Seeds of Faith

November 2026

Click to go to Faith United Methodist Church's Website

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Jordan's Jargon



"Breaking Dangerous Silence"

“In fact, if you don’t speak up at this very important time, relief and rescue will appear for the Jews from another place, but you and your family will die. But who knows? Maybe it was for a moment like this that you came to be part of the royal family”
(Esther 4:14).

Several of us in the church just finished up a book study called *Building Beloved Community: The Courage to Love in the Face of Tyranny*. The United Methodist Council of Bishops wrote this book in response the rise of authoritarian movements around the world. It is a wonderful book and important reading for our times. One of the chapters continues to remain with me.

In the chapter “Breaking Dangerous Silence,” Bishop Rosemary Wenner, one of the Council of Bishop’s ecumenical officers, relays a chilling story about what her parents and grandparents were doing in Nazi Germany’s reign of terror across Europe. She talks about how she spent her youth asking her elders difficult questions, such as: “How could Auschwitz happen?” and “What did you do? How about my grandparents?” On her father’s side, the silence was deafening. On her mother’s side, her grandfather, a customs officer, rationalized his silence this way: “Hitler does evil to God’s people” but speaking up would put his family “in deep trouble.” Many people and churches in Germany were either pro-Hitler or silent in the face of Nazi terror. The horrors of Auschwitz were enabled through the approval, silence, or complicity of the German people.

The writers of Building Beloved Community talk about how silence is seductive because it promises safety, unity, peace, and harmony. Why rock the boat? After all, things in our neck of the woods are not so bad? Many also worry that talking

about political matters will cause alienation and division. Isn't it best to just not talk about it, especially at church? Yet, as the writers argue: "Silence is rarely neutral…Even when silence is motivated by prudent concern for safety or institutional stability, its practical effect is to clear the field for extremist voices."

In the Scripture above, Queen Esther has a choice as to whether or not she will speak out about the plan for genocide against her people. She is comfortable in the palace. Yet she has a unique position to be able to do something about it. If she wants to, she can risk her privilege so that her people will not succumb to a horrible fate.

Authoritarianism, as defined in the book, is "the concentration of power in the hands of a small group of people who act in ways that are not constitutionally accountable to the people they are meant to represent and serve." Cruelty, dehumanization, violence, and marginalization of groups
accompanies authoritarian rule. We see this in our country, as immigrants especially are vilified at campaign rallies, speeches on the floor of Congress, everyday conversations at the coffee shop, deportation raids, and other public policy.

I remember in 2015 when then candidate Donald Trump announced his candidacy with a speech where he labeled most Mexican immigrants as rapists and criminals. His and others' rhetoric has only escalated since then. This rhetoric is wrong and harmful. Because words like this, spoken often and loud enough, lead to violence and public policy that marginalizes and harms.

Nazi Germany did not begin with death camps. It began with rhetoric about Jews being vermin. It began with language about Germany needing to have lebensraum or "living

space” because of all the “undesirable” people living among them. Hitler argued that Jews, among others, were causing Germany to lose. There needed to be a solution. First it was ghettoes. Then it was camps. I am not suggesting that what is happening in our country is the same as Nazi Germany. Every rise in authoritarianism looks and plays out differently. Moreover, there are more recent examples of rhetoric leading to violence in Rwanda in 1994 and Gaza today. The point is that words within the political arena can lead to cruelty, dehumanization, and eventually death.

We must be clear-eyed about things happening within our country as Christians. This is not to be partisan. It is because we are called to love our God AND love our neighbor. We are called to have compassion for our neighbor, for our God loves them. This includes people who are different than us. And when they are targeted, we need to pay attention. We are for the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and that Gospel, in Matthew 25, teaches us that whatever we do the least of these is what we do to Christ. This is a judgment not only on individual action but on nations. It is encouragement to not acquiesce to the powers at be but to love our neighbors as ourselves. To resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever form they present themselves. To not have blind loyalty to any political party but to ask what would Jesus have us do. How am I called to love?

