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### Pastor Office Hours:

Tuesday, Wednesday  
& Thursday  
9:00 am - 12:30 pm

Administrative  
Assistant  
Office Hours:

Monday, Wednesday  
& Thursday:  
9:30 am - 1:00 pm



# Faith Messenger

**SEPTEMBER**

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

**Volume 2025**  
**Issue 8**

## Blessings for a New School Year

September marks the beginning of a new school year. It's a season of fresh starts and new beginnings for students of all ages. Whether they are starting kindergarten, middle school, high school, or even college, there is something exciting and a little bit nerve-wracking about the first day of school.

For many parents and even grandparents, this is also a busy time. There are schedules to manage, backpacks to pack, lunches to prepare, and rides to arrange. I still remember the days when my two sons were in school. I often drove them to after-school activities. Sometimes, it felt like all I did was drive! But looking back, those were precious moments. Those rides became quiet times to talk, laugh, and simply be together.

I want to bless and pray for our church's students, including Aiden, who is starting a new journey at Minnesota State University, and Carson, who is growing as a teen in his faith and life. May the Lord go before them and guide their every step. May they grow not only in knowledge but in grace and strength.

As the new school year begins here in Waseca, I pray for God's blessings upon every student. May they walk with confidence, learn with joy, and grow in wisdom. And to all the parents, may God give you strength, peace, and guidance in every decision. Your care and love shape the next generation. In the middle of all the busyness, let's not forget to pause, breathe, and invite God into our daily routines.

May this new school year be filled with God's presence, protection, and peace for every family.

In Christ,

Dong Shin, Pastor

## Prayer Requests

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

**Benedictine Owatonna:** Les Wells

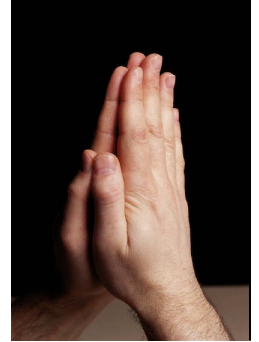
**Colony Court:** Margaret Dahnert

**Lakeshore Inn:** Peggy Deno

**Latham Place:** Joe Tollefson, Wally Ruedy

**Prayer Requests from Sunday Worship:** Sue Baldini, Kathy Dahnert

Johnson, Gail Sauer, Les Wells, Margaret Dahnert, Anna Born, Sherry Scholljegerdes, Stuart Kuyper, Darla Dahnert, DJ Choi, Karen Ferch, Lona Williamson, Vada Dahnert, Jon Schultz, Jill Ledbetter, 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 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.

## Fall Bazaar

Fall Bazaar is Saturday, November 1st. There will be a planning meeting Wednesday, September 3rd at 1:30 in the Fellowship Hall. Please plan on attending so we can plan the Biggest and Best Fall Bazaar!

## Faith Choir

Choir practice begins on Wednesday, September 3 at 7:00pm. If you would like to join the choir, they are happy to welcome new members.

## Mitten Tree

Yes, it's early, but cold weather and winter will soon be upon us. The mitten tree will be going up mid to late September so we can collect hats and mittens before winter. We will need hats and mittens of all sizes, small to large, for children of all ages. The hats and mittens will be delivered to local schools and other organizations to help those in need.



## Faith's Blessing Box Update

We continue to see use of the Blessing Box.

We would welcome donations of canned pasta (ravioli, spaghettios, etc.), canned meats (tuna, chicken), spaghetti sauce (canned or plastic jar), canned fruits and vegetables, cereal, oatmeal, peanut butter, pancake mix and syrup. We are not in need of any dry pasta due to the previous generous donation from Hy-Vee.

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.**

## Volunteer Opportunities

The beginning of fall and return to routines is a great time to consider where your time and talents can be of service to the church. Our worship services and events require volunteers to keep things running smoothly and to share the workload. Sign-up sheets will be available in the narthex to be added to the volunteer lists. We can always use more volunteers in the following areas:

**Communion Stewards** - The schedule is set through the end of the year but we would certainly welcome a few additional volunteers for 2026.

**Ushers** - The schedule is set through December 14. If you would like to be added to the next schedule, please sign up.

**Liturgist** - The schedule is set through the end of the year but we could use a few more volunteers in 2026. Please consider signing up for the next rotation.

**Fellowship Servers** - The sign-up sheet is available down in the fellowship hall.

**Newsletter Folding** - Newsletter folding is typically held on the fourth Thursday of the month at 1:00pm in the Hansel & Gretel Room. Additional hands are always helpful.

Also, don't forget other events we do during the year: Fall Bazaar, Spring Luncheon, Church Clean-up and other events we may host. All of these events need many volunteers in order to be successful.

If you have any questions about volunteering in any of these areas, please contact the church office.

## Ruth Circle

Ruth circle met Tuesday, August 12 at Roberta's granary for the August Meeting.

Lorraine served apple and strawberry rhubarb pies. Roberta had some treats from the garden. The refrigerator pickles were made with her husband's cucumbers and the small tomatoes were from Roberta's son's garden. He thought the circle ladies would enjoy them and it appeared that they did.

Some items included in the meeting notes were:

Ruth circle will sponsor a Women's Gathering on Saturday, September 27th at 10:00. Roberta will present a hat show.

Fall Bazaar is Saturday, November 1st. There will be a planning meeting Wednesday, September 3rd at 1:30 in the Fellowship Hall.

Next circle meeting: 1:00 September 9th in the Gathering Room

### The Jar of Happiness

Roberta had small Jars of Happiness for each person filled with M&Ms to start the program.

