

FAITHNOTES

July 2025

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

Thoughts from Kali . . .

Thoughts.....

Here we are, a drizzly morning in the heart of Minnesota. The glory of the green is absolutely amazing. Every time we have a moist spring, I am so taken by the vivid shades of green in this world. Absolutely beautiful are the subtle changes that bring forth life and growth and a reminder of God's hand in every piece of our lives. I am always so amazed at the ways God shows up.....bird eggs, baby kittens, the awkward baby sand hill crane, the turkey moms with 22 babies following her! The time on the porch is such a gift.....snippets of light and sounds that bring life to the very center of our lives. Wherever you can soak in the details of God's vastness, have eyes to see and ears to hear.....and when possible, see His hand in every place you find yourself....in the heart of the city, on the commute to work, out your office window, in the truck on the way to the feed store, on your way to coffee.....everywhere! I think this luxury we can all embrace is the key to a content life, don't you?


The fire seeds in our lives, the lesson we heard at Annual conference continues to echo in my mind....these fire seeds, just waiting to burst forth in new life once the protective waxy coating is melted. I think about the condition of my heart...is my heart encased in a lining that is supple and porous....can the seeds of love break through into my life, my words, my actions, my intentions? Is the word of God, the community I surround myself with, the books I read, the conversations I engage in, the prayers I utter bearing fruit in my daily living? Am I seeking to do His will with the resources I have? My time, my talents, my service, my presence, my money....are they making a difference in His Kin-dom? Am I taking a daily inventory of my life, devoting myself to His will each day?

I have been wondering what it is we need to offer to break through for Jesus in our churches. Attendance ebbs and flows and much of that is normal for summer. Is church a priority for the most part in our lives or do we attend if it is convenient? Evening meetings are not often fun to put on the calendar, but they are usually so much more productive. People come with an intention to offer something up. How often in church are we taking time for only quick conversations, ready to dash out, get home to put dinner in the oven or rushing to get to some event or

another. Do we rush after every dinner we get invited out to? Do we eat our dinner swiftly at a reception so we can get out the door or do we actually engage with others when we are out with friends, chatting a bit, not being so harried and rushed? What is our priority when it comes to church? Seems a good question to ask ourselves. This is not a question to bring about guilt, but a poignant question if we are serious about our faith and our future as a church and as followers of Christ. Community does something in our lives that cannot be done in isolation. Are we nurturing our community connections as the body of Christ?

Growing our personal relationship with Jesus, listening to his nudgings, being willing to step forward and take a risk....these are not the easy things, but they are the things we are called to if we are going to be the people called United Methodists. So often people have said, "I am interested....."and when the resource is given to further that interest, nothing comes of it. We have been talking about being bold and courageous ever since we noticed the harshness in the world, ever since we put out our signs to walk humbly with God, ever since we posted our signs to be kind in a world that has been harsh. Are we being bold, courageous, saying yes to love and no to the horrific treatment of our brothers and sisters, watching hunger in a world where there is plenty, incarcerating folks who have not had an opportunity to share their story, relocating people without any conversation.....reducing food support without asking any questions.....real things happen in life and are we looking, listening to the stories of salt and light, the stories of you and me and what we have said yes to in our baptismal and confirmation vows...what we have said yes to when we say here I am, send me. Are we taking a good look at our willingness to bring the kin-dom of heaven to earth? Let's ask each other, as did John Wesley, and "how is it with you"? What is the condition of our hearts and souls? Let me share with you, the words we heard at Annual Conference, words of John Wesley. "What should I do?"....Do good. Do all the good you can. Let your plenty supply your neighbor's needs....Can you find one that need the necessities of life, that are pinched with cold or hunger.; none that have not raiment to put on, or a place where to lay their head; none that are wasted with pining sickness; none that are languishing in prison? If you truly considered our Lord's words...you would cease to ask, "what shall I do?" So, what say we, my Friends? Let me leave you with five fire seeds to consider in your own life:
Follow Jesus in Active Discipleship
Practice Social Holiness
Foster Lifelong Learning for All
Fight to Achieve Justice for All
Proclaim that God is Love.

