

FAITHNOTES

November 2024

*The Newsletter for Communities of Faith/Peace
United Parish, United Methodist*

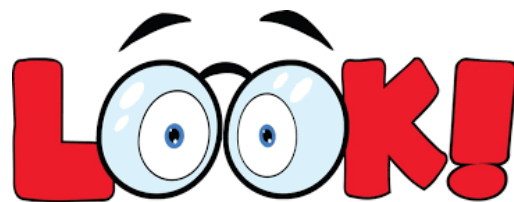
Clarissa - Clotho - Eagle Bend – Long Prairie

Thoughts from Kali . . .

Feeling the crunch? Starting to panic, feel overwhelmed, thinking of shopping and the hustle and bustle...or are you thinking of the hassle? Are you already starting to feel the Scrooge urges coming out? I am not going to send cards or buy presents, just a little cash in the envelope, cutting back, cutting down, stepping back, hanging in the trenches...isn't it something that the time of year when we are invited in to the excitement and the gratitude of the birth of Jesus...that we start to shrink in our ability to see the good, to experience the abundance, to rise above? Let's pause.....

It is a busy time, and this may be the year you do decide to cut back, but could you stop and think a moment about what the outcome will be? If you cut back, can you be intentional about what it is you want to show up for? Are you able to see the outcome you desire? Do I want to attend more concerts, volunteer at the red kettle, shop for kids who have a need for underwear or socks? Could I figure out where I want to put my love? Do I gather it up and share it extravagantly with the same select people only? Do I show the rest of the world my anger at materialism, but pile the presents under the family tree so high that we are opening gifts for the bulk of the time we are together? We all have our standards and there is nothing wrong with how anyone eeks forward toward Thanksgiving and Christmas, but are we doing so with hearts open, arms ready to embrace, heads that are filled with praise and wonder, not negative comments and conversations about the trappings...what are you leaving in your trail? Good thoughts, hugs, love, listening...bitterness, anger, harsh comments? The choice is ours every day. If the negativity is surrounding you, you are preparing yourself to miss out on things that could bring light and love to a world who needs to hear the Good News. You are called to be a bearer of light, a lover of neighbor, a safe place to harbor when the storms of life are raging. You are a child of God, a steward of his gifts, a partner in His mission/ministry. How is that showing up in you? It is a busy time of year...and it is a blessed time of year...and it is not about performing a certain number of rituals to satisfy the system you operate in; however, it is a time of sacred and holy listening, loving, offering...and how will you offer the love of the Baby who came to give you LIFE? Take the time this Thanksgiving to breathe, to remember who you are, to take in the fall freshness, to smell the pumpkin, to savor the tart cranberries, to rest in the grace of Family, Fellowship, Faith.

I had a co-worker years ago that said, "I love Thanksgiving best of all. We gather, eat good food, watch football, play some games, eat a snack, and go home, satisfied, laughing, loving the time together...and there is no pressure." Sounds ideal, but isn't that how most gatherings should be? Are we able to carry forth the good, the hope, the abundance, the JOY as we look forward to celebrating the relationship we rely on each day? If you are struggling to see Jesus in the weeks ahead, take heart, make a call, have a conversation...seek His word. Read the story, prepare to share some of your gifts, your food, your heart...start small and expand your horizons, sharing a bit at a time and giving thanks for each experience, each new opportunity, each person who places a mark on your heart. You are made for a time as this, a time when your faith boldly breaks through and grows in spark and warmth, shrouded with the love and acceptance Jesus offers us. Be intentional this Thanksgiving season...intentional about being present, getting your heart set in line with your mind, showing up where you feel you can celebrate who is right in front of you and those who are in your heart. This may be a hard season for you, take the time to seek some counsel, some care, some safe space, some prayer. This may be an extra JOYOUS year for you, breakthrough in sparkle and full-bore love, and let the world know you are here to take on a project, sing the carols, and distribute the gifts that may be lacking in someone's life. You are here for His purpose. May you feel the love of Jesus, the care of family and friends, the delight in celebration of gratitude and opportunity. I like what Henri Nouwen says about gratitude: "In the past I always thought of gratitude as a spontaneous response to the awareness of gifts received. But now I realize that gratitude can also be lived as a discipline. The discipline of gratitude is the explicit effort to acknowledge that all I am and have is given to me as a gift of love. A gift to be celebrated with JOY." Love to each of you. I am truly grateful for you in my life. Happy Thanksgiving!



