

FAITHNOTES

March 2025

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

Clarissa - Clotho - Eagle Bend – Long Prairie

Thoughts from Kali . . .

I am always amazed at the generosity and care of people. If you have not heard the tale of the Target cards, let me share with you. If you heard it in church, bear with me please. I ran into my friend, John at the coffee shop. He told me he had checked in with friends in CA who he thought may have been impacted by the fires. Their friends of 50 plus years were just fine but were saddened by a recent conversation with another couple, parents of a United Methodist Pastor, John. John and his family had just lost their home and their church in the fires the same day. John's friends, Karsten and Kim, were at a loss, feeling Pastor John's loss. They Venmoed money and told my friend, John the story. John felt their loss too...he went home and chatted with his wife and then realized he had unused Target cards in his desk at home. Could they be of any relief to Pastor John and his family?

As John contemplated this action, he began to think this could be a story of connection and care. He decided he would put the plan together, but he and his wife would not be a part of any of it...with the exception of turning over the Target cards. John called for a coffee date again and said he had a plan, inviting a big California Church to connect with 4 small United Methodist churches in central Minnesota. John brought me the Target cards, a box, wrapping, address labels and set them on the table in front of me. He said imagine the great stories that could come of this. He brought me Kim and Karsten's address as they would be the link to the pastor and family. In the meantime, I looked up the church and had already read their story...Pacifica Palisades Community United Methodist Church was featured on the news and in the clips about the devastation of the fires. I enclosed a letter to Pastor John and his Congregation and a note to Kim and Karsten for being the conduit, insured the cards, and mailed the package off. As I gathered the goods, I saw the cards, each Target card worth 25 dollars. They totaled 825 dollars, all of them being sent from our congregations...all of them being purchased by John and his wife. The package arrived and I received a text from Kim and Karsten asking if they could FaceTime me. They did and opened the package as we talked. We talked about all the need in California and we all delighted in our relationship with John and his wife. The cards were delivered in a couple of days and I received a picture of Pastor John and his wife with Kim and Karsten. The connection makes my heart smile and the church and the couple continue to be in my heart and prayers. I invite you

to hold them in prayer as well. What good will come from those Target cards, meant to be used for whatever is needed by whoever needs them? Such gratitude I have for hearts that are supple and open to the needs of others. Did I mention that John and his wife, Kim and Karsten are all Lutheran friends. It is a story of humble love, the kind of love we are invited into each day. I will keep you posted on the connection as I give thanks to these people who are so filled with love and care for others. This is the story of Lent, isn't it? Invited to break bread, to see each other, to take less for ourselves, and give the abundance to those in need. To see the injustices and the discrepancies and take a stand. To see the places Jesus calls us to live big and respond in a greater way.

I have received an email that the Chosen, the last Supper, will be showing in several weeks. Churches are invited to take the opportunity to watch it...maybe even together. Perhaps we could take this on together. Several events and pieces of worship are offered in the next six weeks. I invite you to be attentive to the invitation to attend and participate in our churches at this critical time in our lives. The Third Day, our worship series is about Mary Magdalene, Simon Peter, Thomas, Paul, and the disciples at Emmaus, and how they were transformed by the Resurrection. Further, how it is we can be transformed in our personal journey with Jesus? I look forward to walking the road with you. May our hearts and lives be transformed as we travel together this Lenten season. It is my hope that you are involved, invested, intentional about the weeks ahead. Amen



LOOK!

Look at all sections for more information.

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



Lenten Journey will begin with Ash Wednesday and continue throughout March and April. Our Ash Wednesday services will be self-directed like they were last year.

There will be time for self-examination and contemplation and the imposition of ashes at each site.



The schedule for Ash Wednesday, March 5th, will be as follows:

Eagle Bend UMC: 3:30 - 4:15 p.m.

Peace United: 4:45 - 5:30 p.m.

Clarissa UMC: 5:45 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Clotho UMC: 6:45 - 7:30 p.m.

Feel free to arrive at each church early and to stay to pray and meditate as long as you choose.

Each Family will be sent home with a worship kit on Fat Tuesday or Ash Wednesday.



The night before Ash Wednesday, we will hold our second annual FAT TUESDAY gathering, March 4th. We

will meet up to gather and chat at 5:30-6 p.m. on Tuesday, March 4th, at Peace United. We will eat together at 6 p.m., Celebrating life and all that it has to offer. We will open our hearts to celebration as we prepare to give time for reflection and contemplation on our Lenten Journey. We had a great time last year and look forward to gathering again this year. Please join us and bring a side dish to share. The main meal courses will be provided. Side salads, chips, pickles, cheese are food ideas. If someone would volunteer to man a craft table to assist everyone in making our coin collection containers that would be great. Please bring pint jars, jelly jars, olive jars...anything that can be decorated for our Coins for Lent Collections. You will take home some party favors and prizes, your coin collection jar...and a renewed dedication to the journey we embark on together. Looking forward to being with you on the 4th and 5th of March.

