



A Newsletter of Polo Faith United Methodist Church  
**Words of Faith**

Loving, Growing, Serving in Faith

February 2017

*This month I share with you some beautiful and very important thoughts for a time such as this. Pastor Karen*

**On Conversation** by Marilyn McEntyre

A good conversation is as satisfying as a good meal – and as nourishing. The best ones leave me changed. I see the world’s problems, or my own, in a different light; my anxieties are allayed; I am comforted or challenged or awakened to new possibilities.

The best conversationalists I have known have seemed to me to embody hospitality. My grandmother, raised in an older and slower time, took “vis’ting” seriously, not only as a social obligation or a fine pleasure, but as a kind of ministry. Like Jane Austen’s lively women, she invited and expected questions, wit, respectful argument, good stories. She wanted to know how people thought and felt, and she wanted to know what was accurate and true.

She was an English teacher, and words mattered to her in the way I believe they need to matter to all of us – as instruments of discernment, kindness, and correction. With us children, kindness and correction came in the same breath; she taught us not to fear correction, but to be grateful for it. I realize now what an unusual gift we had in an elder who cared enough to listen, laugh, engage, enjoy, and teach us.

Others with whom I have spent long walks or late evenings conversing have brought gifts that could have come no other way. There is pleasure in watching a movie together or working on a project or playing games or (especially) in reading aloud, but none of these offers or demands what a rich, thoughtful conversation can.

One friend has a genius for making stories out of the most ordinary encounters. Hearing her tell about a trip to the store becomes a source of amusement and often something more. Another has raised questions time after time that help reframe my thoughts and dislodge what is stuck in the spinning gears of my own mind. Another takes me into the deep waters of spiritual reflection and stays with me there, listening in a patient way that imparts grace.

“To converse” has a history of capacious meaning: to turn with, circle with, dwell with, walk with. Good conversation does this: we change direction, follow a winding path, encircle with words what can’t quite be spoken, and as Theodore Roethke put it, “learn by going where [I] have to go.”

The best conversations take us to the borderlands of prayer. The Holy Spirit who dwells within and among us makes the words we speak and hear, if we are willing, into instruments of grace. A well-chosen word can carry great blessing. A “way of putting it” may open a door of insight in a way we couldn’t know – and don’t need to.

Our job is to cultivate the generous curiosity, the imaginative listening, the playfulness, and the attentiveness to accuracy and clarity that enable words to do their best work. The Spirit does the rest in a holy silence to which we need to return.

As the writer of Ecclesiastes would say, there is a time to speak and a time to refrain from speaking. No outbreath without inbreath. We cannot give what we have not received. So we learn from each other how to find that life-giving rhythm of speaking and listening, praying (as we go) without ceasing.

*Marilyn McEntyre is a fellow at Westmont College and adjunct professor at the UCSF-UC Berkeley Joint Medical Program. She leads church retreats and adult education courses. Marilyn’s books include ‘Caring for Words in a Culture of Lies’ and ‘Patient Poets: Illness from Inside Out.’ This article is from the January/February ‘Alive Now’ – a United Methodist devotional booklet.*

# Growing in Faith

We are committed to growing as disciples of Jesus Christ.

Some of the ways we live this out are through our personal devotion, small groups, and worship.

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE AT FUMC



Help Organize and Clean The Youth Room

On February 10 and 11  
9:00 a.m.



The youth area in our building has become a storage area. We would like this wonderful space to be inviting to all, especially our youth. You are invited to join in the sorting out on February 10 and 11. We will hire a dumpster for furniture that is no longer usable. *If you have items in the storage areas that are valuable to you or your committee, please email the church office or leave a note in the office or on the specific items.*

Nancy Ocken, Serving Team  
Mark Maginnis, Trustees



Tuesday, February 22  
2 - 6 PM, Faith UMC



Did you know that every two seconds someone in the United States needs blood?

Did you know that by simply giving one pint of blood that you can potentially save as many as three people?

Help us at Faith UMC as we seek to serve in faith by signing up to give blood at our upcoming blood drive. To sign-up contact Carol Brown at 815.440.3983.

# 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

## FEBRUARY MISSION FOCUS WHEELS OF FAITH



**WHEELS OF FAITH**  
has a New Phone Number  
**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.*

*Our wonderful drivers have been Mark Maginnis, Phil Frey and Pastor Karen.*

## COMBAT HUNGER



Polo Lifeline numbers have increased substantially since October. They appreciate any additional help we may give. Monetary donations are always welcome.

