

Seeds of Faith

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Website

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Jordan's Jargon



On the Road with Jesus

Do you like going on road trips? For me, there is almost nothing better than getting out on the open road, belting out your favorite songs, and riding to a new destination with someone you love. Alyssa and I have been on so many memorable road trips together, and there have been

moments on them where I have laughed, cried, learned, and grown as a person.

Life is often like a road trip. You have a plan for how things will go, and sometimes events transpire in the way you planned. Often, your car blows a tire, it rains when it was supposed to be sunny, and you're too tired to follow the itinerary you so carefully planned. How do we respond to these detours? How do we choose to live our lives when we meet unexpected people? How do we meet God and connect with others in these moments?

This Lent on Sundays we are walking through various stories in the Gospels where Jesus teaches us a little more about who he is and why it matters for us and our own walk of faith. We begin on the wilderness road and end up in Jerusalem. Along the way we will meet a woman at a well, a friend of Jesus who has died, and people who need healing. Jesus transforms people's lives and we, in turn, will also be transformed.

On Wednesdays during worship we will also be reflecting on what it means to let go of ways of thinking and actions that may be holding us back from wholeness in life. We share these worship services with First United Methodist, alternating between their church and ours, which is a blessing. Join us on Wednesdays at 6:30pm for a brief worship service that centers us throughout the season. March 4th and 18th are at Faith and March 11th and 25th are at First.

God's peace be with you,
Pastor Jordan Louks

Leadership Highlights



Strategic Plan March Update

Last November, our Charge Conference approved a new strategic plan. This plan included five priorities we hope to accomplish over the next couple of years together. Our theme is **growing a community of connection and belonging**. Here are some of the

ways we have worked toward some of these priorities already this year.

Priority 1: We will determine and update areas of the church building by the end of 2026 in order to create inviting spaces for our congregation and neighborhood.

- Established a building task force to determine areas to update within the church
- Adopted a detailed proposal at Leadership Team in January
- Installed new baby changing station in women's bathroom in Fellowship Hall
- Purchased and installed new AED, located in hallway near main office
- Installed the Message Centers in lobby and Fellowship Hall
- Painted north wall in Fellowship Hall as well as the walls of the entryway and lobby
- Selected and ordered carpet for Fellowship Hall, hallway, lobby, and library, with installation likely beginning at the end of March.

Priority 2: We will connect with 500+ people in Fargo by May 2027, establishing new opportunities/events based on these conversations and partnerships, including First United Methodist Church in downtown Fargo.

- Hosted a Community Game Night on Wednesday, January 28th . 40+ people attended that event, including many folks not connected to the church yet. There are plans made to host at least two more Community Game Nights, one in April and May.
- Developed the beginning of a new partnership with McKinley Elementary School, including opportunities for church members to serve as Lunch Buddies with students
- Continued partnership with First United Methodist Church through Wednesday Lenten Worship services.

Priority 3: We will establish a robust, consistent marketing strategy internally and externally, increasing attendance by 10% at church events by May 2027.

- Established a Communications Team to help improve communications at the church
- Updated and launched a new website for the church

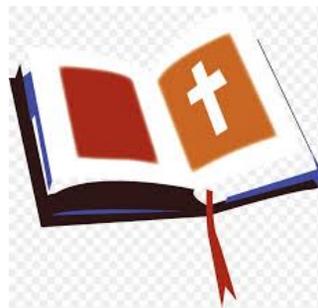
Priority 5: We will increase our membership by 25 people by April 2028.

- Welcomed 3 new members to the congregation in February



Attendance

	Feb. 1	Feb. 8	Feb. 15	Feb. 18	Feb. 22
Attendance	45	58	62	39	52



Upcoming Sermons

<u>Date</u>	<u>Sermon</u>	<u>Scripture</u>
March 1	Encountering Jesus	Romans 4:1-5, 13-17 John 3:1-17
March 4	Giving Up: Comparison to Others	James 4:2-3
March 8	On the Road with Jesus: Conversation at the Well	John 4:5-42
March 11	Giving Up: The Need to Have Things	Romans 11:33-36

	Figured Out	
March 15	On the Road with Jesus: Jesus the Healer	John 9:1-41
March 18	Giving Up: The Need to Make Everyone Happy	Galatians 1:10
March 22	On the Road with Jesus: Jesus' Friend Lazarus	John 11:1-45
March 25	Giving Up: The Non-Essential Noise	Psalms 46:10
March 29	Palm Sunday	Matthew 21:1-11



We've been busy working with the Building Task Force Committee hanging TV's and electrical work for the Message Centers; painting; and, coordinating for the new carpet. Once we have a carpet install date, we will plan for furniture moving.

