

FAITHNOTES

February 2025

*The Newsletter for Communities of Faith/Peace
United Parish, United Methodist
Clarissa - Clotho - Eagle Bend – Long Prairie*

Thoughts from Kali . . .

Biblical Hospitality demands something of us, and means we are willing to be uncomfortable taking on the position of a servant so that others will be more comfortable. This is based on scripture, Matthew 25:35 and Hebrews 13:12: ...“I was a stranger and you welcomed me” and “Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares”.

This was our introduction to the Art of Hospitality Training we attended on January 23rd. Eleven of us listened and chatted between sessions. We talked initially about:

Radical Hospitality. Radical hospitality goes beyond being friendly and surprises and delights those that receive it. Radical hospitality has everything to do with how we make people feel.

1. Radical hospitality is not the same thing as being friendly.
2. Radical hospitality requires us to go above and beyond what is expected.
3. Intentionally creates an environment of belonging and comfort
4. Radical hospitality is a Value
 - Defines who we are as a church and how we approach ministry.
 - Doesn't confuse being friendly with extending radical hospitality.
 - Is the way we engage and interact with others on their faith journey.
5. Radical hospitality is modeled by the leaders.
6. Radical hospitality reflects the heart of God.

Two Types of Churches

Inwardly Focused Churches ask “What can we do, or what can the church do to make us (me) feel more comfortable?”
Outwardly Focused Churches ask “What can the church do, or what can I do, to make others feel more comfortable?”
Growing organizations know the difference between being inwardly and outwardly focused....and they do something about it!

Radical hospitality goes beyond being friendly and surprises and delights those that receive it. This will be the focus of several people in the weeks ahead and hopefully it interests you as well. Comfort isn't what a follower of Jesus is about. It is not about being comfortable, but about being bold and courageous and on fire for the work of Jesus. We talked about being courageous in the next 30 days, about being intentional, about attending to detail, and noticing one another and those who join us in church. If

we look at this training realistically, you may find yourself being uncomfortable in the days ahead. Honestly, we hope so. Being uncomfortable requires us to evaluate how we come across and how we meet one another in life. This will be part of our conversation.

I hope this sparks an interest in you! I hope that when you think about this piece and the article about our four church meeting, you will be inspired to be responsive to the ideas and perhaps, provide some ideas of your own. We are open to the excitement of the movement of the Holy Spirit and that budge might just be present in you. So, we invite your ideas, your aspirations, your zest into the daily living of our churches.

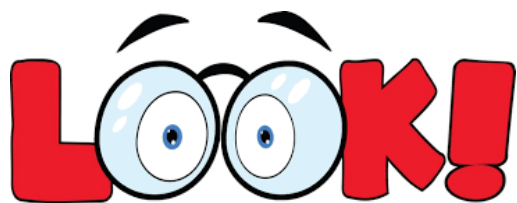
The following people attended the training: Sharon Harris, Barb Pieper, Addie Noska, Pat Kraemer, Marcia Woeste, Marlys Frederiksen, Betty Kunerth, Diane Gjerstad, Sue Boehland, Pam Cook, and me. Sharon and Barb do not attend our churches, but are part of our communities and their attendance was a gift to us. It was good for all of us to be together and the training is now available for replay. Please connect with us to share in some of the info we experienced.

The ideas that were generated in our four church meeting gave me hope and I am excited to see who steps up to host the next meeting...perhaps, coffee and rolls on a Saturday morning...or popcorn and pop some evening...we don't need long meetings, but connection meetings so we can partner together and with our greater communities to be led in the work we are required to consider in our journey of love. We have talked about partnering to do the work of Jesus. Those partner possibilities will take all of us being aware and in tune to the possibilities...and that is really what we are called to be...people aware of the possibilities. How does that strike you? Really, some of your ideas may come from some of the needs you currently have or have had. Some of your ideas may come from some heart work that you have been through or some of the things that have impacted your life. We hope you can be brave and bold in moving us forward into the church involvement we are hoping for...being the church, not going to church. What a time to think of heart work...as we celebrate the month of love, may we open our hearts and our minds as we open our doors...can't wait to hear from you...

Perhaps, you take this February opportunity to practice radical love, extending an invitation to love through a Valentine giving. Don't just send cards or make calls to the people in your circle...expand the risk and the radical love Jesus extends to us.

