



# OCTOBER CHURCHLETTER

*BUILDING A FUTURE WITH HOPE BY REACHING OUT AND GROWING DEEPER:* Dear fellow followers of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ,

As people of prayer, God has called us to continue to grow in our relationship with God as we grow in relationship with each other. Sometimes we have fallen into a routine that no longer encourages growth. At this time in our lives, we've learned how important faith is to help us remain focused on following Christ in the world.

Starting immediately, you are invited into a relationship with a prayer partner. I will be coordinating each member with another member of the same church to correspond weekly, whether phone, text, email or mail, prayers for our churches and each other. A few years ago, we had a study that invited participants into this regular discipleship growth. People found it very enlightening and encouraging. Jill posted "My prayer life and conversation with God took off when I began praying with others, specifically in a small group setting, or just one on one. Setting aside the desire to sound "right", but just coming as I am, in that moment, to the Throne of Grace. Father – thank You for those You placed in my path, who offered sincere, honest, and at times, raw prayers. Thank You for welcoming me here."

God is inviting us into this spiritual relationship in every moment, with every breath. God's advocating for our happiness, for our best days, for us to enjoy our work and be with our families and friends, instead of letting the world run us ragged every second of the day.

You know what we need to do? Make the time. Whether you decide to revise a week, a month, or the rest of your beautiful life, know that ultimately you are in control of your time. Not your job. Not your kids. Not your favorite TV series. You get to say yes or no to every request, and I'm hoping you decide to make yourself a priority and let everything else fall into place or fall off the calendar entirely. —Jen Hatmaker

There's an old joke that says when we tell people we talk to God, they think we're pious; when we tell them God talks back, they think we're crazy. Indeed, if we're not used to thinking about prayer as a conversation, it can seem scary or even impious to dare think we've heard Jesus' voice, much less dare to write down what we think we've heard. But, as the Bible tells us, conversing with God has been part of the human experience from the very beginning. We bring our honest desires before

Jesus not because we're guaranteed to get what we ask for but because if and when we are disappointed, we're better off being disappointed in dialogue with Jesus than on our own. Jesus invited me to be candid in my prayers in part because if things didn't work out, I'd be in a better place of honesty to process my disappointment. If I self-edited my prayers, my desires—and, potentially, my disappointments—would remain my own. But if I brought it all before Jesus in childlike honesty, any prospective disappointment would benefit from the intimacy that honesty had established.—Matthew Croasmun, *Let Me Ask You a Question: Conversations with Jesus* (Upper Room Books, 2018)

Here is a suggested guide, but you know how to pray. I'm excited to see our people and our churches reclaiming their identity as beloved children of God.  
**PRAY FOR AWAKENING IN CHURCHES**

- For a joyful unified recognition of Jesus Christ as Lord
- For a hungering and thirsting after the Word of God and the Spirit of God in our local churches
- For pastors and leaders struggling to give leadership through this pandemic
- For a deepened appetite for prayer to arise and be mobilized in our churches
- For our churches to become agencies of all manner of healing in our communities
- For discipleship to take root and bring deep wholeness to people
- For the raising up of spiritually gifted apostles, prophets, evangelists, shepherds, and teachers within our churches (Eph. 4:11)
- That churches would be awakened to their mission to make disciples who reach the lost

I'm looking forward to connecting with each of you and after a few weeks, checking in to see how things are going. As always, feel free to contact me with any questions and concerns. We want to help the connections and enthusiasm grow out of love for Christ.  
*Blessings, Pastor Lora*

