

Faith UP

May 2020

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PASTOR'S PEN

It seems like a very long time ago that the last Newsletter was put together; the time seems to slowly move forward as this pandemic continues to drag on. I suppose that seems even more of an issue for us in this day and time because we are so keyed into constant motion and instant gratification. The COVID-19 shut down has it us in numerous sore spots like economics and jobs and not being able to gather in groups and go where we want and the like. And, of course, there are those who have actually suffered from the illness itself, those who have been hospitalized and those who have recovered at home. And, we must not forget that there have been, as of this writing, 60,000 plus deaths attributed to the virus in the US alone. All of this is a recipe for disaster, each one would be enough, but put them all together and this has been a very difficult situation to say the least.

But, one of the areas that has been the most difficult for many to deal with during this time of stay at home regulating in most every state and city has been the idea that we, as a people of the 21st century, have been forced to slow down, to stop activities for periods of time, to actually take time to pay attention to others and the things in life going on around us, to actually live life for this period of time with our families, (for those who have families) with relatives and friends whom we must call or somehow connect with through electronic means, with the Bible and other books, with the birds and the animals, the flora and fauna of this magnificent creation. We have been forced to stop the frantic and frenetic and settle into almost Sabbath-like living. WOW, what a terrible thing this pandemic has forced us to do.

But, even in the terrible state we find ourselves in, of having to actually stop and look around and listen and breathe and taste and rest and relax, something good may yet come to pass; maybe, just maybe we are finding that we actually like to slow down, to stop the frantic and frenetic, to watch, listen, feel, taste, breathe, rest, and relax a whole lot more than we ever thought we would or could. See, the consumeristic drive, the fear of scarcity that has been what drives life for the last 50 plus years, has been exposed for the fraud that it is, because we are still here and we are still functioning with that frantic pace and that fear of scarcity put on the back burner.

Please know that I am not talking about the situations where people are laid off or furloughed or who are genuinely lacking for food etc. What I am talking about is that sense that has been forced into us over the last several decades that the measure of success is how much stuff we have accumulated and how full our date books and calendars are. We saw those who were pushed to the brink in time and who had big houses full of stuff that was never used or was always brand new as those who had achieved. Yet, during this time of stay at home and social distancing where it has not been possible to be on the go 24/7 or to be out shopping always because the money might be a bit tight, life has continued to flow, and many, many, many people are discovering that outside of getting a little stir crazy and missing the human contact a bit, life is still actually going fairly well. We have begun reading again, we have actually sat and had conversations with family, we have sat and ate dinner together at the table again, or some reasonable facsimile of this, we have not worried too much about new clothes or new cars or new whatever the advertisers tell us we can't possibly live without. (except the toilet paper thing, I still don't get the furor over that) In other words, we have had to stay at home, be engaged with one another, not accumulate and we are ok, maybe even better than ok! (those who are ill or who are grieving or who are unemployed, again, are not part of what I am talking about. We continue to think of these and pray for these and have genuine concern for these, as we should)