Philippians 2: 3-5: “Don't do anything for selfish purposes but with humility think of others as better than yourselves. Instead of each person watching out for their own good, watch out for what is better for others. Adopt the attitude that was in Christ Jesus”. Let's go.....radically!





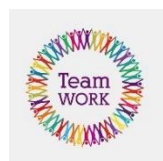
Look at all sections for more information.

SPRC & Communities of Faith/Peace United Parish Council



Laity Collaborative Training Offered:

Laity Collaborative Training Offered: It is not too late to sign up for the Laity Collaborative Training. Remember, this is a zoom series offered throughout the months ahead, ending in June and a meet-up at the Annual Conference. This is a grand time to learn about the United Methodist Church. You can click in on the evenings it works. There was a full article last month. If you need assistance to get the zoom link, just be in touch with Kali. You are in control on what you get from this series, but I think you would benefit from it greatly. Kali



Ministerial Team...

The team will meet together on Monday, February 10th, 5:15 pm, Buford's.

The schedule for February is as follows:

- Feb. 2...Pam and Kali
- Feb. 9..Marlys and Kali
- Feb. 16..Erin and Kali
- Feb. 23..Pam and Kali

HOSPITALITY!

The Art of Hospitality offered great training and is available to watch again. If you are interested, please be in touch if you do not already have the link. The more we can absorb this sort of tweaking of our actions, environment, spirits, the more we will see fruit from our actions. Being Hospitable is good for everyone, those receiving and those giving.



Confirmation...

We will meet over zoom on February 5th and 19th at 7:15 p.m. Look forward to seeing your faces!



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.



Four Church Meeting led to ideas, conversation, good food, and some fun...small groups came up with ideas we have mulled over and never took action on and

some brand new ideas. We had input from youth through seasoned participants...here are some of the items tossed around...as we contemplated, How can we be the Light?

Welcome Baskets...how can we welcome new people in our area?

Identify the needs of kids in school and invest in them.

Find a pathway to community needs...where do we start? Who do we talk to?

Invest in a projector system and screen to enhance worship.

Identify local agencies and partner with them.

How do we educate ourselves and partner with different cultures?

How do we welcome? Home visits, gaining info and experience at the food shelf, identifying local resources and educating one another.

How do we advocate for those different than the faces in our churches?

Continue serving the Blessing Box at CentraCare.

Contribute to the storage shed and office garage, filling needs of community members.

Invest in Sunday School.

More interaction with the other cultures in our area.

Being faithful in our churches each Sunday.

Investing in the work at the Foster Closet.

Send postcards to former church members...inviting back...inviting in.

Welcoming new people or returning people, but not being pushy...

Play some BINGO.

Have small food pantry at the churches.

Offer soup and sandwich suppers in addition to the one at Eagle Bend UMC
 Offer Board games and Sunday afternoon lunch together.
 Provide bags of "cheer"
 Coffee after church services...a big plus!!!!
 Dinners together.
 Living by example.....
 Bake sales for a cause.
 Watching videos as a Sunday School and as a body of Christ.
 Using our churches as community centers...
 As you can see, it was a great time together of the good news of Jesus Christ and his call to each of us. So, which ideas peak your interest? Let's continue to brainstorm the possibilities...throw in the idea of breakfast mentioned at Clarissa this week. Where can we step in to make a difference, meet some needs, and begin to gather people together instead of deepen the divide. Peace United Peeps are talking about making soup and baking cookies to be taken to shut ins. We have burger and meat loaf offerings that are ready for people. Are you seeing the needs and offering support? Are there kids you can support and mentor? Every community I have been involved in, talks about welcome bags...why couldn't we be the start of something like that...there are so many ideas. Where shall we begin? Who wants to host the next 4 church gathering? How about an April gathering to report on what is being spurred on in the above list and where we can partner with one another in the process...



Coffee to Reflect and Recharge: I will be at 110 Coffee on Tuesday, February 4th, 4 p.m. Stop in to chat a bit...would

love to visit. Kali

MUSTARD SEED GRANTS...

Please review the opportunity below and be in touch with Kali if you would like to pursue one of these grants. One grant is already being submitted, and I would love to have more offered in the process.