*Remember newsletter deadline is the 20th of every month.*

**Be aware many dates and activities can be changed in a short time. Please watch for updates. Keep on praying.**

*Listen to The Upper Room devotional on the phone: During this time of pandemic the call-in meditation is available at no charge. There are two numbers available. If you do not pay for*

long distance (most cell phone plans include long distance) you can call 1.615.212.2013 If you do pay for long distance calls, please call 1.877.600.7218 The Upper Room is committed to praying with you during this season of uncertainty and isolation. We will be hosting a moment of prayer on Facebook Live on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays at 11:00 AM Central Time. These moments of prayer will also be available on The Upper Room YouTube Channel after they air. Creating Daily Life with God Family and friends of The Upper Room offer words of hope and encouragement by sharing how they are creating daily life with God during these times of uncertainty and isolation. Watch the video series on The Upper Room YouTube Channel. Read reflections from readers, community members, and The Upper Room staff on The Upper Room daily devotional blog. This is a place where we can reflect together on the ways this experience is shaping our faith, our relationships, our creativity, our prayer lives, and our hearts. In this time of global crisis, The Academy for Spiritual Formation is hosting holy and healing conversations with Academy leaders, trusting that their wisdom, joy, and insight will offer us connection and hope in these trying times. Subscribe to Academy Podcast wherever you listen to your podcasts.

#### Loving Thoughts and Prayers Surround:

##### **New Perspective**

Joan Schwake

##### **Pleasant View Estates**

Ken & Shirley Bauer

##### **Faribault Senior Living**

Mildred Tatge

##### **The Homestead of Rochester**

Lorry Wille

##### **Ivy Hill**

Ken Shaske

##### **At Home**

Jean Pederson

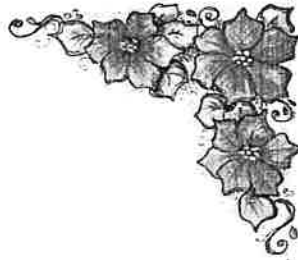
Donovan Mueller

Doris Hildebrandt

Arlene Shaske

Arlene Bultman

Kaye Spike



#### Joys and Concerns



*Thank you for generously supporting your faith community so that ministry continues changing the world God has placed us in. Your tithes, gifts, talents, witness, prayers and time contribute to the healing of the world. You make a difference!*

*Thank you to all who sent memorial gifts and sympathy cards in memory of our sister and sister-in-law Elaine Miller. Your thoughtfulness and words of comfort were much appreciated. Lois Bauer and Carol Hafemeyer*

**There will be NO flu vaccine offered in the Nerstrand Area this fall. Its important to get your**

flu vaccine that's being offered at various places including clinics, pharmacies, grocery stores, etc. October is a great month to get the vaccine for good protection.

**Wednesday Wear is Open!** We do require masks and we only allow so many people downstairs at a time. But, you can shop in our fellowship hall for holiday décor. These items are yours for a monetary donation.



We are now taking donations (clothing and household items) again but, please don't bring a carload, maybe a bag or two at a time. Everything needs to be clean and ready to wear-No tears or stains.

We were closed for 3 months but yet through Aug., we have had 761 shoppers.

For a mission project, we just delivered 3 Welcome baskets to the Emma Norton Residence.

Thank you to our volunteers. Jackie and Jen are our newest helpers who came to help when we reopened. We are so glad and thankful to have them.

Thanks Everyone!

Come see us on Wednesdays 1-6 pm or Saturdays 9am to noon.

*Just a friendly reminder, I send out prayer chain requests and other announcements via email. If you want to be a part of this valuable ministry, please email me your email to [pastorlora@live.com](mailto:pastorlora@live.com). Thanks so much for your prayers and help in building the kingdom of God here on earth. Pastor Lora*

**Big Woods Race 2020** The Big Woods Race has been cancelled for this year due to the concerns with Covid-19. The safety of our many volunteers and runners was the top priority in this decision. We are thankful for all our wonderful community members who made this event a success in the past. It is our hope we will once again be together in 2021. The Big Woods Race Committee

**Big Woods Worship 2020** is also cancelled this year. Our chance TO JOIN TOGETHER AND GIVE THANKS TO God for the blessings poured out on the events completed are postponed. We will miss the delicious meal and hospitality of the Big Woods 4-H group and the great fellowship, something we're really missing this year. We pray next year for a celebration. Pastor Lora and SPRC

**Please Remember Us:** The Nerstrand United Methodist church would like to remind everyone that even though there are no services, our expenses still carry on.

