

# FEBRUARY CHURCHLETTER

From the Pastor

Hello Church [Joel 2.28-32],

*"The moment you doubt whether you can fly, you cease for ever to be able to do it." — J. M. Barrie, Peter Pan*

What does community look like when it is living out its call to be the "people of God?" We began taking an in-depth look at that question back on January 2<sup>nd</sup> by talking about our God-given gift of *Imagination*. We followed up that initial conversation with a look at *Compassion*. The scriptures ask us, "Is your heart tender and compassionate?" What will be our answer? How we answer that question provides purpose and direction in our lives. We then looked at *Transformation: Understanding Our Shape*. We talked about working with the Holy Spirit and participating in living into what God has created you to be and do!

The last two Sundays of the month we were blessed to have Pastor Gordon Orde lead us in worship and bring us the Good News. We are blessed to have such a loving and engaging preacher always willing to step in when asked.

The month of February will find us going in-depth on the topic of *Transformation* as we continue to explore how, as people of God, we are able to be and do vastly more when we live in concert with Jesus through the Holy Spirit. Under the heading of *Transformation* our conversation points week by week will be: *How to Let God Change You; We have Power in the Name of Jesus; and, Do All the Good You Can*. We conclude this extended worship series with a sermon titled, *Fruition*, as we put an exclamation point on the reality that our faith walks are more about growing in one's openness to God and less about completeness of purpose or achieving an ultimate goal.

With hardly a pause to catch our breath, we will step right into the season of Lent as Ash Wednesday is March 2<sup>nd</sup>. Our Sunday worship services in Lent will engage our hearts, minds and soul with a paradoxical truth. We are at the same time both broken vessels and holy vessels. In fact, this worship series is titled, *Holy Vessels* and is based on the premise that each of us is created a precious vessel of God's love. At the same time, each of us has experienced hurt in some way, bringing to us a sense of brokenness. To move toward healing is to receive the gift of life and wholeness (or holiness), not only for ourselves but also for others as we come to see each person as a *Holy Vessel* of God and as we come to desire that wholeness for all of creation.

As we are stepping ever more boldly into 2022, let us be a community who is *believing, receiving, becoming God's love*, and who can sing with exuberance, *we are your people, O God*, even as we acknowledge and own our brokenness. We can do this because God celebrates that we are his treasures; he longs to keep us safe; he revels in the wonderful reality that, though each of us have unique stories and therefore individualized pictures of self, we share a common desire to be fully restored to our loving God through Jesus Christ.

Pastor Jef

Galatians 5.13-23

The office phone number is (507) 330-0025. You can also reach the churches by email at: [st.johnsuccwheelfina@gmail.com](mailto:st.johnsuccwheelfina@gmail.com) or [NorstrandUMC@gmail.com](mailto:NorstrandUMC@gmail.com). Thank you for your patience and understanding during this time.

**Notice:** Please direct all prayer chain requests to Becky Tatge (507) 210-1214 or Mary Kindseth 507-789-6879. Messages can be left on either 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.

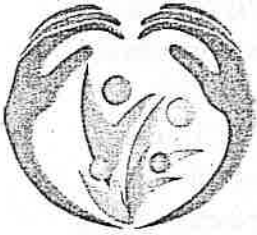


**New:**

As requested, as Administrative Assistant I am now going to be monitoring the SJ church email. I will be using the email for church items as seen below rather than my personal email. I will continue to use my personal cell phone.

Please send **bulletin (deadline-9am Thurs)** and **newsletter (deadline-20<sup>th</sup> of month)** information to: [st.johnsuccwheeling@gmail.com](mailto:st.johnsuccwheeling@gmail.com) (Lynn Hirschey will be monitoring this email). Phone number 507-330-1831. Notes in the mail are also welcome if you prefer.

Loving Thoughts and Prayers Surround:



**New Perspective**  
Joan Schwake  
**Pleasant View Estates**  
Shirley Bauer  
**Faribault Senior Living**  
Mildred Tatge  
**Milestone**  
Marjean Smith  
**At Home**  
Jean Pederson  
Donovan Mueller  
Doris Hildebrandt  
Arlene Shaske  
Arlene Bultman  
Kaye Spike  
Richard Hanson

Joys and Concerns



Thank you to all for the Prayers, well wishes and cards when I was recently hospitalized at Abbott for a stroke. I am now recuperating at home under the care of daughter, Yvonne, and my family and gaining strength every day! Blessings to all- Shirley Little

The Scriven family would like to thank our church family for supporting us during Aneliese's heart surgery. Your prayers are felt and your donations at the pancake breakfast were greatly appreciated. Thank you all so much!  
Hayes and Jenny Scriven

Our Christian Sympathy to Mark Kindseth and his family on the passing of his sister, Doloris Voxland. Doloris, age 93, of Kenyon, passed away Dec. 30. Funeral service will be at a later date.

Our Christian Sympathy to Arlene Bultman on the passing of her son-in-law, Gary Deming. Gary, age 70, passed away suddenly Dec. 27. Funeral services were held Jan. 1 in Rosemount, with burial at the St. John's church cemetery.

Arlene's sister-in-law, Helen Keller also passed away Jan. 5. Helen, age 85, passed away at the Northfield Hospital. Funeral services were held in Faribault, Jan. 8, with burial at the Valley Grove cemetery, Nerstrand.

From the St. John's COVID committee: Due to the continuing high rate of COVID cases in the community, facemasks will be available at the church.

