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Special Points of Interest:

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

Administrative
Assistant

Office Hours

Mon. through Thurs.

8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Fri. 8:30 a.m. to Noon



Faith Messenger

JANUARY

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

Volume 2018.
Issue 1

The Twelve Days of Christmas

The Twelve Days of Christmas is probably the most misunderstood part of the church year among Christians who are not part of liturgical church traditions. Contrary to much popular belief, these are not the twelve days before Christmas, but in most of the Western Church are the twelve days from Christmas until the beginning of Epiphany (January 6th); the 12 days count from December 25th until January 5th). In some traditions, the first day of Christmas begins on the evening of December 25th with the following day considered the First Day of Christmas (December 26th). In these traditions, the twelve days begin December 26 and include Epiphany on January 6.

The popular song "The Twelve Days of Christmas" is usually seen as simply a non-sense song for children with secular origins. However, some have suggested that it is a song of Christian instruction, perhaps dating to the 16th century religious wars in England, with hidden references to the basic teachings of the Christian Faith. They contend that it was a mnemonic device to teach the catechism to youngsters. The "true love" mentioned in the song is not an earthly suitor, but refers to God Himself. The "me" who receives the presents refers to every baptized person who is part of the Christian Faith. Each of the "days" represents some aspect of the Christian Faith that was important for children to learn. This explanation though not authenticated by all historical accounts is more than an Urban legend and may indeed be the hidden meaning behind this popular song. What do you think?

On the 1st day of Christmas my true love gave to me... A Partridge in a Pear Tree ~The partridge in a pear tree is Jesus the Christ, the Son of God, whose birthday we celebrate on December 25, the first day of Christmas. (Luke 13:34)

On the 2nd day of Christmas my true love gave to me...Two Turtle Doves ~The Old and New Testaments, which together bear witness to God's self-revelation in history and the creation of a people to tell the Story of God to the world.

On the 3rd day of Christmas my true love gave to me...Three French Hens ~The Three Theological Virtues: 1) Faith, 2) Hope, and 3) Love. (1 Corinthians 13:13)

On the 4th day of Christmas my true love gave to me...Four Calling Birds~The Four Gospels: 1) Matthew, 2) Mark, 3) Luke, and 4) John, which proclaim the Good News of God's reconciliation of the world to Himself in Jesus Christ.

On the 5th day of Christmas my true love gave to me...Five Gold Rings ~The first Five Books of the Old Testament, known as the Torah or the Pentateuch: 1) Genesis, 2) Exodus, 3) Leviticus, 4) Numbers, and 5) Deuteronomy, which gives the history of humanity's sinful failure and God's response of grace in the creation of a people to be a light to the world.

(Continued on Page 4)

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 Memory & Care Suites: Ann Swenson

Colony Court: Ardella Draheim, Nina Youngberg, Leona Quast, Muriel Jenkins, Fern Papke

Lakeshore Inn: Florence Gutknecht, Liz Corchran

Latham Place: George and Lucille Kubista, Elaine Westrum

Oaklawn Health Care Center: Jim Keller

Koda Living Community: Chuck Youngberg

Emmetsburg Care Center: Peter Fog

Prayer Requests from Sunday Worship: Leona Quast, Don Paulson, Fern Papke, Robert Ferry, the Aune and Deno families, Dick Suter, Jim Keller, the Westrum family, those who have been affected by the fires in California.



Administrative Assistant Hours

Stacy True, Administrative Assistant, will be out of the office on the following dates in January:

January 2, January 4, January 26, January 29 and January 31.

Note from the Janitor's Closet

Please let me know if there is anything coming up in the months of January, February and March that I need to be aware of and that pertain to custodial duties. I will be out those months having knee replacement. Jon Schultz will be filling in for me.

Leave any notes in my mailbox so I may put them on my calendar.

Bob

Thank You

The Wells Family would like to thank everyone for their cards and prayers during the loss of their mother.

Thank you — **Leslie Wells**

Financial Planning Reminder

Each of you received the letter this month regarding your Estimate of Giving for 2018. We need your responses by January 7 in order to prepare the church budget for Council approval in late January. Included in that mailing was a listing of events and activities of Faith Church. That listing is quite long and likely somewhat surprising to many of us. While we are familiar with most or all of those events and activities, we don't often think about them on a regular basis. They are important areas of outreach for Faith Church.

Last year we saw some increase in the number of Estimates of Giving turned in, but we would like to see more. These help us greatly in planning for the revenue that we can expect to pay our regular operating bills including the salaries of our Church staff. Without your Estimate of Giving, we have to make a guess as to what we might expect in order to pay our bills on a timely basis.

As in prior years, we ask that you also indicate your plans for giving to the Capital Improvement Fund and for our Apportionments.