Look at all sections for more information.

SPRC & Communities of Faith/Peace United Parish Council



Laity Collaborative is RESCHEDULED. Please read the information below:

The Laity Collaborative, originally scheduled for October 26th has been rescheduled as a virtual ongoing training, beginning in January. I am hoping many of you will say yes. See the information...Are you a lay person who wants to take the next step to live into your call? Are you also busy with limited time for in-person gatherings? Good news! The Laity Collaborative's inaugural series has shifted to a virtual launch starting in January that you can access at your convenience. The cost is 50 dollars, and the church will pay for your registration. Register now!

See the preliminary schedule and topics:

January...Welcome and an introduction to learning opportunities/resources. United Methodist History and Why Wesleyan, Why Now? Via zoom.

February...Holy gatherings: how to effectively facilitate small group discussions with Bobbi Nichols and guests. Feb 4, 11, 18, 25. Via zoom.

March...Taste of Scripture Circles, safe spaces where participants take a deep dive into sacred text and make space for the Spirit to meet them where they are...via zoom.

Living your Strengths with Jody Thine, director of ministry development, March 18th.

April...An evening of spiritual practice: lectio divina with Jody Thine, directory of ministry development, April 8. Via zoom.

Happy Earth Day, an opportunity to learn about Hopeful EarthKeepers and creation care.

May...What's a Deaconess and Home Missioner? Hear from Minnesota deaconesses and home missionary about their specific office and call to ministry. Via zoom.

What's a lay speaker: Hear from some Minnesota lay speakers about becoming a lay speaker and resources available for continuously improving your messages.

June...Pre-annual conference gathering in the form of a celebration of the Lay Academy with guest speakers...in person.

Jody Thone is coordinating this event in partnership with Garrett Evangelical Seminary. See the information sheet at church and register...

10..Pam and Kali
17..Erin and Kali
24..Marlys and Kali



Confirmation...

Confirmation is about to get underway...we have 3 young people registered thus far. If you have an interest in confirmation class, please be in touch right away.



Thanksgiving Eve Service will be held at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, November 27th at Eagle Bend UMC. Please join us as we give thanks and share dessert after the service.



JOIN US IN CHURCH...

Would love to have you join us in church...we are missing you and look forward to connecting at worship services at any of our churches. While the opportunity for social media to keep us connected is beneficial, there is nothing like personal presence. We encourage you to think about how and when you could worship with us. Thanks to everyone who continues to financially give as they can. Our churches are operating and have a desire to extend our presence in the communities. Your gifts support the mission and operation of our churches. Clarissa, Clotho, Eagle Bend people, feel free to send any monetary gifts to PO Box 158, Clarissa, MN. 56440. Peace United Folks, send your offering to 524 Central Avenue, Long Prairie, MN. 56347. Hope to see you soon. Feel free to be in touch. You can reach me at 320-808-6301 or Communities of Faith UM Parish, PO Box 158, Clarissa, MN. 56440 or Peace United Church, 524 Central Avenue, Long Prairie, MN. 56347.



Budget meeting for Communities of Faith Churches, the big budget, individual church budgets, the pastor compensation forms will all be addressed at this meeting. We will meet at Clarissa UMC on Monday,

November 18th, 7:00 pm.



Advent Study

with Bishop Lanette will be held on zoom Tuesdays, 7-8:15 p.m. You must register to get the zoom link. I

think you would enjoy the opportunity.

The book this year is The Christmas Letters by Magrey R. DeVega. Zoom sessions will be held from November



Ministerial Team...

The team will meet, Tuesday, November 12th, 5:15 pm, Buford's.

Coverage for November:

3..Marlys and Kali

26th to December 17th. Give your Advent a boost as you join the Bishop and many neighbors across Minnesota and the Dakotas for this opportunity.



KINDNESS CAMPAIGN continues...

We will continue to talk about the Golden Rule and about each of us being active in spreading kindness,

holding space, loving one another. There are still some stickers and a few T-shirts available. Be in touch if you are wanting any more reminders to "Do Unto Others". You can make a difference in bringing goodness into the world.



COAT DRIVE is underway for those in need of warm outerwear. Gently used, clean jackets and snow

pants will be collected for distribution on Sunday, November 10th, 1:30-4 p.m., Peace United Church. Please drop your items to share at the bins at 110 Coffee Co, Prairie Pharmacy, Clarissa or Clotho United Methodist Church. Items will be picked up on Saturday, November 9th. Please let Kali know if you can help get the items out and/or if you can assist on the day of the drive. Thanks for all you do for others.



