

Seeds of Faith 

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Website

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Jordan's Jargon 

Fresh Expressions



Back at the end of February, I was invited to the Fresh Expressions National Conference in Ocala, Florida. Fresh Expressions is a movement within the United Methodist Church that seeks to develop new ways of ministry that reach new people. It was a wonderful experience, and not just because I got a break from the North Dakota winter! While there I was able to take in a few of the Fresh Expressions and learn from Fresh Expression practitioners.

One of the groups I took part in was Burritos and Bibles, a dinner church that takes place at a restaurant called Tijuana Flats. There was a meal, prayer, and conversation. It was simple. Yet in the simple, we were able to see each other and feel God's presence in our conversation. We ended our time with Communion. Around the table, people loved and were loved.

Burritos and Bibles was church for those who participated. Folks from that group may never worship on a Sunday morning because of work obligations or stigma from religious trauma. But they were experiencing the love of Christ with conversation about God over chips and salsa.

It reminds me that the Church has constantly evolved over time in its expressions. From the beginning, the Church has strived to meet people where they were whether that was in homes, pubs, sanctuaries, restaurants, or by the lake. Therefore, the Church of the 21st Century needs to adapt and evolve to meet people where they are at because people are still longing for God, connection, and community.

As we think about our ministry and mission in Fargo, I want to encourage all of us to think about ways we could be reaching new people in unique ways in the places and spaces we frequent. It is an invitation to reimagine what church could look like.

Ultimately, Fresh Expressions is about building relationships with other people and loving other people. That could happen around the supper table, the board gaming table, walking along the riverside, tailgating, at the Student Union, in the living room of a nursing home, or wherever it is that people are gathered.

Where may God be calling you to start something new? How can we be listening to where God is calling us to love our neighbors? It does not have to be anything fancy. Often it looks like simply showing up with a board game or a meal with an intent to be present with each other. Let us listen to the Spirit. Let us get to know folks. Let us spread God's love.

God's peace be with you,
Pastor Jordan Louks

Leadership Highlights



Strategic Plan April 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 the walls in the Fellowship Hall**
- **Carpeting will be installed in the Library, Entryway, Hallway, and Fellowship Hall, in April**

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.
- **We will be having another Community Game Night on Wednesday, April 8th and Wednesday, May 6th.**
- **Missions and Outreach are planning more outreach events for this summer.**

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
- **Launched an advertising Campaign for Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday, advertising to new homeowners in the North Fargo Area. The campaign included 100 postcards and 20 flyers. (See below for details)**

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

- Welcomed 3 new members to the congregation in February

Foundation Report

We recently had the annual Foundation meeting on Sunday, March 15. Here are a few details about the Foundation that you might like to know!

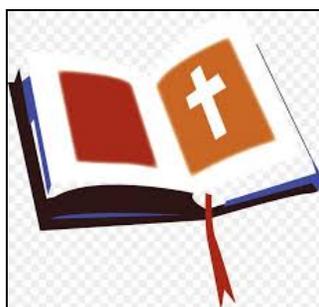
- The Foundation provides a depository for gifts or bequests of any form to enhance the church's physical or spiritual endeavors.
- The Foundation is a separate entity, associated with and answerable to the church, but not controlled by the Leadership Team of the church. It is run by 5 members of Faith UMC, along with ex officio members, including the Pastor and chairpersons of Leadership, Trustees and Finance Committee.
- The Foundation's assets can be used for any purpose to enhance the activities of the church. It can also be the custodian of endowed funds given for a specific purpose that is consistent with the purpose of the Foundation.
- Our current members are chairperson Roger Grimm, secretary-treasurer Ken Laber, Vern Hofman, Harold Mattingly, Oscar Flores and Martha Moore.

The Foundation is a wonderful way to steward our resources well so that we may carry out our mission to share the love of Jesus Christ to transform our community.



Attendance

	Mar. 1	Mar. 8	Mar. 15	Mar. 22	Mar. 29
Attendance	46	47	43	53	57



Upcoming Sermons

April 5, 2026 – Easter Sunday

Sermon Title: I Have Seen the Lord!

Sermon Focus: God offers new life and light through Christ.

Scripture: John 20:1-18

New Sermon Series - Now What?

April 12, 2026 – 2nd Sunday of Easter

Sermon Title: Got Questions?

Sermon Focus: Doubt and questions are not bad—they strengthen and revitalize our faith.

Scripture: John 20:19-31

April 19, 2026 – 3rd Sunday of Easter

Sermon Title: Burning Heart Moments

Sermon Focus: God can transform our hearts through everyday, ordinary moments.

Scripture: Luke 24:13-35

April 26, 2026 – 4th Sunday of Easter

Sermon Title: Building Community

Sermon Focus: Through the building of community, God's good news of Jesus is spread.

Scripture: Acts 2:42-47



We are working in the entranceway, converting the fluorescent light fixtures to LED. Once again, the cost for this project was supplied by Ken Christiansen. We will finish this before Easter, then gear up for moving the Library and Fellowship for carpet installation.

Ken Laber



In March we served 290 families an average of 55 pounds of food each or 13,750 pounds total. With the donations that we have been given we purchased eggs for everyone before Easter and will continue to supplement the orders that we receive from Great Plains Food Bank.

We also delivered a large box of supplies to North High for their Open Door Program that helps students in need.

Thank you all for your support and generous donations. Also thanks to our volunteers who work so hard on our distribution days! We couldn't do it without them!

