

Inside this issue:

From the Pastor's Desk	1
Prayer Requests / Announcements	2 - 3
Financial Update & UMW Update	4
January Birthdays & Anniversary	4
New Year Thoughts and Blessing	5
Random Acts of Kindness Calendar	7

Special Points of Interest:

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

Administrative Assistant

Office Hours:

Administrative Assistant Hours are currently varied and subject to change. Please call ahead if you need to visit the office.



From the Pastor's Desk

January 7, 2021

This morning while scrolling through FaceBook, I came across a video meme that featured a letter board with the words, " 2021 – 6 days without incident, and then a woman who finger flicked the 6 off and replaced it with the number 0.

I'm not really sure when you will be reading this, like everything else, our newsletter schedule is "off" right now. Maybe you are tired of the conversation, but I think it is important that we figure out how we are going to respond to events like the one that happened at our capital in Washington on January 6, 2021. You want to know what I did when I went to bed that night? I started to plan my garden. I thought about how grateful I am to the church for allowing me to dig up part of the back yard so I can have a vegetable garden. How grateful I am to Mark who came over and rototilled the area in the fall. I wondered what sort of seeds I should buy and where everything should be planted. I decompressed thinking about something beautiful.

Church, we need to think beautiful thoughts in the midst of hard times. One of my favorite quotes is "a thousand things went right today". I don't know whose wisdom this is, but it is a great thought to end each day. I'm not suggesting that we simply go through life wearing rose colored glasses and pretend that every little thing is OK. There is so much work to be done – so much wrong to right and so much evil to mold into good. What I am saying is don't let the worry of each day's events rob from you the beautiful, God given, thousands of things that go right every day. There has to be a balance in life. We have to open ourselves to the love of God present in our surroundings. This is our fuel for the hard work of being disciples.

I don't know what this looks like for you. It is very different for each of us, but I beg you to start today. Look around right now – open yourself up to the love of God. It probably won't be some huge discovery. It will more likely be something like a good cup of hot coffee, the antics of two kittens, good memories, the shining sun. Look around and fuel up. We have a lot of work to do and we need to be ready.

God Bless You! Pastor Carolyn



Prayer Requests

Remember our church members & friends who are less mobile and are unable to join us as often as they would like, including:

Janesville Nursing Home: Nina Youngberg

Traditions Assisted Living Owatonna: Ardella Draheim

Foxdale: Joe Tollefson, Elaine Westrum

Koda Living Community: Chuck Youngberg

Lakeshore Inn: Liz Corchran, Leona Quast

Latham Place: Lucille Kubista

Prayer Requests from Sunday Worship: Michael Schumacher, Roy Osmundson, John Slattery, 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.



Thank You

Thank you to all of Muriel Jenkins' Faith family for the remembrances, condolences, prayers and kindness. Muriel truly cherished the Faith United Methodist Church family. May God continue to bless you and FUMC. Sincerely, Jeanne Slattery

New Address

Millie White's new address is as follows:

Millie White
c/o Mr. & Mrs. Lemmen
118 Man of War Ct.
Georgetown, KY 40324

Administrative Assistant Hours

Please note that Stacy's hours are currently varied and subject to change due to her child's distance learning schedule. Please call ahead if you need to visit the office. Thank you for understanding!

Church Re-Opening

If you remember, back on Sunday November 22nd, the difficult decision was announced that COVID 19 was out of control in the State of Minnesota and Waseca County and at noon the church was going to Red Phase which meant complete close down of the church for in-person worship and meetings. We know it has been hard not to gather during Advent Season, but we want to give a special "Thank You" to those who helped with the worship service so we could all see the service out on the church website or through You Tube.

We are happy to announce the re-opening of in person worship service starting this coming Sunday, January 17th. Worship will continue to be at 9:30AM with many of the same restrictions still in place.

The restrictions that will be followed are:

- Everyone must wear a face mask while anywhere inside the church at all times, unless you have a medical reason not to.
- Have individuals use hand sanitizer, take their own bulletin, and go directly to the pew; also use the hand sanitizer when leaving the sanctuary.
- We will be using every other pew and sit in only those pews that have been marked with blue tape. Do not pass attendance books down; there is one on each outside edge of the pew.
- Drinking foundations will continue to be shut off and covered.
- Offering plates will be set out by each exit to place your offering into.
- Ushers will be dismissing you by rows starting in the back of the church and moving forward.
- After each event or worship, the church will go through a thorough cleaning before it can be used again.
- No choir at this time because of social distancing and some underlying health issues of the choir members.
- No serving of food either after worship service, circle meetings and other church meetings.
- We encourage all church meetings to be held in Fellowship Hall so we can keep our physical social distancing.

We are also encouraging anyone who is not feeling well to stay home and come to worship when you are feeling better.

