

FAITHNOTES

August 2025

The Newsletter for Communities of Faith/Peace

United Parish, United Methodist

Clarissa - Clotho - Eagle Bend

Long Prairie - Wrightstown

Thoughts from Kali . . .

Thoughts.....The good old days have been part of so many conversations this week. Do you think about the good old days? Days when people would show up to social activities and places would be full of people and activities and interaction.....those days when things are all good, we remember the men being stronger, the women being prettier, the Kids brighter! I saw a great turnout the other night at the Dairy Queen when they celebrated old cars. I talked to the DJ and he said it is always so good to play old music and watch people look at cars and talk about the restoration of them. Talk about the places they drove those old cars, and now they come out of the garage for only special occasions.

I listened to a conversation about old toys today. The wind up tractors and the old tops, the jump ropes, and how excited people were when Tonka made trunks. Did you see the Barbie dolls at the Eagle Bend museum? So fun to see those old toys that remind us of so many play dates and the company that used to come to the house when kids were sent to play and adults played cards or talked about the latest going on in the neighborhood.

Memories are fun aren't they? It is good when we think of all those places we have been, all the people we have known, all the memories made. Do you think we miss out on today when we focus so much on the past?

I think of all the things that were planned for church in the old days, the programs, the Easter Sundays, the Christmas Eve services, the pancake breakfasts, the movie nights, the traditions.....the youth group meetings, the camping trips, the overnight sleep overs at church because we were raising money for hunger or some other need in the area.

What motivates us to bring the memories to fruition today? What did we learn from the "old days" that we can use today?

We have talked a lot about being the church in our everyday, ordinary lives. We have focused on being in community as a representative of Jesus. Are we missing the old memories so much we cannot find a way to celebrate Jesus today? The balance is challenging, but we certainly have a mission and a call, don't we? John Wesley talked a lot about being faith based people who shared Jesus in ways that made an impact on those in need. Social holiness. Sharing the Gospel in ways that make the lives better for our neighbors and each other. We are stepping out of our comfort zone some days, feeding people by packing meal bags and the blessing box. We shop for groceries, thinking of others who are hungry, not just ourselves. We are looking at a food event for 10,000. Who would have thought this would be our purpose today? We are buying beans and rice, perhaps not our usual purchases, but we are buying because we know this product is needed. We are people who are flexible, able to pivot with the needs of the times and the people. The absolute reality for each of us is that the times change. In most ways, we are willing to pivot too. We do not want to be left behind or miss out. Do we have that same zeal for church? Are we really being called to change or are we exploring our roots and living into our social holiness values? Are we embracing or resisting? It is always so good to have our belief systems challenged so we can see how we are really formed. What are the basic foundational values we rely on? Who is our rock and who is our guide in our daily life?

None of us like change, none of us are waiting to see what the next best idea is, but might we be missing the cracks where light is shining through? Might we be missing God's call and His beckoning? Could we delight in our past, bring it forward, and continue to live the life of a disciple, just as we have done for years.....stepping up, being bold, holding on to courage, relying on God to guide us.

John Wesley is known for words of challenge and encouragement....."Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can". Kind of says it all, doesn't it?





Look at all sections for more information.

SPRC & Communities of Faith/Peace United/Wrightstown UMC Councils:

The five churches meeting will be held on Monday, August 18, 2025 at 7 p.m. We will meet at Eagle Bend UMC. At these meetings, we gather together and go over some information, focusing on some bullet points. We then break into our individual churches to define some of our goals and upcoming events. As we get back together, we throw out our thoughts and ideas as to how we can support one another and move forward. We have been encouraged at the recent meetings and have been able to define some areas that need our attention. The meetings have brought about a fair amount of collaboration and opportunities as well. We hope several people from each church will attend. The conversations grow us, offer us encouragement, and support us. The synergy is at work with the Holy Spirit. One of the topics will be the evolution of the new mission statement for the UMC: "The United Methodist Church forms disciples of Jesus Christ who, empowered by the Holy Spirit, live boldly, serve joyfully, and lead courageously in local communities and worldwide connections". We will report on the ideas that generated movement in the last meeting and flowed into action, lift up new ideas, and share where each church is at in their vision, hopes, dreams...please mark your calendars for Eagle Bend on the 18th!

Confirmation...

If able, the confirmation students are asked to participate in the food-packing event at Peace United on August 11, 4-6 p.m. We will also plan another gathering as soon as I get feedback from each of the students.



