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From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Ones,

Kirk has been feeding the birds. He has several bird feeders set up by the driveway. We get all kinds, small birds to large birds, some are timid, some are down right bossy. The blue jays and crows are especially vocal if Kirk is late getting the peanuts out. Then there are the squirrels, the food is really not meant for them, but we enjoy watching them as well. They do, from time to time manage to hang from the feeders and eat, but mostly then stay on the ground eating the food that is dropped or spills out of the feeders.

This reminds me of a story in Matthew 15:

Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, "Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon." But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, "Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us." He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me." He answered, "It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." Then Jesus answered her, "Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." And her daughter was healed from that moment. Matthew 25:21-28

Jesus told the woman that his food (healing) is not meant for her because of the fact that she was a Canaanite and he was sent only for the lost sheep of Israel, he even went as far as calling her a dog that should not have the food meant for his people. However, she persisted with the argument that even dogs eat the crumbs under the table that are left after a meal. Jesus then realized that she believed with her whole heart that he could heal her daughter because of who he was and so she got her wish.

Now, I know that the squirrels aren't thinking in any such theological terms about the left-over food they eat at the bird feeders, but they do believe that when Kirk comes out, they will indeed be fed.

Can we muster up the faith of squirrels? Believing that no matter what our needs are, God will make sure there is enough food for us, even if it's crumbs from another's table?

My wish is that you are fully fed in 2023 and that you have faith that God will provide.

Blessings

Pastor Carolyn

Special Points of Interest:

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

Administrative Assistant

Office Hours:

Monday, Wednesday & Thursday:

9:00 am - 1:00 pm

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: Joe Tollefson, Shirley Burdick

Janesville Nursing Home: Nina Youngberg

Traditions Assisted Living Owatonna: Ardella Draheim

Benedictine Living Community: Chuck Youngberg

Lakeshore Inn: Leona Quast

Foxdale: Lucille Kubista

Prayer Requests from Sunday Worship: Sue Baldini, Tom Kuyper, Roger Groskreutz and family, Kara Ecoff, Tim Dahnert, Suzanne Saucier, Wilda Smith, the Buland Family, government officials, health care workers, first responders, and those who are most at risk and vulnerable to Covid-19, those who battle chronic illness and pain.



Administrative Assistant Hours

Stacy's hours are typically Monday, Wednesday and Thursday 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. Days or hours are subject to change at times. It is best to call ahead if you need to visit the office. Hours will be posted in the weekly bulletins. Stacy will be out of the office on Monday, January 2 and Monday, January 16.

Help Wanted

We are currently seeking to fill two part-time positions.

We are looking to hire a part-time custodian and a part-time accompanist. If you know of anyone who may be interested in one of these positions, please have them contact the church office.

Pledge Cards

If you have not yet returned your 2023 pledge card, please do so as soon as possible. This will help in preparing the 2023 budget.

Pastor Carolyn's Letter to Congregation

Dear Members of Faith UMC,

After much prayerful discernment, Kirk and I have decided due to my on-going health issues to retire effective July 1 2023. My last Sunday with all of you will be June 25th 2023. Our district superintendent, Fred Vanderwerf will be working with the SPRC to get a sense of the missional need of Waseca Faith UMC and together with the Bishop's cabinet will seek to find the best available missional leader to follow me. We already have a date on the books. Please connect with an SPRC member if you would like to share your thoughts.

It has been my honor to be in ministry with you the past 3 years. We found ways to stay faithful through the hard times of COVID 19. We celebrated as we were able to lift restrictions and enjoy fellowship together.

We still have much work to do together. We will continue to work on streamlining our leadership structure to make Faith the best church possible for your incoming clergy.

Blessings,

Pastor Carolyn

2023 Offering Envelopes

Due to printing and supply chain issues with our supplier, our 2023 offering envelopes will not be arriving until January or February. Thank you for your patience as we wait for our envelopes to be shipped .

Also, to save on cost and waste, we ordered less envelopes than past years. If you are used to having an envelope number that is higher than 75, you will receive a new number. We cannot assign new numbers until sometime in January, once we are sure final offerings for 2022 have been received. If you wish, you may use the envelopes in the back of the pews until the 2023 offering envelopes are available.

Bishop Bard's Letter

Dear Friends in Christ in the Minnesota Conference,

Earlier, I announced district superintendent appointments effective January 1, 2023 and shared that there would be an announcement to follow.

Effective July 1, 2023, I am appointing the Rev. Dr. Woojae Im district superintendent of the Southern Prairie District. Rev. Dr. Im is currently serving as the pastor of The United Methodist Church of Peace in Richfield. Rev. Dr. Im has served a number of other appointments in the Minnesota Conference, including Christ Korean UMC, Milaca UMC, and Osseo UMC. Prior to appointments in Minnesota, Dr. Im served churches in South Korea. He has served in many leadership roles in the Minnesota Conference, including on the Board of Ordained Ministry, as part of the Minnesota Conference delegation to General and Jurisdictional Conferences, and he is now on the Transitional Table.

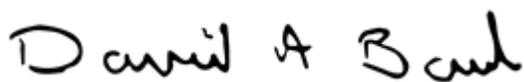
Rev. Im's doctor of ministry degree emphasized spiritual formation, and he has also completed the two-year Academy for Spiritual Formation. He recently completed the Practical Church Leadership Program at Dakota Wesleyan University. Rev. Dr. Im has a passionate faith in Jesus Christ and a deep commitment to the vitality of the church. He is committed to the mission, vision, and values of the Minnesota Conference, and thinks it vitally important to remind ourselves that all we do needs to be rooted in Jesus.