Meanderings of the Preacher...Nursing Home Worship, Wednesday, November 6th and 13th, 2:30 p.m., Clarissa Care Center and November 13th, 9:45 a.m., Long

Prairie Memorial Home. Hilltop Regional Kitchen and Community Connection meetings on Tuesday, November 12th. Ministerial Team, November 12th. Soup and Sandwich, November 19th, Admin Meetings at Peace the 10th, at Clotho, the 13th, at Clarissa, the 17th. Wedding of Becky and Troy, November 23rd. Thanksgiving Eve Service...November 27th!



PLEASE REMEMBER OUR NURSING HOME AND ASSISTED LIVING FAMILY...

Central Todd County Care Center & Assisted Living – Clarissa

- Shirley Carrick - Darlene Bodle
- Gene Bodle

Meadow Place – Long Prairie

- Darlene Baxter - Jan Miller - Devona Berry

Long Prairie Memorial Nursing Home

- Orin Baxter

Services at the Nursing Homes:

Wednesday, November 6th, Central Todd County Care Center, 2:30 p.m.

Wednesday, November 13th, Long Prairie Memorial Nursing Home, 9:45 a.m. and Central Todd County Care Center, 2:30 pm.



CONVERSATIONS. . .

every Wednesday, 7 a.m., Facebook, Kali Christensen page...please join us as we start the day together with a book or

topic of interest.



Family of Barry Lura

Kay Prather..surgery on hip and pelvic area, at Regions Hospital

Beth Swenson

Vic Carlson

Rudy Miller

Erin Heglin

Sharon, Kathleen's Mom, as she transitions into a new living area

Terry, Barb Willie's future son-in-law, lymph nodes are enlarged

JJ, Sue Boehland's nephew, 12 weeks of chemo...and surgery

April, feeling much better with dialysis

Alan Nelson, feeling better, trying some steroids

Jim Kingston

Trenton Becker

Prayers for the Family of Michelle Park

Broden Line...healing

Dale Cline

Rick Smith

Marlene Naumann

Marge & Roger Weske

Elaine, Linda VanValkenburg's sister, health decisions regarding her heart and thyroid

Barb Ferrian

Barb Thom

Bonny Marcyes

Cindy Rachuy

Dan...a man struggling with physical and emotional issues

Jerry Tepley
Hurricane and war victim
Sue Hughes
Carter Denny
Those struggling with mental and emotional health

BIRTHDAYS

1..Joan Whiteford
1..Tamie Barthel
5..Katelyn Barthel
6..Lenny Doroff
6..Dion Claseman
8..Jarrett Zierden
10..Reg Browen
11..Gwen Berry
12..Nathan Cossentine
14..Lucy Berkness
16..Nina Quillo
17..Norm Kleinschmidt
18..Betty Kunerth
20..Daniel Beach
21..Kathleen Nauber
25..Kelly Prather
30..Mindy Denny
30..Nicole Beach
30..Gene Bodle



COMMUNITIES OF FAITH/PEACE UNITED OPPORTUNITIES-NEWS

Clarissa Chatter. . .

Admin Council will meet after church on Sunday, November 17th. All are welcome to attend.

Thanks for the Trick or Treat opportunity for our community. Always a time of fun and laughter!

Clotho Corner. . .

Coffee in Clotho, Friday, November 1st, 6:30-9 a.m.

Music Jam, Monday, November 4th, 1 p.m. Join us for the fun!

Fall Auction, Wednesday eve, November 6th, 7 p.m. Please join us as Al Wessel auctions our items off and provides us with a festive time of laughter and goodwill. Come to shop, bring your goods, and share an early free will supper of hotdogs, chips, and cookies. We always look forward to this great time of gathering.

Admin Council will meet on Wednesday, November 13th, 7 p.m. All are welcome!

Thanks for the great time at the Hayride. This annual night of fun makes memories!

Looking ahead...Sunday School Christmas program during church, Sunday, December 15th. Christmas in the Country, December 15th, at 7 p.m.

Eagle Bend Box. . .

The Annual Bazaar will be held on Saturday, November 2nd. Come early for rolls and coffee and return for lunch or take it to go: Creamed turkey over biscuits, cranberries, coleslaw, homemade pie. Shop our bake sale, crafts, and cards! See you there, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

Soup and Sandwich Supper, November 19th, 4:30-6:30 p.m. Great food and fantastic conversation!

