

A Newsletter of Polo Faith United Methodist Church

Words of Faith

Loving, Growing, Serving in Faith

August 2017

Grace and Peace to you from Jesus Christ our Lord, our Savior and our Brother,

Kathy and I have settled in at the parsonage and are getting settled into the Faith United Methodist Church and the Polo community. We have received such warm hospitality from everyone. We are enjoying this new season of ministry in partnership with you. I am making my way around the various committees and task groups and Sunday School classes to listen and learn more about the people and ministries of the church. Sunday services have been energetic with growing attendance and participation. Our fiscal position continues to improve, although we need to remain faithful and consistent in our giving in these summer months of vacations.



As you can read about elsewhere in the newsletter, the Staff Parish Relations Committee is facilitating a number of informal meet and greet style home meetings where we have an opportunity to get to know one another better and for me to hear your aspirations, hopes and concerns about your life and the life of Faith United Methodist Church. Please sign up for one of these events which we have scheduled at various times and days of the week in August at a variety of home locations including the parsonage. The hosts will have some treats for us to share as well. Children are welcome to come and be with us.

Pastor Brian and Kathy LeBaron at his Great Niece's Wedding in San Diego in July.

As we enter into August and soon back into the school year I want to invite you to participate in the current sermon series about "What on Earth Are We Here For" which started July 30th. The themes include the following which will be adapted from the best seller "The Purpose Drive Life" by Rick Warren presented with a Methodist theological framework.

- July 30 Purpose # 1: **You were Planned for God's Pleasure.** Bringing Pleasure to God is called Worship
- August 6 Purpose # 2: **You were Formed for God's Family** Experiencing life together in God's family is called Fellowship.
- August 13 Purpose # 3: **You were Created to Become Like Christ** – Becoming like Christ is called Discipleship
- August 20 Purpose # 4: **You were Shaped for Serving God** – Being shaped to serve God is called Ministry
- August 27 Purpose # 5: **You were Made for a Mission** – Fulfilling my Mission is called Evangelism

Please do not hesitate to reach out to me if you have a pastoral concern. I can be reached several ways:

1. Plain old fashioned telephone call on my cell at 815-541-4207
2. Text me on my cell phone at 815-541-4207
3. Message me with Facebook Messenger at Brian LeBaron, please make me your friend on Facebook.
4. Instagram me
5. I am in and out of the office, so please make an appointment or contact me if you want to meet me at church at a specific time.

May we continue together to grow in love, service and discipleship,

Pastor Brian LeBaron, LCPC
(Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor)
Faith United Methodist Church

Growing in Faith

We are committed to growing as disciples of Jesus Christ.
Some of the ways we live this out are through

MEET AND GREET HOUSE MEETINGS

Meet and Greet House Meetings for Pastor Brian and Kathy

During the month of August, the Staff Parish Committee will be hosting a number of House meetings so church members can get to know Pastor Brian and Kathy. We have varied the times and the days and locations of the meetings to allow everyone the greatest flexibility in choosing a meeting to attend. We encourage everyone to look through the list below and pick a meeting time to attend.

PLEASE CALL OR EMAIL THE HOST OF THE MEETING YOU SELECT so that our hosts can be expecting you. Light refreshments will be served.

<u>Date/Day</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Host/ Location</u>
August 10 Thursday	1.30 PM	Ginny Snodgrass 407 N. Union Avenue - Community Room auntgin37863irene@yahoo.com Cell: 779.770.6393 Also hosting: Margie Shore
August 11 Friday	7.00 PM	Randy & Donna Hayes 401 N Congress ra50h1y9s@comcast.net Cell 815.622.5118
August 16 Wednesday	6.00 PM	Barbara Sims 5931 Bogey Dr. bsims@frontier.com Cell: 815.677.4855 Land 815.946.3084
August 19 Saturday	2.00 PM	Parsonage 212 N. Marco Ave. pastorbrianlebaron@gmail.com Cell: 815.541.4207
August 20 Sunday	6.00 PM	John & Jean Deuth 12804 W. Goose Hollow Rd. jcdeuth@hotmail.com johndeuth@frontiernet.net Jean Cell 815.440.8290
August 21 Monday	1.30 PM	Phil & Jean Frey 3527 S Lowell Park Rd pjfrey@hotmail.com Cell 815.590.2407

PHOTOS FROM PASTOR BRIAN'S FIRST SUNDAY



MUSIC AT FAITH UMC

Scheduling special music for worship involves many persons within and outside of Faith UMC. Thank you to everyone who shared their talents during our worship services.



