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**New Years: New Commitments**

As we welcome a new year, I pray that God’s grace, peace, and protection will rest on each of you. May this year bring good health and many blessings to your life and family.

Whenever a new year begins, we naturally think about making new resolutions. We look back on the past, reflect on our weaknesses, and promise to do better. Simply having the chance to make a fresh decision is a gift. But the real challenge is keeping our resolutions. There is a saying in Korean that describes this well: “Three-day resolution,” meaning that we begin with good intentions, but after a few days our passion fades. Some people even stop making resolutions because they feel they will fail anyway. But often the problem is not our weakness. It is that we do not set our goals wisely. One common mistake is making too many goals. It is better to choose one or two meaningful commitments rather than a long list. Many goals may look impressive, but they are impossible to keep. Sometimes we also set goals just to impress others. But living for appearances only leads us to start strong and finish weak.

Most importantly, our resolutions must be things we can begin today. Many people say, “I’ll start later... when I have time... after things calm down.” But “later” is the reason so many plans fail. This is especially true in our spiritual lives. Our faith grows weak not because we do not love God, but because we keep telling ourselves, “I’ll pray later... I’ll read the Bible later... I’ll serve later.” The Bible tells us, “Do not boast about tomorrow,” because tomorrow is not ours. We cannot change the past, and we cannot control the future. Only today belongs to us. The small things we do today are what shape our future and open the door to God’s blessing. May the Lord bless you and fill your days with His grace.

In Christ,  
Dong Hun Shin, Pastor

**Special Points of Interest:**

- January Monthly Meetings, Back Page
- January 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

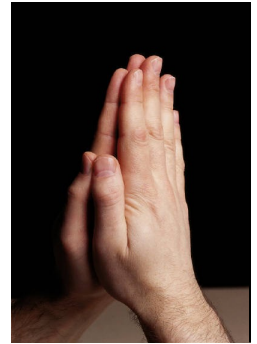
**Colony Court:** Margaret Dahnert

**Foxdale:** Sherry Scholljegerdes

**Lakeshore Inn:** Peggy Deno

**Latham Place:** Joe Tollefson, Wally Ruedy

**Prayer Requests from Sunday Worship:** The Baldini family, 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, 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.

### *Happy New Year Prayer*

May God make your year a happy one!  
 Not by shielding you from all sorrows and pain,  
 But by strengthening you to bear it, as it comes;  
 Not by making your path easy,  
 But by making you sturdy to travel any path;  
 Not by taking hardships from you,  
 But by taking fear from your heart;  
 Not by granting you unbroken sunshine,  
 But by keeping your face bright, even in the shadows;  
 Not by making your life always pleasant,  
 But by showing you when people and their causes need you most,  
 And by making you anxious to be there to help.  
***God's love, peace, hope and joy to you for the year ahead.***

## 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

As of the printing of this newsletter, we have received a total of \$10,625 in response to our SPECIAL ASK. Thank you to all of those who have contributed.

You will be receiving 2026 pledge cards in the mail soon. Turning in your pledge cards will be tremendously helpful as we prepare the 2026 budget.

## Volunteers Needed

The new year is a great time to consider where your time and talents could be helpful to the church. Yes, it seems we are always asking for volunteers. That's because we need you! In order to help our services and events to run smoothly and to share and spread out the workload, we need help in many different areas.

The usher and liturgist schedules are set through May, but we would welcome some new volunteers to join after that. Sign up sheets are still available in the narthex.

We still need a back-up person for recording the Sunday Worship service. If this would interest you, please talk to Roger or Jarod.

It would also be helpful if we had a back-up person to learn how to upload the service to YouTube and make a DVD for the city television station. If you would be interested in learning to do this, please contact Jarod.

When warmer weather comes, we will need volunteers to care for the flower gardens so keep that in mind if that may be something that interests you.

Please consider how you can help. We appreciate all of you!

## Ruth Circle

Ruth circle held their December circle meeting at the Pizza Ranch on Tuesday, December 9th. We enjoyed a meal together and of course there was great conversation. We were happy to have a couple visitors join us; Karen K. and Sherry S.

We did not have a program but the fellowship getting together is a great way to start the celebration of Christmas and the coming of Jesus.

