



Arms of Faith

September 2023

Dear Faithfuls,

When you walk in one of our doors, you see a long banner that says, “To know, to grow, and to show Christ to all people.” This has been the mission statement of Faith Church for many years.

The Session has prayerfully come to realize that as this congregation is evolving and changing, that God is calling us to discover a new future for this church. We know that God is calling us – we have the opportunity to listen for what that call and new future is.

Whether you are a long time member, a recent member, or a regular worshiper here at Faith Church, you are invited to participate in hearing this calling. As you have already begun to do, you have been invited to pray daily for God’s invitation to us – to read scripture and listen for what God’s future is for this congregation. Thank you for praying!

You are also invited to participate in congregational gatherings to listen with others for what that new future will be. We will have three gatherings, all of them including a catered meal. (Nope – you do not need to bring a dish to share!)

Please join us on these dates:

September 10, following worship, we will enjoy a meal together and *celebrate our past*. We will remember great things about where this church has been. We also will consider what baggage we might need to leave behind.

October 8, following worship, again, we will eat together and *assess our present*. We will assess both the present for Faith Church AND the present for the church at large. Sociological changes are happening in our world and those changes impact the church.

November 12, following worship – you guessed it! We’re Presbyterian, so we will have a lunch from Olive Garden together and *embrace the future that God is calling us to*.

Once we have celebrated the past, assessed the present and embraced the future, a team of Faithfuls will write a new mission statement for Faith Church.

Please – join with other Faithfuls in this venture of faithfully listening to the future God intends for us.

Peace,
Becky

Session Highlights

The Session meeting opened with a unique prayer of "I am sustained by..." Each elder finished the sentence, several times. Your elders are sustained by air, stories, prayer, grandchildren and much more – ask them!

The elders had a spirited conversation around an article which asked, "Have We Become Sears?" As you know, Sears stores have been closing. Currently, there are 12 Sears stores across the U.S. Sears did not keep up with changing societal and cultural dynamics. The question for us is will we adapt in order to remain faithful and vital to our community? (You can read the article here: <https://pres-outlook.org/2023/05/have-we-become-sears/>)

The elders made the following decisions:

- Removed, with sadness, Al Levene from the rolls
- Approved funds for updating the new Gathering Room with new furniture
- Approved the funds used to pay for the roof repairs, over and above what the insurance company paid

Please pray for your elders as they lead this congregation with energy, intelligence, imagination and love.

Your Session

Clerk of Session - Joe Seda

Discipleship	Shayla Hall
Facilities	Matt Kasprzak
	Jim Willett
	Doug Bogenhagen
Fellowship	Tracy Kristensen
Human Res	Bob Meyer
Mission & Ev	Terri O'Brien
Support	Peter Svoboda
Worship	Al Zimmerman

Happy Birthday

Sept 1 Steve Bottorff
Sept 1 Chuck Shafer
Sept 3 David Hunt
Sept 4 Carol Mouw
Sept 8 Sabrina Glesmann
Sept 9 Tracy Kristensen
Sept 10 Jan Bohling
Sept 13 Mary Boehler
Sept 19 Jeana Svoboda
Sept 20 Pat Levene
Sept 20 Carol Swayne
Sept 21 Peggy Wagoner
Sept 22 Joe Seda
Sept 23 Al Zimmerman
Sept 25 Sung Jo
Sept 28 Dennis Glissman

Nicaraguan Pastor Will Be with Us!

Our presbytery and we as a church have a partnership with pastors in Nicaragua. The Nicaraguan pastors will be in Omaha in September. We have the honor of having one of them preach on September 10.

A special offering will be collected for the Nicaraguan Partnership – and we are going old school, or old church! Please give your regular offering as you always do. AND, we will actually pass the offering plates to receive an offering for the Nicaraguans. Please make your checks out to Faith Church, and mark it "Nicaragua." Colorful envelopes will be available in the pew racks for you to use, if you so choose.

Sunday, September 10, will be a big Sunday, as this will be our first Mission Discovery lunch and gathering. Please join us on this wonderful Sunday morning!



Lunch for the Puppet Team after performing at the Calvin Crest Fun Day Worship Service.



The Church Picnic was held indoors on July 30th. Fried chicken was provided by the Fellowship Committee and many delicious salads and desserts were brought by the congregation.



Parish Nurse Corner

Please stop by the Welcome Booth for a flyer with information about cholesterol levels.

Clothing Giveaway Update

Thanks to everyone who donated, sorted, hung clothes on hangers, put up tables, displayed "merchandise", greeted our guests and offered fashion advise. The give away could not be a success without all your support.