If you want to keep the church going, please remember us. You may mail your giving to Gary Shaske 1000 Cannon

Valley Dr # 106, Nfld 55057 or Lloyd Kispert 1281 420TH STREET, Nerstrand, 55053.

Thank you to all who carry on in this time of uncertainty surrounding us all due to the threat of Covid-19 infections.



### **P-P-P Remember 2-2-2, 2nd 2sday of the month**

**2pm.** October 13 is the date, **2 pm** is the time and I ask you to set aside time to pray. Please keep setting aside time for pausing and praying for our communities and praising God for all that God gives us. If you know of a prayer concern or joy, please let me know and I will add it to my prayer journal. Let me know if you'd like others to be with you in prayer. Remember, your presence in prayer matters. That is what changes lives. Plan for at least a half hour, no longer than an hour. It makes a difference in the world and in your own life.

### **St. John's UCC Cleaning Committee**

The St. John's UCC cleaning committee for the month of October is: Norma Monroe, Gloria Karl & John, and Harley Tate



**Neighbors in Need (NIN)** is a special mission offering of the UCC that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. St. John's UCC congregation will receive the NIN offering on **October 4.**

**World Communion Sunday** is one of the Special Sundays of the UMC. It provides scholarships for U.S. racial- and ethnic-minority students and international students. Nerstrand UMC is collecting on **October 4.**

As people of faith, we continue to be in mission around the world not only by our regular tithes and offerings to our church but also in special mission offerings. Because of the pandemic, offerings we normally would have done in the spring are rescheduled to October 18.

At Nerstrand UMC, you are invited to give to **Native American Ministries Sunday.** Your support equips native American seminary students and outreach that honor and celebrate native American culture and communities.

At St. John's UCC, you are invited to give to Strengthen the Church. Your support equips your UCC Conference to strengthen the church and invest in God's vision of Church for the future.

The above offerings have special envelopes for in person worship, but you can note in comments where you'd like the offering to go, check or online.

Also, for the Minnesota UMC Annual Conference, there is a special Love Offering for people to contribute to specific missions. Nerstrand UMC will be accepting donations through the months of October and November

to help support these missions: The theme of the 2020 Annual Conference session was "Be the Light—Live Hope!" The Love Offering provides the opportunity to be light and hope for those crying out for love, compassion, justice, and grace in their lives.

Bishop Bruce R. Ough invites congregations to participate in the Love Offering as a miraculous expression of the abundant life we have in Christ Jesus, even in the midst of the coronavirus pandemic and social upheaval. The funds from this year's offering will go to four projects: Simpson Housing Services (40 percent), Emma Norton Services (40 percent), Joyce Uptown Foodshelf (10 percent), and the Committee on Native American Ministry Diaper Drive (10 percent). See below:

Simpson Housing Services' mission is to house, support, and advocate for people experiencing homelessness. It began as an emergency overnight shelter in the basement of Simpson UMC in 1982. Simpson has since become a leading nonprofit providing assistance to people experiencing homelessness. In response to unmet community needs, its programs have grown to include emergency shelter, supportive housing, and developmental and educational services for children. It works across the Twin Cities metro area, partnering with landlords and developers to find affordable housing for all families and individuals. At any given time, Simpson provides supportive services to 100 individuals and 210 families. Its services have been in particularly high demand since the COVID-19 pandemic hit Minnesota in March. The 2020 Love Offering will support the construction of a new, modern, and dignified shelter on the property of the old Simpson UMC building. Learn more at [www.simpsonhousing.org](http://www.simpsonhousing.org)

Emma Norton was founded in 1917 in St. Paul through a gift that Mrs. Emma Norton from Winona, Minnesota gave to the United Methodist Women. Today, Emma Norton's mission is to provide transformational housing for women and families on their journey of recovery. It serves homeless women, individuals, and families who have the additional challenges of mental health, chemical dependency, and/or a chronic health condition. Emma Norton provides safe, affordable housing with wrap-around services to facilitate stability, self-acceptance, empowerment, and wholeness for all. In the time of COVID-19, having a safe, affordable home is more important than ever.

