



SEPTEMBER CHURCHLETTER



From the Pastor

He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God? Micah 6.8 ESV

Hello all,

Though our journey together doesn't officially begin until September 1st (for most that means worshipping together on September 5th) there have been an SPRC meeting and two council meetings I attended unofficially and have connected with several of the leaders in both congregations. I am reminded of the sincere faith that is passed from generation to generation – a faith evidenced by those lifted up in local congregations who share their knowledge, wisdom and passion to help the church be all that God wants us to be.

So, thank you to all who are doing the necessary work to lead us through these uncertain times and who are willing to seek God's purpose for our congregations. This is the same work the first apostles engaged in as they shared God's love and grace and truth with a questioning, yet seeking, world. You are in historically excellent company. While I have not met most of you face to face I feel as if we have met faith to faith. Most of us have much more in common than we have that make us different from each other. As believers we do our best to live faithfully, sharing our life stories both small and not-so-small ways. Our desire to reach out to others with kindness and compassion are not restricted to leftover moments, but we specifically set aside time to give to others. We know that, by God's grace, we can and will make a difference in someone's life.

In the past ten days, both my wife (Mary Jo) and I were blessed by individual phone calls from persons we love, but haven't talked to in a long time. Let me say it again, we were blessed...and I believe the callers were blessed as well. Interestingly, both callers said they had thought about calling several times before but something always seemed to

sidetrack them. Finally, and these two don't know each other, they each came to the realization that making the call was important to them and might be valued by us. And they were right!

As we journey together through this next year, there will be important and meaningful conversations we need to have. While it might be easier to avoid having these conversations, they are necessary and will bring value to each and every participant and to future members of our congregations. By God's grace we can and will fashion a future for our congregations that will fulfill God's will and purpose for each of us.

See y'all Sept 5th,
Pastor Jef

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

Loving Thoughts and Prayers Surround:

New Perspective

Joan Schwake

Pleasant View Estates

Shirley Bauer

Faribault Senior Living

Mildred Tatge

Ivy Hill

Ken Shaske

Milestone

Marjean Smith

At Home

Jean Pederson

Donovan Mueller

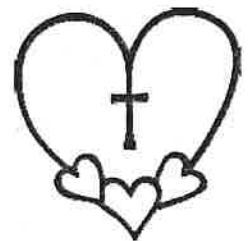
Doris Hildebrandt

Arlene Shaske

Arlene Bultman

Kaye Spike

Richard Hanson



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 or NerstrandUMC@gmail.com Thank you for your patience and understanding during this transition time.



Joys and Concerns

Thank you to all those that made the Wednesday evening services at St. John's a huge success. A special thanks to Matt Schwake for his time and talents in providing his own special gospel music program.

Our Christian Sympathy to Sally Budde on the death of her brother, Brian Herkenratt. Brian, age 63, passed away July 25, funeral services were held at the Boldt Funeral Home Aug. 2.

Notice:

Plans were to start up choir again at St. John's. **BUT**, since there are many lingering uncertainties regarding the Covid 19 virus, and the urging of masking indoors, we will be postponing choir at least a month or two.

Sincerely, Craig Keller

During the St. John's service on Sept 26, the carpet, painting and roof will be dedicated. All members are encouraged to attend as we celebrate our beautiful church building. These improvements have all been paid. Thanks for your generous donations and gifts to the church. Please consider a further donation to the church as we work to replenish our funds. Thank you everyone for your contributions of prayers, time, talents and financial gifts.

Dear St. John's UCC Family,
Thank you so much for all your prayers and support over the years. I loved the connection you made with the wind (the Spirit) and my memory of the time with you. The wind chime has a beautiful sound when it blows in the valley. The engraving of the church and years I was there is a wonderful reminder of your grace. Thanks so much, Lora



Prayer Chain:

The Prayer Chain will continue as it's currently set-up. Calls can be made to the church line 507-330-0025 or to Shirley Little 507-334-5325 or Mary Kindseth 507-789-6879. Messages can be left on any of the phones. If you want to make any changes on how you are contacted or add your name to the list, you can be on the email or phone list. Let's keep this available to our community.

Wednesday Wear at Nerstrand UMC

Hours:

Wednesdays 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM
Saturdays 9:00AM to Noon

Randy and Jeremy Hanson brought in bags of beautiful sweet corn that went very quickly. We say thank-you for thinking of us.

I'm sure you know that we have been flooded twice this year. We purchased another pump just in case we get another downpour. Janet Petersmeyer, along with the help of Jackie and Kevin Wille, have been working on down-spouts and some rerouting. Hopefully, it will solve pur problems-time will tell.