February needs for the Polo Lifeline are these:

- |                           |                      |
|---------------------------|----------------------|
| Coffee                    | Canned fruit         |
| Rice and sauce            | Canned pork & beans  |
| or noodle and sauce mixes | Canned carrots       |
| Any type of noodles       | Spaghetti sauce      |
| Spaghetti sauce           | Paper Towels         |
| Tea bags                  | Toilet Paper         |
| Juice                     | Diapers larger sizes |

## STRENGTHEN COMMUNITY



Our Table  
Community  
Meal

5:30—7pm

What: Free home-cooked meal  
When: The last Monday of the Month

February 27, March 27, April 24  
May 29

Where: Faith UMC, 702 E. Dixon,  
Polo, IL

We hope you will join us for this opportunity to get to know our neighbors better. Bring your friends.

## POLO FAITH UMC FINANCIAL INFORMATION

### December 2016 Polo Faith UMC Financial Information

	December 2016	Year to Date
Monthly Income (General Fund)	19,502.00	161,314.00
161,175.60 (Includes \$5,000 from Memorial Fund to pay bills due by 12-31-16)		
Monthly Expenses Paid	15,865.00	160,958.00
Balance Current Fund	1,313.13	

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.

### January 8, 2017 Special Ad Council Meeting Minutes Meeting held after church with some members of congregation present.

Ad Council Attendees: Nancy Ocken, Marla Buskohl, Margie Shore, Randy Hayes, Mark Maginnis, Melissa Frey, Phil Frey, Laura McKean, Judy Norris Absent: Ron Hammer

Phil Frey led a wide and varied discussion about funding challenges for Phase II of the Accessibility Project. If we are to go ahead in May 2017, the architect needs to know in a few weeks in order to get plans out to contractors. Randy Ocken reported the architect's estimate for Phase II is \$115,206.

So far there is no money available for Phase II. All the bills for Phase I have been paid except one for the contractor of \$3,661. It is possible money could be borrowed from the UMF Funds but needs Rev. Park's approval. It seems unlikely that we could get a bank loan if we don't have the money for our regular current bills. It was suggested that we put the exact figures of what we need in the bulletin or possibly send out a letter to the congregation. There is approximately \$49,000 pledged over two years. Laura McKean mentioned approximately 20% of the pledges aren't ever given. If we would delay Phase II until 2018, we would have a chance to do more fund raising.

Melissa Frey made a motion to hold off on Phase II so we can continue to give to the elevator fund and not go into debt. Margie Shore seconded it. Melissa then amended her motion to: "We vote today to postpone Phase II and to revisit it by May 20, 2017." Nancy Ocken seconded it. Amended motion carried unanimously.

Ad Council will continue to discuss this at the next meeting on January 23 and work on getting a letter out composed by the Finance Committee.

*AD COUNCIL MINUTES JANUARY 23 , 2017*

Attendees: Mark Maginnis, Ron Hammer, Judy Norris, Laura McKean, Nancy Ocken, Phil Frey, Marla Buskohl, Melissa Frey, Pastor Karen, Margie Cox, Randy Hayes, John Deuth, Marilyn Sura

Phil Frey opened the meeting and led devotions.

Ad Council Minutes were approved for Dec. 5, 2016 and Jan. 8, 2017

Trustees will hold a meeting on Monday January 30 at 7:00 pm.

Staff Parish: Randy Hayes and Judy Norris attended the Leadership Training on January 21. Randy and Marilyn will be going to the Statisticals Report training on January 25 in Rochelle. The SPRC will meet January 26 at 7 pm with Rev. Park to begin the selection process for a new minister.

Finance: Ron Hammer, Treasurer reported he used \$5,000 of the \$10,000 that was borrowed in November from the Memorial Fund to pay the bills at the end of the year. As of today 1/23/17 we need \$2,400 to pay the remaining January bills. Laura McKean reported giving is behind last year and we now have less giving units. We need to consider how we will pay back the \$5,000 to the Memorial Fund. The good news is we did pay 100% of our apportionments. Discussion was held about various ways we might consider cutting expenses.

Endowment: Karen Scholl started the organization of the statements for the various funds. The committee needs to meet again to update documentation and to summarize all account information.

