



# FEBRUARY CHURCHLETTER

*BUILDING A FUTURE WITH HOPE BY REACHING OUT AND GROWING DEEPER:* Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

How is your soul as we prepare for Lent 2021? Are you pursuing a closer relationship with our Lord? Your prayers are making a difference in all of the ways you are transformed more and more into Jesus followers. I am still praying that every day you grow more in faith as you welcome the opportunities to love God and neighbor. Our churches have been reaping the benefits of people responding to God's call by trying new technology, reaching out to people they miss seeing, finding new ways to show love and kindness to others, giving time, presence, gifts, witness, service and prayers as they participate in the life of the church in new ways. Would any of us have guessed a year ago that we would offer worship any way other than in person? God continues to bless and call forth all the people.

Are you giving thanks for those brave prayer partners in our midst who are volunteering to pray for our revitalized church and committing to pray with another person weekly? Imagine the lives being changed! As a reminder for everyone, please pray with this as a guide covering the Body of Christ with prayer:

- 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

Amid so much change, the constant remains that God created us to grow in love with God and love one another. How is God inviting you to pray for one another, the world and all who live in it?

If you feel God's nudging you to be a prayer partner with a particular person, please let me know. I want this time to be renewing and life-giving to your spirit. Your prayers together make an impact beyond our human understanding. Your efforts are making disciples (the reason God placed us here) and leading our churches to accomplish the mission God appointed us to.

Remember, when you call 333-0110 (a local Faribault Number) you can listen to the Sunday service. I've upped the volume to the highest level, thanks to your feedback. This is another way, besides mailing copies of the bulletins and sermons to some who have requested it for the people without the necessary internet connection or technological source to remain connected with the church. YouTube links emailed as available and Facebook live the morning of worship continues. Thanks for your prayerful support and financial assistance.

By now, you may have tried the online way of giving from each church's website. It is quite easy and very convenient. The company name is VANCO. #1-Select your fund, click the donate button, choose the amount and frequency, then proceed to payment. #2-Enter your credit card, debit card or checking account information, (if you sign up for a free account, you can save your payment information for future donations) #3 Review and submit your gift by clicking submit. From your Vanco Online account, you can review your giving history, manage recurring donations or update payment information. Thanks again for your gift based on God's transforming love.

Letter I shared Sunday, Jan. 17, 2021 before worship:  
Dear fellow beloved children of God,  
Please accept this letter as a personal word to each of you from me. At the end of this conference year, I will be ending my ministry with you and returning home to Winona. It is difficult to say farewell to so many friends. You have nurtured me with your kindness and love. You have been a source of inspiration to me. My ministry here would not have been nearly as effective or rewarding without your help.

These last months we have experienced so much change and have prayed to God throughout. It is time for new direction and greater challenges. God is always calling us, and we are called to obey.

Bless you for all you have done for me and my family. God beckons us further in new ways. There is still ministry to be done. I pray that you will carry on as good and faithful servants of God.

The United Methodist River Valley District Superintendent, Cynthia Williams and United Church of Christ Associate Conference Minister, Anita Bradshaw have been informed and will assist you in a smooth

transition. Please pray with me for God's presence to guide us in the future with hope.

Grace and peace, Pastor Lora

Revised from Annual Meeting; Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,  
Reaching out and growing deeper. It's a real mouthful. For many, it's also hard to swallow, much less practice.

Reaching out and growing deeper. The phrase conjures up many images, some less appealing than others. It is vague yet inclusive for our behavior as a church. We strive to reach out to new people and one another by prayer and personal contact. We desire for all to know how precious they are to God and to us. We strive to grow deeper by prayer and participating in the life of Christian fellowship, reading, and studying scripture, communion, practicing compassion and sharing with and learning from others who also strive to follow Christ.

When you support reaching out and growing deeper at our churches, you're contributing to such things as church promotion including social media, the church newsletter, the church directory, as well as participation in worthwhile community activities. 2020 has made many things complicated and more costly.

