ladies
are welcome! Call Patrice Waters
835.2535 if you have any questions.

Mary Circle

UMW Mary Circle will not meet again
until September.