



A Newsletter of Polo Faith United Methodist Church

Words of Faith

Loving, Growing, Serving in Faith

FEBRUARY 2018

Dear Friend of Faith,

Looking back on 2017 I would first like to thank all those who gave of their time, talent and treasure towards the work of the kingdom in and through Faith UMC.

Although we cannot all give equally, we each give an equal sacrifice and have been able to end the year in the black including giving of our apportionments in full to the Northern Illinois Conference. On behalf of the Bishop and District Superintendent as well as myself and the church staff we are grateful.

So what is coming up at Faith?

February 4th is Scouting Sunday, Mayor Doug Knapp will share some special music with us, Keith Chesnut will tell about the vision, mission, and value of scouting, scouts will be serving us as ushers, greeters and acolytes.

Every Friday we are reaching out to Polo junior highs downtown at the Polo Sub Stop in our After School Program. Please get the word out to any Junior Highs you know! We have fun, games, conversation, devotionals, pizza, pop, and yes, ice cream!

February 10th Winding up the basketball season with a 5th quarter post game party down in Fellowship Hall
February 14th at 7:00 PM we will observe Ash Wednesday in an unusual mash up of holidays between Valentines Day and Ash Wednesday. We host the folks from over at Brookville and Elkhorn.

February 18th and 25th we begin our Lenten Journey. Lent is a season of forty days, not counting Sundays, which begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday. Lent comes from the Anglo Saxon word *lencten*, which means "spring." The forty days represents the progression of events in the life of Christ. Lent is a time of repentance, fasting and preparation for the coming of Easter. It is a time of self-examination and reflection. Today, Christians focus on their relationship with God, often choosing to give up something or to volunteer and give of themselves for others. Sundays in Lent are not counted in the forty days because each Sunday represents a "mini-Easter" and the reverent spirit of Lent is tempered with joyful anticipation of the Resurrection.

People at Faith care. Each Tuesday morning a dedicated and devout prayer group come together and lift up the needs of our church, our community and the world. Please share your needs and concerns by announcing them in the worship service, filling out a prayer card or calling or emailing the church office or myself. Please remember if you or someone you know from the church is in the hospital please let the office or pastor know. Churches are not automatically notified. If you have other needs, concerns or issues please contact the office or pastor for help or consultation.

[Philippians 3:13-14](#)

Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

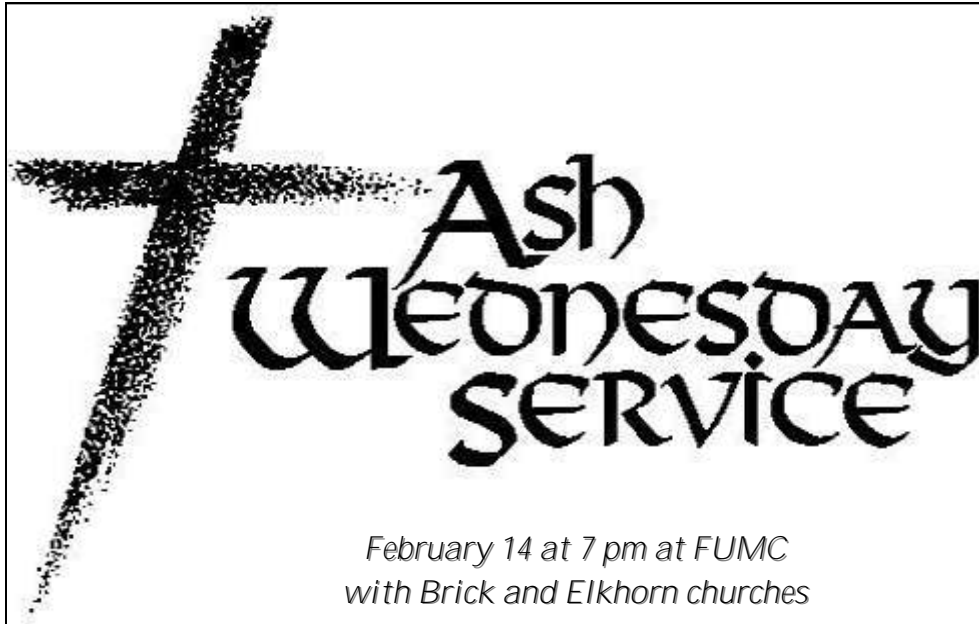
Let's Press On!

Pastor Brian LeBaron

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.