The church exists primarily for those who don't go near it. Our task as practitioners of reaching out and growing deeper is not to see how many bodies we can drag into physical church or online participation but to take our church beyond the building and out to the broken world by living our faith in wider community.

I invite you to support reaching out and growing deeper through your giving. Let us continue to share the Good News with skill and sensitivity with your generosity. Please pray for wisdom from God. Thank you. May God grant you abundant blessings.  
Pastor Lora

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

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

Loving Thoughts and Prayers Surround:

**New Perspective**

Joan Schwake

**Pleasant View Estates**

Shirley Bauer

**Faribault Senior Living**

Mildred Tatge

**The Homestead of Rochester**

Lorry Wille

**Ivy Hill**

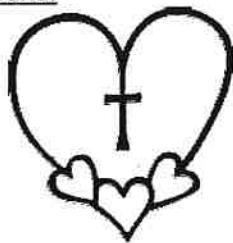
Ken Shaske

**Mill City**

Richard Hanson

**At Home**

Jean Pederson



Donovan Mueller  
Doris Hildebrandt  
Arlene Shaske  
Arlene Bultman  
Kaye Spike

**Joys and Concerns**

Kenneth and Arlene Shaske will celebrate a 70<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on February 1, 2021. You can help them celebrate with a card to; 500 3rd Ave NW Faribault Mn 55021.

Our Christian Sympathy to the family of James A Hildebrandt, Jim, age 74, passed away Dec. 9<sup>th</sup> in Rochester. He grew up in this area, the son of Alfred and Mabel Hildebrandt and associated with the Prairieville church. Burial was Dec. 14 at St. Vincent de Paul cemetery in West Concord.

**Notice:** There will be no Community Male Choir for the 2021 Lenten season. We would hope to resume in 2022.

Many of you may already be aware of our support for a living kidney donor for a friend and neighbor of our churches, Anne Haynes (Donkers). To begin the kidney donation process, please go to [Fairview Transplant \(umnhealthlivingdonor.org\)](http://FairviewTransplant(umnhealthlivingdonor.org)) or call 800.328.5465. If you or someone you know is willing to offer life, please share this and keep praying.

Our Christian Sympathy to Marion Bailey on the death of her brother Ivan Flicek. Ivan, age 85, passed away Dec.24 in St. Cloud. Private services were held Dec. 31 with burial in Meadow Ridge cemetery, Faribault.

Our Christian Sympathy to the family of John Grupe. John, age 81, passed away in Florida on Dec. 27, 2020. For those of you who remember, John was the son of a former pastor, Victor Grupe (1945-1953). John & his brother, Jim, went to school here and were confirmed at St. John's. Private family service & burial were held in Florida.



Our Christian Sympathy to the family and friends of Kenneth E. Bauer. Kenneth, age 86, passed away Jan. 19<sup>th</sup> at Pleasant Manor Nursing Home. Funeral arrangements are being completed and will be announced later.

*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

### **Wednesday Wear**

Wednesday Wear celebrated another great year. Because of Covid, we were closed for 3 months. We reopened with the requirement of masks, social distancing and also only allowing so many shoppers at one time. If you had to wait, we had tables of Christmas items upstairs that you could look at and purchase.

In 2020, we had 1285 people come thru our doors. We were also able to put \$1800.00 in the church budget (air cond., heat, water, and lights).

We are very thankful for all your donations of cash or items. We could not keep this mission project going without your help.

For donations we take clothing, shoes, kitchen utensils and small appliances, dishes and also bedding.

Everything needs to be clean. Clothing needs working zippers and no tears. We take no baby equipment without talking to us first. Donations can be made on the days we are open. Our hours are:

Wed. 1-5 p.m. (winter hours Nov., Dec., Jan., Feb., and March)

Wed. 1-6 p.m. (summer hours Apr., Mar. June, July, Aug., Sept., and Oct.)

Sat. 9 a.m. -noon

We want to say thank you to all who come to shop or donate. We are open to all. Come see what we have to offer. Everything is free, but if you are able, cash donations are accepted.

We believe that we have been a blessing and made a difference to many.

### **P-P-P Remember 2-2-2, 2nd 2sday of the month 2pm February 9**

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 aware of your prayer concern.