Ministerial Fund: has been active for sure. We have been blessed by a parishioner's gift of 5,000 dollars, a friend of the church sent in 1,000 dollars, Christ the King contributed 885 dollars, and gifts from Coins for Lent of 182 dollars. We have moved a lot of furniture the last month and are down to very little, so I hope to solicit some help to close the storage unit in Long Prairie and have everything in one spot. I appreciate several of you saying yes to sorting and displaying the current items and organizing a giveaway in the yard or basement at Clarissa. The office needs to be free from clutter. We have several bags of clothes to go through and some household things that will be made available to people. Would it work to have it out Friday and Saturday, August 22nd-23rd? Let me know what you think.....



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. Contributions for Wrightstown UMC send to Joan Zirbes, 62172 County Hwy. 40, Parkers Prairie, MN 56361. Hope to see you soon. Feel free to be in touch. You can reach me at 320-808-6301

Meanderings of the Preacher...

If you look at the calendar attached on the back page, you will have an easy access to what is happening at our churches and in the life of this pastor. A few things to highlight in meanderings...Graveside service for Louise Bous, August 1st, 3 p.m. Devotions and prayer at Hometown Heroes Bootcamp, August 9th, in the morning. Hilltop Regional Kitchen meeting and Community Circle meetings on Tuesday, August 12th, 11 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. Rural Ministry Matters, Friday, August 15th, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., McGregor UMC. Gold Star Weekend August 15th -17th. I will be with the families Friday evening and Sunday morning. TCCA Meeting on Wednesday, August 10th over lunch. Officiating the wedding of Kali and Patrick on the 30th of August.



Conversations continues each Wednesday morning, 7 a.m. If you have any topics you would like brought up during this Facebook time, just let me know and we will look into it.



Ministerial Team...

For August
3rd ..Pam and Kali
10th ..Erin and Kali
17th ..Marlys and ?
24th ..Erin and Kali
31st ..Pam and Kali

As we look at August, if you are willing to be a volunteer to cover service at Clarissa or Wrightstown on a Sunday, please be in touch ASAP, so I can see where you would fit in. On Sunday, August 17th, i will be at worship with the Gold Star Families at Minnesota State Veterans Cemetery. We will need two volunteers that Sunday to assist. Let me know if that works for you. Thanks much!



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:

Nursing Home Services: Worship at Central Todd County Care Center, Wednesday, August 6th, 2:30 p.m. I will be at Long Prairie Nursing Home on August 13th, 9:45 a.m. and Clarissa Care Center on the same day at 2:30 p.m.



Porch Ponderings Thursdays at 7:00 pm.

oh what fun this summer has been....we are scheduled through the middle of September with so many wonderful speakers. Please join us as you can....we are expanding our well-being, knowledge, and community as we listen to one another.



Sue Boehland's cousin's husband, Marvin fell at work, has a skull fracture and a brain bleed.

Marlys' son, Jeremy, struggling with ongoing infection after appendectomy.

Carol Hammond is great grandma again...welcome, Leo in California.....

Hallelujah!!! Eagle Bend UMC received a grant to assess adding an upstairs bathroom and an alternative entrance! Yahoo!

Austin Butler, healing

Heidi ...ongoing care for aggressive breast cancer
Starvation and suffering in Gaza..a change of heart for those in power who are not allowing people access to food. A change of policy, using children as leverage when product is ready to be delivered.

Prayers for the upcoming ice cream social at Clotho

Shirley Gadbaw has not been feeling well, prayers the cause can be found as she also is discerning the options for her hearing loss.

Joyce :LaVoie, healing

Kathleen Schwartz Dahl, respite and time away.

Jenny Luana's daughter-in-law, perseverance

Safe travel for Carolyn Vandenheuvel's sisters as they travel to spend time with Carolyn.

Florabell Packard and alleviation of pain in her hips and knees, hope expressed by a new doctor.

