



EVENTS

*Worship with us every
Sunday at 10 AM!*

- 5/5** - Communion
and Family Sunday
 - 5/12** - Mother's Day
 - 5/13** - Church
Council, 7 PM
 - 5/19**- Baccalaureate
Sunday/Last Day of
Sunday School
 - 5/26**- Memorial
Day
- ### LITURGISTS
- 5/5** - Connie Wiersma
 - 5/12** - Julie Norland
 - 5/19** - Tracy Tronnes
 - 5/26** - Tammy
Campbell

BIRTHDAYS

- 5/6 - Luke Smerchek
- 5/7 - Tracy Tronnes
- 5/12 - Stephanie
Wilson
- 5/17 - Jim McLouth
- 5/19 - Jan McLouth
- 5/23 - Seth Wiersma

From the desk of Pastor Tiff

Throughout the ages communities of faith whatever their religion have expressed their believes through various art forms. We are the recipients of masterpiece paintings, music styles from around the world, dance creations, and various plays and dramas. The most prolific form of religious art is the written word not only in our sacred literature but in poems, prayers and liturgy for worship. Taken as a whole, they form the basics of just about everything we believe about God, our spiritual life, and how we are called to live as a faithful community. Over the years my life has been touched by all the above although you might not want to watch me dance. However, one of unique faith expressions is that I have performed and taught pantomime. Yes, I do wear white face. So, each Sunday in church and during the week we have hundreds of opportunities to see, hear, and read sacred art. Sometimes we might not even be aware that what is in front of us counts an expression of the holy in our midst. It might be a piece of music on the radio, a quiet walk in the woods and the music of the birds, or a picture in our hallway of Jesus holding a child. Faithful art is everywhere and it helps us to expand our understanding of the God of all creation.

One form of performing art that is close to my heart is plays, theater, and even short skits. Since my college days I have taken several roles in theater as writer and composer, director, actor, and musician. I have never been on Broadway but my guess is that I have had a hand in hundreds of performances. The great thing about theater is it uses multiple art forms at the same time to tell the story. Most shows today include a script, music, dancing and creative movement, and the whole production paints a picture of some aspect of the human experience. The play Hamilton was terrific example of a show that had it all. Over the years some of religious plays that have been performed are: "Jesus Christ, Superstar", "Godspell", "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat", "Sister Act", and "Children of Aden". This is just a sample of some of the more well-known religious plays.

One you may not have heard of is "Cotton Patch Gospel". The play is based on a book by Clarence Jordan and the script is based on the gospels of Matthew and John. The unique feature of this play is that the whole gospel story takes place in Georgia not the Holy Land. The play presents a very human Jesus and a group of disciples who have a hard time getting the message of Jesus. The music was written by Harry Chapin and features a quartet of talented Bluegrass musicians. I would like to show this play during the month of May and will work with the Church Council to choose a show time. You won't want to miss it.

-Pastor Tiff

Notes From the Office

- We were honored to welcome seven new members last month! We have created name tags for our new members and anybody who did not yet have a name tag. We'd love for everyone to wear their tags for the next few weeks so we can all get to know each other better. If you need a name tag, or would like one for your child/children, please find the sign-up sheet by the name tag board or get in touch with the office.
- On May 5th we will hold the first of our "Family Sundays". Family Sundays are an opportunity for informal, intergenerational fellowship and community gathering. We will host a potluck immediately after worship, and the Sunday School children and their families will take a church-sponsored trip to Eugster's Farm Market for their Lambing and Kidding Days after lunch.
- Thank you to all of our wonderful volunteers who helped fulfill Meals on Wheels delivery last month - Eric Kim, Doug and Linda Cutting, Eric and Julie Lyerla, Gary and Mary Lou Behring, and Connie and Cal Wiersma.

Sunday School Corner

- **There will be no Sunday School on Mother's Day, May 12.** On May 19th we will celebrate our graduates, thank our Sunday School helpers, and hold the last Sunday School lesson before summer.
- On the 19th we will also be launching our brand new summer program, "Little Rainbow Readers"! In lieu of a formal Sunday School curriculum, this initiative will continue to engage the kids with lessons of love, faith, service and peace through an incentivized reading program. We hope you join us on the 19th to learn more - if you are unable to attend, reach out to Education Coordinator Jill Sanderson for more details.
- We are so thankful for all of the children who joined us to brighten our Sundays this school year. Lessons of peace, climate care, and the love of God were heard and felt all year. From the water walk to raise awareness about the global need for clean water to bringing the Swifhaven residents Valentine's Day gifts, we learned the value of caring for our community and the world.
- Children's ministry would not be possible without coordinator Jill Sanderson, co-teachers Erin Bavery and Rachel Dampier, and helpers Tammy Campbell and Holly Gould. If you'd like to be involved in next year's initiatives, please contact the office or a member of church council. From the bottom of our hearts, thank you for being here.