We would like to make the worship service little more interactive, so we would like to try to have one hymn for the congregation to sing with their mask on. The other element we would like to add in is saying the Lord's Prayer out loud with mask on.

If you have any questions or concerns please contact Pastor Carolyn, Jarod True or Dave Baldini. Thank you for understanding during these difficult times and we hope and pray the future looks better for all of us to get back to new normal times.

End of Year Here at Last

We are pleased to report that the final payment for our 2020 Apportionments was sent to the Minnesota Conference in December. That makes two years in a row that we have been able to pay 100% of our Apportionments. After last year, the Conference rewarded us by forgiving 25% of our delinquent amount that had accumulated over several years. That forgiveness was over \$28,000.

On December 14, we were able to deposit over \$4000 for gifts that had been sent in during the previous week. This was a real “shot in the arm” to help us pay our regular operating bills including the wages for our staff. If you still have some balance of the amount you intended for Faith Church this year, we encourage you to send it in soon. Every amount received is needed and gratuitously accepted.

Any payments that were received or postmarked by December 31 were recorded in 2020. Those received after that time will be recorded in 2021.

Best Wishes to everyone during this Covid impacted Holiday Season. STAY SAFE!

UMW Update

We are well into the new year and still following all the protocols relating to the pandemic. With that in mind, as we all do our best to live healthfully, I need to let you know that planning for UMW meetings and activities is uncertain. What is certain, though, is hope. Hope is not just a wish; rather it is the conviction that God is in charge and He will continue to see us through each day. There will come a time when we will be able to meet, plan, enjoy the fellowship that we have so sorely missed...but until then, our charge is to keep the faith.

At our November, 2020, meeting the plan was to set the next UMW meeting for Monday February 15, 2021. At this writing, that is unlikely to take place, but if protocols are lifted and it is safe to do so, we will get the word out. Till then, stay safe, stay strong.

Blessings, Karen Ferch, Faith UMW Chair

January Birthdays/Anniversary

January Birthdays:

January 2 — James Madigan, Carey Root

January 9 — Linda Griffin

January 12 — Barb Klampe

January 15 — Keith Smith

January 16 — Jennifer Benzel

January 25 — Janet Watts

January 31 — Janette Larson

January Anniversary:

Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Jellum — January 29, 1959



Dear Ones,

Have you taken down your Christmas decorations? It seems some people are choosing to leave theirs up for a while longer this year. It's an attempt to prolong the beauty and light of the Christmas season into the new year. Kirk and I are doing something like that at our house.

A few years ago, we bought new lights for our Christmas tree. We both love them. They are rather retro looking – large round bulbs that can change color. The light strands are attached to a ring which we put around the very top of the tree and the lights cascade down all sides. They are very easy to put on and very pretty. Kirk likes to change the colors each day from white to blue to red to green. It's very festive!

This year our young cats, Willow and Rusty were very thankful to us for putting up a tree as a new toy. After knocking it over three times, they learned to jump in it and “hide” without tipping it over. We ended up taking all the ornaments off the tree and leaving just the lights. It was still very pretty.

We (Kirk) took our tree down a few days after Christmas this year. After everything was put away, I walked past the bedroom door and out of the corner of my eye I caught a blue light – looking in I saw that Kirk had put the ring of our Christmas tree lights at the top of the floor lamp and the light strands were cascading down the sides of the lamp. We are still enjoying the lights of Christmas.

I am writing to you on the official day of Epiphany, January 6. This day recognizes the manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles, represented by the Magi. Many people will light a candle on Epiphany as a symbol of Christ's light which is meant to shine on all people.

I think it is very appropriate that we keep our Christmas lights shining well into 2021. Maybe we should add even more to commemorate Epiphany. God knows we need it! After enduring so much hardship and grief during 2020, shining a light in 2021 will remind us that, as Adam Hamilton says, “the worst thing is not the last thing”. Christ is ever present, walking with us to be our courage as we are his delight.

Blessings for the best year yet!

Pastor Carolyn



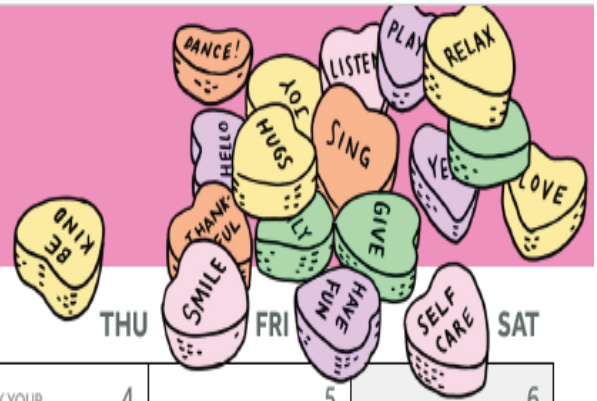
“Our Wonderful World” Wall Hanging





What a wonderful world we all have, that God has given us. Have you ever stopped to think about it seriously? We are the stewards of all of it. How are we going to protect it?

