Faith Messenger

MAY

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

Volume 2026
Issue 5

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Special Points of Interest:

- May Monthly Meetings, Back Page
- May 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

Gratitude and New Beginnings

There's a saying that "graduation is not the end, but a new beginning."

On May 9th, I graduated with a Doctor of Ministry degree from the Candler School of Theology at Emory University. This moment is the result of a journey that has taken three years filled with hard work, growth, challenges, and triumphs.

I could not have reached this moment without the support of my family, for whom I am forever grateful. Their encouragement, love, and belief carried me through the tough times. I also want to express my deepest thanks to the members of the two churches who allowed me to continue my ministry while I pursued my studies. This journey has allowed me to deeply connect my academic learning with the real-life ministry field, and I have been blessed with opportunities to research and apply what I have learned in meaningful ways. It has been a blessing to see how God used my studies to make a real impact in the lives of those I serve. I give thanks to God for His constant guidance and for the strength He gave me to complete this work.

As I look back, I am reminded of the words: Graduation is not the end, but a new beginning. This milestone is a moment of closure, but also a time of new possibilities. I trust that God, who has led me thus far, will continue to guide me into the next chapter of my ministry and life.

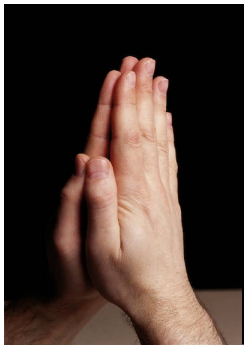
I am encouraged by the words from Philippians 1:6: "Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus." This verse reminds me that God is not finished with us yet. His work in us is ongoing, and we step into the future with confidence, knowing He is with me every step of the way.

I am filled with gratitude and excitement for what's to come. This journey may be ending, but another, even more meaningful journey is beginning. May we all continue to grow, learn, and serve with God's guidance and love.

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:

Whispering Creek, Janesville: 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, Ed Herbig, Roger Walker, Terra LaMont, Shelley King, Gary Born, Doug Dahnert, Janet Welch, 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 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.

Thank You

Thank you to all church members for all you have done for the salad luncheon April 8th. We appreciated the labor and donations that helped make it a success, we couldn't do without each and every one of you!!!!

Mother's Day

On Sunday, May 10th in celebration of Mother's Day, please bring a photo to share of your mother, grandmother, yourself, or a person you considered a mentor. The photos will be displayed in the Fellowship Hall during fellowship to honor your loved one and for others to enjoy! (Please identify your photos and take them with you after fellowship). Thank you!

Pastor Dong's Schedule

Please note that Pastor Dong will be attending commencement ceremonies at Emory University in Atlanta for his Doctorate of Ministry May 8 to 10. Rev. Jon Schultz will be filling in on May 10. Pastor Dong will be on vacation with his family in South Korea May 18 through June 5. Rev. Jon Schultz will be filling in on May 31. We will also have a guest pastor filling in on May 24.

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.

Graduation Sunday

On Sunday, May 24 we will celebrate the graduation of Alyssa Kilmer during fellowship time. Please join us to share this joy with Alyssa and her family.

Congratulations to Kenzie Morrissey and Carson True who were confirmed on Sunday, March 29. May God continue to bless them as they grow in their faith.

Ruth Circle

Ruth circle met Tuesday, April 14th. We met in the Gathering Room and enjoyed a delicious dessert made by Anna.

We discussed the Salad Luncheon that was held Wednesday, April 8th. Putting on the luncheon is a lot of work but it is great working together to put on a great lunch.

Someone mentioned how great it was to see our parking lot full. It is also nice to see all the people that attend the luncheon and seeing them enjoying themselves visiting with each other.

Sure do thank the many people who helped out with donating items or funds to help purchase supplies and the workers that helped on with the luncheon.

Some events that the women are planning for Faith church were discussed. There will be information on these events as they are scheduled.

The next Ruth circle meeting will be Tuesday, May 12th. Nancy will be the hostess.

The program will be Mother's Day. The ladies are asked to bring a picture of their mothers or of some women who had a great impact on their lives.

PILLSBURY DOUGHBOY was the program for the April meeting.

Pillsbury doughboy whose official name is 'Poppin Fresh' was created in 1965 as a advertising character for Pillsbury refrigerated dough products.

Devotion

Lord, we know we are a work in progress. When we feel stiff, cold, or unformed, help us to submit to your shaping hands. Knead us and mold us into who you want us to be. We need the Holy Spirit inside us so we can rise above our circumstances.

John 6:35, where Jesus declares, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst"

Matthew 6:11 'Give us this day our daily bread'.