Thank You!

Thank you to all of our members and friends who assisted with our worship services and activities last month.

A special thanks to Leia Maves, Jim McLouth, and Lynn Bates who have recently volunteered to add their names to the liturgical rotation. We are so grateful for everyone who donates their time to our services - our little church on Henry Street wouldn't be the tiny but mighty place to worship without you!





We are also especially grateful for Linda Cutting and Margaret Hawkins, who have taken on the mighty task of sorting, organizing, and recording the church's historical and administrative records.



YOUR CHURCH COUNCIL

Interim Pastor Rev. Tiff Bates - revtiffbates@gmail.com
Moderator - Krista Kim - rigertkim@gmail.com
Treasurer - Tracy Tronnes - tntronnes@nylumber.com
Finance/Trustees - Bruce Morris - brucem929@gmail.com
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CHURCH COUNCIL

March 11, 2024

PRESENT: Rev. Tiff, Krista Kim, Bruce Morris, Tracy Tronnes, Jill Sanderson, Todd Campbell, Kathleen Matson, Mary Lou Behring, and Doug and Linda Cutting.

Krista called the meeting to order. Rev. Tiff shared a prayer.

CHECK IN: Went around the table mentioning positive items we were waiting for.

MINUTES: The minutes from February were reviewed. Tracy made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Todd seconded. Motion was approved.

CONGREGATION TIME: Linda discussed the office clean out project and asked about various saved documents and items. Piles are being made for appropriate Council members to review. We agreed all Annual Reports should be saved. Old pictures will be out at the Fish Fry to determine names if known. Kathleen will contact our Conference for a record retention list.

MINISTERS REPORT: Tiff distributed and discussed a possible work schedule for the summer months. Council agreed to it conceptually and will finalize coverage plans upon receipt of specific dates from Tiff. Tiff talked about a possible Folk Music Sunday and a possible open house hosted by him and Lynn outside of our regular worship time. Details to be discussed at a future Council meeting. A new member gathering is planned for March 17. There are several folks interested. A new member service will be scheduled at a future date according to their availability. Linda and Doug Cutting are going to do the transportation for Marie Dody – thank you Cuttings! The Wisconsin Conference has sent a brochure soliciting funds for a variety of uses. Krista will review.

COMMUNICATIONS/KATHLEEN: Kathleen has Easter flowers and palms ordered and will be collecting funds for Easter flowers as in the past. Meals on Wheels is April 1 – April 21. We will be looking for volunteers. We continue to look for volunteers for liturgy and ushering. Church attendees are covering as needed. Our CCLI license is due (covers our performance and copying of copy written music) Tracy took the bill to process. Kathleen and Jill have recruited Agneta (Yeti) to assist with our FB streaming of worship. Council/Trustees agreed to pay her an additional \$5.00 per Sunday for this service. She currently receives \$25 per Sunday for Nursery. Kathleen will organize a bake sale in May to raise funds to donate to Outreach to help fund summer lunches for kids. Kathleen mentioned taking a “climate survey” of congregants in the fall.

OLD BUSINESS:

Condition of Piano – Krista and Eric had a professional tuner/repairer look at both pianos at church. Significant work needs to be done on the one upstairs for long-term use. Krista is discussing this with Holly and Margaret as they originally donated the piano to the church.

NEW BUSINESS:

Next steps for Search and Call – we are open to continue to receive profiles.

Ideas for family-oriented Sundays – Childrens' Sunday, Mission Sunday such as Sleep in Heavenly Peace presentation.

Easter plans – Communion to be on Maundy Thursday with tables set up in the front of the sanctuary, allowing folks to also sit in the pews. Tiff is looking for readers for Good Friday, March 29th. Tiff is also looking for a music group to sing/share on Easter Sunday.

Position evaluations/reviews – Krista is providing job descriptions to all our employed staff to include Josephine, Kathleen, Tammy and Agneta. She will have a review of status with all staff in April.

Fundraiser possibility for JAMS – Jill is looking into baskets from Kenya to sell.

Concert next door – Jill is investigating a concert next door at Henry Street Social in conjunction with Outreach to raise funds for the Fulton Street project.

Pastor Tiff's vacation – Tiff is scheduled for vacation April 14th. Kathleen will be making calls for pulpit supply.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

WORSHIP LIFE: A written list of Communion procedures will be prepared by the group. Next communion is Maundy Thursday and then on April 7.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION: The last day of Sunday School will be May 19th. Jill and Tiff will plan a special Sunday with kids in the service. Vacation Bible School was discussed. Jill will talk with her team about summer programming.

TRUSTEES: We are still fundraising for bibles and doors. All bills are being paid timely and we are consistently receiving donations. It was a great help to our cash flow to receive the Peanut Fellowship annual contribution in January.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Tracy stated we are on budget and getting the bills paid.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30.

Respectfully submitted, Tracy Tronnes