



September 2026

**Click to go to Faith United Methodist Church's
Website**

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**"Connection, Belonging,
and Hope"**



Loneliness is an epidemic in this country, according to researcher and behavioral scientist Susan Mettes in her book *The Loneliness Epidemic*. Loneliness, as she defines it, is not solitude. It “is the distress someone feels when their social connections don’t meet their need for emotional

intimacy.” As she argues, human connection is one of the most important parts of being human, and when that part of our lives is disappointing, it can lead to other health problems, including our physical and mental health. Human beings need deep social connection.

Building community was also an important part of Jesus’ mission and ministry. He went to the margins of society where people were lonely, drawing the circle wider and wider. That became an important aspect of the mission of the church, inviting people to find connection, belonging, and hope within a community of love. We continue in that tradition.

Our purpose as a church is striving to build a community of connection, belonging, and hope. Therefore, this fall we are engaging that purpose in several ways.

Our kick-off sermon series, starting on September 13th, is “Come to the Table.” This series is all about Jesus eating with others and how he invited people into deeper community with one another. On that day, the Big House Band returns to lead music, Faith Kids (our Sunday school programming for kids ages 4-5th grade) begins again, and we will have a Kick-Off Potluck in the Fellowship Hall after worship. We also will start a drive for our Faith Food Pantry, collecting nut butters to give away on food pantry days.

Youth Group this year is going to be combined with First United Methodist Church, as we seek to engage in more collaboration with our fellow United Methodists. Youth Group will meet on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month, alternating between our locations as we engage in learning, fun, and serving. September 9th will be at First UMC starting at 7pm with food, games, and connection. September 23rd will be a service night as we participate in our Adopt-A-Street cleanup, meeting at Faith UMC just before 6pm.

We are kicking back off with our Community Game Nights on the 1st Wednesdays of the month, starting September 2nd at 5:30pm. These nights are for our whole congregation and wider community to come together for fun, games, food, and connection.

Connections on the Move, a new ministry expression, is starting September 18th, planning to meet on the 3rd Fridays of the month at 5:30pm at the church. The hope of this community is to connect with college students and young adults in the Fargo-Moorhead area.

We are starting a new book study on Thursdays @ 5:30pm called *Building Beloved Community: Courage to Love in the Face of Tyranny*. The study will begin on September 10th. The books are available in the church office, and everyone is invited to participate in this study of how we respond as Christians in a time of growing authoritarianism and fear.

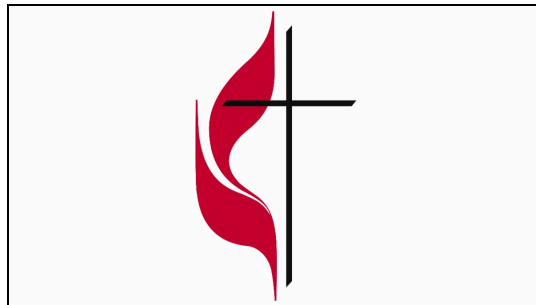
We also seek to extend mercy to God's creation, as we cleanup our Adopt-A-Street stretch of highway on Wednesday, September 23rd, meeting at the church at 6:00pm.

There will also be other ways in which we seek to build community this fall and beyond, and this is by no means an exhaustive list, as there are other existing and yet-to-launch

ministries, too, that are engaging in this community-building work, including the Women's Bible Study and the English Conversation Class.

But it is my hope that we all think about how we as individuals and as a church can be building those places and spaces where people can come to find connection, belonging, and hope. May we extend God's love and invitation to the people in our lives so that they may come to find community and experience the love of God.

God's peace be with you,
Pastor Jordan Louks



Leadership Highlights

Strategic Plan September Update

Trustees

Building updates continue at the church. We have put in new flooring in the kitchen, carpeting in the main office, and a new countertop for the island in the kitchen. Additionally, new appliances

have been installed in the kitchen. We are looking at installing new blinds for the Fellowship Hall soon, and new artwork is in design phase right now for the entryway and Fellowship Hall. The Building Task Force continues to meet to consider ways to utilize the generous estate gifts from Linda Ward.

Listening Team

Our Listening Team has conducted congregational and community surveys/conversations to determine best strategies going forward to work on our missional priorities of reaching 500+ new people in Fargo-Moorhead and developing a more robust marketing strategy for our church. We are still in the goal-writing stage of that process. We garnered some additional feedback from our neighbors at the block party. Both the findings and the proposed goals will be given to the Leadership Team in September.



Attendance

	August 2	August 9	August 16	August 23	August 30
Attendance	50	42	44	41	40

CURRENT SERMON SERIES



Micah 6:8 says: “He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?”

