

FAITHNOTES

October 2024

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

Clarissa - Clotho - Eagle Bend – Long Prairie

Thoughts from Kali . . .

Thoughts...it is crisp in the morning and crisp at tonight, and also says 80 on the forecast for the weekend. So much like everyday life...hot and cold, changes and transitions, patterns and schedules, up and down. Sometimes, I embrace the changes and sometimes I fight them. Sometimes, I don't realize that I am tolerating something that impacts my reactions and mood.

Sometimes, I need a time out, a break from the action, the opportunity to breathe and stretch and be...maybe a cup of coffee or a brisk walk, perhaps a conversation with Homer or cleaning the garage. Change is hard and change is good. Stepping in to new places, learning new roles, diving in...all of it can grow us. This time of year brings change with church. Nominations committee gets together to see who else can bring their talent to the table. Some of the positions are 3 year and some are year to year, but this is the time of year people are being asked to step up and make a difference in the place you invest in for your future and the future of so many you love and care for. The change may impact the folks who have not even walked through the doors yet.

So many positions just stay the same, but new blood, new ideas, new faces in the positions are good for everyone. So, as you gather to start seeing who would like to share the gifts they have this year, please be intentional about discerning your thoughts in regard to the gifts you see in others and the needs evident in the church. The conversation about job descriptions, expectations, etc. are good to have and the job descriptions are available online. I am happy to print them out for you to look at. I am also happy to meet with you and help you brainstorm about who may be interested in assuming some new expectations. Be assured that none of the jobs require hours of work and none of them have to be done alone. We are all in the work together. In fact, together is the best way to do the jobs. So, be thinking of the places you could offer your talents. We will be notified of the annual gathering where we will go over the expectations from the Conference.

Thanks to so many of you for stepping up to make lunch for folks grieving. Serving funeral lunches are a ministry that is so important to families in grief. You offer a soft space to land. It is good to nurture and care for one another. Please read the information about the laity opportunity. I am hoping you can find time in your schedule to go. There is no pre-requisite to attend...so, if you are willing to go for the day, the greater good fund at Communities of Faith will pay for the way for anybody from

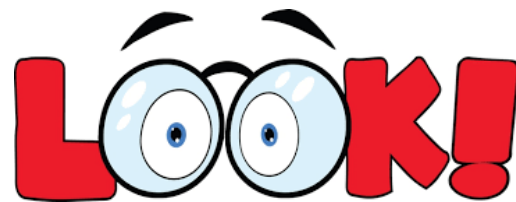
the four churches. I hope several people will consider it. We are in this life of Christ followers together and all voices are needed and desired. Please be in touch about any questions you may have. I have mandatory training the day before at the same church. It is quite a place and I think you will enjoy seeing it that day.

As I mentioned in the newsletter, the signs, shirts, stickers, etc. are available for the kindness campaign. Be sure to let me know if you want one. We will continue to hold some games, activities, opportunities for discussion regarding kindness, compassion, humility, respect, and living in community for the next several weeks. We invite your involvement. We are currently sponsoring ads on the local radio station and will continue to do that. Thanks to so many who have shared ideas and agreed to be a part of the fun and the campaign to endorse kindness and mutual respect, to do unto others... The remainder of the fall will be busy. As you can see bazaars, auctions, Christmas functions are already in the planning stages. Thanks for being willing to give some new ideas a chance. Do not miss out on today in the midst of your calendar. There are so many things to enjoy.

Change is interesting and can be a reason to pause and give some things a chance to meld into a process, or at least an idea. We are not the best species at being kind to one another, so I would ask that we practice as much mutual kindness and love as we can muster up for one another.

I was listening to Mel Robbins the other day and she said, "Look up". What sound advice, put the cell phone in your pocket and see the sky, see the eyeballs of people you meet, see the gift of creation that surrounds you. Take time to do that each day, to allow God to restore and refresh your spirit and your love.

