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**Special Points of Interest:**

- March Monthly Meetings, Back Page
- March 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 - 12:30 pm



**The Season of Lent**

As we enter the season of Lent, I would like to share a simple reflection to help us understand its meaning. Lent is the traditional season in the church calendar that prepares us for Easter. It is a time to remember the suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The word "Lent" does not appear in the Bible. It comes from an old English word meaning "spring," the time when days grow longer. In many other languages, the word for Lent comes from the Latin word Quadragesima, which means "forty." The number forty is very meaningful in Scripture. I

n the Old Testament, rain fell for forty days and nights during the flood. The Israelites wandered in the wilderness for forty years. Moses fasted for forty days on Mount Sinai. Jonah warned Nineveh that they had forty days to repent. In the New Testament, Jesus fasted for forty days in the wilderness before beginning His public ministry. After His resurrection, He appeared to His disciples for forty days before ascending into heaven. Because of these biblical events, the early church set aside forty days before Easter as a time of prayer, repentance, and fasting. By the fourth century, this became a common Christian practice. Believers wanted to prepare their hearts to remember Christ's sacrifice on the cross and to celebrate His victory over death.

Lent usually begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday, the day before Easter. The final week, called Holy Week, focuses on the last days of Jesus' earthly life and His great love for us.

Lent is a season of spiritual discipline. Many Christians read daily devotionals or commit to special times of prayer. These practices help us examine our hearts, confess our sins, and grow closer to the Lord. Lent reminds us that we need God's grace every day. Lent is not about earning God's love. We already have His love through Jesus Christ. Instead, it is a time to draw near to Him with humble and thankful hearts. May this Lent be a season of renewal for us all as we prepare to celebrate the joy of Easter.

In Christ,  
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:

**Benedictine Owatonna:** Les Wells

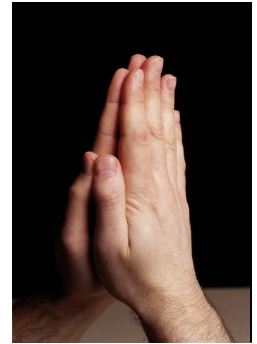
**Colony Court:** Margaret Dahnert

**Foxdale:** Sherry Scholljegerdes

**Lakeshore Inn:** Peggy Deno

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

**Prayer Requests from Sunday Worship:** 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, Roger Walker, Terra LaMont, Shelley King, Gary Born, Dan Klampe, the people of Minneapolis, 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. Please note Stacy will be out of the office March 9 through March 13.

## Pastoral Appointment

Bishop Lanette Plambeck and the cabinet of the Minnesota Annual Conference approved discontinuing Rev. Dong Hun Shin's appointment to Faith UMC: Waseca effective June 30th, 2026. Our Conference Superintendent will use information from our church's profile and past consultations in order to assist the Bishop and Cabinet in making a new pastoral appointment. If necessary, Conference Superintendent Woojae Im may consult further with our SPRC chairperson or committee members.

We appreciate Pastor Dong's service to our church and wish him and his family well.

## Confirmation Sunday

On Sunday, March 29 (Palm Sunday), two students will be confirmed during the worship service. Please join us in celebrating and supporting Kenzie Morrissey and Carson True as they are confirmed and grow in their faith.

## Daylight Savings Time

Daylight savings time begins on Sunday, March 8. Don't forget to *spring ahead* and set your clocks one hour ahead on Saturday night, March 7.

## Faith's Blessing Box Update

We continue to see use of the Blessing Box.

Now that we have consistently freezing temperatures, we are 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.**

## Holy Week

Holy week begins with Palm Sunday on Sunday, March 29. That week we will have Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services on April 2 and April 3. Both of those services will be at 7:00pm.

On Easter Sunday, April 5, we will have sunrise service at 7:30am. Easter breakfast will be served in the fellowship hall following the sunrise service. We will then have our regular Easter celebration worship service at 9:30am.

Please join us. All are welcome!

## A Little Humor

Tomas was a very bright little eight-year old, but his Sunday school teacher could not seem to get him to concentrate on the lessons being taught. He always wound up turning his lesson sheet over and drawing trucks, cars, and planes. During the spring season, when the Easter story was being taught, Tomas really seemed to be paying attention. He even raised his hand and asked how to spell an important name from the story, so his teacher was interested to look at his paper as he left class.

And there on the back of the lesson page was a picture of a jet, with a man waving out the front window. Underneath the plane in Tomas's careful handwriting was a caption that read "Pontius the Pilate."

—Church Chuckles, *Tickling Your Holy Funny Bone*

## Ruth Circle

Ruth circle met Tuesday, February 10th in the Gathering Room.

It was very evident with the treats that Valentine's Day was coming soon. Cherry pie and ice cream topped it off.

We had two guests in attendance so spent some time talking about Ruth Circle and what we do at the meetings and missions we do in the community.

We plan to have a meeting with other women in the church to talk about upcoming events. Please keep an eye on the bulletin and announcements at church as for the date and do plan on attending.

Next circle meeting is scheduled for Tuesday March 10. **Don't forget that March 8th is Daylight savings time.** Linda will be the hostess.

The program at the meeting was on kindness with 'Baby Yoda (Grogu)' helping us out with the theme.

The program was started with the following bible verses:

### **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.

Luke 6:35 Jesus said, "Love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return, and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he is kind to the ungrateful and the evil"

Wanted to do something with Valentine's Day in mind so we talked about love, caring and kindness.

We used Baby Yoda, who is a character in Stars Wars, to get us into the message.