The wall hanging is outside the elevators on the main floor. Racial Justice can be subtle and this quilted panel shows children playing together, regardless of color or abilities. A Message for Kids and Adults alike. Stop by and see it when we can be together again, hopefully soon.



FEBRUARY 2021



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT																																																																																																	
<p>31</p>  <p>START OF BLACK HISTORY MONTH</p> <p>Create a gratitude jar and fill it with things for which you are grateful during the month.</p>	<p>1</p> <p>GROUNDHOG DAY</p> <p>Change up your daily routine today.</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Place encouraging and cheerful notes on 3 stranger's cars. Visit careforthree.com to become part of a movement.</p>	<p>3</p> <p>THANK YOUR MAILMAN DAY</p> <p>Leave a small gift of appreciation in your mailbox addressed to your mailman.</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Pay attention to your internal dialogue.</p> 	<p>5</p> <p>Tap into your creative side! Write, paint, sing or dance.</p>	<p>6</p>																																																																																																	
<p>7</p> <p>FREE DAY! Think about how you can be a person of integrity.</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Join the "You Matter Marathon" and leave cards in public places for strangers to find. youmattermarathon.com</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Take the child in your life out for an ice cream treat today.</p>	<p>10</p> <p>UMBRELLA DAY</p> <p>Give out a few umbrellas to some strangers on the street.</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Plan to send an anonymous bouquet of flowers and/or candy to your local nursing home on Valentine's Day.</p>	<p>12</p> <p>CHINESE NEW YEAR</p> <p>Hide a love note for your partner in their bag or wallet for them to find during their workday.</p>	<p>13</p> <p>WORLD RADIO DAY</p> <p>Turn the radio up and sing at the top of your lungs in your car or shower.</p>																																																																																																	
<p>14</p> <p>VALENTINE'S DAY</p> <p>Play Cupid: introduce two single people who you think would be a great match.</p>	<p>15</p> <p>PRESIDENT'S DAY</p> <p>Download a meditation app and try it out tonight before bed.</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Visit your parents or invite them over for dinner.</p>	<p>17</p> <p>RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS DAY</p> <p>Do an act of kindness for someone and encourage them to pay it forward.</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Write and send a thank you note to someone in your life that help you through a tough time.</p>	<p>19</p>  <p>Take a hot bath and relax.</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Invite a friend, neighbor or coworker home for dinner.</p>																																																																																																	
<p>RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS WEEK! VISIT WWW.RANDOMACTSOFKINDNESS.ORG AND GET INVOLVED!</p>																																																																																																							
<p>21</p> <p>Help someone who is carrying a heavy load.</p>	<p>22</p> <p>Get involved! Sign up for a community related cause.</p>	<p>23</p>  <p>Leave a note on the public restroom mirror that says "You look amazing!"</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Leave an inspiring poem, or painting somewhere in the community for someone to discover.</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Purchase groceries for the person in front of you in the express line.</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Take a friend or family member on a spontaneous adventure.</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Take today to kick back, relax, and reflect on what's really important in life.</p>																																																																																																	
<p>28</p> <p>Empty and read the gratitude jar you've created throughout the month.</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>JANUARY</p> <table border="1"> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>Th</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td>1</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td></tr> <tr><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td></tr> <tr><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td></tr> <tr><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td></tr> <tr><td>31</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td></tr> </table> <p>MARCH</p> <table border="1"> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>Th</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td>28</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td></tr> <tr><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td></tr> <tr><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td></tr> <tr><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td></tr> <tr><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td></tr> </table>	S	M	T	W	Th	F	S	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	S	M	T	W	Th	F	S	28	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S																																																																																																	
27	28	29	30	31	1	2																																																																																																	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9																																																																																																	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16																																																																																																	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23																																																																																																	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30																																																																																																	
31	1	2	3	4	5	6																																																																																																	
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S																																																																																																	
28	1	2	3	4	5	6																																																																																																	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13																																																																																																	
14	15	16	17	18	19	20																																																																																																	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27																																																																																																	
28	29	30	31	1	2	3																																																																																																	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10																																																																																																	



Faith United Methodist Church

"Engage, Equip, and Empower"

801 Fourth Ave. NE

Waseca, MN 56093

Phone: 507-835-3167

Fax: 507-835-5400

E-mail: faithwaseca@gmail.com

www.faithwasecaumc.com

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

Change Service Requested

Come Worship with Us
We have room.

MONTHLY MEET-UPS:

Elizabeth Circle

UMW Elizabeth Circle meeting to be determined

Ruth Circle

UMW Ruth Circle meeting to be determined.

Conversation, Bible & Friends

Conversation, Bible and Friends is to be determined.