Perhaps you were made for a time as this...have faith, have hope, share your love, and find yourself steeped in kindness and a willingness to extend that kindness to one another. #dountoother! Sending love and all that is good! Bless you!



Look at all sections for more information.

**SPRC & Communities of Faith/Peace
United Parish Council**



I hope each church has a representative attending the **Laity Collaborative**. Ideally, we would have more than one from each church. Please read the attached information and let Kali know if you can and/or will attend. The Communities of Faith Greater Good Fund will pay the registration for you, so there should be no barriers. If you are not comfortable driving in the cities, it is likely that someone who signs up will be available to provide transportation. As we ready for the season of nominations, let's be intentional about how we are called to serve our churches. The coming year will be filled with fresh opportunities to grow our personal faith and to serve. The Laity Collaborative is a chance to begin and further the personal process. See more info on the flyer that is in this newsletter.



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.



Ministerial Team...

The team will meet Wednesday, October 9th, 5:15 pm, Buford's.
Coverage for August:
6..Pam and Kali
13..Marlys and Kali
20..Erin and Kali
27..Erin and Kali



Confirmation...Confirmation was held September 22nd. Congratulations and God's blessing to Delani Reese Beach, Carter Eugene Denny, Kailey Kay Luebesmier, and Keisen Jay Luebesmier.

Please notify Kali by October 10th if your child is interested in confirmation class this year. A meeting for parents and intended students will be held once we know who is considering confirmation in the upcoming year.



Mission/Ministry

Sunday...Mission/Ministry Sunday

provided the opportunity to give back what we have been given. Door decorations for the Long Prairie Nursing Home were made. Forty personal hygiene kits were put together, 5 distributed to the blessing box in Long Prairie, and the other 35, ready for Midwest Distribution Depot. What a great Sunday of hope!



VBS...Thanks to Erin Balbach and several volunteers for making Jumping on the Kindness Bandwagon Spectacular Saturday happen

for Kids. Every opportunity we have to gather together and learn about God's love and call into our lives is a blessing to be poured back into our world.



Porch Ponderings...

We are done for the season with the Porch gatherings. What a great summer of conversation on the Porch! We had so much involvement from the surrounding communities this year. A great blessing! Please let your suggestions be known in the months ahead so the list of possible porch guests can be expanded. Thanks for a great summer of fun and inspiration!



KINDNESS CAMPAIGN continues...

more signs have been ordered and there are shirts available. The greater good fund is paying a portion of the signs. We are selling them for 5 dollars to make it affordable for people. The shirts are very reasonable, 15 dollars each, long or short sleeves. Twenty-four have been ordered and more can be purchased. Feel free to get on the next order list if you would like one. We will continue to make available things that encourage us to speak kindness into the world, to put an end to toxic rhetoric in our own lives and to treat one another with respect and kindness as we navigate the political environment in our area and the greater world. You can make a difference by speaking kindness and respect into the world, stating your

own positions, offering grace and a listening ear to others on a daily basis. #downtoother ❤️



Meanderings of the

Preacher...Working from Centerville, MN, Tuesday afternoon, Oct. 1st -4th; meetings at Hilltop Regional Kitchen, the 8th; Nursing

Home Worship on Wednesday, the 9th, 9:45 a.m. at Long Prairie and 2:30 p.m. at Clarissa. Music Jam, Clotho, the 7th; Wedding prep, eve of the 7th; Ministerial team the 9th; Wedding of Marcus Kunerth and Cassidy Smith, Glenwood, October 12th; PUC admin mtg, 13th; Soup and sandwich supper and college envelope assembly, the 15th; Course of Study, October 18-19; Clarissa UMC mtg, 20th; mandated pastoral training, Hennepin Avenue UMC, October 25th.



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, October 2nd, Central Todd County Care Center, 2:30 p.m.

Wednesday, October 9th, 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.



Tom Miller

So many people dealing with the ravages of war The Jansen Twins made their debut in Clotho...❤️❤️ Ed Hoerke

Bob Butler

Family of Charlie Kennedy

Family of Doug Sadlo

Thanks for all the workers this month in funerals served

God's blessing to the 4 confirmation students: Delani

Reese Beach, Carter Eugene Denny, Kailey Kay

Luebesmier, Keisen Jay Luebesmier....