As a person who is introverted and struggles with anxiety, speaking out in this way is difficult because I would much rather just read a book, watch some birds in a park, and pretend that the world’s events are not happening. But they are. Yet we are prepared for such a time as this, like Esther, because our God loves us. We do not have to play by the political games of others. We can stand on the Gospel. The Gospel that offers us forgiveness and salvation. And the Gospel that promises a kingdom of justice, mercy, and

peace, where people of all nations stream to God's holy mountain (Micah 4). So, while we have breath, we pray. We speak out. We protest. We read. We worship. We laugh together. We vote. We listen. We organize. We do what we can to guard human dignity and care for our neighbors who are with us in this beautiful creation.

My encouragement for you in this season is that for you to not be afraid to speak what you are seeing in the world. To not be afraid to break dangerous silence. To ask what would Jesus have us be doing right now. To speak from your faith in our Savior Jesus who says that blessed are the peacemakers, those who mourn, and those who hunger and thirst for righteousness.

May our hands and our feet and our voices make a difference in the ways we show up in our dinner table conversations, in our connections with our neighbors, and in the ways in which we advocate for a different way in our nation. Not in a way to be hostile. Or in a way that we believe we are right about everything. But with, as the authors write, a "convicted humility" that we are called to speak truth and love in this time. For such a time as this, we are made to love boldly,
serve joyfully, and lead courageously. May it be so.

God's peace be with you,
Pastor Jordan Louks

Leadership Highlights

Leadership Team Minutes

October 12, 2026
6:15 PM Library

Attendance: Pastor Jordan, Deb Laber, Teri Dittmer, Roger Grimm, Jan Jones, Ken Laber, Kate Naujokas, and Carol Fowler

Devotions: Pastor Jordan led a discussion on Chapter 3 of the book *Calling on Fire*.

Approval of minutes: Approved on September 29, 2026.

Finance Report: Teri Dittmer presented the finance report. Pastor Jordan stated that the budget had to be ready a week before the charge conference. Therefore, it was decided the Leadership Team will meet after church on November 1st and go over the budget. Our regular meeting will still be on November 9th. Ken Laber made a motion to approve the finance report. Roger Grimm seconded the motion. The finance report was approved.

Approval of monthly apportionment payment: Teri Dittmer said the monthly payment will be $1,857. Kate Naujokas made a motion to pay the monthly apportionment. Ken Laber seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Staff Parish Relations Committee: Roger Grimm stated that the group met on September 23rd and filled out the

pastoral compensation form which is required every year. The committee will meet on Monday, November 23rd at 6:30 PM.

Missions and Outreach: Game Night was October 7th. There weren't many people there but the ones that were there had fun. The next Game Night is November 4th, A holiday themed Game Night will be held on December 2nd. The Shoebox Christmas Project is in progress. The due date is November 1st to have the shoeboxes back to the church.

Trustees: The Fire Department did a walk through. The doors to the fellowship hall should remain closed. They are fire doors. The screen in the fellowship hall fell off the wall.

Education: Faith Kids on Sunday mornings continues. One of the kids thinks quite deeply so Teri tries to adapt. Youth Group is continuing. Adult Education: The book study on recognizing Christian Nationalism and authoritarianism is continuing.

Old Business

Building Task Force update: Looked at carpet samples for the sanctuary. They may get some estimates on the women's bathroom. Kate Naujokas's sister did some measurements for the walls in the fellowship hall and foyer.

Strategic Plan update: Most of the work done on the building has been discussed. We have an intergenerational game night. Food Pantry brings people who need help with providing food. A communications team was established which has begun more robust communication. On November 1st after we discuss the budget for next year, we will also discuss the Mission and Ministry plan. Pastor Jordan passed out the Strategic Plan sheets and the Ideas for future Mission & Ministry at Faith UMC sheets for the team to review before the meeting.