Emma Norton helps nearly 300 individuals and children each year through its permanent housing facilities in St. Paul and Maplewood, a scattered-site housing program in the community, and its SOAR (Social Security Outreach, Access, and Recovery Technical Assistance) Program. It also serves nearly 80 children through home visits, after-school programming, social emotional learning, and tutoring. In 2020, Emma Norton is undergoing a major renovation of its family townhome community in Maplewood and launching a capital campaign for a new building in St. Paul that will better serve its clients. Learn more at [www.emmanorton.org](http://www.emmanorton.org).

Joyce Uptown Foodshelf is committed to serving anyone experiencing food insecurity in a large area of South Minneapolis. Its mission is to distribute food to those in need with respect and dignity, as an expression of the love of God. The foodshelf, started 50 years ago by the former Joyce UMC, is now a ministry of Lake Harriet UMC and relies on its many partners who donate time, food, and money. In 2019, Joyce Uptown Foodshelf served 12,684 individuals, 4,358 of whom were children, and distributed 239,556 pounds of food. The economic challenges associated with the COVID-19 pandemic have created great need, and the foodshelf has been struggling to keep up with demand. In 2020, the foodshelf is focused improving its physical space for its clients. Part of living out its mission of serving with respect and dignity is becoming a fully accessible space. An improved space will also provide participants the ability to choose their own food options, as they might at a grocery store. Learn more at [www.joyceuptownfoodshelf.org](http://www.joyceuptownfoodshelf.org)

The Minnesota Conference Committee on Native American Ministry (CONAM) is coordinating a diaper drop that will provide diapers to families on each of the 11 reservations in Minnesota. Due to the COVID-19 shutdowns, many Native American people have lost income. For families that were already struggling, the pandemic has exacerbated economic hardship. This drive will help native families meet a vital need during this worldwide health crisis. Love Offering funds will be used to purchase diapers, store them, and travel to each reservation to distribute them in partnership with tribal governments and leaders.

Thank you in advance for your faithful sharing God's abundance for the healing of the world. To God be the glory.

#### St. John's UCC Sunday School

*Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.* 2 Peter 3:18 -- Details are still pending, but we have resumed Sunday School at St. John's UCC. Children ages 4 years through 8<sup>th</sup> grade are always welcome, and substitute teachers are also appreciated. ☺ Contact Carrie Hess with questions or for more information: 651-775-5594 or [littlehesshouse@gmail.com](mailto:littlehesshouse@gmail.com).



#### **St John's UCC Council Meeting Minutes**

The September meeting was called to order by President Doug Spike.  
Practical attendance in person was noted as well as attendees via Zoom.  
Opening devotions noted by Pastor Lora  
SPRC presented a revised yoking agreement and was signed by President Doug Spike for the year of 2021.  
Secretary's report was read and approved.  
Treasurer's report was read and approved.  
Trustees Report

A motion was passed to approve a \$700 up front payment to CO OP to contract for a total of 3500 gallons of fuel this winter.

Work continues on WIFI for sanctuary, trustees are gathering more information.

New Business

St John's would like to welcome new member Mary Bultman.

Old Business

Review of Yoking agreement with United Methodist Church of Nerstrand.

The next council meeting is scheduled for October 5th, 2020.

The meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

St John's Elders:

Doug Spike

Gayle Bauer

Gloria Karl

#### **Spiritual Council Update:**

St John's has been holding in-person Sunday worship for four weeks now. Those who have attended have been diligent about following the recommendations for safe in-person worship. It has been wonderful to see the smiling eyes of those attending as we get together in a safe, comfortable environment.

As announced previously, the Spiritual Council will be updating our recommendations as new guidelines are given by the Minnesota Department of Health and other authorities. The revised recommendations are included in this newsletter. Noteworthy is the change allowing soft singing when masks and social distancing are utilized.

The Elders have served as greeters for our initial return to in-person services. We are happy to inform you that church members will be serving as greeters once again, of course following safety recommendations.