Con't on pg 2

What I am talking about here is the absolute blessing this pandemic has offered to us to observe Sabbath-like life, the idea that the well life is one not consumed by the frenetic rush or the fear of scarcity. We still must work, we still must go and do, we still must love and care for one another and the other; that is still a part of the everyday living we engage in regardless of what is going on. But we don't need to rush, rush, rush; we don't need to buy, buy, buy; we don't need to worry, worry, worry to know the fullness of life; we are being shown an alternative, right in the middle of this terrible pandemic situation; GOD making good out of something very bad. And, what's more, even in the absence of in person gatherings and such, the church has continue to function, and not only function, but to actually function well. We continue to worship, we continue to pray, we continue to minister, we continue to actively engage in mission, all in very different ways than we are accustomed to, but very real ways nonetheless. We have not needed expensive campuses and gadgets and equipment and the like in order to live out our calling to be the body of Christ in the world. Now, all of those other things, used in the right context, certainly seem to aid in the calling. But, the calling to be Jesus' body in the world seems to go on, even when we have not been in our campuses and used our gadgets and equipment and the like for almost two months. Is there something to that? Do those things really have as much impact on the church as we have made them to have? Might this be a wake up call to us that the church, the real body of Christ in the world is us and how we reach out and share and love and care and give and do? I am not saying we need to move out of buildings and get rid of gadgets and equipment and the like. But I am saying that I find it very telling that the church has continued to function, on a very real and high level, and we have not had those things as a resource during this time. Make of that what you will. But let us consider this as well, maybe GOD is helping us to understand that all those things: our full calendars and accumulations, and buildings and gadgets and equipment have become for us more than they were ever supposed to? GOD makes life possible, livable, well, full; God chose to unleash this most intimately in the sending of Jesus, as a real flesh and blood person, into human history, love embodied, and that embodied love continues to be with us by the power of the Holy Spirit. That is what life is all about, all that other "stuff" is a trap to get us distracted from what life is really about, relationship with God in Jesus Christ, with family and neighbor, with stranger and friend, with the very creation itself. The grace of God leads us into life, and life eternal. May we worship and praise God and enjoy God forever. Amen.

CHURCH WORLD SERVICE

In February Lowell & I received a request from Church World Service asking us to hold a Blanket Drive. I talked to Pastor Dave and Harriett Marsh about it and they said it would be fine for us to do it.

In 2019 congregational gifts provided over 18,000 CWS Blankets and Kits to families impacted by Hurricanes, tornadoes, flooding and other crises.

Blankets are \$10.00 each for a Heavyweight Woolen Blanket or Lightweight, water repellant, durable, warm and soft Fleece Blanket.

The 2020 Season for need has begun. We have flyers, cards/envelopes, and can receive contributions. We will try to close the Drive by the end of June.

Reta & Lowell Johnson

Faith United Presbyterian Scholarship

Attention High School Seniors:

Applications are now available for the Faith United Presbyterian Scholarship. Applicants must be high school seniors planning to continue their education at a traditional four year undergraduate program, a community college or other career or vocational program. Candidates must be a confirmed, active member of Faith United Presbyterian Church.

Candidate must show involvement in church, school and/or community activities. All completed applications must be returned to the office by May 15, 2019. The scholarship will be presented at graduation Sunday, whenever that may be.

Underwritten by Bill & Mary Hall



MISSION NEWS



Written by Harriett Marsh, Peggy Reid, Kelly Berkenpas

Spotlight on Missions!!

The Mission Committee has been keeping in touch through email and actually had a "virtual" meeting this morning, April 23rd. We had voted to support the South Sudan Nursing program and will be sending them at least part of what is needed for one student soon. Also, in light of the increased food insecurity due to Covid-19, we are sending \$500 to the Food Bank of Siouxland and \$300 to the Soup Kitchen. Becky Bainbridge still need 2 or 3 volunteers for the next Backpack date which is Monday, May 4th. The backpack item will be passed out at various locations when students are picking up their lunch bags. No more than ten volunteers - social distancing will be observed - gloves will be provided. Prayers for all of you. Stay well, stay in if you can, and thank God for all our blessings!

Music Notes

I want to thank all who have contributed to our online music offerings during this time. We look forward to the day when we can all worship together in person. Until then, if anyone would like to record a song or hymn for online worship, please let me know! We will be looking for special music during the summer as well, whether that is online or in-person. Thank you and take care, Ellen Osborn ellenosborn@gmail.com or 712-202-4474

Ellen Osborn, Director of Music

*The deadline for newsletter submission is the **3rd Wednesday** of the month prior to publication. Please direct articles & questions to
Teri McCallum
faithupcsec@outlook.com*

*Please direct ideas, articles and questions to
Teri McCallum
712-276-3121,
faithupcsec@outlook.com*