This verse from the Hebrew Bible speaks into what it means to follow the living God, growing in our love for God and our love for neighbor. Moreover, being just, kind, and humble, is what our world needs more than ever in the hyper-partisan and polarized culture we find ourselves living.

How can we as people of faith share a different way of being?

How can we have the conviction to do what is right while remaining humble and kind?

How do we be kind while still resisting evil, injustice, and oppression?

How can we continue building something that reflects God's kingdom here on earth?

This series is about who we are called to be in the world as ones who follow the resurrected Christ. We are called to justice, kindness, and humility.

September 6, 2026 – 15th Sunday After Pentecost

Sermon Title: Called to Humility

Sermon Focus: Being humble requires a curious rather than a critical spirit, a desire for understanding rather than power over others. God calls us to seek justice and love boldly but to do it with a gracious, humble heart. The opposite of arrogance.

Scripture: Micah 6:8; Matthew 18:1-4

Hymns/Songs: FWS 2190 Bring Forth the Kingdom;
UMH 344 Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore;
UMH 620 One Bread, One Body;
FWS 2130 The Summons

Special Elements: Holy Communion





The Gospel of Luke records many meals that Jesus eats with others - Jesus clearly enjoyed eating! It was in breaking bread with others that Jesus taught about the Kingdom of God and revealed important things about himself. Through the table, Jesus showed the importance of community, connection, belonging, and hope. These helped people come to know God more.

September 13, 2026 – 16th Sunday After Pentecost

Sermon Title: Eating with the Wrong Crowd

Sermon Focus: Jesus eats with tax collectors and ‘sinners’ at Levi’s house, proclaiming he came to call sinners not the righteous.

Scripture: Luke 5:27-32

Special Elements: Kickoff Sunday Potluck; Faith Food Pantry Offering (Items)

September 20, 2026 – 17th Sunday After Pentecost

Sermon Title: Table for 5,000?

Sermon Focus: Jesus was about meeting needs. Facing a large, hungry crowd, his disciples pragmatically said, “Send these people away.” But Jesus’ reply was “You give them

something to eat.” Jesus regularly worked with his followers to make things better.

Scripture: Luke 9:10-17

Special Elements: Faith Food Pantry Offering (Items)

September 27, 2026 – 18th Sunday After Pentecost

Sermon Title: Invitations & RSVPs

Sermon Focus: Jesus sat down to eat with a Pharisee. He noticed that his guest sat themselves at the places of honor, so Jesus tells them a parable about a wedding to help them understand the kingdom value of humility and welcome.

Scripture: Luke 14:1-24

Special Elements: Faith Food Pantry Offering (Items)



Faith Food Pantry had a busy month of August!

We served 320 families 17,600 pounds of food. We are seeing less food available from Great Plains Food Bank and have been purchasing \$1000 worth of food each month thanks to the generous donations that we have received.

Thank you to everyone for volunteering and for your donations of money and food. It's thanks to all of you that we have such a successful pantry!

Deb Laber

Upcoming Food Pantry Dates

- Friday, September 11th
@ 1:30 pm

- Friday, September 25th
@ 1:30 pm



PHOTOGRAPHERS WANTED!

The Communications Team
wants your photos to use in our
projects

- Website Images
- Monthly Newsletter
- Special Church Events
- Weekly Announcement Slides
- & Much More!

Call, email or stop by the office

 Office@FargoFaithUMC.org
701-232-68644



Please join us if you can in supporting
these great missions...

Faith UMC Missions
September 2026

NUT BUTTER DRIVE !

- 🥜 Regular or crunchy
- 🥜 peanut butter
- 🥜 almond butter
- 🥜 cashew butter
- 🥜 sunflower seed (sun) butter

Spread Love
Donate Nut Butter
To
Faith Food Pantry!

**Plastic jars are strongly preferred over glass jars to prevent breakage



September Mission of the Month – Faith Food Pantry.

For the month of September, we are going to be striving to support our Faith Food Pantry. You can do that through **monetary donations**, through **volunteering** on the 2nd and 4th Fridays of the month when our pantry is open, or by **donating nut butters**, such as peanut butter and sun butter.

Thank you so much for all the ways you already support this wonderful ministry. It is making a deep impact in our community. Thank you to all the volunteers who make it happen every two weeks. So many people come together to make this mission happen!

Have any lunch plans??