Lonnie Hetland, contiued healing

Pam Cook, continued healing

Monty Thornberg

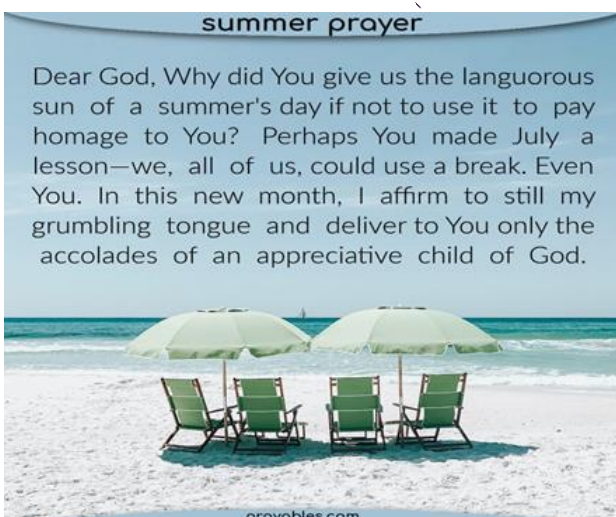
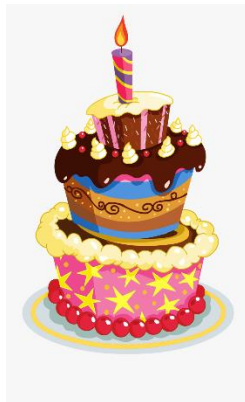
Immigration concerns forr the people who are struggling with a change in work visas, causing them to lose employment and face insecurities.

Ron Garretson, on hospice

Thanks to Becky Jo Messenbrink for sharing church time at Clotho and Peace.

BIRTHDAYS

- 1..Char Gamradt
- 1..Brad Mollner
- 2..Ruth Ann Smith
- 4..Marilyn Gibson
- 4..Linda Bokinskie
- 6..Kathy Turner
- 9..Kaeden Beach
- 13..Colleen Kleinschmidt
- 13..Chad Boylan
- 14..Lori Zellmann
- 16..Brooklyn Lux
- 18..Nanci Doroff
- 20..Frank Kunerth
- 21..Barb Szech
- 24..Gavin Kircher
- 25..Kevin Ehnes
- 26..Kali Warner
- 28..Roger Berkness, Jr.
- 30..Tammy Mueller
- 31.. Heston Almendinger



COMMUNITIES OF FAITH/PEACE UNITED/ WRIGHTSTOWN OPPORTUNITIES-NEWS

Clarissa Chatter. . .

Thanks for Fun, Fellowship, and Food during Summer Fest! The pie and ice cream social was well attended and was a whole lot of fun. Thanks to our superb wait staff, Brodie, Quinn, Bennett, and Belaney for keeping the pie and ice cream served up and ready for our guests!!!!

The root beer floats were well received and we had another good night after the parade.

Thanks, too, for all the kitchen assistance as we served for Don Hanson and Jerry Tepley's life celebrations. The conversation was filled with laughter and love on both days. Two saints who impacted each of us and the life of this church...what a legacy they leave. Our love and prayers to the Families.

Thanks, Clarissa for your Coins for Lent gift to St. Jude's in the amount of 154 dollars! We appreciate your love!

Clotho Corner. . .

Coffee in Clotho, Friday, August 1st, 6:30-9 a.m.
Coffee on the 4th of July was SO FUN....over 30 people joined us and boy, did we have a good time~

Here we go, Clotho....ice cream social weekend!
Thanks for showing up. All the information will be shared in the days ahead.

Music Jam...Monday, August 4th, 1 p.m. Thanks for the Jammers who showed up at the Social. Looking for some more fun!!!! On the 4th!

Coins of Lent will benefit replacement flags at Ft. Snelling State Veterans Cemetery. Thanks for your contribution of \$150.

Family Summer Splash...session 2 on the heels of a fantastic time at session one in Clotho. We will continue the mini VBS fun on August 13th, Nelson Park, Eagle Bend. Note the change in location. Meet up for supper at 5:30 -6:15 p.m. and then let the fun events begin. We will gather up with family at 7:30

and head home at 8. This event is for the entire family, so please bring everyone, Gramps and Gram even. We had 4 generations of a family in Clotho....all are welcome! If you missed the one in July, still come to this one !! Invite your FRIENDS! So excited to see you as we splash into the stories of water and Jesus and His disciples! I think Jonah tales await!

Eagle Bend Box. . .

WOOTWOOT!!!! Eagle Bend received a 4,000 Builder's Grant to assess the feasibility of another entrance and an upstairs bathroom. Thanks to Sue Boehland for heading up the grant and for the Focus Group in moving forward on the details.....to Aaron and Dana for drafting plans, and for everyone encouraging and showing up to say, let's go!