New Business

ICON directory: The team was encouraged to go to the ICON website and review the digital directory. It is possible to be able to look at donations for the year. This website makes it possible for members to access the directory. The team was to report back their opinions.

Accountable Reimbursement Policy: Pastor Jordan stated we do have a policy and it will be reviewed later.

Nominations: Pastor Jordan stated the Nominations Committee will be reviewing committee members, committee openings and terms. Our current guidelines state a 3 year term with a 3 year renewal and the possibility of multiple terms. This will be looked at later.

Charge Conference: Committee reports are due November 5 — trustees, finance, SPRC, membership, Pastor's report and other groups that may add a report if they wish.

Potluck: On October 25th a potluck will be held after church in the fellowship hall to celebrate our Gratitude Pledge Commitments. Deb Laber, Twyla Hofman and Carol Fowler will help set up.

Community on the Move: The group will meet on Friday, October 16th.

Live Nativity and Santa Lucia event — December 13.

Ash Wednesday — February 10.

Easter — March 28.

Next Meetings: November 1st after church — Discuss budget, Strategic Plan including Ideas for Future Mission and Ministry at Faith UMC. November 9th at 6:15 PM for the regular Leadership Team meeting.

Submitted by Carol Fowler



Attendance

	October 4	October 11	October 18	October 25
Attendance	42	52	49	47





Matthew 25 offers three poignant parables that stand the test of time. What does it mean to stay awake to the injustice of today? What does it mean to utilize our resources for the transformation of the world? What does it look like to notice Jesus in the stranger, the hungry, and the broken? It means

we have responded to the love of our God with loving our neighbor as ourselves through our words, presence, and actions. May these stories remind us of the power of being a beacon of light in a world filled with darkness.

November 1, 2026 – All Saints Sunday

Sermon Title: Witnesses to the Way

Sermon Focus: As those who have gone before us, we are witnesses to Jesus' way.

Scripture: 1 Thessalonians 2:9-13; Matthew 5:1-12

November 8, 2026 – 24th Sunday After Pentecost

Sermon Series: Prophetic Parables: Matthew 25

Sermon Title: Keep Awake!

Sermon Focus: We are not called to just think about the future—live with love today.
Scripture: Amos 5:18-24; Matthew 25:1-13

November 15, 2026 – 25th Sunday After Pentecost

Sermon Series: Prophetic Parables: Matthew 25

Sermon Title: Resources for the Kingdom

Sermon Focus: With great power comes great responsibility. We are called to use the resources we have for good.

Scripture: Zephaniah 1:7, 18-20; Matthew 25:14-30

November 22, 2026 – Reign of Christ Sunday

Sermon Series: Prophetic Parables: Matthew 25

Sermon Title: Jesus Is the Least of These

Sermon Focus: God calls us to be in ministry with the least of these.

Scripture: Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24; Matthew 25:31-46

November 29, 2026 –1st Sunday of Advent

Sermon Series: Extraordinary Hope

Sermon Title: Elizabeth & Zechariah

Sermon Focus: Even when it seems hope has vanished, God shows up with good news.

Scripture: Luke 1:5-25



Our food pantry was open twice in October and we served 285 families 15,000 pounds of food. We received food donations from many members of our church. Most of our food comes from Great Plains Food Bank. I place an order monthly that has free and reduced price items and that order is delivered on the fourth Friday of the month. We also receive food donations from the Great Plains rescue truck that brings food items from local grocery stores. Our

volunteers sort and bag the items so they are ready to be put in our grocery carts.

We do have some guests who walk to our food pantry. Many times we are in need of additional cloth bags to give them to carry their food. If any of you have any new or gently used cloth bags that you would like to donate please bring them to church and put them in the food pantry box. Thanks!

In November and December we have only one pantry each month due to the holidays. Our goal is to increase the amount of food we are giving out and adding as many additional food items we can.