ATLANTA – United Methodist churches in the U.S. will have the opportunity to help immigrants, migrants and refugees living in their local communities again in 2025. The United Methodist Committee on Relief's (UMCOR) Mustard Seed Migration Grant program, now in its fifth year, provides congregations with up to \$2,000 for a one-time, community-based service project.

"As Jesus shares in his parable, small mustard seeds have the potential to grow into something pervasive that spreads throughout a field," said Roland Fernandes, general secretary of Global Ministries and UMCOR. "Since the start of the

program, we have seen United Methodist churches learn more about immigrants, migrants and refugees in their communities and address their needs through these grants. The 'seed' of welcoming strangers has been planted in new and unique ways in congregations around the country." Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis until Sept. 1, 2025. Up to 100 churches will be awarded a grant on a first-come first-serve basis. New applicants, as well as churches that have completed a Mustard Seed project in the past, are welcome to apply. Monies will be dispersed within four weeks of application approval and the project must be completed within six months.

"Now, more than ever, UMC congregations need to learn about migrants by working with them in their own communities. Now, more than ever, migrants need to feel welcomed and loved by their neighbors," said the Rev. Jack Amick, director of Global Migration for UMCOR. "Mustard Seed Migration Grants can help congregations that wish to walk on a journey together with migrants."



Meanderings of the Preacher...

Worship at the Care Center in Clarissa, February 5th and 12th, 2:30 p.m. Worship at the Nursing Home in Long Prairie, Wednesday, February 12th, 9:45 a.m. Music Jam, Monday, February 3rd, 1 p.m. Coffee in Clotho, Friday, February 7th, 6:30-9 a.m. Confirmation, Wednesday eves, 5th and 19th, 7:15 p.m. Ministerial Meeting, February 10th, 5:15 p.m. at Buford's. Community Circle and Hilltop Regional Kitchen Meetings, February 11th, 11 a.m.- 1:15 p.m. Women of Peace Luncheon, 1:30 p.m. on February 11th. Soup and Sandwich Supper, Eagle Bend UMC, 4:30-6:30 p.m., February 18th. Rural Ministry Matters Zoom meeting, February 21st, 1 p.m. Vacation, February 25-27th.

LUKE-ACTS 2025

The reading of Luke through Acts, 52 chapters, a chapter a week with Bishop Lanette. This is the Bishop's break through prayer this month:

Holy God, as we begin this year of reading and prayer, dedicate our hearts to your word. Shape us through the story of Jesus and his followers, that we may grow in faith and love. Prepare us for the transformative journey ahead. In Christ's name, Amen. Each week the Bishop will pose a question that I will post on our FB pages, my personal page, the Communities of Faith page and Peace United page. I encourage you to like all three pages if you are on FB. If you go to the Minnesota Conference website, you will see the area designated to this study. There are graphics, a personal journal, and so much more. If you don't already receive the weekly mailing from the Conference, you should do so by submitting the request on line. The year will be enhanced by the reading of this study together. So, just google Minnesota Annual Conference and subscribe....you will be glad you did. If you need help requesting the weekly email, just let me know. I am happy to assist. Kali



**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

Nursing Homes services:

Worship at Central Todd County Care Center on Wednesday, February 5th and 12th, 2:30 p.m. Worship at Long Prairie Nursing Home, Wednesday, February 12th, 9:45 a.m.



CONVERSATIONS. . .

continues Wednesday mornings, 7 am, Facebook, Kali Christensen page. Always look forward to connecting with you!

About the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR)

Founded in 1940, the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) is the global humanitarian relief and development agency of The United Methodist Church. A part of United Methodist Global Ministries, UMCOR works in more than 80 countries worldwide, including the United States and its territories. The agency's mission, grounded in the teachings of Jesus, is to alleviate human suffering with open hearts and minds to all people. Working in the areas of disaster response and recovery and migration, UMCOR responds to natural or civil disasters that are interruptions of such magnitude that they overwhelm a community's ability to recover on its own.