Family of Craig Hess

Family of Linda Cossentine Hiltner

Family of Audrey Chesser

Family of Dave and Sis VanValkenburg

Family of Dianne Lancaster

Zach DuChene

Jerry Orr

Family of Mike Mosleth

Jodi Miksche

Charlie Drake

Bonny Marcyes

Allen Nelson

Family of Jim Sudbeck

Jennifer Noble

Erin Heglin

Family of Scott Nagel

Family of Lois Boyer

Family of Joanne Mueller

Janice Noland

Family of Lee Fearing

BIRTHDAYS

- 5..Don Hanson
- 6..Dick Lackmann
- 7.. Marcia Woeste
- 7..Emilie Kleinschmidt
- 7..Sawyer Dinkel
- 7..Conner Almendinger
- 11..Evey Mathews
- 16..Abbi Larson
- 17..Verna Christopher
- 18..Don Halbur
- 20..Pat Christiansen
- 22..Jerry Tepley
- 22..Addie Roering
- 23..Roger Berkness, Sr.
- 28..Stacy Lux
- 29..Chuck Harlow
- 31..Elliot Dinkel



COMMUNITIES OF FAITH/PEACE UNITED OPPORTUNITIES-NEWS

Clarissa Chatter. . .

Thanks so much for navigating the lunch needs this past month. You are appreciated.

Admin Council will meet after church October 20th. All are welcome to attend.

Clotho Corner. . .

Coffee in Clotho, October 4th, 6:30-9 a.m. See you there.

Music Jam, Monday, October 7th, 1 p.m. Always a good time!

Sunday School is underway. Please join in on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month to attend.

Admin Council met. The ice cream social netted around 3800 dollars. We are grateful.

The annual hayride and supper will be held on October 27th, 4 p.m. Everyone is welcome to come and enjoy the hayride, eat supper, and head home in time to ready for Monday. This is always a great night of fellowship and laughter. Reminds us of a simpler time...

Time to ready for the fall Auction, Wednesday, November 6th, 7 p.m. A light supper will be available for a free will donation. This is always a night of laughs and fun. Bring your items to sell and bring some money to buy. You will enjoy! Al Wessel will join us, and his entertainment alone is worth the time!

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

Eagle Bend Box. . .

Soup and Sandwich Supper will take place Tuesday, October 15th, 4:30-6:30 p.m. We are getting close to the feeding of the 5,000. Hope you can join us. We will be putting college envelopes together this night too, so feel free to stop and assist...see article elsewhere in the newsletter.

Plans are underway for the annual bazaar, Saturday, November 2nd, 9 a.m. Get ready for the creamed turkey on biscuits and all the rest of the items for sale. Mark your calendar!!!!

Looking ahead...the Christmas Concert with Dave Burgett and Friends is scheduled for Saturday, December 7th, 2 p.m.

Peace United Update...

Thanks to everyone who worked at the Hotdish Lunch, brought food items, and attended. It was a great success! We will be using the money for some needed repairs to the building.

Admin Council will be held after church on Sunday, October 13th. Join the meeting.

The Fall Bazaar will be held on Saturday, November 2nd, 9 a.m. Homemade chicken noodle soup, sloppy joes, Christmas wreaths and much more. A good shopping day!

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



Ministerial Fund...this month the ministerial fund received 60 dollars. Needs continue to be many and we are responding with faith and seeking out best options at all times. Thanks for your continued support and prayers regarding the needs.