One of our mission projects is CRU (Campus Crusade for Christ). Right now they have a donor that will match every dollar received. We sent \$100 which will become \$200. CRU is working with UNTO to drill or repair wells. Nearly 1000 children die each day from preventable waterborne illnesses. Often these communities are closed to the Gospel and wary of outside missionaries. Fix the water and then the CRU members are usually welcomed. Teams work to save lives and share the Gospel. Pray that hearts would be open and receptive to hear the Word of God.

Come and shop or bring us your donations. We are always glad to see you. Masks are requested.

St. John's UCC Sunday School

St. John's Sunday School will resume in September, 2021, for children ages 4 years through 8th grade. Please contact Carrie Hess with any questions or if you know of children or families who might be interested in Sunday School.

Please send **bulletin (deadline-9am Thurs)** and **newsletter (deadline-20th of month)** information to: lynnhirschey@ymail.com. Phone number 507-330-1831. Notes in the mail are also welcome if you prefer.

Hegre Lutheran Fall Swedish Meatball Supper

Wednesday September 22

Take Out and Curbside Pickup Only

4:00 to 7:00 pm

At Hegre Lutheran Church

\$15.00 per meal

Call ahead or text orders are appreciated by Friday,

Sept. 17th and will guarantee meal

Beth 507-330-4996

Ask about Quilt Raffle tickets!

Special notices, Save the dates, Surround in Prayer:

Aug 31-Sep 10 UMC General Conference-Mpls

Oct. 2 Fall Festival-N

Nov 10-12 North Central UMC Jurisdiction

Conference: Ft. Wayne, Indiana. Election and assignment of bishops occurs.

CHURCH COUNCIL



St. John's UCC council

August 2021

The St John's United Church of Christ August meeting was called to order by Moderator Gayle Bauer at 6:30 pm on August 10th.

Introductions of council members were made to our new interim Pastor Jef Olson.

Doug Spike presented to the council on stewardship and the information he had learned while taking workshops at the United Church of Christ Annual meeting. Doug will type up his notes from the workshops and have them available to the council for reference.

Becky Tatge from the SPRC attended and reported they will begin to review the yoking agreement at their next meeting.

The Secretary's report was read and approved.

The Treasurer's report was read and approved.

Trustees report:

A motion was made and approved to accept the cost of paint for parsonage and continue the painting project until complete.

A motion was made and approved to table the conversation on replacing the floor in the parsonage until the council gathers more information.

An area leaking next to the steeple of the church, into the entrance of the sanctuary will be addressed this week by the contractor.

Monday August 16th @ 6 pm trustees and volunteers will continue to paint in the parsonage.

The CoVid Committee reported they are tabling the idea of a church gathering for a meal this fall due to increase in Covid numbers recently, and uncertainty of the direction of the pandemic.

Old business:

Mid week summer service will be August 18th at 7pm with Mathew Schwake providing music.

Combined worship service on August 15th with coffee hour following hosted by Pastor Orde and his wife Dorothy.

Dedication of the roof and carpet will be during the service on September 26th with food packing scheduled on September 26th from 1-3pm for a mission project

following the service. Gayle Bauer will be the contact person for the Jesus Food packing event. Information to follow.

Discussion on repayment of the loan was tabled.

New business

Parsonage status: Moderator Gayle shared she had received emails from people inquiring about renting the property. The council will continue to gather information and revisit this issue in future meetings.

Sunday School and Confirmation will restart in September Moderator Gayle Bauer and Pastor Jeff will work with parents and Sunday School teachers to decide what that will look like.

The next council meeting will be held on September 14th at 6:30 pm.

Motion made and approved to adjourn the meeting.

Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Secretary Sarah Becher

Moderator Gayle Bauer

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

Nerstrand UMC council

August 2021

Secretary -Debbie Kerr

Chairman-Duane Bailey

St. John's UCC Cleaning

Committee The St. John's UCC will have cleaning committees every other month.

October- Mary Bultman,
Gordie & Pauline Wiegrefe

December -Don & sue Katra



Second Saturday Quilters

SSQ will meet on Saturday September 11 at St. Johns from 9:00 to Noon. We will be making a small fall paper piecing project.

You will need your sewing machine, and general sewing supplies, iron, washable glue stick (Elmer's School Glue or other washable brands) and 6 fabric scraps at least 10" square, in lights and darks of the same color family. And one larger piece for the background - (fat quarter - 18" x 22"). The patterns will be provided,



a pumpkin, a leaf and a star. We will do one and you can take the others home.