PRAY for California

As countless families and communities face the overwhelming aftermath of these wildfires, UMCOR is supporting the efforts of conference disaster response ministries across the region. Evacuees are receiving food and other essential supplies. Trained volunteers are preparing to assist where it is safe to do so. Pray for all those impacted by this disaster, as well as first responders and volunteers. The road to recovery will be long, but together, we can bring hope and healing. As you are ready to help, please write out a check to your local church with UMCOR in the memo line. Our treasurers will send a check to the UMCOR agency of the UMC. Continue to pray for the hurricane devastation and the wildfire devastation.



Alan Nelson

Barb Logas

Jerry Tepley

Wanda and Jerry celebrating 65 years of marriage!

Congrats!

Heidi Masters, cancer has not metastasized. Surgery

February 5th.

Family of Cindy Rachuy

Family of Rob Doig

Max Reining, healing well from burn

Jack and Mary Ellen Yorkovich...making plans for

assisted living options

Hailey and Boys back from El Paso to be near Family in

South Dakota. Continued prayers as they grieve the

loss of Jacob.

Marley Frederiksen, feeling effects of fibromyalgia

Lonnie Hetland

Bobbi Knutson

Prayers for many who are affected by COVID, RSV,

respiratory illnesses and the flu, etc

Barry Rosell

Prayers for the fires in CA...we have so many friends,

relatives, acquaintances of people here who are

concerned about their loved ones...it is

heartbreaking...prayers for all involved in all way

Janet Doroff, experiencing pain after her procedure.

Family of Kim Sullivan

Peggy Ross...failing health

Thanks to the crew that helped out at Clotho with the

furnace issues.

Thanks to the shoppers for jackets, hats, boots during

school.

Linda and Mike Regan. Mike's health is deteriorating

rapidly.

Sleep well/stay safe!

Family of Ed Hoernke.

Dean Meiners suffered a spiral fracture of his leg, at VA,

St. Cloud for rehab/healing

Karin Lancaster is home

David Ellis in Bethany on the Lake in Alexandria

Thanks for all the assistance at the Back Pack Attack on

Tuesday at Long Prairie-Grey Eagle elementary

school.

Gussie and Charlie Drake...Gussie has a bad cold and a

bruised kidney and fractured rib. Charlie dealing with

breathing issues.

Ray Klim...heart monitoring

Family of Charlie Tuorila

Jenelle Benton, dealing with cancer and had a stroke

Violet Moen, St. Williams after a fall

Dennis Hinzmann, recuperating

Phyllis Krause, eye surgery January 23rd

Mark Johnson and future assist with Mike Frisch and his

business

Mike Stine

Linda Bokinskie, dealing with the crud.

Chad Smith, hospitalized with pneumonia

Pat Hinzmann, car accident, stiff and sore
Kathy Drevlow, fractured bone in upper back due to a fall
Janice Noland, fractured arm
River, diagnosed with COVID
Tom Miller, hospitalized in LP
Safe travel for Erin, Diane, Jerry as they provide respite and support to Diane's sister and husband in caretaking as the family deals with ALS

BIRTHDAYS

2..Chuck Noska
2..Heather Donovan
3..Jon Barthel
3..Dennie Anderson
7..Sharon Werner
10..Ray Klim
12..Marla Schnell
13..Dan Lunser
14..Diane Marquardt
15..Hunter Harlow
18..Benji Hudalla
18..Tyler Mollner
18..Susan Brouwer
19..Barb Logas
19..Marcus Kunerth
20..Christina Esposito
20..Thomas Dinkel VanValkenburg
21..Dennis Cossentine
21..Gordy Miller
22..Pat Nelson
22..Deanna Lackmann
24..Patti Larson
27..Reta Dahlen
27..Gloria Eberle



COMMUNITIES OF FAITH/PEACE UNITED OPPORTUNITIES-NEWS

Clarissa Chatter. . .

Admin meeting after church on Sunday, February 16, 2025. Everyone is encouraged to stay. There was good discussion on hosting or partnering with another church to host breakfast. It would be a way to celebrate community and provide a space for fellowship on a Sunday.

The Clarissa Community Club would like to have someone attend their planning meeting on February 26th at 6 p.m. Who is able to go to gather information and to see how we can best be involved?

Clotho Corner. . .

Music Jam on Monday, February 3rd, 1 p.m.

Coffee in Clotho, Friday, February 7th, 6:30-9 a.m. Stop in and have some fun!