Giving project...first year college and job kids. Please join us in gathering items for our first-year college kids and those who are out on their first job. Give the names of the college students and their addresses to Kali by Monday, October 7th. Be sure to ask the student or worker for their mailing addresses as the post office wants specific mailing addresses. This project has been so much fun throughout the years...ideas of things you can bring: coffee gift cards, McDonald Gift cards, other fast food, Target, or gas gift cards. Lightweight socks, water bottle stickers, gum, mints, small items to fit in 5x7 envelope. Please bring items to church by Sunday, October 13th. We will meet to pack up the envelopes at Eagle Bend UMC on Tuesday, October 15th, 5 p.m. Come to package up the items and enjoy soup and sandwiches at the same time...look forward to this fun event!!!!

STOP THE TRAFFICK! will be held at the Sauk Centre High School Auditorium on Wednesday, October 9th, 7 p.m. A free opportunity to hear from several people. Sex trafficking is a very real situation that occurs closer than we think. Please take the time to educate yourself by learning what sex trafficking looks like, signs to watch for, prevention, and rescue, hope, and healing. Sponsored by Voices for the Voiceless.



(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.
Clotho UMC Sunday School Christmas Program, December 15th, during church
Christmas In The Country, Clotho UMC, December 15th, 7:00 p.m.



What is The Laity Collaborative?

The Laity Collaborative is a collaborative learning community focused on equipping laity and unleashing the power of the Holy Spirit throughout the Minnesota Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church. The Laity Collaborative includes an opening gathering, our kick-off event, but so much more!

Your registration will give you access to:

In-person kick-off event **Saturday, October 26th 9:30am-4pm** at Hennepin Avenue UMC (lunch included)

Virtual learning opportunities for participants over the **following 4+ months**.

The Laity Collaborative Closing Session: Spirit-Based Community Development in the Methodist Way.

What are the learning opportunities as part of The Laity Collaborative?

Kick-off Session: Includes vibrant worship and continue learning by exploring the cornerstones of our United Methodist faith. We'll explore Why Wesleyan, Why Now, and how to live our Wesleyan faith. We will celebrate laity and build relationships, forming a learning community and learning cohorts for our ongoing journey while we get a taste of the learning opportunities that we can participate in over the next 4+ months.

Virtual Learning Opportunities:

Finding and Keeping Your Practices

Holy Gatherings: How To Effectively Facilitate Small Group Discussions

Scripture Circles

Spirit-Based Community Development in the Methodist Way.

Plus more virtual resources you can access anytime!

Registration Information

Cost for The Laity Collaborative is as follows:

Individual: \$75.00

Group (3 or more participants): \$50.00/participant

Registration Link: <https://mnumc-reg.brtapp.com/LaityCollaborative20242025>

For those needing overnight accommodations, the La Quinta Inn – Minnetonka is offering a rate of \$89 (including breakfast). Contact them directly at 952-541-1094. Indicate you are with the United Methodist Church. The hotel is located near the intersection of Highways 169 and 394, an easy route to the church.

For those needing overnight accommodations, the La Quinta Inn – Minnetonka is offering a rate of \$89 (including breakfast). Contact them directly at 952-541-1094. Indicate you are with the United Methodist Church. The hotel is located near the intersection of Highways 169 and 394, an easy route to the church.

October 2024

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | |
|--|---|--|---|---|--|-----------|
| | | 1 | 2 Conversations on Facebook, 7:00 am | 3 | 4 Coffee in Clotho, 6:30-9:00 am | 5 |
| 6 Church Services: Clotho – 8 am Eagle Bend – 9:15 am Peace United – 10 am Clarissa – 10:30 am | 7 Music Jam, 1:00 pm, Clotho UMC | 8 | 9 Conversations on Facebook, 7:00 am | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| 13 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 | 14 | 15 Salad & Sandwich Supper, Eagle Bend UMC, 4:30-6:30 pm | 16 Conversations on Facebook, 7:00 am | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| 20 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. | 21 | 22 | 23 Conversations on Facebook, 7:00 am | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| 27 Church Services: Clotho – 8 am Eagle Bend – 9:15 am Peace United – 10 am Clarissa – 10:30 am Clotho UMC Annual Hayride and Supper, 4:00 pm | 28 | 29 | 30 Conversations on Facebook, 7:00 am | 31  | | |

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TO:

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