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Special Points of Interest:

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

Pastor Office Hours:

Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday
9:00 am - 12:30 pm

Administrative Assistant

Office Hours:

Monday, Wednesday & Thursday:
9:30 am - 1:00 pm



Faith Messenger



SEPTEMBER

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

Volume 2024
Issue 9

From the Pastor's Desk

I went to Colorado Springs, CO to see my younger son Daniel with my wife, DJ. Attending Acceptance Day at the Air Force Academy was a very special experience for me and my wife, DJ, as parents. It was a proud moment to watch my son, Daniel, take this important step. As I watched him stand in uniform and march with his peers, I was proud of him as he pursued his dreams and took on new challenges.

A month ago, I shared the words of Joshua 1:9 with Daniel, who was to participate in this training, to help him cope well with the training. During Basic Cadet Training at the Air Force Academy, there was a time when he needed strength not just from his body but from his spirit. Joshua 1:9 says, "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go." This verse reminds him that God is with him, giving him the courage and strength to face any challenge. You can use this in your daily life. Whether you are facing hard times in your own personal struggles, this verse reminds you that you are not alone. It encourages you to be confident, knowing that God has a plan for you, even if you don't know what will happen next.

Just like cadets train to protect their country, Christians are trained by the Bible to stand against the evil in the world. Being strong and courageous as a soldier of Christ means trusting in your faith in every part of your life. It also means sharing the good news of Jesus with love and boldness, knowing that Christ is always with you in every challenge.

As I left the Air Force academy, I felt a deep sense of pride for my son, Daniel, and gratitude for all who serve. It was an inspiring experience I will never forget. I appreciate your prayers and support. Whether you face personal difficulties or stand up for what is right, you can do it with confidence because God is with you, guiding and protecting you.

Dong Hun Shin, Pastor

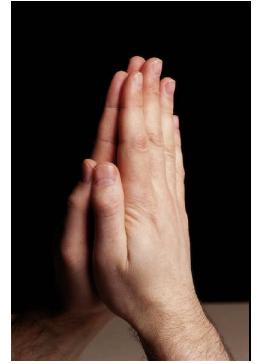
Prayer Requests

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

Colony Court: Shirley Burdick, Gloria Rollag

Latham Place: Joe Tollefson

Prayer Requests from Sunday Worship: Sue Baldini, Tim Dahnert, Ron Dahnert, Kathy Dahnert Johnson, Gail Sauer, Gloria Rollag, Les Wells, Margaret Dahnert, Dennis Dahnert, Family and Friends of Nina Youngberg, Tom Kuyper, Family and Friends of Ardella Draheim, the Ukraine, the Middle East, health care workers, first responders, those who battle cancer, chronic illness and pain.



Administrative Assistant Hours

Stacy's hours will typically be Monday, Wednesday and Thursday 9:30 am to 1:00 pm. Days or hours are subject to change at times. It is best to call ahead if you need to visit the office. **Hours will be posted in the weekly bulletins.**

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

Faith's Blessing Box

Just a reminder that we are continuously collecting donations of non-perishable food items for Faith's Blessing Box (please no glass jars). There is a donation box in the Narthex or you may bring your donations into the church office during office hours. Cash donations will also be accepted to purchase items for the blessing box; just make a notation that your donation is for the blessing box. We would like to build up a supply of items so we can keep replenishing the box as needed.

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).

Trunk or Treat

After some discussion, we have decided that if we host a Trunk or Treat/Halloween event, we will do so indoors in the Fellowship Hall. This event would take place on Halloween, October 31 from 4:30 to 7:30pm. We still need to get an idea of how many people are able to participate before we decide whether or not to host this event. If you know you can participate, please sign up on the sign-up sheet in the narthex during the coming weeks, or let Stacy know if you are able to participate. Also, ask friends, family members and neighbors if they would like to sign up.

Survey

Please be sure to answer the enclosed short survey. We would like everyone's input on these two questions as we re-visit and move forward with the Conversation at the Crossroads process. You do not need to sign your name on the survey, all responses may be kept anonymous. You can mail your responses back to the church, drop them off at church or drop them in the offering plate during worship. Thank you for your participation!

Sunday School/Youth News

Due to the low number of participants, we have decided not to offer Sunday School this year. Should families express an interest in Sunday School, we can re-visit this decision in the future. We do plan to offer a once per month youth group for ages 10 and up. Stay tuned to future newsletters and Sunday bulletin announcements for dates and times and more information.

