Faith Messenger

AUGUST

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

Volume 2026
Issue 8

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Special Points of Interest:

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

Administrative Assistant

Office Hours:

Monday, Wednesday & Thursday:

9:30 am - 12:30 pm

Greetings From Pastor Elden

I am happy to introduce myself as the new ¼ time pastor at Faith. I retired in 2025 from Peace UMC in Morristown after 23 years. I had also served at Prairieville UMC (Between Faribo and Kenyon) and also Evangelical UMC in Waseca. While going to seminary in CO, I also served a church there. But after a short spell, I decided I wasn't ready to retire and did some "subbing" at various churches until the call came if I would like to serve in Waseca. I was an elementary school teacher in Faribault and actually did preaching and teaching at the same time.

I do live in Morristown. I will usually be in Waseca on Wednesday mornings but am available if needed. My first visits will be to those in care centers or home bound. If you would like me to make a home visit, just let me know and we can set up a time.

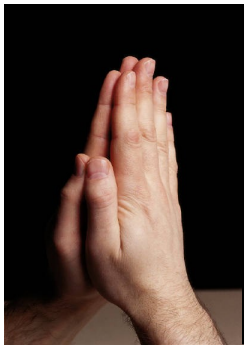
There is always a period of adjustments with a new pastor.. My ways will not be the same as your previous pastor. I do think as Christians we should be the happiest people, smile the most, and enjoying life. Thus, you will find me starting each service, if I remember, with a joke.

I have had to say good-bye to many friend and family who have made their way to their heavenly home. It is a reminder that we need to let our friends and family know of our love and thankfulness for them. This should not be a text or e mail but a phone call, a visit, or a hand written letter. You will hear me repeat this often.

So I invite you to come to the church service on Sunday, give me a call, or I am always available for a cup of coffee and cookie. Let's have an enjoyable year in spreading the word of God.

Pastor Elden

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, Ed Herbig

Prayer Requests from Sunday Worship: Kathy Dahnert Johnson, Gail Sauer, Margaret Dahnert, Anna Born, Sherry Scholljegerdes, Darla Dahnert, Lona Williamson, Roger Walker, Doug Dahnert, Bob Stephan, Jamie Gilchrist, 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. Hours may vary during the summer. It is best to call ahead if you need to visit the office. Hours for the week are posted in the Sunday bulletins. Please note that Stacy will be out of the office August 24 through 28.

Faith at the Fair

Our Faith at the Fair service on Sunday, July 12 was well attended. We were blessed to have Mike and Tammi Ferch lead us in song bringing us back to our vacation bible school days. Pastor Elden shared an uplifting message about working together and needing each other as partners. A good time was had by all. Looking forward to next year!

Thank You

A big THANK YOU to all who helped clean up around the parsonage yard on Saturday, July 11. Your help on that very warm morning was much appreciated! The parsonage yard looks so much better thanks to your hard work.

Financial Update

On Sunday, August 16, Jarod will give a second quarter financial update during fellowship. Please plan to attend so you can stay informed and have the opportunity to ask questions.

Faith's Blessing Box Update

We continue to see use of the Blessing Box.

We would welcome food donations of canned or pouched meats, soup, canned fruits and vegetables, rice, instant mashed potatoes, ramen noodles, peanut butter, 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.

A Little Humor

God looks out at the Pearly Gates and says, "Welcome to heaven. I want the women to go with St. Peter and the men to form two lines here. All men who think they were in charge of their relationship on earth stand here, and the men who believe their wife was in charge, stand here."

There's much movement, but eventually the women are gone and there are two lines left. The line of the men who were not in charge is miles long. In the other line stands just one man.

God turns to this man and says, "You're the only one in this line. How did you manage this?"

The man shrugs and says "I don't know; my wife told me to stand here."

Taken from "Rolling in the Church Aisles"

One Minute Devotion

On the Lookout; 2 Chronicles 16:9

Many of us thought our parents had eyes in the back of their heads. They didn't, but they knew what they were up to. 2 Chronicles 16:9 tells us God is searching for hearts committed to Him. When He finds them, He promises to give us strength.

Taken from "100 Minutes with God, 1 Minute Daily Devotions of Timeless Inspiration" by Susan Grand.

Ruth Circle

The Too Much Chocolate cake was tasty but the vanilla ice cream just made it better.

Faith at the fair appeared to be enjoyed by the 50 or so people that were in attendance.

Vada's 90th birthday party was well attended at the church after the service at the fair. Anna was wished Happy Birthday as her birthday is on the 15th.

Ruth circle will be visiting Margaret Dahnert on August 11th, the date of our August meeting,

Due to the absence of some of Ruth circle members we did not have a full agenda.

Nancy will have some information to share with us about a possible program for the Fall women's gathering soon.

