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Faith Messenger



DECEMBER

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

**Volume 2025
Issue 11**

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From the Pastor's Desk

Christmas is coming. There are many things that we do to get ready for Christmas. We look forward to hearing the beautiful music and seeing the decorations. We look forward to Christmas parties and sharing gifts with our family and our friends. We put up our Christmas tree, lights, and decorations. We get our Christmas cards mailed out. We need to buy all the food for Christmas dinner. It's fun and exciting to prepare for Christmas. But when we prepare for Christmas, there is one more thing we need to prepare for: celebrating the birth of Jesus. Jesus promised that He would come again, and the Bible tells us that we must be watching and be prepared for His return.

Christmas reminds us that God has entered human time and will return. But until that day, we are called to stay awake, to live in love, and to live in hope. Therefore, as we begin this Advent, let us trust in God's hidden time. Let us remember that our waiting is not in vain, but is filled with His presence. Let us pray with the early church, "Maranath – Come, Lord Jesus." And when the Lord comes, may we be ready, awake, and full of hope. The Lord has sent the Holy Spirit so that we can understand Jesus. May the Holy Spirit be with us, and may we welcome the coming of the Lord Jesus.

Dong Hun Shin, Pastor

Special Points of Interest:

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

Pastor Office Hours:

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

Administrative Assistant

Office Hours:

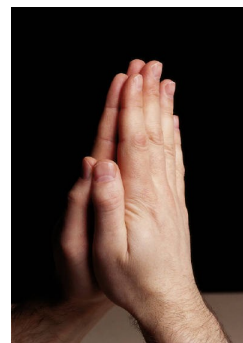
Monday, Wednesday & Thursday:
9:30 am - 1:00 pm

Prayer Requests

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

- Benedictine Owatonna:** Les Wells
- Colony Court:** Margaret Dahnert
- Lakeshore Inn:** Peggy Deno
- Latham Place:** Joe Tollefson, Wally Ruedy

Prayer Requests from Sunday Worship: Sue Baldini, Kathy Dahnert Johnson, Gail Sauer, Les Wells, Margaret Dahnert, Anna Born, Sherry Scholljegerdes, Darla Dahnert, DJ Choi, Karen Ferch, Lona Williamson, Jon Schultz, Jill Ledbetter, Ed Herbig, family of Jim Larsen, Neil Fruechte, the Ukraine, the Middle East, health care workers, first responders, those who battle cancer, chronic illness and pain.



Administrative Assistant Hours

Stacy's hours are typically 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.

Mitten Tree Thank You

Thank you to everyone for your donations to the mitten tree. We collected a total of 154 sets of hats and mittens! Thirty-nine were taken to the Central Building for preschoolers, 65 to Hartley for elementary students, and 50 to WIS for middle school students.

Greetings from Les Wells

Mary Stauffer has informed the church office that Les Wells received a prayer shawl from Faith church made by Mardell Jacobson. They had a great visit and Les greets all of his Faith friends. He would enjoy visits so please stop in to see him if you are able.



Faith's Blessing Box Update

We continue to see use of the Blessing Box.

Once we have consistently freezing temperatures, we will not be able to put canned goods in the box due to expansion of the liquids resulting in damage to the cans. For winter we would welcome donations of pouched meats, bagged or boxed soup mixes, bagged or boxed rice, bagged or boxed mashed potatoes, ramen noodles, cereal, oatmeal and pancake mix.

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. Also, please check expiration dates on food donations. We do not accept expired items.

Financial Update

The year is drawing to a close and soon 2026 will be upon us. As of the printing of this newsletter, we have received a total of \$7,975 in response to our SPECIAL ASK. Thank you to all of those who have contributed. If you have not yet responded, it's not too late. We will continue to accept Special Ask donations through the end of the year.

Also, please keep an eye out for pledge cards which will be sent out later this month. Turning in your pledge cards will be tremendously helpful as we prepare the 2026 budget.

Advent

We invite you to join us this advent season as we look forward to celebrating the birth of Jesus. The first Sunday of Advent is Sunday, November 30. On Sunday, December 21, Faith Choir will present the Cantata, "Sing Christmas", during worship. We will celebrate Christmas Eve with a Christmas Eve worship service on Wednesday, December 24 at 4:00pm. Please join us! All are welcome!

Women of Faith

The women of Faith held a meeting November 19 to discuss donations to be made by the group. Ten members were present. It was agreed to give donations to seven community organizations for a total of \$2300, the profit from this year's bazaar.

Donations were approved for Bethlehem Inn, Shepherds Robe, Waseca Caregivers, Hartley School snack cart, Neighborhood Center Back pack program, Waseca Intermediate School bus passes, and Achieving Dreams for People with Disabilities.

Fall Bazaar Story

Have to share a happening at the Bazaar.

Some ladies were talking about how happy they were with the turn out and success of the bazaar. I overheard my son, Jared, sharing a story that he remembered from Sunday School. It was about Stone soup.

I didn't hear it all but it was something about an individual who had a large kettle and a stone. He asked someone if they could give him some water so he could make some delicious soup. Someone brought the water and he started cooking it.