Winter Ladies Bible Study Group

"Make Your Move Finding Unshakable Confidence Despite Your Fears and Failures" by Lynn Cowell  
This study will be a 6 week study on Wednesday evenings starting Wednesday, January 12, 6:30 PM at Nerstrand United Methodist Church. Open to ladies from the community.

Cost for the study book will be approximately \$15. Please email Renea at [serendipity.r76@gmail.com](mailto:serendipity.r76@gmail.com) or text 507-421-4964 by December 22 if you would like to participate or have questions.

ADULT EDUCATION at St. John's UCC

The postponed January adult education session has been re-scheduled for Sunday, February 6, at 12:00 noon. Topics to be discussed are United Church of Christ special offerings, including OCWM. Please refer to the document "We Are In Ministry Together!" that was included in the January Churchletter. Please see Doug Spike if you need a copy or have questions.

**Wednesday Wear at Nerstrand UMC**

**Hours: Wed. 1-5 pm Sat. 9-noon**

**Wednesday Wear 2021 Report**

Wednesday Wear had a better than ever year. Thanks to everyone who helped make it possible: shoppers and those who donated both items and/or money. Special thanks to our volunteers: Janet, Marlene, Verna, Hazel, Jackie, Jennifer and Rolf. Couldn't do it without this faithful group.

For the year of 2021 we took in \$3,373.50. We gave \$2,635.00 to the church budget. For missions we gave \$200.00 to Cru (Crusade for Christ), \$100.00 to food shelf, \$50.00 to Jesus Food, and delivered four Welcome Baskets to Emma Norton.

Number of people coming in:

2019	1639
2020	1283 (closed for three months for covid)
2021	1562

Have a great 2022 and come and see us.

Submitted by Linda Kispert

Sunday school

Children Pre-K (age 4) through 8<sup>th</sup> grade are invited to attend Sunday School at St. John's, from 9:30-10:20am, in person, at church. Contact Carrie Hess with questions or if you would like to assist as a substitute teacher; ([littlehesshouse@gmail.com](mailto:littlehesshouse@gmail.com) or 651-775-5594).



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

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

**CHURCH COUNCIL**

Annual Meeting held in January

**St John's UCC council**

Elders: Gloria Karl, Todd Lien, Barb Kleve  
 Deacons: Gordie Wiegrefe, Brian Homier, Keith Keller  
 Trustees: Matt Schwake, Paul Meyer, Dennis Tatge  
 Cemetery Board: Brian Bauer, Al Meyer, Kyle Keller  
**Nerstrand UMC council**  
 Next meeting will be on Jan. 5 at 5:00pm  
 Chairman-Duane Bailey  
 Secretary -Debbie Kerr

**Second Saturday Quilters**

We will be meeting on February 12th at St. John's from 9:00 - Noon, breaking for lunch and continuing though the afternoon. Cheryl will be teaching the Crazy Tree Pattern. Bring your sewing machine and general sewing supplies, and fabric. We'll have Show-n-Tell. History Bits will be by Barb. Tool of the month is open. Marie will bring snacks.



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

Please join us....  
**2nd Annual**  
**Helping Hearts Event**

Ruth's House

**SATURDAY FEBRUARY 12 - 2022**

American Legion • 112 NE 5th Street, Faribault • Minnesota

Tickets: \$75 per person

**COVID-19 Grief Support Group**

February 15, 4:00pm-5:30pm C&T.  
 Virtual Zoom Group  
 Facilitated by: Kelly Grosidags, LICSW, BCD, PLLC

Brighter Days Family Grief Center is pleased to offer this free event. Join a safe virtual setting for adults (18+) who have experienced the death of a loved one from COVID-19. The group will begin with Kelly speaking on this unique grief and then using breakout rooms to meet others in a smaller setting. Please bring a candle to light at the end of the group.

Space is limited so please register early to [info@bdgc.us](mailto:info@bdgc.us)

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

February 7 SPRC 6:30-St. John's UCC

**Service Schedule for 2022: Sundays**

(Communion on first Sunday of month)  
**9:00 AM WORSHIP AT NERSTRAND UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

12 Maple Street, Nerstrand, MN 55053  
 E-mail: [st.johnsuccwheeling@gmail.com](mailto:st.johnsuccwheeling@gmail.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: [st.johnsuccwheeling@gmail.com](mailto:st.johnsuccwheeling@gmail.com)  
 Website: <https://stjohnsunitedchurchofchrist.info>  
 Phone: (507) 330-0025

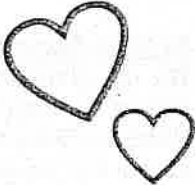


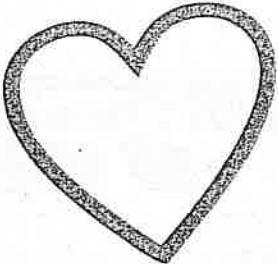


All the People, Ministers  
 Interim Pastor- Jef Olson

# Love Word Search

1 Corinthians 13:4-8

Find the hidden words.



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

Is **PATIENT**

Is **KIND**

Is Not **JEALOUS**

Does Not **BRAG**

Is Not **ARROGANT**

Does Not Act **UNBECOMINGLY**

Does Not Seek Its **OWN**

Is Not **PROVOKED**

Does Not Take Into Account A  
Wrong **SUFFERED**

Does Not Rejoice In  
**UNRIGHTEOUSNESS**

**REJOICES** With The Truth

**BEARS** All Things

**BELIEVES** All Things

**HOPES** All Things

**ENDURES** All Things