The Bible and Pillsbury Doughboy. The connection between the Bible and the Pillsbury Doughboy typically involves lighthearted comparisons, creative analogies, or coincidental trivia rather than any official religious link. However, we are going to use Poppin Fresh to help us with our presentation today.

Look at the Pillsbury Doughboy. He is soft, pliable, and intentionally shaped. In his early commercials, he often pops out of a cold, tight canister, looking completely different than he does after he has gone through the fire of the oven.

Continued on next page

Sometimes we feel like that cold dough—stiff, unformed, or pressured by the constraints of life. We might feel messy or incomplete. However, God is the master baker. He takes us in our raw state, "kneads" us (often through trials and challenges), and shapes us into something useful and comforting to others.

The secret to the doughboy's success isn't his own strength; it is the yeast inside him, which represents the Holy Spirit, allowing him to rise. When we feel overwhelmed or unformed, we must trust that God is working on us, preparing us to "rise" to the occasion, even if we have to pass through the heat of difficult times to get there.

Think about the Pillsbury Doughboy. He is known for two things: his giggle when poked and his ability to rise into something light, fluffy, and delicious. But before that happens, the dough has to go through a process. It is mixed, kneaded, and then—most importantly—it is put under heat.

In our lives, we often feel like we are being "poked" by trials or "kneaded" by difficult circumstances. It can feel uncomfortable and even overwhelming. However, just as the yeast inside the dough is activated to make it rise, the Holy Spirit works within us to produce growth during these "heated" moments.

The Doughboy reminds us that:

What's on the inside (the "yeast" or the Holy Spirit) determines how we react to outside pressure.

You don't become a finished product overnight. As I mentioned before God is the master baker, patiently working the dough of our lives until we are "perfect and complete".

Even when life pokes at us, we can maintain a spirit of joy and "giggle" (find peace), knowing that God is in control of the outcome.

I read a bible study that used the Pillsbury Doughboy linking his properties to the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

When talking about the death and burial, the doughboy hypothetically is 'killed' when buried in the oven.

As for the resurrection, the dough will rise much like Christ did on Easter, symbolizing new life and overcoming death.

The baked dough literally becomes bread, which can be connected to the Christian sacrament of communion and the belief in the body of Christ.

The process of being shaped and molded (like dough) can represent how God works in our lives to transform us into His image.

While unrelated, both evoke themes of bread—a central biblical symbol of sustenance and life.

Bread in the Bible symbolizes the Word of God, sustenance, and the Body of Christ (e.g., Manna, Last Supper).

While one is a religious text, they both intersect through the common cultural imagery of "fresh-baked" comfort.

Closing Prayer

Lord, thank you for being the Master Baker of our lives. Even when we feel the heat or the pressure of being kneaded, help us to trust that You are making something beautiful out of us. Let Your Spirit work within us so that we may rise to meet every challenge with Your joy. Even when we feel pressed and poked by life, help me to remember that we are being kneaded by Your hand. May we become a "sweet" reflection of You to those around us. *Amen.*

Notes from Elizabeth Circle Meeting
Weds. April 15, 2026

Present: Sandy, Mary Jane, Linda, Shelly, Karen

We met at 2:30 p m in the Fellowship Room at church, with Mary Jane as our hostess. Pie [2 varieties!] and coffee and conversation were enjoyed; it should be noted that this brings us together as Christian sisters…the Fellowship room is just as the name implies. The wonderful crowd of folks who came to enjoy our recent Sandwich Luncheon bore that out with countless compliments on the meal as well as the welcoming, warm atmosphere.

Linda read and spoke about the wonders of Easter…several Scripture passages (including 1st Peter 1:20-25) provided a basis for discussion …'The risen Jesus—what is required of us as Christians?' First of all, love one another…live a life that exemplified His life.

We did revisit the topic of the Sandwich Luncheon: is it time to set a specific charge for this occasion in the future. This is a question that will be discussed in the future, bearing in mind that it is a fund-raiser for our church. It was noted that the majority of local churches do set a charge for their community events. Our church council will be asked to weigh In on this issue.

Elizabeth Circle will not meet in May; however there is a tentative plan to host another women's coffee-hour on a Saturday morning in the near future. Stay tuned.

May the good Lord bless and keep you till we meet again.

Recording Secretary, K. Ferch

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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Waseca, MN
56093

Change Service Requested

Come Worship with Us

We have room.

MONTHLY MEET-UPS:

Elizabeth Circle

Elizabeth Circle will **not** meet in May.

Ruth Circle

Ruth Circle will meet on **Tuesday, May 12** at **1:00** in the Gathering Room. Guests and visitors are welcome