The November meeting was held at Colony Court to celebrate Margaret D.'s birthday. It appeared to have been a fun time for everyone. Margaret always enjoys seeing the ladies.

Ruth circle's next meeting will be Tuesday, January 13th at 1:30. It will be at The Gathering Room. 'FROG' is the title of our program. Learn some interesting things about frogs and see how we can get FROG in our message that will be shared at the meeting. Not sure what our treats will be at our meeting, let's see, frogs??!!!

### Elizabeth Circle Meeting Weds. Dec. 17, 2025. 12:00 Noon

Present: Linda W., Wilda S., Shelly K., Sandy V., Mary Jane S., Sherry S., Karen F., & guest Berts W.

Our gracious hostess, Mary Jane, treated us to a delicious luncheon of salads, breads, relishes, and of course, dessert and coffee.

During the meal we shared Christmas memories and stories. Karen told about how, at age 10, she became the big sister of baby Steve. Her mother was in a Mankato hospital for a week, as was the usual time-frame for those days (1952) and on Christmas Eve afternoon Dad Olson brought them home. Two other siblings, Howard and Jeanie, completed the family.

As we continued our visiting, Karen thought it would be fun to phone Steve and serenade him with the 'Happy Birthday' song...all the way to Washington state where he was vacationing. He was impressed. Wilda and several others related stories of Christmases they remembered with fondness.

Sherry told us about her life-changing move to Foxdale here in Waseca. She is always ready to share her beliefs and faith in God and does so there and when she attends 'Some Time Away' with other seniors.

Karen read minutes of the November meeting. Our January 2026 meeting will take place on Weds. Jan. 21 at 2:30 p.m. in the Gathering Room at church. Linda will offer devotions and Karen will host.

Mary Jane, Treasurer, gave her report; it was ultimately decided to donate \$25.00 to the Neighborhood Service Ctr Food Shelf.

Memories of Christmases continued our fellowship time.

Karen Ferch, Recording Secretary

**Church Ladies With Typewriters**

They're Back! Those wonderful Church Bulletins! Thank Goodness for the church ladies with typewriters. These sentences actually appeared in church bulletins or were announced at church services:

-----  
The Fasting & Prayer Conference includes meals.  
-----

Scouts are saving aluminum cans, bottles and other items to be recycled Proceeds will be used to cripple children.  
-----

Don't let worry kill you off - let the Church help.  
-----

At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be 'What Is Hell?' Come early and listen to our choir practice.  
-----

Please place your donation in the envelope along with the deceased person you want remembered.  
-----

Pot-luck supper Sunday at 5:00 PM - prayer and medication to follow.  
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The ladies of the Church have cast off clothing of every kind. They may be seen in the basement on Friday afternoon.  
-----

This evening at 7 PM there will be a hymn singing in the park across from the Church. Bring a blanket and come prepared to sin.  
-----

The pastor would appreciate it if the ladies of the Congregation would lend him their electric girdles for the pancake breakfast next Sunday.  
-----

Weight Watchers will meet at 7 PM at the First Presbyterian Church. Please use large double door at the side entrance.  
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*And this one just about sums them all up*

The Associate Minister unveiled the church's new campaign slogan last Sunday: 'I Upped My Pledge - Up Yours.'

# Epiphany

## Word Search

**DIRECTIONS:**  
Find and circle the vocabulary words in the grid. Look for them in all directions including backwards and diagonally.

- BABY
- BALTHAZAR
- BAPTISM
- BETHLEHEM
- CASPAR
- CHRISTIAN
- EPIPHANY
- FEAST
- FIRST MIRACLE
- FRANKINCENSE

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



- GOLD
- HEROD
- HOLIDAY
- HOPE
- JANUARY
- JESUS
- MAGI
- MELCHIOR
- MYRRH
- REVELATION
- SIXTH
- STAR
- SUNDAY
- THREE KINGS
- TWELFTH DAY
- WISE MEN

## **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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**Change Service Requested**

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

**MONTHLY MEET-UPS:**

**Elizabeth Circle**

Elizabeth Circle will meet on **Wednesday, January 21** at **2:30pm** in the Gathering Room. Guests and visitors are always welcome.

**Ruth Circle**

Ruth Circle will meet on **Tuesday, January 13** at **1:30** in the Gathering Room.