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.

Greater Minnesota Gas, Inc. (GMG) would like to remind residential homeowners or renters of the Energy Assistance Program (EAP). This federally funded program helps pay for home heating costs and furnace repairs for income-qualified households. Please contact your local EAP provider to apply. For help finding your

local EAP provider, call us at 888-931-3411. Applications must be received or postmarked by May 31, 2021 to be processed for benefits for 2020-2021 program year. You can find more information on-line at the Minnesota Department of Commerce website at <https://mn.gov/commerce/>

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

Children ages 4 years through 8th grade are welcome to join us for Sunday School at 9:30am; classes will resume on Sunday, January 10, 2021 (via Zoom until further notice). Please contact Carrie Hess with any questions.



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

January 17th, 2021

The annual meeting of St John's United Church of Christ was called to order, via Zoom by Moderator Doug Spike at 1pm.

Pastor Lora opened with the reading of her resignation letter. Doug Spike accepted and thanked Pastor Lora for her years of service to St John's.

Anita Bradshaw from the UCC conference was introduced and welcomed into attendance for the meeting.

Secretary's report of the 2020 annual meeting was read by Sarah Becher and approved.

Keith Keller reported for the audit committee that all the financial books were in good order.

Gordie Wiegrefe read the financial report and was approved.

Secretary's report for the August roof meeting was read by Doug Spike and approved.

Trustee's report was read by Zach Hertle and approved. Moderator Doug Spike thanked Zach for the work on the roof project. Don Katra and Zach were also noted by Doug for the completed updates to the Sanctuary.

Pauline Wiegrefe reported the Big Woods Run was canceled this year due to CoVID but some funds remain in account. The committee will disperse funds for missions after the February meeting.

Carrie Little-Hess reported that the Sunday School has chosen the Northfield and Faribault food shelf along with Bob Flaa as designated mission for 2020. Carrie also includes that the Sunday School has been able to meet via Zoom during CoVID and that attendance has remained up during this time.

Shirley Little reported for the Women's Guild that they have dispersed remaining funds to Sunday School for future purchase of bibles for the confirmands.

Gayle Bauer reported that the CoVID committee will remain intact until the end of the pandemic and St John's will get back to fully opening as the pandemic ends in our communities.

Election of officers was held and the following were elected unanimously:

Elder: Todd Lien Trustee: Paul Meyer  
SPRC committee: Pauline Wiegrefe

Having no old business to discuss meeting moved on

New business

2021 budget was reviewed by Gordie Wiegrefe

Yoking agreement with Nerstrand United Methodist was opened for discussion and tabled by Doug Spike

Anita Bradshaw spoke about the pros and cons of having a full-time pastor vs a part time pastor. Templates and information were forwarded from Anita to the council for reference as the council explores the congregation's needs and support of a pastor.

Proposed bylaw amendment passed as follows: "All wording in bylaws that now reads President will be changed to Moderator."

The meeting was recessed at 1:45 for the Cemetery meeting and reconvened at 2pm

Doug Spike Thanked all who served in 2020. Doug introduced Gayle Bauer as the new Moderator.

Motion for adjournment was passed @ 2:15pm

Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Sarah Becher, Secretary  
Tues Feb 9th at 6:30 is the next St. John's UCC Council Meeting

Elders: Gayle Bauer, Gloria Karl, Todd Lien  
Deacons-Gordie Wiegrefe, Sarah Becher, Brian Homeier  
Trustees-Jay Kindseth, Matt Schwake, Paul Meyer  
Cemetery Board-Keith Keller, Brian Bauer, Al Meyer

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

**Committee** The St. John's UCC cleaning committee for the month of February is: TBA

### **Second Saturday Quilters**

SSQ is open to people of all churches & their friends.  
Contact Deb Wille 507-323-4813  
or [83159deb@gmail.com](mailto:83159deb@gmail.com)



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

**Feb 9** 2pm PPP, 6:30pm council-SJ

**Feb 13** Ash Wednesday 1-5pm drive by ash imposition-N

**Feb 20** newsletter deadline, 5pm council N

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

**Aug 31-Sep 10** UMC General Conference-Mpls

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

**Both/And with Jason Moore:** Pre-recorded, available until April 14. How do we worship both in-person and online without leaving anyone out? Here are three strategies. [Recording](#) / [Handbook](#)

**Financial Foundations Webinar: Assessing your Church's Financial Health: Feb. 8, 7-7:45 p.m., online.** The DK-MN United Methodist Foundations present this quarterly webinar. This session assess your church's financial health. Learn next steps based on where you are now.

