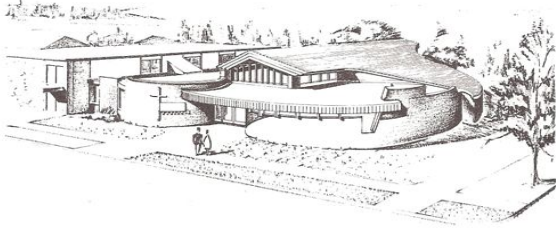


September 2019

# Matters of Faith

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**Faith United Church of Christ**  
**1001 5th Street Int'l Falls, Mn**  
**218-283-2486**  
**Saturday Worship 4:00 p.m.**

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It has been a year since we started the three congregation relationship and as we start our second year, some changes are clearly visible coming down the road. While Carol and I were on vacation we visited some retirement communities and found a couple we thought might work for us. So our plan is to retire next spring unless we are offered another parish that appeals to us before that. Then there is talk of trying to do all three services on Sunday. I'm not sure how that will work out. We've got two possible schedules one of which all three congregations would have to agree to make the change. More details will be on the flier later in the newsletter and on the Congregational Meetings coming in the near future to decide which one we will use. This is all being done so that when the time comes to send out the parish profiles, there will be hopefully an established order of worship for any candidate to consider. However reality is not everyone will be pleased and there will be some who will complain. If you remember we started off with all three services on Sunday and people complained, so we switched to the Saturday-Sunday schedule. As the old saying goes "Even if Jesus Christ said it, someone wouldn't agree with it." The key may come down to what effect does the change in schedule have on attendance and church program.

In his famous chapter in 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians on love, chap. 13, Paul reminds us that love doesn't insist on its own way. If we Love the church, its ministry and the people in it, this principle should guide us in times like these. I once had a member of a congregation several years ago, who kept telling me I wasn't doing things the way ministers were supposed to. She knew because back in the 50s as a young college coed, she dated a student from the seminary attached to the college she went to. Anybody here watch black and white TV today, like we did in the 50s? I saw a beautiful restored car from the 50s one day in International Falls. Anyone want to go back to the cars we had in the 50s? But how many of us do things the way we did in the 50s? Yet for this woman that is how the church should function. Her insisting on having her way in the church, reversed the steady growth of the church, with young families and cause several to leave the church. Some would argue that is the problem with many congregations today. They are still trying to do things the way they were done in the 50s but then they can't figure out why it doesn't work.

The simple truth is 2020 is not 1950 and things don't work the same especially in the church. In almost every tradition there is a shortage of members and pastors and that shows up most in small towns and rural America. I had a member of a former parish also describe the problem saying, "There is enough money in this congregation to do everything we want, but the problem is it is still in the members pockets." None of these three congregations can afford the luxury of people insisting on getting their own way or they won't come to church or support the church. The basic question is do you want the church to continue or not? Should the church make decisions based on fear or faith? If you believe the church should operate on the basis of Faith we must all find ways of working together to do what is best for the parish, in my opinion. It's like the old saying; "Divided we fall, united we stand", only in being united and working together can we go on. As we go on into the future we cannot look back. Rather we must look ahead into the future to keep the ministry of these three congregations as strong as possible. *Pastor John*

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*August 26, 2019*

*Dear 2019 Summer Ecumenical Services Celebrants and Worshipers:*

*Congratulations again to all who celebrated 2019 summer ecumenical midweek services for a second summer season at Holy Trinity Episcopal Church.*

*I am writing to report the results of the free will offerings given during the 10 evening worship services we conducted last summer season. Please share this good news with your congregations.*

*Our planners agreed before the start of the summer services that any free will cash offerings would be given equally to Servants of Shelter, Falls Hunger Coalition and Backus Community Center.*

*Those worshipping generously gave \$251 cash for the cause-divided by three that equals \$83.67 or rounded up to \$84.*

*The money was delivered today, as were all of the sealed pledge envelopes for Zion, First, Holy Trinity and Faith United Church of Christ congregations.*

*We also averaged 17 worshipers per service this summer which considering the weather and all that was going on every Wednesday evening here is encouraging.*

You can tell your friends and parishioners that most of the services are on the Holy Trinity Episcopal Church Facebook page. Just click on the video section after the page opens up and select the appropriate Wednesday session.

