

FAITHNOTES

June 2025

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

Thoughts from Kali . . .

Thoughts.....

The four church meeting was a night of good discussion and action. We reviewed some of the points made by Adam Hamilton at my training in Leawood, Kansas. Let me share a bit of information with you from that training.

As we talked about Leading the Church at this time in our conference, Adam lifted up the following points:

—Evangelism and Justice are two sides of the same coin, Love Jesus/Love People. How are we doing in those departments?

—Strive to be known as the church who serves.

Think about “the world as it is” and the “world as it should be”.....how do we close the gap?

—Do for others and remember Jesus in the mix. Be active people who serve civic leaders, non profits, congregations. Let Jesus be our guide. Are we showing up?

—There are always GAPS to fill....

*Spiritual

*Generational

*Justice & Kindness

*Opportunity

—When churches are known for making a difference, people are interested in that church, Are we churches who are making a difference?

—A church's goal is not happiness, it is to serve....the congregation that has a passion for work and serving is the goal. Are we serving with good attitudes and intentions?

—The closer you get to Christ, the more you perceive yourself to be like Him and want to be like Him, the process of sanctification. How are we nurturing our relationships with Jesus?

These are questions of hope, holding opportunity to expand and grow and celebrate where we may be making a difference. The bullet points are not far out difficult things to perceive or accomplish, but ordinary, common things to look at as a spark of hope and opportunity in life as we explore and live it. Key may be the last one. Where is our relationship with

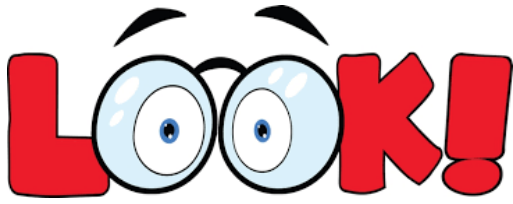
Jesus and what are we doing to grow that relationship? How are we nurturing our time with Him by praying , spending some time with

Him, getting to know Him in a more intimate way, in a more consistent way.....the way of conversation and curiosity. If we nurture that relationship, the chances are the other bullet points will start to make sense and will begin to take care of themselves. The more intimately we know Jesus, the more we want to know Him, serve Him, and care about others in our lives, our Neighbors.

Are there places and spaces you would like to explore to get to know Jesus more intimately? How can our church be of assistance in helping you strengthen and explore your primary relationship with the One who knows you better than anyone else knows you?

The secret sauce in the life of our churches is building on loving God and loving our Neighbors, serving, putting His life into action in our lives. I am going to encourage you, as I did in church one Sunday, to take a look at one show in Season 2 of the Chosen. Pick any of them and spend 45 minutes, just listening and watching. Let me know what you see as you watch that showing.

As a start to your personal journey, I encourage you to watch from a place of curiosity, being open to the possibilities. Our summer is jam packed with places to show up, have a conversation, help with ministries to the food shelf, the blessing box at CentraCare, the furniture availability we have, a hamburger distribution we may hold, readying for any of the festivities, partnering with others to bring to fruit the kin-dom work. There are all kinds of opportunities you may have to expand your personal relationship with the source of love and service. If you are interested in something particular, let's talk. Summer goes fast, but it also offers us a place to spend a bit more time, pondering, wondering, contemplating the what ifs and could this be something that would bear fruit? I can tell you, we are probably going to be asked to stretch ourselves a bit in the summer months, offering ourselves as prayer partners, worship partners, partners in the Kin-dom? More information to come on that next week; however, have you ever thought that you were here....right now, made for such a time as this? And if that is true, what is it you are here for?



Look at all sections for more information.

SPRC & Communities of Faith/Peace United Parish Council



What a great 4 church Meeting we had in May! So productive and so fun!!!! In 90 minutes so many ideas were raised, so

many people took on some action step that will lead to movement this summer and to more good conversation in August. People were apprised of all that is going on in each church, so we can be attentive to supporting and attending a variety of activities. Ideas generated in the training in Kansas City were shared. See Thoughts for more information regarding the info.

