

# MAY CHURCHLETTER



## *BUILDING A FUTURE WITH HOPE BY REACHING OUT AND GROWING DEEPER:*

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,  
“How lucky I am to have something that makes saying goodbye so hard.” Winnie the Pooh. It is hard for me to believe it is time for me to say good-bye to you. We have been through so much together in so many years. Over half of my full-time ministry career has been serving you as the pastor.

Like all relationships, there have been difficult times interspersed with joyful moments. Always, God invites us to see the activity of God during our time together. Thanks for all the wonderful memories. You’ve made a difference in my life and my families’ lives. It has been a wild ride, hasn’t it? Who knows what else God has in store? Good to know we can trust God always.

Soon, you will be welcoming a new pastor into your hearts to love and grow in relationship with. It is a gift of God that despite changes all around, God’s love is constant and invites us to transform the world more in God’s image. This means we change by God’s healing.

Your generosity and willingness to not just try new hymns but ways of being in ministry have been a joy to behold. Looking out of our church windows into the community God has placed us in, led to new ministries, celebrating the gifts and talents and love for God you already have and are willing to continue growing in.

Your prayers are changing lives. Our prayer partners pray for our revitalized churches and the people connected with them. Your prayers have been an important part of this awareness. Hearts are growing deeper and wider as you are transformed into Jesus followers. My prayers continue for you into the future.

As a reminder, I will no longer be your pastor. Your wonderful SPRC team has resources for pastoral emergencies until your new pastor arrives. I will not return for pastoral functions, entrusting this to your new pastor. For those I’m friends with on Facebook, I will not comment on any posts, for at least a year. (Yes, we can still exchange Christmas cards). There will be no discussion about church. Some personal friendships have been formed through this time. This connection remains in pure friendship. Thank you for understanding.

“If you’re brave enough to say goodbye, life will reward you with a new hello.” Paulo Coelho

My home address: 24082 Homer Valley Rd, Winona, MN 55987, home # 507.452.1448, cell # 507.525.4483. My personal email is [sturmthorn@live.com](mailto:sturmthorn@live.com) Yes, I’ll be busy sorting through my parents’ farm for at least the summer and preparing to sell it with my brother’s help. So, I covet your prayers for grace and wisdom in that experience.

Holding you in prayer, brothers and sisters in Christ,  
Lora

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 was a free trial subscription. This service ends **May 22**.

Mailing or delivering copies of the bulletins and sermons continues for those who have requested it (please let Lynn know, if you’re interested) for the people without the necessary technology to watch the service other than via in person worship. YouTube links are emailed as available, and Facebook live the morning of worship continues, as possible. Thanks for your prayerful support and financial assistance to continue offering options for more participation by a larger group of disciples.

Have you tried the online way of giving yet? Check out each church’s website: <https://nerstrandumc.org/> <https://stjohnsunitedchurchofchrist.info> for the link to give.

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 generous giving out of your gratitude for God’s transforming love.

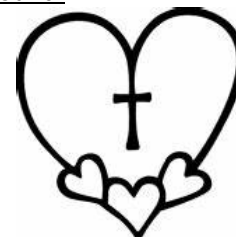
**Be aware many dates and activities can be changed in a short time. Please watch for updates. Keep on praying.**

*Remember the 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

### **Milestone**

Marjean Smith

### **At Home**

Jean Pederson

Donovan Mueller

Doris Hildebrandt

Arlene Shaske

Arlene Bultman

Kaye Spike

Richard Hanson

## **Joys and Concerns**

Nerstrand United Methodist will be honoring Pastor Lora on her last Sunday with us, May 16<sup>th</sup>, during worship. Additionally, there will be a coffee time prior to church from 8:15 – 8:45. In cooperation with St. John's UCC there will also be a drive-thru opportunity that same day, May 16<sup>th</sup> from 2 - 4 pm, to thank Pastor Lora and Rick for their ministry to our congregations.