Choir

Choir practice begins on Wednesday, September 4 at 7:00pm. If you would like to join the choir, they are happy to welcome new members. Please consider joining for fun, fellowship, and of course, singing! You do not need to attend every week to participate in the choir.

Ruth Circle

Ruth circle met Tuesday, August 20th at Roberta Walker's She Shed/Granary.

Ruth circle is a way for women to gather together and experiences fellowship, mutual support, study, devotion, and mission work.

Meeting in a granary sometimes proves to be more of a laid back gathering. The August meeting was great for the fellowship, supporting each other, laughter and according to the women great for the tasty treats.

Our program 'Cherries' was a little shorter than normal but still had a message.

Cherry is a sign of sweetness, love and harmony. Cherry trees are among the first trees to bloom in early spring. Their sweet and fragrant blossoms announce a time when sweetness is returning to our lives.

The proverb "Life is just a bowl of cherries" metaphorically portrays life as a source of pleasure and enjoyment. Its origins can be traced back to the early 20th century in the United States through the song "Life Is Just a Bowl of Cherries" (1931) by Ray Henderson and Lew Brown.

The phrase. 'Life is like a bowl of cherries' suggests that life is as delightful as a bowl filled with cherries, known for their deliciousness and association with happiness. It encourages embracing life and relishing its positive aspects.

Similarly, cherries remind us of the overflowing abundance of God's blessings in our lives. They serve as a visual reminder to appreciate and be grateful for the favor that God bestows upon us.

In religious and spiritual contexts, cherries symbolize divine fruit, sacrifice, renewal, and new beginnings.

It is also said in Christianity, because of their deep red color, cherries are frequently associated with the blood of Christ shed by Jesus on the cross.

LIFE MAY NOT ALWAYS BE A BOWL OF CHERRIES.

Sometimes we are happily frolicking in the cherries and sometimes we find ourselves in the pits. Life is a mix of good and bad, successes and failures, challenges and cake-walks. Bad things do happen to good people. But so do good things.

The cherry tree can't grow without a pit. The same is true for you and me. Your soul is at the core of your spiritual growth.

John 16:33 I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.

"When times are good, be happy; but when times are bad, consider this: God has made the one as well as the other"

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Ruth Circle

In Joel 2:22, *the Lord promises His people an abundant harvest, including the mention of cherry trees flourishing on their land.* This imagery illustrates God's provision and His desire to bless His children abundantly. Moreover, cherries can also symbolize the fruit of the Spirit mentioned in Galatians 5:22-23. *"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law."*

The program was concluded with a friendship quote:

'Friendship is celebrating the good times, struggling through the bad times, and being there for all times.'

A short meeting was held discussing mission projects, hosting the fall WUIF (UMW) unit meeting, membership, upcoming meeting and future programs.

The next Ruth circle meeting will be hosted by Linda and Jean will do the program.

It will be Tuesday, September 10th at 1:00 in the Gathering Room.

Elizabeth Circle

We are Growing..!

What a joy to report that we welcomed three (relatively new) friends at our August Circle meeting last week. Linda Wilson and Bev Elliott joined Elizabeth Circle and Mary Jane brought a visitor--a good friend, Eileen, who is visiting from Arizona. Is there anything better than a full table?! There were eight of us...the conversation flowed, the laughter was abundant.

Mary Jane presented a wonderful and thought-provoking lesson about hurts and betrayals...what do we do about that? Are we called to forgive? And forget?? Based on Mary's book, *Mess and Moxie*, by Jen Hatmaker, we are reminded of a precept which we've already learned over the years: if we fail to forgive, we hurt ourselves more in the long run; bitterness can destroy us. But must we forget? Not necessarily--some relationships may be restored, but sometimes the hurt is too deep...Ms. Hatmaker does an excellent job in shedding light on this and many other life situations. Great discussion!

Sherry S. treated us, not only to a beautiful table setting, but also to fresh watermelon and a chocolate-mint dessert. Sandy V. is our longtime and so faithful coffee supplier; thanks to both of those ladies for their generosity.

Karen F. gave the Secretary's report and Mary Jane reported that we have a generous amount in our Sunshine Fund. We plan to pay a visit to our Honorary Member, Shirley Burdick, in the next few months.

Reporting for UW in Faith/UMW, Sherry reminded us of the **October** Executive Mtg. and in the following week on **October 21, the General Meeting**. Please put these dates on your calendar...and let's have a great turnout of women at the tables on the 21st for the Unit Meeting!

