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From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Ones,

I delivered a message on forgiveness a few weeks ago which sparked a debate on the issues of how many times Jesus told us to forgive. Did Jesus say 77 times, or 70x7 times? I have heard and read bible translations that say 77 and translations that state 70x7. David Pleacher explains it this way:

Then Peter came up and said to him, "Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you seven times, but seventy times seven."

-- Matthew 18:21-22 of the *Revised Standard Version*

These same words are found in the King James version, the Phillips Modern English version, The Living Bible, the New English Bible, and many other translations.

However, in *The Jerusalem Bible*, the *Augsburg Study Bible New Revised Standard Version*, and several other more modern translations, Matthew 18:22 reads, *Jesus answered, "Not seven, I tell you, but seventy-seven times."*

Somebody changed the math. In the older translations, Jesus' answer was 70 x 7 or 490 times, but the newer translations changed his answer to 77 times. Of course, Jesus did not mean that we should stop forgiving after 490 times or even 77 times -- he meant that there should be no limits to our forgiveness. In *The Interpreter's Bible*, it mentions both of these numbers, but it calls this "celestial arithmetic" -- we must do the math in our hearts. It is a problem in conduct rather than in arithmetic. The rabbis said that three pardons were enough. Peter proposed magnanimity, and so suggested seven. But Jesus insisted that there must be no limits to forgiveness.

Luke 17:4 also mentions this conversation with the seven times.

Luke 17:5 tells us that when the disciples heard this requirement of Jesus for unlimited forgiveness, they exclaimed, "Increase our faith!"

I hope this helps with the discussion. This is a good reminder that to truly know just exactly what the original words used in the bible were meant to convey can be a hard thing. My new testament professor in seminary would often remind us that to be able to understand the new testament one needs to be fluent in Greek. I am not fluent in Greek or Hebrew so like so many of us I depend on my own study, prayer and conversation with others to form my understanding of the scriptures. This is a lifelong quest and I am happy to be on this journey with all of you!

Be Blessed!

Pastor Carolyn

Special Points of Interest:

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

Administrative Assistant

Office Hours:

Monday:

9:30 am to Noon

Tues. & Thurs.:

10:00 am to Noon

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: Joe & Gloria Tollefson

Koda Living Community: Chuck Youngberg

Lakeshore Inn: Liz Corchran, Leona Quast

Latham Place: Lucille Kubista, Elaine Westrum

Prayer Requests from Sunday Worship: Michael Schumacher, Liz Corchran, 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.



Administrative Assistant Hours

Due to distance learning, Stacy's hours in the office will be limited and varied at times. Anticipated hours for the week will be found on the "Week at a Glance" page in the bulletin. At this time, anticipated hours in the office are as follows: Monday 9:30 am to Noon and Tuesday & Thursday: 10:00 am to Noon. It is best to call ahead if you need to visit the office. Please note that Stacy will be out of the office October 12 through October 16.

Bible Study

A fall Bible study is scheduled for October. It will be the movie series, 'The Chosen'. There will be seven sessions and each session is roughly one hour long and it would be shown over seven weeks. The starting date is Thursday, October 8th at 10:30 a.m. in the Church sanctuary. If there is enough interest, we can have a showing on Thursday evening at 6:30 p.m.

It is a show about Jesus' life. It allows us to see Him through the eyes of those who knew Him. No matter where you are in your journey with Jesus Christ, this show is for you.

You are asked to wear your mask and to practice safe distancing.

With Sympathy

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of George Kubista. George passed away on August 21 and services were held on August 27.

UMW Request

In the loss of our annual Bazaar, we offer the following suggestion to our Faith Church family, along with our heartfelt gratitude for all the help and contributions you have generously given in past years. Perhaps you donated baked goods, canned produce, jams & jellies, cookies, lovingly created crafts...maybe you gave ingredients for the soup or pies for the luncheon. Many of you gave cash or checks to help purchase beef for the vegetable soup...and lots of people each year made this an all-church event because when volunteers were greatly needed to help prepare, serve, and clean up in the kitchen or dining room, you said yes, I will work. Our UMW Unit will gratefully accept monetary gifts as you're able to donate to our treasury. Questions may be directed to Sandy Voshell, UMW Treasurer. Thank you, and God bless you and yours.

UMW News

UMW proposed slate of officers for 2021:

President - Karen Ferch

Secretary - Linda Griffin

Treasurer - Sandy Voshell

Communications - Janet Welch

Nominating Committee - Edy Barber and Lucile Youngberg



Congratulations to Alison & Dylan Prange on the birth of their daughter, Paige, on September 21. Alison is the daughter of Melody & Tom Kluntz and granddaughter of Barb & Dan Klampe. Paige is welcomed home by big brother, Parker.

Congratulations to Jenny & Riley Benzel on their marriage. They were married on September 18. Proud parents are Kevin & Julie Sass.

Covid-19 Update from Bishop Ough

Friends in Christ,

As you know, this has been an intense season for our churches. But you have risen to the occasion by pivoting to move your ministry online. You have responded to the call for racial justice and played a key role in rebuilding our communities following the killing of George Floyd. You have been diligent in developing practices to keep your congregation safe amid COVID-19 by caring for one another and gathering in creative ways. I am so thankful for your perseverance and innovation in the face of these unrelenting challenges.

