Faith Messenger

APRIL

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

Volume 2026
Issue 4

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Special Points of Interest:

- April Monthly Meetings, Back Page
- April 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

Easter Letter

As we celebrate this Easter season, I want to share a simple but important truth: in life, learning to let go—what we call emptiness—is not the end. It is the beginning of something new.

Jesus' life shows us the way of emptiness. From His birth, through His ministry, and even to His death on the cross, He lived a life of giving and self-emptying. He made space for others and for God's will in every moment of His life.

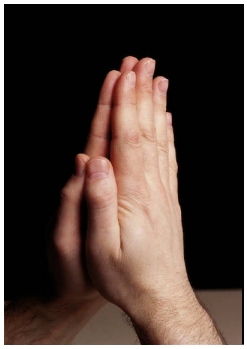
We can practice emptiness in our daily lives as well. One way is to see life as a journey. When we treat life as a journey, we can release what we do not need and make room for what truly matters. Another way is through sharing. Giving to others and making space in our hearts for their needs brings a gentle emptiness that is full of love. Emptiness also comes through prayer, as we open our hearts to God and invite Him to guide and fill us. But remember, emptiness is not the end. When we empty ourselves, God fills us with newness. New joys, new peace, and new hope. As we experience these blessings, we can feel the joy of life in three simple ways: pleasure, joy, and bliss.

This Easter, let us follow Jesus' example. Let us empty ourselves of what weighs us down, and make room for God's love to bring new life into our hearts. May your hearts be filled with peace, joy, and hope this season and always.

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:

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, 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, Doug Dahnert, the Wells family, the Ukraine, the Middle East, health care workers, first responders, those who battle cancer, chronic illness and

Administrative Assistant Hours

Stacy's hours are typically Monday, Wednesday and Thursday 9:30 am to 12:30 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 on Monday, April 6.

Spring Luncheon

It's going to be a Great Day in the neighborhood on Wednesday, April 8th when the Faith United Methodist Church hosts a Spring Luncheon. The luncheon will be served from 11:00-1:00. There will be a free will offering with the money going to the church budget.

There is a signup sheet at church, please take a look and see if there is any way you may help out. There are supplies needed, funds to help with the cost of some of the items and help needed to put the luncheon on.

There will be a delicious meal consisting of Sloppy Joes, Egg Salad Sandwiches, Macaroni/ Pea Salad, Chips, Pickles, Assorted Cakes and Coffee. It's always good to hear the comments about how great the sandwiches and salad are and of course everyone really enjoys the big selection of cakes.

This could be a great opportunity to invite your family and friends to lunch.

Again, the plan is to make this the BIGGEST AND BEST SPRING LUNCHEON!

Spring Cleanup

We are planning to have a cleanup day of the church gardens and grounds on Saturday, April 25 at 9:00am. In case of inclement weather, we will do the cleanup on May 2. We will need a lot of volunteers so please plan to attend if you are able.

Faith's Blessing Box Update

We continue to see use of the Blessing Box.

Now that we have spring temperatures, we are beginning to put canned goods in the box. We would welcome food donations of canned or pouched meats, soup, canned fruits and vegetables, rice, instant mashed potatoes, ramen noodles, cereal, oatmeal, pancake mix and syrup.

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

During Holy 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 with holy communion at 9:30am.

Please join us. All are welcome!

Women of Faith

Women of the church met on Monday, March 9th. A big thank you to the women that helped with the discussion of the happenings that are planned for the year at Faith. Many happenings are being planned this year at Faith and who will be responsible for them.

Many events are on the agenda for the year but the majority of the discussion was about the spring luncheon.

Financial Update Meeting

We are planning to have a financial update meeting during fellowship a week or two after Easter, once we have all of our first quarter financial reports available. Please watch Sunday bulletin announcements for the meeting date. A One Call will also be placed when we decide on a date.

As a reminder, church financial statements are available in the church office for review by any church member.

Ruth Circle

Ruth circle met Tuesday, March 10th. Linda G. was the hostess and had doughnuts/bismarks and some tasty little treats. She had the table decorated with green tinted flowers and items that made you think about St. Patrick's Day.

The business meeting was very busy with discussing some of our upcoming mission activities and in reviewing the information from the Women of Faith meeting.

The program was on 'Pennies'.

The women were asked if, when they see a penny on the ground, do they pick it up? One of the women said when she picks up a penny she gives it to the first person she sees and tells them she picked up the lucky coin for them.

Roberta's sons use to shake their heads when she picked up coins she found on the ground. Now, it's sort of a joke. When they know she's going to stop at their home, they throw a few coins on the steps or on the sidewalk to their house.

It was thought that 'pennies' would be a good short program for Ruth circle.