**Faith UMC &
McKinley Elementary**

**Lunch Buddy
Program**

Contact the office to learn how you can
**change a child's life with
30 minutes a week!**

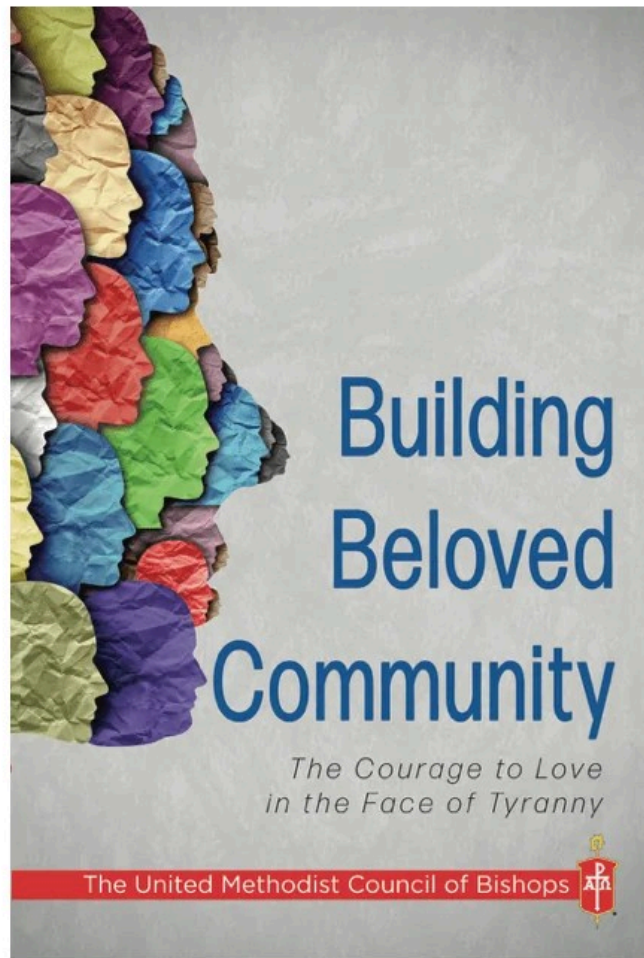
McKinley Elementary School has a need for people to be part of their **Lunch Buddy program**. Basically, adults from the community go **have lunch and play a board game once a week** with a student in the program. This is a wonderful way for us to connect with students in our neighborhood. If you have interest, please contact the church office or signup in person. We can get you connected with McKinley as the program relaunches this fall!



What's Happening at
FUMC!



Book Study
Thursdays @ 5:30pm
Beginning September 10th



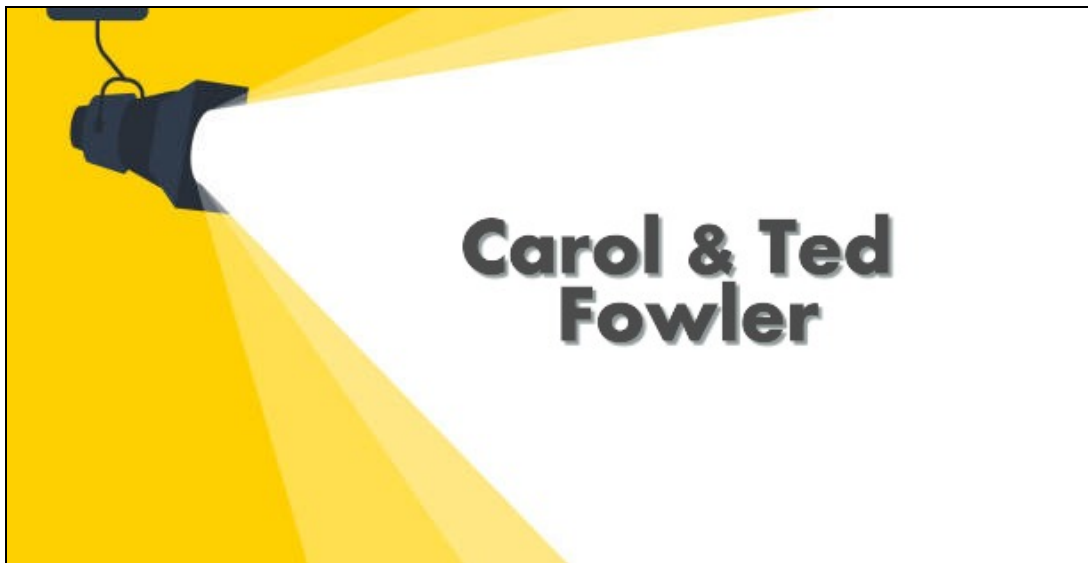
From Ukraine to the Philippines, from Germany to Guatemala, communities worldwide are discovering that the antidote to authoritarianism isn't found in political strategies alone—it's found in the revolutionary practice of beloved community. In this prophetic and hope-filled resource, the United Methodist Council of Bishops draws on global stories of courage and transformation to show how ordinary people can build extraordinary communities grounded in love rather than fear.