Lectionary Scripture Lessons in May

Fourth Sunday of Easter—May 3

Acts 2:42–47; Psalm 23
1 Peter 2:19–25; John 10:1–10

Fifth Sunday of Easter—May 10

Acts 7:55–60; Psalm 31:1–5, 15–16
1 Peter 2:2–10; John 14:1–14

Sixth Sunday of Easter—May 17

Acts 17:22–31; Psalm 66:8–20
1 Peter 3:13–22; John 14:15–21

Ascension of the Lord—May 21

Acts 1:1–11; Psalm 47 or Psalm 93
Ephesians 1:15–23; Luke 24:44–53

Seventh Sunday of Easter—May 24

Acts 1:6–14; Psalm 68:1–10, 32–35
1 Peter 4:12–14; 5:6–11; John 17:1–11

Day of Pentecost—May 31

Acts 2:1–21 or Numbers 11:24–30
Psalm 104:24–34, 35b
1 Corinthians 12:3b–13 or Acts 2:1–21
John 20:19–23 or John 7:37–39



PRESBYTERIAN
WOMEN

Upcoming Dates to Remember

May

Circles will meet:

May 5, Naomi Circle, 2:00 pm
May 6, Rebecca Circle, 10:00 am
May 14 Esther Bible Study, 9:30 am
May 15, Coordinating Team, 10:00 am
May 19, Lydia Circle, 7:00 pm

Vina Rodecker

Kitchen Crew for May is Lydia Circle

Treasurer's Report from March

Income	\$15,316.52
Expenses	\$16,928.15
Excess/(Deficit)	(-\$1,611.63)

FAITH TOGETHER

We are missing our third FAITH TOGETHER Gathering because of the coronavirus epidemic, so I am sending this note to let you know you are being missed!

Reta Johnson, Julie Mesmer, Toots Pittman,
Karen Lien

The Quilting Group will meet on Tuesdays, at 9 o'clock. We would invite anyone who enjoys sewing and some fellowship to join us in the quilting room on the third floor.



CARD MAKING GROUP There will be no card making until further notice. However, cards are still for sale for --\$.50 each or 3 for \$1.00.

These Days

We have many copies of "These Days" available. We get new ones every quarter. Please take one for yourself, a family member or friends.

May/June UPPER ROOM
DEVOTIONALS ARE
HERE!



LUNCH BUNCH On Wednesday, May 6 the Lunch Bunch will meet at Old Chicago at 12:00 pm for lunch.

Faith United Presbyterian Church is on a pilgrimage to resurrect and expand our church community and to share the love and grace of Jesus Christ. We worship as an authentic expression of our gratitude to God for grace unimaginable and love unconditional. We strive to be God's heart, hands and voice to all ages as we grow in faith and engage in mission locally, nationally, and globally.

Prayer Families for May



3 - Roxanne Bobolz, Elizabeth Boyer, Tom & Dawn Braddy & family, Barb Brienza, Vivian Busse, Eric Butler

10 - Michele Butler, Rick & Carol Butler, Larry & Andrea Cale, Merton & Sherrie Chmelka, Delbert Christensen & family, Josh Clayton & family

17 - Karen Clayton, Kathy Clayton, Nancy Clayton & family, Sheryl Collins, Marguerite Dahl, David Dahl

24 - Jeff & Rhonda Dahl & family, Ben Daniels, Carolyn Daniels, Deanna Daniels, John & Mary Daniels, Jeff & Rhonda Davis & family

31 - Richard & Mary Delfs, Susan Delfs, Marv & Lorraine Edmunds, Marilyn Erickson, Camille Farley, Jack & Amanda Farley &

Everyone is so fast to judge how people are quarantining, when we're all just trying to keep our own boat a float. Worry about you and your boat!!
WE ARE NOT IN THE SAME BOAT ...

I heard that we are all in the same boat, but it's not like that. We are in the same storm, but not in the same boat. Your ship could be shipwrecked and mine might not be. Or vice versa.