We will be studying Tom Berlin's book, "The Third Day, Living the Resurrection". The Lenten studies will take place during worship on Sunday morning. We enjoyed a Tom Berlin study a few years ago. Tom is a Bishop in the Florida Conference of the UMC. Looking ahead for the Holy Week Schedule:

Maunday Thursday will be at Clarissa UMC, 7 p.m.

Good Friday Services:

Eagle Bend UMC: 3 p.m.

Peace United: 5 p.m.

Clotho UMC: 7 p.m.

There will probably be some tweaks as we get closer to the celebration of Easter and Holy Week but want to give you a rough estimate. Church times for Easter Sunday will remain the same as usual with Eagle Bend UMC hosting the Sunrise Service this year. Looking for volunteers to head up the Sunrise Service...let me know if you can assist with this. Always a great celebration of HOPE and LIFE!



Coins for Lent... This year we have a new calendar to use and you can certainly add to it as the spirit moves you. I love the

guidelines and the way it makes me think. This year there is a playlist for Sundays which will add a bit of fun to the calendar. As always, we will decide as a church (each church) where to send the collections. So, offer up your ideas as you know of a cause that is important. **See calendar for Coins for Lent March/April on the next page.**



Ministerial Team...

The team will meet together on Tuesday, March 18th, 5:15 pm, Buford's. The schedule for March is as follows:
March 2..Marlys and Kali

March 9..Pam and Kali

March 16..Pam and Kali

March 23.. Marlys and Kali

March 30..Erin and Kali



Confirmation...

Confirmation will meet over Zoom at 7:15 p.m. on Wednesday, March 19th and 26th. Confirmation students should plan on attending one of the Ash Wednesday

services or should be in touch with Kali for an alternate assignment.



Course of Study... it is Course of Study time for Kali again. Classes will be held over Zoom on Friday and Saturday, March 14th and 15th. Kali will travel to Cedar Rapids, IA for class April 11th and 12th.



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.

March 2025							
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	
			5 Ash Wednesday Song: "Fix You" A coin for every lamp.		6 A coin for every light switch.	7 A coin for every candle.	8 A coin for every flashlight (include your smartphone).
9 SONG: "Rise Up" Pray today, thanking God for the gift of light. Pray for those who live in darkness.	10 A coin for every room in your home	11 A coin for every electrical outlet in your home.	12 A coin for every chair in your home	13 A coin for every window in your home	14 A coin for every bathroom in your home	15 A coin for every bed in your home	
16 SONG: "Head Above Water" Pray today, thanking God for shelter. Pray for those who have no place to sleep at night.	17 A coin for every box of cereal	18 A coin for every can of soup	19 A coin for every type of bread in your home	20 A coin for every jar of jelly	21 A coin for every bottle of salad dressing/condiment	22 A coin for every jar of peanut butter	
23 SONG: "Cling to Christ." Pray today, thanking God for the food you enjoy. Pray for those who have no food this day.	24 A coin for every box of band-aids	25 A coin for every bottle of vitamins	26 A coin for every bottle of Tylenol in your house	27 A coin for every tube of chap stick	28 A coin for every toothbrush and tube of toothpaste	29 A coin for every cough drop in your house.	
30 SONG: "Rainbow" Pray today, thanking God for your health. Pray for those who are sick.	31 A coin for every ball or piece of athletic equipment						

April 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1 A coin for every electronic video game.	2 A coin for every smart device (phones, tablets, etc.).	3 A coin for every television	4 A coin for every doll or stuffed animal.	5 A coin for every board or card game
6 Song: "Cover Me in Sunshine" Pray today, thanking God for the entertainment in your home. Pray for those who would be grateful for just one of these items.	7 A coin for every ball cap or hat	8 A coin for every pair of shoes	9 A coin for every pair of jeans or pants	10 A coin for every coat	11 A coin for every t-shirt	12 A coin for every sweatshirt
13 Palm Sunday Song: "You Will Be Found" Pray today, thanking God for clothing that protects you from the elements. Pray for those who lack clothing to keep them warm and dry.	14 A coin for every Bible.	15 A coin for every book of hymns or sacred songs in your home.	16 A coin for every cross in your home.	17 A coin for every prayer you say today.	18 A coin for every story of Jesus you can tell.	19 A coin for every person in your family.
20 Easter Sunday Song: "Light Of A Clear Blue Morning" Pray, thanking God for Jesus and for the many ways we can gather and worship God. Pray for those who will receive the coins collected that they would see God's presence through them.	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			



MUSTARD SEED GRANTS...