In the meantime, we will continue in LED conversions on the light fixtures in the front office, probably finishing before end of February. The cost of the LED conversion in the office areas was furnished by Ken Christiansen.

Ken Laber



Our Faith Food Pantry served 155 families on February 13th. Each family received 40 pounds of food. Our next distribution is February 27th. With our regular order we will be receiving 1300 pounds of the Fill the Dome food that was collected by the high school students in our area. We appreciate this great endeavor on their part to fight hunger in our community! We will add it to our regular distribution.

Thank you all for your wonderful support of our food pantry!

Deb Laber

Upcoming Food Pantry Dates

- Friday, February 27th @ 1:30 pm
- Friday, March 13th @ 1:30 pm





During the season of Lent, we will be supporting **Solar Oven Partners**. This is a wonderful nonprofit birthed from our Dakotas Annual Conference to provide solar ovens for people in Sierra Leone, New Mexico, and the Dominican Republic.

The director of Solar Oven Partners, Randy Harwood, takes teams on mission trips, including 4 trips per year to the Dominican Republic. This year we will strive as a congregation to raise enough money to purchase **15 ovens**. Each oven costs \$200, so the goal is to raise **\$3,000.00**. If donating by check, please indicate that on the memo line. There is a place to donate to special offerings through Vanco online as well. Go to our website, fargofaithumc.org to give through there.

They are also exploring the possibility of shipping water filtration systems to these locations soon. If you have access to 5-gallon food buckets, please reach out to Randy at SOP@dakotasumc.org.

Finally, if you like to make pot holders, there are a couple of patterns that Solar Oven Partners has for those who are crafty and would like to provide an essential part of the cooking process. Thank you so much for your generosity in supporting this vital mission.

Youth Group March Schedule



We will meet for Youth Group on March 4th and 18th at 7:15pm following the Wednesday Lenten worship service. Youth are encouraged to attend the worship services at First UMC on March 11th and 25th.



Wednesday Lenten Services 6:30 pm

February 25th @ First United
March 4th @ Faith United
March 11th @ First United
March 18th @ Faith United
March 25th @ First United

During the season of Lent we will be having combined Wednesday evening Lenten services at 6:30pm with First United Methodist Church. Beginning on Ash Wednesday, February 18th , we will alternate between our locations. We will also take an offering at these services for the Emergency Food Pantry. The schedule for Wednesdays in Lent is below.

- **March 4 – Faith United Methodist Church**
- **March 11 – First United Methodist Church**
- **March 18 – Faith United Methodist Church**
- **March 25 – First United Methodist Church**



MARCH

1st - Harold Mattingly

5th - Jeriann Carvell

17th - Karen Balsbaugh

17th - Elle Rudd

18th - Lorna Williams

28th - Colette Brown-Carter

28th - Dean Whited

30th - Ken Christiansen

If your birthday isn't listed and it's your birthday this month, please let us know in the office.



Prayers for the World

- Immigrants & Refugees
- Gaza, Palestine & Israel
- Ukraine & Russia
- Sudan
- Congo
- Gun violence in America
- Those facing food insecurity
- Those facing homelessness

Prayers of Support

- The family of Howard Richardson
- Diana Moen
- Vernon Youngs

To make a prayer request please call the office at 701-232-6844 or fill out a "How can we **pray** for you?" card available in each pew and in the office.



As local, state, and federal food programs are seeing reduced funding, more people in our community may be facing food insecurity.

Please consider making a donation to the Faith Food Pantry.

Nonperishable foods can be placed in our food pantry box in the main entrance of the church or financial donations are always accepted in the office.