SPECIAL MUSIC SCHEDULE

Aug. 6 – Randy Hayes
Aug. 13 – The String Alongs (dulcimers)
Aug. 20 – Nellie Winters (flute)
Aug. 27 – Robin Jefford
Sept. 3 – Kevin Deets (oboe)
Sept. 10 – Mark and Diana Maginnis

Jean Frey

BELL CHOIR REHEARSALS BEGIN AUGUST 30



Weekly bell practice begins Aug 30 at 6pm.

First church service for bells to play is Sept 17. Thereafter, they will play for church on the 2nd Sunday of each month.

SENIOR CHOIR REHEARSALS, FALL 2017

We hope you have been enjoying the Summer Music Ministry during the time the choir has been on R&R! Faith UMC has been blessed with many talented musicians!

Fall Choir rehearsals will begin Wednesday, Sept. 6 at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. Our first Sunday to sing is Sept. 24, as the Bell Choir will play Sept. 17.

If *YOU* sing soprano, alto, tenor, or bass and would like to join us in Music Ministry, please consider this your personal invitation to attend our first rehearsal Sept. 6. If you have any questions, feel free to talk to any choir member or me for more information!

Jean Frey (815-946-3179)



Serving in Faith

We are committed to serving the people of Polo and the world.

Some of the ways we live this out are through our giving of time, talents, and financial gifts.

AUGUST MISSION FOCUS - BILL HARE HONDURAS PROJECT

The Serving Team was inspired by a letter our congregation received from Bill Hare. Many of us in the Polo community know of the mission work Bill and his friends mainly from Polo and Mt. Morris have been doing in Honduras for many years. He has taken on even more of a challenge as you can read in his letter:

Dear Friends,

In March I returned from my second trip to southern Honduras this year where we again helped to meet the needs of the desperately poor.

In January, we completed six 18 foot by 18 foot concrete block houses for 6 vulnerable families. For the first time, we had 3 Honduran doctors with us who saw 715 patients. The main health issues were high blood pressure, parasites, respiratory issues, and skin diseases. Counting the patients the doctors treated, the Bible School kids, the people who benefited from the garage sale, and the home recipients we impacted in some way about 1,000 people.

In March, we traveled to the far south to the very remote community of Santa Catarina where our mission was 2-fold. We had 20 pound food packs for 170 poor hungry families. Our 2 doctors gave appropriate medications to 535 people. In that 4-day period we delivered God's love to 1500 people in 3 communities.

If we are going to be able to serve these vulnerable people in southern Honduras we need your generous financial support as these mission efforts cost thousands of dollars. We need to know our available financial resources by July 1, 2017 so we can plan for our January and March projects. Please consider supporting our work financially and in prayer. . . .

In His service,
Bill Hare

The Serving Team pledged \$200 at the time we received this letter. If you would like to support this effort, please designate your mission gifts during August to the Honduran Mission Fund.

Nancy Ocken, Serving Team

POLO FAITH UMC FINANCIAL INFORMATION

June 2017 Polo Faith UMC Financial Information

Monthly Income (General Fund)	\$ 20,144
Monthly Expenses Paid	\$ 11,372
Balance Current Fund	\$ (2,490)



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Expense amount does not include elevator or our outreach projects.

Thank you for your generosity throughout the year. If you are able to give a little extra now to support the basic costs of running the church, it will be greatly appreciated.