Mustard Seed Grants! As I mentioned in the last newsletter, a grant was submitted by Peace United Peeps in collaboration with Dreams United. A

grant of 2,000 dollars was granted for advocacy, warm clothing, welcoming kits, and acknowledgement of our new neighbors. A meeting was already held and well attended by many in our Long Prairie Community. The grant process was outlined in the newsletter last month. Please review it and submit a proposal to assist with accessing money for a one time community based service project. Congrats on the success of the application for the grant to those who worked diligently and swiftly in the process. Feel free to reach out to Colin King, Christina Esposito, and Kali C to find out more.



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. **UMCOR SUNDAY donations will be taken on Sunday, March 30th.**



Meanderings of the Preacher...

Worship at the Clarissa Care Center on the 5th and 12th, 2:30 p.m. and on the 12th at Long Prairie Nursing Home.

Music Jam, March 3rd. Coffee in Clotho, March 7th. Confirmation, Wednesdays, 7:15 p.m., March 19th and 26th over Zoom. Meetings at Hilltop Regional Kitchen, March 11th, 11 a.m.-1:15 p.m. Course of Study Class, March 14th and 15th. Ministerial Meeting on March 18th, Buford's. Soup and Sandwich Supper, March 18th, 4:30-6:30 p.m., and Rural Ministry Matters, March 21st, 1 p.m. on Zoom. NAPS distribution, Clarissa City Hall, March 24th, 1-4 p.m.

LUKE-ACTS 2025

The Luke-Acts Bible study continues. Please go to the Conference page on Facebook to follow Bishop Lanette's prompts. You can catch up and join anytime. Get busy on Luke and soon you will be caught up to the Bishop and others. It is a year study and should be fun and enlightening.



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, March 5th and 12th, 2:30 p.m. Worship at Long Prairie Nursing Home, Wednesday, March 12th, 9:45 a.m.



Brooks Walters, age 3, is having medical issues and going through testing.

Mike Brown, shattered his big toe. Surgery when swelling goes down.

Gratitude for a great Valentine Day luncheon at PUC. Dean Prather...blood clot in his leg.

Jerry Tepley
Family of Joan Lee

Debi Reynolds, hospitalized with pneumonia
Zoey Kollmann and students in her class as they transition to another teachermissing the teacher they loved. Prayers for him as well.

Jamisty and Dion in the loss of a little Peru boy they sponsor through Compassion International. They were alerted to his death this past week.

Jan Miller has COVID, doing well.

Bailey, Linda Bokinskie's granddaughter, headed to

serve in Korea in the near future. Bailey is excited, her family is not as excited....prayers for all.
 Heidi Masters will begin chemo soon.
 Jack and Mary Ellen Yorkovich and their Kids and Families as the transition to Assisted Living gets underway.
 Many people struggling with pneumonia and other respiratory diseases
 Kali Greenwaldt, healing
 Pat Hinzmann, second surgery on her shoulder, prayers for healing and patience
 Verna Christopher, healing
 Preparations for World Day of Prayer on March 7th, hosted by Clarissa UMC
 Kevin.....airlifted to Fargo after car accident
 Victims of so many tragedies and the first responders
 Carol Frerichs, healing/foot surgery
 Jamisty's Grandma as she mourns the death of another child
 Ella Claseman....strength
 Tom Miller, transferred to Care Center in Frazee
 Mike Kottom
 Emily, Kaeden's roommate, dealing with a foot injury as she prepares for track at UMD
 Rosenow Family in the death of Dennis
 Nicki, Nicole Beach's co-worker, in the death of her Dad
 Bing Bisel, fractured hip, LP Nursing Home
 Minnie Priem, found Susan's items and returned them
 Hunger in Africa and here, especially as it impacts children
 Prayers for Jesus to move in people's hearts to alleviate the fear people are living in...fear of being removed, separated from family, fear of the unknown.
 Charlie Drake
 Mindy Miller, fell and fractured ankle
 The plane/helicopter victims and families in Washington DC and Philadelphia, PA. Prayers for first responders and all involved.
 Joy of the Baptism of Briggs John Boie! Blessings on this precious baby boy, his parents, Derek and Katelyn, and sponsors, Francis and Kimberly Caruso.
 Alan Nelson, improvement
 River, doing well
 JJ, Sue Boehland's nephew
 David Ellis....Bethany on the Lake
 Dennis Anderson, broken foot
 Dr. Duncan, gratitude for prayers
 Mike Stine
 Lloyd Peterson, open heart surgery
 Gratitude for the many who serve God in our churches and communities

17.. Eric Denny
 19..Steve Bruner
 19.. Payton Hlatky
 21..Roger Hetland
 23.. Jim Hlatky
 23..Brooklyn Woeste
 24..Mindy Schmitt
 25..Tim Thom
 27..Greg Berry
 29..Arvilla Beach
 31.. Cary Hudalla

COMMUNITIES OF FAITH/PEACE UNITED OPPORTUNITIES-NEWS

Clarissa Chatter. . .