St. John's UCC and Nerstrand UMC invite all to a drive-through party for Pastor Lora Sturm on May 16, 2021 from 2-4pm in the parking lot of St. John's UCC. Due to the pandemic, we ask you to please stay in your cars while proceeding through the line. Refreshments will be provided. We hope you can join us as we celebrate Lora's many years as our Pastor and offer her our very best wishes in the future.

Beginning May 18, 2021, the office phone number (507) 330-0025 will be monitored by SPRC chair Becky Tatge. You can also reach the churches by email at: [St.JohnsUCCWheeling@gmail.com](mailto:St.JohnsUCCWheeling@gmail.com) or [NerstrandUMC@gmail.com](mailto:NerstrandUMC@gmail.com). Thank you for your patience and understanding during this transition time.

Our Christian Sympathy to Jared Dyr Dahl and family on the death of his grandfather, Robert Dyr Dahl. Robert, age 92 of Kenyon, passed away April 12 in Rochester. Memorial services are scheduled for April 30, with burial in the Hauge Old stone church cemetery.

### **Easter Memorials**

*A monetary memorial from Mildred Tatge in memory of: Earl Tatge, Ronald Tatge, Carol & David Tousinant, Cyril Donkers, Dorothy & Orville Tatge, Darrell & Doris Meyer, Harry & Edna Meyer, and Adolf & Meta Tatge.*

*An Easter lily memorial from Mary Bultman*

*Easter Lilies in memory of Luverne Hafemeyer by Carol Hafemeyer and family*

*Hydrangeas in memory of broken hearts in last year from Rick and Pastor Lora*

*An Easter Monetary gift was given in Memory of Brandyn Hildebrandt by Lisa & Bryce Schmidtke and Chad and Dylan Flynn. The gift was given to the E. U. B. Cemetery Fund.*

*A \$25.00 Memorial, in memory of Harold and Lois Homeier, Gordon, Wayne, and Terry Homeier LeRoy and Shirley Foss, Paul, Ted and Eric Foss*

*Given by:*

*Theron Homeier Foss*

*Brian, Tasha Homeier and family*

*Chrissy, Jim Alexander and family*

*Michelle, Tim Otte and family*

**Mark your calendar.** NUMC is planning their annual garage sale for June 26<sup>th</sup>. Details will be coming at a later date but we encourage you to start cleaning your closets of the items you no longer need but might be the perfect garage sale find for someone else. If possible, donations can be dropped off at church during regular Wednesday Wear hours, Wednesdays 1 - 5 and Saturdays 9 - 12.

**Wednesday Wear at Nerstrand UMC** We will be keeping our hours as is for now. We are still amazed! We have been open 7 yrs. And still have new people coming. Come see us and bring along a friend!

**Hours:** Wednesdays 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM

Saturdays 9:00AM to Noon

**Vacation Bible School:** Vacation bible School material as an "at home" study project will be mailed out to students the first week of June. Due to the fact that this virus is not over and not 100% of persons are vaccinated, we will again not have an in person VBS week.

**P-P-P Remember 2-2-2, 2nd 2sday of the month 2pm, May 11** is the date for our last

People, Pray and Praise together, I ask you to set aside time to pray.

Please meet in person by the

Nerstrand City Park. These have been 'holy ground' moments for all who took time to participate. 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 a prayer concern. **Don't forget to pray for your new pastor.** 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.



**Human Relations Day on May 9** strengthens United Methodist outreach to communities in the USA and Puerto Rico, encouraging social justice and work with at-risk youth. In 2020, you gave \$422,731 to the Human Relations Day Sunday offering. This fund is distributed by the General Board of Higher Education and Ministries and The General Board of Church and Society. You may also give ONLINE. In person worship includes a pew card and envelope for donations.

