Faith Messenger

JULY

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

Volume 2026
Issue 7

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Special Points of Interest:

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

Administrative Assistant

Office Hours:

Monday, Wednesday & Thursday:

9:30 am - 12:30 pm

From the Pastor's Desk

As I have prepared to leave this church, my heart is full of gratitude. Thank you for your love, prayers, and support during the time we have shared together. Serving as your pastor has been a great blessing in my life.

Change is not always easy. When a pastor leaves and a new pastor comes, there may be questions and concerns. But we must remember that the church belongs to God. Pastors come and go, but God remains the same. The Bible says: "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever." (Hebrews 13:8)

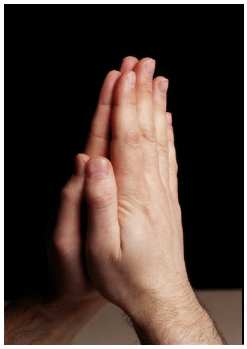
The same God who has guided our church in the past will continue to guide it in the future. He has good plans for this congregation and for each one of you. As you welcome your new pastor, I encourage you to pray for your new pastor and work together with your new pastor. God often does wonderful things when His people are united in faith and love.

Remember the words of God: "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." (Jeremiah 29:11) The future of this church is in God's hands. Therefore, do not be afraid. Trust the Lord. Continue to worship faithfully, serve joyfully, and love one another deeply. I believe God has many blessings ahead for this church. May this new season bring fresh vision, renewed faith, and greater opportunities to share the love of Christ with others. Although I may be leaving, I will always thank God for you and remember you in my prayers. May the peace of God be with you. May God bless your new pastor and bless this church for many years to come.

With love and prayers,

Pastor Dong Shin

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, DJ Choi, Karen Ferch, Lona Williamson, Jon Schultz, Roger Walker, Gary Born, 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 July 21 through 28.

Faith at the Fair

The final day of the Waseca County Fair each summer gives our Faith U.M. Church a wonderful opportunity to minister...in song, Scripture, and the message of our Savior Jesus. This year is no exception. We will welcome the (Mike and Tammi) Ferch Family Singers to the Free Stage—and we will all sing, sing, sing! Let's pray for good 'fair' weather' during the entire run of this annual event and mark your calendars for the Sunday morning outdoor worship—July 12 at 10:00am at the Free Stage.

-Karen Ferch

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, 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.

Parsonage Yard Cleanup

On Saturday, July 11 at 8:30am, we are planning to clean up the shrubbery and perrenials around the foundation of the parsonage. We need volunteers to help so please come if you are able. Many hands make light work!

Fall Bazaar

Is it too early to talk about the November event, the FALL BAZAAR? Nah, I don't think so.

The bazaar will be held Saturday, November 7th. Just want people to be thinking about it, mark it on your calendar.

Maybe if you have some items you want to get rid of, you can save them for the garage sale, maybe you can think of things you can make for the craft or bake sale. I know that there will be some rhubarb, strawberry jelly at the sale.

Pastor Appointment

Bishop Lanette Plambeck intends to appoint Pastor Elden Eklund to Faith UMC Waseca. The SPRC of Faith UMC and Pastor Elden affirm this decision. The new appointment begins July 1, 2026. We ask you to keep Pastor Elden Eklund in your prayer during this pastoral transition.

Ruth Circle

Ruth circle met June 9, 2026

Vada had strawberry shortcake for a treat and Linda had delightful table decorations.

The ladies discussed past Faith events and talked about upcoming events like Pastor Dong's farewell event which will be celebrated with a potluck.

Other upcoming events are 'Faith at the Fair' which is July 12th and the Fall Bazaar scheduled for November 7th.

Next circle meeting: July 14th at 1:00.

The program was: PULLING WEEDS

Devotion: Matthew 13:24-30 is the Parable of the Weeds. It compares the kingdom of heaven to a man who sowed good seed in his field, only to have an enemy secretly sow weeds among the wheat. The master instructs his servants to let both grow together until the harvest, when the weeds will be burned and the wheat gathered.

This brief study explores the biblical metaphor of weeds—representing sin, distraction, and false teachings. The key points are: Good and evil often grow side by side.

The master tells his servants not to pull the weeds prematurely, because the roots are intertwined and you might damage the good wheat.

God is the ultimate judge. He alone will perfectly separate the good from the bad at the end of the age.