Remember that all are welcome at St John's UCC, so please invite your friends and neighbors as you join us to share God's love with in-person worship on Sunday mornings. We hope to see you soon!

St John's Spiritual Council

Pastor Lora Sturm

Doug Spike

Gayle Bauer

Gloria Karl

#### **Second Saturday Quilters**

SSQ will be meeting on October 10<sup>th</sup> 9-noon.

Contact Deb Wille at 507-323-4813

or [83159deb@gmail.com](mailto:83159deb@gmail.com)

SSQ is open to people of all churches and their friends.



#### **2020 SJUCC WOMEN'S GUILD**

No meetings in October

November 4, 2020 TBD Meeting at 1:30 PM Judy Meese hostessing (program to be announced)

No meeting in December

#### **Special notices. Save the dates, Surround in Prayer:**

**Oct 3 Fall Festival-N CANCELLED!**; Cropwalk in Faribault, virtual and in person-donate to

<https://www.crophusfeerwaik.org/faribault/mn/Team/View/135951/SJUCCNUMC>

**Oct 9-10** Reach 2020 Messiah UMC Plymouth

**Oct 10** Big Woods Run-cancelled

**Oct 11** Big Woods Worship 10am-N, followed by meal served by Big Woods 4-H, **ALL CANCELLED!**

**Oct 18** SPRC mtg 11:15am-SJ

**Jul 21, 2021** 7pm Eagle Center program-SJ

**Aug 31-Sept. 10, 2021** UMC General Conference-Mpls

**Nov.10-12, 2021** North Central UMC Jurisdiction Conference: Ft. Wayne, Indiana. Election and assignment of bishops occurs.

**Fare For All 2020 Pick Up Dates: canceled for now**

**Food assistance is at The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul**, Divine Mercy Chapter, located at 617 3rd Avenue NW in Faribault for food assistance. If you are willing to volunteer call Kevin at SVdP at 334-2100.

**Food Shelf Items always welcome.** Each church has a location where you may bring items. Your help by delivering those items to our local food shelves is greatly appreciated. Your gifts witness to our mission focus for anyone coming to our churches! Thanks for your ministry. Together, we help feed our communities. In times of need, our help is needed even more.

**Ruth's House** thanks the Rice County community for their generous donations, which go to provide basic needs to local families. Donations may be dropped off at Ruth's House in Faribault on Tuesday 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm and Saturday Noon - 2:00 pm. If you would like to offer other items please contact Ruth's House Donations Coordinator, Sandy, at 507-581-1374 or [psvarley@gmail.com](mailto:psvarley@gmail.com), before dropping off. Please contact Suzanne for volunteer opportunities! [suzannef.ruthshouse@gmail.com](mailto:suzannef.ruthshouse@gmail.com)

**Habitat for Humanity** Rice County Habitat for Humanity [www.habitatricecounty.org](http://www.habitatricecounty.org) 507.323.5167, 204 7<sup>th</sup> St. W, PMB 128, Northfield, MN 55057 Your donation buys: box of nails-\$50, truss ties \$75, stair carpet \$100, sink & faucet \$150...costs reflect 2020 costs, lumber costs may increase 25-100% in 2021, every child deserves a home base from which to explore the world

**Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southern Minnesota** serve children ages 5-14 in Dodge, Rice, Steele and Waseca Counties. Our mission: Contact info: 545 Dunnell Drive, Owatonna 607-451-5922, 322 Central Ave., Faribault, 507-334-0258 202 W Main Str., Kasson, 507-634-4595, Waseca 507-451-5922 [www.bbbssofsouthernmn.org](http://www.bbbssofsouthernmn.org) [megan@bbbssofsouthernmn.org](mailto:megan@bbbssofsouthernmn.org)

**Remember that our NAMI Family Support group meets every 1st and 3rd Tuesday 7:00-8:30pm** in Room 220 at the Northfield Community Resource Center (1651 Jefferson Parkway). (NAMI is National Alliance for the Mentally Ill)

