Faith Messenger

NOVEMBER *Faith United Methodist Church*
"Engage, Equip, and Empower!"
Volume 2026
Issue 11

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Administrative Assistant

Office Hours:

Monday, Wednesday & Thursday:
9:30 am - 12:30 pm

NOVEMBER 2026 GREETINGS FROM PASTOR ELDEN

November….a month of celebrating Thanksgiving. I just returned from the east coast and celebrating America's 250th anniversary. It was interesting and informative to learn of the places and people who made our country great. It also made me think of how important it is to elect our leaders who will continue to make America great. I hope you were able to get out and vote on November 3rd. As we sit in our warm houses and places of business and churches this winter, let us remember to pray and contribute if we can for the people of Ukraine as their homes are bombed and children, along with others, are killed every day. Many will be spending the winter without heat or homes. Let us be thankful but also helpful.

As we walked the streets of Philadelphia and saw the historical sights, we also saw those who were homeless lying near to the places on the streets where the heat was rising. They were damp and sleeping and not noticing the many people passing by. I don't know the answer as I know there are those who don't wish to be in a shelter and Philadelphia is a big city. The question is what can we do in Waseca. We have a box for soup, a box for other food items that are needed, caps and gloves. It maybe something large or small that each one of us can do but every little bit helps.

On the brighter side: I am thankful that I was asked if I would like to serve at Faith and I said yes. It is good to see the smiles and laughter at the church events.

The first Sunday in November is All Saints' Sunday. A time when we remember not only those who has passed on to their heavenly reward the past year but let's also remember those who during their time here worked to make Faith a stronger and blessed church. These family members and friends should not be forgotten but their memories kept alive.

We also have the first Sunday in Advent as we begin the Christmas season. A time when we joyously proclaim the birth of Jesus.

The bazaar may be over when you receive this newsletter but thank you to all who worked hard to make it successful. It takes people in all areas to make it successful.

Of course, a day when we celebrate Thanksgiving which we should celebrate every day. I pray you have a nice day with family and friends. If you know someone who might be by themselves, invite them to join you.

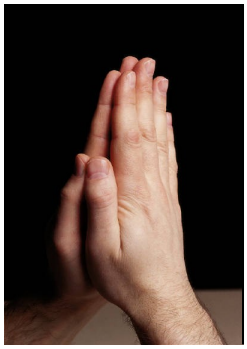
Thank you for welcoming me and making my time with you a joyful and blessed time.
God bless.

"How silently they tumble down
And come to rest upon the ground
To lay a carpet, rich and rare,
Beneath the trees without a care,
Content to sleep, their work well done,
Colors gleaming in the sun.

At other times, they wildly fly
Until they nearly reach the sky.
Twisting, turning through the air
Till all the trees stand stark and bare.
Exhausted, drop to earth below
To wait, like children, for the snow."
- Elsie N. Brady, *Leaves*

"Our Father, fill our hearts, we pray,
With gratitude Thanksgiving Day;
For food and raiment Thou dost give,
That we in comfort here may live."
- Luther Cross, Thanksgiving Day

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, Sandy Voshell

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, Sandy Voshell, 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. 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 on November 16 through 20.

Baptism

During worship on Sunday, November 29, we will celebrate the baptism of Scarlett Suzanne Biddle, daughter of Keenan and Beth Biddle.

Annual Charge Conference

Our 2026 Charge Conference will be held on Sunday, November 22 at 1:00pm at Evangelical UMC in Waterville. We currently have three Leadership Team members who will attend with Pastor Elden. If anyone else is interested in attending please let Pastor Elden or Stacy know.

One Minute Devotion

Choose your Battles & Who Fights Them

2 Chronicles 32:8

We hear we should choose our battles wisely and the good news is, we do not fight our spiritual battles alone. The Bible tells us that God will help and fight for us. Reach out and ask for His help to fight when a battle ensues.

100 Minutes with God by Susan Grant

Faith's Blessing Box Update

We continue to see a lot of use of the Blessing Box.

We would welcome food donations so we can stock up for winter. Suggested items include: pouched meats, rice, instant mashed potatoes, ramen noodles, peanut butter, cereal, oatmeal, pancake mix and syrup. When temperatures are below freezing we do not put out canned goods due to the cans expanding and being damaged.

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

The pastor was growing a bit tired of eating leftovers for dinner. One night they sat down to leftovers again, and the wife was stunned to notice her husband begin to poke around at his meal without saying grace.

"Dear! Aren't you going go offer thanks before we eat?"

He put down his fork and sighed. "If you can point out one thing on this plate I haven't already said thanks for at least twice this week, I'll be glad to."

****

The Sunday school teacher had spent three weeks teaching the story of the prodigal son to her second grade class. She wanted to make sure the children understood every important point of the story, including the resentful brother, the loving and forgiving father, and so on. As she was quizzing her class, she came to this question: "Now children, out of all the characters in the story, who was not at all happy to see the prodigal son returning home?"

"I know, I know," shouted sweet little Marianna. "It was the fatted calf."