World Day of Prayer will be held at Clarissa UMC, Friday, March 7th, 1 p.m. Everyone is welcome. We traditionally host women but would love to have men attend too. The study is on the people of Cook Island this year. This is an ecumenical service, followed by lunch and conversation. A free will offering is taken to send to the World Day of Prayer office. We look forward to seeing you at this annual event.

Admin Council will meet after church on Sunday, March 16th. All encouraged to attend.

Clotho Corner. . .

Music Jam on Monday, March 3rd, 1 p.m. Join us for some fun!

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

Eagle Bend Box. . .

Soup and Sandwich Supper, Tuesday, March 18th, 4:30-6:30 p.m. Come and enjoy some good food and great fellowship!

Peace United Update...

March 4th, Fat Tuesday Fellowship and Supper, Arrive between 5:30 and 6. Meal at 6. Fellowship throughout the time together. See the article in the newsletter regarding Lent.

Admin Meeting after church on March 9th. Stay and be part of the planning for the days ahead.

Women of Peace meeting, March 11th, 1:30 pm.

BIRTHDAYS

2.. Russ Noland
 2.. Joanne Bokinskie
 5..Jan Miller
 6..Doris Winter
 6..Jane Lunser
 8..Darlene Baxter
 9..Tristan Hudalla
 15..Barb Thom



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



Ministerial Fund...

Our Ministerial Funds have been utilized often this last month. One morning before i left the house at 7 a.m., i had 2 requests. That is what we are here for and the money going out is because there are not any other places the funds can be drawn from. Questions are always asked as to if all sources have been utilized. We met heating needs, travel and grocery needs for people not able to work due to a diagnosis, medication for needed meds not covered by insurance. This, I believe, will not lessen for quite some time. The burger is going and i encourage you to see the needs and meet them by picking up some burger to distribute. If you are seeing the needs, please speak up and be active in feeding those who are hungry. I visited a fella last week who is recovering in a nursing home after a fall. He told me he believes he was starving himself because of food shortage and the wrong kind of nutrition. He is a person who has only helped others, never relying on another...a person in need of prayer, and much more...he is a person who needs us to be love activators.....people living love, not just praying about it. Both are gifts and can be done simultaneously. The fund balance is currently at \$676.75. Thanks to several donations this past month.....one of our families gave 100 dollars, Faith Lutheran, EB, gave us 331.82, and Clotho UMC contributed 500 dollars. A Group of us met to discuss the needs of the homeless in our area, trying to find other funding resources as well. The Salvation Army and our Ministerial Fund are the only sources right now. The Salvation Army has about 2,000 dollars left to administer any of their programs until September, so their funding has not been what it used to be. Needs are great. Continue to hold the needs of our communities and people in prayer.

VOLUNTEERS WANTED:

I received a note from Long Prairie Care Center and Meadow Place Assisted Living.

Both are seeking volunteers in the following areas:

1 to 1 Visitors

Pet Visitors

Games in large or small groups: cards, bingo, dice, or dominoes

Baking

Gardening and Plant Care

Outdoor and Outing Activities

Please contact the Activity Department if you are interested in volunteering in any of these areas or others that are available too. Call Crystal at 320-357-3245.



(Mark your calendar)

Palm Sunday – April 13th
Maunday Thursday – April 17th
Good Friday – April 18th
Easter – April 20th

March 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 FAT TUESDAY, Peace United, 5:30 pm	5 ASH WEDNESDAY Eagle Bend: 3:30-4:15 pm Peace: 4:45-5:30 pm Clarissa: 5:45-6:30 pm Clotho: 6:45- 7:30 pm Conversations on Facebook, 7:00 am Worship at Central Todd County Carecenter, Clarissa, 2:30 pm	6	7 Coffee in Clotho, 6:30-9:00 am World Day of Prayer, Clarissa UMC, 1 pm	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 service.	10	11 Women of Peace meeting, Peace United, 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	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 meeting, Clarissa UMC, following service.	17 	18 Soup & Sandwich Supper, Eagle Bend UMC, 4:30-6:30 pm Ministerial Team, Buford's, 5:15 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 Confirmation Zoom meeting, 7:15 pm	27	28	29
30 UMC/Peace United Church Services: Clotho – 8 am Eagle Bend – 9:15 am Peace United – 10 am Clarissa – 10:30 am	31					

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