In the time we spend on our bible studies at Ruth circle; it is difficult to get too in-depth with the lessons so I generally give you an overview but sure do encourage you to look deeper.

My presentation this morning is 'PULLING WEEDS. I know, not exactly the most uplifting of subjects. Yet, the time has come, once again, for me to remove them from my garden and plants.

I enjoy gardening; the vegetables and the flowers. Weeding, not so much. However, weeding is an essential part of gardening. Weeds grow right next to our vegetables and flowers, and if left alone, will eventually cause problems. Weeds hinder the growth of what is good in a garden. If I don't pull them, we will not have a fruitful garden or a nice looking one.

So I've been busy pulling weeds lately. The joys of being a homeowner, right? As I hunched over sitting on my stool, pulling weed after weed, I was trying to think when my yard went from lush, green grass, to a lawn overrun with weeds of all shapes and sizes.

Continued on next page

I wished I would have kept track of the number of five-gallon buckets I filled with weeds. Well, maybe not. . .

While I was sitting on my stool pulling weeds I thought about what my presentation at Ruth circle should be. 'Pulling weeds' came to mind. Had lots of time to think about it.

Oh, how close weeding relates to the gardening of our Father. He identifies the weeds that have taken root and chokes them out.

Jesus said that the seeds of truth He plants in our hearts get crowded out by worries, as well as by our desire for wealth or our desire for more stuff.

Most significantly, the parable we read reveals God's wisdom and mercy for us today too. Our enemy, the devil, has been and is actively sowing weeds among the good seeds in God's garden.

Things can distract our relationship with Jesus. Weeds can be worries and daily pressures. They can be the deceitfulness of wealth and chasing what never satisfies. They can be pleasures and desires that slowly take priority over God's will for our life.

Our attitudes of pride, forgiveness, judgments, or resentment can stunt our spiritual growth and cause our relationship with God to weaken. Until we acknowledge our sin, confess, repent and renounce our sin, it can grow in harmful ways.

God taught us to be on the alert and not let sin gain a foothold in our lives. When we listen, He teaches us – even while we are pulling weeds.

When we ignore the little sins, just like the little weeds, they grow bigger and become harder to get rid of.

We need to ask God to reveal the "weeds" (sins, toxic habits, or paralyzing worries) in our lives, we need to focus on planting good seeds (love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control), and we need to trust God to help us.

Here is a challenge for us this week. Release at least one weed. We need to ask ourselves, what needs to go so Jesus can be first again? What grows in our lives is what you make room for, and you can make room for more of Him.

What areas of your spiritual life need some "weeding"? How can you surrender to God and walk with Him?

On our own, we cannot erase our sins. We need Jesus.

Prayer: Lord, thank You for being the ultimate Gardener. Forgive us for allowing weeds like worry, pride, or bitterness to take root in our heart. Give us the courage to look deep into our soul and identify what is keeping us from growing closer to You. Help us to weed out the distractions and surrender to Your peace. Amen

Notes from Elizabeth Circle Meeting
Weds. June 17, 2026 2:30 p m
Present (5): Mardell, Sandy, Mary Jane, Linda,& Karen

The downpour did not interfere with our afternoon meeting...we were glad to be in the Gathering Room at Faith Church where we enjoyed coffee and muffins furnished by our hostess, Sandy Voshell. It is always a good thing to get together and catch up on life in general.

The upcoming farewell potluck lunch, which will be held this next Sunday (June 21—Fathers Day), was discussed and details clarified. The two Circles, Ruth and Elizabeth, will furnish the cake; our Pastor Dong will be honored and thanked for his service to Faith Church in recent years. We will miss his gentle persona and Sunday sermons.

Mary Jane led devotions, reading from a book written by Bruce's cousin, Paul Grubbs: 'Collection of Thoughts on the Lord's Supper'.

It was decided to wait until August to have our next meeting—on the 20th, in the Gathering Room. Karen will host and Linda will provide devotions.

The possibility of again hosting a Fall Bazaar here at Faith was discussed, with several ideas to consider, one of which was to replace a luncheon with a coffee-and-muffin or coffeecake breakfast available for shoppers. It is imperative that we have plenty of workers before, during, and after the sale of Bazaar items. The date of the event would be Saturday, Nov. 7.

—K. 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:

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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Waseca, MN
56093

Change Service Requested

Come Worship with Us

We have room.

MONTHLY MEET-UPS:

Elizabeth Circle

Elizabeth Circle will **not** meet in July

Ruth Circle

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