**May 13 Ascension Day Vespers 6:30pm** around parsonage fire ring. In 20 years of serving churches full time, I've never had an Ascension Day service. So, please join me outside for a time to give thanks to God for so many blessings. We can talk about the blessings God has given us through one another. We can watch all the sticks, palm branches, and log burn up -if allowed by then! Hopefully weather permits us to be outdoors too. Bring your own chairs! Pastor Lora

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** St. John's Sunday School will hold their last meeting of the 2020-21 school year on Sunday, May 2, at 9:30. We will meet AT CHURCH and plan to meet outside! Bring your camp chair or a blanket and join us in reviewing highlights of our Sunday School year, including singing songs that will hopefully linger in our heads and hearts through the summer, sustaining us until we resume Sunday School in September. Children ages 4 years through 8th grade are welcome to join us. Please contact Carrie Hess with any questions.



### St John's UCC Council Meeting Minutes

The April meeting was called to order at 6:30p.m. by Moderator Gayle Bauer  
Pastor Lora opened with scripture and prayer  
SPRC report was given by Becky Tatge  
Secretary report read and approved  
Treasure report read and approved  
Trustee report read and approved  
Approved new desktop computer for church  
Pastor Lora's last day reception/check newsletter for time  
Mid-week summer service and Eagle program tabled to May meeting

UCC annual meeting is June 11-12, more than one person may attend. Council approved Doug Spike as St. John's delegate  
Council discussed transition of church cell phone, confirmation, prayer chain, email notifications. More detailed information after May meeting.  
Next meeting will be Tuesday May 11th at 6:30 p.m. in person at St. John's UCC  
Meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m. with the Lord's Prayer  
Gayle Bauer, Moderator

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 May 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:

**May 11** 2pm PPP Nerstrand City Park, 6:30pm council-SJ  
**May 12** 5:30pm council- N  
**May 13 Ascension Day** 6:30pm at parsonage fire ring  
**May 16** Pastor Lora's last Sunday in pulpits  
**May 20** newsletter deadline  
**Jun 7-12** MN UCC Conference Annual Meeting  
**Jun 22-24** MAC UMC 167<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference  
**Jun 26** Garage Sale-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.

**MAC UMC Annual Conference 2021: June 22-24.** The theme of our 167th Annual Conference is "Jesus. Waymaker." Registration will open May 1. June 22 and 24 will be entirely virtual and June 23 will be in small (50) in-person groups at various sites across the state. It will include a virtual presentation from Rev. Rachel Billups—an author who serves as pastor of Ginghamburg Church in Ohio—followed by a live virtual Q&A. There will be group conversations at the sites and ZOOM breakout rooms will be available for those not comfortable meeting in-person. This will allow some face-to-face conversation and provide an opportunity to be in community. The business session, where we discuss legislation, will be Thursday, June 24 and conducted through a ZOOM webinar.





**Minnesota UCC Conference Annual Meeting 2021: June 7-12** The theme is "Courageous Church" The Annual Meeting Planning Work Group, in

collaboration with Conference staff, is working hard to create an experience that will be educational, supportive, collaborative, and enjoyable — balanced by our sincere desire to keep everyone safe and healthy. To that end, the decision was made that the entire Annual Meeting will be virtual this year. Like the rest of the world, our team simply does not know when it will be safe to gather in-person, or even how that might look in June. That said, we have a lot of exciting plans to share with you!

The activities and learning sessions for the Annual Meeting will be spread out throughout the week of June 7, with the bulk of the work conducted on Friday and Saturday. Monday through Thursday we will have two workshop sessions each day, one mid-morning and the other mid-afternoon. We are accepting workshop proposals now! All workshops will be open to all delegates and visitors and will be recorded for later viewing by those registered for the Annual Meeting.

The business meeting, when we will vote on various business of the Conference (budget, compensation guidelines, etc.), will take place Friday afternoon and will be open to delegates only (to ease difficulties with online voting) but will be recorded and available later for public viewing.

On Friday evening, June 11, we will formally kick-off the Annual Meeting with a worship service, Rev. Shari Prestemon's State of the Conference, and some fun surprises. Saturday will begin mid-morning with a keynote address from author Susan Beaumont, author of *How to Lead When You Don't Know What You Are Doing*. Virtual "tabletop conversations" will follow her keynote address. The afternoon of Saturday, June 12, we will reconvene for a virtual panel of congregational leaders across the state who have engaged in the vital task of racial justice work. Rev. Karen Georgia Thompson, Associate General Minister of the United Church of Christ, will moderate the panel, which will be followed by small conversation circles. Saturday will conclude with a virtual concert and social "chat" to visit with friend across the Conference.

