

Arms of Faith

Faith Presbyterian Church

"To know, to grow, and to show Christ to all people"

January

2021

Holy Cow!

Happy New Year! Or as my older son used to say, New, Happy Year! He was two years old at the time, but I think he got the sentiment right. As the calendar turns to 2021 Faith Church is taking another, faithful step. In January we begin a self-study of our mission and identity. The process we will use is called Holy Cow, and it has been used with favorable results by several churches in our Presbytery.

In addition to being user-friendly and well-respected, the Holy Cow process allows congregations to address the specific questions they have. It is even easy to use during physical distancing!

The Presbytery will cover 1/3 of the cost of Holy Cow. The Presbytery's Commission on Ministry has been very, very helpful to Faith Church and me as we have journeyed together in this moment of transition.

After the Session has analyzed the results from Holy Cow, the next step in finding a new pastor will be for the congregation to elect a Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC). Faith Church is in a very strong position as this process starts; we stand to benefit from the experience of the last PNC!

One final word as the search process begins: Get used to acronyms!

PNC = Pastoral Nominating Committee

MIF = Ministry Information Form –what churches write to describe themselves

PIF = Pastoral Information Form –the candidates' MIF equivalent

COM = Commission on Ministry – the people who guide us through this process

TLA = The Letter Acronyms – I love this one!

See you in church!

Pastor Tom

January Birthdays

Jan 1 Jim Willett
Jan 3 Marilyn Mavity
Jan 4 Charlotte Selmer
Jan 10 Kara Negley
Jan 12 John Erickson
Jan 15 Jackie Cook
Jan 19 Jo Jacobs
Jan 24 Doug Bogenhagen
Jan 24 Lynda Shafer
Jan 29 Mary Ann Stevens

Streaming Sunday Worship Service 10:00am

We will continue to broadcast the worship service on Facebook. If you do not have computer access, you may listen to the service by calling 1-844-855-4444 and entering access code 716966#.

If you would like to join Virtual Coffee Hour following the church service, the link is

<https://zoom.us/j/99782007363?pwd=L042cGQza2tjVTZvSIN0Yk1xYlBLQT09>



December Session News

Your Session met over Zoom, Thursday, December 17 starting at 7 p.m. Outgoing Facilities Committee chair Rod Bosserdet opened the meeting with prayer.

The Session examined the incoming elders, asking them what they hoped for their time on Session. Some of their answers were a desire to grow spiritually and to learn more about church operations. Elder Debbie Kippley shared that her recent reading of the Letters to Timothy and Titus—part of the Chronological Bible Study—offer practical guidance for church leaders. All four newly-installed elders, Jim Willett, Matt Kasprzak, Tom Negley and Shayla Hall, were approved for service on Session.

The Discipleship Committee has been busy filling bags of Advent and Christmas activity projects for our young people. They plan a Circle Makers study to begin in January.

Session set the annual meeting for February 7, 2021 following worship. It appears that the meeting will take place over Zoom. Many churches have had to make this adjustment because of COVID-19; it's not optimal, but it's the best we can do while gathering in person is unwise.

Support Committee chair Marc Wagoner reported that an audit of the church's finances took place in November and everything was found in order. Marc also reported that it appears we will end 2020 with a budget surplus. While income has been down, largely because of lower income from building use and loose offerings, pledging has remained strong and spending on programming has been down dramatically.

The elders whose terms are ending shared some thoughts and wisdom with the Session. They challenged the Session—and the whole congregation—to face the changes, whatever they may be, that await us:

- To form an identity separate from the pastor;
- To recognize that ministry must come before building; and
- To craft a new vision for the long road ahead.

They shared that they found serving the church, their family, a blessing and challenged the Session to continue to love God and love one another.

Outgoing elder Carolyn Ernst closed the meeting with prayer.



From the Parish Nurse

The CDC recommends washing hands for 20 seconds. You may have heard that it takes about 20 seconds to sing "Happy Birthday" or "The ABC Song" twice. Here are a few alternatives:

1. Say or sing the "The Lord's Prayer"
2. Sing "Amazing Grace"
3. Sing "God Bless America"
4. Sing the "Doxology"
5. Sing "This Little Light of Mine"
6. Sing "Holy, Holy, Holy"

Spend a little time with God next time you wash your hands!

Source "How to Wash Your Hands with Prayer and Song" by Rick Hamlin posted in Guideposts March 10, 2020

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to all those who made our Thanksgiving Project possible. Even with many of us worshipping at home, the donations exceeded all of our expectations - God is good! HyVee gift cards were donated to 15 needy families in our area to purchase food. These families also received a credit of \$120 toward one of their utility bills. This was an added blessing at this time of the year when utility bills can be so high.

Thank you to the Presbyterian Women for their continuing support each year with a monetary donation.

Many thanks also to the Family of Dave Olney who gave his memorial money to help our cause.

Thanks so much to everyone for your generosity and compassion! Please continue to keep these and other families in need in your prayers.

Mission/Evangelism Team

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A publication of Faith Presbyterian Church

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You will be receiving your **donation statement** by email from FaithPresbyterianInfo@gmail.com in January. If you do not receive the email statement by the end of January or would like a printed copy sent to you, please call Ranae at the church office at 402-331-6944.

You will also receive your **annual report** by email from FaithPresbyterianInfo@gmail.com during the last part of January. If you would like a printed copy, please call the church office.

Your Session

Clerk of Session -	Joe Seda
Fellowship	Shayla Hall
Facilities	Tom Negley
	Matt Kasprzak
	Jim Willett
Mission & Ev	Chuck Shafer
Discipleship	Peter Svoboda
Support	Marc Wagoner
Worship	Debbie Eggers
Human Res	Scott Jamieson