For some, quarantine is optimal. A moment of reflection, of re-connection, easy in flip flops, with a cocktail or coffee. For others, this is a desperate financial & family crisis.

For some that live alone they're facing endless loneliness. While for others it is peace, rest & time with their mother, father, sons & daughters.

With the \$600 weekly increase in unemployment some are bringing in more money to their households than they were working. Others are working more hours for less money due to pay cuts or loss in sales.

Some families of 4 just received \$3400 from the stimulus while other families of 4 saw \$0.

Some were concerned about getting a certain candy for Easter while others were concerned if there would be enough bread, milk and eggs for the weekend. Some want to go back to work because they don't qualify for unemployment and are running out of money. Others want to kill those who break the quarantine.

Some are home spending 2-3 hours/day helping their child with online schooling while others are spending 2-3 hours/day to educate their children on top of a 10-12 hour workday.

Some have experienced the near death of the virus, some have already lost someone from it and some are not sure if their loved ones are going to make it.

Others don't believe this is a big deal.

Some have faith in God and expect miracles during this 2020. Others say the worst is yet to come.

So, friends, we are not in the same boat. We are going through a time when our perceptions and needs are completely different.

Each of us will emerge, in our own way, from this storm. It is very important to see beyond what is seen at first glance. Not just looking, actually seeing.

We are all on different ships during this storm experiencing a very different journey.

May 2020



Birthdays

1 - Jeff Arnett
10 - Iain McWilliams
Marilyn Watkins
11 - Isaac Chmielewski
16 - Tegan Lindgren
19 - Andrew Gottsch
Bill Strawn
20 - Dave LeGree

21 - Delbert Christensen
Cale McWilliams
Heather Watkins
23 - Jill Heller
Dick McKeever
25 - Garrett Anderson
Donnaline Schmith
28 - Michele Butler
29 - Audrey Fenton
Marion Molden
30 - Deanna Daniels

May 2020

Anniversaries



15 - Keith & Eileen Hansen
17 - Tom & Dawn Braddy
21 - Anthony & Ellen Osborn
21 - John & Connie Sponder
29 - Al & Donna Baustian

Easter Flowers

2020



Elgerd & Marlyn Arnett	In Memory of our Granddaughter Annie Arnett
Marguerite Dahl	In Memory of Carold Dahl
Richard & Mary Delfs	In Memory of Family members
Marilyn Erickson	In Memory of Gerald & Mom
Andrew Gottsch	In Loving Memory of Susan Gottsch and Arlo & Mary Lou Gottsch
Frances Graham	In loving Memory of Hewitt K. Graham and our parents
Bill & Mary Hall	In Memory of our son Greg John Hall
Lori Hansen	In Memory of Loved ones who have passed away
Dave & Sherry Koehler	In Memory of our fathers & grandparents
Beth Lindgren	In Memory of loved ones
Harriett Marsh	In Memory of my parents
Betty & Bev Maxfield	In Memory of Rock & Hazel Maxfield and Joyce Hiser
Bobbi Mesmer	In Memory of Dick Mesmer, missed greatly!
Jeff & Becky Paulsen	In Memory of loved ones
Greg & Linda Puttmann	In Memory of loved ones
Dick & Marcia Pruehs	In Memory of Gin Gin
Dorothy Rice	In Memory of Parents and loved ones
Laura Stokes	In Memory of our wife, mother, and grandmother Karen Strawn and our son, father, brother and uncle Will Strawn
Eleanor Tasker	In Memory of loved ones who have passed away