The "Jar of Happiness" is a children's book by Ailsa Burrows about a girl named Meg and her quest to understand and share happiness.

Meg believes she has discovered a "recipe" for happiness, collecting various pleasant sensory experiences in a jar: the taste of chocolate ice cream and sunshine, the smell of warm cookies and the ocean, and all the best colors.

Meg takes her jar with her wherever she goes and uses it to cheer up her friends and family when they are feeling down. She shares it with her friend Zoe, makes her ailing grandmother feel better, and even lets her brother Leon borrow it.

One day, Meg wakes up to find her precious jar missing from its usual spot. She searches everywhere, even in unlikely places but it's nowhere to be found.

Distraught and unhappy without her jar, Meg visits Zoe, her grandmother, and Leon. Each of them, in turn, helps Meg rediscover happiness in different ways, teaching her that it's not something contained in a jar. Zoe shows her the happiness found in smiles, her grandmother reminds her of the joy in hugs and tickles, and Leon explains the power of positive thoughts to chase away bad feelings.

By the end of the day, Meg still hadn't found her physical jar. However, she has learned that true happiness doesn't come from a material object or a secret potion, but from the relationships, experiences, and positive outlook that surround her.

"The Jar of Happiness" teaches a valuable lesson about the nature of happiness, emphasizing that it can be found in various forms and is often tied to our connections with others and our ability to appreciate the good things in life.

We all want to be happy, but sometimes trying to find happiness can be difficult. Often times we search for it in all the wrong places or ways when the answer is much simpler - God.

"Happy are the people whose God is the Lord" Psalm 144:15. Scripture guides us to true happiness through knowing the promises in God's Word!

A Prayer for Happiness: Lord, we long to know and experience happiness in our lives. The happiness we desire is so much more than skin deep. It's bigger than our circumstances and larger than our emotions. We want the kind of happiness that trusts you, obeys you, and follows you regardless of where that path leads. Amen

Ruth circle would like to extend an invitation to a hat show and would like to see you there.

# Hat Extravaganza

*Come and see Roberta's hats; lots of color, lots of sizes and lots of styles!*

*Lots of Fun!*

*Learn some interesting things about hats and listen to some 'hat' stories.*

*Saturday, September 27<sup>th</sup> at 10:00.*

*At the Fellowship hall at Faith UMC*

*Coffee, treats and fellowship*

*Sponsored by Women of Faith*



*Looking forward to seeing you.*

*Bring a friend!*

*Lots of fellowship, fun conversation  
and a beautiful view of Clear Lake  
at the Church by the Lake.*

## Elizabeth Circle

### "God, Girlfriends, and Chocolate"

There were eight women attending the August meeting of Elizabeth Circle at Faith Church. We always miss those who for health or other reasons are unable to join us, but they are with us in spirit. It should be noted that any—any—women of Faith are welcome to come to these monthly meetings...drop in as it works for you...just follow the listings in the monthly Newsletters for Faith U.M. for dates and times.

Karen was hostess in the Gathering Room, providing ice cream sundaes and coffee. (Yes, the toppings were homemade—caramel and chocolate. I had no idea that our 'lesson' for the day had any connection with chocolate...proves once again that God has a great sense of humor. KF) Had there been a theme for table decor it could have been 'Use Up What You Have on Hand'...One need not always run to the store to purchase theme-napkins, plates, etc. when most of us seniors already have a stash to use. Elegant? No, but sensible? Definitely. And...borrowing a few bouquets from the Fellowship Hall tables is as easy as it gets. (Thanks to our former Faith sister and forever friend, Linda Lohse, for arranging those florals oh-so-long-ago. They're still pretty.) I say all this to make sure that everyone knows taking a turn now and again as Hostess doesn't mean you have to spend a lot or do a lot of work just to 'set the scene' for Circle meetings.

Back to business...Berts Walker announced that another coffee-and-treats women's gathering will be held in Faith Church Fellowship Hall at 10:00 a m on Saturday September 27. Please mark your calendar and plan to come and enjoy another good time of coffee-and-conversation. (Hint: Hats Extravaganza.)

**Another very important date to mark is Wednesday Sept. 3 at 1:30—Planning Meeting for Fall Bazaar. PLEASE take time to come and provide your input...suggestions, previous experiences-pluses and minuses, etc.**

Wilda read a chapter from a treasured book given her by a dear friend: 'God, Girlfriends, and Chocolate' by Gaye Lindfors. It is a wonderful story (true) of friendship that never failed between the author and her lifetime best friend. The narrative was both touching and funny—we all could relate to remembrances from our own lives and the special friends we loved. Prayer: 'Thank you, God, for the beautiful gift of friendships which have endured for a lifetime.'

Mary Jane reminded us that at this time we do not have any Honorary Members for our Circle, therefore we named our sister-in-faith, Peggy Deno, who resides at Lakeshore Rehab Center, to hold this place.

Sandy V. Suggested that due to the 9/27 women's event (as listed above) there will not be a meeting of Elizabeth Circle in September.

Re the October Circle meeting, please note - date pending.

-Karen Ferch, Recording Sec.

## **A Prayer for our 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

### **Leadership Team**

Members of the Faith United Methodist Church Leadership Team:

Rev. Dong Hun Shin, Pastor

Dave Baldini, Chair

Clair Voshell, Trustees

Jarod True, Finances, Trustee Treasurer & SPRC

Stacy True, Recording Secretary

Neil Fruechte

Mary Jane Stauffer

Karen Ferch

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.**



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 **not** meet in September.

**Ruth Circle**

Ruth Circle will meet on **Tuesday, September 9** at **1:00** in the Gathering Room.