



Faith-ful News

United Faith
Presbyterian
Church

August 2017

Conversations with Pastor Kathleen...

Thank you to everyone who was able to attend the congregational meeting last Sunday, especially all the PNC and Session members who shared their thoughts. I appreciate all the comments that were made, and I think we have an interesting and exciting journey in front of us. If you were not able to attend, the statement presented at the meeting can be found on page 2. Please take time to read it.

In short, the congregation has agreed to suspend the current pastoral search process, to allow for a time of additional discernment. We want to explore the possibility of increasing the pastor's position to fulltime to focus on outreach and a possible second worship service geared to those unaffiliated with a traditional church. The additional hours would be funded from the church's endowment, for a 4-5 year period under a designated pastor contract.

The Session and PNC have spent many hours and months in prayer, conversation, and study to come to this recommendation. Now we need the whole congregation involved. Our next step is to hold a series of in-home meetings. We want to keep these small (myself, 2 representatives from Session and/or the PNC, and 6 or so church members/friends) so there is plenty of opportunity for conversation. Session and PNC want to share their process with you, their hopes and vision for our future, and explore some changes we might anticipate. They want - and need - to hear and discuss your questions, dreams, concerns and ideas as well.

We've scheduled several of these in-home meetings in August and September. We want everyone to be able to attend one. Please take a look at your calendar and sign up for one. You can call the church office or sign up on Sunday. If we don't hear from you, we'll try to call to find a time that works for you. We'll add additional meetings in late September if needed.

Wed., Aug. 16, 7:00 pm

Host: Kelleys

Tues., Aug. 22, 7:00 pm

Host: Judy Lehman-Wright

Tues., Aug. 29 11:00 am (daytime)

Host: Wolfs

Tues., Sept. 5, 7:00 pm

Host: Rhonda Leeper-Smith

Wed., Sept. 13 11:00 am (daytime)

Host: Ruth Baker

It is absolutely vital that we all have a part in this conversation. I hope to see each of you at one of these meetings and look forward to our talks. In the meantime - keep praying!

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Sunday Schedule

9:15 a.m.
Church School

10:30 a.m.
Worship

Deadline for submission of items for the September newsletter is Thursday, August 24



United Faith Presbyterian Church

Our new church logo, created as part of our outreach, representing the various communities that have been woven together in Christ to create United Faith. It speaks to our valuing of tradition (represented by the parchment background) and a vision for the future that moves beyond static boundaries.

This is the statement presented by the Pastor Nominating Committee and the Session at the Called Congregational Meeting on Sunday, August 6. The motion as stated in the final paragraph was discussed and approved unanimously by the congregation at the meeting.

United Faith members and friends:

As we went through our vision discernment process and Mission Study in 2016, it became clear that United Faith has an important ministry in our community. We are called to be a light to our neighborhood, and to reach out in Christ's love to transform and heal lives.

We are doing that through our food bank and thrift store, and continuing to explore new ways of being in ministry. The Pastoral Nominating Committee and Session have been seeking to faithfully fulfill this mission that God has set before us. However, during this search process, it has become increasingly clear that we cannot do what we are called to do as we are currently set up. We are staffed for maintenance, and not for growth; for hanging on to the status quo and not for outreach. Pastor Kathleen is supposed to work 20 hours a week (though she often works more), and that is barely enough to meet our current needs. But, that is what our current budget can support.

As we have listened, prayed and discussed, we have come to the strong and exciting conclusion that we need to take a bold step if we are to be what God desires us to be. We believe God's spirit is here and alive, and inviting us on a new, daring journey!

First, we need to staff for growth. We are proposing that we expand the pastoral position to full time, and that we fund the difference between what we are currently paying the pastor and a full time salary from our endowment funds. We are asking Session to establish a 4 year "designated pastor" contract. Our endowment is sufficient to do this.

We are clear that these additional hours are for growth, and so we intend that at least 50% of the pastoral time will be dedicated to redevelopment and outreach. We know that we will need multiple strategies for this outreach. In part, we envision the development of a 2nd worship specifically designed for those not reached by traditional worship. This service would be different than what we are currently doing – and would be in addition our current traditional service. It would be specifically geared to reach those unaffiliated with church, perhaps unfamiliar with or alienated by traditional worship.

We know there are risks. Our endowment can support this position for five years with a bit left, but then it will be gone. We may not succeed, but we believe we must try.

Continued on next page

We know there will be changes. We will have to make changes to our facility, our way of 'being church', and welcome people who may be different than who we are used to having here. While we plan to maintain the traditional service as it is, there will still be an impact.

We know this will stretch us. This is not something we can ask the pastor to do alone. To succeed we will all have to be a part of what God is doing, supporting this ministry with our time, talents, and treasure – and most importantly with our prayers.

If this is the direction that we choose, Pastor Kathleen is eligible to be considered for the Designated Pastor position. She is willing to walk with us through this journey, to lead and guide us all in answering God's call if we want her to. But, we all will be called on to be a part of this new endeavor.