So let us all be thankful for the ecumenical spirit that inspires us.

Sojourner's verse of the day is "Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ" from Galatians 6:2 (NIV)

Sojourner's voice of the day came from Helen Keller "Until the great mass of the people shall be filled with the sense of responsibility for each other's welfare, social justice can never be attained".

And the Sojourner's prayer of the day is "Lord, empower us to have great care for one another, in the same way that you care for us.

Thank you all for working to make our worshiping community successful this summer.

Peace and ecumenically yours,

Reverend Leland H. Grim-Deacon

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Faith United Church has an active prayer chain. If you have prayer requests for someone, or yourself, call the church office at 283-2486 or Norma Krats at 285-7015. You must have permission to put someone on the chain...either from the person, or from a close relative. They will remain on the prayer chain list until a request to remove them is made.

To put someone on the list for Saturday bulletin prayers, call the church office at 283-2486. People will be on the list for one week only, unless you ask that they remain on the list. In that case, please call back when they can be removed.

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**September 07** after Worship Service: **(IMPORTANT)**

Congregational Meeting to consider going to Sunday worship services.

**September 14** after Worship Service: **(FUN)**

Men's Club is sponsoring a snack of veggie trays and small sandwiches... with a program of Bob Hilke talking about his friendship with Ernest Oberholtzer.

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**THE ECONOMICS of CLIMATE CHANGE**  
**and CLIMATE SOLUTIONS**

A Conversation with Katya Gordon  
of Amicus Adventure Sailing and the  
Grand Marais Chapter of Citizens Climate Lobby

**6:30 p.m. - Wednesday September 25, 2019**

Holy Trinity Episcopal Church  
820 4th St. International Falls

**NO RSVP REQUIRED / ALL ARE WELCOME !**

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## **Saturday, September 7, 2019**

**Shall Faith United Church enter into a trial run period beginning September 22 to October 27, 2019 to be completed with a Parish wide vote of the two options?**

**September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup> and October 6<sup>th</sup> services will follow this schedule:**

**Baudette 9:00 – 10:00 am**

**Birchdale 11:00-12:00 pm**

**Int'l Falls 2:00-3:00 pm**

**October 13<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup> services will follow this schedule:**

**Birchdale 8:30-9:30 am**

**Int'l Falls 10:30-11:30 am**

**Baudette 2:00-3:00 pm**

**More information:**

- **All 3 churches must vote “yes” for the trial for the trial to begin**
- **All church services will be on Sundays for the trial period**
- **Votes on October 27<sup>th</sup> will be tabulated parish wide to choose the best option for the parish – not each individual church deciding.**
- **If all 3 churches enter into this trial period, we will proceed to pursue a shared pastor and ministry.**
- **If all 3 churches do not enter into this trial period, we can continue to “rent” Pastor John until his retirement, or we find a new pastor.**



# September 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> 	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 4:00pm Worship Service +Congregation Meeting.
<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> 5-6:30pm Ruby'sPantry	<b>10</b> 10:00am Finance Mtg.	<b>11</b> 1-3:00pm Memory Cafe	<b>12</b> 12:00p.m. Elephant Eaters	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 4:00pm Worship Service +Men'sClub Snack&Talk
<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> 9:00am Men's Club At Voyageur 11:30 Council Mtg.	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 4:00pm Worship Service +PrayerChain FiresideRoom
<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 1-3:00pm Memory Cafe	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 4:00pm Worship Service
<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>					



# October 2019 - (tentative)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 4:00pm Worship Service
<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 10:00am Finance Mtg.	<b>9</b> 1-3:00pm Memory Cafe	<b>10</b> 12:00p.m. Elephant Eaters	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 4:00pm Worship Service
<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 5-6:30pm Ruby'sPantry	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 9:00am Men's Club At Voyageur 11:30 Council Mtg.	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> 4:00pm Worship Service +PrayerChain FiresideRoom
<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> 1-3:00pm Memory Cafe	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> 4:00pm Worship Service
<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30.</b>	<b>31</b>		

**Faith United Church**

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**We're on the Web!**


Visit us at:  
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**Find us on Facebook** 

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*and don't forget to  
become a fan!*

Matters of Faith is published by Faith United Church, UCC for it's members and friends

*No matter who you are,  
or where you are on life's journey,  
you are welcome here.* 



*Address Correction Requested*

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