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From the Pastor's Desk

Greetings,

It was a beautiful very early summer morning when the sounds of giggles, laughing and strange plopping noises woke me from my sleep. I immediately recognized the giggles as being from our children, Noah and April, who at that time were about 2 or 3 years old. I peeked around the corner of the kitchen door to find them sitting on the floor facing each other with an open 18 pack of eggs between them. One would grab an egg and lob it at the other. As the egg broke on them or the floor, the laughs got louder and louder. They were having a ball. I watched them toss eggs back and forth at each other until the carton was empty. I did not say a word. I grabbed an old bath towel, scooped them up and gave them an early morning bubble bath. It didn't take long for the warm water to make them sleepy, so I was able to put them back to bed for some more sleep. After the kids were all tucked in, I went back to the kitchen, gave it a good scrub and made my morning coffee.

About an hour later, Nicki awoke and was wondering why I am up so early. So, I told her the tale of the egg fun. She didn't believe me at first, but hearing the washing machine running and finding the empty egg carton in the garbage, she believed. It is a memory that I will cherish forever.

I happened to be in a book store the other day looking for a new Bible, as the one I like is getting quite worn. I had the entire section to myself as I shopped. Upon leaving, I happen through the self-help section, it was full of people scanning the shelves.

"I lift my eyes to the hills. From where does my help come? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth." Psalm 121:1-2

The Lord watches over us, and he knows when our lives get messy. Look to Jesus for help, not some self-help guru whose life is messy too.

Blessings and peace, Pastor Jon

Special Points of Interest:

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

Administrative Assistant

Office Hours:

Monday, Wednesday & Thursday:

9:30 am - 12:30 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: Shirley Burdick, Gloria Rollag

Janesville Nursing Home: Nina Youngberg

Traditions Assisted Living Owatonna: Ardella Draheim

Latham Place: Joe Tollefson

Lakeshore Inn: Leona Quast, Marian Broughten

Prayer Requests from Sunday Worship: Sue Baldini, Tim Dahnert, Ron Dahnert, Gail Sauer, Beverly Peppenger, Gloria Rollag, Bob Stephan, Margaret Hasslen, family and friends of Mary Shouts, family and friends of Kirsten Fragodt, 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 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.

Sunday School News

On October 15 our lesson was about the golden calf. We also made a ten commandments craft.

Our lesson on October 29 will be about loving God and others.

In November, Sunday school will meet on November 12 and 26.

A Prayer for the 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

United Women in Faith Impact at a Glance

SCHOLARSHIPS

- **192** students in the United States and around the world, totaling over **\$410,000**.

GRANTS

- **\$61,750** in grants supported five partner organizations that provided relief in Ukraine and to Ukrainian refugees in the Republic of Georgia.
- **61** grants were provided to international mission organizations, totaling over **\$700,000**.
- **161** grants were provided to NMIs and other organizations in the United States, totaling over **2.7 million**.

NATIONAL MISSION INSTITUTIONS

- More than **480,000** meals were provided by our National Mission Institutions.
- More than **175,000** individuals received immigration services.
- More than **20,000** children and youth were served in after-school programs and more than **112,000** individuals were offered health services.

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT DAYS (LDD)

- **237** leaders from **51** conferences attended LDD, held at Assembly in Orlando, Florida.

INTERRUPTING THE SCHOOL-TO-PRISON PIPELINE

- Assembly participants sent **767** postcards to **298** members of Congress in support of key bills: Ending PUSHOUT Act, Counseling Not Criminalization in Schools Act, and Protecting Our Students in Schools Act.
- About **200** people attended each online learning event on the school-to-prison pipeline and racial justice.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT GRANTS

- **21,890** women and their families in Africa, Asia, and Latin America received support through training, seed funding, and skills development programs.
- **718** children, youth, and women in the Philippines, Nepal, Indonesia, and Myanmar were served in 2022 through targeted programs.
- **50** women in Sierra Leone directly involved in soap-making participated in a training of trainers workshop and later trained **40** additional women.

JUST ENERGY FOR ALL CAMPAIGN

- Together, we took **7,748** legislative actions for climate justice online.
- We held more than **50** different climate and environmental justice events.

LEGACY ENDOWMENT FUND

- United Women in Faith members and friends have made over **10,000** donations and pledges totaling more than **\$15 million** to the Legacy Endowment Fund since 2014.

ASSEMBLY

- More than **3,000** gathered in Orlando, Florida, and online for United Women in Faith's Assembly 2022, held May 20-22 at the Orange County Convention Center.
- **24** countries and all **50** states were represented at the event.
- **60** deaconesses and home missionaries were consecrated during Assembly, the largest consecration in our history.

VOICES FROM THE FIELD

- **Six** Voices From the Field events, featured leaders sharing their work and life stories. This quarterly conversation series highlights initiatives supported by Mission Giving that improve the lives of women, children, and youth in the world. Two additional events on Ukraine reported live from war zones.

Bishop's Pastoral Letter on Violence in Israel and Palestine

Dear Siblings in Christ,

I don't know about you, but I have struggled this past week. I have struggled to find the words—words that need to be spoken—and words that need to be heard. Like many, I have grappled to make sense of the Hamas attack against Israel, Israel's build up along the border of Gaza, missiles raining down, war being declared, and my own deep conviction that as people of faith we should not sit in idle privilege and do nothing in times such as these.

I have pressed and pleaded with myself to not turn away— disciplining myself to look at images coming out of Israel and Gaza. Images that are hard. Images that reveal the incredible evil that has been done. Images that bear witness to the magnitude of death and destruction that is nearly unfathomable.