For your information, social holiness in the UMC means that Christian faith involves actively loving and serving others, extending beyond personal piety to engage with the world and address social issues. It emphasizes that true Christian faith is expressed through actions that demonstrate love for God and neighbor, and that personal holiness is intrinsically linked to social responsibility. Pretty easy to hear our call, isn't it?

Looking forward to ongoing conversations with you about how we see our fire seeds and where things need to make us hot and uncomfortable so the coating melts off and the seeds whirl around this world to be planted and to GROW new life in Christ! Are you ready to germinate? Let's talk.....God's blessing and love! 



Look at all sections for more information.

SPRC & Communities of Faith/Peace

United Parish Council



The good work of the churches coming together for a quarterly meeting will continue in August. We will meet at Eagle Bend UMC, 7 p.m.. All 5

churches are encouraged to attend...as many as is possible from each church. The meeting last time sparked all kinds of ideas and intriguing possibilities, so we look forward to gathering again to continue the good work and the energizing synergy. One of 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, love 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 get this on your calendars. Look forward to seeing you

Confirmation...

Confirmation had a great session together in June and will meet again in July. Please continue to hold Bennett, Brooklynn, and Tucker in your prayers. We are looking at a late summer, early fall confirmation. Date to be announced as we progress forward.



Ministerial Fund: Thanks to our local Lutheran and Catholic Churches for contributions this month. Faithful friends of the ministerial fund also contributed gifts. We added 1,000

dollars to the fund this month. Needs have ebbed and flowed. We assisted a family who was homeless and in the midst of job interviews and applications to a housing unit. They were able to secure housing and employment. Coborns had responded to our one time request for grocery cards, so we were able to share that resource with the family. Our garage is almost empty and we will hopefully get the storage unit moved to the garage, so we have only one place to direct people to. We are receiving some furniture before the end of the month and some has been spoken for. Thanks to Mindy and the Denny Boys for getting a table and chairs to a family. Anyone who has the capability to assist with some drop offs occasionally would be a great asset to me. We have an abundance of clothes, just received. Would anyone assist me in running a free give away for one or two days to give people in the middle of the county a chance to get free items? We would only put out the items that are good and useable. We have a lot of very nice things.....



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.



Meanderings of the Preacher...

Meanderings of the Preacher... July 1st, annual evaluation, Hubbard UMC.

Worship Services at Clarissa UMC, July 1 and 8, 2:30 p.m. Worship at Long Prairie Nursing Home, July 8, 9:45 a.m. Coffee in Clotho, July 4th, 6:30-9 a.m. Celebration of Life for Mark Anderson, July 5th, 11:30 a.m., St. Joseph's Cemetery, Clarissa. Music Jam, Clotho UMC, Monday, July 7th, 1 p.m. Meetings at Hilltop Regional Kitchen, 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Wellness Zoom, noon, July 10th. Soup and Sandwich Supper, July 15th, 4:30-6:30 p.m. Art in the Park Meeting, 6 p.m., July 15th. Vision/Focus Meeting, July 15th, 6:30 p.m. Family Summer Splash, Clotho UMC, 5:30 p.m. Rural Ministry Matters Zoom, July 18th, Community Circle Potluck, July 21st, 5-7 p.m. Pack meals for families, Clotho UMC, 4 p.m. Barbecue Prep at Clotho: chopping and sauce, July 22, 6 p.m. and Barbecue making, 7 a.m., July 23rd. Wedding, July 26th, 4 p.m. Porch Ponderings every Thursday at 7 a.m. Conversations, Wednesday at 7 a.m.



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

Lakewood Nursing Home

-Jerry Tepley

Nursing Homes services:

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

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...

