



Arms of Faith

Faith Presbyterian Church
"To know, to grow, and to show Christ to all people"

June

2021

Emerging

When we went into "lock down" last March because of COVID-19, there were very few people who expected to still be under "The COVID Cloud" more than a year later. I remember thinking we'd celebrate Easter in July when everything would return to "normal." After about six weeks someone told me that the sprint had become a marathon, we'd need to respond to COVID much longer than we first thought.

The pandemic came at an unfortunate time for Faith Church as well. I had just begun doing some of the Transitional Tasks when my plans and intentions were shelved so I could focus on leading worship in a completely new context.

I am delighted, as I pull these thoughts together in late May, to report that Faith Church is making tangible progress as we emerge from the pandemic *and* as we seek our next pastor.

A group of Faith leaders I call The Health Cabinet have been meeting regularly to craft the church's policy regarding COVID-19. They met on Tuesday, May 25 and drafted a policy for Session to consider that dramatically reduces the restrictions that we've placed on gathering in the building.

On Sunday, May 23, Faith Church took an important, faithful step into the future by electing a Pastoral Nominating Committee. These seven people whom you elected with prayer, discern, listen, imagine and dream together. Be sure to pray for them regularly. They have felt called by the Holy Spirit to take on an important, demanding task.

Hold Karen Greni, Tracy Kristensen, Bob Meyer, Bill Neubert, Terri O'Brien, Lynda Shafer and Peter Svoboda in prayer; offer them encouragement; listen to their updates. They have been called by the Holy Spirit, through the voice of Faith Church, to find your next pastor to lead your walk with Christ.

See you in church,

Pastor Tom

May Session News

Your Session met *in person for the first time since February 2020!!* on Thursday, May 20. Every elder was in attendance!

Pastor Tom began the meeting with a reading from Joshua 4, the story of the Israelites crossing into the Promised Land. Each elder was asked to share a milestone, or turning point, in Faith Church they have seen during their term on Session.

Some of the milestones were as recent as receiving the Confirmation Class into membership on May 16. Some were parts of a process, like shutting down because of the pandemic and beginning to re-open as the pandemic wanes. Some were personal, being called to serve on Session. Some were events, removing Pastor Lori Robinson and dismissing Family Ministries Director, Anne Sulhoff. Several elders mentioned the Holy Cow process and the insights Faith Church is gaining from its findings. Session was looking ahead to the Congregational Meeting on Sunday, May 23, when the Pastoral Nominating Committee would be elected, an enormous milestone in the life of the congregation.

Facilities Chair, Tom Negley, thanked everyone who helped with the church Work Day, Saturday May 8. He also shared that requests to use the building are increasing and that HVAC repairs will be made during the last week of May.

Some things to add to your calendar: **Movies Nights** Wednesday, June 2; Wednesday, July 7; and Wednesday, August 4. **Clothing Giveaway**, Friday, July 30 & Saturday, July 31. **Mission Sunday**, July 11—led by Table Grace, the ministry we supported with our Easter offering.

Treasurer Marc Wagoner smiled as he reported that through the first four months of the year revenue came in at 106.9% of projections while expenses have run at only 83% of projections! Faith Church is in very strong financial shape.

We are considering participating in the Ralston 4th of July Parade. The Fellowship Committee is looking into specifics.

So goes the work of your Session.

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#.

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

THANK YOU LADIES !!!

The FLC kitchen received a complete kitchen cleaning on May 11th and 12th thanks to the following women Ann Tresemer, Pam Bottorff, Carolyn Ernst, Jimi Hoham and Ginny McKulsky. These women wiped out drawers and cabinet shelves, sorted items with a deep cleaning of everything, When you see these women be sure to THANK them for all the hours of time and energy they spent on our church kitchen. In August we will tackle the downstairs kitchen.

Thank you, again Ladies !!!

