



Consider the Lilies

This month we are taking the next, faithful step together as we resume in-person worship. Mask wearing will be required, and physical distancing will be enforced. We will not have any singing. While it is not the return to normal that many of us crave, this is the best plan we have to balance safety with the hunger for live worship that some of our members have expressed. We will continue to live stream worship over Facebook, and the conference call will continue on Monday mornings as 10 a.m.

On Sunday, August 2, I will conclude my series of sermons on songs about the United States with "O Beautiful for Spacious Skies," that's what the hymnal calls it; most of us know it as "America the Beautiful." This song, like the other three featured in the series offers a unique perspective on our native land. We will celebrate the Lord's Supper this day.

Starting on August 9 and running through the end of the month, I invite worshipers to consider the lilies. This is a command from the Sermon on the Mount. "And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed as one of these." (Matthew 6:28-29, NRSV)

Faith Church is blessed to have a collection of eight wall hangings in the sanctuary, each depicting a different plant in the Bible. I was a little surprised to learn that no one remembers a series of sermons about these beautiful pieces of art. Personally, I always get more out of visual art when someone who is knowledgeable points its features out to me.

Each Sunday I will describe two of the wall hangings and where in the Bible the plants depicted on them appear. These four Sunday fall in the exact middle of the church season called "Ordinary Time." The color for Ordinary Time is green, because growing in Christ should be ordinary and expected.

See you in church—or on the livestream!

Pastor Tom



- August 5 Dan Erickson
- August 5 Kathy Olney
- August 5 Janine Yates
- August 9 Meg Dorsee
- August 14 Bill Neubert
- August 15 George Frazier
- August 15 Phyllis Wennstedt
- August 16 Melanie Lechner
- August 16 Patti Rezek
- August 21 Wilda Ellerbeck
- August 21 Jim Melonis
- August 25 RYAnne Eisesser

Sunday Worship Service 10:00am

If you would like to attend worship service on Sunday, please call Debbie Eggers at 402-689-7363 to reserve a spot : there is a limit of 50 people due to COVID 19.

You may continue to watch the worship service on Facebook. If you do not have computer access, you may listen to the service Monday morning at 10:00am by calling 1-844-855-4444 and entering access code 716966#.

July Session News

Your Session met over Zoom on Thursday, July 16, starting a little after 7:00 p.m.

Here are some of the highlights:

The Support Committee reported that through June pledges have come in at 97.7% of the budgeted figure. This is good in any year, extraordinary during a pandemic! Thank you for your continued, faithful support of Faith Church.

The Fellowship Committee has coordinated an effort to send cards to our members, just to check in and offer support and encouragement. Fellowship also has no plans for future congregational events due to COVID-19.

The Session spent a lot of time discussing whether, when and how to re-open the building for use by non-church groups. The Facilities and Worship Committees have given a lot of thought to this matter.

The Mission Committee reported that Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) has two work weeks in King Lake scheduled for October. Work groups from out of state, whose visits were postponed due to COVID-19, plan to work, but that is subject to change. Mission also cancelled the fall clothing give away and committed \$500 to purchase more clothing racks for when we can get back to regular give aways. They gave \$2,000 to Moving Veterans Forward, a local charity that has been hit hard because their fundraisers have been cancelled.

Debbie Kippley shared good news from Malawi; an anti-corruption president has been elected there.

The Session moved \$500 to the Pastor's Discretionary Fund; this money can be accessed quickly for people with sudden needs.

The Session scheduled a baptism, but details need to be worked out to balance safety and celebration.

Clerk of Session, Joe Seda, shared that Office Manager Ranae Overton has been spending substantial time getting the church's records and register up to date.

While there will be no live singing when in-person worship resumes, we're looking at other creative ways to keep worship fresh—watch for the puppets in the weeks ahead!

So goes the work of your Session.

UPDATE on the Clothing Give Away

Mission and Evangelism has decided to postpone the Clothing Give Away until next spring. We will be accepting donations by appointment ONLY. Someone will be at the church on Sundays from 11:00-11:30 to accept your donations.

If that time does not work for you call John at 402-301-3772 or Terri at 402-301-9520, and we will make arrangements to meet you.

Thanks in advance for your donations and cooperation.

Terri O'Brien

EXCITING BOOK CLUB NEWS

The Bellevue Public Library has an exciting program for area book clubs. The book club requests books it wants to read and the library provides 10 copies of the book and discussion questions. I registered the Faith Book Club, and we are all set for the 2020-2021 year. I will bring the copies of the book on August 9 to church so you can pick them up. If you aren't comfortable coming to church, call or e-mail Terri O'Brien, and we will make other arrangements. There will be fines if we return the kits late, so it is important to coordinate picking up and returning your book. We have several spots open if anyone would like to join us.

We will meet on Monday, September 14 at 5:45 in the Library. We will be socially distancing and wearing masks. I think you will be pleasantly surprised at the variety of books selected

For September we will be reading "Prairie Forge; the Extraordinary Story of the Nebraska Scrap Metal Drive of World War II". After Pearl Harbor there was a severe metal shortage which was hindering the war effort. Henry Doorly, the publisher of the Omaha World, had a solution. Fierce competition broke out between counties, businesses, and schools across the US. Want to know what happens next? Pick up a copy of the book and join us.

Questions? Call Terri at 402-301-9520 or e-mail nequilterterri@gmail.com.

PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE UPDATE

As with everything, the COVID 19 virus has disrupted PDA's plans. We still have 3 work weeks scheduled; the first is September 10-12, the second is October 18-24, and the third is October 25-31. We will be working at King Lake again. There are still 38 houses that were damaged in the flood of 2019 that have not had any repairs done. In October there are 2 groups coming in to help, one from California and one from Minnesota.

I will keep you updated on information as I get it. Keep in mind that these dates are tentative depending on the pandemic.

Thanks for your support.

Terri O'Brien, members of PDA.

More Pandemic Pandemonium

Cryptogram rules - Each letter stands for a different letter of the alphabet. (EX: if A=Z, it will equal Z throughout the whole puzzle.) If you need a hint, call the church office at 402-331-6944.

Bible Cryptogram #1

RLAHP CABH LHPERBHPR GV DPEIPV... ZDPHP

LDPC ZGSS KP REXP XHAO LDGPIPR.

ZDPHPIPH CABH LHPERBHP GR, LDPHP CABH

DPEHL EVQ LDABUDLR ZGSS ESRA KP.

---XHAO OELDPZ RGT

Cryptogram #2

UNFYO CNF FAALOYY UNO AFFL DJYETU

UNODL GQHOL, XEU UNFYO CNF NOTA UNO

AFFL NFJFL NDG.

---SLFG UNO XFFH FS ALFZOLXY

Dearest Faith Family,

We are so grateful to you for the love and care that you have given our family over the past several months. From cards of encouragement for Dad as he made a hard move to Nebraska to food, hugs, prayers, calls, thoughts, cards, love at the time of his death. You are a beautiful, living body of Christ!

In His Love,

Marc, Peggy, Eric, Kurt,
Brett, Abby, Chelsea, Emily,
Eli, Alex, Isaac, Annabelle,
Anorah, Vienna, Josie,
Caroline, Eleanor Wagoner
and Hansen

Your Session

Clerk of Session -	Joe Seda
Fellowship	Carolyn Ernst
Facilities	Rod Bosserdet
Mission & Ev	Lexie Stephenson
	Debbie Kippley
Discipleship	Peter Svoboda
Support	Marc Wagoner
	Chuck Shafer
Worship	Debbie Eggers
Human Res	Scott Jamieson

Arms of Faith

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