We are not asking you to vote on these proposals right now. ***Today, we are asking that the congregation "suspend" the work of PNC, so that as a church we may enter into an additional time of discernment.*** We intend to hold a number of in-home small group meetings so everyone has an opportunity to meet with members of the PNC and Session, and Pastor Kathleen, to ask questions, voice your concerns and hopes, and hear why we believe that this is indeed the call of God to us. We want everyone to have a chance to join in the conversation that has brought the Session and PNC to this point. This fall, after we've had time for prayer and conversation together, we will regather at another congregational meeting to choose our way forward.

Session: Charlie Hill, Peg Kelley, Judy Lehman-Wright, Rhonda Leeper-Smith, Cindy Miller, Brian White.

PNC: Dave Kelley, Rhonda Leeper-Smith, Joe Shultz, Maggie Slack, Michael Syndram, Erin White, Dan Wolf.

Outreach



We are now on Facebook!

As one of several strategies for outreach, we have established a Facebook page. We are looking forward to growing the page as a way to connect and engage with members and friends. If you are on Facebook, please 'like' the page. You find updates about church events, late-breaking news, and a place to continue the conversations begun in Sunday's sermons. You can search for @UnitedFaithFW to find us.

If you are not on Facebook, but would like to learn more about it as a way of connecting with old friends, children (and grandchildren), Pastor Kathleen has a lot of experience. In addition to her own page she maintains the page for the Old Fort. She is willing to sit down with you at any time to help you understand privacy settings, Facebook use and etiquette, and how to find friends and pages of interest (like our church!). Help us develop this new way to connect with each other and new friends.

Thrift Store

Something new is coming this fall for the Thrift Store. Because we have so many nice Christmas items donated, a Christmas Room is being planned for the room at the end of the hall next to the main Thrift Store.

We hope to have a section for toys. Our customers are always looking for nice items they can place under the tree or in a stocking. Watch for these changes probably in September or early October.

Food Pantry

Don't forget the Food Pantry over the summer. Donations are down, but the need is still pressing - especially with children home from school and missing regular meals provided there. The biggest current needs are:



- ◇ Crackers
- ◇ Mac n cheese
- ◇ Pasta
- ◇ Beans (prefer canned to dried) esp. pork and beans
- ◇ Tuna
- ◇ Veggies
- ◇ Canned fruit

Checks are also welcome so we can buy perishable items through Community Harvest. Thank You!

Nursery Renovations

During July, our summer mission project focused on renovating our nursery. Thanks to the generosity of the congregation, we raised about \$1100. Now the work begins. We're planning to move the nursery from the lower level (back by the Food Bank) up to what is currently the Conference Room (main floor, next to the Social Hall). We'll need to tear up the old carpeting in that room. Once we see what is under the carpet, we'll know what we need to do the floor. The room will also need to be repainted.

We've had volunteers step up to help rewire the speaker to the new nursery, so volunteers can listen to the worship service. And we have a volunteer to redo the door, so the top can be open for safety and visibility in compliance with United Faith's Child Protection Policy, while the bottom remains securely closed.

We'll be able to move some equipment from our current nursery, but we will need to purchase a number of new items, including a changing table. We will be looking for several rocking chairs - so if you know of someone wanting to get rid of one, please let us know!



If you want to make an additional donation to this project, there's still time. If you are able to help with the work of repainting and redecorating, please talk with Cindy Miller. As we plan for the future of United Faith, it is exciting to envision a safe and welcoming place for our youngest worshipers!



“Notes” from the Music Staff

We will be starting our fall choral season with our first rehearsal on August 30 at 5:30 pm. Our first Sunday to sing in Worship will be September 10. I invite ALL previous and potential choir members to join us in our efforts to worship and praise God.

You are invited even if you know/think/have been told you are not good enough to "sing in a choir". Some of our current members have either "never" sung in a choir or haven't done so since high school. You can learn. We will help you. You will not get a report card. We have our own "honor roll" and you are welcome to join us. Talk to me. I will be happy to work with you individually to get you started.

There are many benefits (no, not health insurance), including spiritual, mental, social, physical, and more. I am also planning to use more hand chime, recorder, and other instrumental contributions to our worship experience when possible. We need you. Willingness to spend time, effort, and attention is the key to our ministry, not just "basic musical talent", although some of you have more of the latter than you realize!

Building



Check out the new flower bed in our front yard, replacing the area where the pine tree was cut down a few years ago. It's transforming our yard into a welcoming garden! A huge thank you to those of you who are working on this project .

*Thank
You*

*If the only prayer you ever
say in your whole life is
"thank you," that would
suffice.*

Meister Eckhart

To Pastor O'Connell and the United Faith
Congregation,

Thank you for being so gracious and kind in
opening your Church to our Wellspring
Summer Parent Club Program. We appreciate it
so much!