July 6th: Marlys and Kali

July 13th: Erin and Kali

July 20th: Pam and Kali

July 27th: Marlys and Kali

Ministerial Team Meeting on

July 2nd at 5:15 meet at Bufords



Porch Ponderings Thursdays at 7:00 pm.

Porch Ponderings is off to a wonderful start and the slots continue to get filled. It is a great summer schedule and I hope you can join us as it works out for you. Hope to see you there.

BIRTHDAYS

2..Kali Greenwaldt
 3..Debbie Hudalla
 7..Kathy Zetah
 8..Steve Holmquist
 12..Taylor Mueller
 13..Hilary Gross
 15..Trista Boyer
 15..Cortney Boyer
 15..Elizabeth Quillo
 15..Mawry Quillo
 18..Rozann Klim
 20..Barb Willie
 20..Lois Berg
 20..Barb Willie
 21..Brandon Hudalla
 22..Adam Berry
 22..Cooper Harlow
 23..Becky Boyer
 24..Brian Denny
 26..Mika Kunerth
 28..Virginia Heldt
 28..Kay Prather
 28..Gary Peterson
 29..Delani Beach
 29..Marty Mueller
 30..Wanda Tepley
 30..Janice Noland
 31..Keaton Denny
 31..Sue Stine
 31..Drew Christensen



Norma Pearson was discharged from the hospital...fluid retention and some heart issues. Thankful.
 Joyce LaVoie, back problems and other health challenges
 Pat, ongoing chemo and cancer struggles
 Jerry & Wanda Tepley
 Don & Carol Hanson
 Dick...valve replacement
 Baby Lizzie, struggling to get enough nutrition
 Homeless man, Timothy
 Baby Bria, struggling with complications from a birth defect, Children's Hospital
 Bryson, good test results from Children's
 Family of Vic Kurpiers

Glenda Kotval

Brooklynne Thorson, recovering from brain surgery, awaiting radiation at Mayo

Heidi Masters

Sally Dempsey, stage 5 kidney failure, on hospice

Thanks to Clotho and Eagle Bend UMC Peeps for bringing the faces of our churches to the area parades in Long Prairie and Eagle Bend.

Sharon Werner

Kathy, Betty Kunerth's niece

Betty Kunerth, healing

Family of Dorene Krueger

The Family of Melissa and Mark Hortman

John and Yvette Hoffman..healing

Sue Boehland, Mark Johnson, and all willing to assist in upcoming worship

Wrightstown UMC, Peace United Church, Clarissa, Clotho, Eagle Bend UMC's as we join together in worship, fellowship, and service

Carol Hammond, sinus issues

Jules Greenwood, hip pain

Luana Sibert's daughter-in-law, Jenny and ongoing headaches.

Carolyn VanDenheuvel's grandson, Joseph, ordination for his priesthood. Heading for Rome for 10 days before assuming his clerical duties. Prayers of thanksgiving and prayers for a safe journey.

Kathleen Schwantzdahl..prayers for medical concerns and anxiety that impacts health

Leo, Mike's grandson, moving to the Wrightstown area. Prayers for a smooth transition.

Farmers and the weather and the work.

Dads who nurture and love and support and care....we give thanks!

Sherri Nyman, knee surgery Thursday

a teen who is seeking mental health supports

For our country and the world, the instability and the fear

For peace and conversation and understanding and empathy

For storm related devastation and deaths in North Dakota, Minnesota, and the surrounding areas

Family of Mavis Dickinson

Family of Rick Sadlemyer

Family of Mark Anderson



COMMUNITIES OF FAITH/PEACE UNITED OPPORTUNITIES-NEWS

Clarissa Chatter. . .

Summer Fest will be celebrated mid July in Clarissa. We will host a pie and ice cream social on Friday evening, July 18th, 4-7 p.m. Please join us and carry on the old tradition of fellowship and food. The people of the church are asked to bring 2 nine inch fruit pies and to sign up to work, preparing, during, and clean up. We look forward to serving you on the 18th.