Building Beloved Community: The Courage to Love in the Face of Tyranny doesn't just diagnose the problems facing our fractured world—it provides a roadmap for healing. Through powerful stories of resistance and welcome, theological wisdom rooted in Scripture and tradition, and practical strategies tested in diverse contexts, this book demonstrates that beloved community isn't just a distant dream but an achievable reality.

Whether you're a pastor seeking guidance for faithful leadership, a lay leader wondering how to engage difficult conversations, or simply someone who believes that love can overcome hatred, this book offers both inspiration and instruction for the urgent work of our time.

**Get your copy in the office. \$14/ea.

Member Spotlight On...





This is the second in a series of interviews with Faith members by Jane Winston.

Q: Where did you grow up?

A: Carol: I'm from Huron and Ted is from Aberdeen SD.

Q: How did you two meet?

A: Ted: We met on a blind date at Northern State University in Aberdeen. My friend was dating Carol's roommate.

Carol: We saw the movie "Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid".

Q: What was your line of work before retiring?

A: Carol: I was an elementary school teacher.

Ted: I worked in hospital administration in the business office.

Q: Tell me about your family.

A: We have a daughter Susan who lives in Fargo and a son Scott who lives in MN. Our son Greg passed away several years ago. We have six grandchildren.

Q: When did you two join Faith and what made you choose it?

A: We joined Faith in 2017. We were greeted at the door and felt really welcomed.

Q: What volunteer activities are you involved in at Faith?

A: Carol: We both help with the food pantry and I serve on the Leadership Committee as the annual conference delegate. We also lead the annual shoebox drive for

missions.

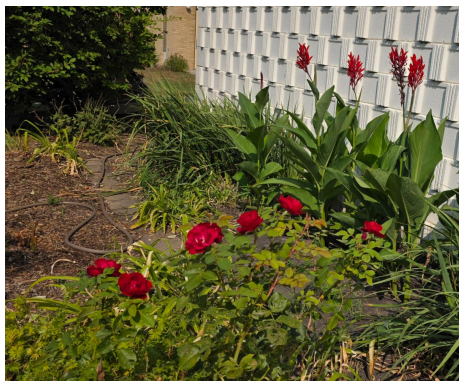
Q: What do you like to do in your free time?

A: Carol: I belong to a book club and enjoy reading history and historical fiction works. I'm interested in genealogy and have researched our family tree.

Ted: I enjoy reading historical works too. I help keep our neighborhood tidy by picking up litter when out walking. Jigsaw puzzles are a favorite activity too.



FUMC in Bloom!



Women's Day @ the Lake

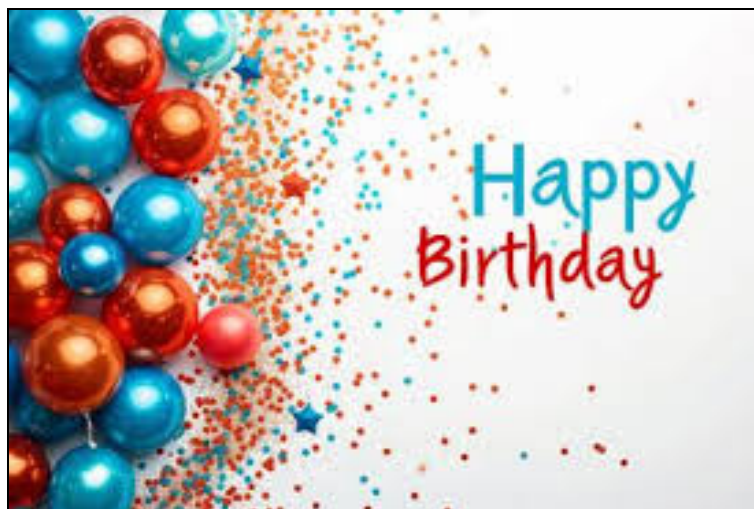


FUMC's Annual Block Party









September

03 - John Underwood

10 - Lynn Becker

13 - Ken Elfstrum

15 - Darlene Mattingly

15 - Jerry Miller

17 - Bruce Davidson

17 - Vern Hofman

25 - Liz Hanson

25 - Sam Hoherz



Prayers for the World

- Immigrants and refugees
- Those in prison and immigration detainment camps
- Gun violence in America
- Those facing food insecurity and hunger
- Those experiencing homelessness
- Gaza, Palestine, & Israel
- Ukraine & Russia
- Sudan
- Congo
- Nigeria

Prayers of Support

- Family and Friends of Karen Balsbaugh

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.