Eagle Bend highlighted:

The local festival, participating in the parade,
selling nachos and lemonade
Soup and Sandwich suppers
VBS in coordination with Clotho, two evenings this summer.

Clarissa highlighted:

July activities in coordination with the community-
Pie and Ice Cream Social
Parade
Root Beer Floats
Possible Worship involvement

Clotho highlighted:

Parade participation in LP
Clotho Color Run with LP-GE School
Ice Cream Social
VBS in coordination with Eagle Bend, two evenings this summer

Peace United highlighted:

Spring Celebration
Fall Hotdish Dinner
Recently added: Worship at Lake Charlotte June 1st

For everyone: We will be involved in the fair booth again, National Night Out. Bible School and an all church choir were on the wish list. Congregational Care was also lifted up.

We will gather again in August, rotating locations. Next meeting at Eagle Bend UMC, August 18th, 7p.m. Please mark it on your calendar so we can keep a flow going with the enthusiasm shared.

The SPRC Committee will be meeting to participate in the yearly evaluation with Kali. SPRC members this year include: Stacy Lux, Colleen Kleinschmidt, Gary Dickinson, Lori Zellmann, Sue Boehland, Doris Winter, Paul VanGorp, Eric Denny.

Confirmation...

Confirmation will meet together in person on Tuesday, June 17th, 9 to noon, Clarissa UMC.



Coins for Lent... thanks for the excellent participation for Coins for Lent. The following will benefit from your generosity:

Clarissa....St. Jude's
Clotho...Flags for Ft. Snelling
Eagle Bend....Local Ministerial Fund
Peace United...Local Ministerial Fund

Ministerial Team...



June 1st ... Erin and Kali
June 8th ... Pam and Kali
June 15th Marlys and Kali
June 22nd Erin and Kali
June 29th Pam and Kali



Ministerial Fund: There has been a fair amount of action/needs this past month for the Ministerial Fund....Thanks to two contributor friends this month, adding 90 dollars to

our funds. The donations are so appreciated. We are seeing people struggle with home living details and bills, and the regular routine bills due to health concerns. Your continued care and attention to the needs of others is so needed and helpful. Food issues continue to allow the use of hamburger to fill the voids and we may have a time of general give away of burger as we set up some used goods we have for free distribution in the next month, getting the household items out to people who are needing to accommodate their living situations.



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...

nursing home worship services look a bit different this month, covering Clarissa Care Center

on the 4th and 18th, 2:30 p.m. and covering Long Prairie Nursing Home on the 18th as well. Music Jam the 2nd and coffee in Clotho on the 6th. Wedding practice before we kick off Porch Ponderings on Thursday evening, June 5th. Wedding of Danielle Lehmkuhl and Ty Courneya. Porch Ponderings gets underway the 5th...SO EXCITED! Meetings at Hilltop Regional Kitchen Tuesday morning, June 10th, Focus Group at Eagle Bend UMC, 6 p.m. the 10th. Annual Conference at Kelly Inn, St. Cloud, June 11, 12, 13. Soup and Sandwich Supper on the 17th at Eagle Bend UMC, 4:30-6:30 p.m. Clergy Wellness Zoom, June 29th, noon. Clotho Admin meeting on June 25th and Todd County Fair, June 26th through 29th!

CONVERSATIONS. . .

continues on Wednesdays, 7 a.m., Facebook, Kali Christensen page. We will continue on in Sticky Notes and various additional topics. Always look forward to time with you.



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, June 4th and 18th, 2:30 p.m. Worship at Long Prairie Nursing Home, Wednesday, June 18th, 9:45 a.m.