Throughout the day we average 20-25 volunteers! That is great!

Thank you everyone!
Deb

Food Pantry
Holiday Schedule

Friday, November 13th only @ 1:30 pm

Friday, December 11th only @ 1:30 pm





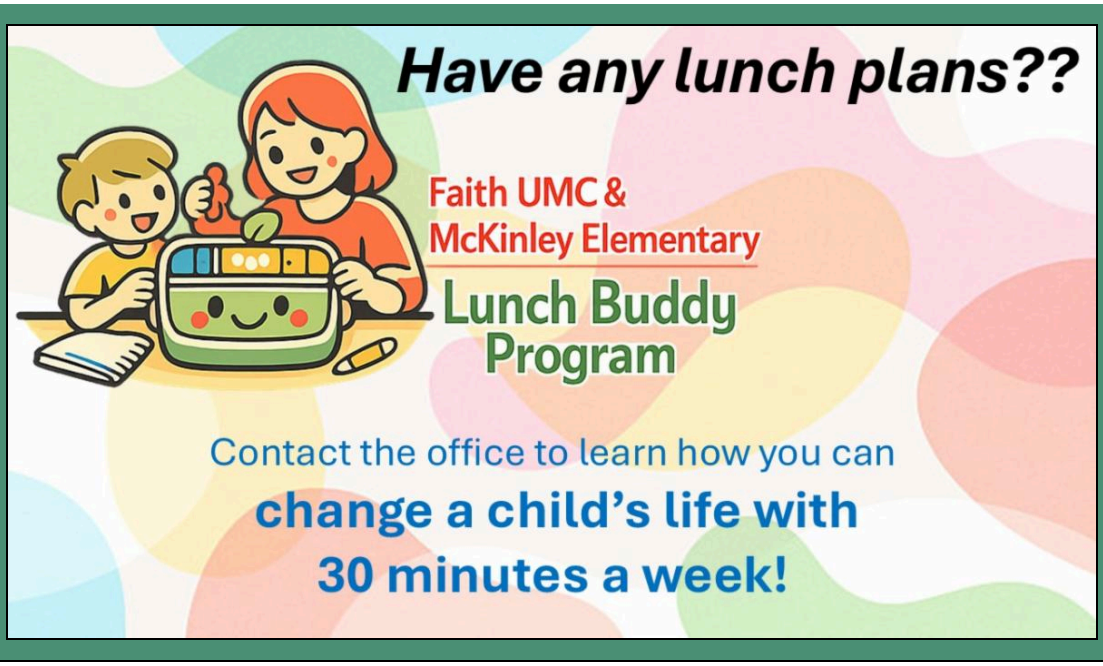
Faith Kids kicked off in September and is our Sunday school program for children ages 4-5th grade. Children, after hearing a short message from Pastor Jordan, are invited to take part in it with Teri Dittmer, our Faith Kids leader.

If you are interested in volunteering with Teri on Sunday mornings, please let her or Pastor Jordan know.

Also, invite your kids and grandkids to take part in this group!



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



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!

Faith UMC Missions
2026/2027 School Year

McKinley Elementary

SNACK FOOD DRIVE

Items Needed:

- Granola Bars
- Snack Crackers
- Fruit Cups

All items should be individually wrapped

Faith UMC Missions
2026/2027 School Year

FARGO NORTH HIGH SCHOOL

HOODIE & SWEATER DRIVE

Please bring items that are new or very gently used




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

Love Boldly
Serve Joyfully
Lead Courageously

You are invited to the

2026 Charge Conference

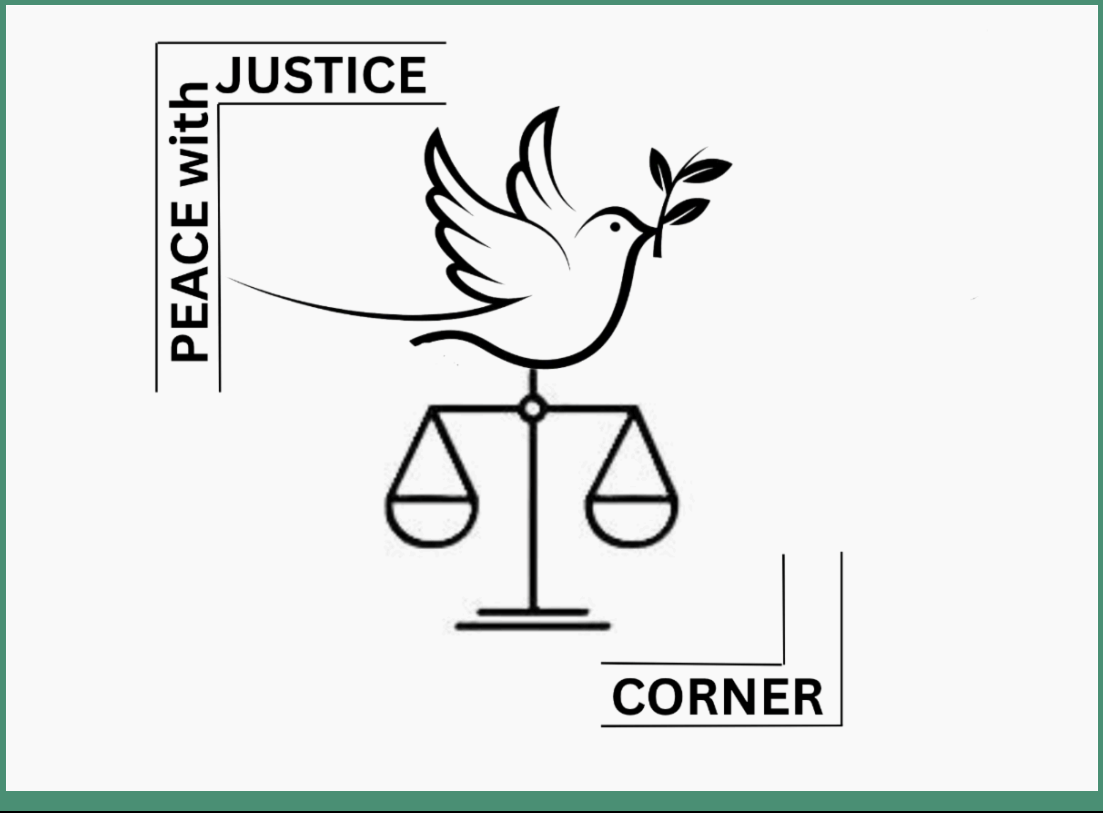
November 12th
6:30pm - 8:00pm

@ Faith UMC



Thank you so much for all of those who have filled out your Gratitude Cards for estimated giving in 2027. Your generosity is amazing! I am grateful that we get to be in mission together as a church here in Fargo-Moorhead.

If you still need to fill out your Gratitude Card, we have them available in the church office.



A Few Thoughts on My Trip to D.C.

In the middle of October, I had the wonderful opportunity to travel to Washington D.C. to take part in the UMC's General Board of Church and Society's "Young Adult Clergy Leadership Forum." Even though I am now 34, I made the cut as a young adult! There were great speakers, panelists, and engaging discussion with people who are engaged in working for civil and human rights, environmental justice, and peace, among other areas.

From the beginning of the Methodist movement, Methodists have affirmed that our faith is both personal and social. Said more simply, we love God AND we love neighbor. Our faith is not an individual endeavor alone. It is done in community. We have always had a commitment to social justice, for our neighbors are made in God's image and beloved by our God just as we are.