We will be scheduling a meeting regarding the Fall Bazaar soon.

Program was presented by Roberta and her seven-year old granddaughter, Sophia.

'Mickey Mouse'

Devotion; Mickey Mouse, with his cheerful disposition, is more than just a cartoon; he is a symbol of joy, wonder, and imagination. He reminds us that life's journey is always better when approached with a little bit of magic, a joyful heart, and a faithful spirit.

Introduction: Mickey Mouse is probably a theme that would be used more in teaching children but thought it would be a fun one since my granddaughter, Sophia, was in attendance at the meeting with her mother, Vaneide O'Brien.

Continued on next page

The story of Mickey himself is incredible. No other person or character has been close to maintaining their popularity for so long, and that's just 100 years. Jesus' popularity has lasted over 2000 years.

Sophia's reading:

In the 1930s Mickey Mouse had a cartoon and it showed Mickey kneeling by his bed, folding his hands, and saying his evening prayers.

It was great for kids like me to have these characters teaching us about faith, trust and taking time to pray.

In Mickey Mouse Clubhouse, when the gang faced a problem, Mickey never solved problems alone. He relied on Donald, Goofy, Minnie, Daisy and Pluto, with each character bringing their unique skills.

Grandma told me about things Ruth circle does for people in the community.

She also told me that the Holy Spirit develops positive feelings in the lives of people who believe in God. So when there is a problem or disagreement with someone, we should solve the problem with patience and problem-solving. We should show love, joy, peace, patience, faithfulness and gentleness.

Just as Mickey and his friends work together as a team, every member of a church and those in Ruth Circle have unique gifts and can do good things for others.

In the Bible in First Samuel 16 there is a story about the youngest shepherd boy, David, being chosen to be king. God often uses small, humble, and unexpected things to accomplish extraordinary things like for instance using Mickey to show him praying to God.

Sophia also shared some of her prayers that she says in Portuguese.

Prayer:

Dear God, thank You for bringing us together today. Just like Mickey Mouse and his friends, help us to be cheerful, loyal, and supportive companions to one another.

Thank You for the gift of imagination, joy, and childhood wonder. Just as the classic 1932 cartoon *Mickey's Nightmare* reminded generations to say their bedtime prayers, please help us keep our hearts as hopeful and playful as Mickey. Watch over us, our loved ones, and our best pals. Amen

The Old Rugged Cross

1913

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. John 3:16

George Beverly Shea recalls seeing George Bennard, author of this hymn, many times at Winona Lake Bible Conference in Indiana. "Though a preacher—a good one—he would sometimes sing," wrote Mr. Shea. "His voice was not trained or out of the ordinary, but he had great feeling and expression and could really put over any hymn. I remember how moved I was the first time I heard him sing his own 'The Old Rugged Cross . . . .' What a distinguished looking man—slight of build, short, with glasses, the most memorable thing about him was his long, white hair."

George Bennard was born in Youngstown, Ohio, shortly after the end of the Civil War. His father, a coal miner, moved the family to Iowa, and there George came to Christ through the ministry of the Salvation Army. He felt impressed to train for the ministry, but his plans were disrupted when his father's death left him responsible for his mother and sisters. He was sixteen years old. Instead of theological school, he worked by day and devoted his spare time to books.

Eventually George's obligations lessened, and he was able to move to Chicago, marry, and begin in ministry with the Salvation Army. Later he was ordained by the Methodist Episcopal church and became a traveling evangelist.

On one occasion, after a difficult season of ministry, George realized he needed to better understand the power of the Cross of Christ. He later said, "I was praying for a full understanding of the Cross . . . I read and studied and prayed . . . The Christ of the Cross became more than a symbol . . . It was like seeing John 3:16 leave the printed page, take form, and act out the meaning of redemption. While watching this scene with my mind's eye, the theme of the song came to me."

It took several months for the words to formulate in his mind. As he preached through the Midwest, George would carry the words with him, working on them, polishing them, and sometimes singing them in his meetings. It always struck a chord with his audiences.

At last, his hymn finished, George went to the home of his friends, Rev. and Mrs. L. O. Boswick, and sang it for them. After the last note, he looked at them and asked, "Will it do?"

The Boswicks were so moved that they helped pay the fees to have it printed, and it soon began appearing in hymnbooks across America.

"Then Sings My Soul", by Robert J. Morgan

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:

Elden Eklund, 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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Come Worship with Us

We have room.

MONTHLY MEET-UPS:

Elizabeth Circle

Elizabeth Circle will meet on **Wednesday, August 19 at 2:30pm** in the Gathering Room. Guests and visitors are always welcome.

Ruth Circle

Ruth Circle will meet on **Tuesday, August 11** at **1:00pm.** We will be going to visit Margaret Dahnert.