Second Saturday Quilters is open to people from all churches and their friends. Direct any questions to Deb Wille 507-323-4813 or 83159deb@gmail.com

From Dorothy Orde 4-H Sweet Yeast Rolls

2 pkgs Rapid Rise yeast
2 cups warm water
½ cup sugar
7 cups flour
2 eggs
½ cup shortening, melted and cooled
1 Tablespoon salt

Dissolve yeast in warm water. Add sugar, eggs, and half the flour. Mix well. Add salt and shortening. Mix well. Add remaining flour. Mix well (If doing by hand, you may need to knead the flour. I use my mixer with a dough hook.) Butter a bowl. Place the dough in the bowl, cover and let rise until double (30 minutes to an hour)

Shape and let rise for 30 to 40 minutes.

For tea rings or cinnamon rolls.

Combine ½ cup of sugar and 3 teaspoons of cinnamon.

Divide the dough into 2. Roll out one half into a rectangle. Brush with a little milk. Spread half of the cinnamon/sugar mixture on the rectangle. Roll up in jelly roll fashion. Cut and shape into tea ring or cut into cinnamon rolls. Place on a greased sheet for the tea ring or a greased cake pan for the cinnamon rolls. Repeat with the second half. Let rise 30 to 40 minutes.

Bake at 375* for 20 minutes.

Frost with powdered sugar icing. Melt 1 tablespoon butter in a bowl. Add 1 teaspoon vanilla and 1 cup of powdered sugar. Add a tablespoon of hot water, stir. Add water and powdered sugar until desired consistency.

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.

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
Website: <https://nerstrandumc.org>
Phone: 507.332.4089



10:30 AM WORSHIP AT ST JOHN'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

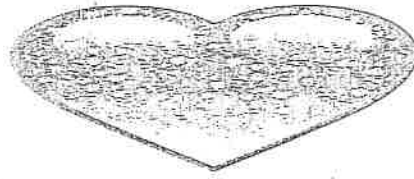
19086 Jacobs Ave, Faribault, MN 55021
E-mail: stjohnsuccnumc@live.com Phone: 5077895766
Website: <https://stjohnsunitedchurchofchrist.info>
Phone: 507.330.0025 answered by Becky Tatge



All the People, Ministers
Interim Pastor- Jef Olson



CALLING ALL MEMBERS FOR A LOCAL MISSION PROJECT!!



Helping Hands

o On **Sunday Sept 26 from 1 – 3 pm** members of our church community are invited to pack food for Jesus Food. Tim Stromer from Jesus Food spoke at our services on July 18th and this is the planned follow up.

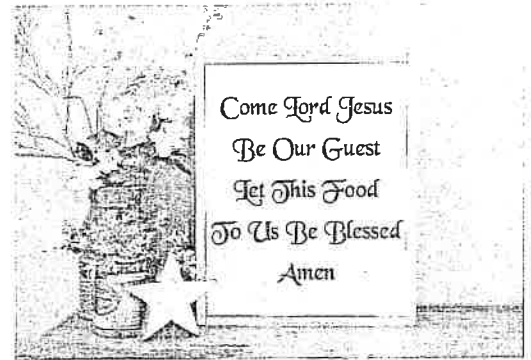
o Jesus Food is located at the Faribault West Mall (across from Vision Works). During the event, dry food is packaged and ready to be shipped overseas.

o Each person will package enough to feed the starving child for an entire year in just two hours! At \$.23 per serving times 365 days a year, that's about \$84 per person.

o If you are not able to help pack food, consider donating \$84 to feed one person for a year.

o All benevolent donations for St. John's UCC church in Sept (unless otherwise specified) will be given to Jesus Food.

o We encourage as many people to participate as able! Germanfest was usually celebrated the last Sunday in September so what a great opportunity to volunteer some time and gather with other members of the church community. This is also an excellent opportunity for our church community to participate in a mission project since there will be no Big Woods Race this year.



To have adequate supplies there needs to be an approximate count of those that will participate. There will be a sign up sheet at St. John's or leave a message on the church cell phone (507-330-0025) with the number of people planning on helping by September 19th. The Faribault location can easily handle 50 people so please consider donating 2 hours or your time. Please contact Gayle Bauer if you have any questions.

"I was hungry and you gave me something to eat."
Matthew 25:35



4-H Sweet Yeast Rolls-from Dorothy Orde

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