Everyone has been
accommodating to
us and welcoming
to our group. We
have loved being
here and hope that
we have not been
too much trouble.

Blessings! Carol



Serving in August

Liturgist:

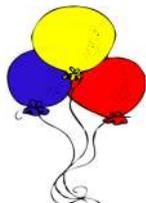
- Aug. 6 Carmina Arribasplata
- Aug. 13 Rhonda Leeper -Smith
- Aug. 20 Joe Shultz
- Aug. 27 Leon Friday

Lock Up: Judy Lehman-Wright

Greeters:

- Aug. 6 & 13: Maggie Slack
- Aug. 20 & 27: TBD

Caring Card Delivery: Laura Shultz



August Birthdays

*If we've missed your birthday,
please notify the office so we can
update our records!*

- Aug 10 Fran Curtis
- Aug 11 Pam Fischer
- Aug 12 Mike Lane
- Aug 17 Melanie Dauplaise
- Aug 24 Ken Smith
- Aug 25 Joseph Shultz

Crafty Ladies and Gents

We are again planning a silent auction during the Bazaar. A date has not been set for this event, but it will probably take place during the latter part of October or early November. A few new items are in the works.

So far this year we have freshened the elevator entrance off the alley with new paint and carpeting. As part of our mission commitment to our church, we are assisting with a \$500 donation to the nursery refresh.

Brown Bag and Bible

Thursdays at noon



Our Thursday Bible Study continues to explore the book of Acts. We're getting

close to the end and will soon be choosing our next topic, so if there's something you're interested in studying, make a suggestion!

Our group has decided to continue meeting on Thursdays at noon, but will not meet on the day that Presbyday is held (usually the 3rd week of the month) so members are free to attend the programs offered there.

From The Treasurer

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ ,

There are many changes going on in our building these days. It is finally getting the TLC it deserves. We are a long ways from having everything done that really needs to be done. A few years ago we had a building fund drive and pledge at the same time as our regular pledge drive. I am pretty sure that pledge has expired and we have been able to do what we have because of it. At this time, our building fund only has about \$5000.00 and there are many more things to do. Please don't forget that the needs of the building continue to grow into bigger needs if they are taken care of in a timely fashion. We, the session, are asking that you continue your donations to our building fund so that we can continue to make the necessary repairs as they are needed and make some additional improvements needed at this time. Thank you and God Bless!

Judy Lehman Wright

August 2017

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 10-2 Fellowship Day 6:00 Scouts	2 9-11 FB/TS	3 12:00 BB&B	4	5 11-4 Church Picnic at Evan's
	7 9-11 FB/TS	8 6:00 Scouts	9 9-11 FB/TS 6:00 Girl Scouts	10 12:00 BB&B 7:00 NNA	11	12
6 10:30 Worship Cong Meeting						
	14 9-11 FB/TS	15 6:00 Scouts	16 9-11 FB/TS 7:00 In-home meeting	17 12:00 BB&B 6:00 Session	18	19 10-2 T.S. Open
13 9:15 Comm Mtgs 10:30 Worship						
	21 9-11 FB/TS	22 6:00 Scouts 7:00 In-home	23 9-11 FB/TS 6:00 Girl Scouts	24 12:00 BB&B	25	26
20 10:30 Worship						
	28 9-11 FB/TS	29 11:00 In-home meeting 6:00 Scouts	30 9-11 FB/TS 5:30 Choir	31 12:00 BB&B		
27 10:30 Worship						

Key

FB/TS: Food Bank/Thrift Store
 W/M: Worship & Mission Committee
 NNA: Nebraska Neighborhood Association
 BB&B: Brown Bag and Bible



United Faith Presbyterian Church

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Interim Pastor
The Rev. Kathleen W. O'Connell

Music Director
Phyllis Bush

Office Hours

Monday - Thursday:
9:00 a.m. - Noon

Thrift Store and Boutique

Monday and Wednesday:
9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
3rd Saturdays:
10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Please Remember in

- ◆ Cindy Miller, on the death of her sister Marilyn.
- ◆ Jennifer McAtee Jones, on the death of her father.
- ◆ Mary Welch, on the death of her son.
- ◆ Charlie and Nancy Hill's grandson Cameron recovering from surgery
- ◆ PNC: Dave Kelley, Rhonda Leeper-Smith, Joe Shultz, Maggie Slack, Mike Syndram, Erin White, Dan Wolf.
- ◆ College students: Caleb Curtis, Rachel Reed and Megan Zuber.
- Homebound: Lorene Hodell, Ray Dressel, Joanne Fagg, Andrea Davies, Melanie Dauplaise, Sue Fields, Dorothy Love, Cleo Hawkins.



Prayer requests can be given to the prayer chain by contacting either:

Barb Munson (426-0933)
or

Prayer Chain

Judy Lehman-Wright (jdwl41@aol.com)



Fun at the church picnic!