Year End Planning Reminder

The end of the year will soon be here. A reminder – your gifts and donations must be received by December 31 in order to be included in the 2017 reports. If mailed, the envelope must be post-marked on or before Dec 31 or delivered to the church office by that date.

Faith Crafters & Stitchers

Faith Crafters & Stitchers will meet **Thursday, January 11** from **1:00 to 3:00 p.m.** in the Fellowship Hall. You may bring a project of your own to work on or ideas for Bazaar 2018! If you have not been to crafters and stitchers in the past, come check us out! Coffee and treats provided. Call Sandy Voshell at 835-4122 with questions.

Packing of Christmas Decorations

The Christmas decorations at the church will be packed away for another year on **Tuesday, January 9** at **9:30 a.m.** Many hands make light work, so come and lend your hands if you are able to help with this task.

Hospitality Gathering

The hospitality team will be meeting on **Monday, January 8th** at **10:00 a.m.** in the Lakeview room. Even if you have not been involved with the Hospitality group previously, we would sure love having you join us. We talk about ways we can be a welcoming church. It would be great to have more people share ideas on ways we can plan our welcoming events.

Faith Rock Painting Party

There will be a Faith Rock painting party on **Monday, January 22, 2018** from **4:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m.** It will be held in the fellowship hall. Drop in at any time and paint some rocks. A light meal will be served at 5:30.

Invite your friends and join in on the fellowship. We are inviting a neighbor girl and if she is able to come, she may bring some of her friends.

We would like to have a large number of rocks to hide next spring.

Meal and Movie Night

M & M night will be Sunday evening, **January 28th** at **5:00 p.m.**

We will start the evening with a light supper at 5:00. The meal is tasty and the fellowship is great. The movie will follow the supper.

We have not decided on the movie yet, so watch for the announcements in the church bulletin, on posters, and in the newspaper. Hope to see you there.

The Twelve Days of Christmas

(Continued from Page 1)

On the 6th day of Christmas my true love gave to me...Six Geese A-laying ~The six days of creation that confesses God as Creator and Sustainer of the world. (Genesis 1)

On the 7th day of Christmas my true love gave to me...Seven Swans A-swimming ~The seven gifts of the Holy Spirit: 1) prophecy, 2) ministry, 3) teaching, 4) exhortation, 5) giving, 6) leading, and 7) compassion. (Romans 12:6-8; cf. 1 Corinthians 12:8-11)

On the 8th day of Christmas my true love gave to me...Eight Maids A-milking ~ The eight Beatitudes: 1) Blessed are the poor in spirit, 2) those who mourn, 3) the meek, 4) those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, 5) the merciful, 6) the pure in heart, 7) the peacemakers, 8) those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake. (Matthew 5:3-10)

On the 9th day of Christmas my true love gave to me...Nine Ladies Dancing ~ The nine Fruit of the Holy Spirit: 1) love, 2) joy, 3) peace, 4) patience, 5) kindness, 6) generosity, 7) faithfulness, 8) gentleness, and 9) self-control. (Galatians 5:22)

On the 10th day of Christmas my true love gave to me...Ten Lords A-leaping ~The ten commandments: 1) You shall have no other gods before me; 2) Do not make an idol; 3) Do not take God's name in vain; 4) Remember the Sabbath Day; 5) Honor your father and mother; 6) Do not murder; 7) Do not commit adultery; 8) Do not steal; 9) Do not bear false witness; 10) Do not covet. (Exodus 20:1-17)

On the 11th day of Christmas my true love gave to me...Eleven Pipers Piping ~The eleven Faithful Apostles: 1) Simon Peter, 2) Andrew, 3) James, 4) John, 5) Philip, 6) Bartholomew, 7) Matthew, 8) Thomas, 9) James bar Alphaeus, 10) Simon the Zealot, 11) Judas bar James. (Luke 6:14-16). The list does not include the twelfth disciple, Judas Iscariot who betrayed Jesus to the religious leaders and the Romans.

On the 12th day of Christmas my true love gave to me...Twelve Drummers Drumming ~The twelve points of doctrine in the Apostles' Creed: 1) I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. 2) I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. 3) He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. 4) He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell [the grave]. 5) On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. 6) He will come again to judge the living and the dead. 7) I believe in the Holy Spirit, 8) the holy catholic Church, 9) the communion of saints, 10) the forgiveness of sins, 11) the resurrection of the body, 12) and life everlasting.

HAVE A BLESSED AND JOYOUS 2018!

Pastor Victor

All Church Conference

The All Church Conference has been scheduled for **Sunday, January 28** immediately following the worship service. The budget for 2018 and nominations report will be discussed. Please plan to attend.

Christmas Giving for Emma Norton

Emma Norton received 20 cosmetic bags with toiletries from our local UMW. Thank you to all who donated. And just in time for Christmas!