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WHEELS OF FAITH MINISTRY



DO YOU KNOW
SOMEONE WHO
NEEDS A RIDE?
WHEELS OF
FAITH
815.677.8194

Our Wheels of Faith bus is making 3-5 trips a week taking people shopping and to the doctor. If you know of anyone who could use this wonderful service, please share the new flyer with them or the new number. The newest bus has a wheel chair lift and is air conditioned and will be comfortable for everyone.

COMBAT HUNGER



August needs for the Polo Lifeline are these:

Coffee	Canned fruits
Tea bags	Canned chicken
Spaghetti sauce	Deodorant
Mac & cheese	Child's large diapers
Ketchup	Wipes
Any boxed potatoes	Pain Relievers
Soup	Toilet paper
Peanut butter	
Pork-n-beans	

Monetary donations are always welcome. Thank you for supporting our local food pantry!

KIDZ CAFÉ



KIDZ CAFÉ
Ended on July 31, 2017

Kidz Café served lunch Monday, Wednesday and Friday in June & July.

As of July 31st we have served 1,133 meals.

Thank you to everyone who has volunteered their time, and/or made donations. Your love and dedication to this ministry is so apparent as you prepare food and serve those who come to eat.

CROP HUNGER WALK - SAVE THE DATE



OCTOBER 1, 2017
CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN
MT. MORRIS IL

REGISTRATION 1:30 PM
WALK STARTS AT 2:00 PM

AUGUST UMW MEETING

August 17, 2017 at 12 noon
UMW invites all the ladies of the church to a luncheon at the Candlelight Inn in Sterling.

The bus- Wheels of Faith- will be available to pick up the ladies at the church at 11:15 a.m. Mark will take us and bring us back. Remember, the bus is air-conditioned and handicap accessible. For reservations call Margie 631-9154 by Monday August 14th.



SECOND HAND ROSE



ADDITIONAL VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
for August 1-5, 2017, and Sept. 5-9, 2017

Faith UMC provides workers for the Tuesday-Saturday weekly schedule every 5 weeks.

The schedule is:

Tuesday & Wednesday	11 am-2 pm & 2-5pm
Thursday & Friday	1 -5 pm, (or you can work 1-3 or 3-5 if 4 hours is too much)
Saturday	9-12 noon

If you are willing to learn this fairly easy but important job, we will have you work with someone who has more experience.

If you would like to join our team, please call Ginny Snodgrass at 779.770.6393 or the church office.

THANK YOU!!!




Loving in Faith

We are committed to loving God and all people.


Some of the ways we live this out are through our praise, prayers, and fellowship.

WE LIFT UP IN PRAYER

<u>Ongoing Prayers:</u>	Annabelle Muench	Growing tensions and divisions in our country
Verla Attig	Eldon Ports	Our need for thoughtful political discourse
Lenora Bakener	Arvilla Siddens	
Kay Dillard	National and World Leaders	
Bill Ehmen	Our struggles to love our neighbors	
Jean Frey		
Faith Glaman		
Betty Good		
Harlan Long		
Nancy Mackey		
Wallace Mackey		

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

01 Juanita Hartle	16 Sandy Cross	05 Wayne & Ginger Haan
02 Christine Hammer	17 Ron Erdman	07 Drew & Tena Terry
02 Greg Saunders	21 Kelly Diehl	08 Bob & Julie Merdian
03 Beverly Wiemken	21 A J Williams	19 Craig & Julie McGuire
05 Irene Attig	25 Margie Shore	22 Marvin & Sue Van Oosten
6 Michael Rieber	26 Kristi Naylor	28 Shawn & Tiffany Willis
07 Faith Glaman	28 Caylee-Jo Strickler	
07 Jo Dee VanOosten	30 Jim Jefford	
08 Keith Chesnut	31 Justine Gorzny	
09 Eric Engelbarts II	31 Dane VanOosten	
10 Jeffrey VanOosten	31 Danielle VanOosten	
11 Raymond Meiners		
13 Victoria Busser		
16 Jean Deuth		