Deb Laber

Upcoming Food Pantry Dates

- Friday, April 10th @ 1:30 pm
- Friday, April 24th @ 1:30 pm

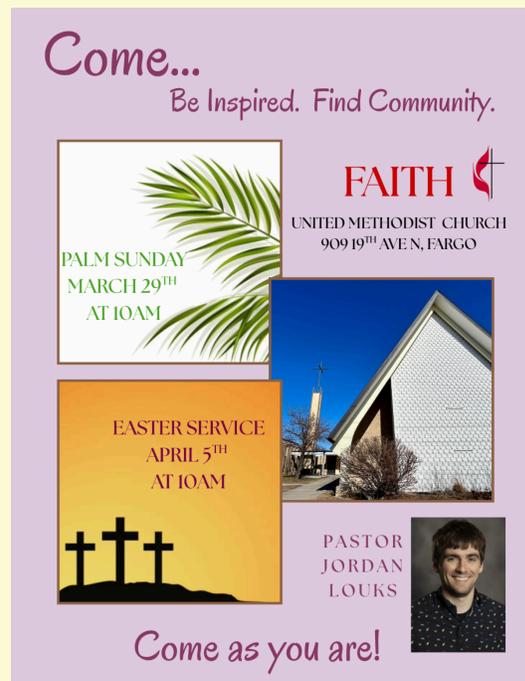




Join us for Community Game Night! Wednesday, April 8th!

If you can't make this one, don't worry. There's another coming up in May. Mark your calendars again for **May 6th**. You won't want to miss it!





The Communication Team has been working on invitations to the community to attend Palm Sunday and Easter services here at Faith United Methodist. In all, 100 postcards were mailed to households that were identified as recent home purchases on the north side of Fargo. In addition to the postcards, 20 colorful flyers were posted on the NDSU campus and other northside locations. Maybe you have seen them around town?



- The church office will be closed on Monday, April 6th. We will re-open Tuesday morning at 8AM.
- If you do not have a name tag on the magnetic boards located in the hallway and you would like one, or maybe you have a name tag that needs updating or TLC, please let us know in the office. We will be happy to get you what you need.



Welcome to the newest members of Faith United Methodist church!

- **Dawn Gambell**
- **Betty Schlepp**
- **Heidi Farrell**

New members - Don't forget to look for your name tag on the magnetic boards in the hallway. It's a great way to get to know each other!

2026 GERANIUM FUNDRAISER

Flowers feed your soul and lift your spirits!

Here is your chance to brighten up a flower garden, deck or patio!

The Bethany Auxiliary is selling geranium plants in 4½" pots for just **\$7.00** each. These beautiful plants are grown from cuttings at *Bloomfield Garden Center* in Sabin, MN.

Geraniums are available in four colors: Red, Pink, Salmon and White.

The Auxiliary Geranium Sale helps raise money to provide items for Bethany residents – such things as *Portals of Prayer* devotional booklets, subscriptions to *The Forum*, blanket warmers, Netflix service

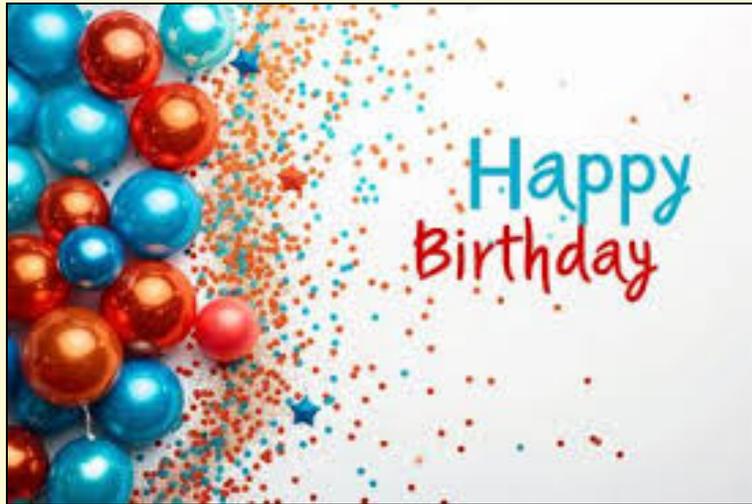
heat lamps, and support for the Chaplaincy program, just to name a few.

These purchases enrich the lives of all residents at both Bethany campuses.

Orders must be placed by Wednesday, April 29th, 2026 by 5:00 PM

Plants may be picked up Monday, May 4th, at Bethany on University
or Tuesday, May 5th, at Bethany on 42ND.





APRIL

- 1 - Sally Hamilton**
- 2 - Janice Randerson**
- 3 - Jim Garske**
- 5 - Joe Prushek**
- 10 - Roger Moen**
- 13 - Oscar Flores**
- 17 - David Brown**
- 18 - Maggie Hoherz**
- 23 - Teri Dittmer**
- 25 - Sandy Whited**
- 28 - Jay Hoherz**
- 28 - Joe Rudd**



Prayers for the World

Immigrants and refugees

- Gaza, Palestine, & Israel
- Ukraine & Russia
- Sudan
- Congo
- War in Iran
- Gun violence in America
- Those facing food insecurity and hunger
- Those facing homelessness

Prayers of Support

- The family of Don Scoby
- The family of Vernon Youngs
- Diana Moen
- Donna Sell

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.



Need a Laugh?!?

We've got you covered!



Where do you take someone who's been in a peek-a-boo accident?

-To the ICU

I gave my handyman a long to do list. He finished jobs 1, 3 & 5. Turns out, he only does odd jobs.

Where is the best place to learn how to make a banana split?

-Sundae school

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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