While at the United Methodist Building in D.C., I read the 1908 Social Creed that hangs on a wall there. It was written in a time of great upheaval in society as people were relocating from rural areas to industrializing urban centers. This movement led to unchecked corporate creed, exploiting vulnerable people for exorbitant profit. Here are some of the creed's stances:

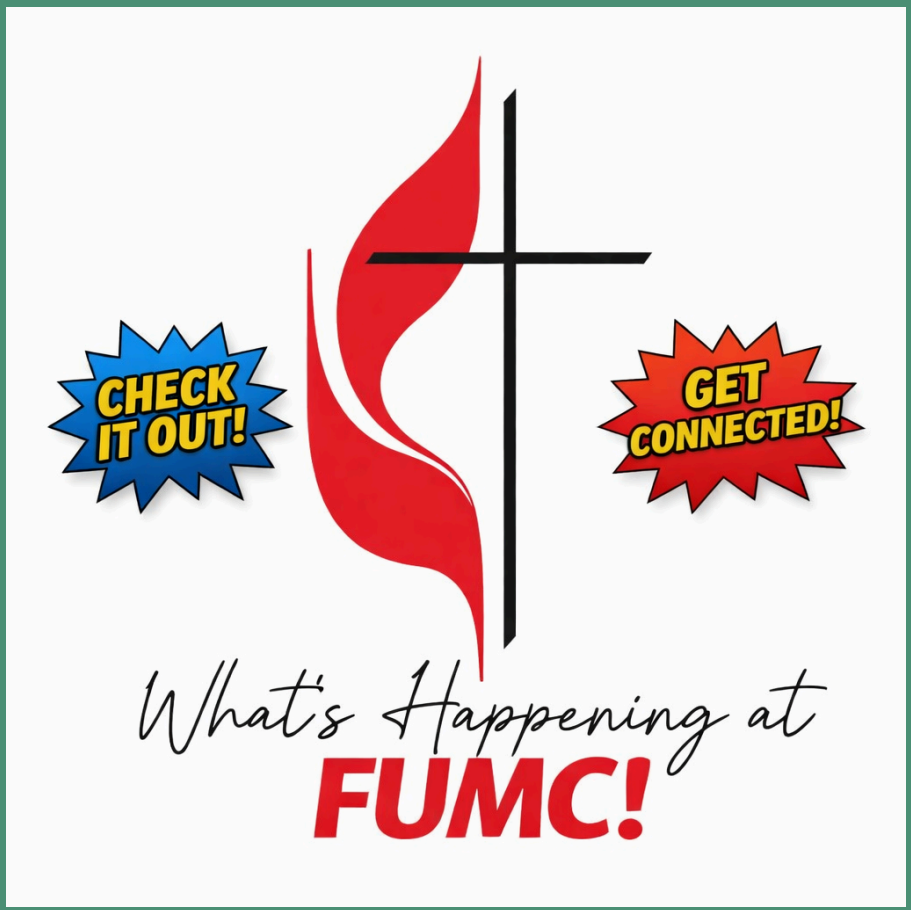
- For equal rights and justice for all men in all stations of life.
- For the principle of conciliation and arbitration in industrial dissensions.
- For the protection of the worker from dangerous machinery, occupational diseases, injuries, and mortality.
- For the abolition of child labor.
- For such regulation of the conditions of labor for women as shall safeguard the physical and moral health of the community.
- For the suppression of the "sweating system."
- For a release from employment one day in seven.
- For a living wage in every industry.

This 1908 Social Creed was presented to President Theodore Roosevelt and became a rallying cry for helping people who were subject to economic exploitation. Methodists continued to advocate for these points within society because they saw the economic exploitation as hurting their neighbors. While some of these points

may seem obvious to us today, they were not obvious in that time. It was just how things went.

Working every day of the week, unsafe working conditions, and sweatshops, were normal business practice. Moreover, industry leaders would not want to change the system out of the goodness of their hearts or care for their employees because these changes would cut into their profit. And, after all, all the other businesses did it the same way. It would take people, like the Methodists, to organize, advocate, and take a stand for living wages and days off. It would take them advocating for the end of child labor and sweatshops for change to actually happen.