As we turn the page to fall, a time when we're used to kicking off a new year of programming and children's ministries, we find ourselves still in "[Stay Safe MN](#)" mode and needing to continue to significantly limit our in-person gatherings. Everything is different, and it looks like this will be our new normal for the foreseeable future. As we head into this new season, I want to offer some reminders and encouragement:

1. Pandemic fatigue is real, but we cannot relax in our efforts to keep people safe. With cold weather approaching, it will be tempting to think we can be the exception—that we can gather like we used to and no one will get sick. Unfortunately, there are tragic stories of church-related coronavirus outbreaks from all over the country. Gathering indoors in groups is still a high-risk activity. It is critical that you, as leaders, have developed your [COVID-19 preparedness plan](#) in accordance with our [phased re-gathering plan](#) and that you hold to it for the sake of the most vulnerable in your midst. We are called to make our love for one another incarnational. We do this by protecting each other and our neighbors. If you and your church leadership team or council has made a thoughtful and prayerful decision to resume in-person worship, your preparedness plan needs to include:
 - a. A requirement for masks to be worn by all persons
 - b. People staying at least six feet apart
 - c. strict adherence to the [state-mandated capacity limits](#) (we strongly recommend staying well below them)
 - d. no congregational singing
 - e. cleaning and sanitizing public spaces between each group gathering

2. Christmas is coming. As painful as this is to think about, it is unlikely that we will be able to have a large number of people together, shoulder to shoulder, on Christmas Eve holding candles and singing "Silent Night." Take a moment to lament this loss. And then, remembering Mary and Joseph who left what was comfortable to go on a journey to Bethlehem, start planning for how you can help bring Christmas to your community in fresh and new ways. Things won't look and feel like they used to, but that was the case at Jesus' birth too—he was God's in-breaking in startling new ways. We have an important opportunity to try something completely different that reaches people in our mission fields in new ways.

Covid-19 Update from Bishop Ough

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3. Continue to be kind and generous to yourselves and one another. This is a hard time for all of us. Give yourself grace. We are all doing the best we can, and we are all making decisions based on our particular context. Be wise about how you steward your time, resources, and energy. Ask the tough questions that lead to clarity about where to invest and where to let go so that you stay true to your mission while continuing to adapt and refine your methods for growing in love of God and neighbor, reaching new people, and healing a broken world in this unique season of ministry.

I pray for you and our world daily. May we be people who offer light and hope to a weary world!

Bishop Bruce R. Ough
Resident Bishop, Dakotas-Minnesota Area
The United Methodist Church



Faith United Methodist Church
October 10th
10am-11am – Come and go
Church Parking Lot

What Was the First School Started by Methodists?

Education is a [core value](#) of The United Methodist Church that dates back to the earliest days of the Methodist movement in 18th century England.

Founder John Wesley believed education was the key to a fuller, richer life. “Knowledge, for him, was not so much a purely intellectual attribute but rather a channel of self-understanding, which is crucial for salvation,” writes Richard Heitzenrater in a summary of Wesley’s educational principles.

Wesley believed everyone should have access to education regardless of gender or class. In 1748 he enlarged a school he had opened for the children of coal miners near Bristol and named it the [Kingswood School](#). His goal for the school was to give young people a high quality education so they could aspire to Cambridge or Oxford and to the professions. He championed education as a way to assure that leaders would act ethically and responsibly.

As the Methodist movement took hold and spread in the United States, Francis Asbury and Thomas Coke demonstrated the same attitude in founding [Cokesbury College](#), the first of many colleges started by the denomination. Russell Richey writes: “The General Conferences of 1820 and 1824 charged annual conferences with the establishment of schools, literary institutions, and colleges. By the Civil War, Methodism had established or was affiliated with some 200 such institutions.”

John Wesley’s vision of making higher education accessible to all has inspired the founding of many educational institutions by the church. Nineteenth century church leaders established colleges that granted degrees to women and African Americans. Beginning in the 1860s and continuing today, the church initiated robust programs of scholarships and loans to provide financial support to students. The denomination’s commitment to education accessibility was reaffirmed in the 1970s with the creation of the [Black College Fund](#) and the HANA Scholars program, and again in the 1990s with the establishment of [Africa University](#).

Today The United Methodist Church supports a network of 117 outstanding United Methodist-related [schools, colleges, and universities](#) in the United States, including 13 schools of theology, and relates to more than 700 institutions in the Methodist tradition globally.

Adapted from the [General Board of Higher Education and Ministry](#)

Have questions? [Ask The UMC](#) or talk with a pastor [near you](#). And check out other [recent Q&As](#).

This content was produced by Ask The UMC, a ministry of United Methodist Communications.

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

- | | | |
|----------------|----------------|------------|
| 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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Postage Paid
Permit 30
Waseca, MN
56093

Change Service Requested

Come Worship with Us
We have room.

MONTHLY MEET-UPS:

Elizabeth Circle

UMW Elizabeth Circle October meeting to be determined.

Ruth Circle

UMW Ruth Circle will meet on Tuesday, October 20 at 10:30 am in the Fellowship Hall.

Conversation, Bible & Friends

Conversation, Bible and Friends will meet on Mondays from 3:00 to 4:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Please wear a mask.