He was given the name, Baby Yoda, mostly for promotional tactics to sell the Yoda toys and dolls.

Baby Yoda sparks happiness through his "cuteness", featuring large eyes and a round face often acting as a stress-relieving, comforting presence. His small, vulnerable nature fosters deep empathy and love.

Baby Yoda represents all that is good in the world. He is a manifestation of the warm sun on your face after a rainstorm, a cup of hot cocoa after a cold trek in the snow, and a hug from a loving grandma after a bad day.

Baby Yoda knows how to treat others. He knows he's powerful with his force and everything, but there's another thing too that's powerful and that's KINDNESS.

Kindness is the quality of being friendly, generous, and considerate, involving actions to help others without expecting rewards, to improve someone's well-being, and includes various things, like simple gestures; a smile, thoughtful acts or maybe just listening.

Baby Yoda wishes that you choose to be kind, to all living beings. It doesn't cost a thing, but it's so rewarding.

*Continued on next page*

**Mark 12:30-31**

30 Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' 31 The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.

There is no commandment greater than these."

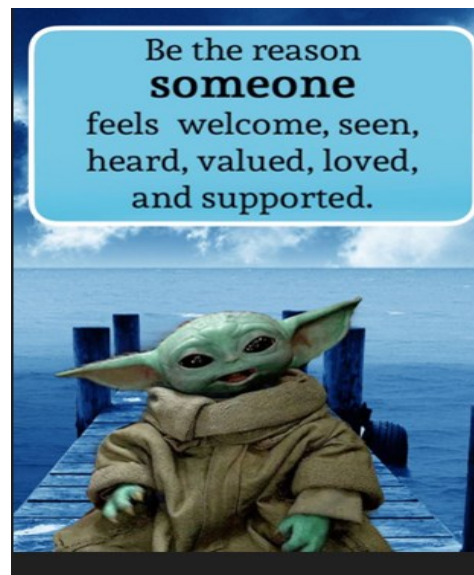
Show kindness by being friendly, generous, and considerate through small, intentional actions like smiling, holding doors, offering help, giving compliments, or as I said, actively listening, which benefits both the receiver and the giver by fostering positive feelings, reducing stress, and creating a ripple effect of goodwill, even extending to strangers or those you may disagree with.

"Be the reason someone smiles. Be the reason someone feels loved and believes in the goodness in people."

Spread love and happiness!

**Prayer**

Father, You are always kind to us, even though we don't always deserve it, and we want to treat everyone —friends and strangers alike- with dignity and respect, the way You treat us. Grant us the grace and strength to display all the fruit of the Holy Spirit. Guide our actions to be rooted in love, kindness, and compassion. Thank You. In Jesus' name, Amen



Elizabeth Circle Notes  
Weds. February 18, 2026  
2:30 pm

Present (5) : Sandy, Shelley, Linda, Karen, and guest Janet.

We Minnesotans sometimes brag about our tolerance—indeed, love for—winter weather. I've lived here in this state all of my eighty-three years and likely will continue to do so till the Lord calls me to His Home, which I know will be sunny and warm. At any rate, this particular afternoon the warm and welcoming Gathering Room at Faith provided the perfect setting for our February meeting. Sandy treated us to a variety of muffins and hot coffee...topped off with a generous assortment of chocolates (Valentines Day can be stretched out for more than one day, can't it?)

Meeting-wise, there really wasn't any business to discuss...Wednesday March 18 (2:30 p m) we will meet again in the Gathering Room...Karen will bring coffee and Sandy volunteered to serve treats. We will all hear about our Easter memories as we share recollections of how we celebrated that sacred day.

Karen shared a story based on a newspaper article in a recent Mankato Free Press. It involved a woman who was looking to sell her house in west Mankato...that house was '**my church**', Karen said, and told of her family's move to Mankato back in the 1950s. Located near Roosevelt Elementary School, with Mankato (West) High School just down the hill near the Pleasant St. Slough, the First Church of God had, through four decades, been refurbished to become the home of the woman in the story. It was time for the woman to sell her much-loved home...hence the feature story in the paper.

In 1952 our family moved to a house on Carney Avenue in West Mankato..."I was in 5th grade then, attending Lincoln School for what would be three years...A fellow railroader, like my dad, a Mr. Johnson, asked if our family had found a church yet (not sure Dad had looked all that hard, but anyway...) Mr. J. Offered to come to our house on Sunday to collect us three kids and take us to his church, the Westside Church of God. That was the beginning of a deeper walk with the Lord and a whole new dimension of what it meant to be a Christian. It was not only Sunday School and worship, but Youth Fellowship, monthly multi-church evening Singsperations, new friends, singing in a girls' quartet, and more. I loved the way the adults addressed each other as 'Brother-this' and 'Sister-that'. I am grateful that 'Brother' Johnson cared enough to see that new kids in town were introduced to his church family, and the Church of God...and doubly grateful that Dad said yes.

Karen Ferch  
Recording Sec.

## **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  
Karen Ferch  
Mary Jane Stauffer  
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"*

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

Phone: 507-835-3167

Fax: 507-835-5400

E-mail: [faithwaseca@gmail.com](mailto:faithwaseca@gmail.com)

[www.faithwasecaumc.com](http://www.faithwasecaumc.com)

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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, March 18 at 2:30pm** in the Gathering Room. Guests and visitors are always welcome.

**Ruth Circle**

Ruth Circle will meet on **Tuesday, March 10 at 1:00** in the Gathering Room. Guests and visitors are welcome