The next Give Away will be September 16. We will be sorting on September 6, 13, and 27 from 9-11.

We had 153 people come to the Give Away in August. WOW!!!!. We really need to restock our selection of bedding, towels, housewares, toys, and all sizes of clothes, especially kids clothes.

Thanks again.

John and Terri &
the Mission and Evangelism Team



Sightings

School starts early in La Vista! A big thank you to **Bill Neubert, Chuck Shafer, Janice Miner, John O'Brien** and **Terri O'Brien** for serving breakfast to the faculty and staff at La Vista Middle School, on their work day, preparing for school to start. Thank you to **Jeana Svoboda**, too, who provided fruit for the breakfast. As a reminder, when the pastor talked with the principal last fall, she learned that teachers are feeling overwhelmed and not appreciated. We are seeking to let them know that we do appreciate them. And, thank you to **Mary Ann Stevens** for delivering "welcome back to school" appreciation notes for all the teachers.

Doug Bogenhagen, Lynda Shafer and **Peggy Wagoner** are serving as the coordinating team for the Discovering our Future process. They are insightful, creative and energetic! Their planning is serving our congregation well.

Streaming Sunday Worship Service 10:00am

We 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#.



Lunch Bunch at El Vallarta Restaurant in August

The next Fun & Lunch will be **September 1st at 12:00 pm** at
Shirley's Diner, 13839 R Plaza (just south of 138th & Q)

Anyone of any age is invited. Sign up at church by August 30th or
contact Sharon Fleming at 402-709-2103 or sfleming43@aol.com for your reservation.
Please let Sharon know if you would like to car pool from the church or if you need a ride.

Helping Hands to the Rescue

Congregation members – Do you have jobs at home that you cannot
do on your own (cutting up limbs, small electrical or plumbing jobs,
yardwork, etc)? For help, contact the church office, and we will check
with our Helping Hands Team.

The Faith Church Helping Hands Team is in need of a coordinator.
Anyone interested in filling this need please contact the church office.
If you would like to join the Helping Hands Team, please let us know
and we will add you to our list of helpers.

Chancel Choir Begins!

Chancel Choir will begin with a
short rehearsal Wednesday, August
30th at 7 pm in the Choir Room
downstairs. If you have questions,
ask Debbie Eggers or call the church
office at 402-331-6944.

Come join us!
We will sing in worship
September 17 :)

Faith Presbyterian Church
Becky Balestri, Pastor
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402-331-6944
Web page: www.faith-presbyterian.com
Facebook: www.facebook.com/faithpresby

A Transformation is Coming

As we can now instantly access books through the internet, either with your Kindle, or buying on Amazon, or any other myriad ways of getting books, our church library is less needed than it was 10 years ago.

The Session has approved transforming this room into the Gathering Room. It will be a place for children to play during worship, close to the sanctuary; a place to gather for small meetings; and, we are even considering putting a smart TV in the room for movie nights at church.

A big thank you to **Doug Bogenhagen** who is spearheading the transformation. The Discipleship Team is sorting through books – what to keep, what to give away. And, if you want a book from the library, please feel free to take one or two or three. (Please let Shayla Hall or Becky Balestri know, just to be sure it isn't a book we definitely want available for members.)

If you are a bit of an interior designer, or like to be helpful, please talk with Doug about what skills you have in transforming a room.

Forgiveness Isn't Easy, but It's Possible

Jesus frequently commanded that we forgive one another. Yet, when we have been deeply harmed, forgiveness doesn't come easily. Yet, we can learn to forgive.

You are invited to participate in a Sunday morning class on forgiveness, starting September 17, 2023, at 9:00 am, through November 5, 2023. We will be using the book "The Forgiveness Project," by Marina Cantacuzino, as the basis for discussion and learning about forgiveness. Copies of the chapters we will be discussing will be available the week before each class. However, if you choose to purchase the book, the Discipleship Team will reimburse you. (The book is available on Amazon; used books start at \$2.34.) Becky Balestri will be leading this class.

We will meet either in Room 9 or Fellowship Hall, depending on the size of the group. Questions? Please contact a member of the Discipleship Team or Becky Balestri.

Fun in the Sun

Forty-one parents, grandparents and children enjoyed playing with a parachute, sidewalk chalk, games and a hot dog lunch on Sunday, August 13, following worship. Babies as young as one-year-old to great parents had fun together. One big hit was the ladybug toys on the tables; they went forward, spun around, flipped over and moved forward again. Even the adults were playing with these toys. A big thank you to the Discipleship Team for hosting this event. We are learning that "if you feed them, they will come." (Please go to the church Facebook page to see **Peter Svoboda** playing hopscotch.)