**EarthKeepers/Be the Spark Training:** Feb. 4, 11, 18, and March 4, 6:30-8:30 p.m., online. Identify the links between climate justice and racial justice, practice community organizing, and take action together. This is one way to become a Minnesota United Methodist EarthKeeper.

**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. **Or: The Northfield Community Action Center** offers food availability and other assistance in Faribault. They are in need of a couple of volunteers for Friday, 2/5 at the warehouse in preparation for the afternoon's food distribution at Evergreen Estates and Cannon River Mobile Home Park.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0d45aaa629a1fec43-faribault> This link contains ALL of the volunteer opportunities currently available through the END OF MARCH. The teams/times with the most need are packing on Tuesday evenings or Saturday mornings, and assisting on Thursday and Fridays on distribution weeks. Specific dates can be located in the sign up. So much appreciation goes out to the volunteers who make this work possible. We've been providing mobile delivery of food to the Faribault community for 9 months!! And we couldn't have done it without you. Thank you for considering helping out again. With immense gratitude, Becky (on behalf of Steph, Malen, Cora, Emma and the whole team!) Questions? Call or text 507-573-2601 (habla español) **FOOD DELIVERY!** Delivering food boxes in select neighborhoods in Faribault Look for the Hiawathaland bus! Please practice physical distancing when picking up food **FREE! FREE!** Thank you to our funders.

**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 neighbors. In times of need, our help is appreciated 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 Suzzanne for volunteer opportunities! [suzzannef.ruthshouse@gmail.com](mailto:suzzannef.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 [mailto:habitatricecounty@gmail.com](mailto:mailto:habitatricecounty@gmail.com)  
Thanks for your interest in supporting this ministry and mission through prayer.

**Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southern Minnesota** serve children ages 5-14 in Dodge, Rice, Steele and Waseca Counties. Our mission: Contact info: 545 Durnell 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.bbbsouthernmn.org](http://www.bbbsouthernmn.org) [meqzn@bbbsouthernmn.org](mailto:meqzn@bbbsouthernmn.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](https://www.facebook.com/honoringchoicesFaribaultOwatonna)

**Upcoming scriptures, read and reflect to prepare for worship:** Feb 7 FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY, YEAR B, Isaiah 40:21-31 Psalm 147:1-11, 20c 1 Corinthians 9:16-23 Mark 1:29-39 COLORS Green Feb 14 TRANSFIGURATION SUNDAY, YEAR B, 2 Kings 2:1-12 Psalm 50:1-6 2 Corinthians 4:3-6 Mark 9:2-9 COLORS Gold White Feb 17 Ash Wednesday, Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 Psalm 51:1-17 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10 Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21 COLORS Purple Gray Feb 21 FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT, YEAR B, Genesis 9:8-17 Psalm 25:1-10 1 Peter 3:18-22 Mark 1:9-15 COLORS Purple Feb 28 SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT, YEAR B, Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16 Psalm 22:23-31 Romans 4:13-25 Mark 8:31-38 COLORS Purple

### **Service Schedule for 2021: Sundays**

**(Communion on first Sundays of month)**

**9:00 AM WORSHIP AT NERSTRAND UNITED**

**METHODIST CHURCH**

12 Maple Street, Nerstrand, MN 55053

E-mail: [stjohnsuccnumc@live.com](mailto:stjohnsuccnumc@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://stjohnsunitiedchurchofchrist.info>

Phone: 507.330.0025



Like us on Facebook

All the People, Ministers

Lora Sturm, Pastor

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



