

The Messenger

A Community of Faith Dedicated to
Spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ,
Providing Spiritual Nurture to Persons of All Ages,
and Reaching Out in Christian Fellowship to the Surrounding Community

3 things will last forever
- faith, hope, *& love* -
& the greatest of these is
love.

I CORINTHIANS 13:13

Barnum Community United Methodist Church

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Office Hours (Mon-Thu) 8:30 am—1:30 pm

January 2025

Volume 25—Issue 1

Sunday Worship

Facebook Live 9:30 am

In Person 9:30 am

Dog's Pause

Our bishop, Bishop Lanette, has written a powerful, thought-provoking letter. It is a call to put our faith to work. Here's a paragraph from her letter.

"I write to you with a heavy heart and a determined spirit as we navigate a time when the sacred spaces of our lives — schools, hospitals, and faith communities — are under threat of violation. No matter our political leanings, recent actions that permit raids by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) in these spaces where children are learning, the infirm are receiving care, and congregations are engaged in worship and ministry strike at the heart of who we are as people of faith and as a church committed to the Gospel of Jesus Christ." (Entire letter can be read on the Minnesota Annual Conference website)

I so appreciate our bishop's point that there are issues that we, as followers of Jesus, must respond to regardless of our political leanings. We can differ on how matters of immigration are dealt with, but we all understand that Jesus tells us love, compassion, and mercy need to be practiced in all our interaction. We live in a time where there is no room to turn a blind eye toward the situation or to put our head in the sand.

That, however, is not the main point of my article. Jesus tells the story in Luke 18 of the widow who keeps pestering the judge for justice. The Lord ends the parable with this question, "However, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?" Faith is made evident by the way we live.

Not all the Bible is meant to be read literally, it contains a variety of types of literature. I believe in the prophetic word, not only in the form of speaking truth to situations as we read in the bishop's letter, but also speaking of what is to come. Both are scriptural. When the Bible speaks of the return of Christ, the full establishment of God's Kingdom, a time of judgement, I accept it just as I read it.

What we witness unfolding in our nation and globally today confirms in my heart how quickly one individual can be yielded total power and control at alarming speed. Do I have any idea who that person will be or when such time will come? No. However, Jesus does say to those who believe there are no indicators..." Now learn this lesson from the fig tree: As soon as its twigs get tender and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near. Even so, when you see all these things, you know that it is near, right at the door...."

How do we respond? Jesus tells us to keep watch. Be aware. Readiness begins first by receiving the forgiveness and grace Jesus extends to all who believe. Watching means to be living our faith. The example Jesus uses for this is right where Bishop Lanette's letter brings us, living obediently, practicing faithfulness, being merciful, and seeking justice. (Read Matthew 24 and 25 paying special attention to verses 31-46 of chapter 25)

What an important time to embrace and live fully into who we are as followers of Jesus. How great it is to be a part of a connection that emphasizes our personal life in Christ and matters of justice in our society! We can truly be the hands and feet of Jesus in ways that make a huge difference in our community and beyond. Let us live for God boldly and bravely!

The Good Shepherd's Sheepdog,
Lee

FEBRUARY

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 9:30 Worship Service Communion 4-5 Confirmation	3 5-8:00 Youth Group	4 11:00 Prayer Group	5 6:00-7:30 Youth Group	6	7	8
9 9:30 Worship Service Table Sunday 4-5 Confirmation	10 5:30 Finance Mtg 6:30 Council Mtg 5-8:00 Youth Group	11 11:00 Prayer Group	12 1:30-3:00 United Women In Faith 6:00-7:30 Youth Group	13	14	15
16 9:30 Worship Service 4-5 Confirmation	17 Presidents' Day 2-8:00 Youth Group No School	18 11:00 Prayer Group	19 6:00-7:30 Youth Group	20	21	22
23 9:30 Worship Service 4-5 Confirmation	24 5-8:00 Youth Group	25 11:00 Prayer Group	26 6:00-7:30 Youth Group	27	28	

** Schedule subject to change.



February

Audette	Laurie	02/01
Schoonover	Bill	02/01
Barnes	John	02/02
Kantonen	Micah	02/02
Eastman	Ron	02/04
Lambert	Rachel	02/04
Donaldson	Morgan	02/12
Donaldson	Brent	02/14
Peterson	Timothy	02/15
Dathe	Terry	02/17
Osborne	Karen	02/17
Wickstrom	Jamie	02/18
Bartz	Kevin	02/19
Finifrock	Kay	02/22
Hurst	Cassandra	02/22
Jeffers	Teresa	02/23
Casey	Emma	02/25
Vitito	Judi	02/26
Paulus	Gary	02/28

March

Juszczak	Tony	03/03
Kantonen	Darcy	03/03
Jordan	Jackson	03/04
Enerson	Kalie	03/07
Mattson	Mechelle	03/08
Breitkreutz	Tracy	03/13
Morin	Gloria	03/13
Aldrin	Steve	03/14
Henninger	Loren	03/14
Barnes	Rachael	03/17
Newman	Dawn	03/18
Uszenski	Lisa	03/20
Weske	Delores	03/23
Juntti	James	03/24
Garvey	Patrick	03/26
Bartz	Michelle	03/29
Wickstrom	Kristi	03/29
Helwig	Sarah	03/30
Ferguson	Bryce	03/31

United Women in Faith will meet at the church on Wednesday, February 12, at 1:30. All women of the church are invited. We will be discussing pages 114-118 in our study book, "Life on Purpose for Women". No book, no worries, we may have extras or will share with you. Bev N. will be the hostess and Kay F. will lead the discussion. Hope to see you there.



Happy February!

As the world turns, red and pink and the snack of choice is chocolate it's a clear sign that Valentine's Day is right around the corner. Each year during this season, the Barnum Youth Group always takes time to discuss love. We talk about romantic love, how to be a good family member and what true friendship is all about. And most importantly, we take time to look at God, who is the embodiment of love. Teenagers really struggle with love because it's something they desperately want and often don't know how to find.

"This is real love-not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins." -1 John 4:10 NLT

In January we had a lot of fun, with days off school, computer building, super cold weather and a birthday celebration! It's always fun to celebrate a student's birthday and we made sure it was a special day for them. Another big event was the banning of TikTok. Not all the students use the app, but they all had friends who are affected by this. Even though it didn't last very long, it was a great opportunity to talk about cell phones, social media consumption, and addiction. Please join me in praying for students that they develop a healthy relationship with their phone and that they find true love in Jesus.