May 2020

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
Everything on this calendar is subject to change depending on when we are allowed to gather together again					1 8:00 pm Closed AA 8:00 pm AI-Anon	2
3 10:30 am Worship Service 1-4 pm Girl Scouts 7:00 pm Women's AA 8:00 pm Open AA	4 5-7 pm Just 4 Kix 6:30 pm Cub Scouts	5 9:00 am Quilting Group 2:00 pm Naomi Circle	6 10:00 am Rebecca Circle 12:00 pm Lunch Bunch @ Old Chicago 7:00 Gambler's Anon 7:15 pm Choir practice	7 8:30 Men's Club 5-7 pm Just 4 Kix 7:00 pm Scouts	8 8:00 pm Closed AA 8:00 pm AI-Anon	9
10 10:30 am Worship Service 7:00 pm Women's AA 8:00 pm Open AA	11 5-7 pm Just 4 Kix 6:30 pm Cub Scouts 7 pm Session	12 9:00 am Quilting Group 5:30 pm Empty Nesters @ 7:00 pm Doll Club	13 7:00 Gambler's Anon 7:15 pm Choir practice	14 8:30 Men's Club 9:30 am Esther Bible Study 5-7 pm Just 4 Kix 7:00 pm Scouts	15 10:00 am PW Coordinating team 8:00 pm Closed AA 8:00 pm AI-Anon	16
17 10:30 am Worship Service 1-4 pm Girl Scouts 7:00 pm Women's AA 8:00 pm Open AA	18 5-7 pm Just 4 Kix 6:30 pm Cub Scouts 7:00 CE Meeting	19 9:00 am Quilting Group 7:00 pm Lydia circle	20 FAITH UP DEADLINE 7:00 Gambler's Anon 7:15 pm Choir practice	21 8:30 Men's Club 4:00 pm Deacons 5-7 pm Just 4 Kix 7:00 pm Scouts	22 8:00 pm Closed AA 8:00 pm AI-Anon	23
24 10:30 am Worship Service 7:00 pm Women's AA 8:00 pm Open AA	25 5-7 pm Just 4 Kix 6:30 pm Cub Scouts	26 9:00 am Quilting Group 12:00 pm Faith Together	27 7:00 Gambler's Anon 7:15 pm Choir practice	28 8:30 Men's Club 5-7 pm Just 4 Kix 7:00 pm Scouts	29 8:00 pm Closed AA 8:00 pm AI-Anon	30
31 10:30 am Worship Service 7:00 pm Women's AA 8:00 pm Open AA						

Faith United Presbyterian Church

4327 Morningside Avenue
Sioux City, Iowa 51106

Phone: 712-276-3121

E-Mail (Pastor): faithupc@outlook.com

E-Mail (Secretary): faithupcsec@outlook.com

Website: www.faithupc.com

We're also on Facebook



Worship Schedule

Service times

10:30 Worship Service
Staffed Nursery Available

Faith United Presbyterian Committees

Building & Grounds

Jeff Arnett
Don Stokes
Ben Miller

Christian Education

Tina Hansen
Becky Bainbridge

Finance

Renea Anderson
Zach Gould

General Administration

Renea Anderson
Don Stokes
Tina Hansen
Ben Miller

Investment/Endowment

Gary Hacker

Membership

Connie Sponder
Linda Puttmann

Memorial

Becky Bainbridge
Renea Anderson

Mission

Becky Bainbridge
Harriett Marsh
Zach Gould

Worship

Linda Puttmann
Zach Gould

BOARD OF DEACONS

Carolyn Daniels	Becky Paulsen
Carlotta Fox	Dick Pruehs
Angie Irwin	Harvey Stokes
Sally Lingle	Lorman Vilhauer
Bobbi Mesmer	Sally Vilhauer
Julie Mesmer	

THE SESSION OF FAITH UPC

Clerk of Session– Connie Sponder

Renea Anderson	Tina Hansen
Jeff Arnett	Ben Miller
Becky Bainbridge	Linda Puttmann
Zach Gould	Don Stokes

FAITH UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STAFF

Pastor: Rev. David Koehler - Admin. Asst.: Teri McCallum - Music staff: - Sonja Floyd, Pat Herbold, Ellen Osborn,
Maintenance Services: Lindy Johnson - Nursery Care Coordinator: Tina Hansen