Pictured are Shirley Hansen, Kate Peterson and Sherry Scholljegerdes.



Elizabeth Circle celebrating Christmas with a lunch together.



Nurse's Notes - "Me Too"

Sexual harassment started early for me and my girlfriends. When puberty began so did the boys' interest in the opposite sex. We didn't know the words "sexual harassment". It was called "Boys will be boys". My first experience was a boy who was dared to snap the back of my bra. He did and they all stood around laughing. It didn't help that my brother announced to everyone who would listen, that I ran up and down the stairs to make my boobs grow. So at 13, I along with many other girls started the journey of "boys will be boys". The fact that I remember this stuff all these years later means it wasn't just silliness to me.

Many of us women have endured the unwanted pat on the bottom, the too close hugs, and more and felt the inability to say no. Bosses, colleagues, even friends used these kinds of actions as a form of power. The idea was "put up with it or just leave". Not so easy.

After years of "boys will be boys", I am grateful to the women who came forward and said no. We're done with that way of acting and accepting these personal assaults. Women are equal in every way to men. So let's stand our ground for the girls to come. Enough is enough. Treating each other with respect is our way forward.

Your Parish Nurse,
Sherry Scholljegerdes

UMW Donation to Waseca Public Schools

United Methodist Women recently donated earned mission money for 2017, to their local mission, Waseca Public Schools.

Principal, Mr. Ben O'Brien of Hartley Elementary School received \$200 for their Snack Cart. This will enable more students to receive healthy snacks during the school day.

Principal, Mr. John Huttemier of Waseca Intermediate School received \$300 for after-school transportation for students remaining after school for extra help. This program has many prospective students which have been placed on a waiting list due to the lack of funds to transport students home.

Both schools were extremely grateful and say many thanks to the UMW.



God's Yellow Pages

WHAT TO DO WHEN YOU ARE ...

AFRAID

Psalm 34:4
Matthew 10:28
2 Timothy 1:7
Hebrews 13:5,6

ANXIOUS

Psalm 46
Matthew 6:19-34
Philippians 4:6
1 Peter 5:6,7

BACKSLIDING

Psalm 51
1 John 1:4-9

BEREAVED

Matthew 5:4
2 Corinthians 1:3,4

BITTER - CRITICAL

1 Corinthians 13

DEFEATED

Romans 8:31-39
Ephesians 6:10-20

DEPRESSED

Psalm 34

DISCOURAGED

Psalm 23
Psalm 42:6-11
2 Corinthians 4:8-18
Philippians 4:4-7

DOUBTING

Matthew 8:26
Hebrews 11

FACING CRISIS

Psalm 121
Matthew 6:25-34
Hebrews 11

FACING FRIENDS THAT FAIL

Psalm 41:9-13
Luke 17:3,4
Romans 12:14, 17, 19, 21
2 Timothy 4:16-18

FEARFUL OF A FAILING FAITH

Psalm 42:5
Hebrews 11

FEELING OVERCOME

Psalm 6
Romans 8:31-39
1 John 1:4-9

LEAVING HOME

Psalm 121
Matthew 10:16-20

LONELY

Psalm 23
Hebrews 13:5,6

NEEDING A NEW DIRECTION

Romans 12

NEEDING GUIDANCE

Psalm 32:8
Proverbs 3:5,6

NEEDING PROTECTION

Psalm 18:1-3
Psalm 27:1-6
Psalm 34:7

Psalm 91

Philippians 4:19

NEEDING TO PRAY

Psalm 4
John 17
1 John 5:14,15

SICK-IN-PAIN

Psalm 38
Matthew 26:39
Romans 5:3-5
2 Corinthians 1:3,4
1 Peter 4:13-18

SORROWFUL

Psalm 51
Matthew 5:4
John 14
2 Corinthians 1:3,4
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

TEMPTED

Psalm 1
Psalm 139:23,24
Matthew 26:41
1 Corinthians 10:12-14
Philippians 4:8
James 4:7
2 Peter 2:9 & 3:17

THANKFUL

Psalm 100
1 Thessalonians 5:18
Hebrews 13:15

THREATENED BY DISASTER

Psalm 91
Psalm 118:5,6
Luke 8:22-25

TRAVELING

Psalm 121

TROUBLE, IN

Psalm 16 & 31
John 14:1-4
Hebrews 7:25

WEARY

Psalm 90
Matthew 11:28-30
1 Corinthians 15:58
Galatians 6:9,10

WORRIED

Matthew 6:19-34





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Change Service Requested

Come Worship with Us
We have room.

MONTHLY MEET-UPS:

Elizabeth Circle

UMW Elizabeth Circle will **not** meet in
January

Ruth Circle

UMW Ruth Circle will meet **Tuesday,**
January 9, from **10:30 a.m. to Noon** at the
home of Lorraine Wick. All are welcome to
attend.