Because we live in brokenness, people will continue to be exploited and marginalized for their labor. What is needed in our own time? Where are we called to advocate for those who are being marginalized and exploited? What breaks your heart and what do you think breaks God's heart about our current systems? How could we as individuals and as a church make a difference?




COMMUNITY
GAME NIGHT
FAITH UMC
909 19TH AVE N, FARGO, ND 58102
FOOD, GAMES, & CONNECTION
1ST WEDNESDAYS OF THE MONTH
NOVEMBER 4, 2026
5:30 - 8:00 PM
FREE FOR ALL!
GAMES PROVIDED
LIGHT MEAL PROVIDED
BRING FOOD TO SHARE
BRING GAMES TO SHARE

Extraordinary

HOPE

Please join us for our

Live Nativity

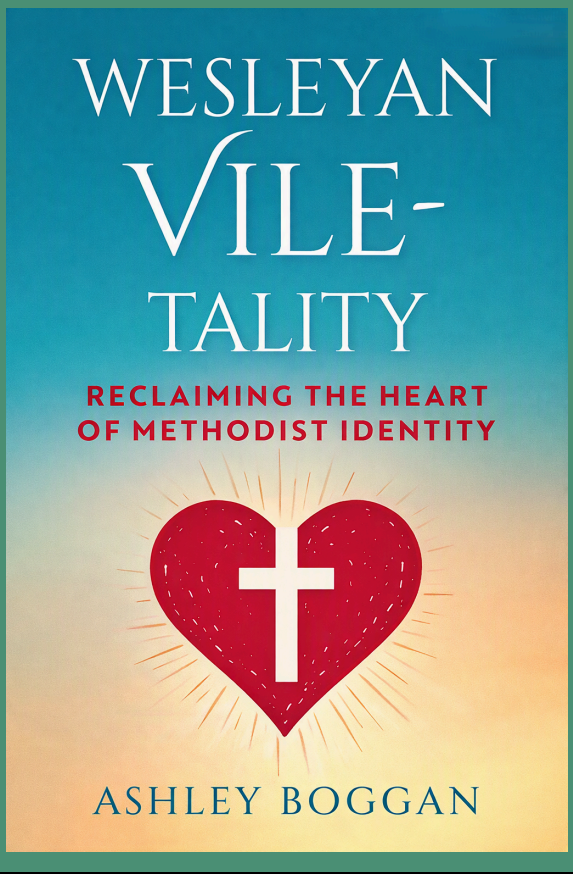
December 13th

5pm – 7pm

FAITH
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH







Thursdays @ 5:30pm

On October 29th , we began a new book study called *Wesleyan Vile-Tality: Reclaiming the Heart of Methodist Identity.* Through looking at our Methodist origins, we can begin to reclaim the heart of our Methodist identity as we seek to build up a community of connection, belonging, and hope in Fargo-Moorhead. There is still time to join us for this study that will take us through the month of November.

For Advent, we will be studying the book *An Unlikely Advent: Extraordinary People of the Christmas Story*. We will begin that study on December 3rd .

Member Spotlight On...

Sue Edgington



Sue Edgington Interview

by Jane Winston

Q: Where did you grow up?

A: I grew up in Fargo. I attended Central High School and graduated from North High.

Q: Tell me about your family. How many children/grandchildren do you have?

A: I'm married and have 2 sons and 6 grandchildren.

Q: Did you work outside the home and if so, what kind of work did you do?

A: I'm retired. I worked as a communications specialist for Blue Cross Blue Shield of
North Dakota.

Q: When did you join Faith and why did you choose Faith?

A: About 5 years ago I started volunteering at the food pantry and just loved the people!

Q: What activities are you involved in at Faith?