Amplify Dakotas Resource Library

Are you interested in diving deeper into Scripture through Bible and book studies? Every member of a United Methodist Church has a wonderful opportunity to engage with online studies via Amplify Media. We also have a specific Dakotas channel on Amplify Media. Importantly, you do not have to pay anything for it. It is free to sign up and use!

Check out [this link](#) for more information about Amplify and how to sign up today!



What do you call a lazy kangaroo?

A pouch potato

My husband told me to stop impersonating a flamingo.
I had to put my foot down.

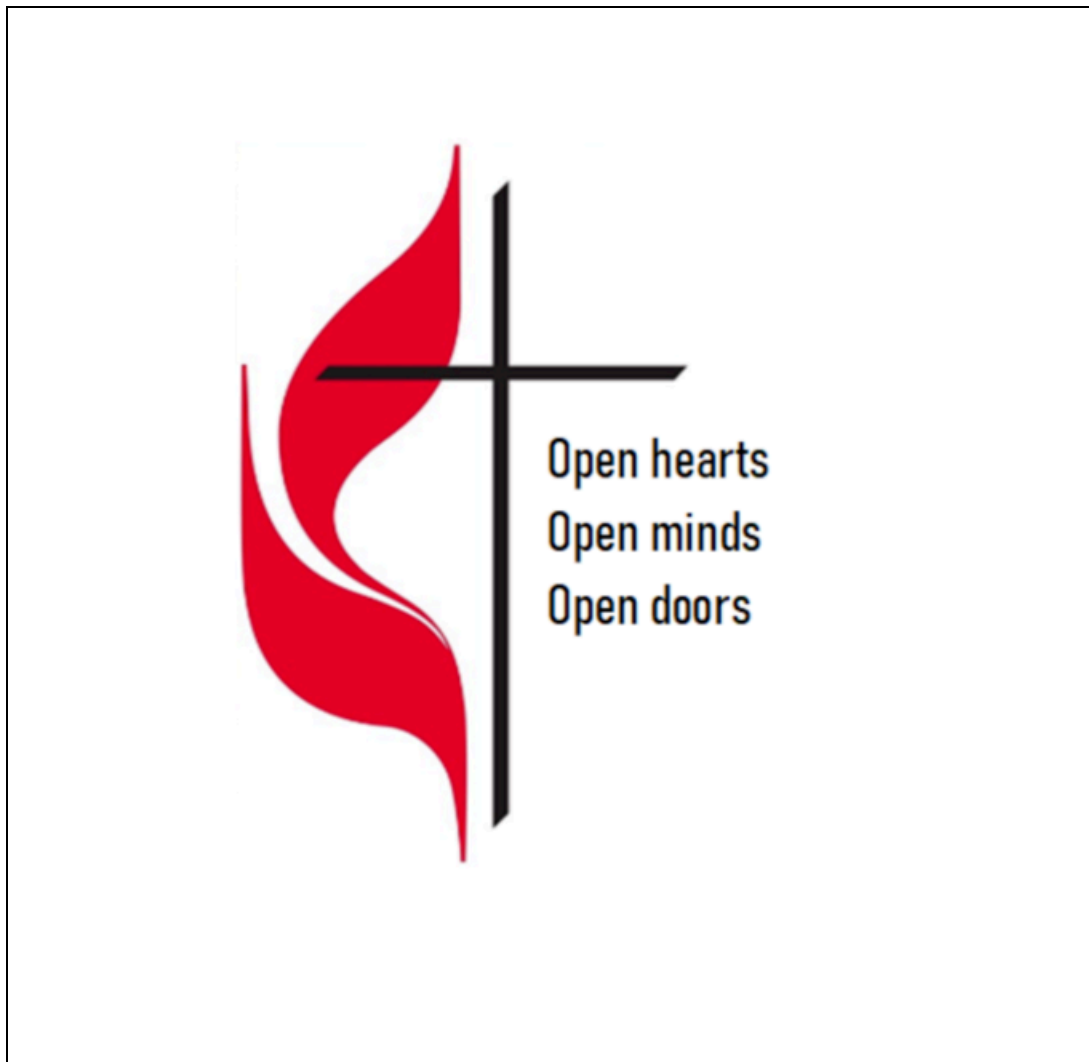
Who built King Arthur's round table?

Sir Cumference

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



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