Family Summer Splash refreshes Eagle Bend on Wednesday, August 13th. Join us at Nelson Park where we will eat supper together, move into learning stations, and come back together as family to play a game and ready to head home. This will be a great night of fun and information about the way Jesus shows up in the lives of new disciples. Water is so important and Jesus loved to tell parables about the gift of water. See you about 5:30 for the beginning of a great night. ALL are welcome!

Soup, Salad, and Sandwich Supper, Tuesday, August 19th, 4:30-6:30 p.m. Please join us! It is a night of good food and good spirits!

Coins for Lent contributed 334 dollars to St. Jude's Children's Hospital! Thanks!

Peace United Update...

Council will meet on Sunday, August 10th after worship. Women of Peace will meet up on Thursday, August 14th, 1:30 p.m. Looking forward to gathering again.

August 11th, 4 p.m., Packing meals together. Hope to see you!

Thanks to Peace United for 28 dollars from Coins for Lent going to the Ministerial Fund.

Wrightstown Wrap-up.....

Brunch served after church on Sunday, August 3rd. Bring a dish to share.

The Lydia Circle will meet at Carolyn Vandenheuvel's at 11 a.m. on Thursday, August 7th.

A little of this

and a little of that...

Back to School means school supplies are needed. If you are out and about shopping, pick up some extras for the school to have ready for kids. I picked up some cute backpacks for 5 bucks today...a new back pack might be just what will make the day for someone returning to school. Thanks for all you do to make kids confident and prepared.

School Supplies

- Backpack
- Pencil Pouch
- Pencils
- Headphones/Earbuds
- Large Pink Erasers (2)
- Crayons (any size)
- Glue(2 stick & a liquid bottle)
- Dry erase markers
- Small cloth to erase slates
- 2 folders
- 1 Notebooks
- Box of Kleenex
- Disinfecting Wipes



Optional Supplies

- Scissors
- Ruler (cm & in.)
- Markers
- Colored pencils
- Calculator
- Gallon Bags



2nd GREAT NIGHT –

Bring the Whole Family

5:30-6:15 p.m Arrive for supper.....

6:30-7:30 p.m. Stations and interactions
for ALL...

7:30-8 p.m A good night celebration
for everyone



August 13th - Eagle Bend

Nelson Park (note change)

If you missed the one at Clotho,
come anyways!

Each session stands alone!!

Sunday, August 3rd

Clotho Ice

Cream Social

NOON





Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 6:30 am to 9 am Coffee at Clotho	2
3 UMC/Peace United Church Services Clotho – 8 am Eagle Bend – 9:15 am Peace United – 10 am Clarissa - 10:30 am Wrightstown – 10:30 am Clotho ICE CREAM social	4 1 PM Music Jam at Clotho UMC	5	6 Conversations on Facebook at 7:00 am 2:30 pm Worship at CTCCC	7 11 am – Lydia Circle Wrightstown 7:00 PM Porch Ponderings	8	9 Prayer Hometown Hero's
10 UMC/Peace United Church Services Clotho – 8 am Eagle Bend – 9:15 am Peace United – 10 am Clarissa - 10:30 am Wrightstown – 10:30 am PUC Council after Worship	11 Food Pack at PUC 4 to 6 pm	12 HTK and Community circle 11 to 1:15	13 Conver. Facebook 7:00 am 9:45 am Worship at Long Prairie Nursing Home 2:30 pm Worship at CTCCC VBS at Night 2 at Eagle Bend Nelson Park 5:30-6:15 p.m Arrive for supper.....ends about 8.. for everyone	14 1:30 pm Women of Peace at PUC 7:00 PM Porch Ponderings	15 Rural Ministry Matters In McGregor	16 Gold Star Weekend 15-17 th
17 UMC/Peace United Church Services Clotho – 8 am Eagle Bend – 9:15 am Peace United – 10 am Clarissa - 10:30 am Wrightstown – 10:30 am Clarissa admin after worship	18 5 Church meeting, 5 p.m At Eagle Bend UMC	19 Conversations on Facebook at 7:00 am Soup and Sandwich Supper in Clarissa 4:30 to 6:30 PM	20 Conversations on Facebook at 7:00 am 7 pm Clotho Admin	21 7:00 PM Porch Ponderings	22	23
24 UMC/Peace United Church Services Clotho – 8 am Eagle Bend – 9:15 am Peace United – 10 am Clarissa - 10:30 am Wrightstown – 10:30 am	25	26	27	28 7:00 PM Porch Ponderings	29	30 Wedding of Patrick and Kali
31	1					

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