Church Chuckles, Tickling Your Holy Funny Bone

Ruth Circle

Ruth circle met Tuesday, October 13th in the Lakeview room. Everyone enjoyed some tasty treats that Sharon brought.

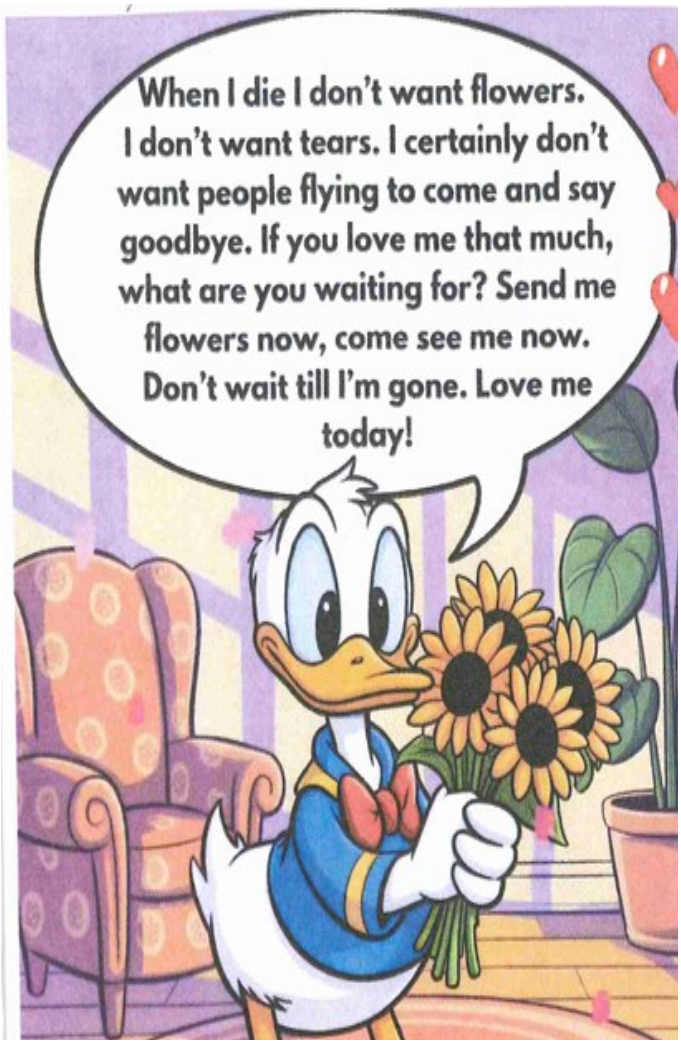
Members of Elizabeth circle has joined Ruth circle. We would like to extend an invitation to other women who would like to join us. We generally meet the second Tuesday of the month at 1:00 at the church.

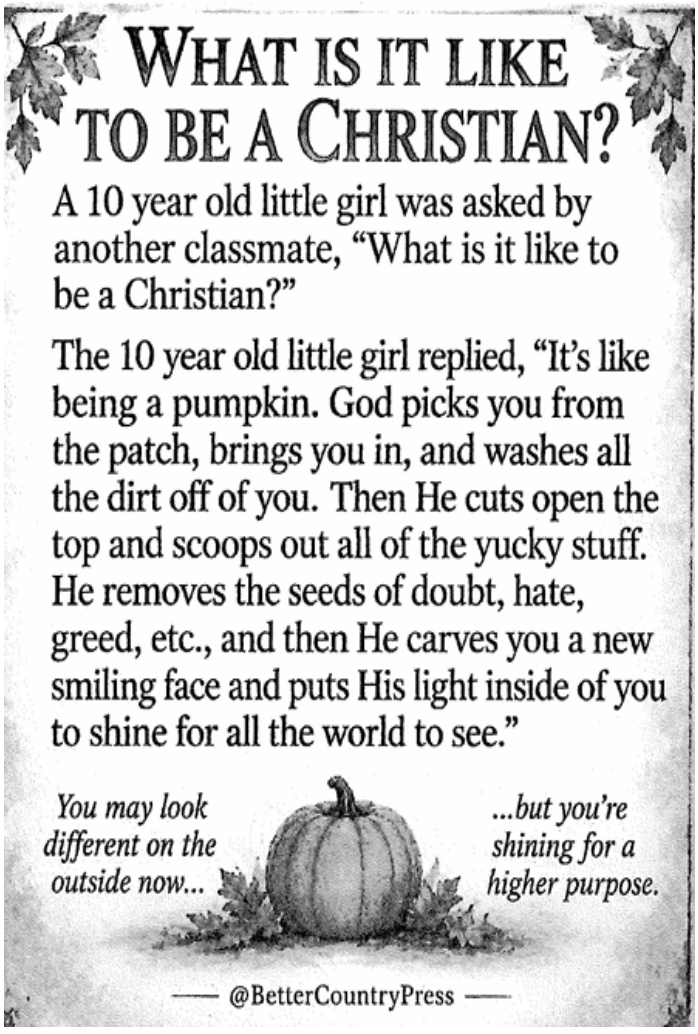
We generally have a short program at our meeting and we discuss items on our agenda often pertaining to mission projects. We always have treats!!

