

Arms of Faith

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

September
2020

We have been holding "hybrid" worship since August 2. It's very, very good to have people in the sanctuary on Sunday morning. Even though being physically distanced and wearing masks is an adjustment, it feels a lot more like what we were used to pre-COVID than broadcasting worship over Facebook.

There is a weariness with COVID that seems to be taking root. While it is no safer to gather in crowds now than it was in March when we stopped all in-person worship, I'm seeing and feeling restlessness to get back to normal. Part of what makes this so draining is there is no end in sight. At best we can guess at when a vaccine is available—and when enough people will have been vaccinated to make it possible to return to what we were accustomed to pre-pandemic. Everything the church does has been affected. This week we're looking at how to conduct Faith on Fire and Confirmation in the Age of COVID.

Still, the work, the mission of Faith Church goes on.

At last month's Session meeting your elected leaders learned about the process for calling your next pastor. That day I passed a milestone, or something. That was the day I had served Faith Church pre-COVID as many days as I'd served post-COVID. Looking back, I am very grateful for the attention the Fellowship Committee gave to holding Meet 'n' Greets. They helped me match names with faces, and faces with stories.

The expectation was that I would serve Faith Church around 24 months. I have to say, some of the work I'd hoped to do has been derailed by COVID, but also COVID has shown how resilient, strong and healthy Faith Church is. We will go through a process, guided by our team from the Commission on Ministry, to help Faith Church form a clear identity and sense of mission. That process will help us look for a leader that is a good fit for our present situation.

See you in church—or on the livestream!

Pastor Tom



- Sept 1 Steve Bottorff
- Sept 1 Chuck Shafer
- Sept 2 Marlene Aitken
- Sept 3 David Hunt
- Sept 4 Carol Mouw
- Sept 5 Lauryn Caster
- Sept 6 Hyun Jo
- Sept 8 Sabrina Glesmann
- Sept 10 Jan Bohling
- Sept 11 Pat Hastings
- Sept 13 Marilyn 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 27 Miesje Covin
- Sept 28 Dennis Glissman

July Session News

Your Session met over Zoom on Thursday, August 20, at 7:00 p.m. All but one ruling elders were visually present, as were the Stated Clerk, Joe Seda, and Pastor Tom.

Elder Carolyn Ernst began the meeting with prayer.

The Commission on Ministry Team assigned by the Presbytery was present for the start of the meeting. The Team consists of Rev. Jon Sloan, Rev. Dwight Williams and Ruling Elder Pam Otto. They explained the sequence of tasks the congregation will go through in finding our next called, installed pastor.

The Support Committee reported that pledging is still strong, which is all the more impressive during the pandemic. Through July they had come in at over 95% of the budgeted expectation. A review of church finances is planned for later this year.

Elder Chuck Shafer reported that the worship service with Cross Roads Connection that had been planned for late in October was cancelled due to COVID-19.

The Session spent a substantial amount of time discussing how to pull the congregation together and keep us connected during the pandemic. Everyone is feeling the impact of having less contact with other people. Session is seeking to find ways to fill the need for human connection—a need the church fills beautifully in normal times—with the need to respect the pandemic and keep the congregation safe. Please continue to support and pray for the elected leaders of your congregation.

The Session discussed a denominational effort to address racism and found a way to respond with some local work already taking place. At the Presbytery meeting on August 15, three members of Missouri River Valley Presbytery spoke about their experiences of racism in the Omaha metro-area. We plan to make these short videos available for the congregation to view—perhaps on the website and our Facebook page.

Elder Marc Wagoner closed the meeting with prayer.

So goes the work of you Session.

PW Meeting

PW will meet on September 15 at 1:00pm in the west parking lot.

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

I have two (2) computers that are not new, but have never been used. They are extremely well built, desk top machines. They will last a long time (industrial workstations).

Windows 10 has been installed for about \$40.

The machine is free except for the cost of Windows 10, and I would complete all of the installations and updates for free as well.

You would still need a monitor, or your TV it can probably be hooked up as a monitor.

These would be excellent machines for Zoom meetings, home schooling or online work.

It could turn your old TV into a smart TV, capable of Netflix, Amazon, Peacock, Disney, ETC.

If anyone is interested, please let me know.

Marc Wagoner
402-592-5893

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.

We will continue to broadcast 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#.