After the parade on Saturday we will serve free root beer floats in the backyard of the church. Please join us for the fun and festivities.

Clotho Corner. . .

Music Jam, Monday, 1 p.m. Join us for laughter, music, and pure delight!

Coffee in Clotho....ring in the red, white, and blue with coffee on the morning of the 4th, 6:30-9 a.m. The pot will be on, so let's start the day out together! Family Summer Splash.....join us for a mini vacation Bible School, but better because we are asking that the whole family join us for some fun and fellowship. This is a two night series, first night in Clotho in July 13th.....second night on August 19th in Eagle Bend. Here is the brief outline of what to expect! Arrive for supper....5:30-6:15 p.m. Stations and interactions for ALL...6:30-7:30 p.m. 7:30-8 p.m.....A good night celebration for everyone, participating.

We are so excited to have you. Everyone is welcome regardless of your church affiliation. This is a community event....splash on in!!!!

Ice Cream! Ice Cream! The Homemade Ice Cream social at Clotho will be here early August. That means the barbecue making time is getting close. Join us in the basement of Clotho UMC the night of the 22nd to make sauce and chop. Barbecues will be made the morning of the 23rd, beginning at 7 a.m. Tis the seasoneach family is asked to give their five dollars to Barb Logas for the donation toward products that need to be purchased. Each family is asked to bring 3 nine inch pies to the social on August 3rd.....won't be long until we gather on August 2nd to make the homemade ice cream at 9 a.m. sharp. Get it on the calendar!

Eagle Bend Box. . .

Thanks to everyone who helped make Eagle Bend Days a success....the float looked good, the lemonade, nachos, and popcorn was a hit, and the rodeo action was exciting. Appreciate all the assistance and the leadership in getting things going!

The Coffee Area in the church is so inviting! Looks great and the items served each Sunday, so good! Come and see the coffee area at Eagle Bend UMC!

The focus/visioning group has met three times and the 4th meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 15th, 6:30 p.m. As we wind up the SOUP, SALAD, and SANDWICH SUPPER, we will dive into the meeting. We are looking at finances, the possibility of moving a bathroom upstairs and exploring an entrance that would by-pass some of the steps. The exploration brings a variety of ideas and grant opportunities are being explored. Hope you can join us on the 15th to further our conversation. So, put Supper on the calendar and stay for the meeting!!!!

Soup, Salad, and Sandwich Supper, Tuesday, July 15th, 4:30-6:30 p.m. Everyone welcome!

Family Summer Splash.....join us for a mini vacation Bible School, but better because we are asking the whole family join us. First session will be at Clotho, see the information above and join us there. The second session will be held on August 19th, Nelson Park. The format will be similar to the night in Clotho with some tweaks to accommodate our setting. We are excited to host the second session with a different emphasis, fitting our setting! More details to come....just get the two dates on your calendar. We are so looking forward to seeing all of you for the great fun!!!!

Note the Art in the Park meeting at Faith Lutheran, July 15th, 6 p.m.

Peace United Update...

Thanks for those who attended worship at Lake Charlotte in June. It was a fun Sunday to worship with our community as we kicked off Prairie Days.

Wrightstown Wrap-up.....

Lydia Circle will meet the second Thursday of the month, July 10th, 11 a.m. Hope to see you there!

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

Our time to gather up
FOOD!!!

The Blessing Box in Long Prairie started a year ago in July. Our churches were the first to fill it. It is now our turn again. Please bring non perishable food items to the churches throughout the month of July to be distributed at the Blessing Box. The box is open 24 hours a day and available to people with food and hygiene shortages. It has been a blessing to those who have emergency needs, so please bring your items to church and help ease the hunger in our county.