Meanwhile, our next Elizabeth Circle Meeting will be held in the Lakeview Room on Weds. Sept. 18 at 2:30 PM. Hostessing will be by Sandy Voshell and Wilda Smith will present the afternoon's lesson. GUESTS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME.

NOTE that there will be no October Circle Meeting due to the UMW Unit Meeting on October 21.

--Karen Ferch, Secretary

His Eye Is on the Sparrow

1905

Are not two sparrows sold for a copper coin? And not one of them falls to the ground apart from your Father's will. Matthew 10:29



Most people have a hobby of some sort to provide a healthy diversion from the rigors of work. Long ago, there was a woodworker in Nazareth who counted bird-watching among His diversions. We can make that assumption, because Jesus later referred frequently to bird-life in His sermons, saying things like:

- “Are not two sparrows sold for a copper coin? And not one of them falls to the ground apart from your Father's will” (Matthew 10:29).
- “Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?” (Matthew 6:26)
- “Consider the ravens . . .” (Luke 12:26).
- “Do not fear . . . you are of more value than many sparrows” (Luke 12:7).

It was this theme that caused the author of “God Will Take Care of You,” to write, a year later, another great hymn on God's care: “His Eye Is on the Sparrow.”

Civilla Durfee Martin was a Canadian by birth, born on August 21, 1869, in Nova Scotia. She became a school and music teacher, but when she married Dr. Walter Martin, an evangelist, she gave up teaching to travel with him and assist in his meetings.

This is her account of the writing of this song:

Early in the spring of 1905, my husband and I were sojourning in Elmira, New York. We contracted a deep friendship for a couple by the name of Mr. and Mrs. Doolittle—true saints of God. Mrs. Doolittle had been bedridden for nigh twenty years. Her husband was an incurable cripple who had to propel himself to and from his business in a wheel chair. Despite their afflictions, they lived happy Christian lives, bringing inspiration and comfort to all who knew them. One day while we were visiting with the Doolittles, my husband commented on their bright hopefulness and asked them for the secret of it. Mrs. Doolittle's reply was simple: “His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me.” The beauty of this simple expression of boundless faith gripped the hearts and fired the imagination of Dr. Martin and me. The hymn “His Eye Is on the Sparrow” was the outcome of that experience.

The day after writing the song, she mailed it to the famous Gospel composer, Charles Gabriel, who penned the music.

Leadership Team

Members of the Faith United Methodist Church Leadership Team:

Rev. Dong Hun Shin, Pastor
Dave Baldini, Chair
Clair Voshell, Trustees
Neil Fruechte, Finances
Duane Griffin, Lay Leader
Jarod True, Trustee Treasurer & SPRC
Stacy True, Recording Secretary
Karen Ferch
Mark LaMont
Michelle Hyatt
Mike Morrissey

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.**

Soap Closet

Faith UMC is participating with Minnesota Valley Action Council (MVAC) as a drop off site for their "Soap Closet". It is a program to help those in need with hygiene supplies in our county. The drop off box is located in the narthex. Items they are looking for include the following:

- New men's, women's and children's underwear and socks
- Toothbrushes and toothpaste
- Body Wash or bar soap
- Q Tips
- Hand soap/hand sanitizer
- Toilet paper
- Feminine products
- Baby wipes/diapers/powder/soap
- Laundry detergent
- Dish soap
- Deodorant

Please consider donating items to help with this cause.



Faith United Methodist Church

"Engage, Equip, and Empower"

**801 Fourth Ave. NE
Waseca, MN 56093**

Phone: 507-835-3167

Fax: 507-835-5400

E-mail: faithwaseca@gmail.com

www.faithwasecaumc.com

Non-profit Org
Postage Paid
Permit 30
Waseca, MN
56093

Change Service Requested

Come Worship with Us We have room.

MONTHLY MEET-UPS:

Elizabeth Circle

Elizabeth Circle will meet on **Wednesday, September 18 at 2:30 pm** in the Lakeview Room. Our hostess will be Sandy Voshell with Wilda Smith leading devotions. We welcome guests and visitors.

Ruth Circle

Ruth Circle will meet on **Tuesday, September 10 at 1:00 pm** in the Gathering Room. Our hostess will be Linda and Jean will do the program.

Conversation, Bible & Friends

Conversation, Bible and Friends will **not** meet on Monday, September 2 (Labor Day).