AUGUST 2017 WORSHIP SERVANTS

<u>Greeters:</u>	
8-06-17	Tom & Marla Buskohl Toby & Becky Handel
8-13-17	Mark & Diana Maginnis Roger & Jane Palmer
8-20-17	Barb Sims, Ginny Snodgrass Phil & Jean Frey
8-27-17	Matt & Margie Shore Karla Merdian, Marilyn Sura

AUGUST UMW MEETING

	August 17 All Ladies Eat Out 12:00 noon
Hostesses:	Margie Shore
Program:	All Church Ladies Eat Out
Location:	Candlelight Inn, Sterling
Devotions:	Barb DuBois

AD COUNCIL MINUTES JULY 24, 2017

Attendees: Pastor Brian, Laura McKean, Marla Buskohl, Judy Norris, Margie Shore, Ron Hammer, Randy Hayes, Phil Frey, Nancy Ocken, Mark Maginnis, Marilyn Sura

Phil Frey opened the meeting and led devotions. May 15, 2017 minutes were approved.

Finance: We are behind \$2,490.28 plus the \$5,000 borrowed from United Methodist Foundation.

Serving: Nancy Ocken reported they had a good work day with Rockford Work Camps while they helped serve 216 meals at the Food Bank and then trimmed bushes at Zion Baptist Church. They also visited an urban farm that is thriving. **July 30 is the next luncheon at Prairie State Apartment and the August Mission focus will be on Bill Hare's Honduras Project.** We have pledged to donate \$200.00 and hopefully will raise more than that.

Growing: Pastor Brian is working on re-starting this committee.

Loving: Marla reported they hope to serve 250 for the pulled pork supper elevator fund raiser on July 29, 2017. Take out will be offered and upper level dining for people who cannot use the stairs. Kidz Café will be ending on July 31.

Staff Parish: Tristan Strickler resigned from mowing the lawn and several bids were solicited. Jim Williams will mow for \$45.00. The Meet & Greet schedule with Pastor Brian and Kathy will be in the bulletin and the newsletter.

Trustees: Pastor Brian mentioned the window wells at the parsonage are leaking and need to be dug out. Mark reported the trustees have been busy at the parsonage. All the carpets were professionally cleaned, the kitchen was painted. Installations of a new counter, a newer dishwasher (received by donation), a new washer and dryer and a new water softener were completed. Pastor Brian mentioned how appreciative he and Kathy were for all of the updates made to the parsonage. A new door knob and lock will be installed at the Shelter House.

UMW: The August 17 meeting will be to the Candlelight restaurant in Sterling and all the women of the church are invited to attend. Mark will drive the Wheels of Faith bus leaving the church parking lot at 11:15 am.

Pastor Brian reported he has met with the elevator and finance committees, and with the musicians. He asked for opinions on how many services to have and when on Christmas Eve this year as it is a Sunday. He will continue meeting with committees and learning about the church and our community. He reminded everyone to please bring any questions or complaints directly to him.

Elevator Committee Update: The approximate cost for the elevator is \$140,000. We currently have \$14,000 raised and another \$38,000 pledged. It was decided we need to have 90% of the estimate in hand before the project could be started. More effort needs to be spent on fund raising.

PCCC: Pastor Brian and Marla will be attending the meeting on July 25 at the Pine Creek Christian Church.

Next Ad Council meeting will be August 21 at 7 pm. Pastor Brian will lead devotions in August.

Pastor Brian closed the meeting with a prayer.

*Watch calendar, website
and bulletins for upcoming
committee meetings*

September Newsletter Deadline is August 17

STAY IN TOUCH

Faith United Methodist Church
Pastor Brian LeBaron
Cell: 815.541.4207

COME SEE US

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This newsletter is created by human hands directing Technology. If you notice any errors, kindly let us know.

We will be happy to make any corrections.

We reserve the right to change the wording of any articles submitted to reflect kindness, consideration, and the best intentions of all.