We are being asked to pack 20 meals, ready to go for Families entering the Clinic in Long Prairie who identify a shortage of food that day. We will pack the bags at Clotho on July 22nd, 4 p.m. Please plan to attend. The following items can be brought to our churches as well. Please mark the bag with the word MEAL, so we can keep these separate from the BLESSING BOX contributions. This is a lot for our churches, but grocery shopping is what we do often, so please pick up items for both projects. Your care for those in need of food is appreciated. The MEAL PRODUCTS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

Latino - Friendly

1. 4pk cup of fruit
2. two cans vegetables
3. two cans tuna
4. two cans chicken
5. one bag of pinto beans or lentils
6. one bag white rice
7. one jar peanut butter
8. one bag pasta
9. one can pasta sauce
10. one bag of oatmeal
11. one juice
12. toilet paper
13. a bag of non-refrigerated tortillas
14. one queso fresco cheese.
15. 1 box pancake mix
16. 1 bottle pancake syrup

General Menu

1. 4pk cup of fruit
2. two cans vegetables
3. two cans tuna
4. two cans chicken
5. two boxes mac and cheese
6. one bag white rice
7. one jar peanut butter
8. one bag pasta
9. one can pasta sauce
10. one box of cereal
11. one juice
12. toilet paper
13. one box potato flakes
14. two cans soup
15. 1 box pancake mix
16. 1 bottle syrup



TWO GREAT NIGHTS - 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



July 13th - Clotho UMC
August 19th - Eagle Bend UMC



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
June 29 UMC/Peace United Church Services Clotho – 8 am Eagle Bend – 9:15 am Peace United – 10 am Clarissa - 10:30 am Last Day of Todd County Fair	June 30	1	2 Conversations on Facebook at 7:00 am 2:30 pm Worship at CTCCC 5:15 pm Ministerial team mtg at Bufords.	3 Porch Ponderings 7:00 PM	4 6:30 am to 9 am Coffee at Clotho 	5
6 UMC/Peace United Church Services Clotho – 8 am Eagle Bend – 9:15 am Peace United – 10 am Clarissa - 10:30 am	7 1 PM Music Jam at Clotho UMC	8	9 Conversations on Facebook at 7:00 am 9:45 am Worship at Long Prairie Nursing Home 2:30 pm Worship at CTCCC	10 10 am – Lydia Circle Wrightstown 7:00 PM Porch Ponderings	11	12
13 UMC/Peace United Church Services Clotho – 8 am Eagle Bend – 9:15 am Peace United – 10 am Clarissa - 10:30 am VBS at Clotho (night 1) 5:30-6:15 p.m Arrive for supper.....ends about 8.. for everyone	14	15 Soup and Sandwich Supper in Clarissa 4:30 to 6:30 PM 6:30 PM focus/visioning group	16 Conversations on Facebook at 7:00 am	17 7:00 PM Porch Ponderings	18 Clarissa UMC 4-7 pm – Pie & Ice Cream Social	19 Clarissa Parade After Parade Rootbeer floats in Clarissa UMC
20 UMC/Peace United Church Services Clotho – 8 am Eagle Bend – 9:15 am Peace United – 10 am Clarissa - 10:30 am Clarissa admin after worship	21 Community Circle Potluck, 5-7 p.m	22 Pack meals for families, Clotho UMC, 4 p.m. Make Sauce & Chop at Clotho...6 pm	23 Conversations on Facebook at 7:00 am 7 am Make BBQ @ Clotho 7 pm Clotho Admin	24 7:00 PM Porch Ponderings	25	26
27 UMC/Peace United Church Services Clotho – 8 am Eagle Bend – 9:15 am Peace United – 10 am Clarissa - 10:30 am	28	29	30 Conversations on Facebook at 7:00 am	31	August 2 nd 9 am Sharp Make Ice Cream 3 rd Clotho Ice Cream Social 14 th Women of Peace starts back up 19 th 2 nd night of VBS at Nelson Park in Eagle Bend	

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