We did not have a program at this meeting but we kept busy with a full agenda. We talked about the uniting of the two circles, events that are coming up, such as, Pastor appreciation, the Fall Gathering, the Fall Bazaar and some other fun items.

November meeting will be Tuesday, November 10 at 1:00 in the Lakeview room.

I do not want to give away what the program will be, but it is going to have something to do with 'pop and candy'. Do come and join us for a fun and informative meeting.





Now Thank We All Our God

1636

In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.
1 Thessalonians 5:18

An old English preacher once said, "A grateful mind is a great mind," and the Bible agrees. There are 138 passages of Scripture on the subject of thanksgiving, and some of them are powerfully worded. Colossians 3:17 says: "And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him." 1 Thessalonians 5:18 adds, "In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."

Unfortunately, few hymns are devoted exclusively to thanking God. Among the small, rich handful we *do* have is "Now Thank We All Our God." The German Christians sing this hymn like American believers sing the "Doxology," yet it's loved on both sides of the Atlantic and around the world.

It was written by Martin Rinkart (1586–1649), a Lutheran pastor in the little village of Eilenberg, Saxony. He grew up as the son of a poor coppersmith, felt called to the ministry, and after his theological training began his pastoral work just as the Thirty Years' War was raging through Germany.

Floods of refugees streamed into the walled city of Eilenberg. It was the most desperate of times. The Swedish army encompassed the city gates, and inside the walls there was nothing but plague, famine, and fear. Eight hundred homes were destroyed, and people began dying in increasing numbers. There was a tremendous strain on the pastors, who expended all their strength in preaching the gospel, caring for the sick and dying, and burying the dead. One after another, the pastors themselves took ill and perished until at last only Martin Rinkart was left. Some days he conducted as many as fifty funerals.

Finally the Swedes demanded a huge ransom. It was Martin Rinkart who left the safety of the city walls to negotiate with the enemy, and he did it with such courage and faith that there was soon a conclusion of hostilities, and the period of suffering ended.

Rinkart, knowing there is no healing without thanksgiving, composed this hymn for the survivors of Eilenberg. It has been sung around the world ever since.

Now thank we all our God, with heart and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things has done, in Whom this world rejoices

Then Sings My Soul by Robert Morgan

Waseca Area Caregiver Services
113 2nd Street NE, Waseca, MN, 56093
507-833-0015
wasecacs@outlook.com
https://wasecacaregivers.com/

Date: October 1, 2026

Subject: Notice of Organization Closure and Transition of Services

Dear Friends and Community Members,

It is with a heavy heart and deep reflection that we write to inform you that the Waseca Area Caregiver Services will officially cease all operations and close its doors on December 31, 2026. After a number of years serving our community, our board of directors has made the difficult decision to wind down our programs due to inadequate funding. We are immensely proud of what we have achieved together and deeply grateful for the trust you have placed in us. To ensure a smooth transition, please note the following important details regarding our final weeks:

• Final Date of Service: All active support programs and client services will be provided through Friday, December 11, 2026.

• Alternative Resources: For ongoing assistance with Homemaker/Chores, Out- of -Home/ In -Home Respite, Caregiver Support groups, Education/Training or Caregiver Counseling, we recommend reaching out to the MN River Area Agency on Aging, MN Aging Pathways (formerly the Senior Linkage Line) at 1-800-333-2433.

Name of Alternative Local Organization, Waseca County Public Health (507) 835-0685, Smart Transit (855) 762-7821,Waseca Area Senior Center and LSS Meals on Wheels (612) 879-5320. If you have any questions or require immediate support before our final closing date, please reach out to our team at 507-833-0015 or email us at wasecacs@outlook.com. Thank you once again for your partnership, encouragement, and belief in our mission. It has been a true privilege to serve you and our community.

With deepest gratitude,
Kelly Boeddeker, WACS Executive Director

Leadership Team

Faith UMC Mission Statement

Faith United Methodist Church Serves God through

Worship, Faith, Friendship, Outreach

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.**

Soap Closet

Reminder that Faith UMC is a drop off site for MVAC's Soap Closet to collect hygiene items for those in need. There is a collection box in the narthex. Suggested items include the following:

- New men's, women's and children's underwear and socks
- Toothbrushes and toothpaste
- Body Wash or bar soap
- Q Tips
- Hand soap/hand sanitizer
- Toilet paper
- Feminine products
- Baby wipes/diapers/powder/soap
- Laundry detergent
- Dish soap
- Deodorant

Faith United Methodist Church

"Engage, Equip, and Empower"

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www.faithwasecaumc.com

Change Service Requested

Non-profit Org
Postage Paid
Permit 30
Waseca, MN
56093

Come Worship with Us

We have room.

MONTHLY MEET-UPS:

Ruth Circle

Ruth Circle will meet on **Tuesday, November 10** at **1:00pm** in the Lakeview Room. Guests and visitors are always welcome.