Elevator Project: Discussion was held on how to raise more money for Phase II. Estimated cost is \$115,206 with \$49,386 pledged over the next two years. The first thing to do is to send out a letter to members talking about the postponement, what amount we need to raise, etc. The elevator committee will write the letter. Other ideas were to hold more fundraisers and to increase our PR with radio announcements, newspaper press releases, and placemats. Nancy Ocken will create content for a placemat and John Deuth and Marla Buskohl will work on a fund raiser project. The amount for Phase I paid to the contractor, architect, and Generosity Group is \$141,251.30. (\$3,661 is still owed the contractor.) Laura indicated people have given \$128,373.18. The deficit for Phase I is \$12,918.12.

Serving & Trustees: February 10 & 11 at 9:00 am are the dates to clear out the youth room.

PCCC: Pastor Karen will find someone to attend these bi-monthly meetings.

Office computer: Motion made by Randy Hayes that we upgrade the office computer to Windows 7. Mark Maginnis seconded it. Motion carried unanimously. Cost will be \$200-250.

Next meeting will be Feb. 20, 2017.



WE CELEBRATE WITH

February Birthdays

February Anniversaries

02 Paul Piatek  
 03 Sharon Ditzler  
 04 Becky Rogers  
 04 Randy Ocken  
 07 Mackenzie Grenoble  
 07 Harriet Hutchison  
 08 Lindsey Montross  
 10 Alexis Moore (Strickler)  
 13 Luke Peterson  
 16 Diane Maginnis  
 16 Katelyn Rieber  
 17 Addison Renee Imel  
 18 Johnny Powell

19 Donna Gillingham  
 20 Tom Buskohl  
 21 Michelle Gilbert  
 22 Barb DuBois  
 23 Erin Folk  
 23 Virginia Snodgrass  
 24 Mike Scholl  
 25 Angie Gorzny  
 25 Allie Stover  
 27 Seth Bothe  
 27 Baylen Hammond  
 27 Ginger Haan  
 28 Liam Messer

02 Ron & Sandra Rackow  
 02 Wallace & Evelyn Mackey  
 03 Harold & Lucille Woodin  
 28 David & Annette Ditzler



**SECOND HAND ROSE**



ADDITIONAL VOLUNTEERS NEEDED for February 7-11, 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!!!

*Dear Faith UMC Family,*

*We appreciate so much the encouraging, inspiring, witty, thoughtful and loving cards that we are receiving as we move through our "cancer caper!" Your prayers, phone calls, emails, and meals have further added to our treasury of thankfulness to you all.*



*By Jan. 17, I will have 2chemos done and 2 to go; radiation follows.*

*We thank you for your kindnesses and love that has blessed us and kept us in touch with you!  
 Jean and Phil*

# 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

### Ongoing Prayers:

Verla Attig  
Lenora Bakener  
Kay Dillard  
Marian Ditzler  
Totsie Dykema  
Bill Ehmen  
Faith Glaman  
Betty Good  
Gladys Haring  
Harland Long

Nancy Mackey  
Wallace Mackey  
Kenneth Miller  
Annabelle Muench  
Viola Myers  
Eldon Ports  
Arvilla Siddens  
Situation in Israel/Palestine  
National and World  
Leaders  
Military and Law

Enforcement Personnel  
Immigration Crisis  
Our struggles to love our neighbors.



## FEBRUARY 2017 WORSHIP SERVANTS

### Child Care Assistants February 2017

2-05-17 Donna Deets  
2-12-17 Beverly Wiemken  
2-19-17 Jodi Merrell  
2-26-17 Tiffany Willis

### Greeters:

2-05-17 Tristan & Megan Strickler  
Julie Bowers & Linda Colcord  
2-12-17 Paul & Beverly Wiemken  
Judy Norris & Nancy Ocken  
2-19-17 Tim & Jodi Merrell  
Dan & Laura McKean  
2-26-17 Tom & Marla Buskohl  
Toby & Becky Handel

## UMW MEETING



February 16, 2017  
Scout Room  
1:30 pm

Hostesses: Carolyn Sterenberg  
Program: Call to Prayer & Self Denial  
Presenter: Donna Gillingham  
Devotions: Donna Gillingham

## THANK YOU, MEGAN!

Megan Strickler is now preparing the bulletin boards at the east entrance, both upstairs and downstairs. I appreciate her creativity and wish her well!

*Jean Frey*

# PHOTOS FROM CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE



Watch calendar, website and bulletins for upcoming committee meetings

March Newsletter Deadline is February 15

Copies of the Ad Council minutes and financial reports are available in the green folder on the table outside the office.

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.

## STAY IN TOUCH

Faith United Methodist Church  
Pastor Karen Hundrieser

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