Little bit of information on the penny. One cent coin is the official name for a penny. It takes 3.69 cents to produce and distribute each penny. It was decided last year to stop minting the penny.

Story:

A husband and wife were invited to spend the weekend at the husband's employer's home. The wife was nervous about the weekend. The boss was very wealthy, with a fine home, and cars costing more than her house.

The husband's employer was quite generous as a host, and took them to the finest restaurants. The wife knew she would never have the opportunity to indulge in this kind of extravagance again, so was enjoying herself immensely.

As the three of them were about to enter an exclusive restaurant that evening, the boss was walking slightly ahead of her and her husband. He stopped suddenly, looking down on the pavement for a long, silent moment.

The wife wondered if she was supposed to pass him. There was nothing on the ground except a single darkened penny that someone had dropped, and a few cigarette butts. The man reached down and picked up the penny.

He held it up and smiled, then put it in his pocket as if he had found a great treasure. How absurd! What need did this man have for a single penny? Why would he even take the time to stop and pick it up?

Throughout dinner, the entire scene nagged at her. Finally, she could stand it no longer. She casually mentioned that her daughter once had a coin collection, and asked if the penny he had found had been of some value.

A smile crept across the man's face as he reached into his pocket for the penny and held it out for her to see. She had seen many pennies before! What was the point of this?

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"Look at it." He said. "Read what it says." She read the words " United States of America " "No, not that; read further." "One cent?" "No, keep reading." "In God we Trust?" "Yes!" "And?" "And if I trust in God, the name of God is holy, even on a coin. Whenever I find a coin I see that inscription. It is written on every single United States coin, but we never seem to notice it! God drops a message right in front of me telling me to trust Him? Who am I to pass it by? When I see a coin, I pray, I stop to see if my trust IS in God at that moment. I pick the coin up as a response to God; that I do trust in Him. For a short time, at least, I cherish it as if it were gold. I think it is God's way of starting a conversation with me. Lucky for me, God is patient and pennies are plentiful!

This man knew the power of simple, daily Christian object lessons!

Next time you see a penny on the ground, pick it up. Let the penny remind you, like the man in the story and thank God for all His blessing and also to make sure we trust Him in our lives at that very moment.

Whether things are going good or bad, we should always turn our thoughts back to God and trust Him.

Ruth circle will have their April meeting on Tuesday, April 14th at 1:00 in the Gathering room. Anna will be the hostess. The program will be 'Pillsbury Doughboy'.

Easter Bonnets

'In your Easter bonnet
with all the frills upon it,
You'll be the grandest lady
in the Easter parade'.

If you ladies have a hat to wear, here's your opportunity. It's that time of the year that I think either a winter or summer hat would work. So get out your spring or summer hat and think about wearing a hat to church on April 5th for Easter.

Women in New York and some other big cities flaunt their new hats each year at Easter parades.

Elizabeth Circle Meeting
March 18, 2026. 2:30 p m

Six women were present for the meeting in the Gathering Room. Sandy and Karen provided treats and coffee…a springlike table decoration and place settings made us forget the major blizzard of the previous weekend.

In lieu of a lesson, we had been encouraged to share memories of Easter we'd experienced over the years.. Rabbits. Several of the women remembered the fun they had as children with pet rabbits. Rabbit hutches, cardboard boxes, baskets could have served as homes for these pets… One woman even had an Angora rabbit. Easter Sunday morning bore a striking resemblance to Christmas morning…Easter baskets filled with treats and Easter eggs were just as cherished as gifts under the Christmas tree. One woman said that she and her siblings made 'nests' out of folded-up shirts and placed them on the stair steps.

One of the women told about her favorite Easter memory which took place on the day before that holiday. Saturday April 1st, 1961, Karen married her handsome best beau, Vern, in the St. Clair church. Naturally the altar area was bedecked with beautiful Easter lilies; the photographer was taking all the pictures and when the wedding album was finished, it looked for all the world like the groom had a lily growing out of his head.

Sandy brought back home to us the true meaning of Easter when she read several beautiful pieces from a vintage Ideals magazine. The true story of our Lord Jesus, Who suffered and died a brutal death…and then arose to prove for all time that He is alive and always among us to the end of the age…That is Easter. On Easter Sunday morning, Christians the world over will declare, "He lives! Christ is Risen…He is Risen indeed! Hallelujah! Amen.

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"

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56093

Come Worship with Us

We have room.

MONTHLY MEET-UPS:

Elizabeth Circle

Elizabeth Circle will meet on **Wednesday, April 15** at **2:30pm** in the Gathering Room. Guests and visitors are always welcome.

Ruth Circle

Ruth Circle will meet on **Tuesday, April 14** at **1:00** in the Gathering Room. Guests and visitors are welcome