On Sunday June 13, we will worship together across the state and hear a message from Rev. Karen Georgia Thompson. That virtual worship service will be live-streamed and we are working hard to make it as accessible as possible for every congregation in Minnesota to worship as one.

One important thing to note: there will be no resolutions this year. While resolutions are very important to the work of the Conference, the Board of Directors concluded that it added a level of complexity to a virtual meeting that will already be highly complex. Finally, our registration costs. We will ask delegates to pay \$50 to attend the Annual Meeting, with delegates

able to participate in all sessions. All visitors (non-voting delegates) will be asked to pay \$25 for all sessions except for those on Friday (open to voting delegates only). The Annual Meeting Planning Work Group is eager to engage with you and make this Annual Meeting the best experience possible. Questions? Contact: Rev. Danielle K Bartz Co-Chair of the Annual Meeting Planning Work Group 507-269-5424 [Danielle.bartz@gmail.com](mailto:Danielle.bartz@gmail.com)

**Food assistance for Faribault is at both: The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul**, Divine Mercy Chapter, located at 617 3rd Avenue NW in Faribault. If you are willing to volunteer call Kevin at SVdP at 334-2100. **Or: The Northfield Community Action Center**, see [Faribault Food Access Initiative | Community Action Center of Northfield \(CAC\)](#) offers food availability and other assistance through the **Faribault Food Access Initiative**. To donate via mail, please send checks to: Community Action Center, Faribault Food Access Initiative, 1400 Cannon Circle Suite #8, Faribault, MN 55021 To ensure your donation supports Faribault's food shelf, please note 'Food Access' in the memo line. The teams/times with the most need are packing on Tuesday evenings or Saturday mornings, and assisting on Thursday and Fridays on distribution weeks. <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0d45aaa629a1fec43-faribault>

**Food Shelf Items always welcome.** Thank you for your ministry of feeding the hungry. Each church has a box location where you may bring items. Your help by delivering those items to our local food shelves is greatly appreciated. Your gifts witness to the mission focus of our churches. The food shelves in Faribault and Kenyon can also use your financial donations to purchase food at best prices. Each has various options to donate directly, check with them.

**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)

**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.bbbsouthernmn.org](http://www.bbbsouthernmn.org) [megan@bbbsouthernmn.org](mailto:megan@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)



**YOU'RE INVITED!**



**Groundbreaking Ceremony**

Join us to celebrate the groundbreaking of our Faith Build Quad!

Sunday, May 2, 4 pm  
2444 Cotton Lane, Northfield

Questions?  
507-323-5167  
habitatricecounty@gmail.com  
habitatricecounty.org



We are getting a food truck (cheese curds and mini donuts) so it will be helpful if you RSVP to our website: [habitatricecounty.org](http://habitatricecounty.org)

Phone number is 507-323-5167 or e-mail [habitatricecounty@gmail.com](mailto:habitatricecounty@gmail.com) [www.habitatricecounty.org](http://www.habitatricecounty.org), 204 7<sup>th</sup> St. W, PMB 128, Northfield, MN 55057

**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

**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 is 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:** 2 May 2021 FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER, YEAR B Acts 8:26-40 Psalm 22:25-31 1 John 4:7-21 John 15:1-8 COLORS Gold White 9 May 2021 SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER, YEAR B Acts 10:44-48 Psalm 98 1 John 5:1-6 John 15:9-17 COLORS Gold White 16

May 2021 SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER, YEAR B Acts 1:1-11 Psalm 47 Ephesians 1:15-23 Luke 24:44-53 COLORS Gold White... rest of month led by pulpit supply choice

**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://stjohnsunitdchurchofchrist.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  
Home Address: 24082 Homer Valley Rd, Winona, MN 55987