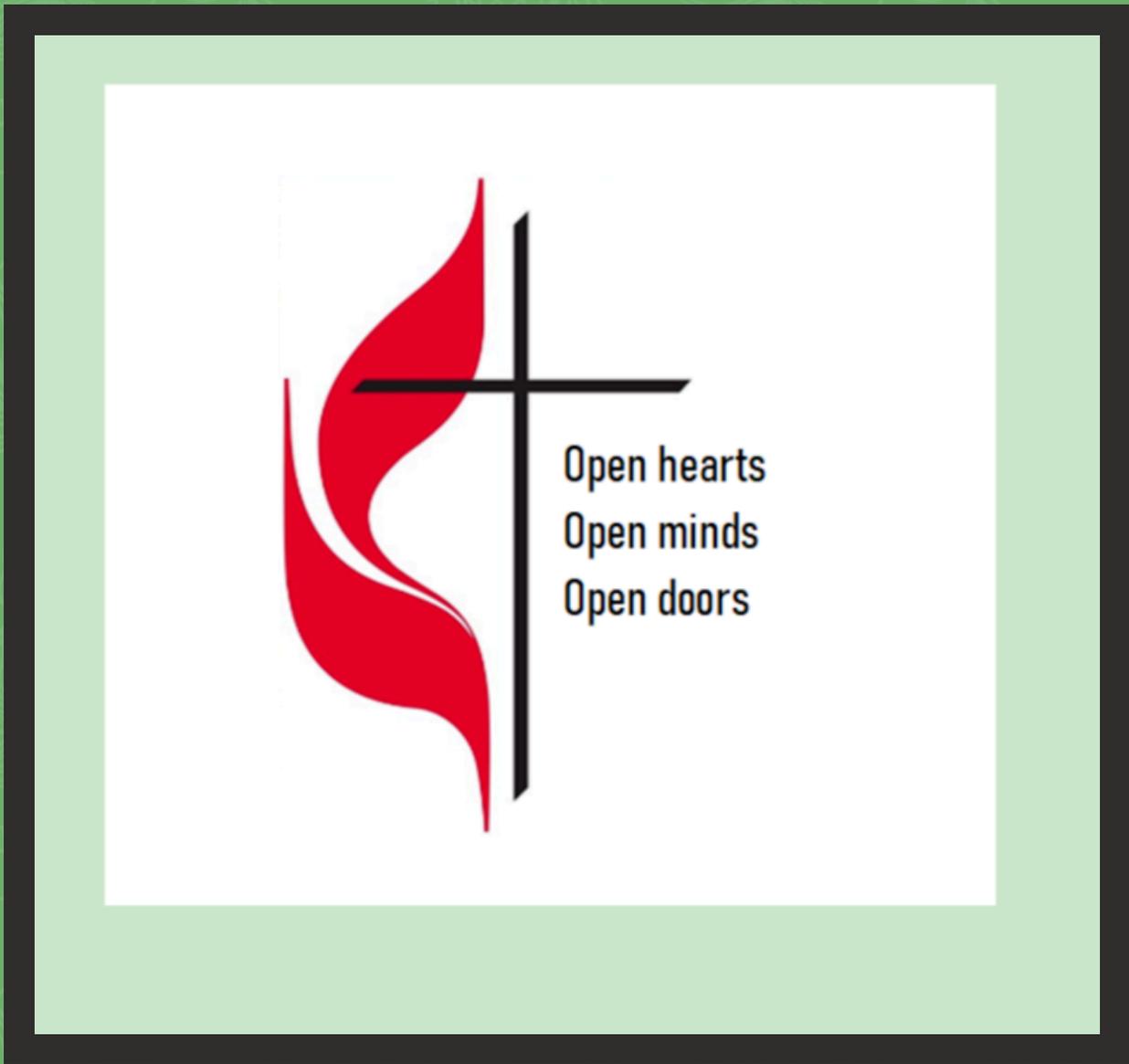


If you would like to give online, you can do so by using this QR code.



Faith United Methodist Church
Leadership Team

Leadership Chair	Deb Laber
Vice Chair	Kate Naujokas
SPRC Chair	Roger Grimm
Finance Chair	Teresa Dittmer
Treasurer	Susan Reed
Trustee Chair	Ken Laber
Mission & Outreach Chair	Dawn Hoherz
Education Chair	TBD
Lay Member to Annual Conference	Carol Fowler
Member At-Large	Janet Jones
Pastor (Ex-Officio)	Pastor Jordan Louks



Faith United Methodist Church | 909 19th Ave N. | Fargo, ND 58102 US

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