Sharon Fleming for Faith Presbyterian Women

Faithful Friends Fellowship

Please join the Faithful Friends Fellowship, the Zoom fellowship hour following the church service each Sunday. A variety of topics are discussed, and we would love your input. Here is the Zoom link:

<https://zoom.us/j/99782007363?>

pwd=L042cGQza2tjVTZvSINOYk1xYIBLQT09

Meeting ID: 997 8200 7363 Passcode: 112592



Kara Norman, Pastor Tom Willadsen, Khyenne Cottrell
Kara and Khyenne were confirmed on May 16th.



Come Thirsty

Max Lucado

This is a six-week Bible study about rejuvenating our faith.

The study titles are as follows:

1. Thirsting After Righteousness
2. Grace Blockers
3. Redefining Prayer
4. Choosing Peace
5. Abiding in God's Love
6. If God Wrote You a Letter

June 13, 20 & 27 and July 11, 18, & 25

In an effort to discover the right time for Bible Study, this class will be offered Sundays at 8:30 AM and again at 11:00 AM. You are welcome to come at the same time each week or mix it up.

Debbie Kippley will facilitate this class.

This will be an intergenerational study and open to anyone entering middle school or older. Younger children are welcome to be with us, and quiet activities can be available to entertain them.

Please pre-register with the church office or Sunday morning by June 6.

Synod School

There is spectacular, affordable, fun Christian education coming this summer: Synod School.

The week of July 25-July 30 Presbyterians from all across the Upper Midwest will gather at Buena Vista University in Storm Lake, Iowa.

There is high quality programming for people of all ages. The morning and evening worship services are outstanding, and there are classes that range from Introduction to the Old Testament to Pickleball is Serious Fun, Outdoor Cooking—RIBS, RIBS, RIBS to Inspired Living—a Life of Prayer. I will be teaching The Humor of Christ this summer.

The food offers a wide variety of healthy choices for all dietary needs. Caramel Roll Day has been declared a state holiday in Iowa.

For a week's worth of programming, fun and education Synod School is very affordable: \$280 for lodging, classes and meals for adults sharing a room.

There are also generous scholarships available from Synod School—and also money that Faith Church has available.

Check out the catalog for more classes and information.

[741_sscatalog21_final.pdf \(lakesandprairies.org\)](#)

Or call Pastor Tom to hear more about how wonderful Synod School is - 402-331-6944. He is a true Synod School evangelist!

**Movie Nights At Faith
June 2, July 7, and August 4**

The Discipleship Committee will host three movie nights this summer.

Movies will start about 30 minutes after Sunset. The license to show movies does not allow us to tell you the movie's title; however, there may be clues. Bring a lawn chair or blanket and meet us on the north lawn of the church.

If there is inclement weather, we will move the movie into the Family Life Center.

So Movies Rain or Shine.

Movie Night

June 2, 2021

Sunset at 8:51 PM

The movie starts at 9:20 PM



June Birthdays

June 2 Hollis Cook

June 4 Steven Ernst

June 10 Debbie Westerfield

June 12 Kit Zimmerman

June 13 Barb Willett

June 20 Mallory Torres

June 24 Carolyn Ernst

June 24 Bill Mavity

June 30 Tom Clabaugh

Church office hours

Monday - Thursday

9:00am-4:00pm

Closed Friday

Going to Malawi

Debbie Kippley and Robin Gentry are planning to go to Malawi in August. Our approximate travel dates are August 18 to September 8. We will strengthen our relationship with our partner church Sadzi Church of Central Africa Presbyterian. COVID in Malawi is low. If you would like to join us, let Debbie Kippley know. We will stay in the Kippley Malawian residence, visit the Game Park, and fellowship with the Ncozana's and Sadzi. The cost of the trip is a maximum of \$3,000.

From the Mission Committee

Updates on recent offerings. We received \$1,300 in the Easter Offering. We sent a check to Table Grace ministries this week.

You can find more information about Table Grace's ministry and mission here: [Home \(tablegracecafe.com\)](http://tablegracecafe.com)

We collected about \$750 in the One Great Hour of Sharing offering in April. Thank you! We have forwarded the money to General Assembly, who will use it to respond to hunger and natural disasters around the world.