BIRTHDAYS

1. Lydia VanValkenburg
- 2.. Maxine Radimecky
- 2.. Jim Johnson
2. .Kali Christensen
- 10..Paul VanGorp
- 14..Chaska Quillo
- 15..Carol Hammond
- 16..Dana Zierden
- 17..Kelsey Schmitt
- 18..Phyllis Krause
- 19..Jen Harlow
- 22 .Heather Kunerth Host
26. Donna Boyer
26. Clara Taft
- 29..Zachary Harlow





Barb Logas... Prayers for healing!
Elaine, Linda's sister, had a successful heart surgery and is home recovering
Roger Berkness, continued healing
Richie Gross, healing prayers after surgery for his ruptured patella
Sue Harlow, healing
Dee Lackmann, healing.
Thea and her cancer journey/chemo. Prayers for her Mom and Grandparents as they support this precious 2 year old.
Family of Spencer Hayes
Family of Chris Mueller
Arvilla Beach and her transition to assisted living in Parkers Prairie
Jody Bebault, healing after carotid artery surgery
Roger Berkness, healing
Terry Rickbeil, metastatic prostate cancer, radiation
Janice Noland
Jerry and Wanda Tepley
Family of Lou Schlitz
Family of Dennis Bednarz
Jim Salentine, tumor on his kidney, surgery and home recovering
Sharon Werner's cousinsurgery
Evey Matthew's brothers, Robin and Bruce, strength and healing
Baby Josie Marcyes, open heart surgery
Dawn, shoulder surgery due to a fall
Travel mercies for Kali on the KS trip
RuthAnn Smith, transferring to nursing home
Jodi and Mark Miksche, celebrating 50 years of marriage! Congrats!
Birthday JOY, Beau Hudalla
Skaug Twins, Steven and Zander
Mike Soule, healing
For the Cardinals and the naming of the Pope
Steven and Zander, growing and doing well in NICU
Steve Tritsch, healing and recovery
Family of Glen Thompson
Family of Earl Thom
Family of Alan Perish
Betty Kunerth who had kidney stones/healing
Cook's great grandson Bryson, referred to Children's Hospital

Sharon Johnson was discharged from Mayo, staying at Leah and Matt's
Marlys' sister, Betty who was septic has been free from infection for a couple days now.
Congratulations and God's blessing to Shane and Ahna Nelson
Heidipet-scan.
Family of Jim Motzko
Jim Ostendorf, heart issues and more MRI's. Heart is functioning at 20 %
Bev Guse Oelrich, recovering in St Cloud Hospital

COMMUNITIES OF FAITH/PEACE UNITED OPPORTUNITIES-NEWS

Clarissa Chatter. . .

Administrative Meeting after church on Sunday, June 15th. Please stay and assist in planning for Summer Festival Activities.

Clotho Corner. . .

Music Jam: Monday, June 2nd, 1 p.m. Join in the FUN!

Coffee in Clotho: Friday, June 6th, 6:30-9 a.m. Stop in for a cup and a quick chat or stay for a while and hang out.

Administrative Meeting, Wednesday, June 25th, 7p.m.

Eagle Bend Box. . .

June 14: Parade and Serving Nachos and Flavored Lemonade at Eagle Bend Summer Festival. See how you can assist.....it will be a fun day together!!!!

Visioning Meeting, Tuesday, June 10th 6 p.m., at church.

Soup and Sandwich Supper: Tuesday, June 17th 4:30-6:30 p.m. Scrumptious!!!!

Peace United Update...

Worship at Lake Charlotte, June 1st 9:45 a.m.
Admin Meeting after church, June 8th . Stay and participate....you are needed!



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

TODD COUNTY FAIR booth will be set up where we were last year, or at least that is what we have been told so far. It was so much fun last year, so I hope you say yes to sitting at the booth for at least a bit of time this year. It is a great opportunity to see so many people. We will have give aways, guessing games, and will enjoy seeing the folks of Todd County and sharing any information that will be helpful to them. Offering a smile and a kind word is a great opportunity on any day! A sheet will be passed around at the churches, so please take a time to sign up and greet folks. Partner with a family member or friend....it really is fun!



Porch Ponderings kicks off Thursday, June 5th.

Bring your lawn chairs and join us at 7 p.m. as we welcome the Spruce Creek Band to the Porch. The Yanke Family will delight your hearts with their music and testimony. Hope to see you there. We look forward to a season of inspiration, getting to know our Neighbors! If you want to share your story on the porch or have someone in mind who should, please be in touch.