After it cooked for a while he tasted it and said it was pretty good but maybe it could use some more things to make it even better. Someone brought some carrots and celery, after cooking some more he tasted it again and said it was getting real good. Someone brought some potatoes and someone else some meat. People kept bringing things to put in the kettle and finally the individual tasted it and said it was Delicious. The people had created a large kettle of delicious soup that they all enjoyed.

Jared said it's just like this bazaar, people donated to the bazaar, brought things for the luncheon and the sales, and people helped to make it the BIGGEST and BEST!

People can achieve great things together. Thank you again everyone!

Fall Bazaar Thank You

Do we remember...? To say 'Thanks' I mean. I hope that's not becoming a lost art... As we Faith U.M. people worked tirelessly in the weeks prior to our November 1st Bazaar, we frequently asked/begged for help...'Many hands make light work', etc. etc. Of course they do. And when all was said and done, there were many, many pairs of capable hands pitching in where they were needed. In the days following the wonderfully successful event, I wonder whether enough 'Thank-yous' were voiced...If you had even a little bit of your time and resources to give, Thank you! If you worked till you thought you might drop of sheer tiredness, Thank you! Some years ago, Berts dubbed a Faith event 'The biggest and the best'...I think the Nov. 1, 2025 event was just that. Thank YOU!

Elizabeth Circle Meeting
Weds. Nov. 19, 2025
2:30 p.m.

Present (7) Sandy V., Shelly K., Linda W., Mary Jane S., Wilda S.,
Roberta W., and Karen F.

Sandy, our hostess, served a variety of giant muffins, chocolates, and the requisite coffee. You'll notice that, while it's not the most important item of business, we always begin with refreshments. I think it's safe to say that our Lord honors any and all tables with His Presence if we but invite Him. So...the fellowship is as important as any lesson or business that takes place.

As often happens, as we share food and drink, we also share family stories...Today, memories of Thanksgivings past were abundant...from the scalloped corn stories to the assortment of pie adventures, anecdotes were all the entertainment we needed. (Could you hear us laughing as you drove by?)

Linda presented the lesson for the day, beginning with a short story of her days of living in Honduras...another recollection was of her son's first experience of an Amish colony they visited in Iowa. As he observed the women's long dark dresses and white bonnets with long ties, he finally whispered to her, "Mom—look...there are Pilgrims here!" At this time of year as Thanksgiving approaches, we remember that every day is a gift...so we live with an attitude of gratitude.

Mary Jane noted that two of Mardell's prayer shawls have been given (to Les W. and Sherry) as tokens of our caring and prayers. Our Sunshine Fund is healthy and available for remembrances when needed.

It was decided to accept Mary Jane's generous invitation to have lunch at her home for our December/Christmas meeting; noon on Weds. December 17. Please bring a short reading, poem, story, or personal memory you'd like to share as we enjoy lunch.

—Recording Secretary, Karen Ferch

Ruth Circle

Ruth circle will meet on Tuesday, December 9th. We will have our holiday gathering at the PIZZA RANCH at 1:30. Let Roberta know if you plan on attending. Telephone number is 507-461-3087.

It's always a fun gathering to start the holiday season. Hope to see you there. NOTE the time and location.

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

1739

Then the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people." Luke 2:10

Upon his conversion, Charles Wesley immediately began writing hymns, each one packed with doctrine, all of them exhibiting strength and sensitivity, both beauty and theological brawn. He wrote constantly, and even on horseback his mind was flooded with new songs. He often stopped at houses along the road and ran in asking for "pen and ink."

He wrote over 6,000 hymns during his life, and he didn't like people tinkering with the words. In one of his hymnals, he wrote: "I beg leave to mention a thought which has been long upon my mind, and which I should long ago have inserted in the public papers, had I not been unwilling to stir up a nest of hornets. Many gentlemen have done my brother and me (though without naming us) the honor to reprint many of our hymns. Now they are perfectly welcome to do so, provided they print them just as they are. But I desire they would not attempt to mend them, for they are really not able. None of them is able to mend either the sense or the verse. Therefore, I must beg of them these two favors: either to let them stand just as they are, to take things for better or worse, or to add the true reading in the margin, or at the bottom of the page, that we may no longer be accountable either for the nonsense or for the doggerel of other men."

But one man did the church a great favor by polishing up one of Charles' best-loved hymns. When Charles was 32, he wrote a Christmas hymn that began:

*Hark, how all the welkin rings,
"Glory to the King of kings;
Peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
Join the triumph of the skies;
Universal nature say,
"Christ the Lord is born to-day!"*

The word "welkin" was an old English term for "the vault of heaven." It was Charles' friend, evangelist George Whitefield, who, when he published this carol in his collection of hymns in 1753, changed the words to the now-beloved, "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing."

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
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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56093

Change Service Requested

Come Worship with Us
We have room.

MONTHLY MEET-UPS:

Elizabeth Circle

Elizabeth Circle will meet on **Wednesday, December 17** at **12:00pm** at Mary Stauffer's home.

Ruth Circle

Ruth Circle will meet on **Tuesday, December 9** at **1:30** at Pizza Ranch. Let Roberta know if you plan on attending.