I am pleased that Rev. Dr. Im has agreed to be appointed a district superintendent in the Minnesota Conference.

With this announcement, I also want to express my profound gratitude to the Rev. Dr. Fred Vanderwerf for his faithful and effective service as the Southern Prairie District Superintendent for the past eight years. As mentioned in my previous superintendent announcement, the service of a district superintendent is limited to eight years. In his time on the cabinet, Rev. Dr. Vanderwerf has been a passionate advocate for evangelism and church growth. He feels deeply about the need for the Minnesota Conference and The United Methodist Church to remain rooted in Jesus and grounded in Wesleyan theology as we also pursue justice, reconciliation, and inclusivity. He continually brings the needs of the pastors and churches of his district to the attention of the cabinet. He has been well-loved and deeply respected by his district and cabinet colleagues. I am excited to see where Jesus may be calling him next in ministry.

I ask again that during this Advent season, as we prepare for fresh arrivals of the Christ and we prepare as a conference for our future, that you join me in keeping Bishop Lanette Plambeck, Rev. Dr. Vanderwerf, and Rev. Dr. Im in your prayers.

Grace and peace,



Bishop David A. Bard
Interim Bishop, Minnesota Conference

Please Stay Home if You are Sick

To keep all of us safe, please stay home from church if you have any of these symptoms:

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat

If you are unable to attend worship, you may view the service online via a link on our Facebook page, Faith United Methodist Church, or our website, wasecafaithumc.com. The service is also aired on the local PEG television, channel #8 at the following times:

Sunday 12:30 PM

Thursday 4:30 PM

Tuesday 8:30 AM

Saturday 6:00 PM

Soap Closet

Faith UMC is participating with Minnesota Valley Action Council (MVAC) as a drop off site for their "Soap Closet". It is a program to help those in need with hygiene supplies in our county. The drop off box is located in the narthex. Items they are looking for 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

Please consider donating items to help with this cause. Someone from MVAC will pick up the items monthly.

United Women in Faith —Why Bother??

I WILL TELL YOU WHY

UWF is a fellowship of like-minded women, who support one another. Our main reason for existence, is to support women, youth and children who have no voice or power, here at home and around the world. We believe that we are the hands and feet of Christ. We are devoted. We deepen our faith through participation in UWF.

Here are some tangible accomplishments our local unit did last year: 2022:

- Hartley and the Middle schools received funds for their programs
- We paid our pledge to mission in full
- We paid our pledge to Emma Norton in full
- We hosted the UWF MN Conference meeting in September
- Three of our members went to Assembly in Florida in May
- We helped with the Spring Luncheon for the church
- We held a garage sale in September
- The Fall luncheon was held in November

One of us is a district officer.

We meet quarterly as a unit and monthly for our circles. Some members are members of UWF only.

We are proud of our work and one another.

If someone asks you about UWF, share our mission with them. Come join us and see what we are truly about.

Local UWF President,
Sherry Scholljegerdes



United Women in Faith Unit Meeting 11/21/2022

The Waseca United Women in Faith meeting was held on November 21, 2022 at 11:30 am in the Waseca First United Methodist Church fellowship room. Thank you to the executive team for serving the vegetable beef soup, the two cakes, bread, water and coffee and cleaning up the kitchen.

Sherry Scholljegerdes gave the welcome. Karen Ferch gave the devotion "about giving and receiving story" When Receiving Is The Gift." She gave the blessing before our meal.

Linda Griffin gave the secretary Report. Sherry presented the Treasurer's Report for Sandy. 11 members and 1 guest were present.

The notes from the Autumn soup luncheon was reported on from November 5, 2022. Sherry will send a thank you card to Shirley Burdick for the donation of the vegetable/cutter slicer for our church kitchen.

Sherry's paper on "Dignity in Pregnancy and Childbirth" (bill passed 20-22) is completed and will be published in the Response Magazine.

We need to update our UMF Booklet.

Mary Jane Stauffer presented the program: World Day of Prayer and Offering.

New Business: Election of Officers: President- SherryScholljegerdes Secretary- Linda Griffin Treasurer- Sandy Voshell Communications- Janet Welch Nominations: Mary Jane Stauffer, Mardell Jacobson, Margaret Dahnert.

Roberta Walker showed us the calendar for next year for ideas.

Sherry Scholljegerdes presented the budget for 2023. Edy Barber made a motion to accept the budget. Lorraine Wick seconded the motion. It was voted on and accepted.

UMF Sunday: Pastor Carolyn February 12, 2023 (Installation of Officers and Gift in Recognition)

Mary Jane Stauffer closed the meeting with a prayer.

The next unit meeting will be on February 20, 2023. Elizabeth Circle serves the "Valentine Party".

Your Secretary,

Linda Griffin



Faith United Methodist Church

"Engage, Equip, and Empower"

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Change Service Requested

Come Worship with Us We have room.

MONTHLY MEET-UPS:

Elizabeth Circle

Elizabeth Circle will meet **Wednesday, January 18 at 2:30 pm** in the Lakeview Room. Guests and visitors are welcome

Ruth Circle

Ruth Circle will meet on **Tuesday, January 10 at 1:00 pm** in the Gathering Room. The program will be "Angels".

Conversation, Bible & Friends

Conversation, Bible and Friends will meet every Monday in November **except** Monday, January 2.