Thanks to Erin Balbach, Tucker, Braxten, and Brynlee for the very cute entry at Trunk or Treat! You looked great and the afternoon was a hit as so many trick or treaters came through the line! Being served by Blue Girl, a banana, a skeleton, and a witch pleased the Kids!

Looking ahead...the Christmas Concert with Dave Burgett and Friends is scheduled for Saturday, December 7th, 2 p.m. Don't miss this great afternoon of music and joy. Refreshments served!

Peace United Update...

Annual Church Bazaar and More. Join us Saturday, November 2nd. Order your locally made holiday wreaths, craft projects, bake sale, granny's attic, vendors sharing their wares, raffle, and door prizes. Join us for coffee and rolls in the morning and for a great soup lunch at noon. Eat in or take some to go. Always a great time of conversation and shopping opportunities.

Admin meeting on Sunday, November 10th, after church.

Looking ahead...Annual Meeting after church on Sunday, December 8th. Please plan to join us as we set the path of love and light for 2025.

A little of this and a little of that...



Ministerial Fund...we have been blessed with 560 dollars the month of October. The gifts are so appreciated as there have been many needs and requests. Thanks for your faithful prayers for the needs and struggles of others. Appreciate your open hearts.





Giving project...

Thanks for all the help on the college packets. We are hearing from students, grateful to be remembered!



**(Mark your
calendar)**

Eagle Bend UMC Bazaar, November 2nd, 9:00 a.m.
Peace United Fall Bazaar, November 2nd, 9:00 a.m.
Clotho UMC Fall Auction, November 6th, 7:00 p.m.
Dave Burgett and Friends Christmas Concert,
Eagle Bend UMC, December 7th, 2:00 p.m.
Peace United Annual Meeting, December 8th.
Clotho UMC Sunday School Christmas Program,
December 15th, during church
Christmas In The Country, Clotho UMC, December
15th, 7:00 p.m.

THANKSGIVING

Search and Find

This table is loaded with treats! Can you find all the items listed below?

- | | | | | |
|------------|------------------|-------------------|----------|---------------|
| 4 Pumpkins | 2 Slices of Cake | 2 Loaves of Bread | 2 Forks | 1 Pear |
| 3 Pies | 2 Apples | 3 Cups of Cider | 3 Spoons | 1 Ear of Corn |



November 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Coffee in Clotho, 6:30-9:00 am	2 Eagle Bend UMC Bazaar, 9 am-2 pm Peace United Bazaar and More, 9 am
3 Church Services: Clotho – 8 am Eagle Bend – 9:15 am Peace United – 10 am Clarissa – 10:30 am	4 Music Jam, 1:00 pm, Clotho UMC	5	6 Conversations on Facebook, 7:00 am Clotho UMC Fall Auction, serving supper at 6:00 pm, auction starts at 7:00 pm	7	8	9
10 Church Services: Clotho – 8 am Eagle Bend – 9:15 am Peace United – 10 am Clarissa – 10:30 am Peace United Admin Council meeting following the church service Coat Drive, Peace United, 1:30-4 pm	11	12	13 Conversations on Facebook, 7:00 am Admin Council meeting at Clotho UMC, 7 pm	14	15	16
17 Church Services: Clotho – 8 am Eagle Bend – 9:15 am Peace United – 10 am Clarissa – 10:30 am Clarissa Admin Council will meet following the church service.	18 Budget Meeting, Clarissa UMC, 7:00 pm	19 Salad & Sandwich Supper, Eagle Bend UMC, 4:30-6:30 pm	20 Conversations on Facebook, 7:00 am	21	22	23
24 Church Services: Clotho – 8 am Eagle Bend – 9:15 am Peace United – 10 am Clarissa – 10:30 am	25	26 Advent Study with Bishop Lanette starts, 7-8:15 pm over Zoom.	27 Conversations on Facebook, 7:00 am Thanksgiving Eve Service, Eagle Bend UMC, 7 pm	28 	29	30

Communities of Faith/Peace United Parish
P.O.Box 158
Clarissa MN 56440

TO:

November 2024
Pastor Kali Christensen
Cell: 320-808-6301
Email: kali.christensen55@gmail.com
Facebook: Communities of Faith – Clarissa,
Clotho, & Eagle Bend