A: The food pantry, as a counter for the finance committee, and bible study.

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

A: I have a pet parrot and cat. I love to read all types of literature and to knit and crochet. I also enjoy gardening, especially orchids.



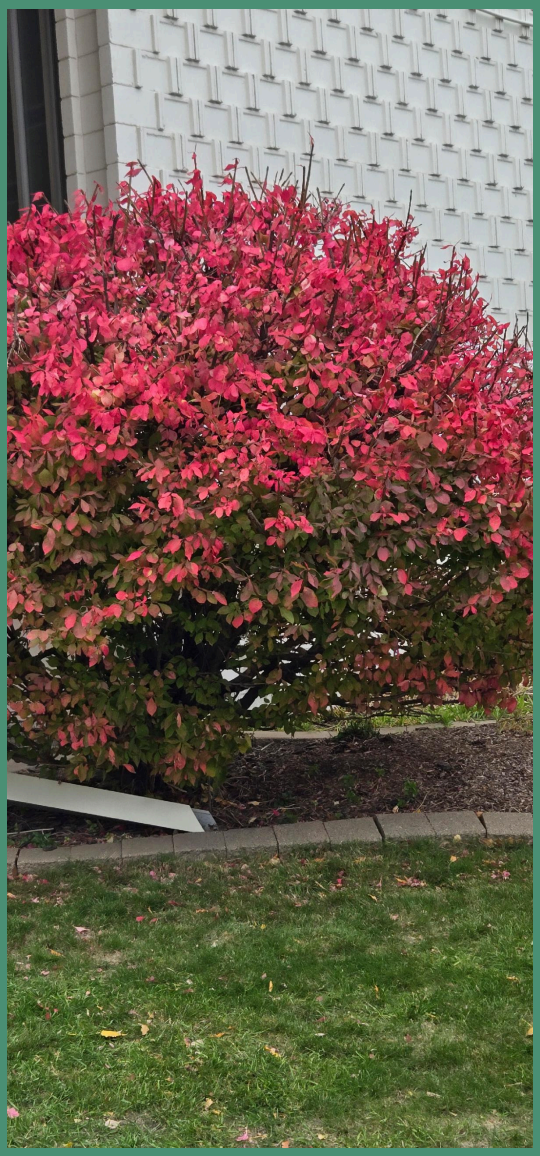
Pastor Appreciation Day!
October 11, 2026




We
appreciate
you
Pastor
Jordan



Autumn Colors @ FUMC







November

02 - Erik Van Vleet

10 - Michelle Borowicz

17 - Mabel Prushek

19 - Dawn Hoherz

27 - Carol Brooks



Prayers for the World

- Those in ICE detainment camps
- Those in prison
- Those impacted by gun violence in America
- Those facing food insecurity and hunger
- Those experiencing homelessness
- The people of Gaza, Palestine, & Israel
- The people Ukraine & Russia
- The people of Sudan

- The people of Congo
- The people of Nigeria
- The people of Iran
- Those serving in the U.S. military
- The election in the United States

Prayers of Support

- Family and Friends of June Heneman
- Family and Friends of Judy Iten
- Shelly Motl
- Dawn Gambell's mom

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.

MAKE YOUR PLAN TO VOTE

November 3, 2026 Election

- Have your North Dakota ID ready.
- Plan how you'll vote: by mail, early in-person, or in person on Election Day.
- Research your candidates and ballot measures on VOTE411.org.
- Spread the word! Remind your friends and family to vote.

INTERFAITH ALLIANCE OF NORTH DAKOTA
ACHIEVING DEMOCRACY TOGETHER

LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®

Faith Food Pantry

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.



Dakotas Conference
The United Methodist Church

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!



Why are Pilgrims' pants always falling down?
Because they wear their buckles on their hats.

How do little pumpkins cross the road?
With a crossing gourd

What are turkeys thankful for on Thanksgiving?
Vegetarians

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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