EVERY FRIDAY AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM



"In Collaboration with the Polo Sub Stop we are hosting an After School Program from 3:15 to 5:00 PM. There will be fun games, tasty snacks, a place for kids to "hang out." This program is targeted to the upper elementary 5th grade and up into junior high. Pastor Brian and other adults will provide supervision and facilitation.

5th QUARTER PARTY



Saturday February 10th is Senior Night at our last home game for the Polo Marcos Basketball team as they go up against rival Dakota Indians. Pastor Brian and Ashley and Coach Daniel Death will host a party in Fellowship hall with pizza, pop and time to "hang out" for the children and teens after the game. The party will get underway after the game, approximately 8:30 – 9:00 PM and dismiss by 10:30 PM.

FAITH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH BLOOD DRIVE FEB.27TH

Tuesday, February 27
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 make appointments, contact Carol Brown at 815.440.3983. Bring a valid ID and drink plenty of fluids before donating!



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.

FEBRUARY MISSION FOCUS



Wheels of Faith is the Serving Team's February Mission Focus. With our local pharmacy and hardware store closing in January, you may know of other members of our community who might need a ride to grocery store or the pharmacy or a doctor's appointment.

Please give them Mark's number 815.677.8194.



2017 HEIFER PROJECT UPDATE



Heifer Project donations are \$1536! Our goal of 4 stoves @ 50 and 2 water buffalo @250 is doubled!

We can get 10 stoves (\$500) and 4 buffalo (\$1000) plus a \$25 share of a buffalo and have \$11 left over.

We attend church with some very generous people!



POLO FAITH UMC FINANCIAL INFORMATION

December 2017 Polo Faith UMC Financial Information

Monthly Income (General Fund)	\$	18,001
Monthly Expenses Paid	\$	17,345
Balance Current Fund	\$	1,276

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



**DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO NEEDS A RIDE?
CALL 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.

2017 Christmas Basket Project a Success!

Polo Community Council of Churches 196 Polo Families served!!

On behalf of the Community Council of Churches of Polo, I would like to thank all who helped make the 2017 Christmas Basket project a success. Many gave their time to deliver, pack and sort food which ended with the delivering of the baskets.

196 baskets of food were given to families in the Polo area this year. We again were blessed with the generosity of Death Farms and others for the sausage and hams that were included in each basket.

Thanks to my committee who were a tremendous help during the organization process.

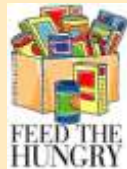
Marla Buskohl, Chairperson
Faith United Methodist Church



COMBAT HUNGER

URGENTLY NEEDED

- Fruit**
- Canned carrots**
- Cheeseburger hamburger helper**
- Boxed potatoes**



February ongoing needs for Polo Lifeline are these:

- | | |
|--------------------------|--|
| Coffee | Cream of Chicken Soup |
| Tea bags | Cream of Mushroom Soup |
| Cereal | Cheese |
| Spaghetti & sauce | Canned fruits |
| Canned tomato products | Canned chicken |
| Bread | Cake mix |
| Ketchup | Pancake mix |
| Any boxed potatoes | Deodorant, pain reliever |
| Pork & Beans | Toilet Paper, wipes |
| French Style Green Beans | Child lg. diapers |
| | Child's large diapers & wipes |

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

STRENGTHEN COMMUNITY



**Our Table
Community
Meal**

5:30—7pm

What: Free home-cooked meal

When: The last Monday of the Month

February 26, March 26
April 30, May 28

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.



UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Faith United Methodist Women put a tree in Senior Center to collect socks for kids. We collected over 30 pairs of socks for kids that were donated to Polo Centennial School for children who need socks.

We decided at our November meeting of UMW, to get a tree. Barb Sims answered our call and donated a pre-lit tree. Margie Shore volunteered to take it down afterwards. We can keep the tree for our future use- who knows what our theme will be next year.

Thank you, to whomever donated socks for this worthy community cause.



FIFTH SUNDAY ACTIVITIES at PRAIRIE STATE APARTMENTS



Our most recent meal with Prairie State Apt. folks was Dec. 17. The choir and the serving team supplied food and the choir sang Christmas carols. That was a lovely combination.

2018 5th Sundays are: April 29, July 29, Sept. 30 and Dec. 30.



SECOND HAND ROSE



ADDITIONAL VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

February 27 - March 3, 2018



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.