Admin Meeting, Wednesday, February 12th, 7 p.m.
Everyone encouraged to attend and share your ideas.

Eagle Bend Box. . .

Soup and Sandwich Supper, Tuesday, February 18th, 4:30-6:30 p.m. Always a great meal and fun conversation! Congrats to Pastor Kali who won the gift card for being the 5,000th person fed at the supper. What a fun treat!

Peace United Update...

Admin Meeting after church on February 9th. Looking for folks to get involved and attend.

Please see the section on the Four Church Meeting to learn about soup making and cookie baking spearheaded by PUC.

Women of Peace, hosting a luncheon on Tuesday, February 11th, 1:30 p.m. Please call Betty Kunerth by Sunday, February 9th to let her know if you can attend. Betty's number: 320-732-2684 or 320-760-3336.

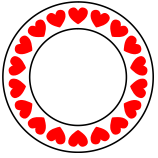
A little of this and a little of that...



Ministerial Fund...

Our ministerial fund has met so many needs the last few months...some homeless needs, needs for housing and electric assistance due to a diagnoses, heating needs, etc. The lack of social service opportunities and the lack of funds in the Salvation Army funds adds to the elevated needs. Hopefully, some of those funding sources will change in the months ahead.

In addition to all the items mentioned in January, we received six 100 dollar Coborns cards that were gratefully accepted by several families. We have 2 of the cards left. The hamburger has been going at a good pace. There are a few meat loaf packages to go as well. Be responsive to people who are struggling with food shortage. You have the opportunity to make a difference by picking up the burger and getting it to the people who need it. This may be people in the pews with us, our neighbors, some of our family. Be attentive. We were gifted 500 dollars from a Long Prairie business this past month and 410.37 from Shepherd of the Valley. Our current balance is: 1791.67. This is the lowest balance we have had for a very long time; however, the work and care that is being done is making a difference for so many people. Please hold the needs in your hearts as we move forward each day, committing those we care for to the care of all of us. Thanks for all of your care and love.



Circle of Caring Hearts Luncheon will be held on February 12th at Faith Lutheran Church, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. This is a luncheon to honor the love for a spouse or loved one who has died. There will be a brief devotion, a free lunch, and fellowship. Please let Allan Mortenson know if you will attend by calling him at 320-360-2385 or let Kali Christensen know and she will relay the information. RSVP by February 9th.



**(Mark your
calendar)**

February 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 UMC/Peace United Church Services: Clotho – 8 am Eagle Bend – 9:15 am Peace United – 10 am Clarissa – 10:30 am	3 Music Jam, 1:00 pm, Clotho UMC	4 Coffee to Reflect & Recharge w/Kali, 110 Coffee, Long Prairie, 4:00 pm	5 Conversations on Facebook, 7:00 am Worship at Central Todd County Carecenter, Clarissa, 2:30 pm Confirmation Zoom meeting, 7:15 pm	6	7 Coffee in Clotho, 6:30-9:00 am	8
9 UMC/Peace United Church Services: Clotho – 8 am Eagle Bend – 9:15 am Peace United – 10 am Clarissa – 10:30 am Admin meeting, Peace United, following church service.	10 Ministerial Team, Buford's, 5:15 pm	11 Women of Peace Luncheon, 1:30 pm	12 Conversations on Facebook, 7:00 am Worship at Long Prairie Nursing Home, 9:45 am Worship at Central Todd County Carecenter, Clarissa, 2:30 pm Admin meeting, Clotho UMC, 7:00 pm	13	14 	15
16 UMC/Peace United Church Services: Clotho – 8 am Eagle Bend – 9:15 am Peace United – 10 am Clarissa – 10:30 am Admin Board, Clarissa UMC, following church service.	17	18 Soup & Sandwich Supper, Eagle Bend UMC, 4:30-6:30 pm	19 Conversations on Facebook, 7:00 am Confirmation Zoom meeting, 7:15 pm	20	21	22
23 UMC/Peace United Church Services: Clotho – 8 am Eagle Bend – 9:15 am Peace United – 10 am Clarissa – 10:30 am	24	25	26 Conversations on Facebook, 7:00 am	27	28	

Communities of Faith/Peace United Parish
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TO:

February 2025
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Clotho, & Eagle Bend