Minnesota Annual Conference will be held Wednesday through Friday, June 11, 12, 13. The schedule is jam packed! You are welcome to attend

as a visitor each day and welcome to watch much of the conference on your computer, phone, or ipad. The more you know about what is happening, the more involved you are in being part of the church and the movement that invites us into community with one another. The LOVE offering will be taken at the conference, so please be in touch about getting the checks to Kali.

Wednesday, June 11

7:30 a.m. On-site Check-in/Registration Open
9 a.m.-noon Clergy Session
10 a.m.-noon Laity Session
Noon-1:30 p.m. Lunch (with gatherings for BIPOC participants and first-timers)
12:45-1:15 p.m. CONAM water blessing on terrace overlooking Mississippi River
1:30-3:30 p.m. Worship and Opening Session with Episcopal Address
3:30-4 p.m. Break
4-5:30 p.m. Workshops
6 p.m. Honoree Banquet
7:15 p.m. Celebration of Life as Clergy Rehearsal

Thursday, June 12

7:30 a.m. On-site Check-in/Registration Open
9-9:30 a.m. Centering Time
9:30-10 a.m. Wespath Presentation
10-10:30 a.m. Break
10:30 a.m.-noon Teaching Session with Rev. Dr. Tim Eberhart
Noon-1:30 p.m. District Lunches
1:30-2:15 p.m. Honoring the Saints Worship
2:15-2:45 p.m. Break
2:45-5 p.m. Plenary Session with Historic Questions and Vote on Constitutional Amendments
5-7 p.m. Dinner on your own
7 p.m. Celebration of Life in Ministry (Reception to Follow)

Friday, June 13

7:30 a.m. On-site Check-in/Registration Open
TBD #HUGHamline Breakfast for Alumni & Friends
TBD United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities Alumni Breakfast
9-10 a.m. Worship with Conference Preacher, Rev. Matt Sipe
10-10:30 a.m. Break
10:30 a.m.-noon Teaching Session with Rev. Dr. Tim Eberhart
Noon-1:30 p.m. Lunch (with gatherings for deacons, licensed local pastors, and those in extension ministry)
1:30-4:30 p.m. Plenary Session with Legislation
4:30-5 p.m. Setting of Appointments and Blessing



2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 UMC/Peace United Church Services Clotho – 8 am PUC at Lake Charlotte 9:45am Eagle Bend – 9:15 am Clarissa - 10:30 am	2 1 PM Music Jam at Clotho UMC	3	4 Conversations on Facebook at 7:00 am 2:30 pm Worship at CTCCC	5 First Night of Porch Ponderings 7:00 PM	6 6:30 am to 9 am Coffee at Clotho	7
8 UMC/Peace United Church Services Clotho – 8 am Eagle Bend – 9:15 am Peace United – 10 am Clarissa - 10:30 am PUC council after worship	9	10	11 Conversations on Facebook at 7:00 am	12 7:00 PM Porch Ponderings	13	14
Annual Conference						
15 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	16	17 9 am to noon Confirmation at Clarissa Soup and Sandwich Supper in Clarissa 4:30 to 6:30 PM	18 Conversations on Facebook at 7:00 am 9:45 am Worship at Long Prairie Nursing Home 2:30 pm Worship at CTCCC	19 7:00 PM Porch Ponderings	20	21
22 UMC/Peace United Church Services Clotho – 8 am Eagle Bend – 9:15 am Peace United – 10 am Clarissa - 10:30 am	23	24 Conversations on Facebook at 7:00 am	25 Conversations on Facebook at 7:00 am 7 pm Clotho Admin	26 7:00 PM Porch Ponderings Todd County Fair	27 Todd County Fair	28 Todd County Fair
29 UMC/Peace United Church Services Clotho – 8 am Eagle Bend – 9:15 am Peace United – 10 am Clarissa - 10:30 am	30					

Communities of Faith/Peace United Parish
P.O.Box 158
Clarissa MN 56440

TO:

June 2025
Pastor Kali Christensen
Cell: 320-808-6301
Email: kali.christensen55@gmail.com
Facebook: Communities of Faith – Clarissa,
Clotho, & Eagle Bend