**Faribault Area Hospice Foundation** is committed to supporting Faribault Area patients receiving Hospice Care. For more information or to apply for assistance, please contact:

[www.faribaultareahospicefoundation.org](http://www.faribaultareahospicefoundation.org) or [info@faribaultareahospicefoundation.org](mailto:info@faribaultareahospicefoundation.org) or call 1-866-506-7049 Or write Faribault Area Hospice Foundation 200 State Avenue, Faribault, MN 55021

**Jesusfood** is a mission project in the Faribault mall. They have time available to pack meals for children around the world on the 1st Sat of every month starting at 10AM, done before noon. Cost averages about \$60 per person, if you can afford it. But there is not a minimum, so as people can afford, it's what we'll pack. Call for info: 507-469-4357, or email: [info@JesusFood.org](mailto:info@JesusFood.org)

**Volunteer Opportunities at Allina District One Hospital**  
Contact information for Sharon Jacobson: 507-497-3527  
[Sharon.jacobson@allina.com](mailto:Sharon.jacobson@allina.com) Mail Route 77000, 200 State Avenue, Faribault, Minnesota 55021

**Honoring Choices** There is no cost for this service. To request our involvement: Email: [honoringchoices@allina.com](mailto:honoringchoices@allina.com) Phone: 507-977-2330 - To obtain an Honoring Choices Health Care Directive: <https://www.honoringchoices.org/health-care-directives/english-directives/22-hcd-long-form-fillable/file> Contact our office if you would like a health care directive mailed to you. Please contact me if you have any questions or suggestions for program outreach. Pat Heydon  
Follow us on Facebook: @honoringchoicesFaribaultOwatonna

**Upcoming scriptures, read and reflect to prepare for worship:** Oct.4 18<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20 Psalm 19 Philippians 3:4b-14 Matthew 21:33-46 COLORS Green Oct.11 19<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost Exodus 32:1-14 Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23 Philippians 4:1-9 Matthew 22:1-14 COLORS Green Oct. 18 20<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost Exodus 33:12-23 Psalm 99 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10 Matthew 22:15-22 COLORS Green Oct. 25 Reformation Sunday Deuteronomy 34:1-12 Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8 Matthew 22:34-46 COLORS Green

**Service Schedule for 2020: Every Sunday**  
**9:00 AM WORSHIP AT NERSTRAND UNITED**

**METHODIST CHURCH**

12 Maple Street, Nerstrand, MN 55053

E-mail: [sjohnsuccnumc@live.com](mailto:sjohnsuccnumc@live.com)

Website: <https://nerstrandumc.org>

Phone:507.332.4089



Like us on  
Facebook

**10:30 AM WORSHIP AT ST JOHN'S UNITED**

**CHURCH OF CHRIST**

19086 Jacobs Ave, Faribault, MN 55021

E-mail: [stjohnsuccnumc@live.com](mailto:stjohnsuccnumc@live.com) Phone: 5077895766

Website: <https://stjohnsunitedchurchofchrist.info>

Phone: 507.330.0025



Like us on  
Facebook

Lora Stum, Pastor All the People, Ministers  
Phone: 507.330.0025 office/ 507.525.4483 cell/ 507.452.1448 home

E-mail: [pastorlora@live.com](mailto:pastorlora@live.com)

Sabbath on Friday

# Psalm 23 Word Search

W P Q D G S T K S E I G N D C  
O P Y U A C D H I N G O J A R  
J V I S E V E A P N U O X H E  
C D E T E P I E E E G D P F V  
E C O R H I E D V L G N A M E  
X R M E F H M F E A R E T L R  
P D R L S L D E U K A S H A O  
Y D S D A N O I N T S S L S F  
T E U Q N A B W Y E S N M P O  
Q W I L T K L E S U O H H X Z

anoint  
banquet  
David  
enemies  
fear  
forever  
goodness  
grass  
guide



house  
king  
leads  
overflows  
path  
protect  
psalm  
sheep  
shepherd