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



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

02 Paul Piatek	20 Donna Gillingham	02 Ron & Sandra Rackow
03 Sharon Ditzler	20 Tom Buskohl	02 Wallace & Evelyn Mackey
04 Becky Rogers	21 Michelle Gilbert	03 Harold & Lucille Woodin
04 Randy Ocken	22 Barb DuBois	28 David & Annette Ditzler
07 Mackenzie Grenoble	23 Erin Folk	
07 Harriet Hutchison	23 Virginia Snodgrass	
08 Lindsey Montross	24 Mike Scholl	
10 Alexis Moore (Strickler)	25 Angie Gorzny	
13 Luke Peterson	25 Allie Stover	
16 Diane Maginnis	27 Seth Bothe	
16 Katelyn Rieber	27 Baylen Hammond	
17 Addison Renee Imel	28 Liam Messer	
18 Johnny Powell		



FEBRUARY WORSHIP SERVANTS

FEBRUARY UMW MEETING

Greeters:

- 02-04-18 Matt & Margie Shore
Need 2 volunteers
- 02-11-18 Paul & Beverly Wiemken
Need 2 volunteers
- 02-18-18 Judy Norris, Ginny Snodgrass
Need two volunteers
- 02-25-18 Dan & Laura McKean
Nancy Ocken, need one volunteer



- February 18
- Call to Prayer & Self Denial
- 1:30 PM
- Scout Room
- Hostess: Donna Gillingham
- Program: Jean Frey
- Devotions: Donna Gillingham

AD COUNCIL MINUTES JANUARY 15, 2018

Present: Phil Frey, mark Maginnis, Randy Hayes, Marla Buskohl, Nancy Ocken, Laura McKean, Judy Norris, Pastor Brian, John Woodin and Michelle Knight.

The meeting was called to order by Phil Frey. Judy gave devotions based on Matthew 25:34-40, and then read "The Story of the Christmas Guest".

Michelle Knight is a seminarian who is doing some "shadowing" at our church. She is a resident of Polo, a member of St. Mark's Lutheran Church and is an accountant by day and a student at Wartburg Theological Seminary at night. She will be assisting at worship for a couple weeks.

John Wooden, Polo Boy Scout leader, discussed the Scouting program which now consists of 43 scouts, 6 cub dens and one Boy Scout group of about 12 boys. They are looking to welcome girls. This would be an additional troop. Paul Wiemken is the Lions Club liaison with the scouts as the Lions sponsor them. The Brethren Church also sponsors a boys only troop. Darren Albano is the scout leader. Feb. 4 will be Scout Sunday. Pastor Brian proposed that our church sponsor the new troop. We would provide space and \$40.00 start-up expense. This pack will be using the 3rd floor. Feb. 4 will be Scout Sunday. Randy made the motion to charter the new BSA group. Marla seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

The minutes of the November meeting were approved following a motion by Nancy and a second by Laura.

Financial Report: We ended the year with a balance of \$1,276.00, and all bills paid. Payment was also made to the Memorial account on the money which was borrowed earlier. Balance: \$2,888.00.

Serving: Nancy reported that the December lunch and caroling at Prairie State Apartments went very well and should be considered again next December. Heifer Project was able to purchase 4 water buffalo and 40 stoves. In November we were able to purchase 40 Thanksgiving baskets. January's Mission is Pennies from Heaven and February's is Wheel of Faith. In June we are looking at some sort of project for Village of Progress in Oregon. The next meeting will be Feb. 19 at 6:15 pm.

Loving: Marla reported they will meet Feb. 19 at 5:30 pm. The December project of heading the PCCC Christmas Baskets went smoothly with lots of help. They provided 196 baskets!

Staff Parish is meeting quarterly now. The next meeting will be Feb 13.

Trustees: Mark reported that they continue to try to get enough persons to serve on this committee. Mark fulfilled his term in 2018, but has agreed to continue. Randy made a motion to allow Mark to continue as an appointed person, with Nancy seconding. All were in favor. The Trustees will name a chair. Projects needing attention are wheelchair seating in the sanctuary and there was discussion on a chair lift to temporarily make the basement level accessible. They will meet Sunday Feb. 4 at 11:15 am

Pastor Brian reported that the Ash Wednesday service will include Elkhorn and Brick churches at Faith UMC. Easter Sunday is April 1.

Ginger Morhardt has given notice that she plans to close the Pre-School at the end of the current term (in May). If there is anyone interested in continuing this as the director, they could possible be grandfathered in at this facility.

Next meeting is Feb. 19 at 7:00 pm. Randy Hayes will have devotions. Pastor closed the meeting with prayer.

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

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.

March Newsletter Deadline is February 14

STAY IN TOUCH

Faith United Methodist Church
Pastor Brian LeBaron
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