Each day, I have given myself grace and space as I learned more about the atrocities perpetrated against civilian young adults, children, babies, seniors, Holocaust survivors, and families whose entire villages were systematically wiped out. Grace and space mixed with the privilege of time. Time marked with sighs too deep for words. Space that gave birth to familiar scriptures stepping into this time of confusion and disbelief: “A voice was heard in Ramah, weeping and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be comforted, because they are no more...” (Matthew 2:18).

It has been important for me to listen to the stories of those being remembered and memorialized.

I have granted myself permission to study Hamas—I knew a little, but not enough. I have reminded myself that when we talk about Hamas and the Palestinian people, we must remember they are not one and the same. Palestinians are an ethnically and culturally diverse group of people, including Muslims, Christians, and other minorities. Many live in refugee camps located in Gaza and the West Bank. Hamas is considered a political and militant terroristic organization by the U.S., Israel, and many other western countries. It has been sobering to consider the enormity and barbarity of the Hamas attack and Israel's retaliatory response that will undoubtedly change both Palestine and Israel forever.

I have also invited myself into the practices of my faith—including prayer and action. (I especially like this prayer for peace in Israel and Palestine.)

The sacred scripture reminds us that, “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God” (Matthew 5:9). It is our divine calling to actively seek and promote peace. This includes praying for those affected by violence and for the perpetrators to find a path of peace and reconciliation.

Our faith calls us to engage in dialogues that promote understanding and respect for all people. We stand against violence and any form of injustice that leads to conflict. Instead, we advocate for a world where conflicts are resolved through peaceful means, where love and compassion triumph over injustice, hatred, and hostility.

(Continued on next page)

Amid these challenging times, we as United Methodists must reaffirm our commitment to nonviolent responses and the inclusion of all voices harmed by the conflict—including Muslim, Christian, and Jewish—in seeking a just and durable peace. We pray for the victims and their families, for the healing of communities and nations torn apart by violence, for humanitarian efforts to enter in, and for the wisdom and guidance of world leaders to pursue peaceful solutions.

As we reflect on the Hamas attack and its implications, let us hold fast to the hope that one day, God's promise of a world without war will be fulfilled. In our prayers and actions, let us work toward a future where swords are turned into plowshares, and nations learn war no more (Isaiah 2:4).

Indeed, the events of the past week serve as a somber reminder of the ongoing conflicts and violence that persist in various regions of the world. It brings to the forefront the deep-rooted issues that continue to divide communities and nations. As United Methodists, we believe in the transformative power of prayer, and we come together in prayerful solidarity for a world where violence and war no longer hold sway.

May we as Dakotas and Minnesota United Methodists stand as a beacon of hope, compassion, and peace in a world often marked by conflict, terror, and hate. Together, in faith and unity, may we continue to pray fervently for the day when the words of the hymn "Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me" become a reality for all humanity. And may our prayers be extended through our acts of justice, service, advocacy, and education.

Alongside you on the journey,



Bishop Lanette Plambeck
Resident Bishop, Dakotas-Minnesota Episcopal Area
The United Methodist Church

Ruth Circle

Ruth Circle usually meets in the Gathering Room the second Tuesday of the month for a program and refreshments.

Four our October meeting some of the members, Anna B., Margaret D., Nancy T., Roberta W. and Lorraine W. went to Owatonna to visit Ardella Draheim to help her celebrate her birthday.

The birthday cake was delicious, the coffee cups were kept full and the fellowship was great. It's always a fun time visiting with Ardella.

The November Ruth circle meeting will be Tuesday, November 14th. At 1:00 and will meet in the Gathering Room.

The program will be "Harvest" and Roberta will be the hostess.

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.

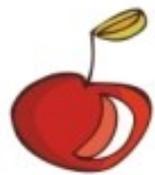
One Minute Devotion

You Are Blessed

Numbers 6:24 - 25

God cares enough to bless you. He promises it. He will "keep" you; building a protection around you. He will always be gracious; giving you only His best, whether you deserve it or not. He gives peace to His children.

Taken from 100 Minutes with God, 1 Minute Daily Devotions of Timeless Inspiration.



Thanksgiving Word Search

A G N I V I G S K N A H T G O
 R A E Y R R T I C U R O A D A
 L L T F E A S T E L S T M I T
 N P U M P K I N Y M H I K R R
 U L R Q C L N O V E M B E R E
 H A I D O E O T R O K U N N S
 F T L I F S L R I P G R O O S
 E T N E E R O E Z I U P U I E
 Y E O V N G C H B L F I Q T D
 A R Y R R E B N A R C O Y I D
 D C O R N U C O P I A M I D E
 I R P I H S R O W M T T J A W
 L O W E L B A T E G E V E R X
 O T S E V R A H A R B D U T E
 H G U C Y O K A H C A R V E A

- | | |
|---------------|------------------|
| 1. Carve | 11. Holiday |
| 2. Celebrate | 12. November |
| 3. Colonist | 13. Pilgrim |
| 4. Cornucopia | 14. Platter |
| 5. Cranberry | 15. Pumpkin |
| 6. Dessert | 16. Thanksgiving |
| 7. Farmer | 17. Tradition |
| 8. Feast | 18. Turkey |
| 9. Gather | 19. Vegetable |
| 10. Harvest | 20. Worship |





Faith United Methodist Church

"Engage, Equip, and Empower"

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Postage Paid
Permit 30
Waseca, MN
56093

Change Service Requested

Come Worship with Us
We have room.

MONTHLY MEET-UPS:

Elizabeth Circle

Elizabeth Circle will **not** meet in November.

Ruth Circle

Ruth Circle will meet on **Tuesday, November 14 at 1:00 pm** in the Gathering Room.

Conversation, Bible & Friends

Conversation, Bible and Friends will **not** meet on Monday November 20.